

RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

Jovencidio – Capitalism’s War on Youth is War on Society

“Jovencidio”—Mexico’s term for genocidal state attacks on youth—also describes what is happening today in the U.S. Jovencidio is an entry point for capitalism to attack society at large.

On both sides of the border, the State is merged with the corporations to create profit-making, privatized, corporate prisons, a huge security industry funded by the military budget, corporate arms trafficking, and “Drug Wars” that justify these steps. Integral with this growing fascist environment in both countries, the corporate education industry is seizing and privatizing public education, both to loot the national budgets and indoctrinate a new generation.

To coordinate their struggles against the international privatizers of education, leaders from Canada, México, the U.S. and Puerto Rico have been organizing across national lines, and will gather this May in Vancouver to develop a broader approach.

Last September, the chief of Chicago schools, Forrest Claypool announced that more schools and up to 5,000 jobs could be eliminated in 2016. That same month, the *LA Times* exposed a secret plan to start handing over half of the district’s almost 900 schools to charter school companies in 2016. These are not isolated incidents, or just local battles in an intensifying war that capitalist leaders have launched to restructure society. Across the globe, their control of hi-technology means that billions of young workers will get only underpaid, insecure jobs or no jobs at all, as they are preyed upon by for-profit education companies, the military, and brutal police.

Students should be learning that the wealth created with new technology can be used to improve education, reduce poverty worldwide, and heal the planet. Why should humanity’s wealth just enrich bankers and corporations? Instead, students are told that America just can’t afford quality public education, so schools must be closed and their funding cut, along with the pay and pensions of teachers and staff. They’re told that many college students have no choice but to pile up lifelong debt. They’re told that life, like school, has become a never-ending series of tests they might fail.

The avalanche of school testing isn’t aimed at helping students learn. It provides a justification for denying thousands of them access to higher education and professional careers. Then they face an even harsher test of life or death, as laborless production drives capitalism’s war on youth and denies them jobs. This forces some into the military, to face killing or being killed by youth from other countries. Or they get pushed into America’s street wars, where economically desperate youth face killing or being killed by youth just like themselves. If they survive all that, they still may become innocent victims of the murderous war against the poor,

launched by the army of police, which has murdered at least 1000 a year since 2013.

STATE-SANCTIONED MURDER

The past two years have seen national mass movements in response to killings by police in both Mexico and the US. In the U.S., the movement against State-sanctioned police murder, as in Ferguson, Baltimore, New York and Chicago, is paralleled by even more violent repression and murders by state and federal troops in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Michoacán and Chiapas in Mexico. Most of these killings are “justified” by the criminalization of youth in both countries.

In the U.S., Black youth especially have been targeted by politicians and the corporate media, producing a hysteria that has led school districts to turn discipline over to the police. Witness the recent news of the brutal attack by a sheriff on a young girl in South Carolina for not surrendering her cell phone, the disciplinary handcuffing of elementary school students, and the unannounced searches by drug-sniffing dogs in Los Angeles classrooms. Both Black and white college students have been shot by campus police in recent years, from San Antonio, Texas to the University of South Alabama and this past November, at Spartanburg Methodist College in South Carolina.

The school-to-prison pipeline continues in full swing in America, and the schools-to-cemetery numbers are growing. A database of total U.S. police murders in 2015 provided by *The Guardian* shows that there is a concentrated attack on Black youth. It also shows that these attacks are part of a growing overall program of police violence against Americans of all colors and all ages.

Although the *percent* of all Blacks killed by police is higher than the percent of Euro-Americans, the actual *amount* of whites killed is higher, since whites are such a bigger population. Police murder is not confined to one age group. But the State stirs up propaganda about Black youth. Yes, Blacks are getting the brunt; nothing will change in the U.S. until Black lives matter. But State-sanctioned police murder extends to all ages and nationalities. Of 1,134 Americans killed by police in 2015 whose ages were known, nearly half of them—524 police murders—were under 35 years, and those older than 35 totaled 546.

The militarization of our schools and our streets mirrors the militarization of society on both sides of the border. Who can forget the photo of the corpse of the Ayotzinapa student in Guerrero with his face ripped off and his eyes gouged out, while his 43 classmates remain missing to this day, after being arrested by police? As extreme as it is in Mexico, with the army in the streets, the ruling class in this country is moving in that direction. After all, both countries are linked directly to global capitalism. The drug lords and government are so intertwined that the Mexican people now refer to the government as the “Narco-state.”

In Oaxaca, Chiapas, Michoacan and Guerrero, a war has been unleashed on teachers who refuse to comply with the government’s “education reform.” In August of last year, 17,000 federal troops with heavy military equipment were deployed to Oaxaca, where four union leaders were sent to federal prison. 10,000 police and federal troops were sent to Chiapas in January, where six teachers were brutally beaten and one killed, and 52 *normalista* students were arrested in Michoacan. While the 22 women were released after two weeks, the men were incarcerated until January 27th. These students are from the poorest, rural, indigenous communities, especially in the southern states of Mexico. Not coincidentally, these are states with a long history of fighting centuries of violent repression and hit hard by the trade agreements of global capitalism. Hundreds of thousands of teachers, students and their communities have been marching in protest and continue to be attacked, while solidarity protests spring up throughout the country.

