

# RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

## Impose Peace on the War Makers

Tens of thousands of people from around the country and the world are gathering in Chicago in May of 2012 to protest the murderous policies of NATO, the graphic tyranny of the G8 and its member powers, and to speak out against the immorality of war, the intolerance of poverty, the betrayal of democracy.

The significance of these protests and all the activities that surround them cannot be underestimated. They are part of — a *step* in — the formation of a social movement that is arising throughout the world. This movement is being propelled into motion by an economic and social system that impoverishes the majority of humanity and denies even their basic needs, while it hands the world on a silver platter to the global capitalist elite.

Beneath the surface of all this discontent lie vast changes in the economy; changes which are leading to a growing polarization of wealth and poverty in this country. Today, every dollar spent on war means one dollar's worth of food taken out of the mouth of a hungry child in America.

This fusion of the deep sense of morality that has always sustained the movement for peace and the economic threat being levied against all sections of society characterizes the movement for peace today. As such, the movement for peace protests not only against the wrongs of society. In demanding an end to war it demands the only society that can make that possible — a society where humanity can fulfill its centuries-held vision of living in a peaceful and cooperative world.

### MILITARIZATION OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Today, more than half of the U.S. discretionary budget goes to the military. The U.S. Department of Defense has estimated U.S. military spending for the year 2011 was about \$525 billion. Overall, estimated defense spending is in the trillions. The United States not only has the largest military budget in the world; that budget equals 43 percent of all military expenditures in the world. (The U.S. Department of Defense is also the world's largest landlord, owning 845,441 structures covering 30 million acres.)

It took about four years for manufacturing to return to levels seen before the 2001 recession — and all those gains were wiped out in the current recession. By contrast, military manufacturing is now 123 percent greater than it was in 2000 — it has more than doubled while the rest of the manufacturing sector has been shrinking.

With the accelerating militarization of the economy is coming the rapid expansion of a world fascist order. This is characterized by the growth of the number of U.S.

bases worldwide (nearly 400 in Afghanistan alone), the disappearing of thousands into black prisons where brutality and torture are routine procedure, the use and celebration of special elite killing units and legally sanctioned assassination squads. As the corporations consolidate their hold on the government and the political system, they are moving to destroy what is left of legal protections and civil liberties in America. A sustained campaign on the part of the U.S. ruling class is being used to justify its violence and barbarism against those it seeks to convince us are our "enemies," including not only Islam or Muslims, but also minority youth, women and the growing ranks of poor regardless of color.

Some commentators and many Americans believe that war production will put America back to work as it has in previous wars. The introduction and spread of labor-replacing technology in all spheres of production, in increasing sectors of the service industries, and especially in warfare itself are putting an end to that possibility. Cycle upon cycle of "jobless recoveries" have decimated whole sectors of the economy, destroyed whole towns and left entire regions of the country such as the Rust Belt in ruins.

There are a stunning 26.9 million people who are either unemployed, under-employed or who have searched for a job within the last 12 months who cannot find one. Add to that the 1.5 million who are in prison and the tens of thousands of veterans and returning veterans who need work but cannot find it. This does not take into consideration people who have dropped out looking altogether, or undocumented work-seekers. Together, they are equal to the entire population of Canada.

The poverty rate for all children increased from 18 per cent in 2007 to 21% in 2009. Nearly 7.8 million children had at least one parent who was unemployed in 2009, when only half were in those circumstances in 2007. And since four years ago, at least 5.6 million children have been affected by home foreclosures.

Instead of planning how to take care of its families, state governments have passed budgets that defend corporate interests over those of the people the state governments are supposed to serve. They have slashed their budgets, cutting billions of dollars worth of programs such as school lunch and breakfast programs, housing programs, and aid to the growing numbers of families in poverty and other programs to help the most vulnerable. This at a time when the demands for these services have never been greater. This at a time when corporate profits have never been higher.

These realities are giving rise to a broad discontent in our country, whether people are unemployed or live under the shadow of its inevitability. A majority of the American

people no longer accept that wars and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan serve their interests. 69% of Americans think that the U.S. should not be in Afghanistan, and nearly six in ten think that U.S. troops should be pulled from Iraq immediately.

Only 29% believe that the country is on the right track; only 26% of Americans say they have some faith that the government can solve the economy's problems. 39 percent of Americans now say they have a favorable view of socialism, and at 49% this approval is even higher among young people between 18 and 27.

