

RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

Call for League National Convention

As the capitalist class spreads war and violence around the world, the polarization of wealth and poverty is reaching unprecedented proportions. The economic revolution is taking our country toward a critical juncture. The social effects are calling for people to fight consciously and politically. The League of Revolutionaries for a New America (LRNA) must take stock of this situation and adjust accordingly to carry out our purpose.

Our Bylaws call for a National Convention within four years of our last Convention. It is time for us to assess the situation and stage of the revolution, sum up our experiences, and align our structure and work to the current situation.

Therefore, LRNA's Steering Committee calls for a National Convention in Spring 2011 in Chicago, Illinois.

The Draft 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 sector — 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 objec-

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.

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 environment, 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.

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.

tive 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.

Wageless 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

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Draft Political Resolution

We are living in revolutionary times. Ideas and institutions, ripped from their social foundations, are not yet rooted in something new. There is a growing core of the population whose interests can no longer be addressed except by addressing the wrongs perpetrated against all humanity. There is an emerging movement whose demands are political. This is the objective foundation for developing the intellectual side of the revolutionary movement today.

To unleash the power of this motion, revolutionaries concentrate on developing the political consciousness of the people to ensure that social transformation is in the interests of humanity.

Like the ruling class, the working class has to transcend the battles within the con-

ditions in order to focus on the critical tasks of revolutionaries today.

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ECONOMIC DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

The financial crisis brought on by the expanding use of electronics in production is continuing to tighten its grip both internationally and nationally. The cyclical crisis of under-consumption is developing. Automated production drives labor-produced commodities off the market. In this process, wages are dragged down to the cost of automated production. All production by labor, including the production of the workers themselves, becomes superfluous. Unprecedented production and unprecedented want describe our time. The electronic revolution in production combined with the cyclical

crisis brings about an unprecedented crash of the capitalist system.

As electronics replaces labor, money — instead of production — is used to make money. The greater the use of electronics, the more valueless money becomes. As money ceases to express exchange value, it more and more becomes an instrument for speculation rather than investment in production. Less and less of this money is used for wages. The result is an unprecedented polarization of wealth and poverty. Thirty million dollar mansions and trillions of dollars in national debt express the destruction of money as an expression of value.

How is production and exchange to continue under such conditions? The capitalist class has proven itself incapable of ruling. The death knell of capitalism has sounded.

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Draft Political Resolution continued

POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

There are no further stages of growth in capitalism. Electronic driven production is dissolving the wage-labor base of capitalist society. The question is – what will be created in its place? Will electronic production and the giant corporations come under the control of the people, or will the people come under the control of these corporations?

The State must straddle both the old and the new. Law, custom, and history defend and protect the existing relations of capitalism and bind the State to the past. At the same time, the State must still guarantee private property in whatever guise it may appear. Protected by the State, the ruling class is forced to construct a mode of production based on private property, but without the producing class of the past.

Fascism is not a choice or program. It is arising objectively as the only possible political superstructure for the economic takeover by corporate power. It arises within the struggle of the capitalist class – a class which is itself being transformed – to align the political superstructure with the changing productive relations.

The State today has to insert itself into the direction and management of the economy. Nationalization is a way for the ruling class to maintain, protect and promote the laws and sanctity of private property in the face of the destruction of the capitalist system. Though these interventions vary in form and degree from one sector of the economy to another, they all embody the objective need of the capitalist class for the State to openly act in the interests of the capitalists as a class.

This is the meaning of the government's actions beginning with the 2008 financial crisis. As the financial crisis headed toward a meltdown that threatened the collapse of the financial system, the U.S. government

responded by temporarily nationalizing banking and financial institutions. In a matter of about six months, one of the greatest transfers of money and wealth from the working to the owning class in the history of the world occurred, led and directed by the U.S. government.

In 2009, the government took another step with nationalization, intervening in and managing Chrysler and General Motors in order to prevent the collapse of the U.S. auto industry. As with the financial crisis, the government guaranteed that stabilizing and protecting the economy would be in the interests of the corporations and the ruling class that owned and profited from them.

Both the virtual nationalization of the banks and the nationalization of Chrysler and GM express the transition from a State that functions as the mere facilitator of corporate will to a State that takes a direct role in social production.

