

# RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

## The Strategic Importance of the Rust Belt for Revolution

It has been said that what the bourgeoisie produces above all are its own gravediggers. This means that the bourgeoisie, in its never-ending drive to maximize profits, is forced to constantly revolutionize the productive forces, and along with them, the whole relations of society. The entire process creates a new class whose very survival depends on overthrowing the old order and creating a new society where the interests of the immense majority are met.

This process is underway. Economic revolution, brought on by advanced electronic technologies is permanently shattering the historic connection between the workers and the capitalists. As this process makes its way through society, not all at once, but in stages, ever-broadening sections of the workers are thrown into the ranks of a new class. It is not simply the growth of poverty that is significant today. It is that this destruction is beginning to penetrate the vast "middle" in American society — that sector that has up to now been the faithful guard and stable base of the capitalist system. For revolutionaries, the driving into destitution of these millions is of strategic importance. The process sets the stage for political polarization, the separation in thinking of the people from their rulers, and the opportunity for a conscious revolutionary movement.

The Rust Belt region — "the industrial heartland of America" — has the largest concentration of these dispossessed workers in the U.S. Historically, they have been the pillars of strength of capitalism. But, today, these workers, once well taken care of by the capitalists, are being discarded by the class to which they have given their loyalty. Because they once had good jobs, owned property, are educated and know organization, they have the capacity to put up a fight. Their actions will determine the political direction of society. Revolutionaries must influence their consciousness to insure that the process unfolds in the interests of humanity.

This article will look at the strategic considerations that make this strata of workers key to revolution and what this means today for revolutionaries.

### EVOLUTION OF THE RUST BELT

An economic and historical understanding of the central role this region has played

in the economy explains why it continues to be of strategic importance to the future.

The Rust Belt is the economic region concentrated primarily in the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Western New York, and Minnesota. The region evolved as it did because of history and objective factors. From the beginning of this country, the United States divided into regions. The Northeast became the commercial or economic center because, originally, it shipped finished commodities back to England. The South became the center for the development of agriculture for export. Southern Minnesota, Northern Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa were agricultural regions that produced corn and wheat. The West developed somewhat independently due to its geographical location in relationship to the rest of the country.

Giant industry was concentrated in the region that ran from western New York along the Great Lakes and waterways that allowed shipping to take place within the U.S. All the necessities of industry existed in this belt — the waterpower of the Niagara Falls, fast flowing navigable rivers for transportation, and natural resources. Northeastern Minnesota, for example, had the Mesabi Range, which provided iron ore. The Ohio River provided access to the great coalfields of Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia.

The automobile was at the heart of this region's development. The automobile built the American economy. Auto was vital to the growth of the petroleum industry and a major consumer of steel and other industrial products. The automobile demanded the construction of streets and highways. People moved to the cities and suburbs. Supermarkets and shopping centers sprung up. The character of America changed.

In the 1950s one out of six workers was employed directly or indirectly in auto. In Detroit, its epicenter, huge industrial complexes like Ford River Rouge employed up to 100,000 workers. Toledo and Flint and small towns throughout the Midwest depended on the auto industry. Auto, as well as steel and rubber, became the backbone of the new consumer society and market economy. This region, and the billions in profit it provided, made it vital to the consolidation and expansion of the capitalist system. For this reason, the capitalists had to control the workers of this region.

Every step the capitalists took to secure profits nationally and internationally, from the 1930s to the post-WWII period, demanded that they maintain steadfast control over this region's workers. Above all, they needed a stable workforce. The workers, especially those in auto, had the capacity to disrupt production, and they were in a position to lead the rest of the country's workforce. They had strong union locals, newspapers, access to Congress, and were politically influential. No other sector could dominate what the rest of the workers did. The labor upsurges of the period took place within this context.

These battles were as important to the revolutionaries as they were to the capitalists. Revolutionaries joined the battlefield in order to break the workers free from their interdependence with the capitalists. Independent thinking sets the basis for independent political activity, which is the prelude to revolution. However, a deal was struck to rally the movement behind the Democratic Party, the Roosevelt Coalition, and the New Deal. The expanding economy provided the material foundation for the capitalists to offer concrete benefits, and in so doing, subordinate any effort for political independence.

