

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

New Stage of the Movement, Build an Organization of Revolutionaries

One out of five children in America are at risk of hunger while 442 billionaires wallow in obscene wealth. People are in desperate need of food, water, shelter, healthcare and other necessities. They are beginning to fight. Everywhere their demands are coming into conflict with a militarized police State that is standing between them and their needs.

The struggle in Ferguson, Missouri is a case in point. It showed the world that the police in America — the land of the free — are a law unto themselves, divorced from society, but determined to control it. “I will fucking kill you,” screamed one police officer, while aiming his assault rifle at protesters in this impoverished town.

Ferguson is not an isolated case. The same police State, that openly kills more and more people, is sending refugee children fleeing U.S.-inspired drug wars and poverty in their countries back to possible death. It jails community leaders who are leading a valiant fight for what little democracy is left. And it oversees massive water shut-offs to thousands of families too poor to pay the skyrocketing price. When Detroit protesters tried to block water shut-offs, police jailed them.

The police under capitalism are the watchdogs of the private property of the billionaires, the owners of the corporations that have taken over the government and our nation. The danger is that the struggle has escalated to a new stage; people are going into battle and coming up against a violent police State. They have little understanding of what they are fighting for, or who are their friends and enemies. Given the history of America, a history that pits one section of the workers against the other, many can unknowingly be won to a fascist program that targets the victims and defends the billionaire’s private property. This new situation makes the need for an organization of revolutionaries even more pressing.

Revolutionaries stand on the moral outrage these life and death battles kick up to propagate the communist solution and a strategy to get there. Communism is an economic system, where the socially necessary means of life are owned publicly, not privately. Within the social turmoil revolutionaries convey a consciousness of the solution and common class interests — everyone needs publicly owned water, healthcare and food. Only private property and the State that protects it stand in the way. In this way revolutionaries help forge the scattered battles into one political struggle for the power to create a new society.

This is possible today. The capitalist system, based on the buying and selling of labor power, is coming to an end. New electronic means of production are eliminating the need for labor. If the workers cannot sell their labor power, the system cannot continue. These new means of production, which are creating a world of plenty — there’s no reason for

even one person to go without any necessity — are also creating a new section of the working class, that has no possibility of survival outside of a communist reorganization of society. If educated about its historic role, it has the power to unite all who can be united and lead society to that new world.

MINDS OPEN AS ECONOMY CHANGES

In the previous period of industrial development, when capitalism was expanding globally, it was sectarian to say the solution is communism. Super-profits from the exploitation of the world’s workers allowed the capitalists to make concessions to a section of American workers. In return, they provided support for the capitalists’ policies and war efforts. Those days are ending.

A recent survey shows that people are losing faith in the government — only 7% have confidence in Congress. People are beginning to think independently of their rulers. This is a necessary step in the development of their class consciousness. In addition, they are beginning to reject the misleaders and politicians who tie them to their rulers. In Detroit’s water wars, people were outraged at the city’s deceptive claims that the water would keep flowing. In Ferguson, agents of the capitalists who came to town to preach “calm” were told to leave the city. People are also beginning to put forward their own programs in the anti-police brutality, water and immigration struggles, to name a few. This shows that people’s minds are opening.

There is no guarantee, however, that people will fight as a class for a vision of a totally new way to organize society, based on the interests of all. The rulers have a powerful anti-communist propaganda machine. Ruling class “solutions” sound good but actually protect private property. Without an understanding of the real motives of the class that stands in opposition to them, people’s thinking can be pulled off course. This once again points to the urgency of the propaganda tasks of revolutionaries.

MICHIGAN IS KEY

What is happening in Michigan is important because it illuminates the progress of fascism in the volatile “Rust Belt,” (where the largest concentration of dispossessed workers exists), and people’s awakening. Michigan shows how the State — an instrument of force in the hands of the ruling class — is changing its form to guarantee the billionaires’ private property. Michigan is a harbinger of what could come to the rest of the country. It shows the pressing need for revolutionaries to help the class move from the defensive — defending what they once had — to the offensive, fighting for a cooperative society.

Michigan, like the rest of the “Rust Belt,”

has experienced tremendous job loss, resulting from globalization and the replacement of human labor with robots. In the face of rising poverty (67 percent of Detroit families are either under the poverty line or employed in low-income jobs), a movement for people’s needs is drawing many into struggle that are new to social activity. They are coming face to face with a State that enforces water shut-offs, condones police murders, jails leaders who fight for democracy, and allows corporations to buy up Michigan’s public assets. This fascist environment is made possible by Emergency Manager laws that give private property a free reign and allow the State to rule without the consent of the governed. These laws, and people’s awakenings to the danger, have made the situation even more explosive. They also open the way to show that communism, and the ending of a system based on private property, is the actual solution to the struggles for water, housing, education and other immediate needs.