The American people are beginning to see the writing on the wall of what the future holds for them. Millions have lost their jobs and their homes since the beginning of the financial crisis. With record profits being made by the corporations, many Americans are asking, "Where's our bailout?"

The battle over whose interests nationalization serves is an arena in which the workers can move from their scattered economic struggles against the corporations to united political struggles against the State. It is in this struggle over nationalization that the workers will begin to recognize themselves as a class. They will come to realize that the struggle to build a communal economy is the ultimate solution.

The old forms of rule – of deceiving the workers into believing that the current political structure will solve their problems – is increasingly exposed as bankrupt. The American people are angry at the two party system and are on their way to losing faith in it altogether.

The developing polarization within the

Democratic and Republican parties is setting the stage for breaks in the continuity of the current political party system. Such a rupture and the formation of a third party will accelerate the political development of the new class.

SOCIAL MOTION OF THIS TIME

The vast majority of the American people have been politically asleep for 65 years. There have been big social movements such as the Freedom Movement or the struggle against the Vietnam war. These movements did not and could not place class relations in the forefront. During this period the idea that problems are solved by leaders – not by the broad activity of millions of people – became deeply rooted. We are now seeing the results of this idea. Even in the most difficult situations, there is the tendency for those most endangered to consider themselves bystanders or, at best, supporters of some leader.

The economic crisis has deepened to the point where huge numbers of people have lost their jobs, their homes, and much more that they had considered secure. Many of those who kept their homes are facing cut offs of essentials, such as, water or fire protection. As the crisis affects a more stable and articulate section of society, a broad response becomes inevitable.

The first spontaneous impulse of the people is to blame and turn on the most vulnerable section of society, rather than bite the hand that has fed them. Thus, the first broad social response was the formation of the Tea Party. Populist anti-government rhetoric barely covers its anti-immigrant, anti-poor, and racist agenda. Even though reaction has placed progressives on the defensive, the social wheel has turned and social response has begun. Socialism has again become a legitimate topic.

The reality is that people are confused and frightened. Their thinking is restricted by the history of genocide against the Native Americans and the economic under-

pinning provided by the enslavement of millions of Africans. Their spontaneous responses are and will be dangerous.

Demagogues agitate the anger and fear to develop a mass base for the needs of the ruling class. They use every divisive ideology history has handed them to do so. Color has become a fig leaf behind which they attack all those who are forced out of the economy. Therefore the African American question is at the very heart of the formation and politicization of the new class.

The ruling class cannot abandon the weapon of race since it is historically evolved and an integral part of American politics. At the same time, the hitherto unknown breadth of equality of poverty is creating the basis for real class unity, regardless of color.

CONSCIOUSNESS DECISIVE TO STRUGGLE ITSELF

All signs point toward a long period of social struggle marked by volatility and political instability. Poverty and fear are rapidly reaching previously secure sections of society and ideological cohesion is being ripped from its old foundations, but the country has little history of class awareness and political struggle.

Though the features, demands, and consciousness of the social struggle may not take a class form, every current of social struggle – for healthcare, education, housing, food – is revolutionary and poised to collide with the interests of private property.

Contention over actual needs and interests will set the stage for the coalescing of a defining consciousness of who is fighting whom and the target of that struggle. Consciousness of class interests becomes decisive to the struggle itself.

Already visible is the broad understanding that there is something wrong in society – that the burning problems of the day are **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

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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INSIDE...

We publish here key draft documents to be discussed and decided upon at the National Convention of the League of Revolutionaries to be held this Spring. The LRNA draft Program is a formulation of our basic views, it precisely establishes our immediate political tasks, and gives unity to our work. The draft Political Resolution examines the changes that are taking place and why, it assesses the political developments and the social motion underway, and it lays

out the League's strategy in the battle for a cooperative, communist society.

Organization of Revolutionary Propagandists further examines the need for an organization of revolutionaries at this time in history. The relevance of the draft documents and the urgency of our tasks are highlighted in *Middle East Upheaval Signals New Era*, the Editorial Board's statement on the historical significance of the recent upheavals in the Middle East for the world revolutionary process.