### NEW STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

Things have changed. Today, automation is replacing human wage earners, creating untold poverty. This is occurring on a massive scale in the Rust Belt. States that were once at the heart of manufacturing. Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, for example, now have the lowest growth rates in gross domestic product. The looming collapse of the auto industry promises greater permanent unemployment. Across the region, almost a third of families live below the poverty line. Already nearly one in three Ohioans live in a household with insufficient income to pay for housing, food, or health care. In Cleveland, which at one time had the most Fortune 1000 corporate headquarters, almost 30% percent lived in poverty in 2007, up from 27% just a year earlier. Almost 32% of the residents of "Steel City," in Gary, Indiana, live below the poverty line. In Benton Harbor, once an industrial town, one third of its residents now earn below \$10,000 a year. One-third of Detroiters — the former auto capital of the world—now live below the

poverty line. About 45,000 Detroit homes have had their water shut off for inability to pay. The Detroit area has the highest foreclosure rate among the nation's largest metropolitan areas. The new homeless are straining already full social service agencies. In Flint, where General Motors was first headquartered, miles of empty auto factories surround the town. The poverty rate there is almost 35%.

In any war, what is of supreme importance is to attack the enemy's weak point. In the U.S., the historical strength of the bourgeoisie lies in their connection to the bribed strata and through them, to the working class as a whole. But today this stratum is a weak link in the capitalist front. It is breaking away.

Strategy is the determination of the main blow. The strategy of revolutionaries is always to break the ideological connection between the workers and the capitalists. Nothing can move forward until the masses organize politically in accordance with their class interests.

### RUST BELT IS KEY

In this sense, the Rust Belt remains key strategically. Today it contains the greatest concentrated mass of dispossessed anywhere in the country. In the past, the ideological connection of these workers to the capitalists could not be broken because there was no objective foundation for it to happen. Capitalist and worker formed a unity

continued on pg 6

## INSIDE

- + Outcome of nationalization will determine the next stage of history
- + The burning question for revolutionaries: What is the path to victory?
- + Fascism: Ruling class solution to instability and crisis
- + Program of the League

# Editorial: Outcome of nationalization will determine the next stage of history

**A**s social, economic, or military processes develop, strategic points are reached that determine the next stage of development. Militarily, these connected series of strategic points are referred to as a "line of march." Philosophically, they are called nodal lines or points. In war, as in revolutions, it is of the utmost importance that we understand the totality of the line of march, since what humans think and do determine who and what benefits from the struggle at these critical junctures. The political line of march is no mechanical thing. It is the unity of the spontaneous development of the productive forces and a development of consciousness that reflects it. Roughly, that line is through and from economic struggles and its corresponding consciousness to and through the political struggle to the assumption of political power with its corresponding consciousness. The development of the productive forces only forms the context. Progress along the line of march depends upon the development of consciousness.

Since "war is politics with guns," it is sometimes easier to illuminate political processes by military examples. The well-known "Battle of the Bulge" or Bastogne

during WWII is such an example. The German plan was to split the American Army from the British, take Antwerp, cutting allied supply lines, and force them to surrender. The road to Antwerp lay through the town of Bastogne. It had to be taken in order to take Antwerp. The decision to fight a crucial battle there was not subjective. However, the conduct of that fight and its outcome was. The doctrinaire decision of the Germans to concentrate their tanks, which allowed the Americans to concentrate their artillery against them, was decisive to their defeat.

## PLAN TO DEFEAT RULERS' STRATEGY

What does such an example imply for the League today? First, the goal of revolutionaries – the democratization of the economy and reorganization of society – cannot be achieved by simply fighting back against social injustice. No war was ever won by simply defending. As in war, the first requirement is that the participants understand and agree upon not simply the goal, but the strategy to achieve it. Next, revolutionaries must take into account every as-

pect of the objective economic process and have some estimate of the social impact and political possibilities of each stage of its development. When these possibilities are clear they are presented as a political program that reflects the objective character of the line of march to the strategic goal. Understanding and formulating our strategy is not enough. In politics, as in war, an understanding of and plan to defeat the enemy strategy is essential.