Benton Harbor was one of the first Michigan cities to install an Emergency Manager system (under the version of the new law). It allowed the unleashing of a wave of terror on the community. The government attacked the democratic right of the community to recall a mayor bankrolled by the giant Whirlpool Corporation. Rev. Edward Pinkney, a leader of the people, was charged with felonies for allegedly changing the date on recall petitions to oust the mayor. Militarized police forces converged on his home to arrest him. At a hearing to determine if there was evidence to bring him to trial, the Judge told the defendant, Rev. Pinkney, that in Michigan evidence to convict is not needed. Democracy is under attack. The movement must defend its leaders.

In Detroit the Emergency Manager initiated water cutoffs to the poor, some say to make the water and sewerage company more marketable to private investors. Corporations want to profit by buying up the water. The cutting off of water to thousands has laid bare the immorality of private property interests.

The denial of drinking water to children, the sick and elderly — it doesn’t matter who — is tapping a nerve all over the country and world. People are outraged that families don’t have access to running water. This allows

revolutionaries to raise the question of why private entities should have the right to own a basic necessity, and why anyone should be denied drinking water simply because they are unable to pay.

This exposes the nature of a private property system. The capitalists will not provide for workers they no longer need. They cannot give away free food or water, as this would undermine their private property system. The question is: is there any other way to solve the problem, outside of distributing water and other necessities to all based on need? Communism is the practical solution to the inability of people to purchase water, healthcare or food. Necessities must be distributed to all based on need, not money.

STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF THE RULERS AND WORKERS

A social order near death is more dangerous because it strikes out, destroying anything that stands in its way. The rulers have no solution. In the face of the destruction of the capitalist system they must guarantee that their private property, worth trillions of dollars, is secured. They plan to put billions into a war economy to try to save their collapsing economy. But this will not solve the problem of a lack of jobs and an inability of people to buy necessities, and could lead to nuclear destruction. Above all they have to crack down on the rising movement with a militarized police State, and at the same time try to keep the moral outrage from proceeding on a class basis.

An organization of revolutionaries is urgently needed to bring vision, strategy and tactics to the class. A spontaneous movement that is going into battle without an understanding of where society is going, or that a system based on private property can actually end, cannot win. An organization of revolutionaries is needed that is embedded in all of the Fergusons, all of the water, justice and other spontaneous struggles. Such an organization would propagate one common message far and wide about the central enemy and the solution. It would guarantee that every uprising, battle over immediate interests, and critical fights such as the resistance

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Inside: The Dispossessed – Political Center of Gravity

Globalization and the shift from electro-mechanical to electronic production means of production have created a new class of proletarians. It is a new section of the working class, a new quality within it. Increasingly driven out of the relationship between worker and capitalist, the actual program of this new class is to abolish private property, and this communist program is in the interests of all society. For this reason, the new class is politically decisive.

“Los Angeles Rebellions: Turning Points of Revolution” takes a look at this, first at the Watts Rebellion in 1965, when the industrial working class was beginning its decline, and the 1992 Rebellion, which was the “opening round of revolution for this new class” who has been displaced from industrial production.

The world is in constant motion. Revolutionary politics conform to change. Change in the economy creates shifts in the political center of gravity. Revolutionaries concentrate on the current center of gravity and shift with it.

The progression of electronics has now hit the center of American politics. This bribed sector of the industrial working class and a section of the intelligentsia bound the mass to the capitalist class. The destruction of this middle is of the greatest political importance. This is a huge sector of the working class, a section of the working class that once had

something. They are educated, socially conscious and used to organization. They have become dispossessed. They are the current center of gravity that both sides have to fight over. They will be turned toward fascism, if the revolutionaries do not win over at least a section of these workers.

The focus on the dispossessed as the center of gravity is a political question. They have the potential to pull the whole class forward. But this opportunity, this necessity, will not last forever. The League’s program is the program of the new class. Our current point of concentration is the newly dispossessed.

“New Stage of the Movement, Build an Organization of Revolutionaries” emphasizes why Michigan, a Rust Belt state, is a key battle ground of struggle to win over the dispossessed. There they have experienced tremendous job loss, and are “coming face to face with a State that enforces water shutoffs, condones police murders, jails leaders who fight for democracy, and allows corporations to buy up Michigan’s public assets.”

As it is spelled out in “Standing in the Way: Private Property,” the ruling class’ whole strategy revolves around the defense of private property. Consequently, the program of the new class is “the abolition of private property and the distribution of the social product based on need.”

A political report on the “Implications of the War on Syria and Iraq” takes an in-depth look at the Middle East and the Ukraine,

illustrating how the strategy of the United States ruling class is to defend private property on a global scale, and at all costs.

“From the Editors: Unite on Common Economic Interests” looks at the deep processes underway today that underlie the escalating violence of the police and the rise of the movement against this violence. “The reality is that all workers, regardless of color, are being thrown out of the economy and into the struggle for the basic necessities of life.” The answer is to create a society where poverty no longer exists.

