

Mass Migration in the Age of Electronics

The rapid extension of automated production around the world is creating a new global class of proletarians with no possessions and no means of making a living. Its formation is increasingly characterized by mass migrations on an unprecedented scale. As the capitalist system approaches its end, it only continues to function at all by means of a ruthless drive to reduce labor costs. It breaks down every barrier to the flow of capital into every corner of the globe in the search for the lowest wages. At the same time, it constructs a complex system of immigration that allows it to suppress wages, divide the workers, and unleash repression in the advanced countries.

Immigration has become an unavoidable battlefield in the unfolding social revolution. For the rulers, it is instrumental to the consolidation of fascist rule, economically, legally, politically, and socially. For the workers, it is an indispensable arena in the fight for the unity, consciousness, and victory of the working class.

THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

Modern capitalist agriculture is moving globally to displace billions of rural peasants and replace them with a relative handful of corporate farmers. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the total global workforce grew from 1.9 billion to 3.1 billion during the years 1980-2007. However, the expansion of the system also causes the spread of labor-replacing technology. This raises productivity to the point that growth of employment does not keep up with the growth of the workforce. Of those 3.1 billion workers, only 1.4 billion are actual wage workers, and that total includes temporary and part-time workers. The other 1.7 billion are “vulnerably employed,” a category of people economically active but not wage workers. These include “own-account workers,” who are peddlers and other petty contractors frequently called the “informal sector,” and “contributing family workers,” who are family members assisting wage earners by working alongside them without pay.

The vulnerably employed, together with the formally unemployed and “economically inactive” working-age people, make up what some call a “global reserve army of labor” of some 2.4 billion, much larger than the number actively working for wages. But clearly, a growing section of this army is not a reserve at all, but a mass of people who are permanently unemployed and always will be in a system based on private property in the age of electronics.

These billions displaced by today’s global economy are the source of the surge in world migration. According to the International Organization for Migrants, in 2010 there were some 214 million international migrants, or

approximately 3% of the entire global population. There were also an additional 740 million internal migrants in the various countries of the world. Today there are 70 countries in the world where immigrants make up more than 10% of the population.

ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION

However, what is different now is not just the size of the migration, but the economic forces driving it. Until the late twentieth century, migration served the expansion of the system, providing a growing workforce to fill the needs of increasing industrial production. The highest level of immigration into the U.S. (21%) happened during the rapid growth period of the 1920s, and modern immigration into Europe began with the 1950s-60s “economic miracle” in Germany.

Today’s migration, however, serves a different purpose. In an economy based on electronic production, employment is no longer expanding. Whereas immigration was historically always used to control wages, now it is used to drive down wages. Migrants today are motivated not so much by the vision of a better life as by massive displacement and desperation to survive. Immigration into the U.S., which fell to 5% in 1970, has now risen again to 16% in 2010. Immigration into Europe soared in the 1990s and 2000s due to the upheavals in Eastern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Immigration policy today reflects the merger of corporations and the State, and also helps this merger to happen. U.S. immigration legislation is essentially written by corporations themselves, in order to increase profits in the border enforcement business and to fix by law a variety of strata of guest workers. The Southern Poverty Law Center has described guest worker programs as “close to slavery.” Like the notorious Bracero Program of the 1950s, they threaten workers with deportation if they lose their jobs, and they render labor laws unenforceable.

Current programs include guest worker H2A visas for agricultural workers, H2B visas for non-agricultural seasonal workers, and H1B visas for technology workers. Virtually every immigration reform bill proposed in the last ten years would expand all these categories dramatically. The EU Blue Card program plays a similar role in Europe. Current and proposed immigration laws also facilitate fascism by denying citizenship and political rights to a growing sector of workers, and accustoming workers to routine raids, detention, criminalization, and deportation without legal recourse.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF RACE

Although U.S. immigration policy has always been about control of labor, its racial

and ideological justifications have continually evolved along with the shifting political interests of the ruling class. The 1790 Naturalization Act extended citizenship to all “free white persons,” but excluded African Americans and Native Americans. The post-Civil War 1870 Naturalization Act extended citizenship to “white persons and persons of African descent” but Asians were excluded. Mexicans living in the U.S. at the time of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 were granted the right to citizenship, and Latinos in the U.S. were historically permitted to self-identify as either white or non-white. The 1924 Immigration Act outlawed immigration by people deemed racially ineligible for citizenship — except for Filipinos and Puerto Ricans because of their status as residents of direct U.S. colonies. Political alliances during World War II caused the U.S. to lift the citizenship bar for Asians, except for the Japanese, who were interned whether they were citizens or not. Immigrants from socialist countries like Cuba and Vietnam, regardless of race, were welcomed for Cold War political reasons with no restrictions whatsoever.