A century and a half ago the German philosopher, Frederick Engels, wrote that life consists of motion and motion consists of eating from the environment and excreting all that is useless. This does not apply solely to the physical aspects of life. It applies equally to intellectual development. We are living in a new environment and must get our tactical understanding from it and not simply from strategically oriented books.

## NEW POSSIBILITIES

We are now at a very advanced and critical juncture. The government's move to, at least temporarily, nationalize a section of private industry in the interest of the entire capitalist class is of tremendous political significance. That significance lies in this reality: The world defender of private property has had to publicly admit the social character of the modern means of production. By taking over the functions of the corporations and trusts of the capitalist class, it has implicitly admitted that the capitalist class is now a superfluous and useless drag on social development. They have handed us a tremendous propaganda weapon, but it is useless unless we understand and use it.

The propagandists for the ruling class have created as much confusion as possible around the terms socialism and communism. They present these economic categories as political categories. This confusion makes a tower of Babel out of any discussion about change. They present the "social democracy" of Europe as socialism. Social democracy is the nationalization of any sector of the economy that will facilitate the stability of the capitalist system. For example, WWII showed the British state that the deplorable health of the working class not only threatened their ability as soldiers but also as workers. At the end of the war the entire health system was nationalized. The workers benefited from it, but the wage labor system continued and it helped stabilize the system. Soviet socialism arose as a way to rapidly industrialize an essentially agricultural country. It could

be compared to a gigantic corporation (the state) where all essential aspects of production – land, labor and capital – were organized under one plan of production. This plan included not only state owned production but the production from cooperative and collectively owned enterprises. Workers were paid for what they did and hourly-wage labor did not exist. This form of socialism was summed up as "From each according to their ability and to each according to deeds."

Clearly, in an epoch of globalized, increasingly labor-less production with means of production capable of instantly glutting a commodity market, neither capitalist social-democracy nor Soviet style socialism will work. Communism is planned production with the means of production owned by the people.

## TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Revolutionaries have long argued that the introduction of new ideas was the indispensable next step to revolution. New ideas cannot arise without a new situation. Ideas are not simply abstractions. Like everything else, they arise as form and content. The concrete form of the American revolutionary idea is at last emerging. We must understand it, grasp it, and turn it against our enemy.

The move to nationalization is our Bastogne. The capitalists, incapable of managing their own affairs, must have it to prevent the current crisis from spinning completely out of control. We revolutionaries absolutely must have it in order to politicize the struggle. Nationalization shifts the economic struggle against individual corporations into a political struggle against the state. The capitalists understand this better than we do and they are moving very rapidly to place nationalization on a base favorable to them. This includes "temporary nationalization" which means that the public will forever resuscitate failed corporations and then hand them back to private owners. Another plan is to nationalize the financial sector, which will guarantee the flow of money no matter the loss since the public will pay for it.

Like it or not — ready or not — the battle is joined. Revolutionaries must take up this struggle to guarantee that nationalization is in the interests of the people. The next stage of history will be determined by its outcome.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

**Rally:** to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

**Comrade:** a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity to the conscious revolutionaries, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages.

It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

Editor: Brooke Heagerty

Editorial Board: Cynthia Cuza, Nicholas M<sup>C</sup>Querrey, Nelson Peery

## Reach us at:

Rally, Comrades!  
P.O. Box 477113  
Chicago, IL 60647

rally@lrna.org  
www.rallycomrades.net  
773-486-0028

# The burning question for revolutionaries: What is the path to victory?

The historic aim of world society is the ending of private property and the creation of a cooperative communal society. Today, this lies within humanity's reach. Qualitatively new means of production are laying the foundation for the abundance of society to be made available to all. A vast social revolution is underway. Destruction and polarization are tearing down the old and opening the way for the new. But the reign of private property and the class that defends it stands in the way.