Economic crisis, foreclosures, more layoffs, and millions of unemployed are adding to the dispossessed. There is a growing motion to unite, based on a common condition and cause.

In “On Strategy,” for the League and for all revolutionaries, we rely on the objective motion of this new class by “waging a propaganda war that focuses on the inability of the system to provide the workers with the basic necessities of life” and put forward a vision of a new society.

Rally, Comrades! is a major weapon in our battle to “secure humanity’s imperiled future.” Use it.

New Stage (Continued from page 1)

in Benton Harbor, Ferguson, Detroit, and at the border become a school for revolutionary ideas.

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America is building such an organization. Today tens of thousands of revolutionaries are stepping forward, searching for answers and for organization. The League aims to reach these revolutionaries with a program based on the demands of the new class for a new society. This program rests on the real possibility of constructing a society wherein the marvels of the new technology are used to benefit all of society.

Join the League of Revolutionaries for a New America! Help build an organization of revolutionaries that does something important in history.

Editors’ Note: As we go to print — without evidence presented at the trial — Rev. Edward Pinkney was found guilty of the felony charges. There will be an appeal.

**Visit the Rally,
Comrades! website!
rallycomrades.lrna.org**

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, 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, has arisen to oppose this motion.

Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will continue to take over society. The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In the effort to achieve this political

power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

Nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

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 humanity’s imperiled future.

Implications of the War on Syria and Iraq

The U.S. is in competition with other nations, and with Russia and China in particular, for markets and resources. It is also trying to reduce Russia and China to the status of vassals, so they cannot threaten the U.S. drive for global domination. Russia especially is in the sights of the U.S., in part because it is the only country in a position to pose a direct military threat to the U.S. The key question for the nations involved is who will dominate Eurasia economically and politically — the U.S. and its European allies, or Russia and China?

The U.S. is not acting from a position of strength, but of weakness. As its position in the world declines in the face of the global destruction of capitalism and the rise of new economic powers, the U.S. is being reduced to using its technological and military might to try to maintain its dominance. Indeed, it has elevated to the level of strategy the practice of using subversion and violence, to undermine and destabilize countries.

Gaining control of Eurasia is central to the U.S.' goal of global domination. U.S. actions over the last 25 years in north and central Africa, the Middle East, central Asia and eastern Europe have been calculated to destabilize these regions, bring them under U.S. political and economic control, and interfere with Russian and Chinese access to markets and resources, especially oil.

U.S. actions have also served to position U.S. military forces where they can more directly threaten Russia. (A similar process has gone on in Asia in relation to surrounding China, though it is perhaps not as advanced or pronounced as what has happened on the Russian front.) It should be noted that the cost of these military adventures by the U.S. and NATO runs into the trillions, and this is being paid for through the "austerity" programs imposed in the U.S. and Europe.

UKRAINE AND U.S. INTERESTS

The U.S.-sponsored coup in Ukraine is a direct threat to Russia. Since Ukraine is strategic to Russia, it cannot ignore this threat, yet if Russia responds militarily the U.S. will use this as a pretext for war. At the same time, according to Evgeny Fedorov, a member of the Russian parliament, a fifth column of foreign agents, NGOs, and western-leaning oligarchs, politicians and media outlets is working inside Russia to bring about a "color revolution" similar to what has occurred in other countries. (In the past, similar forces have been apparent in each of these so-called revolutions, claiming they seek a democratic government but taking advantage of the grievances of the people to put a U.S.-leaning government in power) Getting control of Russia is a strategic necessity for the U.S.. In his May 2014 speech Fedorov argued that if the U.S. loses its bid to dominate Russia it will lose its empire.

The U.S. is also trying to isolate Russia and China economically through its proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

(TPP). China meanwhile is pursuing its New Silk Road project which is designed to integrate Eurasia economically and connect China to Western Europe and the Mediterranean by both land and sea through a network of roads, high-speed rail, pipelines and ports.

"China's strategy is to create a network of interconnections among no less than five key regions: Russia (the key bridge between Asia and Europe), the Central Asian 'stans,' Southwest Asia (with major roles for Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey), the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe (including Belarus, Moldova, and depending upon its stability, Ukraine), Pepe Escobar writes in a September issue of *TomDispatch.com*. "And don't forget Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, which could be thought of as Silk Road plus. Silk Road plus would involve connecting the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor to the China-Pakistan economic corridor, and could offer Beijing privileged access to the Indian Ocean. Once again, a total package — roads, high-speed rail, pipelines, and fiber optic networks — would link the region to China."

Gaining control of Eurasia is central to the U.S. goal of global domination. U.S. actions have served to position its military forces where they can directly threaten Russia. The U.S. is doing the same in Asia in an effort to surround China.