From the Editors: Middle East Upheaval Signals New Era

Global capitalism in the age of electronics and the attendant neoliberal policies have created a huge and widening gap between wealth and poverty across the world. Repression of all opposition to neocolonial states whose political systems serve global capitalism has for decades succeeded in maintaining the status quo.

The current crisis of global capitalism – a consequence of the transformation from production based on electro-mechanics to one based on electronics – is threatening the capitalist relations of production based on the exploitation of wage labor. The capitalists in the advanced countries are squeezing their own workers in an effort to escape the crisis. However, the devastation brought about by neoliberal policies on workers in the neocolonies has been much more severe.

The social revolutions that have recently occurred in Latin American countries (e.g. Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador) are a consequence of this world economic transformation that is taking place before our eyes. The Tunisian and Egyptian upheavals that overthrew two vicious dictators, who were allied with global capitalism and neoliberal policies through the U.S. imperial project, are but the two most recent examples of the

same process.

The main features of the Latin American political transformation are rather clear. They are anti-imperialist, but not anti-capitalist. These are nationalist regimes that are trying to solve economic, social, and political contradictions within global capitalism.

The participation of all sectors of society in the Tunisian and Egyptian upheavals indicates the nationalist character of those upheavals. They also have a pan-Arab nationalist character that has no counterpart in the Latin American examples (i.e., no Pan-Latin American character to the extent of the Pan-Arab). This is critical, especially as the upheavals spread to other parts of the Arab world.

This stage of the revolutionary process is different from the previous stage where colonies fought against direct colonialism under the leadership of the national bourgeoisie. The revolutions against direct colonialism fitted the needs of global capital so long as a national bourgeoisie dependent on neo-imperialism led them.

Even though this stage of the revolutionary process has begun as all-class nationalism, it cannot be sustained under conditions of crisis in global capitalism caused by the epoch-making transformations in production.

The outstanding feature of the struggle today is that there are no longer two paths. No matter the ideological veneers – that struggle must turn against private property and for some form of communist reconstruction.

This is the reason we see the idea presented by the ruling class that what is needed is to get rid of the dictators and corruption and everything will be all right. This is the reason why the “liberal” wing of the national bourgeoisie suddenly appears on the stage in every neocolony.

An entire new epoch is emerging. Today, the bellies are the determining factor. The polarization of wealth and poverty is creating tensions that have inevitably broken the chain at its weakest links (e.g. Tunisia and Egypt).

Given all the general factors – liberation with capitalism simply won’t work as a base for social liberation. Since there is no going back, the emerging of class interests will compel the process to move to the next stage – direct struggle against private property in the form of nationalization (the reversal of privatization) and ultimately, the distribution of the social product according to need, regardless of ability to pay for the necessities of life.

Humanity is living through dangerous

times. It is a time when revolutionaries fully expect the capitalists to fight to the death for the survival of private property in one form or another. The danger lies in that revolutionary parties over the past half-century (with few exceptions) have been devastated. They have been physically liquidated or made peace with the class enemy. They have been replaced by “civil society” organizations who advocate peaceful change within the system while vehemently opposing a communist resolution to the crisis that humanity is facing. That solution is the public ownership of the means of production and distribution according to need.

The proletariat, the large mass of humanity, is facing a vicious enemy with no organization and program that is capable of carrying the revolutionary process to its conclusion. What is required of revolutionaries is to determine the line of march and build organizations capable of seeing that revolutionary process reaches its ultimate conclusion.

For the first time an objective communist 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.

Draft Political Resolution continued

the result of a problem in society, not just the bad decisions or bad luck of individuals. But there is not yet any cohesive sense of what that problem or solution is. People know – or at least sense – that the corporate control of the political mechanisms of power has rendered the ruling class incapable of governing in the interests of society.

That sense that something is wrong cannot move forward without the awareness of actual interests – the understanding of what’s at stake: whether the public is going to control the corporations or the corporations are going to control the public, and whose interests the government should serve.

Revolutionaries who proceed from the objectivity of the emerging struggle – not its features – can develop the consciousness of the movement in the process of keeping that movement on its objective track toward political struggle and resolution.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The new class makes it possible for the revolutionary movement to accomplish its actual aims.

