“All Power to the Workers!”

NICOLAI LENIN
MAY DAY

MAY DAY, the Day of International Labor, has come! May Day, the Day of Revolution, is here, bringing its message of revolt—proletarian revolt! May Day, when the Workers in their millions, all over the world, assemble in the public squares and send forth words of challenge to the masters who hold them in chains! May Day, when men, women and children, grasping each other's hands, thrill with the songs of emancipation that Revolutionists who have lived and died for the Revolution, have written with their life's blood! May Day, the Day of Liberty, the Day of Workers' Freedom—May Day of the Proletarian Revolution—is here!

This year, May Day has come in the midst of bitter struggle. People is pitted against people. Workers are challenging their masters. Governments are crush-

to act. Accepting the slogans that brought disaster to the entire world, they went out to the battlefields prepared by their masters, and slaughtered their fellow-workers by the millions. The slaughter continued till the masters were satiated; till their coffers were filled with gold; till the enemy had been beaten and the wealth that he called his was safely hidden in their chests. Seven years this life of hypocrisy has lasted. But at last, the Workers have awakened. At
last, their eyes are opening. They are beginning to see—and to see means the beginning of the Revolution!

All over the world, the struggle between the Workers and the masters is going on. The masters have their national and international bodies, created expressly to crush the Workers. Strengthened by their wealth, using the bodies and minds of prostitute intellectuals, priests, professors, journalists, writers, politicians and statesmen to enforce their will, the masters still hold dominion. Employing the scum of for change. Out of this suffering will come the NECESSITY for change. Out of this suffering, endured by Labor hosts all over the world, is rising the insistent call for the Revolution.

It is not the Workers alone who are shackled by the masters. The peoples of Asia and Africa must pay tribute to the masters of the Occident; they are held by them in absolute thralldom. The people of India, Persia, Afghanistan, China, Corea, the whole of Africa are mere pawns in the struggle that goes on between

the cities, criminals and cast-offs of society to carry out their desires, the masters still control the fate of the world.

The Workers have not yet learned the value of organization. Still held apart by prejudice and suspicion, still disputing over petty matters, still afraid to take the bold step that would bring the ranks of Labor into one solid, organized, disciplined body that could fight as one man, the Workers are handicapped—and are suffering. But this suffering is making them wise! For out of this suffering is coming the insistent urge the masters. Exploited, bleeding, their national hopes dissipated; their best sons and daughters used for the gain of the masters; their land and all its resources drained of their wealth, which goes into the bags of the masters, there surges through these nations the spirit of rebellion—the worldwide urge of Revolution has reached them.

Capitalist imperialism, the mother of the World War, has reached the end of its path. Imperialism has amassed all the wealth that the world produces. The fields of exploitation have narrowed down. The
After the Revolution! May Day, 1918, in Petrograd.

Competition for them has become acute. Capitalist imperialism sees that the struggle leads only to mutual destruction, and, consequently, endeavors to unite the imperialists into one body. But capitalist greed is too keen! Capitalist disregard for life is too pronounced! The world war which saw imperialist nations arrayed against one another in certain constellations, now witnesses old friends becoming enemies, old enemies becoming friends! Capitalist lust for gold and possession—imperialist urge to power is dragging the world into another war. In the Far East, there looms the specter of war, threatening the Workers with renewed destruction. Imperialism, heedless and conscienceless, is driving on the Workers by lies and distortions, creating the atmosphere out of which will spring the electric spark of war. Imperialism, fearing the struggle that must come with the exploited masses, welcomes renewed slaughter, in the hope of averting its fate. Imperialism is doomed—imperialism scornfully derides its fate!

In the capitalist countries, the Workers are struggling fiercely. They are wrestling with hunger and unemployment. Factories are closed, mills shut down—the workers are idle and have no bread! Starvation, disease, murder and crime—these are the companions of the working class. There is no production, while the Workers clamor for food. There is no work, and Workers’ hands remain idle. The army of unemployed is growing; in it is planted the seed of Revolution. The masters are using the legions of the unemployed to batter the ranks of those still working in the shops. More exploitation is their goal—longer hours of toil and less bread for the toilers. All over the world, as with one impulse, the masters are making this greedy demand. And all over the world, with the same impulse, the workers are defying the masters and calling them forth to struggle. Hunger is no giant to be trifled with! Hunger knows no decency, no borders, no sanity! Hunger knows but one thing: hunger seeks satiation!

