

2014 Elections Expected to Reveal Polarization of Class Interests

The U.S. economy in late 2013 appears to have temporarily stabilized, with a slight decline in the unemployment rate (7.3%) and no sign yet of the “double dip recession” predicted by many economists. However, underneath the outward calm there are powerful and dangerous contradictions threatening to implode the system at any time. They are driven by the antagonism between laborless electronic production and capitalist productive relations (the buying and selling of labor power) that continues relentlessly to erode the ability of the system to function. The only reason the unemployment rate went down at all is because the number of people seeking work declined. Sixty-three out of 100 adults held jobs before the recession, whereas now there are only 59 out of 100 holding jobs.

Several features indicate the deepening of the crisis:

- This summer U.S. factories cut jobs for four months in a row, and manufacturing unemployment fell to its lowest level since September 2009, hurt by declining exports to Europe.

- Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke announced on June 19 that the Fed would probably reduce and ultimately end its \$85 billion a month bond purchases over the course of late 2013 and early 2014. The bond purchases have been instrumental in keeping interest rates low, stabilizing the housing market, restoring the stock market, and supporting what limited economic growth there has been.

- In September the Fed changed its mind and decided the economy was too weak to begin “tapering off” the bond purchases any time soon.

- Despite home price increases over the past year (based on the Fed bond purchases), American homeowners are still burdened by some \$1 trillion in negative equity. This is not going away and continues to make up a “boulder” that more or less permanently blocks real economic recovery.

Most economists expect a prolonged global economic slump or worse. No one predicts a robust recovery except politicians or mainstream headline writers. We can safely project that in 2014 the economy will either a) continue its slow decline and/or anemic and jobless recovery, or b) is moving rapidly toward a global depression and another world war.

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

As a result, we can expect the burning political debates, including the 2014 electoral campaigns, to address the following issues:

Increasing austerity. This is not a policy; it

is a systemic necessity. The corporate parties have no choice but to implement it. The corporations cannot and will not pay for services to workers that they have no use for. The only policy issues are the when, what, and how fast. Will there be budgets in 2014 and 2015, or (as seems likely) just more sequestration? Already, Section 8 housing vouchers are being shelved and rescinded, and some people supposedly in affordable housing are receiving rent increases of up to \$1000 a month. Medicare cuts are on the table. Medicaid cuts are undermining Obamacare before it is even implemented — not to mention those 21 states that are refusing to participate in it at all. School closures are rampant. Winter heating subsidies have been cut. The House of Representatives approved massive cuts in the food stamp program.

Environmental disaster. This is also a systemic necessity. The fossil fuel industrial complex (including their financiers) have totally captured the two major parties. Obama’s “war on coal” is obviously not a war at all, but a tactical concession to provide cover for his ongoing campaign to step up fracking, mountain top removal, tar sands oil, deep water drilling, Arctic drilling, nuclear power and the XL pipeline. The earth literally cannot survive without an almost immediate end to carbon dioxide emissions and transition to sustainable industries.

Capitalism cannot survive sustainability. It is physically and mathematically impossible to infinitely increase capital accumulation and also decrease the use of non-renewable resources at the same time.

The battle over democracy. This includes a) the struggle for voting rights; b) the fight for comprehensive immigration reform; c) the ongoing battle against the emergency financial manager (EFM); d) the fight against “Right to Work;” e) the movement to end corporate personhood; f) the campaign against the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), especially against the so-called “fast track” legislation that would allow it to bypass standard congressional debate and procedure; and g) the Moral Monday movement.

Commentators said that the 2012 election was the first in “what is likely to be an era of growing class warfare.” At the present time the struggles continue to be carefully orchestrated to preserve the two-party system, while slowly reducing rights and living standards. In general the trend is to adopt “enforcement only” provisions of the various reforms (whether immigration reform or Obamacare) to maintain the appearance of progress while in fact increasing oppression. As the situation deteriorates, the appearance of narrow differences between the parties is

carefully maintained — although their programs are the same — because if they merge too closely then people will (further) disengage from them.

However, just as the 2008 recession gave birth to the Tea Party, any sudden economic downturn will embolden and unleash the fascist forces lurking on every front. This will further destabilize the two-party system. A powerful third party movement may or may not break out immediately. The point is for revolutionaries to be prepared by uniting and politically educating the leaders at every step in the process. The point is to develop a solid working class trend within the movement as it develops. Then when the third party does fully emerge we will be prepared to play our role in it.

DEMOCRACY AND VOTING RIGHTS

The question of democracy, voting, and voting rights will continue to be central to the class struggle. In 2012 about 57.5% of eligible voters cast ballots (down from 60.4% in 2008). This means over 90 million eligible voters failed to participate in the election.