From the flux and instability of these changes is emerging the social force that can challenge not only the rule of the capitalist class, but can also put an end to the entire epoch of private property. Cast adrift as capitalism crumbles, uncoupled from all they know, they have no choice but to fight for their survival. The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care, and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the

demand for a co-operative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The new class must have political power

its united political struggles against the state.

The objective conditions create the social force that can overturn the system. But the "path to power" of the class depends upon that class forming itself subjectively, that is,

This economic revolution gives rise to social revolution, a process of destruction of the old order and reconstruction of the new.

As polarization tears society apart, all connections are broken, setting loose social forces that had once been tied together, opening the search for new forms of connection, new relations. As society polarizes, the factions turn against one another, a process of destruction of the old order takes place and a new process emerges from this struggle and destruction. Social revolution compels political revolution, as these warring factions cannot achieve their aims without the political power to do so.

Once polarization begins, revolutionaries do not attempt to hold it back, but work in such a way as to throw their blow at the middle. In this way, they assist in breaking the process free of its confines, making transformation possible.

---

The path to power of the class depends upon that class forming itself as a class-for-itself. It must come to understand that its program alone can resolve humanity's plight, and prepare itself politically, intellectually and ideologically for the challenges it will face in its fight to assert its will.

---

to achieve these goals. To accomplish this, the class must move from its scattered economic struggles against the corporations to

understanding itself as a class for itself, as it is formed objectively within the epochal leap underway. It must come to understand that its program alone can resolve humanity's plight, and prepare itself politically, intellectually, and ideologically for the challenges it will face in its fight to assert its will.

Understanding the line of march of the revolutionary process and mapping out what must be done in each stage to forge the path to class power is the historic role of the organization of revolutionaries. Working within the developing social motion, the revolutionaries prepare the class ideologically and politically as social destruction proceeds, polarizes society, and forces the battle for social transformation.

## LINE OF MARCH

What do we mean by the terms, "line of march" and "path to power"? The line of march is the general progression of revolutionary development and transformation. The line of march is not at all linear progression. It is a dialectic whose stages are interconnected, that interpenetrate. It is the dialectic of change in objective conditions and the subjective response of the masses; and conversely, how the result of the mass response immobilizes or frees up the objective conditions for further motion. The line of march shapes the map revolutionaries draft to achieve the goals of the revolution in each stage of development – the path to class power.

In its most general outline, the line of march of the revolutionary process is as follows. The introduction of qualitatively new means of production begins to invade and break up the existing productive relations.

## NEW CLASS: REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

A social force capable of such a change must be outside capitalist society and antagonistic to it. True to the dialectic, electronics itself is creating this force. As more and more production is taken over by electronics, the displaced workers are forced into lower and lower paying jobs and many of them end up in the growing mass of permanently unemployed. Today over a third of the work force are contingency, part-time, or temporary workers. A huge section works at or below minimum wage. They are not simply unemployed or poor, but dispossessed, a new class that has few or no ties to capital.

The new class is revolutionary because it is increasingly outside of and hostile to the wages system. It is revolutionary because it cannot fight the individual employer – it must fight the state. It is revolutionary because robotics makes it impossible for them to co-exist with private property. The only way for this class to prevent the gigantic means of production from crushing them is to make them public property.

As the destruction and polarization of the economy and society forms this class objectively, how is this class to be formed subjectively, as a class-for-itself? The objective barriers to the unity of the class are being torn down. The national groups are being broken up into their respective classes. The black bourgeoisie has been fully integrated into the ruling class, and no longer has any objective connection to the black masses. The ruling class has discarded the social

continued on pg 4

## You Need Rally, Comrades! Rally, Comrades Needs You

The world is in the midst of rapid change. You or those close to you might have been threatened with or suffered loss of job and home. You are deeply concerned about what's happening to our world.

You read, listen to the radio, and watch TV to understand what's happening, but the answers aren't there. There's plenty of news and analysis, but all of it comes to describing problems and proposals for fixing capitalism. None of it points the way to a new society.

Rally, Comrades! stands out, offering a sound and clear analysis of the way forward. Rally, Comrades! shows how capitalism is coming to an end. It clearly describes the emerging struggle over what will replace capitalism: a new form of private property enforced through fascism, or a new communal society for the well being of all peoples.