The Workers are being pressed to the wall. It is NOW OR NEVER! Now they must fight—or go down. BUT THE WORKERS WILL NOT GO 

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A group of workers gathered about the statue, "The Iron Worker."
ONE of the brightest flames of genius of the Russian Revolution was John Reed, American. John Reed was a poet and therefore a rebel, a daring artist and therefore a bold friend of the most audacious of all revolutions. Some of the first and I think quite the best news that we received from Russia was written by him. I mean the news that was written with a hand that knew what the great news meant. "Ten Days That Shook the World," wrote Reed; and I think that chronicle will stand as one of the finest examples of first-hand history ever written. While myriads of writers reported the Russian Revolution as a crime, while many worried Socialists described it as an accident of chaos, John Reed's singing voice told of it in a way that future historians will write of it—as the greatest, bravest and most spiritual stride that the race has ever made into the future.

Not to petty causes, but to the grand assertion of life itself, a poet must be partisan. The American poet saw the Russian Proletarian Revolution as the heartiest assertion that life has ever made, and he took part as a soldier, as a propagandist, as an artist to whose opinion this divine Propaganda was not too sordid for the artist’s pen. Across the horizon of Communism he saw the dawning of the world's first real day of Art, which day can only come when the race is artist.

John Reed returned and brought the kiss of the Second American Revolution—the Proletarian International Revolution—to the bosom of his mother people. Fervently as an artist, coolly as a man introducing a science, he proclaimed the Second American Revolution. He would have been imprisoned through the best years of his life had the schemes of the law had their way. But the schemes of the law often fail, and they failed this time, and for that reason America has not the additional disgrace of this fine young poet in the prisons that are heavy with the best men we know. John Reed went back to Russia and fought again and helped to build the Third International that is now fusing the world proletariat into a unit of battle. His life was one of the many that were given. He died in the hardship of battle, and he was buried under the north wall of the Kremlin, side by side with the most renowned of Russian laborers that are martyred to the Revolution. And, except that we would need him further, it is all right for him to have died that way, for all of us have to die somehow, and there is no better way than the way he died.
The Political Prisoners

By J. P. Cannon

EVERY war has its hazards; the class war more than any other, for the organized workers wage it for the largest stakes in all the world's history—for the Earth and all its fruits, for the complete expropriation of the present-day ruling class. In this world-wide struggle there is no compromise and no quarter. The aim of the workers is nothing less than the complete abolition of the capitalist system. Both classes are organizing on an international scale.

The list of the prisoners of the class war—the Workers' Roll of Honor—is a long one and it increases steadily in spite of all the predictions that "normal conditions" of civil liberty will be restored. There can be no more normal conditions. This is the era of the world revolution. The war is on and there will no more peace until the Workers triumph everywhere.

It is to be expected that many will fall in battle and many be taken prisoner by the enemy before the final goal is reached. The ruling class today is the capitalist class. They maintain themselves in power by force and violence. They make the laws according to their own class interests. The revolutionary movement is a menace to their system. Therefore it is an outlaw movement. Every one who takes an active part in the struggle for the liberation of the working class takes a chance of going to prison. When the workers get on top they will reverse the order of things. The workers will make the laws then according to their class interests. They will outlaw their class enemies and put them in jail. That is what they are doing in Russia today. It is a very simple proposition. Absolutely natural, absolutely necessary.

The ruling class of America used to laugh at the talk about socialism. They didn't take it seriously. But the Russian revolution created a panic amongst them. It demonstrated that the thing can be put over quickly if the time is ripe and the workers get the right idea. When they saw the conditions for working class revolt developing here in the United States, they began to search for agitators to put in their jails. They wanted to lock up their ideas.