Ironically, Mexicans were not excluded during this time, because they were considered seasonal laborers and not immigrants at all. Unlike traditional European immigrants who arrived from overseas, they did not bring their families, tended to circulate back and forth to Mexico, and did not settle and seek to assimilate in the U.S.. The border was not even policed until 1924, and even then only minimally. The mass deportations of the 1930s and 1950s were not directed at “illegal immigrants,” but rather at ethnic Mexicans. In the 1930s some 2 million Mexicans, including 60% who were U.S. citizens, were rounded up in sweeps of their neighborhoods, and a million more in the 1950s.

Although nativism, racism, and anti-immigrant hatred have a long and ugly history in the U.S., the concept of undocumented or “illegal immigrant” barely existed before the 1965 immigration law was passed. That law established a fixed cap of 20,000 visas for Mexicans that came nowhere near to meeting the need for the agricultural workforce in the U.S. Combined with the end of the Bracero

Program in 1964, the demand for labor caused the number of Mexicans without papers to increase from less than 100,000 in 1961 to over a million a year by the mid-1970s. This was nevertheless not a major crisis, as lax border enforcement allowed the Mexican laborers to continue their seasonal “circular” migration back and forth between the two countries.

THE IMPACT OF NAFTA

The situation escalated dramatically in the 1990s. As the economy gradually automated, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was enacted in order to break down trade barriers, expand markets, and move production to areas with the lowest possible wages. NAFTA displaced millions of Mexican farmers and caused a migration of some 6 million undocumented workers from Mexico into the U.S. from 1994-2007. The problem was aggravated by Clinton-era strengthening of border enforcement that brought “circular” migration to an end, by more and more forcing the undocumented to stay in the U.S., rather than migrate back and forth as they had done historically.

The doubling of the number of undocumented created an entirely new situation, both for the ruling class and workers. Corporations began actively recruiting undocumented workers to work in meatpacking, construction, and service industries they had never entered before. These were industries that could not offshore production, but refused to pay wages demanded by white and African American workers with a history of unionization. It also brought the undocumented into communities all across the country where they had never been before.

Bush’s workplace raids, Obama’s mass deportations, the spread of “Secure Communities,” and the decisive defeat of comprehensive immigration reform all accurately reflect the will and intentions of the ruling class. The 12 million undocumented, 24 million legal immigrants, and the millions of citizen children of the undocumented already pose a major political threat to the ability of the ruling class to impose its corporate dictatorship.

Since the civil rights movement, overt

Continues on page 2

CONTENTS

Inside: Epochal Change Requires Struggle for Political Power

A Communist Class Needs a Communist Party

The Fight for the Planet is a Fight for the People

Workers of all Generations are One Class

Abolish Private Property – Transform Society

Women at the Forefront Leading the Struggle

Inside: Epochal Change Requires Struggle for Political Power

Politics is the struggle for political power. The increasing economic and social destruction and polarization in capitalist society today is the result of productive labor being replaced by the robot and the computer. The economic relationship between the workers and the capitalist class has been broken and the early stages of political polarization are beginning to take shape.

The corporations and the State have merged to protect ruling class private property interests. To secure food, water, housing, healthcare, education, and other necessities of life, workers are being thrown into political struggle against the State and the capitalist system of private property it protects. This is the content of our times. The articles inside this issue of *Rally, Comrades!* reflect and express some of the different inter-connected forms of this content. No struggle of our class today stands in isolation from any other struggle. It's not one thing; it's everything.

"Abolish Private Property — Transform Society" explains the underlying, destructive economic process in capitalist society today, where qualitatively new means of production are labor-replacing. Millions of jobs have been, and continue to be, eliminated by computers, robotics, and other forms of automation, and they are not coming back. Capitalism is dying and something new is arising. Now begins the struggle over whose interest the new society will be built. How will workers get the necessities of life without jobs?

In the article, "Women at the Forefront Leading the Struggle" is a brief summary celebrating Women's History Month. Women were at the forefront of every historically

significant struggle of the twentieth century. As society once again finds itself immersed in economic, social and political turmoil, women as members of a new class of workers, those either thrown out of, or thrown to the margins of the economy, are rising up to the historical challenges of our day.

"Workers of All Generations are One Class" shows how the ruling class seeks to divide the working class ideologically along generational lines. It defines the four basic generations in the American consciousness as the Greatest Generation, the Baby Boomer Generation, Generation X and the Millennial Generation. As the economy changes, so do the economic relationships available for workers of each generation. Today the Millennial Generation is faced with the effects and consequences caused by the rapid spread of electronic laborless production. They face higher rates of unemployment, underemployment, debt and permanent marginalization.

The article "The Fight for the Planet is a Fight for the People" explains why climate change cannot be reversed without system change. The current exploitation and destruction of the environment stems from the qualitatively new economic conditions, which has led to a scramble for resources, markets, and profits. It's part of the general destruction of capitalist society. The focus of the struggle for basic necessities, such as food, housing, and healthcare, also includes the struggle for clean water, air, and land.

"Mass Migration in the Age of Electronics" shows how the rapid extension of automated production around the world is creating a new global class of proletarians with no possessions, having little or no means of making a living. Its formation is characterized by mass

migrations on an unprecedented scale. As the capitalist system approaches its end, globalization requires a constant reduction of labor costs. In the search for the lowest wages, global capitalism eliminates all barriers to the free flow of capital to every corner of the globe, making immigration an unavoidable battlefield in the unfolding social revolution and the fight for unity, consciousness, and victory of the working class.