By criminalizing youth, particularly in the most impoverished communities, government at all levels is ratcheting up the suppression of any popular uprising against the impossible living conditions that hi-tech global capitalism is forcing on the people. California, for example, spends more on a yearly basis criminalizing young people than they do educating them.

Laborless production means that human beings increasingly cannot work in order to survive. The extreme polarization of wealth and poverty and dispossession is increasing everywhere. If workers are less and less needed to produce goods and services, then the education that used to be part of the cost of production of a worker is no longer necessary. Therefore the labor of teachers is increasingly eliminated. Young workers are no longer needed either. So, public education policy is increasingly structured to educate the elite to run society, while most students get little education that would otherwise empower them with the tools to determine society’s future.

The State requires schools to become a tool for the social control of the unneeded mass of youth. Money is already flowing into school police departments, metal detectors and surveillance systems, and harsher punishment for student truancy. In pre-K-12 education, the trend is to militarize schools and impose education reforms that train students to accept social control, instead of educating

them to analyze and question existing conditions. Teachers increasingly come under attack, especially those that empower students to understand the economic revolution that is underway, and to envision collectively the possibilities of using the new technologies to create sharing, caring societies. In higher education, student debt has become a form of social control as well.

Public education crises have been mostly taking state and local forms, which the austerity agenda allows corporations to exploit and privatize. Yet the important battlegrounds are increasingly federal. To gain public control over education means nationalizing it so that the government will guarantee everyone a lifelong, free, quality public education.

BEYOND RESISTANCE

So far, humanity is losing the war against youth, because only the ruling class recognizes the goal of the political offensive. Many believe that the attacks are part of efforts by rich, mainly white conservatives to roll America back to the way it used to be. But there are no more reforms left when a police State is in the streets.

Responses to “fight back” against racism and corporate attacks will develop, but they are always followed by new attacks. The new class of workers, who are shut out by laborless technology, can and must move beyond fighting never-ending, scattered defensive struggles, to unified political action.

The economic revolution that is disrupting the world demands that humanity take the offensive in order to transform our world. The disruption of public education stems from the technological revolution that makes the old society obsolete. Today’s underlying struggle is about what kind of new societies will be built on the basis of new technologies. Either the corporations will continue to destroy society and the environment, or we will create a world where the needs of all can be met—one in which we live in balance with the environment. This is primarily a political struggle for power. Strategically, this means fighting forward for a new cooperative society that guarantees everyone everything they need to thrive, contribute and develop.

A truly cooperative society would insure that emerging generations have all the skills and resources to participate in the revolutionary transformation to a society for all. The new proletarian class will decide what kinds of education are necessary to develop such a wonderful future, once it exerts its united political power.

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Inside: Our Right to What We Need

In the U.S. today, a growing movement is taking shape that is increasingly demanding that government agencies and elected officials take responsibility for the welfare of the people. At its center are those struggling for clean and affordable water, for food, housing, public education and healthcare. The government is rejecting these demands, while intensifying its assault on those it no longer needs. These demands come from a rapidly growing section of the working class—a new class—those thrown out of, or to the margins of, the U.S. economy and society. Their scattered struggles all have a common cause. Combined, they become a common demand for nationalization in the interests of the people.

Our cover article, “Jovencidio—Capitalism’s War on Youth is War on Society,” shows this process in the struggle for public education, against the corporate education industry seizing and privatizing public education, to loot both the national budget and indoctrinate a new generation. To gain public control over education means nationalizing it, so the government will guarantee everyone a lifelong, free, quality public education.

“From the Editors: Flint—Water is a Human Right,” shows the horror of how the rulers will not provide anything—not even clean water—to workers they no longer need. Our class needs to build an independent political movement to make water a public trust, not subject to private ownership. Gaining control over public access to water means nationalization of the water, where the government is made responsible for guaranteeing everyone has access to clean and safe water.

Such common cause allows our class to become more broadly aware of the class nature

of U.S. society. The demand for nationalization broadens common political struggle, allowing our class to begin breaking its historic ties to the capitalist class, freeing it to put forward its independent political program that represents its class interests.

If the capitalists refuse to implement such a program, their failure to implement it exposes them and the system. “Take the Strategic Offensive” shows that putting forward the demand for nationalization prompts a debate among the workers that revolutionaries can enter into—a debate about whom the State serves, and which points our class in the direction of confronting the ruling class, its State, and the whole question of who owns society’s productive property.

The February 2016 LRNA political report, “Fascism, the Presidential Elections and the Tasks of Revolutionaries,” analyzes the elections in the context of the growing struggle in America for the basic necessities of life. The elections are a means for the ruling class to test ideas, deepen divisions, crush the impulse for class unity, and build a fascist movement. They are trying to divide the new class, stigmatize it and isolate it from society. Using history, they begin their attack against the poorest Black workers first. They portray Blacks as “shiftless, can’t hold a job, won’t finish school, use drugs, and are criminally inclined.” As this beachhead is established, they move on to put the so-called white “trailer trash” and “illegal” immigrants into the same category. If accepted by the American people, these views would set the basis for the rulers to impose fascism on society as a whole.