This year’s Supreme Court decision to strike down Section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act is only the latest in an escalating campaign of voter suppression. It is important to note that this campaign is being modeled on the late nineteenth century so-called “Negro disenfranchisement” measures in the South (in actuality they targeted millions of whites as well). They were extremely successful for the ruling class. From 1892-1902, the average vote cast for Congress members declined by 56% in Virginia; 60% in Alabama; 69% in Mississippi; 80% in Louisiana; 34% in North Carolina; 69% in Florida; 75% in Arkansas; 50% in Tennessee; and 80% in Georgia.

Voter suppression today has taken diverse forms and has proceeded state by state with the blessing of the Supreme Court, just as it did in the nineteenth century. It has included “caging” working class voters, purging

hundreds of thousands from voter rolls, restricting polling places and times, and photo ID laws that by themselves are capable of disenfranchising over 10 million voters. Finally, Republican gerrymandering cost Democrats control of the House of Representatives, despite that fact that Democrats won the overall popular vote in Congressional districts by 1.4 million votes. Six states that voted Democratic in 2012 but have Republican legislatures have considered awarding presidential electoral votes by congressional district rather than the current winner-take-all system, to allow appointment of presidential electors opposed by the majority of voters.

While many of these efforts appear to be targeting Democrats, they in fact disenfranchise working class voters of all political viewpoints and will be used to block third party campaigns as well — and perhaps especially. Their ultimate aim is to erode and eliminate the ability of workers to use the electoral arena to defend or advance their interests in any way. The current debate around immigration reform is a perfect example. The system cannot and will not extend the right to vote to 11 million more workers who will be hostile to austerity, environmental destruction, and fascism.

THIRD PARTY

Democracy and freedom have always been the foundation of the American dream. As Martin Luther King used to say, the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. When the system moves to crush that right, the people instinctively resist.

The immediate test of American democracy is the fight to break the grip of the corporate two-party system. A broad social movement is coalescing around the immediate demands of the dispossessed, but the “social movement” approach to social change is no longer effective. People have to start looking for a vehicle to express themselves politically. The role of revolutionaries in this situation

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Inside: Rising Discontent Demands a New World

For the first time ever, for over two weeks the U.S. government was shut down. As the political crisis played out, federal employees were furloughed, threats were made to cut off the food stamp program, and speculators went wild reaping billions of dollars. The fallout of the shutdown revealed the common allegiance of both parties to serving the interests of the ruling class, while also revealing fissures within the parties and increased public support for and impetus toward a third party. As Wall Street rejoiced in a resurgent stock market, the government once again proved to the millions of people who suffer from rising joblessness, and live in poverty without health care, adequate food or housing, that it is unfit to rule because it is unable to care for its people.

Our cover article “2014 Elections Expected to Reveal Polarization of Class Interests” examines the political consequences of the deteriorating economic situation and the failure of the government to redress the people’s grievances. Impulses toward a third party are developing, and this is key to the political

development of our class. Revolutionaries must help prepare this movement by uniting and politically educating its leaders at every step in the process and develop a solid working class trend within it.

Youth are particularly hard hit by the transformation of the economy. “Revolutionary Youth: Harbinger of the Future” shows how the socialization of youth has been shaped by the interrelated demands of the economy and society at any given stage of history. Unlike previous generations, youth of today find themselves lost at the margins of society, with little to hold on to. Yet in many cases, neither are they tethered by the expectations of the past. Open to revolution, they need only to be given the framework and intellectual tools to understand the processes of the only world they have really known.

An epochal transformation is underway, rooted in the qualitatively new means of production, electronics. It is not only destroying the old economy, but polarizing society and politics, sweeping away all the old relations, breaking up all the old connections, and opening the way for the new. Charles Mann’s book

1493, which we discuss in “1493: A Review,” is a revealing portrait of causality. It shows that history recognizes no coincidences, no effect without cause, that human history reveals itself as a chain of causality, a web in which everything is connected. The book examines the development of the world economy at that time, showing that Cristobal Colon’s (Columbus) journey inaugurated a whole new era in the history of life. Such studies hold useful lessons for the revolutionaries who today are experiencing a similar but a far more profound transformation.

“The Changing Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries” shows that all the elements of social upheaval are moving into place. The realities of fascism in America today are fueling and shaping a new stage of the social movement, and these processes are beginning to clash, deepening the political polarization as conditions worsen.

Revolutionaries, the article points out, cannot understand the changing conditions and simply go on as before. Victory or defeat will be determined by the intellectual and political development of our class, to what

extent they have a vision of what is possible, and a clear strategy to win. The government shutdown offered another national platform for fascist ideas. Will we revolutionaries sit back and let these forces take the field? Or will we act with the real urgency of bringing our class the truth — that qualitatively new conditions demand that we fight for a transition to a communist society that can guarantee distribution based on need.

“Why the League?” shows why an organization like the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is indispensable to achieving the changes that millions are striving for. World economic revolution has made world political revolution inevitable. It is up to conscious people to guarantee that the revolution is settled in the interests of the common, ordinary people. The people are beginning to awaken to their situation and to act in defense of their lives. The League unites with this awakening and has dedicated itself to disseminating the ideas that give the class the understanding and goals that conform to the new possibilities and a strategy to realize them.