Competition for shrinking world markets is intensifying, and various nations are struggling to assert their national interests in the face of U.S. military and economic domination. The U.S. is determined to maintain its dominance in the world and has militarized its economy and turned to war to attempt to maintain its control. The danger of nuclear war is increasing. The attempt by the U.S. ruling class to win the American people to their program of austerity and war can only increase the polarization in American society as economic conditions deteriorate, further accelerating the development of the fascist order.

### PEACE MOVEMENT TODAY

Today's peace movement can accomplish things which none of the previous struggles for peace waged in U.S. history could have achieved. Today, the fight for peace is the context in which the American people can begin to understand the class nature of their society and the necessity — and real possibility — of putting an end to the rule of a tiny class of millionaires and billionaires.

All of this means that today's struggle for peace can play a different role than the anti-war movement did during the Vietnam War era. Those who opposed the war objected to it out of a legitimate sense of moral outrage,

but not because the war threatened their immediate economic survival.

Today, the situation is completely different. The introduction of the qualitatively new means of production of electronics and robotics is putting an end to the old industrial economy — and the steady, good-paying jobs for Americans that accompanied it. The entire world economy is being transformed by the development of electronics and globalization.

Today, there is no separation between the fight of millions of people against war and the fight of millions for economic survival; they are one and the same struggle. As thousands of revolutionaries emerge from these struggles, they are forming up their ranks — in the fight for health care, for jobs, for education, for a decent life, for peace and an end to war. There is a common current running through all these struggles, a truth that binds them together into one mighty torrent.

Public ownership of the wherewithal of our existence, and the distribution of its fruits on the basis of need is the only societal form that is in harmony with the new technology. A cooperative, communist society is the only solution to the economic and social devastation spreading throughout society. It is the only foundation for true democracy.

Humanity stands on the cusp of great change. The uprisings here and around the world are a testimony to the clash between the disruption and destruction of the old social and economic order and the struggle to create a new one based on the possibilities that history is handing us. To impose peace on the war makers is a profoundly revolutionary act. To do so will allow humanity to create a society where exploitation, competition and inequality can be done away with. And by doing so, end war forever.

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# THE MEANING OF TRAYVON MARTIN

In any assessment it is critical to examine the underlying process that gives rise to certain events, taking history into account. Any fascist movement in America has to proceed from the most violent elements of our national history. History shows that the content of a process constantly changes, but the form tends to remain the same. Historical context is necessary to assess the content of any process.

What we are seeing today is not simply racism. It is a racist form of fascist social development in the United States.

There is a difference between the lynchings of Blacks in 1932 and the murder of Black youth in 2012. In 1932 cotton was king. Cotton had to be picked with slave-like labor. The goal of the lynchings was to maintain slave-like conditions—to keep the Blacks subservient. In the previous period, white supremacy and the social privileges granted the white poor over the Black poor kept the people from uniting against their common oppressor.

Today, we are faced with a different situation. A new social group is forming. Regardless of color, they are being driven outside the capitalist economy. This new class is growing daily through the process of technological innovation. It is creating a hitherto unknown breadth of equality of poverty that is the basis for real class unity, regardless of color.

Unity isn't automatic, however. It is going to be a long and difficult process. It has to be fought for by conscious people. Today no section of people in America is in the same position as the Black poor. The whites are being pushed down, but it is also true that there is still a qualitative difference between their two situations. The result is what we saw in Florida with one minority "proving" himself by going out and killing a Black.

The fascist culture in America is easy to develop given the slaughter of the Indians, slavery, and the whole concept of a white man's country. These forms have been here forever; the fascists inherit the form and put in their fascist content. In this regard, they have a tremendous advantage.

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This points to the role of revolutionaries. Revolutionaries have to intervene. Revolutionaries point out the immorality of the situation. They get out the ideas that make history.

## THE SOCIAL EXPRESSIONS OF FASCISM

On the rise today are the social expressions of fascism. A whole culture of fascist violence and hatred and disregard for human life is taking hold. It is prelude to the development of a real fascist movement.

Today 50.7 million Americans, or one in six, are without healthcare at a time when quality health care could be available for everyone. An estimated 50 million people struggled to put food on the table last year at a time when mountains of food are produced. Growing numbers of Americans are going without other necessities such as water and heat in their homes at a time when there are no shortages of any necessity.