Human society is at a critical juncture in history where what people understand and what people choose to do will determine the fate of future generations.

Rally, Comrades! as the voice of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, offers a vision of an economic paradise of abundance for all. It illuminates the way forward that will make this new cooperative society possible.

Rally, Comrades! and the League receive no donations from corporations, foundations or government. We rely completely on volunteers and donations from readers like you to carry out this urgent work.

PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO:

Rally, Comrades!

P.O. Box 477113

Chicago, IL 60647

Make checks to: LRNA (with Rally Comrades on the memo line)

## continued from pg 3

bribery they extended to the white workers, and, along with it, the foundation of the all-white class unity that underwrote the politics of the past. But the class is scattered and ideologically divided, unprepared to assume its historic mission.

To take the next step forward, the breaking of the connection between the workers and the capitalists – already a reality in the objective economic sphere – must be mirrored in the ideological, and ultimately, the political sphere.

### **DISPOSSESSED: DECISIVE SECTION OF NEW CLASS**

Yet this class is counted in millions. Where to begin? What is the strategic section of this class, the one that can pull all others forward?

The greatest concentration of this section lies in the grand region of the industrial heartland, what is now termed the Rust Belt. It was once the greatest concentration of giant industry, the center of production that raised the US economy to a world power, and that boasted the greatest concentration of industrial workers in the world. Forced into competition with global labor, devastated by robotics, and forced from any possible means of finding work, this section has been separated from all that they have known and relied upon. They are the dispossessed.

Yet it is not simply their vast numbers. It is also their continuity in the communities of the region – generations in the plants, and in the unions – and their collective class experience of their battles for a better life raising up the living standards for all. It is their skills, their knowledge of organization, and the deep sense of their right to a future for themselves and their family. It is their ties, by a million different threads, to the same stratum of the class throughout the country.

Regardless of color, they have been the bulwark of capitalist support for decades, and have little understanding of what is facing them, or how they can be used to further the capitalists' agenda.

Yet conscious of their class interests, and armed with a battle plan to achieve their immediate needs, they can be turned toward revolution, and can bring the rest of the class with them.

This decisive section is already moving into activity, and the ruling class is already waging a fight for not simply their organizational leadership, but to shape their minds and vision of what's possible. If this bid is left unchallenged, not only the workers of the Rust Belt, but all of society will fall prey to the fascist forces coalescing to restructure society around the fascist corporate state.

### **FIGHT FOR POLITICAL DIRECTION**

The direction of social motion depends

on the intellectual development of the section of society making the change. As society is torn apart in the process of transformation, everything is called into question. This extends far beyond opinion or idea about this or that, but begins to penetrate and challenge prevailing attitudes and values, even the broader psychology of a people.

We can see this in our own history. No matter how poor the black southern sharecroppers might have been, they were always essentially petty producers and could not form an independent political pole. As they were thrown off the land, moved to cities, and began to resolve the problems of their new situation, their psychology began to change along with their circumstances. It led, not only, to the victory of the civil rights movement and the end of segregation, but to a vast social response that is still being felt.

To a certain extent, this process is a natural expression of the objective changes people experience – the growing uncertainty, the declining standard of living, the attack on their sense of right and wrong. The masses begin to look for and eventually find a political expression. It arises on and is part of a vast groundswell of moral and ethical activity.

Yet this does not mean that political expression automatically reflects their interests. Although the program of the new class is objective, it must be fought for; it is something the class must learn. Dialectics tells us it must be introduced from the outside. The art of politics lies in working within the spontaneous struggle for the immediate needs of the class to achieve the subjective goals of revolution within each stage of the revolutionary process.

The strategy of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is to politicize the masses, and to supply the emerging revolutionaries who are fighting around the practical demands of the class with the political propaganda and education that will round out their fight. Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, and to educate and win them over to the cooperative communist solution of the problem.