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is not to “take over” an emerging third party movement, but to participate and influence it through agitation, propaganda, and education. The role of revolutionaries is not to fight for organizational leadership but to bring political vision and strategy.

The movement cannot win without an organization of revolutionaries. Revolutionaries cannot build an organization of

revolutionaries apart from these spontaneous impulses toward political expression. We cannot do it without participating in the motion as it develops. But above all we cannot do it unless we bring in the idea that if we organize as a class we can abolish altogether this entire evil system of class exploitation and destruction of the earth.



EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages. It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America WHAT WE STAND FOR

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League’s mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, 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.

The Changing Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries

We are living in rapidly changing, dangerous times. Polarization of all kinds is expressing itself. The world is slowly slipping into two camps. For the moment Syria is the international focal point for this motion. In the Western Hemisphere the polarity is becoming more intense. Venezuela walked out of the conference to reconcile with the U.S. after a slanderous attack by the U.S. at the UN, and defiantly offered Edward Snowden asylum. Bolivia shut down the American embassy and threatened to break relations after the war-like detention of its president. At the recent 68th General Assembly of the UN one Latin American leader after another denounced U.S. policies. Here in the U.S. the Trayvon Martin murder has accelerated racial, national and class divisions. Wealth and poverty continue to polarize as all elements of the State, especially the Supreme Court, tighten the grip of fascism over all aspects of life.

From the right and from the left, the people are becoming more disgusted with and distrustful of the government. All the elements of a social upheaval are moving into place.

Underlying this process is the destruction of society, the polarization of wealth and the denial to growing sections of the American people of the basic necessities of life. The people are responding to, but do not yet understand the root of the problems they face, or as it engulfs them, the reality of fascism in America.

Fascism is an objective process, a result of the qualitative change in the economy and the creation of permanent unemployment. There are stages to this process. The economic aspects of fascism are evidenced in the merger of the corporations and the State, and are now in place. The political aspects of fascism arise on the basis of the economic aspects and facilitate it.

Myriad laws have been and are being passed that are directed toward containing the upsurges of the masses. These laws also transform the legal structure in order to protect and facilitate the interests of the corporations and the capitalist class to the exclusion of the American people. The goal of the rulers is the preservation of private property under some kind of new system.

Rising and interpenetrating these stages is the stage of the social expressions of fascism. We are seeing the creation of an environment in which the lives of a growing section of the American people is considered worthless. The Trayvon Martin murder verdict crystallizes this reality.

NEW STAGE OF MOVEMENT

These stages of the development of fascism are fueling and shaping the rising social

motion. Experiencing the growing poverty and the refusal of the government or the politicians to redress their grievances, the workers are losing their faith in the government and beginning the process of separating from the political system. This is a necessary step in their development as a class and for their independence from the capitalist class. These processes — the stages of fascism on the one hand, and the rise of a new stage of the spontaneous movement — are beginning to clash, and this will only deepen the political polarization as conditions worsen.

The rise of a third party is inevitable given these conditions. This party will not simply be one or the other of the individual third party formations in existence today, but will reflect the broad social motion as it develops. Within this impulse and formation of a third party the revolutionaries must figure out how to work “shoulder to shoulder” within the third party in such a way to prepare for the next stage, the development of a workers’ party, while maintaining our independent role.

A new stage of the movement is being fueled by and is clashing with the realities of fascism in America today. Revolutionaries cannot understand this and simply go on as before.

The process is unfolding without any sense of class interests or a vision of the future that is possible. This makes the rising movement vulnerable to the fascists and other forces that seek to corral the movement into the hands of the capitalist class. This broad social motion is objective and as such includes all kinds of currents. This motion is objectively communist but it is arising in an environment where it can be taken off track and channeled into a fascist solution. The fascists are responding to the same deteriorating conditions and the failures of the government to protect the well-being of the American people, and are organizing to put forward their program.

The days of social upsurges arising on the basis of an expanding economy and a ruling class advancing its interests through granting certain concessions are over. Today, the movement is arising on not only the basis of the destruction of the economy and society, but within a process of developing fascism which is complete in its economic and political stages, and rapidly accelerating in its social stage. Revolutionaries cannot understand this and simply go on as before.

CONDITIONS ADVANCING THINKING

The demands of this movement are objective; they cannot give up and go home. They need housing, food, health care and other basic necessities of life. This movement is coming into conflict with the State, which is standing in the way of them securing these basic necessities. This movement is in fact, if not in understanding, struggling to transfer capitalist property in order to feed, clothe, house and care for itself. Revolutionaries’ call for nationalization in the interests of the workers is part of this process. The State will not allow this and is fully capable of crushing any attempts to do so. In its efforts to transfer capitalist property to itself, the important result is not the transfer of property — which the capitalists will not allow — but the rising understanding that property cannot be transferred because the capitalist class will not allow it.