The new class of proletarians – the majority of whom are contingency, below-minimum wage, part-time workers – is created by new means of production. A new section of the working class, they are a new quality within it. This new section of the working class is increasingly driven

out of the relationship between worker and capitalist.

The sufferings of this new class are universal. Its misery and precarious existence cannot be relieved except by the abolition of private property. This communist program is the only solution to the economic and social devastation spreading to broader sections of society.

Revolutionaries need to develop the vision, science, strategy, and direction for the working class. The first step is to identify the politically decisive sector at any given stage – that section of the class that can pull the process forward.

The current moment points to a shift of the political center of gravity. The industrial workers, under attack from electronics and globalization, now find themselves almost helpless. This growing core of dispossessed is becoming the center of gravity. These previously comfortable and suddenly dispossessed workers have the option of fighting or starving. Their jobs are gone forever. They can no longer win their demands within the system. Fighting for the concrete demands of the workers means revolutionaries must educate to fight against a system rather than against an employer.

The working class and the capitalist class begin to confront one another outside their economic relations, that is, politically.

The stage is set for the battle for the consciousness of class interests, for a program that addresses those interests, for the

need for the political power to reorganize society, and for a vision of the new society.

THE TASKS OF THE LEAGUE

Revolutionary times call for revolutionary ideas. Today, revolutionaries can inspire the people with the vision of the new society. They can give them confidence that the scientific and technological progress of humanity can make this vision of the new cooperative communal society a reality.

With every propaganda weapon at its disposal and dispersed to every front of struggle, the League empowers people with the consciousness to strive for this new society and the responsibility to carry out their role in history. Which ideology will express and guide the movement rising today? Will it be an ideology that will facilitate a fascist movement, or an ideology that will facilitate the movement for a cooperative society?

The League works within the practical struggle to accomplish its mission of gathering together the revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, of educating them, and winning them over to the communist resolution of the problem.

League propaganda develops the consciousness of those awakening to the devastation of society. It speaks to society about its only rallying point: the actual demands of the new class for housing, education, healthcare and a peaceful world. It makes

society aware of the revolutionary nature of this growing new class. It makes the class aware of its historic mission to lead humanity toward a new society.

Revolutionaries accomplish their mission by working within the practical struggle. From within the struggle, revolutionaries offer solutions to the questions of the day, pushing the movement forward along its line of march from scattered defensive battles to united political struggle. Every struggle becomes a battle over actual interests and a school for revolutionary ideas.

The League propagandizes wherever people are debating and struggling over the critical questions that are disrupting their lives and throwing them against this system of exploitation and private property.

As the League disperses among the revolutionaries it needs a system that centralizes its work politically. The League develops and strengthens an infrastructure of education, publications and organization that will keep the organization growing and on track for the tasks ahead and continually sharpening the political direction of its work. Let us rally to the challenges and opportunities of this moment.

Let us build the League into the organization of revolutionaries this moment calls for.

This Moment Calls for an Organization of Revolutionary Propagandists

It is a challenge to build a serious revolutionary organization during an epoch of social revolution. As the League of Revolutionaries for a New America reaches out to the revolutionaries of America, we have to clearly describe the real world and what is possible. As Karl Marx wrote, “People make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past.” Let us take a look at the circumstances we face.

Everything has changed or is changing. No aspect of life, human or otherwise, is untouched by the transformation the world is going through. While all of this seems new to us, change in the economic and social life of human beings has always been a part of our human development.

HISTORY IS MADE OF REVOLUTIONS

Society rests upon an economic foundation – the way that people produce what is necessary to sustain life such as food, clothing and shelter. Upon that economic foundation people create social relations and distribute the fruits of their production. Historically, revolutionary changes in the economy have produced political revolutions to settle how people will organize themselves to use new methods of production. The implements of agriculture destroyed the society based on hunting and gathering. Massive electro-mechanical industrial production destroyed the society based on agriculture. Over the past 40 plus years, the introduction of the computer chip and its application to all spheres of production has been step-by-step destroying the capitalist economic system based on the buying and selling of labor power. People who have been replaced by robots do not work, and cannot buy food, clothing or shelter. Now we have producers that do not [cannot] consume, and consumers that do not [cannot] produce. The microchip and robot have broken the circle.