While many workers are being moved by the rulers toward a more fascist outlook, a growing number within the new class are

moving toward a more class-based position. It is these impulses the rulers seek to block. Revolutionaries must grab hold of, and develop, these arising seeds of class awareness, no matter how contradictory and embryonic they are.

The new class holds within itself, the force necessary to overturn the capitalist system. But without an understanding and an ideology that expresses and reflects its interests, its potential will inevitably be blunted, distorted, and turned to serve the interests of

the rulers. The gap between illusion and reality must be overcome, as the article, “From Communism to Communism” shows. In some way or another, this has to be done, because only a political act will change the social relationship. That political act can only come about, if there is a real understanding of today’s economic and social reality that is called the world. This clearly shows the urgency for revolutionaries to work as propagandists—bringing strategy, direction and vision to the class.

CORRECTION:

In the January-February 2016 issue the cover article entitled, “The Global Economy in the Epoch of Electronics,” paragraph 2 incorrectly described Moore’s Law stating that it projected the number of transistors produced will double every two years. It is the number of transistors per logic chip that it projected would double every two years. The paragraph also incorrectly stated that in 2014, semiconductor production facilities made some 250 billion transistors. It is 250 billion-billion transistors.

Visit the
Rally, Comrades! website!
<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org>

The Rally, Comrades! bilingual website provides on line access to all issues of *Rally, Comrades!* It is a political resource for our readers, and provides up-to-date articles, statements and analysis of key questions of importance to revolutionaries.

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, 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.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America WHAT WE STAND FOR

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 cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, healthcare and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement. A new fascist State form, the naked rule of corporate power, has arisen to oppose this motion.

Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will continue to take over society. 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.

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 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 humanity’s imperiled future.

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From the Editors: Flint – Water is a Human Right

The poisoning of the people of Flint, Michigan—especially the children—with lead and other toxins in the drinking water is just the latest ugly example that shows that this corporate ruling class is unfit to rule. Lead poisoning can cause irreversible brain damage and other health issues for a whole generation of children—and their children’s children. Flint shows the immorality of the system of private property and a rising fascism. It shows that in this new epoch based in automation, capitalism has no need for a sector of workers and cares nothing about their livelihood.

With claims of “saving money,” all the while charting a path to outright privatization, Flint’s water system was switched to a cheaper source, the filthy Flint River. This decision was made by Flint’s governor-appointed dictatorial Emergency Manager and the governor. Michigan’s Emergency Manager system eliminates democracy, replaces democratically elected officials with state appointed officials, shatters labor organizations and restructures cities, all for the benefit of the corporations. And if you sound the alarm to this attack on democracy you could be jailed

without any evidence of a crime. This is what happened to Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor (one of the first Michigan cities to go under the wrath of Emergency Managers). He was among the first to warn of the dangers of fascism in Michigan.

The development of a new kind of economy based on electronic technology that eliminates human labor has created the conditions for these attacks on the working class to occur. As industry automates, shuts down or moves, workers in the Rust Belt, once well taken care of by the capitalists, are discarded by the class to which they have given their loyalty. The rulers have no solution to the mass poverty, foreclosures, water shutoffs and homelessness the system is creating—except fascism. And, as Flint shows, the rulers will not provide anything—not even clean water—to workers they no longer need. The rulers are implementing a fascist state to secure their private property interests in the face of a dying system. The Emergency Manager model is the form this process is taking in Michigan. As a result, a revolutionary struggle of the class for its basic needs, including access to water, is emerging.

Such a movement will protect access to water for everyone and won’t allow private control that threatens our planet’s ecosystem, while polluting the lifeblood of our people. Gaining control over public access to water means nationalization of the water, where the government is made responsible for guaranteeing everyone has access to clean, safe water.

The Michigan workers are showing they are up for the challenge. In Flint, they are filing class action suits, putting forth demands for the jailing of the governor, demanding that the federal government declare the city a disaster area so that they can get the necessary funds to replace the city’s pipes and make the water safe, and demanding Medicare for the children. In Detroit, the people are in a huge battle to stop the tens of thousands of water shutoffs. In Highland Park, people are fighting to get their water back. Water bills are constantly going up and people face losing their homes.

Only with public ownership can the people be provided clean and safe water to all who need it, regardless of the ability to pay. The only practical solution to this problem

is communism. Communism is the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The fight for clean and safe water is along the path towards building a powerful movement to take over the corporations, before the corporations take over the entire society. Then, the abundance that technology makes possible can be used to guarantee that no one is homeless or hungry or having to drink polluted water.

The workers who are poisoned, without running water, forced into the streets, denied medical care and facing starvation are moving toward a common struggle around a program for their very survival. If they are united around a vision of what is possible, they can lead. Private property in the hands of the corporate class must be ended if humanity is to survive.

For further analysis of what the battle in Michigan means for the country, please visit our page on the Rally, Comrades! Web site “Flint on the Front Lines in the Fight for a New America” at <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org>.

Take the Strategic Offensive

The dictionary defines strategy as “the art or science of the planning and conduct of a war,” and also as “a particular long-term plan for success, especially in business or politics.” The working class cannot win the developing class struggle in America without a strategy. The workers can’t win by simply fighting back—their activity must be organized around a strategy and a vision of what they’re fighting for.