"A Communist Class Needs a Communist Party" is a report from the Central Body of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. It explains why the overwhelming

content of our times is the transition from industrial to electronic production — a form of production characterized by the elimination of human labor. The capitalist economy, based on the buying and selling of labor power is being irreversibly destroyed. This destruction is forcing a reorganization of economic relations at the base of society. Such epochal change requires political struggle and political struggle demands the formation of a political party to lead the struggle to abolish private property that is required by the new productive forces.

Mass Migration (continued from page 1)

racial discrimination is something many Americans will no longer tolerate. The creation of the category of "illegal" in the decades since the sixties is an attempt to continue discrimination but in a different form, similar to the way mass incarceration and police profiling has been used to suppress the African American community. Every hard-fought victory of the immigrant rights movement, from Obama's DACA (Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals), Obama's Executive Action, and the various state drivers license laws, is being used by the government to carve out specific temporary status for specific immigrants, and divert, divide, and defuse the movement for human rights for all.

The tasks of revolutionaries are to

rely on the spontaneous strivings and moral sentiments of the American people. We fight tirelessly to unite the decisive sections of the working class around the understanding that immigrant rights are human rights, and that immigration is essentially a class issue that affects all of us. Without unity none of us will be able to secure the jobs, housing, health care, or education we need.

Note: Most information here came from Aviva Chomsky's *Undocumented* (2014), David Bacon's *Illegal People* (2008), Guy Standing, *The Precariat* (2011) chapter 4, and John Foster & Robert McChesney, *The Endless Crisis* (2012) chapter 5.

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.

A Communist Class Needs a Communist Party

All of society is entering the most profound transformation in history. This transformation will forever separate humanity from the predatory natural laws of the animal kingdom. However, history shows us that while the objective conditions exist, it is human beings who make history. But to do so they have to be guided by the content of the times.

Today the overwhelming content of our times is the transition from industrial to electronic production — a form of production characterized more and more by the elimination of human labor. Production with electronics and robots is forcing industrial production (i.e. human labor coupled with electro-mechanics) off the market. The capitalist economy, based on the buying and selling of labor power is being irreversibly destroyed. This destruction is forcing a reorganization of economic relations at the base of society. Such epochal change requires political struggle, and political struggle demands the formation of a political party to lead the struggle to abolish private property, that is required by the new productive forces. Society's productive property can thus be transformed from private property to public property. Only then can the economy conform to the productive capacity of robots and computers.

The drive for maximum profits demands ever-growing and endless competition among global capitalists. Global competition is creating advances in new means of production that replace labor-supporting production methods, with new labor-replacing electronic production methods. As the rapidly advancing labor-replacing methods spread globally, breaking all national barriers, individual capitalists find common ground. This is simultaneously creating commonalities among workers around the world. The changing economy and the strategic unity of the capitalists are setting the conditions for a global proletarian revolution.

The electronic based global economy is also destroying the global market, intensifying capitalist competition for new markets, and increasing the threat of world war. Social upheavals are increasing — protests, marches, and civil disobedience worldwide are characteristic of this epoch. Few can deny that there's a global workers' movement in the making. However, social upheavals alone do not lead to working class victory, unless they're coupled with a strategic class understanding of aims and purpose, with clarity about who the real enemy is.

Revolutionaries' political activity must be guided by the deep transformational content of our times. Ideologies and tactics of the past must be replaced with grasping and holding high the revolutionary banner of class unity in every battle. This keeps our class on its revolutionary line of march, moving from scattered defensive struggles to united political struggles.

MEANING OF THE TIMES

Today's epochal shift is the result of the introduction of the microchip into the production process. Microchips both digitally

store and transmit specific, programmed mechanical movements, and have the capacity to make virtual instant decisions based on new information received. Human labor is being replaced in one sector of production after another by this electronic revolution of computers and robots.

The current transformation, with its destructive impact on workers throughout the world is unprecedented in the development of capitalism. These qualitatively new means of production are making human labor obsolete, creating a new class of workers, either permanently replaced in the economy, or marginally in and out of it, constantly being driven to the darkest corners of poverty. Those able to find some kinds of work are reduced to poverty-wage jobs, including day-labor, temp work, and part-time jobs. Some are forced into work situations earning below minimum wage.

Ultimately, the new class will need a communist party for the assumption of class political power. It must be a practical, political communist party that represents the motion of this actual communist class.

The revolutionary role of this new class lies in the reality that, in order to survive, it needs to abolish the private ownership of the socially necessary means of production. They are objectively moving toward communism, because they are being denied food, shelter, water, health care, and other basic human needs, which remain in private hands and available only to those with money. Those replaced in production by robots and computers have no jobs and therefore have no money to buy the basic necessities of life. This class is objectively communist because its actual program is to abolish private property, even though it is not yet aware of its historic role. Revolutionaries show that private property can be brought to an end and communism is the only practical solution to the problems they face.