Fascism is coming about as part of an

objective process, a result of the qualitative changes in the economy and the creation of permanent unemployment. The rulers need fascism to contain the coming upsurges of the masses. The goal of the rulers is the preservation of private property under some kind of new system.

The economic aspects of fascism are now in place, as evidenced by the merger of the State and the corporations. The political aspects of fascism are in place as seen in the passage of laws such as the National Defense Authorization Act. This allows the U.S. government to kill anyone labeled a "terrorist" and to jail a suspected "terrorist" without charges and without a trial. The corporate-backed "Stand Your Ground Law" is on the books in some 30 states. In Florida alone, this law has been responsible for the shooting of some 130 people since the law was passed in 2005. In 70% of these shootings the victim died. In most cases, the killer did not even face trial. There are also more and more laws being enacted that outlaw feeding of the hungry or that subject people to arrest for the mere act of protesting.

We are now seeing the development of social fascism. It is seen in the idea that if you don't like someone because of what they say, or their color or just about anything, you can kill them and get away with it. It is seen

in the massacre of women and children in Afghanistan, in the brutal murder of an Iraqi woman in California simply because she's Iraqi, and in the increased killings, especially of Blacks, by the police nationwide. It is seen in the terror waged against immigrants under the guise that they are taking American jobs and services. It is seen in the brutal conditions in U.S. prisons, and in the denial of even the most basic needs to the poor. It is seen in the militarization of society, and in the growth of entertainment that glorifies violence, and in the effort to rally communities to vigilantism under the guise of "fighting drug wars." It is seen in the cheapening of life symbolized by the recent struggle of a homeless mother who was jailed after trying to get medical care, and who died there, unattended, from a blood clot.

The real question is what kind of society do we want? One where an individual has no rights and the government and society has no economic or moral responsibility for the well being of its people, where a mother can die for the want of a simple procedure that she could not pay for? Or one where everyone's needs are met and where everyone can live a peaceful and cultured life? How the American people answer this question and what they do will determine the fate of humanity.

In spite of worsening 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 a vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization, the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

## 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 co operative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a co-operative society. 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, is arising to oppose this motion.

Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will 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.

Destruction of the ecology, the threat of nuclear war and the 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.

# Benton Harbor, Michigan: *Ground Zero for the Future*

In times of immense social conflict, there comes a moment — and a place — that becomes Ground Zero for the future. Such was Flint, Michigan, with the historic sit-down strike in 1937. Such was Selma, Alabama, in 1965, when the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Such today is the small town of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

The battle for Benton Harbor, Michigan reveals the future that the capitalist class has in store for us. It reveals that the old political alliances have failed and that we can and must take the offensive with a new politics of class and power. Finally the veil is lifting.

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, the town of Benton Harbor — the home of the Whirlpool Corporation — is separated by the St. Joseph River from the town of St. Joseph on the river's northern bank. Benton Harbor has a population that is 93 percent African American, with a per capita income of \$8,965, while St. Joseph is 90 percent white with a per capita income of \$24,949.

Whirlpool has dominated the economy of the region since the 1920s. By the 1980s, Whirlpool was closing factories and outsourcing jobs, and the great industrial heartland became the Rust Belt.

The financial crisis of 2008 created a depression across America. The fruits of financial speculation and a more than 16 trillion dollar bailout of the corporations created an immense budget crisis in every state. The capitalist class began to take advantage of the situation and go directly on the attack.

## **PUBLIC ACT 4 & THE EMERGENCY FINANCIAL MANAGERS**

What appears to be a local struggle in Benton Harbor reveals the very nature of political power in American society today. The ruling class is nakedly attacking democracy — using methods such as “voter identification” to disenfranchise the poor, and enshrining corporate power in the 2010 “Citizens United” Supreme Court decision, which allows corporations to spend unlimited funds to control the elections. The people of Michigan and Benton Harbor are a key battlefield for democracy in America.

In Michigan, Gov. Rick Snyder signed Public Act 4 — the Emergency Financial Manager Act. Under this law, the state usurps the power of a town or local government and turns it over to an appointed “manager,” which can be a person or a corporation.