The process is just in the beginning stages,

but this is our north star: to create an organization that is a subjective expression of the objective process. Although still in the stage of social awareness, the realities of fascism are advancing the outlook and experience of this new stage of the movement. These embryonic beginnings are drawing the dispossessed of all kinds into activity and politicizing them. This is an essential development of our class as they begin to break their ideological and political ties with the rulers and set out looking for their own independent course. What is the root of the problem, how do they redress their grievances and take advantage of all that is made possible by the new period of time?

It is in the process of this movement’s realization that the State will not redress its grievances, giving rise to the demand for new solutions, that the revolutionaries can develop the stages of consciousness along the line of march from scattered economic struggles to united political struggles against the State. Such a task requires widespread propaganda within this growing movement that provides the answers that it seeks.

The intensifying polarity of wealth, the

inevitability of another economic crisis, the spread of fascism, and the developing upsurge alert us to a changing situation. On that basis, we determine how we will move forward.

TASKS OF THE LEAGUE

Causality is the philosophical foundation of our organization. Our understanding that the events of today are the basis for the events of tomorrow demand that we not only carefully examine today, but use that knowledge to prepare for tomorrow. The progression of political events follows the dialectical process — that is, from quantitative to qualitative stages. It is not possible to deal with qualitative change without adjusting thinking and activity with each quantitative stage of development.

The new level of social motion is stirring up debate. This is good and healthy. These discussions should be schools where we learn to apply our dialectical knowledge. Right now there is a debate as to whether or not there is a fascist State. Bourgeois philosophy tells us that things are categories, things in themselves. Dialectics teaches that everything is connected to everything else and is in constant motion, maturing, declining, arising again. Such a debate should include a discussion on what are characteristics and what are features. In America democracy has essentially meant the right to vote for an elephant or a jackass. In other countries it means the obligation of the State toward the people.

Thus far, events over the past period have shown the correctness of our general line. Fundamental to the League’s thinking is that a new motive force (the micro-chip) has allowed for the development of new means of production that are destroying value as the basis of exchange. Value-less production is marginalizing a new class of proletarians who cannot exist without distribution according to need. The destruction of value and the emergence of a communist class have shifted the communist party — the subjective expression of the actual movement — from an ideological to a concrete and practical, i.e. political base. The old ideological communist party is obsolete and must be replaced by a practical, political communist party that represents the motion of an actual communist class. Such a party does not exist. History cannot move forward without it. How is such a party to be built? What kind of an organization of revolutionaries is needed to build such a party? These are some of the questions this growing social motion has thrust upon every revolutionary.

Report of the LRNA Resident Standing Committee, September 2013

Revolutionary Youth: Harbinger of the Future

Society organizes itself around tools. The varying degrees of specialization of labor within the productive relations of a given society are a direct reflection of the complexity of the interrelationships that exist within a given mode of production. The complexity of the society and the essential tools society is built around determine where and how an individual may labor.

It is in the essentially non-productive (in the economic sense of the word) shelter of childhood that an individual is first made aware of the general requirements and possibilities for productive adult life; these requirements and possibilities are a direct reflection of the given relationship that an individual is born into under a given mode of production in a given time and place.

YOUTH AS SOCIAL CONSTRUCT EMERGES FROM PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS

Childhood is not a fixed period of time set by some force that exists outside of (and somehow metaphysically informs) society of what the given length should inherently be. In this sense the non-productive period of childhood may possibly only last until an individual is physically capable of being productive within the demands and development of property in that given time and place.

Nonetheless it is in childhood we are first socialized to the norms of the given social orders we are born into before we are actually physically capable of participating. Under primitive communism children were taught in their time to hunt and gather but logically were long aware of this system before they participated in it.

With the introduction of property society broke into classes. Within that divide different children were socialized to meet the demands of the expectations of their class. In slave societies the children of slaves were prepared for a life of slavery, and the children of slave masters were prepared for a life of slave mastery. Under feudalism the children of farmers were trained for a life of animal husbandry, the children of blacksmiths to fit horseshoes, and the prince to one day become king.

Under capitalism, which in its higher expressions rests upon industry, a factory worker, a farm hand, a small business owner, a government employee all prepare their children to participate in the capitalist economy in various capacities. They do so often under the common expression “you can be whatever you set your mind to” often meaning the child of a bartender was free to pursue social production as a postal worker unbound and unchained from the unforgiving lash of the bar stool.

Members of the capitalist propertied class most often prepare their children for a life of capital asset management wherein capitalist progeny interact with a whole host of specialized attorneys, managers, lobbies, and executive boards who carry out the particular

functions of capital for them. The level at which capitalist progeny interact with the specialized professional capitalist functionaries within this process is largely a matter of individual interest as the functions of capital will largely be carried out in their name for their benefit with or without much of their own individual intellectual output. The distance of their position from production is a direct reflection of the complexity of the organization of society that arose around the tools capable of producing capitalism.