But robots and computers in production can also be the economic foundation of a different kind of society — a new society based on cooperation, without exploitation. Such new tools of production provide endless possibilities for creating an abundance of goods. These new tools have created the objective foundation to construct a new cooperative society, one in which all goods and services are distributed according to need. Electronic production is the new economic force that possesses the necessary revolutionary potential for society to abolish private property relations.

Who will be the winners and who will be the losers in the creation of a new society? Can we imagine a world of plenty, when we see more homeless people in the streets and one out of five children go to bed hungry? Can we imagine the reality of a new society ending backbreaking labor, while heads of

households must work two or three poverty-wage jobs to barely make ends meet?

Yes, we can imagine such a new world of abundance for all, and because it is finally made possible by electronic production, it has become a necessity. Humanity's future lies in the consciousness of this new class of workers. Only the "wretched of the earth" and "prisoners of starvation" can maintain the necessary perspective of overthrowing capitalism and establishing communism as a method of distribution and exchange. This new class is growing outside the orbit of capitalist economic relations. Its liberation is objectively developing — step by step — as the electronic revolution continually replaces living labor in one sector of production after another.

Revolutionaries who know that it is not enough to be against the system must be brought together with a new commitment to

the 20th century propaganda war to convince the class that communism was an ideological movement rather than an economic system.

Revolutionaries have to learn from the capitalists on this matter. The evolution of the capitalist system was an economic process, but the capitalists could not win political power without creating political parties that represented capitalist interests. Then, after the capitalist law system was established, different capitalist political parties arose to protect the various competing interests of different sections of the capitalist class.

As the new class grows, consolidates, and becomes conscious of itself as a class, it too will need to organize itself politically at different stages to express its class interests. Ultimately, it will need a communist party for the assumption of class political power. This is the objective direction of the line of march of the revolution.

ROLE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

The only battlefield open to revolutionaries is the battle for the hearts and minds of the people — the raising of consciousness. This involves the recognition of the need for a political movement that reflects and clears the path for the supremacy of a communist class. This communist movement, like any serious movement, isn't just a movement of people — isn't just a movement of some mass. It's a movement of individuals that are motivated toward accomplishing its objectives.

Communism is not just a good idea, but a movement of complete desperation — a movement of necessity. Either we fight for a new cooperative society of the workers based on the robot or we'll have a fascist society based on the robot. It's one or the other: Private property, or a society based on cooperation and the new tools working for the benefit of all.

A communist party is the goal of today's revolutionary activity. But to get there revolutionaries first have the overriding task of building an organization of revolutionaries inseparably connected to the spontaneous movement. Only in this way can revolutionaries build a broad core of communists, who can participate in establishing a communist party as the process develops to that stage of development. We are not talking about an ideological party. Rather, it must be a practical, political communist party that represents the motion of this actual communist class.

That's why the mission of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is, "... to unite the 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." Our strategy is to make the class, conscious of itself and its class interests. Our tactic is to participate in the workers crossing over from the defensive to the offensive. Our goal is to utilize the spontaneous process to prepare the people to reclaim their country by assuming State power to transform the property relations from private to public.

Political Report of the Central Body of the League of Revolutionaries, January 2015.

work toward the creation of a society based on cooperation. Recognizing themselves as part of a communist class with a clear program to abolish private property, their task would be to introduce new revolutionary ideas, making the new class of workers politically conscious of their role.

WIDESPREAD PROPAGANDA

Widespread propaganda explains and points out the revolutionary role of the new class. Workers have to understand the why of the economic crisis and be able to clearly see the way out of it. Widespread propaganda is needed to inform those in the thick of battle, offering solutions to the questions of the day, pushing the movement forward along the social revolution's line of march.

Revolutionaries bring the workers an understanding of their historical role. Just as something qualitatively new — the microchip — was introduced into the capitalist productive process and shattered the historical contradictions between the social productive forces and the private relations of production, new history-making ideas must be introduced to the fighters, to shatter their long-held beliefs that unity between the social struggle and ruling class reformism is the solution to society's problems. From a revolutionary's strategic point of view, there is nothing to be gained, unless propaganda contributes to the revolutionary communist education of the people.

NEED FOR A COMMUNIST PARTY

One of the biggest problems U.S. revolutionaries face is that the capitalist class won

The Fight for the Planet is a Fight for the People

Last September, in an outpouring that far exceeded expectations, 400,000 people turned out for the People's Climate March in New York City, joined by thousands of solidarity events worldwide. At the front marched indigenous peoples and other frontline communities most impacted by environmental justice issues, followed by unions, clergy, scientists, anti-corporate campaigns, peace and justice groups, celebrities, and just plain people - families, students, elders. Creativity flourished as signs, costumes, and giant puppets imaginatively expressed their hope for a better way to live and thrive, and their ideas on how to get there. The following day, thousands of protestors shut down Broadway for several hours in a Flood Wall Street action, with over 100 arrested in an act of civil disobedience.