Public Act 4 also allows this “manager” to take over public assets and sell them off to the highest bidder. This includes water, public beaches and parks, libraries, hospitals and even fire departments. The law allows the manager to void union contracts and privatize city services without bargaining or approval of elected officials.

Benton Harbor was the first city to use the enhanced powers under the new emergency manager law in 2011. On the same day, the Emergency Financial Manager of Detroit's schools laid off over 5,000 teachers — every teacher in the system.

Since last year, emergency managers have also seized control of Pontiac, Ecorse, and Flint.

Some 50.7 percent of Michigan's African American population now lives under the control of emergency managers.

The law's sponsor was Benton Harbor's state representative, Al Pscholka, a former vice-president of a community non-profit organization funded by Whirlpool. Whirlpool had been trying to seize Benton Harbor's beachfront Jean Klock Park to turn it into a luxury golf course, and the Harbor Shores development, with million dollar homes. Whirlpool is building a \$68 million campus for their “knowledge workers” in the city, even though the corporation has paid no taxes since 2008.

When the emergency financial manager came in, he finished the deal. The people of Benton Harbor protested by calling for a Constitution Week in the city. However, the emergency financial manager summarily cancelled it.

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**In Michigan, the moves by the ruling class to destroy democracy are forcing those cast out by the system to move beyond reacting to the economic situation and to address broader political questions.**

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Suddenly Benton Harbor was big news, featured on the cover of *The New York Times Sunday Magazine* (December 16, 2011.) No mention was made of the years of resistance to Whirlpool in the article, which predicts that Benton Harbor is “a window into one possible future for towns across the country, places that can no longer support their own economies or take care of their citizens and may ultimately have no choice but to turn their fate over to private industry and non-profits. The way things are going, more and more states may start to look like Michigan, and more and more towns may start to look like Benton Harbor.”

The merger of corporations and government offers new prospects of corporate-run super-gentrification. Now that the manufacturing base is gone, converting Benton Harbor into a resort town will affect the population of both Benton Harbor and St. Joseph as the cost of living rises and jobs are limited to low-paid service work.

## **LESSONS FOR AMERICA**

For 30 years corporations have demanded greater tax breaks, while destroying the tax base of cities large and small, as they downsize and relocate where they can pay miserable wages. The emergency manager system cannot solve the problem the “managers” claim to be solving — making cities solvent. They are selling off everything and the cities are still broke.

And this step in the merger of corporations and State power doesn't even maintain a pretext of democracy. The Michigan law sets a precedent that once established could be generalized throughout the country to deal with city and state budget crises everywhere. Similar attacks are occurring both openly and secretly in many cities in this country.

Under the ever-more direct control of corporations, states are systematically eliminating their legal responsibility to their people, wreaking havoc on higher education, K-12 education, and assistance to the poor. The success or failure of the emergency manager law will have implications for the entire country. The ruling class operates politically. It fosters a culture that accepts these fascist legal changes — as in Michigan — and agitates a mass base to call for them.

Decisive industrial union battles were won in Michigan in the 1930s. Unions, particularly the United Auto Workers, secured pensions, health care and good wages for industrial workers that led the way in improv-

of the ability to use the voting booth to redress grievances. They allow the state to get rid of the public sector unions entirely, not just to void individual union contracts. The reconfiguring of the State which is taking place in Michigan, this shift to a fascist form of political control, is polarizing the traditional organizations such as the civil rights groups and the unions. The question that faces us all — and separates the proverbial men (and women) from the boys (and girls) is — who will be able to take up the challenges of this moment and who will not?

The old institutions that the working class in places like Michigan relied upon in the past to serve its interests — institutions like the Democratic Party and the unions — are trapped in old relationships and old ways of thinking. As the struggle sharpens, people are beginning to understand that they have to look beyond the old forms of struggle to resolve their problems.

While the traditional “leadership” of the working class falters, the new environment is spurring new forces to step forward, forces that may not have been involved in previous battles. In Michigan, the attack on democracy has been so blatant — and that assault so repugnant to the deeply held democratic sentiments of the vast majority of workers — that it has galvanized new forces such as white workers in the rural northern part of the state. Having been dismissed by many political observers in the past as hopelessly conservative, their active participation in the current struggle against Public Act 4 is of tremendous strategic significance.