A basic principle of strategy is that your strategy must be rooted in the real world. It must be based on an estimate that takes into account the relationship of the forces on the battlefield, the goals of each side, the strengths and weaknesses of each side, the enemy’s strategy and tactics, and what is actually possible. Secondly, you can’t win a war by fighting your enemy’s tactics; you have to fight their strategy to defeat them.

The capitalist’s overall strategy is to prevent class consciousness, and thus prevent the start of a real class struggle. The revolutionaries’ overall strategy is to bring class consciousness to the workers and give them a vision of what they’re fighting for. The class struggle cannot fully develop and come to fruition without the class becoming conscious of itself through revolutionary propaganda.

What is the general situation we face, and what are the possibilities? The ruling class is on the strategic defensive, because capitalism can no longer expand, and if it can’t expand it begins to die. Tactically, the ruling class is on the offensive. The purpose of this offensive is to prevent the workers from becoming class conscious and uniting around a common cause.

Strategically, the working class is on the offensive. This is so because qualitatively new means of production are destroying the capi-

talist system and creating the foundation for a world without private property. Tactically, the working class is on the defensive. It is preoccupied with defending what it had, because it does not understand what is possible.

To win, the workers must move from the defensive—defending the capitalist system and what they once had—to the offensive—fighting for the cooperative society that is possible.

The last trench of the ruling class is the defense of private property. Therefore, it is here that revolutionary propagandists must orient all their tactics. Revolutionaries attack the system of private property, pointing out the necessity of overthrowing private property and transferring the gigantic means of production into public property.

The attack against private property cannot succeed without vision. The goal of revolutionaries today is to give the American people a vision of what is possible. Revolutionary propaganda focuses on the fact that the system can no longer provide even the basic necessities of life for tens of millions. It strives to show that private property is making and keeping people homeless and depriving them of water; private property that is causing the unemployment, the poverty, the hunger, the lack of healthcare and the police violence that confronts us. Visionary propaganda concretely shows the practical possibility of ending private property, and of having an economic paradise for the workers if the workers owned the means of production.

Revolutionaries must also put forward a program that would solve the immediate crisis if it was to be implemented; that is the demand that the government intervene in the economy, to guarantee everyone the basic necessities of life. This program is summed up as “national-

ization.” If the capitalists refuse to implement such a program, their failure to implement it exposes them and the system. Putting forward the demand for nationalization prompts a debate among the workers that revolutionaries can enter into—a debate about whom the State serves, and which points our class in the direction of confronting the ruling class, its State, and the whole question of who owns society’s productive property.

Revolutionaries are not free to simply pick a strategy out of the air. The strategy is dictated by the actual situation on the battlefield, by what actually exists in the real world, by what is both necessary and possible.

Revolutionaries focus on the fight for the basic necessities of life, because the system can no longer provide them. Revolutionary propaganda focuses on the new class because they are forced to fight for a new society that is being created by labor-replacing technology.

The enemy strives to prevent class consciousness and to hide the class struggle, by using every divisive ideology that history has handed them. Their goal is to isolate the new class and prevent them from playing their historic role. Revolutionaries fight to make the new class conscious of itself and its historic role, and to develop unity within the class around a common program. The possibility exists to build political class unity around a program that is objectively the program of the entire working class—to abolish private property and build a cooperative society.

Building Block articles help explain a basic concept of the revolutionary process, challenging readers to explore its meaning for political work in today’s environment.

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Fascism, the U.S. Presidential Elections and the T

The 2016 Presidential elections are unlike anything this country has seen in decades. The question on everyone's mind is why, and for those dedicated to making a better world, what is to be done?

Historically, qualitative changes in the economy, brought forth by the introduction of new motive forces, have been accompanied by a struggle over how they will be controlled. This is a political struggle.

This is happening today. Electronic production is doing away with human labor in one sector of the economy after another. It is creating an untenable situation for those pushed out of the economy altogether. Nobody wants to, or can, buy their ability to work. We refer to these workers as a new part of the working class; a new class. The new class has no choice but to fight for their basic needs, in order to simply survive. The ruling class has to contain and destroy that fight.

The ruling class is doing everything in its power to keep its hold on all of the resources to produce the means of life. They are compelled to transform the bourgeois democratic State, step-by-step, layer by layer, into a fascist State. They are conscious about what they are fighting for. The new class can only go forward by fighting for a cooperative communist society, where the new means of production are publicly owned, and where the means of life are distributed without money. The new class of workers can only fight in this direction, but are not yet conscious of the meaning of their fight.

THIS IS WHAT THE ELECTIONS ARE A PART OF

The work of revolutionaries is to disseminate a vision of what is possible. It is a vision of a world where no one has to fight another for the daily bread of existence. It is a vision where cooperation and fulfilling the needs of humanity are the guiding principles. The new conditions and the formation of the new class make widespread dissemination of this vision possible, and necessary.

During the industrial era, the capitalist system was held together by ruling class ideology, backed up by the economic and social bribery of a section of workers, who were given relatively good wages and standard of living. These workers became the key to keeping the rest of the working class supporting capitalism and the global policies of the capitalist class. Today, globalization based on production without human labor is forcing the rulers to discard this pillar of control. In its place, a fascist State is being created to control the working class struggle for survival and their fight for a new society.