The backdrop to these actions was a United Nations Climate Summit — yet it is obvious that global capitalism is inherently unable to take any action that will put the welfare of the earth and its peoples above the profit motive. The current exploitation and destruction of the environment stems from the qualitatively new economic conditions that result in a scramble for resources, markets, and profits. It's part of the general destruction of capitalist society.

GLOBAL AGREEMENTS

Over the past decades, transnational trade agreements and organizations promoting the free flow of capital across borders, such as the World Trade Organization and NAFTA, have exacerbated the climate crisis, as covered in Naomi Klein's new book, *This Changes Everything: the Climate vs. Capitalism*. They promote the transportation of goods and food over long distances and also entrench a high emissions and energy intensive form of agriculture that makes global food production comprise 19-29% of greenhouse gas emissions. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank over the years have encouraged export-led development, which translates into high emissions and low wages. Unrestricted trade has led to exports being responsible for 48% of China's growing emissions.

Using the terms of these treaties, countries are suing each other for subsidizing alternative energies, favoring locally owned energy cooperatives and requiring local content. (However, fossil fuel companies receive subsidies with impunity, and pay nothing for polluting, so green energy can't compete.) These agreements may even give multinationals the leverage to overturn grassroots victories against fracking. The proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership even gives corporations the right to sue sovereign countries. This treaty had also included a vague reference to climate change, but even that has been deleted in the latest draft.

Global agreements, supposedly designed to address the issue of climate change, have failed their stated purpose. At U.S. insistence, the 1987 Kyoto Protocol, instead of capping

emissions, set up international carbon trading, a free market scheme that allows corporations to receive carbon credits for supporting projects that are ostensibly good for the environment — and allow them to pollute somewhere else. Predictably, manufacturers have been gaming the system. (Ironically, the U.S. Congress never even ratified the Kyoto Protocol, even with its weak provisions.) At the 2009 UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen, a non-binding agreement to limit emissions was signed to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit); since all are free to ignore it, emissions are rising rapidly. The world is on track for a rise of 3-4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. In a four degree warmer world, scientists project that ferocious heat waves will scorch the earth's surface, there will be no ice at either pole, and sea levels will rise 82 feet, submerging the coastlines and cities where nearly half the world's people live.

FALSE SOLUTIONS

Klein points out that the political right understands much better than the liberal left that environmental health is incompatible with capitalism, and that's why they are climate deniers. Big Green, the term given to large national environmental groups such as Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund and the World Resources Institute, have relationships with, and accept money from, the fossil fuel industry. Thus they are cozy with Al Gore and support solutions only within the realm of capitalism. But those market-based solutions such as carbon credits and "cap and trade" (which combines carbon credits with a cap on emissions for industries) and even carbon taxes imposed by national governments, run afoul of industries' need to compete in a global capitalist economy. The results are exemptions and loopholes that render those measures ineffective.

One particularly perverse solution is the carbon trading scheme REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). This initiative has removed indigenous peoples in Brazil from their land, where they are no longer able to fish or cultivate food. Families are then given a sum of money insufficient to live on. Indigenous communities are thus divided and told that if they do not support REDD, education, health, and transportation projects will be suspended. Then the government can sell carbon credits to multinational corporations to offset their pollution in other parts of the world. This "solution" has set off protests in the Amazon region and Africa.

In his January 2014 article "Green Capitalism: The God that Failed," Richard Smith cites examples of green and/or organic industries and certifications, that have succumbed to the capitalist need for expansion and maximum profit, as well as NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that have adopted a business model in their quest for donations.

To avoid the necessity of reducing

emissions and thus hindering capitalist expansion, so-called "bridge fuels" are being pushed. Counted among these fuels is nuclear power and natural gas, including gas gained through fracking, which, in addition to safety and health considerations, lets off the greenhouse gas methane. The capitalists argue that these fuels can be used as an alternative to dirty energy until renewable energy is a significant reality. But in fact, these energy sources are really serving as the capitalists' alternatives to renewable energies themselves.

Bizarre technical fixes are also being explored by geo-engineers. These include covering deserts with vast white sheets to reflect sunlight back into space; fertilizing oceans with iron to pull carbon out of the atmosphere; and pumping sulfate into the stratosphere to block the sunlight, also known as the "Pinatubo option" (named after the volcano in the Philippines that had a major eruption in 1991), and which scientists project would cause serious drought in Africa and possibly Asia. All of these options would upset the balance of nature in ways already known and not yet imagined.

PUSHING FROM BELOW

Where does hope for the planet lie, if we can't trust Big Green, international accords, market based strategies, or technical fixes? The biggest push comes from below, in particular the environmental justice movement. People are fighting for their basic necessities, such as clean air in China and the right to water in California, Detroit, and Bolivia. The Idle No More movement in Canada is asserting indigenous rights to clean water and traditional ways of life to combat tar sands exploitation and other desecrations.