In Michigan, the moves by the ruling class to completely destroy democracy are forcing those cast out by the system to move beyond simply reacting to the economic situation and to address broader political questions. The long fight waged by the embattled population of Benton Harbor and other economically devastated towns has now been joined by a significant section of Michigan residents who have no choice but to resist the denial of their rights. A harbinger of what will develop soon throughout the country, the lesson of Benton Harbor is that the old forms of struggle will not suffice. Today, we need to confront the question of which class has political power and how we ultimately wrest that power from its hands in order to transform society.

***Look for the new Rally, Comrades! website!  
rallycomrades.lrna.org***

Rally, Comrades! expects to launch its new web site May 10th. It will provide on line access to all issues of Rally, Comrades! It will be a political resource for our readers and will allow us to post new statements, articles and videos more frequently. The website will be in both English and Spanish. Future plans include videos, and different forms of interaction with our readers.

## Fight for the demands of the dispossessed

“You cannot have this enormous income disparity — You’re going to slice the country down the middle. It’s not going to hold.” Bruce Springsteen, *Rolling Stone*, March 29, 2012

As the 2012 elections campaign heats up, the country is being wrenched apart. The gains in manufacturing jobs over the past seventy years have been wiped out in the past ten. Even Newt Gingrich has been forced to admit that the real unemployment rate in America is more like 23 per cent. As living standards continue to decline and the American people have been forced to live beyond their means, debt soars — personal debt, financial debt, government debt — and as Greece instructs us, the global financial system is shifting the burden back onto the backs of the workers themselves, leading to more joblessness and misery.

At the same time, corporate wealth and power has accelerated. Profits soar as the 99% race to the bottom, and more jobs are systematically and permanently being eliminated. The raw truth is that no worker can compete with the robot, and as a new class is forged from the ranks of the excluded, it is their very real demands for survival, for the basic necessities of life — jobs, food, shelter, education, health care — that arise more and more to confront the ruling class and their political parties for solutions.

### RUST BELT IS KEY

Nowhere are the stakes greater than in what was once the industrial heartland of America, what is now come to be known as the Rust Belt. Concentrated there are the industrial workers (now in many cases *former* workers) who constitute the bedrock of that shrinking section of the working class who have fought for and won livable wages, benefits and living standards that are supposed to personify the American dream. Right here, right now, these dispossessed, this “middle,” concentrated in the Rust Belt, but reaching throughout society, constitute the key link in the chain, which, when grasped, can pull the whole chain forward. It is no wonder that the Rust Belt states are the battleground states in the elections, because the fight to tie these dispossessed to the capitalist class and its program is the context in which the elections are taking place.

We should be clear on this: the elections are one arena in which the issues of society may be debated and struggled over, but the actual stage upon which the battle is developing for the future of America is much broader, and encompasses the whole of society. Production without human labor is creating a crisis at the base of society. In a very real way, the rising social response to that crisis, and with it, the practical demands arising from it — food, clothing, health care, education — permeates every corner of

society, including the elections.

Indeed, while many Americans still look to the elections as that showcase of democracy in which their grievances may be addressed, the electoral process itself is designed in such a manner that any real solutions are virtually precluded. In other words, we are being asked to put political blinders on, to narrow the parameters of the political debate to those set by the twin ruling parties, who may differ in tactics but who have a common aim: to preserve their rule and to protect corporate private property. We can debate whether America needs to be “restored” or even perhaps “transformed,” but the question of whether this broken system must be replaced is not even allowed. The fix is in. The big play is how and whether one version or another can bind the middle to the corporate class.

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In a very real way, the rising social response to the crisis, and with it, the practical demands arising from it — food, clothing, health care, education — permeates every corner of society, including the elections.

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As the corporations move more and more aggressively to take over society and the government, we can see how this process impacts the elections themselves. The outcome of the 2010 *Citizens United* ruling by the Supreme Court has been to allow the corporations to pump billions of dollars into the elections, affecting not only the terms of the political debate itself, but narrowing the choices to those acceptable to the ruling class. Only those who represent the interests of the 1% may be chosen.

### IN WHOSE INTEREST DOES GOVERNMENT SERVE?

Even so, the real questions we face cannot be kept out completely. One of these is the role of government itself, and the specter looming over that is the fundamental question: in whose interest will the government operate, in the interests of the corporations or in the interests of the people? Public property or private property? Democracy itself is at stake. The politicians representing the ruling parties would have us frame the question as one between big government or small government, Wall Street or Main Street, while the masses clamor for *their* bailout.