Escobar also notes that while NATO was meeting in Wales in September of this year, "the expanding Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a possible Asian counterpart to NATO, met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.... There, China, Russia, and four Central Asian 'stans' agreed to add an impressive set of new members [to the (SCO)]: India, Pakistan, and Iran. The implications could be far-reaching."

China is actively courting India economically, and both Russia and China are courting Germany. China has recently struck significant business deals with Germany, and Russia and Germany have long-standing economic ties. A Beijing-Moscow-Berlin economic alliance could push the U.S. out of Eurasia. Germany could well declare its independence of Washington one day.

U.S. STRATEGY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The long-planned U.S. actions in north Africa and the Middle East have both economic and strategic military aspects. The ultimate

target in the Middle East is Iran, which is militarily and economically strategic for all the great powers because of its size, its location and its energy resources. The actions the U.S. and its proxy, Israel, have taken over the last 15 years or so have been calculated to divide and subjugate nations like Iraq and Syria, to "neutralize" them as threats to U.S. interests, and in the process, isolate and prepare the ground for war on Iran.

These actions have also been calculated to limit the regional "blowback" against the U.S. and Israel in the wake of an attack on Iran. The U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, the assassination of Rafic Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon in Beirut in 2005, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006 (aimed at Hezbollah) and the ongoing efforts to destabilize Lebanon, the Israeli assaults on Gaza in 2008 and 2014, the assault on Libya, the war on Pakistan, and now the war against Syria are all part of this process. Israel's recent war on Gaza was in part aimed at Hamas, and in part designed to demonstrate its capabilities to conduct an air war on Iran.

Regarding Syria it should be clear by now

and Israel. This partly explains Qatar's support of the Syrian "rebels" and the U.S. agenda. Heading off the Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline is also aimed at both China and Russia. From both a military and economic standpoint the conquest of Syria will strip the Russians of their Mediterranean port at Tartus.

The most recent series of assaults on Iraq are also part of this pursuit, by the U.S., for economic domination of the region. Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya writes in *GlobalResearch*, "in Washington's eyes Nouri Al-Maliki's federal government in Baghdad had to be removed for refusing to join the U.S. siege against the Syrians, being aligned to Iran, selling oil to the Chinese, and buying weapons from the Russian Federation. Iraq's decision to be part of an Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline also undermined the objectives of the U.S. and its allies to control the flow of energy in the Middle East and to obstruct Eurasian integration."

INSTABILITY AND WAR

Militarily, according to *21st Century Wire*, the U.S. aims eventually to establish a no-fly zone over northeastern Syria along the Turkish border. The objective would be "to disable the Syrian government's air defense system through a series of airstrikes. After the No-Fly Zone is established, then the push will begin to carve out a NATO-run Buffer Zone or 'DMZ' along the Turkish-Syrian border which could help to facilitate additional U.S. ground forces into the region in 2015." It is interesting to note that on October 9, Turkey called for establishing a no-fly zone over northern Syria, and there are seemingly "spontaneous" demonstrations by Kurds in Turkey and Europe demanding Turkish intervention in Syria.

The U.S. has established advanced early warning radar and missile systems in Israel and Turkey. Thousands of U.S. troops went to Israel two years ago for a massive air defense military exercise. The U.S. now has some 30 military bases, thousands of troops and hundreds of aircraft, missiles and ships surrounding Iran. It's reported that U.S. special forces have been on the ground in Iran for several years. U.S. military planners have made clear that their plans for war on Iran include the use of nuclear weapons.

Russia and China have meanwhile been strengthening their economic ties with Iran, and Iran is economically and strategically important to both countries. The Russians and the Chinese have made clear that they would view an attack on Iran as a threat to their own national security. Observers have said that a war on Iran could easily morph into a full-blown regional conflict that would pull in Central Asia and could lead to nuclear war. The American people have been kept completely in the dark about the threat of nuclear war, of course, and this has heightened the danger.

Political Report of the LRNA Central Body, October 2014.

Los Angeles Rebellions: Turning Points of Revolution

The Watts Rebellion in 1965 and the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992 mark major advances in the revolutionary process, with repercussions throughout the United States. Each occurred as one stage of history was ending and a new stage beginning. The uprising and national outcry over the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri signal a new awareness of action against intolerable conditions and an awakening of hope for change as attention worldwide is focused on the escalation of State brutality.

Ice T said in *The Ice Opinion*, “Rage ignites the fire, but once the flames get going, poverty takes over. The bottom line was people were broke.”

In 1965 and 1992 rage against the oppression and brutality of the police and justice system ignited the fire. The desire for freedom from the misery of poverty brought people into the streets, keeping the rebellion alive for days. While the goals of the people in 1965 and 1992 were much the same, the underlying causes and solutions were different.