Worldwide, there are many efforts to impede extractive industries. In the Greek Skouries Forest villagers are fighting proposed open pit gold and copper mines; in Inner Mongolia, herders have rebelled against plans to turn their fossil fuel rich land into the country's "energy base"; in Pungesti, Romania, farmers mobilized to prevent shale gas exploration by Chevron. China is experiencing many large and militant protests against the construction of new coal-fired plants, and pollution accounts for more demonstrations than any other issue.

Closer to home, the legacy of Love Canal, one of the first rebellions of a community against chemical pollution, lives on. In a "cowboys and Indians" alliance, ranchers, indigenous tribes, and residents in Montana and Idaho are working to block enormous big rigs carrying equipment to the Alberta tar sands for the Keystone pipeline. People in Baltimore, Maryland; Philipstown, New York; and Martinez, California are fighting the transportation of crude oil through their communities, after the derailment of a train carrying Bakkan crude in Quebec killed 47 people. Residents of Mossville, Louisiana are fighting yet another chemical plant in that community first settled by freed slaves. Increasingly, the NIMBY (Not in my Back

Yard) movement is becoming NIABY (Not in Anyone's Back Yard). All of these movements face the fascist drive that pushes back at anything that tries to prevent maximum profit.

Although the recent midterm elections were overall bad news for the environment, many grassroots initiatives succeeded. Fracking was banned in San Benito and Mendocino counties in California and in Denton, Texas, where fracking was practically invented. In Richmond, California, home of one of the country's largest oil refineries, voters rejected candidates that Chevron had backed with \$3 million, in favor of a Green/Progressive Democrat alliance that had previously blocked Chevron's expansion.

According to the Pew Research Center, a higher percentage of non-whites think climate change should be a priority than whites or the general population. As these are also the people who face challenges getting to the polls in the current voter suppression push, this is yet another reason to oppose measures that take away voting rights.

SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

The focus of the struggle for basic necessities, such as food, housing, and healthcare, also includes the struggle for clean water, air, and land, as well as slowing climate change and other environmental issues.

Many people support unrestricted growth because of the prospect of good jobs building pipelines, in mining, or in manufacturing industries that pollute. But jobs and the environment are only in contradiction under capitalism. In reality, environmental measures create many more jobs such as in mass transportation, installation of solar and other renewable energies, and recycling. Yet because these measures are not profitable in the capitalist world, they are not fully realized. In a cooperative society these priorities can be reversed, and workers can be aided in their transition to work in these beneficial industries.

The Global Climate Convergence, supporting the call of People Planet and Peace over Profits, annually recognizes these issues with the Earth Day to Labor Day campaign. The One Million Climate Jobs coalition of South Africa states "by placing the interests of workers and the poor at the forefront of strategies to combat climate change, we can simultaneously halt climate change and address our jobs bloodbath." These are just a few of those who are starting to recognize that only with a society not ruled by the profit motive can we have both a thriving humanity and a healthy planet.

Workers of all Generations are One Class

Today there are four basic generations of workers in American society and culture. They are each born of historical periods and their lives are shaped by the demands and limitations placed upon them during their respective given times. These generations living today are referred to as the Greatest Generation, born before World War II, the Baby Boomers, born post-WWII, Generation X, born after 1965 and before 1980 (now between 34 and 54), and the Millennials, born in the 1980's and 1990's (now between 20 and 30.)

Each generation of workers was born into a particular stage in the development of the capitalist economy, and each in their turn has held different relationships to the basic institutions of social life required to carry out capitalist relations. The material life of these various generations arise out of these factors that are independent of the wills of individuals or social groups within each given generation.

It is to be expected that the ruling class will seek to ideologically divide our class along any lines available to them. They cannot, however, simply divide at will. The ideological divisions they attempt to create must be rooted in historic development. The previous period was dominated by industrial production. A wide division of labor was required to carry out the functions of the economy. Under these conditions not all labor was exploited at the same rate.

that old folks “just don't get it,” or that the youth will be “the death of us all,” are not new concepts. These notions are ideological and foisted upon us to divide us along a false consciousness. However, under the rapidly changing material conditions, this old line about generational divide is taking on new dimensions.

As the economy changes, so do the economic relationships available for the workers of each generation. The application of the microchip has, for over forty years now, been destroying the base of industrial capitalist relations. Shifts in technology that are inching ever closer toward laborless production are forcing an epochal shift to take shape and to accelerate. We see the development of wider and wider permanent unemployment, underemployment, debt, and for many, permanent marginalization.

GEN X AND MILLENNIALS

Generation X and the Millennials have been most deeply affected by the introduction of the microchip to industrial production, and the subsequent debt economy that is replacing the productive one. Generation X is widely defined as being born after 1965 and before 1980. When the term was first introduced into the popular lexicon, it was largely interchangeable with the term “slacker.” The generalizations concerning so-called Generation X focused on their supposed disillusionment and malaise. This demonization of the

The Millennials, born after 1980 and stretching into the late 90's, hold 40% of the student debt. They are quite likely the most educated generation in American history. Yet, at 25% of the population, they make up 40% of the unemployed and 60% of workers earning the minimum wage. Home ownership for Millennials is at 36%, far below the national average of 65%. 36% of Millennials live with their parents. If this historical process teaches us anything it is that without the intervention of our class, the historical process paints an even grimmer picture for working class children being born today.