PROCESS OF SOCIALIZATION CHANGES WITH CHANGING CONDITIONS

Different conditions produce different social values and thus the expectations a child is raised with change under different conditions. The socialization of various relationships, the standardization of norms surrounding forms of property and labor, stretching across time and locale were and are all made possible only by the tools that that given social order is built around.

Childhood, in the social and not physical sense of the word, is the period of time in which an individual is cared for and largely prepared to meet the expectations of adulthood within their given time and place. These expectations do not rise out of some higher, fixed, eternal morality that hovers above our heads or courses naturally through our veins throughout the generations. These expectations are in fact the product of the demands and developments of a given mode of production within a given time and place.

Stripped of all pomp and ceremony, divorced from any and all assigned social significance, what is taught in childhood are the perceived skills required in adulthood to obtain the goods and necessities of life. Expectation is what arises out of and socially surrounds that given need. Expectation, in this sense of the word, what is expected for an individual to be a productive member of society, is at heart a social expression of a material need. That material need of course is an individual’s ability to acquire the skills necessary to obtain the goods and necessities of life. These skills have historically largely been obtained through generational transmission.

It is only in the brief period of an economic leap that people must be resocialized, new survival skills for the new economy must be learned. New ideas emerging from the objective process must clash with the old. There is major upheaval and then within a relatively short period of time these revolutionary new ideas become socialized as more or less as fixed or eternal, “the way things are” or the result of some given identity divorced from the material conditions that actually birthed them.

In this way the process of socialization, that standardization of norms, begins again under altered material conditions that demand a new set of expectations. Survival skills, which are couched in expectation, are taught

once more under the auspices of some higher principles.

All mammals teach their young survival skills. There is nothing inherently nefarious in this process in and of itself. It is the fact that this rearing process, which emerges from the natural inclination of human beings to care for and prepare their young, is channeled through the prism of the social mores that bolster property in whatever given propertied productive relation, that these various sets of values, these given expectations have throughout history socially fit the minds of non-propertied youth for the shackles of adult slavery in one form or another.

objectively changing its quality.

The politics of withdrawal, either personal, as seen in the explosion of self-help movements, or social, as with the various expressions of autonomy, expresses itself as the attempt to live life outside society’s material base. People strive somehow to organize life outside of the use of the tools that society is currently built around. The politics of withdrawal posits that the correct course of action is to create a new world divorced from the old either within one’s own mind or within some shared community that exists outside of the prevailing society.

This is impossible as all society is orga-

Our work with youth must be no different than our work everywhere in the new class — to engage among them to introduce the new ideas.

NEW CONDITIONS RAISE NEW CHALLENGES

In growing numbers the youth of today, as they physically grow out of childhood, cannot socially meet the expectations of adulthood within the capitalist mode of production. Many are simply unable under these changing conditions to sell their labor power, which for the non-propertied class under capitalism is the very basis for survival. A new quality that has been introduced into the means of production, the new essential tool that society is currently reorganizing itself around, is in the short term compatible only with highly specialized skills and in the long term antagonistic to nearly all forms of human labor.

There is precious little material base for the propertied class of today to socialize non-propertied youth to the social mores and expectations that will be demanded out of these emerging productive forces, out of these new essential tools that society must one way or another reorganize around.

YOUTH SPONTANEOUS MOTION NEEDS POLITICAL CLARITY

Poll after poll shows the declining popularity of capitalism amongst the youth. It is quite unlikely they are responding to what capitalism really is, but against the advancing of its social mores in a period wherein they cannot participate in its activities. They aren’t rejecting having to sell their labor power, they are disillusioned by the fact they cannot. More and more the youth are being forced to break with the social mores and expectations of exchange value. This break that is being forced upon them and their material need to make sense of the world around them is forcing subjective expressions new and old. What is old takes on a new character as society is

nized around tools. History is the progression of how society arranges itself around those ever advancing tools. Political power is the ability to forcibly insist upon which tools will be used and how society will organize around them. Those commanding the helm of a social order cannot and will not allow individuals to organize a counter society outside or within society itself.

REVOLUTIONARIES MUST ENGAGE AMONG YOUTH TO INTRODUCE NEW IDEAS

That this thinking is wrong does not mean its thinkers should be discarded. Our work with youth should be no different than our work anywhere and everywhere within the new class. Revolutionaries must engage the widespread subjective responses to the objective process that these youth are caught up in and introduce new ideas.

Lastly there are revolutionary youth who feel that the goods and necessities of life and the tools that produce them are their human right simply by fact of birth. This grouping among social forces in motion should give us great hope for the future. These revolutionary youth, having never experienced the productive heights of capitalism, can and are being reached with visions of a new society with far greater ease than their economic predecessors. This section of youth doesn’t need to be told what is happening they can simply be given the framework and intellectual tools to understand the processes of the only world they have really known.