In a span of 30 years, fundamental changes had taken place in the economy. The Watts Rebellion took place in the era of industrial capitalism, when Los Angeles was a major manufacturing center, with a half million workers in aerospace, shipyards, canneries, auto, steel, and tire plants. By 1992, almost all of these plants had closed, as robots and computerized production replaced human labor, transforming the economy. These displaced workers became the nucleus of a new class outside of the productive relations of capitalism, which now numbers an estimated 2 million people in the Los Angeles area. This class includes former industrial workers and others, especially the youth, who will never find jobs that provide a living wage.

WATTS REBELLION 1965

WW II stimulated an explosion of industrialization in the Los Angeles area — aerospace, steel, auto, tires and shipbuilding — attracting millions of white, Mexican and Black workers. During the 1940’s, LA’s Black population exploded from 75,000 to 218,000. Moving to the “promised land” from the historical and cultural apartheid and struggles of the South, their hopes were shattered as they faced extensive unemployment and poverty. With preferential hiring for white workers, many were unable to find work and those that did were the first fired when the war ended and plants cut back production. In 1967, Robert Conot wrote in his classic work on the Watts Rebellion, *Rivers of Blood, Years of Darkness*, that nonwhite minorities are “wallowing in unemployment as great as or greater than that of the depression.”

With the Watts Rebellion the unemployed urban industrial working class of Los Angeles moved into the leadership of the freedom struggle that began in the South. They fought for an end to police brutality and injustice, and equal access to jobs and public education.

An estimated 35,000 people were active participants during the rebellion and about

72,000 were “close spectators.” Property damage in the 46.5 square mile zone was about \$200 million. At least 34 people died, one thousand more were injured and 4000 arrested.

The ruling class understood and feared that Watts was the opening shot of a battle that would continue until one side or the other was decisively defeated. They moved decisively to crush future uprisings, by winning over and co-opting better off Blacks, and by the militarizing of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

MILITARIZATION OF POLICE

In 1967, the LAPD reorganized to model itself on the military, particularly the Marine Special Forces, and envisioned an elite group of police officers to respond to “dangerous domestic disturbances.” In 1969, the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team carried out its first raid against a home of a member of the Black Panthers.

Four years later President Nixon introduced the war on drugs, with new, tough law-enforcement measures, including the no-knock raid. Under President Reagan (1981 to 1989), SWAT teams and the war on drugs converged. By the end of the 1980s, joint task forces brought together police officers and soldiers in what rapidly became a national war on the working class.

The militarization of the LAPD became the model for law enforcement throughout the country. The Pentagon has been supplying local law enforcement, including the LAPD, the Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles School Police Department with military weaponry for years. In 2010, the *Washington Times* report an estimated 50,000 SWAT raids in the U.S. per year.

BRADLEY COALITION

In 1973 Tom Bradley, with the support of wealthy Westside and Valley political and economic power brokers, became the first Black mayor of a major city. The Bradley Coalition carried out a political strategy to isolate and control the volatile Los Angeles working class. During his 20 years as mayor, Los Angeles was transformed, with a section of the Black and Mexican American workers being integrated into the “middle class.”

Opportunities opened up for Blacks and Mexican Americans to enter public employment in city government, the Los Angeles Unified School District, universities and medical institutions. With professional status and higher incomes, these better off Blacks and Mexican Americans moved away from the ghettos and barrios that had been cohesive communities, with services, shops and cultural activities serving the whole community.

This out-migration of “middle class” persons of all colors continues. It is leaving the center core of Los Angeles and its white suburban enclaves in extreme poverty, deprived of basic services, dismal public education, without parks and recreation, poor health services, and virtually no supermarkets, policed

by an occupying army of militarized police and sheriffs. These are the communities of the dispossessed.

The older men in these communities, the fathers, grandfathers and some women, the former steelworkers, autoworkers, tire, aerospace and shipyards workers, were discarded and dispossessed, as all major industrial production plants in Los Angeles from the 1970’s to the 1990’s were shut down.

AN UPRISING WAITING TO HAPPEN: 1992

For almost thirty years following 1965 all social motion, all struggles for justice and equality, all attempts to organize for better wages and working conditions were conditioned and contained by the powerful influence of organizations promoting racial and national division, by the growth of “middle class” Blacks and Latinos and their separation from the growing new class of permanently unemployed and underemployed workers, and by the false promises of influential Black and Mexican American politicians and community leaders.

With the goals of 1965 and 1992 still unfulfilled, the people of Los Angeles are moving on multiple fronts, from Skid Row to Pomona, from hotel workers to teachers.

But underneath this political maneuvering by corporate leaders, an economic revolution was transforming Los Angeles. By the 1970’s the electronic revolution began wiping out the unskilled and semi-skilled sector of industrial labor, where Black workers were concentrated. In subsequent decades, the electronic revolution was an unstoppable engine of change, displacing thousands more workers of all colors from industrial production, eliminating jobs in section after section of the economy, and fueling the growth of the new class. By 1992 this new class was an uprising looking for a place to happen. That place was South Central LA.