At first they grabbed everybody who talked "radical," but after a while they decided that some kind of talk doesn't hurt much. They learned to discriminate between the dangerous ideas and the harmless ones, and to recognize certain propaganda as legal. Some ideas are not legal according to capitalist laws and never will be.

The Communists have an idea that the masters fear, therefore it is illegal and the persecution of the Communists continues. The New York State prison holds five of them; twenty more at Chicago were convicted during the last year of "peace". Revolutionary unionism is a dangerous idea, so the I. W. W. men stay in jail and others go to join them.

There is a definite purpose behind this persistent and systematic railroadng of working class agitators. The money-sharks who rule America thought they would be able to break up the movement by taking away the leaders and intimidating the rank and file. But the revolutionary movement grows up out of the life needs of the workers and there is no power that can break it. Persecution is but the fire in which it is tempered and hardened. When leaders go to prison others come forward out of the ranks and take their places. When faint-hearted followers desert, new recruits, better suited for the stern requirements of the class war, are enlisted.

The men who have gone to prison for the workers' cause know this. That knowledge enables them to bear their confinement without complaint, oppressive as it is to men of independent spirit. They see the proletarian revolution still triumphant in Russia; they see it rising in all the countries of Europe where capitalism has played out its string and cannot reorganize production; they know that we, who are on the outside of the jails, have not forgotten them nor our sacred obligation to appeal to the all-powerful workers in their behalf.

The day is coming when the toiling masses of America will hear that appeal and act upon it. Then the prison doors will be opened and the prisoners set free, for the masses have an authority higher than that of any court. To redouble our efforts to hasten on the day of liberation is the pledge we make to our imprisoned comrades on this First of May.
Funeral of the Proletarian Dead of the Soviet Republic.

Three years later. The Second Congress of the Third International pays homage to the Revolutionary Dead.
Communist Saturday in Petrograd.

Communist Saturday of Soviet Employees.
The capitalist system is on the verge of collapse. Only a world-wide revolution can save society from ruin and destruction. A world revolution will come and come soon. The Workers must organize their forces for this revolution in order to assure its success without needless sacrifice.

Capital is international. The workers in their struggle for emancipation must face an international enemy well organized and highly disciplined. They must accordingly have an international organization of their own—an organization highly centralized, well disciplined, well trained, cleared of all the wavering elements; they must have a real fighting international organization.

Such an organization—the General Staff of the World Revolution—already exists with headquarters at Moscow, the heart of the First Proletarian Republic of the world. The Third or Communist International is the organization to which are turned the eyes of the revolutionary proletariat of all countries of the world.

Only two years have passed since the First Congress of the Communist International raised the banner of Communism, and openly declared its ideas; two years of unheard of hardships and persecutions of all those who dare to stand up for its principles. And, yet, during this comparatively short period, the Communist International has become a force, a real challenge to the capitalist system of the world. And its power is constantly and rapidly growing. Its principles, tactics and form of organization assure the Communist International vitality and strength.

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DOWN! From their suffering they have learned. Seven years of murder, slaughter, blood-drinking, lying in trenches, breathing in poison gas, exploitation in factories, unemployment, pale-faced, broken-bodied children, insanity and crime; while the masters revel in their wealth, idling and pleasure-seeking, moving from place to place to rid themselves of ennui, yet brutal and dictatorial—in a world filled with plenty, only awaiting those who would pluck this plenty—seven years of this sham-figurement of life, of this firing-down and blood-letting of the working class, small group of whom Revolution meant the Revolution. A small group who would not forget what the masters of the Revolution had intended. A small group who kept alive the spark—in Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Scandinavia, America. A small group who cherished and fostered the belief in the emancipation of the Workers by the Workers themselves, and did not give up.

The call to Revolution first sounded in Russia. On November 7, 1917, the Workers led by the invincible Bolsheviks, established the Rule of the Workers in Russia. They planted high the Red Flag of Revolution. They have filled the Workers with a new determination: THE WORKERS WILL NOT GO DOWN!