The process is objective. Their life experience confirms our philosophical outlook. Take heart and rally, comrades; a new day is on the horizon.

Why the League?

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America is an organization of revolutionaries that describes the current state of human society as entering an epoch of social revolution. One aspect of this epoch is illustrated by widespread poverty at one end of society and untold wealth at the other. The great majority of the world's people are being forcibly driven into absolute poverty. Children are suffering unimaginable hardship and death. According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty, and some 27-28 percent of all children in developing countries are estimated to be underweight or stunted. More than 80 percent of the world's population lives in countries where income differentials are widening. In the United States, more than 31 percent of the population experienced some period of impoverishment during the years 2009-2011. Almost 22 percent of children in America are in poverty.

The other aspect of this epoch is defined by "an instance of a great change in affairs" for human beings. Our history is one of laboring to create those things essential for our survival such as food, shelter and clothing, and continually improving the way we produce them. Under capitalism we receive a wage in return for our labor, which is used to buy the essentials. The rest of the fruits of our labor go to the capitalists, enriching them beyond imagination. This tenuous relationship worked to some degree until more and more of our labor was replaced by computer and robotic production. Everyone from highly skilled to unskilled laborers face great difficulty finding work. How is production and exchange to continue under such conditions? One conclusion that can be drawn is that we should go back to the old methods of production and put everyone back to work. However, development is a progressive process always moving forward rather than backward.

Historically, fundamental changes in how we produce goods have disrupted society and forced a struggle over how to reorganize society to accommodate the new tools

of production. Today is no different. Now the new tools are robots and computers, which open up great possibilities for human progress. The gigantic productive capacity allows us to easily provide not only the necessities of life, but also the development of a rich cultured, educated, enlightened life for all. But the rub comes with the private ownership of the socially necessary, socially produced necessities of life. The capitalist class will not willingly put these to use for the benefit of all members of society.

UNPRECEDENTED PRODUCTION AND UNPRECEDENTED WANT DESCRIBE OUR TIME

The "recovery" under Obama is limited to the wealthy and the super-rich, who have recovered all of the losses they suffered in the immediate aftermath of the Wall Street crash of September 2008 and have grown richer than they were before the financial crisis. Social inequality has deepened as a result of policies designed to further redistribute wealth from the bottom of society to the top.

"One day before the release of the Census Bureau report Forbes magazine published its annual list of the 400 richest Americans. The combined wealth of these 400 individuals rose substantially from the previous year—from \$1.7 trillion to \$2.2 trillion. This staggering figure is equal to 12 percent of the total annual gross domestic product (GDP) of the United States and two-thirds of the tax revenues collected in the US in 2013." ("US Census Report Shows Entrenched Poverty and Declining Living Standards" By Thomas Gaist, Global Research, September 18, 2013)

The capitalists will not let go of what they own and control without a fight. America has become a fascist country which protects their rule. The U.S. is going through a transition from a republic that promised to serve the common good of society to a government that enthrone the corporations and renounces any responsibility to society. In order to control

the inevitable social response and to protect private property, the ruling class fosters an American form of fascism that fits this new epoch. They are intent on maintaining control of the means of providing the necessities people need for their own benefit.

How can the workers dispossessed in these times fight to obtain the necessities of life? Why is the League of Revolutionaries so confident that this fight can be won?

THOUSANDS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

In their unending search for wealth and efforts to remake the world as their empire, the capitalists have created what Karl Marx called their own gravediggers. A new class of workers is being pushed out of the system with no way to survive. This class is pushed into a crisis that can only be resolved with the transformation of private property to public property. The new class is not the "bottom of society." It is the social force capable of standing the world on its feet. Social destruction is bringing forward revolutionaries who understand that something must be done to right the wrongs. They do not see undocumented workers, poverty-stricken African Americans, Latinos, "white trash," and children abandoned by this system as the cause of the wrongs or as the enemy.

It takes a mighty intellectual effort to participate in making change happen in favor of the people. Fighting to not lose what we have or to gain a few crumbs is not enough to win. The revolution in the economy is calling forth the forces capable of transforming society. The LRNA Program states: "The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement." Thinking and acting in a new way is decisive.

AN ORGANIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Thinking people have to come together in an organization in order to make a serious historical contribution to the process of revolution. The League set out from the start to be an organization of revolutionaries arising from an intellectual understanding of the contradiction between society's productive forces and its productive relations. We are guided by philosophy, the study of processes governing all thought, principles and morals. We constantly study the actual social and economic motion to bring new ideas that conform to the new economic and social situation to the upsurges of the people. These new ideas transform the unattainable struggle for reform within the system into a revolutionary struggle for the political power to achieve these reforms through social reconstruction.