### **FROM SCATTERED ECONOMIC STRUGGLES TO UNITED POLITICAL STRUGGLES**

We don't fight just any battle. We fight along the line of march. The laws of capitalism make it inevitable that the means of production will reach a point where they can no longer be managed by private concerns alone. At a certain point, the partial recognition of the socialized character of the pro-

ductive forces is forced upon the capitalists themselves. The bourgeoisie is forced to nationalize in its efforts to protect the capitalist system, while at the same time it must lay the foundation for a new social order based on private property without capitalism. They too, like all ruling classes before them, must remold themselves to the emerging economy. They are fighting over how to accomplish the magnitude of all the tasks before them, but they cannot escape that these tasks must be done.

For the developing new class, the only way to prevent being crushed is to force the government to take over the full range of services and make them public property in the interests of the people. This means nationalizing health care and education, and making these massive means of production public property. This reality places them on a collision course with the rising corporate fascist state.

Nationalization alone is not the goal, but it is a bridge, an intermediate step between what people understand and are beginning to fight for today, and the larger understanding that the struggle to build a communal economy is the ultimate solution. In the battle to form the class "for itself," the battle over nationalization moves the workers from their scattered economic struggles against the corporations to united political struggles against the state. It challenges and aims to defeat the rising fascist state.

Nothing can move forward until a broad section of the class breaks with the interests of the capitalists and organizes itself politically in accordance with its class interests. The clearest political expression of this will be the formation of a workers party. Such a party would provide an organizational mechanism to advance the class from what comes naturally – their scattered, narrow, defensive reaction to problems – and develop them into a politically cohesive force, united around common demands and perspective.

In the struggle to transfer capitalist property in order to feed, clothe, house, and care for itself, the class moves from simply confronting elements of the state to recognizing the state as an arm of the capitalist class. In the fight for its demands, the class comes to realize it cannot achieve those demands within the capitalist system, and that it must battle and defeat a state that interferes with the circulation of the necessities of life.

### **TASKS OF THE LEAGUE**

In the midst of the great battles of the nineteenth century between the capitalists and the working class, Karl Marx reminded the workers that the battles they fought and had yet to fight had significance far beyond changing their immediate conditions. These battles were necessary, "not only in order to change existing conditions," he told the

workers, "but also in order to change yourselves and fit yourselves for the exercise of political power." History creates the objective conditions as does new machinery, conquest, and revolution. But the subjective response to the conditions depends entirely upon the thinking of the people. If they do not respond correctly, the cause is lost.

In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

We have identified that new social force as the growing new class, and in particular the section that can pull forward all the rest. The next step of our fight is to engage in the battle over nationalization as part of the growing battle against the corporations. This fight teaches the class lessons about the state and, in the process, the necessity to form itself politically and to put forward its own programs; and, as the fight develops, to present the necessity of a workers party to represent those interests of the developing new class.

Whether this fight is completed or battle is declined, depends on not simply the objective environment, but the subjective development of the class. That depends on revolutionaries playing their role.

The League has to make an all out effort to achieve victory along the line of march of this stage of the revolution. No forward motion is possible until our class rejects the politics and the ideology of its class enemy and becomes conscious of its interests as a class. No step forward is possible unless it speaks to the interests of the growing new class. Consciously breaking with the ideas, interests, and organizations of the class enemy, and fighting for the solution to the problems of those who have the least – this is the first step on the path to power.

*This article is the first of the "Path to Power" series from the LRNA Standing Committee.*

# Fascism: Unity between the state and the corporations to protect private property

*This Building Block article is one of a series which explains a basic concept of the revolutionary process, challenging readers to explore its meaning for political work in today's environment.*

Fascism, as a term and political concept, emerged after WWI during a period of global political and economic crisis as societies were undergoing transition in their economic base. The term itself comes from the Italian Partito Nazionale Fascista, the ruling party under Mussolini, but is also used to identify other governments and movements that emerged in the period after WWI, including Nazi Germany, Franco's Spain, and Imperial Japan.

Fascism emerged and seized power as a revolutionary political resolution to the problems of societies in the midst of instability and crisis caused by the transition from an agriculture-based economy and the feudal social and state structures that served and protected that economy. The early 20th century saw intense political battles in the transition to an industrial based economy.