The LA Rebellion was the opening round of revolution by this new class. Blacks, Mexicans, and Central American immigrants all made their home in the impoverished neighborhoods of South Central, where the rebellion started. While demonstrators marched downtown protesting the not-guilty verdict for the police who beat Rodney King, the people of South Central, men and women, young and old of all nationalities took to the streets in spontaneous outpouring. Like the release of steam from a pressure cooker, people felt free, free from the oppression of the police as an occupying force. As Ice T writes in *The Ice Opinion*, “It was as if the people had taken the city back. For those few days it belonged to us and it was peaceful.”

Of the 16, 291 arrested, the largest

percentage, 36.9% were Latinos; 29.9% were Black and 33.2% were white and others. Latinos, whites, and Blacks, all participating, revealed the essential class nature of the rebellion, creating the possibility of ideological unity along class lines.

FROM OUTRAGE, TO UPRISING, TO REBELLION, TO REVOLUTION

The new class faces greater economic hardship and social and political isolation now than in 1992. According to the Los Angeles 2020 Commission, “28% of working Angelenos earn poverty pay. If you add those out of work, almost 40% of our community lives in what only can be called misery.”

With the goals of 1965 and 1992 still unfulfilled, the people of the LA area are moving on multiple fronts, from Skid Row to Pomona, from hotel workers to teachers. The Occupy motion ignited the nation around the 99% versus the 1%. Half a million people marched on behalf of Mexican American equality and immigration reform on May Day 2006. Teachers are fighting school closings, privatization, and forming organizations

spanning the hemisphere.

The battle that began with Watts continues. The forces of the State, protecting private property, continue to wage war on the communities of the dispossessed. Local law enforcement threatens, brutalizes and kills people from the communities that the ruling class identifies as most dangerous to their continued dominance and control. Ezell Ford, an unarmed young man, was the 390th person killed by LA County law enforcement since 2000. Almost one per week, 28% are Black, 51% Latino, and many are white.

Summing up the experience of the Watts Rebellion, Nelson Peery in his autobiography, *Black Radical* concludes, “...nothing can be done without organization.” Following the Watts Rebellion, revolutionaries with a vision and armed with a strategic outlook and an understanding of organization began the decades long process of building the organization that is needed for our time. The League of Revolutionaries for a New America is the organization our class needs. It is the organization for our time. It is the organization that can bring vision and class consciousness to the new class.

We call on all revolutionaries to join the League as it grows into the organization that can ensure the revolution will achieve the communist reorganization of society necessary to fulfill the goals fought for in 1965, 1992 and today.

From the Editors: Unite on Common Economic Interests

Andy Lopez in Santa Rosa. Kelly Thomas in Fullerton. Manuel Diaz in Anaheim. James Boyd in Albuquerque. Mike Brown in Ferguson. These are but a few. Latino, Black, white. The police have killed hundreds more across the country. Men, women, even children. Thousands more beaten, tortured and maimed. What do they have in common? They are all part of a class for which the capitalists no longer have any use.

It is revolutionaries' mission to explain why this is so, and to present the means by which these problems can be solved once and for all.

at least parts of their lives, a sign of deteriorating economic security and an elusive American dream." The growing breadth of equality of poverty, within the working class across previous lines of division, is something qualitatively new in the United States, and is a threat to the way the U.S. is ruled. This new class is a threat to private property. The only way they can survive is take over the massive means of production and distribute the wherewithal of life on the basis of need.

The militarization of the police, out-of-control cops, the raft of laws that have restricted political rights and destroyed legal rights are all part of containing the uprisings

a class — understand their situation, whom they consider friend or foe and their vision of what's possible — this is what makes the difference between victory and defeat.

Experiencing growing poverty and the refusal of the government to redress their grievances, workers are losing their faith in the government and beginning the process of separating from the political system. Their reaction to the escalating police violence around the country is part of the growing polarization in society. Fighting back is no longer enough. Here and there, workers are starting to put forward programs in their class interests.

At the same time, there is polarization within the class along racial lines. They do not see clearly their common class interests, and still cling to the notion that the ruling class and the capitalist system will save them. They have not yet come to understand that their survival depends upon them consciously taking up communism as a solution.

The ruling class must make sure they don't. The goal of the ruling class is to establish a social and political order that is capable of protecting and advancing private property under the new conditions created by qualitatively new means of production. It has to prevent the class from uniting in any effort to combine against it. It has to win over a section of the class to the goals of the ruling class.

The ruling class does not have to create anything new. It has only to make use of the history of racial division — a division that they as a class have historically created — to

shape the polarization along the lines that will advance their goals. Racial ideology is always about dividing the workers to control them, and guaranteeing their exploitation in whatever form possible. For the ruling class, racial ideology is thus a means to an end. It is not the end in itself.