This objective situation is colliding with what the American people call the American way of life—fair play, justice, decency. People's thinking is becoming unhinged from the capitalist political superstructure. Their thinking is up for grabs. Which way it goes, whether toward fascism or communism, depends in no small part on what revolutionaries do.

The League is going into this election with the purpose of arousing as much revolutionary thinking as possible—distributing the press and connecting with people who are serious about not just changing an elected official, but changing a system. The workers are being pulled into process of the elections (working in the campaigns themselves, participating in the rallies, bringing up the issues in their churches, schools, organizations and communities), seeking redress of their grievances. They need to understand the process they are part of, the solution to their problems and what they must do to resolve them.

The demands and program of the new class have to become part of the debate during the elections. The propaganda and morality of the ruling class must be challenged.

GLOBAL INSTABILITY AND POLARIZATION

Despite rosy recent U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and employment figures, the state of the global economy as a whole remains precarious. The basis of this instability is the revolutionary, qualitative leap from electro-mechanical production to robotics. Martin Ford's recent book, *The Rise of the Robots*, describes in detail how computerized technology is rapidly displacing workers in one sector after another, all around the world. Unlike prior labor-saving machinery that increased the productivity of workers, Ford points out that now the "machines themselves are turning into workers." A 2013 study by the University of Oxford's Martin School concluded that nearly 50% of remaining U.S. jobs are susceptible to full automation in the next twenty years.

The so-called "stop-go" recovery of the global and national economy since the 2008 recession is a reflection of the antagonism created by the introduction and spread of these electronic means of production into a private property economy. As automation relentlessly replaces human labor, it creates enormous profits on one side and a new class on the other. The result is a polarization of wealth and poverty unprecedented in human history. The destitution becomes so extreme and so widespread, that it begins to act as a brake on the system's ability to circulate commodities.

The 2016 electoral process is taking place in an atmosphere of economic danger and uncertainty, driving an ever increasing motion toward world war and fascism at home. The economic polarization of wealth and poverty is reflected in a growing social polarization, and is the basis for political polarization.

ELECTIONS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

The ruling class is constantly engaged in "sand table" discussions of the situation. It is the only way they can study, assess, sum up and plan to maintain power. Every recent election has been used to take away the

rights of common people, consolidate the merging of the State and corporations, and further develop a fascist State, and to take another step toward convincing the American people that fascism is the solution to their problems.

Fascism today is based upon the objective social destruction of the capitalist economic system wrought by electronic production. A fascist program is being implemented by a global capitalist class to protect private property. In countries around the world, fascist economic and political policies have matured by varying degrees over the past 20 years. Since the 2008 global economic crisis, this modern fascism has been accelerated under the guise of "austerity" worldwide.

The ruling class is already planning how to control the social and political situation for the soon-to-come downturns in the economy. Above all, they are planning to secure the system of private property. They are united on this program. They differ only on the means to achieve it. Revolutionaries have to look at the elections as objectively as the ruling class does and hold our own sand table discussions.

The ruling class has always used elections to gauge the thinking of the people and what they are ready to do. Within the current electoral process, political "poles" are provided to gauge where the American people are ideologically, socially, politically. The ruling class needs to find out to what extent the demands of the new class for food, clothing, homes, education and health care is coming to the fore.

Both political parties and their candidates are part of the same ruling class political apparatus, using various ideological positions to manipulate the apprehension, fear and disorientation of the workers, to create the conditions for consolidating a fascist society and government. This includes the "right wing populism" of the Republican Party and the "left wing populism" of the Democratic Party.

The most important aspect of U.S. populism is its non-class outlook. Ideologically, populism is never directed against the capitalist system. It rejects the idea that the working class has interests absolutely hostile to those of the capitalist class. Any attempts to do away with the class character of the emerging struggle today are ploys to derail the workers' independent political thinking and activity, to win them over to fascism.

Populism dominates the electoral process. On the one hand is the dangerous, anti-immigrant, anti-working class populist rhetoric that strives to consolidate a base for social fascism. With these ideas the ruling class attempts to shape the thinking of workers as they respond to their deteriorating conditions, to make it appear as if fascism is just the most simple and obvious solution to their problems. On the other hand, are appeals to adopt a populist all-class, social democratic program, that corrals independent political impulses and directs them into the Democratic

Party. The Democratic Party remains the glue that ties the workers to the capitalists politically. Breaking that connection is a first step in the development of working class political independence.

The populist message has deep roots in American politics. It touches a nerve among workers, who are seeing their lives go up in smoke. Whether they gravitate toward the left or the right, or toward the unraveling middle, the workers are attempting to solve their problems and redress their grievances. All the candidates are appealing to and using these fears to get across their message.

Currently, Trump and the Republican Party give voice to and organize not only the outright fascists, but seek to convince the American people, including the new class, that the enemy and problem is the new class itself. While the Republican Party nominee is not yet decided and may be someone other than Trump, none of the candidates, or any other Republicans are substantially disagreeing with him. They seek to create a foundation for national unity among a section of the workers, while sowing divisions among the rest, so the ruling class can continue to consolidate its fascist hold, in order to implement its program.