In 1920s Germany, for example, the bourgeois democratic Weimar government, wracked by economic and political crisis, could not contain the revolutionary motion of both the communist and fascist elements. The communists were crushed as the ruling class threw its weight to the fascists. The

fascist state tore up the old bourgeois democratic state and created a new German state that set out to conquer the world.

Many of the debates about and the many inaccurate definitions – such as the idea that fascism is a middle class movement – serve ruling class interests by obscuring fascism's

true nature. At its core, fascism seeks to protect private property through the the unity of the state and the corporations and prevent a communist resolution to the crisis

ed from the capitalist relation – is arising. Its position in society makes it objectively communist.

Many are confused about the class nature of fascism because fascism, in all instances, uses ideology to obscure its actual class base. Fascism appeals to a popular following through some combination of nationalism, racism, religious sectarianism, or similar methods. Nonetheless, its objective base remains the highest echelons of the capitalist class. Georgi Dimitrov, in his 1935 speech before the 7th Congress of the

---

The popular demand for a government that supplies food and not police brutality, that provides health care and not deportations, and that builds houses instead of destroying them, is the ground on which, not simply an anti-fascist, but a genuinely revolutionary movement can emerge.

---

Communist International, "The United Front of the Working Class Against Fascism," identified this class base of fascism as, "the most reactionary, most chauvinist and most imperialist elements of finance capital."

Today, fascism is arising under qualitatively different conditions. As the economy shifts from industrial to electronic production, the economic base of current bourgeois-democratic state-forms is eroding. We are facing nothing less than an attempt by the ruling class to wholly reshape the state and society to adapt to new economic conditions so that they can continue their rule.

No longer is the "most reactionary, most chauvinist, and most imperialist" section of the capitalist class the class base of fascism, but the entire bourgeoisie. The centralization and integration of the leading capitalist corporations and the global and fundamental nature of the current transition mean that the owning class shares a common interest in its objective need for a fascist resolution to this crisis.

Under today's qualitatively new conditions fascism represents the bourgeoisie's struggle to align the superstructure with the changing nature of private property relations. Fascism today seeks to facilitate a whole new world order based on private property without capitalism.

Against this, a new class – replaced by electronic means of production and exclud-

ed from the capitalist relation – is arising. Its position in society makes it objectively communist.

To crush the growing diverse and democratic social motion the ruling class needs most of all to control society. This is why the police are being militarized and expanded (and the military turned to policing), why surveillance is expanding and deepening, why ruling class agitation and propaganda call for attacks on the most vulnerable groups of workers.

There is no longer any economic base for a bourgeois-democratic solution. The instability and crisis caused by the transformation from one base to another call for a revolutionary resolution. The space for compromise between capitalists and workers is gone. The capitalist class needs private property in a new form and can win it only through fascism. The new class can only survive through communism, a cooperative society that does away with private property.

Fascism is not pre-ordained nor is it simply imposed. Whether the motion toward fascism is blocked or not depends upon the interplay of underlying economic conditions and the struggle between the developing social response and forces that seek to protect capital's interests. Its success, failure or restriction depend upon the consciousness and organization of the forces that move to promote it, to compromise with it, or to oppose it – in particular the proletarian opposition.

Fascism is on the rise both here and around the world and its victory will mean even worse atrocities and violence than we have seen before. However, the answer to fascism is also growing. The popular demand for a government that supplies food and not police brutality, that provides health care and not deportations, and that builds houses instead of destroying them, is the ground on which, not simply an anti-fascist, but a genuinely revolutionary movement can emerge. With the erosion of the base of bourgeois democracy, it is these demands and the people who make them who can prevent fascism.

Fighting for the program of the class of dispossessed is the fight against fascism. In this fight the class will learn class consciousness and the need for its own independent political party. The urgency of the situation is clear. The future depends upon us.

**SUBSCRIBE TO  
RALLY, COMRADES!**

**ONE FULL YEAR FOR \$20**

Please send this coupon with a check or money order payable to "LRNA" to:

LRNA  
P.O. Box 477113,  
Chicago, IL 60647

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## continued from pg 1

within the capitalist system, driving the process forward, but incapable of destroying it.