The ruling class cultivates a debate that pits the full history and reality of racial injustice against the necessity to unite around common economic interests. But we should not allow it to be presented in this way to our class. It is not possible to fight racism unless we fight poverty. It is not possible to fight poverty unless we fight racism. They are linked. History has made them so.

The answer is to get out of the box the ruling class creates. The reality is that all workers, regardless of color, are being thrown out of the economy and into the struggle for the basic necessities of life. They cannot survive unless they come together with others in the same economic boat. Revolutionaries prove that capitalist ideologies — racial ideology especially — have to be replaced with ideas that reflect this new reality that demands that workers abolish capitalist property relations.

Revolutionaries show that the answer is to create a society where poverty no longer exists and where no one has to fight for the daily bread of existence, a society where cooperation and fulfilling the demands of humanity are the guiding principles. This is a communist society, and revolutionaries show that it is the only practical solution to any of the problems of today.

How people — as a class — understand their situation and a vision of what's possible — this is what makes the difference between victory or defeat.

Deep processes underlie the flux and motion of escalating violence of the police and the widening protests against them. Qualitatively new technologies are replacing labor, separating the working class from the means of making a living, and creating a new class of workers. A recent study showed that 4 out of 5 adults in the U.S. struggle with "joblessness, near-poverty, or reliance on welfare for

that the fascist economic and social conditions are inspiring. The ruling class can put down uprisings. They have proven that over and over.

What they cannot do so easily is suppress ideas, especially in such times of transformation, ideas that explain and point the way forward. Thinking, ideas, values — these things determine what people do. How people — as

Talking Communism: Rally Comrades! Annual Subscription Drive

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Things are starting to break out in this country. We are seeing a dramatic upsurge in response to the militarization of the police. The sustained protests in response to the police killings in Ferguson, Missouri and Albuquerque, New Mexico, the defense of the children refugees at the border, and the struggles unfolding in Michigan around water rights and the attack on our leaders, indicate something is beginning to shift in the thinking of the American people.

In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for 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 engage in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions.

The destruction of the environment, the growing threat of nuclear war, and looming pandemics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class, and to secure humanity's imperiled future.

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Standing in the Way: Private Property

Thousands of families in Detroit go without running water in their homes — but corporations get nearly unrestricted access to this natural resource in order to maximize their profits. Public education in the U.S. is being destroyed — again, so corporations can profit.

Hedge fund investors profit by speculating on the rate that glaciers are melting into the Earth's warming waters. Arms manufacturers enjoy uninterrupted profits. Eighty-five global billionaires possess more wealth than the world's 3.5 billion poorest people combined.

People sense that something very fundamental is amiss. But knowing something is wrong is not enough. Fighting against the effects of the problem doesn't lead to its solution. Beneath the surface of the problems we identify their cause.

Beneath that surface today, we find something new. The problem is not simply capitalism. It is the frantic attempts of the ruling class to preserve and protect private property itself — and the rapid changes in how they exert their political power to do so.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

To seize the revolutionary potential of this moment, we need to explore what private property is, its history, and a future without it.

Private property is not the same as personal property — someone's bicycle or home, for example. It is not simply a thing.

The water war in Detroit, Michigan tells the story. Tens of thousands of households suffer water shut-offs for inability to pay. Projections are for shut-offs to 150,000 people by the Fall and another 150,000 by year-end. Meanwhile, water corporations are free to take water from the surrounding lakes and rivers at zero to minimal cost. Their business is to make profits, so their access to water is assured.

Water is a natural resource. It should be publicly owned and managed for the public good. But private property relations ensure corporate access to water while depriving hundreds of thousands of people — in Michigan, Maine, and elsewhere — of this very foundation of life.

Private property relationships of one sort or another have shaped society for the past 5000 years or more. These relationships arose when and where improvements in tools gave the labor power of one person the capacity to produce more than the minimum necessary to sustain one person. Early forms of private property arose because there was a surplus that could be appropriated. The product of the laboring classes became the private property of the non-laboring classes.

Thus came thousands of years of private property relationships — and of forms and stages of the State to enforce the power and interests of the appropriating class. These property relationships came into play at one stage and were cast aside when fundamental change in the tools and motive forces of production called for new relationships.

Such a change is underway today. This one is huge. The microchip transmits the decision-making capacity of human labor. As it replaces living labor in one aspect of production after another, the microchip cuts the old connection between workers and capitalists in production. Capitalism is defined by the buying and selling of labor power as a commodity. It cannot survive this new motive force.

Today this change is not just from one stage or form of private property to another. It is of a scope that makes all forms of private property indefensible. Labor-replacing technology creates the objective foundation for the abolition of all forms and relationships of private property. It sets the basis to reorganize society around the common ownership of the means of production, with distribution according to need.

A STRATEGIC SHIFT

The ruling class cannot save capitalism. But it has to defend private property. This is the objective basis for a strategic shift. Here we mean strategic in the political sense — what the ruling class has to do to protect its interests, how it exercises and holds onto its political power.