One version has it that the only solution is to get government out of the way of the “market,” to reduce taxes on the corporations and the wealthy, to strip capital of virtually any regulations on the banks or industry, and that somehow by intensifying income inequality that “jobs” will be created. In the process, workers will be stripped

of whatever benefits and pensions that might remain and will be unable to resort to their government for any remedy.

The other version is that government can intervene to manage the economy, but as the corporations have increasingly moved to take over government, this approach can only mean an economy managed in the interests of the corporations. A case in point is the takeover of the automobile industry. The government solution was to permanently eliminate thousands of jobs and slash wages and benefits. How is this approach “saving the middle class,” the clarion call of this political party? Housing? The government has absorbed millions of toxic mortgages, ballooning its debt in the process, but no solution to the housing crisis may be put forward that impinges upon the assets of the corpo-

culture. This is the significance of the killing of Trayvon Martin. His murder represents a developing fascist culture that asserts that individuals have no rights and government and society have no responsibility for the well-being of the people. Class unity is in the strategic interest of the entire working class as it fights to turn history in its direction.

### NEVER MORE AT STAKE

The context of the elections can be summed up: at no time is there more at stake; at no time is less allowed on the table. The dysfunction of government intrudes, exposes itself in the electoral process. Because it cannot allow itself to consider real solutions, what is exhibited is the real inability of the ruling class to rule.

So what do we say about the elections? Sit them out? No way. Because that is not what is really happening. While revolutionaries fight for the needs and agenda of our class, the elections provide us with the opportunity to bring the concrete demands for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society to those fighting within the electoral arena. People will vote their consciences, but what is key is to develop a strategic perspective that operates before, during, and after the elections that has the intention of building a society where the fruits of society are available to all.

There is a social revolution on the move, and it confronts the elections with its demands. Thousands upon thousands will be in the streets during the G8/NATO meetings, as they will at the Democratic and Republican conventions. These dispossessed and excluded are nevertheless not sitting this one out. They will be heard, and they will not stop. While the elections themselves may seem to be reduced to a choice, once again, of voting for the lesser of evils, it is not about that.

Beyond the elections, a contest between ruling parties unable to rule, the current social motion may likely fuel the development of a broader social movement, along with countervailing reaction and a disparate social confusion and detachment. Such an environment will be in need of various political expressions in the form of third parties, including fascist third parties. It can also fuel an anti-corporate, reformist third party. It is possible that a popular democratic front can begin to develop as an antithesis to the rapidly advancing corporate state. Organizations may also emerge that can play a role in an anti-fascist struggle for democracy.

The process is going forward. The middle cannot hold. The ties with the ruling parties must be broken and a new path forged, a path which leads to a new America of, by and for the people, and which is united around the demands for the distribution of the necessities of life: food, homes, education, health care and peace.

# ORGANIZATION DETERMINES EVERYTHING

A world economic revolution has made world political revolution inevitable. The question is: What kind of revolution will it be? Organizations are created to answer that question. Building an organization to guarantee that the struggle will be in the interests of humanity is a huge and historic task.

In this struggle what do we do as revolutionaries? What kind of organization do we need?

Although the revolutionary movement has never faced a situation like today, we draw strength from the continuity of scientific understanding and principles of revolutionary politics and strategy. We rely on that history in order to step up to the tasks and responsibilities of this moment. Revolutionaries proceeding 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.

This moment pushes to the fore tens of thousands of people who are looking for a way to contribute to the forward progress of humanity, who want to politicize and educate people in their actual interests. 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.

This is the moment for an organization of revolutionaries to develop the strategic leadership, to inspire the people with a vision of the new society. Revolutionaries enter into every social struggle with a propaganda message that empowers people with the consciousness to strive for this new society and their responsibility to carry out their role in history.

This revolutionary movement is in the process of a leap into a new quality of struggle. It cannot help but do so since it is the subjective or political expression of the leap from industry to the electronic economy. The leap from labor-saving to labor-replacing devices in the capitalist productive process changes its quality.

The revolutionaries work in the subjective side of the process, the response of

people to their changing conditions. This process will go through a number of quantitative stages. At each stage, the revolutionaries will have to regroup on new foundations. The revolution in the economy is disrupting the entire world. Things cannot remain as they are and they 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.