The message of the Sanders' campaign appeals to the democratic and economic aspirations of people. Those who want a more just and humane world are gravitating around his candidacy. Here we see how the ruling class is using the Sanders' campaign to capture this motion and derail any motion toward restructuring the private property system. Regardless of what happens, the campaign will have the effect of directing support to the Democratic Party, which will position Sanders and others like him to play a role in any future motion toward a third party.

Revolutionaries should not underestimate the importance of the Sanders' campaign to the revolutionary process, however. A section of the working class is using the Sanders' campaign as a vehicle to fight for its concrete demands. The rising demand that the government resolve the problems of the people and the open discussion of socialism is a development of extreme significance. It paves the way for a real discussion about what it will take to reorganize society in the interests of humanity and the steps to achieve it. The class achieves its political independence in a series of partial and necessary stages. If revolutionaries fail to fight for the completion of each stage as it becomes possible, the process cannot advance. Revolutionaries can unite with those gravitating towards Sanders' message and introduce a vision of the solution and a strategy to get there. We rest on the scattered, basic demands of the class to show that a cooperative society is not only possible, but is the practical solution to the problems of today.

Hillary Clinton is certainly the best person to further the program of the global ruling class, nationally and internationally. She echoes the same populist rhetoric and themes as Sanders. While some of their key positions

Tasks of Revolutionaries

are different, many of their proposed policies and positions are similar or the same. She approaches everything from the standpoint of clearing the way for global expansion, and for speculative capital searching the world for ways to make money. She is part of an extensive network of corporate supporters and has deep alliances in the Democratic Party. Her history of serving in the U.S. Senate and as Secretary of State give her the global standing, the credentials and experience in managing the international affairs of the most powerful nation in the world. She has proven that she will pursue the social, economic and political changes needed to advance private property interests, including keeping the U.S. on a perpetual war footing.

Revolutionaries can chart their way through the labyrinth of these elections only if they keep the realities of today upper most in their minds. The qualitatively new conditions present the opportunity to realize the demands of the class, including the aspirations for a cultured and peaceful existence. Revolutionaries must utilize the struggle and the ferment created by the elections, along with the propaganda and actions of the ruling class, to move our class from the defensive—defending the capitalist system and what they once had—to the offensive—fighting for a cooperative society that is possible.

POLARIZATION AND THE THINKING OF THE PEOPLE

Once material conditions change, people become open to a new way of thinking. Some of the core ruling class beliefs and ideas that have held American society together are losing their hold. The immensity and rapidity of such changes—and the significance of this process for revolution—cannot be overestimated.

The idea of the “American Dream,” which says life will be better for everyone, is waning. The idea that all you have to do to succeed is “pull yourself up by your bootstraps,” the idea that blames the poor for their poverty is also waning, as “hard work” is no longer seen as a guarantee of success.

Other indicators of the broad and objective changes in the thinking of the American people are: a majority believe the economic system is unfair, and a growing majority does not trust the government or political leaders. Corporations are seen as holding too much power. There is an eroding of confidence in the police. This is seen in the tremendous reaction developing against the police killings. And more recently is the widespread national outrage at the government over the poisoning of the water of the entire city of Flint, Michigan.

Underlying these changes in thinking is the dramatic influence of the worsening economic conditions of the American people. More than half of Americans have less than \$1,000 to their name and nearly a quarter have less than \$100. Fifteen thousand people become homeless every month in Los Angeles, a city with 22 billionaires and more million-

aires than anywhere in the country. One-third of America is without healthcare. Government austerity policies continue to be implemented, as the rulers transfer whatever wealth remains to the rich.

Most significant for revolutionaries at this moment is the potential for the new class to unite as a result of these conditions. As robotic production spreads, for the first time an unprecedented equality of poverty is creating the basis for real class unity. Although poverty rates for Blacks and Latinos are almost three times higher than whites, the rates are narrowing. More than 19 million whites, or 41% all people living in poverty, live below the official poverty line. Today, a significant share of all high school graduates cannot get a job that allows them to survive.

The rulers are aware of the danger posed by these changing conditions. Of immediate concern to the rulers is the potential for a section of these workers to unite politically. Such unity could awaken larger sections of society to the plight of the new class. This could intensify a process already underway—for society to group around the demands of this new class, rather than the fascist solution the rulers’ are offering.

Containing the awakening of the new class is the number one political task of the ruling class. They are using every divisive ideology history has handed them. However, the people’s awakening is part of an objective process and cannot be stopped. The current electoral process must be viewed within this context.

The rulers are unleashing a massive propaganda war to keep the thinking of society tied to private property. The elections are a means for them to test ideas, deepen divisions, crush the impulse for class unity, consolidate a social base for fascism, and build a fascist movement. Such a movement will be made up of not only the more backward workers, but also the forces from within the corporate-government and the military.

While many workers are being moved by the rulers toward a more fascist outlook, a growing number within the new class are moving toward a more class-based position. Revolutionaries have to grab hold of, and develop, these arising seeds of class awareness, no matter how contradictory and embryonic they are.