Objectively the ruling class is on the strategic defensive. It has to try to protect its wealth and maintain the private ownership of the social product under new conditions. It tries to protect and prolong the right of the owners of property to maintain private ownership of the product of society — a product based on the labor of others, the knowledge and scientific endeavor of thousands of generations of humanity, and the natural resources of Mother Earth.

What is happening today is not just the spontaneous workings of capitalism. Capitalism was always exploitative. It always bred inequality. Its rule was always unjust. But at earlier stages of its development, the economic workings of capitalism — the buying and selling of labor power, the expanding buying power and market — could hold the system and society together.

Something is different today. When families of laid off autoworkers in Detroit cannot afford running water in their homes, the ruling class can no longer promise expanding opportunities. The internal economic workings of capitalism are being destroyed.

The ruling class holds political power, and it uses it in the most bold and merciless ways to protect private property relationships. Private property — the private appropriation of the social product — prevails because of the power of the State. Previous forms of rule give way to more desperate measures. The armed force of the State stands between families in Detroit and the water that flows through its pipes.

But political laws cannot overcome economic laws. In this sense, this offensive of the ruling class can only be tactical.

On Strategy

What is the League's strategy? In general, the League's strategy is to rely on the spontaneous movement, which is the objective movement of the working class for food, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities of life. This is because the spontaneous movement is already objectively headed in the direction of communist revolution. More specifically, our strategy is to strike the enemy where he is weak, by waging a propaganda war that focuses on the inability of the system to provide the workers with the basic necessities of life, and in the process we put forward a vision of the new society that is both possible and necessary.

Technology is replacing labor, and the bourgeoisie has no intention of feeding labor they don't need. Thus, on the one hand, the objective process is for the bourgeoisie to allow the workers who are no longer needed to starve to death (or massacre them); on the other hand, the workers are forced to fight for the necessities of life. The confrontation between classes is inevitable, and from the workers' perspective, it can only be resolved by making the means of production public property and building a cooperative society. The League's strategy (striking the enemy at the weak point in his lines) is based on what is objective; we align ourselves with the direction history is already moving.

Strategy cannot simply be plucked out of the air. Strategy has to be rooted in what is objective. We cannot be "revolutionaries in general," trying to attack on every front. He who attacks everything attacks nothing. We focus on the weak point in the enemy's lines, and that weak point is objective.

The basic tactic of the bourgeoisie is to isolate everything — to reduce each issue or event to a marble in a bag of marbles. The job for communists and revolutionaries is to place events in their social and historical

context so that the participants can see the actual cause of the problem and what the solution is. We're trying to evolve tactics that help the average participant in the struggle to see that what they are actually involved in is a class struggle for a new society. The League strives to participate in the struggle in such a way as to recruit influential people, so we can influence those who are active.

The League's strategy is to focus on the inability of the system to provide wherewithal of life and we put forward a vision of the communist society that is possible.

Our task as revolutionaries in the U.S. is to attack politically our own bourgeoisie. We do this by relying on our basic strategy of hitting the enemy where he's weak, and not deviating from this. We do not let the bourgeoisie frame the parameters of the debate. To do this would be essentially to operate without a strategy, simply reacting to the initiatives of the bourgeoisie. By not deviating from our strategy the League guarantees that we do not dilute or weaken our efforts.

THE TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES TODAY

The strategic defensive and tactical offensive of the ruling class sets the objective basis to strip the mask of "neutrality" off the State. Grasping that political power rests in the hands of the exploiting and appropriating class is a decisive step. It prepares the ground for millions of Americans to recognize the need for political power in the hands of a new class in order to address the people's most basic needs and to right the injustices of centuries.

Appeals to register voters and elect African-Americans to office cannot calm the outrage at the murder of young people by the police in Ferguson and beyond. Promises from Detroit's mayor to streamline the payment process for households facing water shut-offs does not meet their urgent need for water.

But what will fill the void left by the so-called leaders who contain people's thinking inside the bounds of capitalism?

Revolutionaries have the responsibility to move the thinking of the people from the defensive to the offensive — from the politics

of defending crumbs, to the view that the problems destroying society can and must be solved. The solution to these problems is simple. It is the program of the new class — the abolition of private property and the distribution of the social product based on need.

Now is the moment to propagate the confidence that the world does not have to be this way. Stages and forms of private property relationships come and go. At one stage, capitalism expanded, and the rulers of this country profited off property relationship that allowed for one person to own another person. At another stage, slavery held back the growth and development of capitalism. The struggle over slavery shifted onto the political stage. Books were written. Laws were passed. War was waged. Slavery was abolished.

Thousands of years of exploitation and inequality are heading toward human and ecological catastrophe. But thousands of years of humanity's accumulated knowledge also make a new world possible. The end of all forms of private property can be the beginning of our full development as human beings.