Today, labor-replacing technology is an antagonism to the capitalist system, destroying the unity of the previous period, and exposing the bourgeoisie's weak flank. If revolutionaries hit where the bourgeoisie is weak, they disorganize the entire capitalist front.

The workers are entering into battle against the state. Revolutionaries must throw their subjective blow at the point of connection between the capitalists and the workers. This stratum will play a critical role in politicizing and organizing the rest of the new class.

This will be a process, but the conditions are ripening. Michigan's Macomb County, for example, was once one of the richest counties in the country. With a racial composition of 91.4 percent white and 2.6 percent black, these workers were vocal in their opposition to busing and public housing. In 2004 Macomb County went 84% for George Bush. However, in the 2008 election, these workers voted overwhelm-

ingly for an African-American president. Part of this response resulted from the massive union education campaign. It shows what education can do. But the other part is that, although wealth still exists in this county, poverty is growing, no one has any solutions, and minds are opening.

---

The workers are entering into battle against the state. These kinds of battles will determine which way America goes. Revolutionaries must be in position to utilize such motion to help form a conscious force that solves the problems faced by society.

---

As the social motion gets underway, revolutionaries must be more political, determining from the line of march which battles are inevitable. As Sun Tzu said, "whoever is first in the field and awaits the coming of the enemy, will be fresh for the fight."

The struggle for nationalization illustrates this point. Nationalization is the battle, and the Rust Belt workers are in position to lead it. Analysis shows that economic changes are going to force the auto industry to downsize or go out of business. They will have to demand that the government nation-

ness. These kinds of battles will determine which way America goes.

## SUMMARY

Without polarization, society cannot move forward. But this does not guarantee that people will move in humanity's interests. The rulers have highly bribed and propagandized this stratum of workers for a reason. Yet, these workers are not a monolith. As with all processes, they will move on the basis of destruction and splitting.

What is in the revolutionaries' favor is that, at a certain point, old ideas don't work anymore and people seek new ideas that do. A sector of workers will move toward fascist ideology. Another sector will move toward revolution.

The Rust Belt is strategically significant for the reasons that have been outlined. As the struggle unfolds, it will touch different segments of American society. Revolutionaries must reach out, helping to form a conscious force that can play a critical role in the revolution for a new world.

alize healthcare and, eventually, the auto industry itself. The capitalists will use these battles to regroup, shifting the burden onto the people's backs.

Revolutionaries must be in position to utilize such motion to introduce conscious-

# Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

The United States of America – indeed the entire world – is in the throes of epochal economic revolution. Transformation from electro-mechanical industry requiring human labor to operate gigantic means of industrial production to digitally controlled production requiring little or no human labor is the determining content of our time.

The qualitatively more efficient means of electronic production greatly lowers the cost of production of the basic necessities of life. This makes possible an economic paradise of abundance for all. Under capitalism, however, it leads to the falling price of labor power and fastens the chain of poverty, exploitation, and stultifying toil ever more tightly upon the worker.

Just as the steam engine created an industrial working class that replaced the existing manufacturing class, electronic production is creating a new class of workers. This new class consists of employed and unemployed sectors. The employed sec-

tor – the part-time, contingency, below minimum wage workers – is already over a third of the work force. This employed sector of the class is constantly drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute, homeless workers.

The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.

Globalization creates this new class everywhere. Global unity is the condition of its national emancipation. The League extends its hand of comradeship around the globe.

Wage-less electronic production is antagonistic to capitalism, which is based on the buying and selling of labor power. This antagonism is economically, socially and

politically polarizing society, making social and political revolution inevitable. A new fascist state form, the naked rule of corporate power, is arising to oppose this motion. Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will take over society.

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the co-operative, communist resolution of the problem. The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a co-operative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The new class must have political power

to achieve these goals. In the effort to achieve this political power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

Destruction of the ecology, the growing threat of nuclear war and looming pandemics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity. We in the League face the future with confidence. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class and to secure that imperiled future.