Revolution is the watchword that the Workers are using. Revolution and emancipation from exploitation. The Workers must rule. The Workers alone must determine things. For fifty-five years this had been preached. The Workers must emancipate themselves—the Workers must control. For fifty-five years, the Workers have listened to sermons on the internationalism of labor and solidarity of the working class. For fifty-five years they sang their songs of revolt—and forgot them all when the bugle call sounded in August, 1914. Still there remained a

ton, that the Workers in all other countries might see it. For three years, the Red Flag has waved over the Russian Soviet Republic, a challenge to the capitalist world. For three years, the Workers of the other countries, learning what the Revolution means, have been filled with the spirit of the Revolution. International solidarity is no longer a dream—it is becoming a fact.

The sufferings, self-sacrifice, and superhuman idealism of the Russian Workers inspired the Workers of the world. At last, the mode of the Revolution had been discovered. Solidarity, definiteness and oneness of purpose; these were the prerequisites of the Revolu-
NATION. Nationalism must grow into internationalism—an Internationalism of action. Thus grew the Third—the Communist—International. The International of Revolution! The International of unified action! Thus grew the International solidarity of the revolutionary Workers. Assembled in the hall at Moscow, the Revolutionists drank in the experiences of their Russian comrades, and, inspired by their deeds of devotion and heroism, vowed that the exploitation of the Workers must cease!

They sifted their ranks; they took out only the true Revolutionists. They organized their Communist Parties, bound together by a single will, a single aim, held together by ironclad discipline. They united them all in the Communist International, ready to do battle with the hosts of the International Imperialists, who are prepared to drown in blood the united Workers. The Revolution that it preached has spread to all the countries. By force of arms, the Workers of Germany and Italy, under leadership of the Communists, are contesting with the State the mastery of economic and political life. In this fight it shall be determined once for all whether the Workers or the masters shall rule. In Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Spain and Portugal, the ranks of the Workers are being solidified for the conflict with the master class and the State. Repression, abrogation of law, torture and murder are the means that the masters and the State are employing in order to crush the Workers. French and British Workers are preparing for the inevitable struggle—already there are rumbles, the foundations of the capitalist order are shaking. In South America, Mexico, Japan and China, acting under the same impulse, the Workers are being driven to Revolution.

The peoples of India, Egypt, in the Near and Far East, have heard the call of the Communist International. It is the call to emancipation—the call to liberation of the toiling masses and peoples. The struggle is raging here with the imperialist hyenas whose
claws have long been fastened in the flesh of these suffering nations. United in the Communist International with the Workers of the west, the Red Flag has been raised—and will not come down again.

In America, in "democratic" America, where the forces of reaction operate under the mask of popular control, the Workers are slowly awakening to the truths promulgated by the Communist International. In America, where capital rules uncurbed, where law is annulled or disregarded at the behest of financial power, the Worker is held in iron fetters. The power of the organized capitalist hordes has challenged the Workers—by its very brazenness, it is impelling the Workers to Revolution. No force too mean, no force too great, to be used against the Workers! The State with its many departments of compulsion, its laws, courts, military forces, etc., is invoked by them in the struggle for control. Still unorganized, the Workers cannot meet the challenge. Not yet! But the breath of Revolution is passing over the land. The Communist International calls—and the Workers are heeding. The Workers of America, children of many countries, have answered the call in many tongues—but they are all the tongue of Revolution.

The hosts of Organized Labor, too, are being bound in ever closer ties to the heart of the Revolution. The Red Labor International, phalanx of the Communist International in labor and industrial organizations, is meeting this year in Moscow, to forge strong weapons for the Revolution; to forge the tools that will fell the monster-tyrant, the capitalist State.

The Revolution is on!

Hosts of Workers in both hemispheres have proclaimed the Revolution! This is the May Day of the Revolution. Six hundred million Workers in the West and the East are celebrating the May Day of the Revolution!

Hail then, May Day of the Revolution! Hail, May Day of the International Workers and Peoples! Let your challenge resound in every corner of the earth: this is May Day, the May Day of Revolution!

TOM CLARK.
The Evolution of Capitalism
Workers of the World—

UNITE!

You have nothing to lose
But your chains!

You Have a World to Win!