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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.

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A revolutionary political organization is the subjective expression of the objective process. From this point of view a serious revolutionary organization must politically express the current spontaneous motion. Politics means relying on the spontaneous social motion in order to achieve necessary goals.

The electronic revolution in production combined with the cyclical crisis brings about an unprecedented crash of the capitalist system. Fascism 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.

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 task of an organization of revolutionaries is to be part of the historic effort to transform the scattered defensive battles into a conscious, united political force. Our tactic is to participate in their crossing over from the defensive to the offensive. Our goal is to utilize this spontaneous process to prepare the people to reclaim their country by

that create the subjective conditions that will allow the objective process to move forward. The subjective factors of consciousness, direction, ideology and goals can only be introduced by revolutionaries participating in the objective process. 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 program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America comes from the constant study of actual social and economic motion. It politically expresses the profound economic revolution that is reshaping the world. Our strategy proceeds from our analysis that society is in the period of a leap from one economic and social relation to another. The League's mission, strategy and tactics aim to achieve the first necessary stage in the line of march toward the final outcome — uniting the scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class of workers, to educate them and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

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.

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

assuming State power and transforming the property relations from private to public.

The spontaneous movement is the struggle for food, clothing and shelter. In the process of that fight there is the possibility of convincing the masses there is a way to secure these things forever. People can only do what is possible and what is possible is objective. It is possible and necessary for the movement to understand and conform to the line of march of the revolution. This line of march is the stages the revolution must pass through.

Revolutionaries do not simply express or reflect the stage of the objective process, they create and utilize organizational forms

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# Understanding Power and the Role of the State

The upsurge of social struggle around the world heralds a developing revolutionary process rooted in a fundamental change in the economy. It begins to raise the possibility of reorganizing society on a new framework. This challenges leaders to confront the question of power — who has it, where it comes from, how they hold on to it, and how it can be challenged. Political thinkers since Machiavelli have considered the roles of both force and persuasion in the prescription for power.

Beliefs and prejudices and manipulation have always functioned among social beings. The cohesive tribes or clans of early human societies organized themselves into self-acting armies for protection. But when production advanced to the point that a surplus was created, the section of society that controlled this surplus was in a position to exploit the rest. Over time, society split into classes with conflicting economic interests. The possibility of exploitation had made coercion necessary.

At that stage of development, special bodies of armed men became indispensable for the dominant class to maintain control over the exploited class. To keep the opposing classes from consuming themselves and society in fruitless struggle, a necessary power then arises out of society, seemingly placing itself above society, so that the clash between conflicting classes is kept within the bounds of “order.” This power is the State: police, a standing army, prisons and, institutions of coercion of all kinds. To finance this special power, taxes and an administrative apparatus are required, the officials of which also stand “above society,” protected by special laws and immunity.

The class nature of the U.S. State — its role in society is to protect the class interests of the capitalists; its purpose is to maintain control and to keep the struggle within the bounds of capitalist relations — is clear throughout U.S. history. When violence was necessary, there was the State: to expand U.S. territory, to remove a native population, to hold slaves in captivity, to put down rebellions, to gain and maintain colonies, to enforce gender divisions, and to advance U.S. (capitalist) economic interests in general. When working class struggles threatened (or were thought to threaten) private property, they were crushed. Reform followed only when changes were necessary to allow the system to expand. If struggles at home or abroad challenged capitalist control, the State was there to protect private property at whatever cost.

Based on the wide-spread ownership of land and small farms, which characterized the early economic life in the U.S., the democratic republic proved to be the optimum form to allow the “free market” to operate and the capitalist class to manage its affairs. A growing economy, colonial exploitation and success in war made possible a rising standard of living and a workable social

contract. And it dulled people’s perception of the power of the State in their lives.

But times are changing. People have to fight for demands that cannot be met under an economic system of production for private profit. Though they may not realize it yet, the only way to achieve these demands is the step-by-step political struggle, which goes through stages that ultimately lead to a struggle to put power in the hands of the class that can reorganize society in the interests of the vast majority.

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The struggle to change the economy and class relations, and to resolve problems of inequality and poverty, is going to have to confront basic issues of power in society. The clearer revolutionaries are about how capitalism works and who the State protects, the more successful we will be in bringing a consciousness of common class interests.