PITTING THE CLASS AGAINST ITSELF

In addition to demonizing the Generation X and Millennial generations and younger the bourgeoisie heaps a portion of the blame for the current economic and social crisis upon the Boomers and the Greatest Generation. The owners of capital make the argument that the workers of the previous generations have somehow bankrupted the social safety net. This is all the more stunning given how dire things are becoming for the most devastated strata of these generations.

In the past five years the poverty rate has increased from 9% to 15% for those over the age of 65. There are currently 8.5 million seniors facing food insecurity and millions more on the brink. Meanwhile the message of the capitalists is that the retirement age must be raised because people are living too long. For instance, in September of 2009 *Newsweek* ran a story entitled “The Case For Killing Granny.” This is the ideology being shaped by the ruling class. The goal the ruling class is to get our class to value their demands over our very lives.

Whether through the loss and attacks on the social contract as experienced by the retired workers, or the inability to enter into the social contract by the younger workers, every generation is being affected by this major shift to production without labor.

Today stories of automation have appeared on *60 Minutes* and in major newspapers such as the *New York Times* as well as the *Los Angeles Times* and countless other periodicals. A video on Youtube entitled “Humans Need Not Apply” has gone viral, garnering over three million views in roughly two months.

The ruling class must find a way to frame these changes in a way that does not conflict with their right to own the means of production privately. The generational divide is just one tool in their ideological arsenal. The ruling class must assassinate the character of the young as deficient and without merit. They must condition us to fear and hate our own children. They must get us to ask, “when is it time to cut the cord?” The bourgeoisie asks us to ask ourselves when is it the right age to drive our children to homelessness. Is it 25? Perhaps 30?

The ruling class must also set the young against their own parents and grandparents. The attacks on public sector workers are

coded attacks against the workers of the previous generation who secured any kind of reform. These workers are being portrayed as spoiled pensioners who had it good for too long. Arguments are often framed as though this group of workers somehow robbed the future generation. The ruling class sells the public that people are living longer, and that this is an economic problem. The ruling class teaches us to place the economy, the bourgeoisie's right to exploit and exclude us at will, above the longevity of our own lives.

DIVISIONS ILLUSORY

The ruling class is an owning class. They rule by virtue of their ownership. They can directly control wages. They own the means of production and control the State that serves their interest. The political superstructure serves their class rule, so that they can ensure the building of more prisons and the passing of harsher laws. They can control our ability to sustain ourselves as well as limit our freedom.

But under new, changing conditions, the contest for the hearts and minds of the American people is there to be waged. The present ruling class has the largest propaganda system that any ruling class in the course of human history has ever had at their disposal, but the divisions that the ruling class attempts to foist upon the workers are illusory. The new technology is eliminating any material basis for dividing the class along generational or color or gender lines. Now more than ever there is a basis for class unity. And a class united can change the world.

People of all generations are asking questions. We have answers. We have but the truth, and this paper. Rally, comrades, workers of all ages. There is a new day to be won.

The new technology is eliminating any material basis for dividing the class along generational or color or gender lines. Now more than ever there is a basis for class unity. And a class united can change the world.

There is now, and has historically been, an inequality within the working class itself. Skilled or educated workers earn more than the unskilled or manual workers. Based in historical developments, there are material inequalities that exist between women and men, between white workers and Black, immigrants and native workers and so on. The ruling class then uses these material differences to ideologically divide our class.

As the previous way of life becomes problematic for a greater number of people, particularly the young, the ruling class is attempting to exacerbate the “generational divide.” The attempt to pit workers against one another on the basis of age is nothing new. The notion that generations have different values, and therefore get different results out of life independent of historic development, is not a particularly new idea. The idea

first downwardly mobile generation was, and is, of great importance to the propagandists of the ruling class. They reduce the downward mobility of our class as a whole to blaming the victim.

Generation X lost over 45% of its net worth following the bursting of the housing bubble of 2008. 50% of all student debt is held in this country by people between the ages of 30 and 49. This means those who fall within the Generation X, with some overlap into the older Millennials. Generation X and the Millennials are far more in debt than their economic predecessors. The fact that Generation X were so affected by the housing crisis makes perfect sense, given their position in history. This group find themselves just outside of the prosperity of the past. For the Millennials the picture is even more grim.

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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.

Abolish Private Property – Transform Society

The new electronic, automated technology is shaking the very foundations of society. It is creating untold misery for billions, as obscene wealth is accumulated in a few private hands. As their wealth grows, simultaneously a new class of workers, that ranges from the part-time low-wage worker to the permanently unemployed, are becoming absolutely destitute. Yet, with the destruction of the very process in which the worker in production is the source of all wealth, the potential for the end of exploitation itself is on our horizon. The changes in the economy can provide a basis for the development of a new society that liberates humanity and the earth, but only if this destitute new class of workers itself obtains the political power needed to ensure the transition from a system of private property to a system of communal property.