Like all processes, consciousness develops in stages. The awakening underway is moving from the awareness that something is drastically wrong with society, to an understanding that workers are a class, rather than identity group based on color, sex and so forth. This is a necessary step in their development, to break their ties to the capitalist class and put forward an independent political program that represents their class interests. Class consciousness, where the workers grasp the necessity of taking political power to create a new society, is the next stage. These stages interpenetrate and are developing at the same time.

Workers of all colors throughout the country are beginning to express their com-

mon plight and their need to act together. From coal miners in West Virginia, to descendants of slaves in the Mississippi Delta, to the smaller towns and cities throughout the North, such as Flint, Michigan, and the struggles in the suburbs like Ferguson, Fullerton and Anaheim, along with the workers in the large cities, there is a growing recognition of this reality.

As one woman said, “my primary concern is putting food on my family’s kitchen table.” In a town where the powerful coal industry denies that coal chemicals are poisoning the water, another woman said, “People are stepping up and saying we deserve better. [W]hen you are poor, you’re ready to unite against injustice. We are willing to stand with any community to make it better.”

In the Rust Belt, workers are joining together to fight for water rights and for life itself. They are fighting against the Emergency Manager dictatorship and the politicians that support the corporations, despite attempts to divide them. “I think they should lock Snyder up,” said one woman from Benton Harbor Michigan, which like Flint is also under an Emergency Financial Manager. She went on to say, “Others are locked up for nothing and their lives will never be reversed. It’s one of the ways of genocide against the poor, especially the Blacks. I know a lot of whites are affected also. As soon as all of us realize if you are working class, if you are poor, whether, Black, green, or gray, we’re in the same boat. As long as they keep us divided they win.”

In another city, a fascist group came to a homeless encampment to pass out flyers blaming the undocumented and calling on the homeless to demonstrate against them. The flyers had zero impact because many of the homeless were undocumented themselves and regarded as integral members of the community.

The rulers must block the developing impulses toward unity. They use the history of racial division to divide the class, a division the ruling class created. As the robot sheds more jobs permanently, this historic tactic is losing its grip on many. For example, a 2014 Pew poll reported that 46 percent of Americans agreed with the statement, “Our country needs to continue making changes to give Blacks equal rights with whites.” By July 2015, that figure had risen to 59 percent.”

The new conditions are forcing the rulers to concentrate their attack on the new class itself. They are trying to divide the new class, stigmatize it and isolate it from society. Using history, they begin their attack against the poorest Black workers first. They are portraying Blacks as “shiftless, can’t hold a job, won’t finish school, use drugs, and criminally inclined.” As this beachhead is established, they move on to put the so-called white “trailer trash” and “illegal” immigrants into the same category. If accepted by the American people, these views would set the basis for the rulers to impose fascism on society as a whole.

TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

The strategy of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is to rely on the spontaneous impulses of the class for its economic survival, to bring unity and consciousness of the ultimate solution to the new class and society. This is possible, because the movement today is objectively headed in the direction of communist revolution. Forced out of society and increasingly denied the ability to survive, no one can bribe the new class away from defending its class program.

Revolutionaries raise the demands of the new class in every venue, challenge the propaganda and immorality of the ruling class and put forward solutions in the interests of the workers. Production with electronics is creating the potential for an abundance of everything needed for all human beings to thrive. It is private property that stands in the way. The program of the new class can be summed up as the abolition of private property. This means that all have access to a decent life—a safe place to live, good food and nutrition, quality health care and education—regardless of where you come from, what color or sex you are, or how much money you have.

Accomplishing this strategy, and the widespread propaganda war that it demands, points to the urgent need for the unity of a broad core of revolutionaries. Revolutionaries need to unite around the practical demands and the program of the new class to carry history forward. The League’s mission in every struggle is to find the leaders in these emerging struggles and win them to this solution and the strategy to get there. The elections can, and must be, utilized as a means to do this.

Political Report of the Central Body, LRNA, February 2016.

Join the Discussion

LRNA political reports offer revolutionaries a fresh perspective! They offer analysis and vision, and outline the role revolutionaries play in a strategy to achieve that vision. Share them with others, use them in your classes, discussion groups and study circles. Spread the vision of a new world and the possibility of achieving it.

From Communism to Communism

Today, we see that the leap to labor-less production and the consequent shrinking of the division of labor is creating a growing inability to distribute the needs of life with money, the equalizer of all labor. Whether we like it or not, society is moving into crisis—a world-sweeping crisis—based on the reality that the division of labor is disappearing, because robots are taking over all categories of work. The social division we are seeing today is this mass that consumes and doesn't produce on the one hand, and the owners of the equipment that produces, but doesn't consume. It is impossible to continue this.

The process we are dealing with is the motion from primitive communism (based on scarcity) to communism (based on abundance). Like any other motion, progress comes in stages. If this is not understood, then all of the strategy and tactics of the movement will fail. This process from communism to communism is, of course, dialectical. Each stage has its subjective and objective characteristics. The manual labor connected to agriculture was negated by industry (i.e. manual labor assisted by machinery). The mode of sublation was from slavery or serfdom to wage labor, which maintained unpaid labor time. Today we are seeing the negation of industry by automation. This time there will be no sublation, since robotics puts an end to unpaid labor time. On the other hand, if we see the negation of communism by communism, then we see all the stages in between as stages of development: as sublation.