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This suggests three main points for today’s revolutionaries.

**First, all aspects of State power (e.g., law, police, military, surveillance, courts, legal and extra-legal violence) protect the existing relations between the classes.**

The State is not a neutral mediator between the interests of the corporate elite to protect its wealth, property, and maximum profit, and the interests of the masses of people for the necessities of life.

Many people think of power as “incremental power,” the clout or influence to win a concession or accommodation from those “in power.” They hope that a legislative victory, a successful negotiation, or a change in policy will alleviate some suffering or make life a little better.

Remembering concessions and reforms won during economic expansion, some believe the movement can reform its way to power. But what may seem to be a possibility of a balance of power with the ruling class has not and will not change the basic class positions in society. And victories, often deceptive or temporary, are becoming more limited, fewer and farther between.

The struggles to change the economy and class relations, and to resolve problems of inequality and poverty, are going to have to confront basic issues of power in society. Revolutionaries cannot ignore the broader issue of State power without leaving the struggle open to being disillusioned by empty victories and vulnerable to the brutality of the state’s force.

**Second, people’s thinking and understanding can prepare them for — or divert them from — the fight for their class interests.**

People’s ideas and beliefs — their ideology or social consciousness — come from

their life experience and relations in society. The way a member of a group or social class thinks and understands the world does not necessarily reflect his or her true interests. History has poorly prepared the workers of the United States, for example, to understand the political fight ahead of them.

They’ve had drummed into them that the “free market” system of production and distribution benefits everyone; no system could be better. The expansion of U.S. capitalism and imperialism materially supported this

prepare for maintaining private property under new economic and social conditions.

Today’s irreversible economic crisis and collapse, ecological and social destruction, intensifying political attacks and the threat of fascism, repression and war have their roots in changes in production. Globalization and the technological revolution using labor-replacing electronic tools (computers, automation, robotics) are making workers more and more superfluous to production, undermining the very ties of the workers to the capitalists in production. This creates a systemic rupture in capitalist relations and accumulation.

A corporate/market state exists to enforce austerity and the destruction of last century’s social contract. Thus the growing unity of the corporations and the government moves toward a full-blown police state and fascism.

Concessions, accommodations and relief for our needs are less and less forthcoming on every front. The fight for housing, health care, education, protection of the environment, jobs and a livable future all face the reality of a broken economic system that can no longer provide.

Our struggles will have to move from economic demands that take existing power relations for granted, to a political struggle that aims to make the government responsible for the needs of society. This common political unity against a power that serves a miniscule class of multi-millionaires and billionaires provides the objective motion within which revolutionaries can bring consciousness to the class of its power to transform society.

Life is teaching us that their system no longer works. History and experience have taught us that power in the hands of the capitalist class is the power to dominate, oppress and exploit. But arising from the wreckage of the past is a class in whose interest it is to build a cooperative and egalitarian society. Only power in the hands of that class can reorganize the economy and society to meet the needs of the masses of humanity and protect the planet.

With a vision for the future and consciousness of our role in history, we are readying ourselves with a strategy for the struggle to transform the world.

“American Dream” and the idea that anyone can make it in America — that “we are all in this together.” But as electronics and laborless production begin to destroy the “American Dream” and call into question this ruling class ideology, the door opens for the introduction of new ideas and ways of thinking.

The isolation and oppression of women has supported their exploitation throughout most of human history. The idea that skin color determines a person’s worth is an essential prop of capitalism. In no history or culture is this idea more deeply engrained than in our own. The ubiquitous tentacles of the ruling class ideology penetrate, influence, and shape culture, morality, and every institution in society. Ideas that buttress capitalist class rule are spread and infused throughout society through the institutions of education, the media, popular culture, and religion.

Our revolutionary work is to bring consciousness to our class in its strategic struggle against the power of the corporate State for the necessities of life. As the economy undermines the material and social privilege used for so long to divide workers by color, gender, region, nationality, etc., a growing equality of poverty presents opportunities to bring consciousness to our class on every front of struggle.

The clearer revolutionaries are about how capitalism works and who the State protects, the more successful we will be in bringing a consciousness of common class interests.

**Third, the current political moment demands that our class become conscious of its historic role.**

We are seeing alarming changes in the State — merging corporations and government, limiting democracy and civil rights, expanding police powers — all of which