The League was established for this express purpose. World economic revolution has made world political revolution inevitable. It is up to conscious people to guarantee that the revolution is settled in the interests of the common, ordinary people. This is a serious undertaking. We are seeing the beginnings of a new awakening of the people over the destruction of their children's education, the gunning down of children in the streets by police and vigilantes, and over the decimation of health care. The League unites with this awakening in order to unite the upsurges with the ideas that give them new goals and understandings that conform to new realities.

History thrusts upon us the task of building an organization capable of harnessing the intellectual energy and enthusiasm of today's revolutionaries. The League extends its hand to all revolutionaries who want to be a part of building this type of organization. League members participate in studying, discussing and summing up the revolutionary process in order to propagandize — that is to take the new ideas of this epoch to the people.

Keep Public Education Public

The motion around public education provides tremendous opportunities to introduce new ideas and reach new revolutionaries. The capitalist class is handing revolutionaries the ammunition to convince the people that they cannot secure quality public schools without nationalizing them in the interests of our class, not in the interests of corporate privatization.

The State is reorganizing public education at every level to put corporations in control. But corporations are driven to make private profit at the expense of the public. They can only exacerbate problems with our schools and colleges, since private property leads to the destruction of society. We hold government responsible and accountable to the people to guarantee the highest quality of education for everyone.

Chicago occupies center stage in the battle

over public education, where a historic 49 schools were closed at the end of the last school year, 3,000 school personnel were laid off (including nearly 10% of all the teachers). As if the layoffs weren't enough, the city blames the estimated \$1 billion school budget deficit on teacher pensions. The city and the state are orchestrating the total destruction of public worker pensions, using the teachers as their chief target.

In a further slap to the face of teachers and parents and students in the schools that remain open, severe cuts slashed the budgets of all Chicago Public Schools — especially those communities in where Latinos and African Americans are concentrated.

Within Chicago, the movement leading up to the teachers' strike last September showed a beginning recognition of common interest among teachers, parents and students. The

city launched an unprecedented campaign of sham public hearings and lies to split communities, antagonize races, and set one school population against another. Yet through all this the section of society being dispossessed of their education voiced a united opposition to CPS and their elected officials and their appointees.

All eyes are on Chicago, but the public education crisis is raging across the country, from Detroit's bankruptcy to school closings and layoffs in Philadelphia to the privatization of the entire New Orleans school system to the destruction of city colleges in California.

Rally, Comrades! has spoken to why the attack on education and at whom that attack is leveled: a new class is in formation and expelled from capitalist relations. The ruling class will not educate workers who are

no longer a source of profit. The dismantling of public education will encompass this new class and affect all of society. And while what most of the public sees is the crisis in the pre-college educational system, the systemic crisis is also eviscerating public access to higher education.

Can there be any doubt that we have abundant resources for education that could resolve all the "shortages"? Do we not have enough teachers, books, electronic resources, school buildings? Is there any reason in the world that we could not provide education for all, with resources allocated according to need? Can't we guarantee every individual the right to fulfill all their potential?

We call on any and all who answer yes to join with us in creating the new America that is possible.

1493: A Review

1493
BY CHARLES C. MANN
VINTAGE BOOKS, NEW YORK, 2011

When Cristobal Colon (Columbus) set off from Spain in 1492 he really had no idea where he was going, where he would wind up, or what the consequences of his voyage would be. But history knows no event without consequences, even those unintended. It recognizes no coincidences, no effect without cause. Human history in fact reveals itself as a chain of causality, a web in which everything is connected. Charles C. Mann's book, *1493*, shows in a quite remarkable way how a chain of events ushered in a whole new era in history, giving rise to the world as we know it today.

Mann's claim is that Columbus' journey inaugurated a whole new era in the history of life — the era of globalization — “the single turbulent exchange of goods and services that today engulfs the entire habitable world.” He goes on to describe the “Columbian Exchange” as a process that took place on three different levels: the biological, the economic, and the human.

Two hundred fifty million years ago the earth was composed of a single landmass — Pangaea — which later split into Eurasia and the Americas. Now, Mann claims, the Columbian Exchange has “reknit the seams of Pangaea.” Mann describes the launching of a whole new biological era as the “Homogenocene” — a mixing of unlike substances to create a uniform blend.

THE BIOLOGICAL EXCHANGE

From the Americas came the native maize (corn) and the sweet potato, as well as the introduction of the potato into Europe and the rubber tree into Southeast Asia. Today, Brazil's primary agricultural exports are soybeans, beef, sugar and coffee. Not one is native to the Americas. From the lower Amazon tobacco was introduced into the colony at Jamestown, which later led to the first great global commodity craze.

The Europeans brought with them cattle, sheep, horses, sugarcane (from New Guinea), bananas (from Africa) and coffee (also from Africa). But also, and devastatingly, the Europeans brought the viruses — smallpox, influenza, hepatitis, measles, and viral pneumonia. Also came the bacteria: tuberculosis, diphtheria, cholera, typhus and scarlet fever. All of these were unknown to the Western Hemisphere. As a result more than three-quarters of the Native American population were wiped out. There is no comparable demographic catastrophe in human history.