SECOND OBJECTIVE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

The world is seeing the beginnings of the second objective communist movement. We are going to have to look again at what we mean by "communist movement." How does it arise, and what is the difference between an objective communist movement and a subjective communist movement? The first communist movement was brought about by a lack of a division of labor. In other words, if everybody is doing the same thing you can't exchange. If everybody is doing parts or aspects of the same thing, you simply exchange. If there is a broad division of labor then there has to be a medium of exchange, i.e., money. Money comes about only to compensate for the divisions of labor. Money is the medium to equate the labor of the bricklayer to the labor of the shoemaker. Money comes into existence, and with money comes the possibility of accumulation.

Of course when there was a hunting and gathering society, there wasn't enough of a division of labor that demanded a medium of exchange. If you don't have any medium of exchange, it is carried on according to need. The other point is that the first objective communist movement was brought about by a lack of a broad division of labor. It was scarcity that prevented that division of labor and there was no way for people to live except in

a communist manner. We see this in all of the hunting and gathering societies.

The second objective communist movement is developing today, because of a shrinking of the division of labor, which makes the distribution of abundance impossible. First you have communism, because scarcity compelled it and now we are seeing it from the standpoint of abundance, but for the same reason. We are seeing the old division of labor being done away with. Let's say that Jack was a drill press operator. He is no longer a drill press operator. They do not make drill presses anymore. Today, robots do that work. Joe, down the street was a tool and die maker. It is not a craft any more. Robots do that work. There is no way for Joe and Jack to exchange. We don't have a division of labor. Categories of labor are disappearing at the same time that abundance is developing. How are you going to exchange, if there isn't a division of labor? Consequently, money—the medium of exchange—becomes worthless.

The process we are dealing with is the motion from primitive communism based on scarcity to communism based on abundance. Like any other motion the process comes in stages. If this is not understood then all the strategy and tactics of the movement will fail.

Most of the money being made today, is being made by speculation (money creating money), which means to say it is not money any more, because money is dead labor. What the capitalists are creating is not dead labor. What they are creating is simply a casino. It is obvious that money is becoming more and more worthless. How do you make money worthless? Here's one way they are going about it: the more money that comes into circulation, the higher the price. The more worthless the money becomes, the more labor is replaced by robotics, the more the division of labor decreases. Therefore, the abundance heaps up on one side and more starvation heaps up on the other. The capitalists have to have more robotics in order to compensate for it. They have to make things cheaper and faster in the effort to capture the declining market. Once this gets started, it goes faster and faster, and broader and broader. What we are seeing is that the very thing that brought about primitive communism (the nonexistence of a division of labor) is happening again, only now with the decline of division of labor, within the process of production.

The other important point is that the first movement for communism developed spontaneously, along with the elementary means of

production, and was a subjective expression of an objective process. The tribal grouping or structure (the human relations) was a subjective expression of this objective process of communist exchange. There was a certain unity within these groups that modern society simply doesn't have and cannot have. The objective aspects and the subjective aspects were united.

COMMUNISM ON A NEW FOUNDATION

Over the millennia, a very complex division of labor developed. In Western Europe, the period from about 1000 to the 1700s saw a tremendous increase in the division of labor. The development of iron and steel in agriculture and every aspect of manufacturing exploded. That meant that the objective development of the means of production, and consequently, the objective social movement of the masses disunited from the subjective movement for re-establishing

because robots are taking over all categories of work.

We have so much of everything in this world that it is almost impossible to define it. The Iraqi war cost was about 1 trillion dollars. Where did that money come from? Not long ago, there were about a thousand millionaires in America. There are now almost 10 million millionaires in America. There are over 500 billionaires. Something is happening with money as an expression of domination over society. It will likely be resolved in the very near future. People are going to begin taking what they need. They are not just going to stand back and allow themselves to starve. Anybody raising children may not say it, but they certainly think, "I don't mind starving to death, but I won't let you starve my kid." We are seeing a motion toward real crisis.

CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN ILLUSION AND REALITY

The new means of production creates a division of labor that demands communism based on abundance. Communism was first based on scarcity, and now it is based on abundance, or even on superabundance. The problem is that the human cognition (that is to say the understanding of the world) lags far behind the real changes in the real world. Because of this, the subjective struggle for communism has remained disconnected from the real world.

In the 1800s, when tremendous industrialization was taking place, people really thought that they would be able to get a communist society, if enough people believed in communism. They didn't see that the reason the communism of the hunting-gathering era had disappeared was the development of objective forces in the productive process.

Today, we see a mass, objectively in motion towards communism, based on the new social division of labor. That is to say, the capitalists have all of it and can't use it; the working class has none of it and needs all of it. The new division of labor objectively calls for the distribution of the necessities of life without money. However, the lag between illusion and reality compels these objective communists to be the most bitter, subjective anti-communists. They are still thinking in terms of 1800. It is obvious this contradiction between illusion and reality makes clear what the tasks of real revolutionaries are. We are seeing that the communists today have to organize themselves to overcome this gap between illusion and reality amongst the masses of people. In some way or another, this has to be done, because all the economic struggle in the world is not going to change the social relationship. Only a political act will change the social relationship. That political act can only come about, if there is a real understanding of today's economic and social reality that is called the world.