This presents a huge challenge for both the rulers and the ruled. The productive capacity of the robot is providing unheard of wealth for those who own the robots, and unheard of poverty for those who have been replaced by the robots. The fact that the productive forces are owned and controlled by private corporations accounts for this “starvation in the midst of plenty.” In 1985, the wealthiest 5 percent had a net worth of \$8 trillion. Today, the top 5 percent have a net worth of \$40 trillion. The top 5 percent have gained more wealth than the whole human race had created prior to 1980. For the first time in U.S. history, banks own a greater share of residential housing net worth in the United States than all individual Americans put together.

A vision of the future and a strategy to achieve that vision cannot be left up to the very same ruling class who is leading us to war all over the world and to a fascistic merger of the corporations and government at home. Their goal is to maintain private ownership of the means of production and to maintain their death grip on their wealth and privilege. The consequence of their vision is that those people who can no longer find jobs, and never will, can have no access to the basic necessities of life.

These are revolutionary times in which the dilemma of what society is changing

People’s activity reflects their level of understanding. The more clearly they understand the meaning of the changes taking place, the more their activity can reflect their class interests. There will be have to be a political revolution to bring society in alignment with the new economy and the outcome will depend on the consciousness of the combatants.

into will be resolved. The rulers have to turn toward fascism to control the masses. The masses must fight to take control of the means of production.

COMMUNISM ONLY SOLUTION

Just as the industrial revolution created the industrial worker as a new section of the working class, today’s electronic revolution is creating a new section of the working class. This new section of the working class is created by electronics; that section numbers in the millions. They have lost everything they once had, and their ranks grow daily. The problems of this new class cannot be solved without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The very nature of electronic production – production without human labor – demands distribution of its products without money. This is a system of communism. Over decades, the American people have been convinced to fear such a thing by the very ruling class that has everything to lose with the overthrow of private property. It is time to stand the world on its feet.

The economic revolution is compelling people into a struggle over how to construct society on the new foundation. Who wins will not only determine how people live, but whether or not we will survive as a species.

The new class is not a growing collection of poor people; it is the destroyer of the relations of production that have been constructed upon a system of the buying

and selling of labor power. The solutions to the problems faced by the new class form a vision of a new society, a society formed on the basis of the new methods of production. 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 cooperative society.

NEW IDEAS LIGHT THE WAY

The struggles over immigration reform, public education, health care, unemployment

cannot return to the past. There will have to be a political revolution to bring society in alignment with the new economy and the outcome will depend on the consciousness of the combatants.

Political revolution is an intellectual act, and organizations are created to answer in whose interests that revolution will be conducted. Becoming more resolute and fighting harder will not win this war. We have to use our intellect to assemble and educate the forces that can win.

LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

In this struggle what do we do as revolutionaries? What kind of organization do we need? The League of Revolutionaries for a New America is building an organization of revolutionaries with a program based on the demands of the new class, and that is committed to the introduction of new ideas. These new ideas rest on the real possibility of constructing a society that is truly politically and economically democratic – wherein the marvels of the new technology are used to benefit all of society, and not to profit a handful of wealthy individuals and corporations. This is the heart of the mission of the League. We are meeting other revolutionaries who are battling in the streets on behalf of the common people, and beginning the process of winning them over to the communist solution to the problem – the program of the new class. If we can accomplish this task, the League will be able to make a contribution to history.

The League is where revolutionaries come together to assess the stages of the leap from a system of production and distribution based on human labor to one where production without human labor is emerging. It is where we gather to assess how to reach the tens of thousands of revolutionaries who are fighting the social destruction. It is where we make plans to politically educate the revolutionaries and develop the propaganda to teach our class their true interests.

It is only when the masses understand the new ideas that are an outgrowth of a new economic and political situation will they pass over from “fighting back” against intolerable conditions to fighting forward to a new world. This is why the League concentrates on the dissemination of new ideas – or propaganda – as its sole role. It is why we constituted the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. Every meeting, discussion and plan of the League addresses how and where to take our propaganda to the people.

Creating and imbuing the American people with a vision will take the collective effort, thinking and skill of all revolutionaries who seek to end the destruction around us and build a new world. The future of humanity depends upon it.