The introduction of new diseases to the Americas caused a population crash, which in turn led to a reforestation, the consequence of which, by the withdrawing of carbon dioxides from the atmosphere brought on what became known as the Little Ice Age, a period of cooling that took place between 1550-1850.

“Biology enters history,” Mann says, “when one realizes that almost all the slaves

ferried to the Americas came from West and Central Africa.” The Mason-Dixon line demarcated where malaria thrived and where it did not, and where African slavery was dominant and where it was not. The introduction of malaria was a biological link which led to the importation of slaves from West Africa, but the Africans also brought with them not only yams, millet, sorghum, watermelon, black-eyed peas and African rice, but also yellow fever. The West Africans were largely immune to malaria and yellow fever, but these had a devastating effect upon the European as well as the native populations in the Americas.

History recognizes no coincidences, no effect without cause. Human history in fact reveals itself as a chain of causality, a web in which everything is connected.

The importation of these diseases made the Southeastern U.S. inhospitable to Europeans, and often they did not survive a year. By 1715, decimation of the native populations put an end to the Indian slave trade. Until then, the Carolinas were largely slave exporters, primarily to the Caribbean. The English colonies largely avoided slavery until the early 1700s. In 1650 there were only 300 slaves in Virginia. By 1750 that number had exploded — a pivotal moment in history.

Today the potato is the fifth-most important crop worldwide. In the century after its introduction, the population of Europe doubled. It set the template for modern agribusiness, first with the widespread use of guano (bird excrement) imported from the Americas, and when that ran out, high-intensity fertilizers and pesticides. Living standards doubled or tripled worldwide even as the world's population grew by leaps and bounds as farming as an industrial monoculture was put in place.

It spelled the lie of the “Malthusian trap.” According to Malthus, a British economist of the time, the power of population is always greater than the power of the Earth to produce subsistence — humanity is therefore doomed to exist at the edge of starvation. In fact, as population has soared the percentage of malnourishment has fallen. (Karl Marx derided Malthus as a “sycophant of the ruling classes”). But we will have to look elsewhere to explain the current rise in world hunger.

The potato also brought with it the potato blight, which caused one of the deadliest famines in history. Today Ireland is the only country that has fewer people than it did 150 years ago.

HOOPS OF SILVER: THE ECONOMIC EXCHANGE

The Homogenocene is a world bound together by hoops of silver, says Mann. With the discovery of one of the biggest and richest

strikes of silver in history in Potosi, Bolivia, the Spanish peso was well on its way to becoming a de facto world currency. China, which was hungry for silver, sucked up as much as half of it. The establishment of the “galleon trade” linked China with the Americas, Europe, and Africa. “Never before had so much of the planet been bound to a single network of exchange.” Spanish silver literally became China's money supply.

Giddy with its newfound wealth and the power that came with it, the Spanish monarchy launched a series of costly wars with France, the Ottoman empire, and with England.

that slavery has on U.S. history, but it also came to be the foundational institution of the Americas as a whole. “America was an extension of Africa rather than Europe until late in the 19th century, says Mann. “This great transformation, a turning point in the history of our species, was wrought largely by African hands.” Argentina had many slaves, and Brazil came to be economically and culturally defined by Africans. In the 19th century migration was dominated by Europeans, which changed the demographic composition once again. Europeans became the majority in the hemisphere.

“Colon's voyage inaugurated an unprecedented re-shuffling of *homo sapiens* — the human wing of the Columbian Exchange.” Europeans became the majority in Argentina and Australia, Africans are found from Sao Paulo to Seattle, and “Chinatowns” are all over the globe. Asians are included from India, Malaysia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Borneo and the Philippines. Mexico City became the world's first truly global city, a showpiece of the Columbian Exchange.

The world as we know it today did not exist 500 years ago. Yet as it has been said, the past is never past. It is always with us. One important area that Mann does not touch upon is the impact of the growth of productive forces and how the introduction of new technology qualitatively changes the course of human history and society. In the 500 years, which are the subject of Mann's examination, we have seen the transition from a society based in agriculture and manual labor to a mechanized industrial production, to the new epoch of electronics and laborless production. In several very real ways, Charles C. Mann's *1493* reveals to us how there is a new humanity in the making. We stand on the edge of a history that promises the fulfillment of that vision that history reveals to us. We have a world to win.

Debt piled up, leading to bankruptcy; with the overproduction of silver, the value fell, and the richest nation in the world was headed toward a financial Armageddon. Sounds familiar.

SLAVERY: FOUNDATIONAL INSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAS

Now we see the interaction of the economic and the human branch of the Columbian Exchange. In a very real way slavery has come to define the history of the Americas, and consequently the globe. We cannot understand who we are apart from it. Mann estimates that between 1500 and 1840 almost 12 million captive Africans were brought to the Americas. We are familiar with the impact

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