Capitalist private property is a form of ownership under which instruments of production and natural resources are privately held by the owning class for their private gain. Under the capitalist system of private property the rest of us, the working class, are obliged to sell our ability to work to the owning class in order to get, in exchange, the means of our subsistence. A relationship of exploitation of the working class by the owning class has been the primary means of existence for the working class and has provided the wealth and power for the owning class over thousands of years of systems of private property, most recently capitalism.

In the economic sense exploitation means that the owning class expropriates a portion of the labor completed by the workers over

and above what the worker is compensated for in the wage. The expropriated labor is the source of capitalist profit and is central to the capitalist system. Today's labor-replacing technology is laying the foundation for the elimination of this exploitation, and this changes everything.

The qualitatively new means of production is labor-replacing. Millions of jobs have been eliminated by computers, robotics and other forms of automation, and they are not coming back. But this does not mean that the end of exploitation is automatic. Fascism is emerging as a State form today in an effort to forcefully maintain the system of private property. We can see this oppression in the violent police response to members of the new class who threaten private property to meet their needs, and the militarized police response to destitute communities who resist. Incidents of 21st century fascism will increase as the ruling class attempts to hold on to the system of private property in the face of the objective technological advances breaking the relationship between the owning class and our class.

Capitalism is dying and something new is arising. Now begins the struggle for in whose interest the new society will be built. How will the workers get the necessities of life without jobs? A new class is being created by the new technology. It is a new quality within the working class. This class is objectively poised to lead the transformation of private property to public wealth in a new society organized to benefit humanity. The class of workers being created by the labor-replacing digital technology consists of part-time,

contingent, minimum wage, and below minimum wage workers as well as the structurally unemployed whose jobs have been permanently eliminated, and the absolutely destitute, homeless workers. The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.

The new class needs political power to transform society in the interest of humanity and the earth. The owning class, which is a small minority, currently has the political power to decide how the resources of our society are used: who is well-educated and who is incarcerated, who is bailed out and who is foreclosed upon, who benefits from the wealth of society and who is left to starve. Both the Republican and the Democratic parties represent the interests of the owning class and their corporations. That is why banks and private corporations receive government bailouts, while public schools and health clinics are closed for lack of government funding. The new class, and the working class as a whole, must have political power to transform the privatized means of production and distribution of life's necessities to public property to be utilized in the interests of humanity and the earth.

Currently, the ruling class has political power, and therefore they run society in their interest. They do this through the defense of private property. In contrast, the objective interest of the new class is to abolish private

property and to distribute the wealth of society according to need.

What is the path to political power, the vehicle needed to transform private property to public wealth? Class consciousness is essential. It is here that the revolutionaries play their essential role.

The objective situation and the spontaneous strivings of the people create an environment for revolutionaries to develop this consciousness. In 2011, the Occupy Wall Street movement, through its popularization of the struggle of the 99% against the 1%, was a step in raising the level of social awareness that there are two different economic classes with vastly different interests. Since then, in teachers' strikes, struggles for pensions, Moral Mondays, battles for democracy in Michigan to the recent upsurges against police violence many are beginning to see the commonality of the plight of all workers.

But it is the role of revolutionaries to engage with those strivings to show the path toward the goal of the cooperative economic system that is the practical solution to the problems faced by our class, and to make clear that the only way to achieve that system is through political power as a class to transform society in our interests.

This is the third in a series of three Building Block articles on private property. Building Block articles help explain a basic concept of the revolutionary process, challenging readers to explore its meaning for political work in today's environment.

From the Editors: Women at the Forefront Leading the Struggle

March 8th is recognized the world over as International Women's Day. So too, it is commemorated as International Working Women's Day. That history cannot and must not be lost. International Working Women's day serves as a commemoration and reminder of the pivotal role working class women have played in shaping the historic struggles of our class. Today, as we shift into new battles based on rapidly changing conditions, women continue to lead, shaping and fighting out the struggles of our time. Today is upon us and tomorrow is on the horizon. We must always look forward even while reflecting back.

The great economic, social and political upheavals of the late 19th and early 20th centuries shook the world and rocked the foundations of old dying orders. From Ireland to China, Mexico to Russia, throughout the streets of Chicago and New York City, across the globe, placards were raised, social mores were challenged, and tyrants and aristocracies of various stripes, waving their varied banners, were challenged by new forces. Much of these new and arising ideas and organizations demanded nothing short of their full and total emancipation from the bondage of class rule. It was in the context of those times

that in 1900 the International Ladies Garment Workers Union was formed. Nine years later in New York City, the first Women's Day was celebrated in commemoration of their great strike of 1908 just one-year prior. In 1911 news of the Triangle Factory fire claiming the lives of 146 garment workers, mostly young women and teenage girls between the ages of 16 and 23, galvanized the fight for safer working conditions. At the head of this struggle was the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

From the real life Rosie the Riveters, to Freedom organizers like Fannie Lou Hamer, from the Soldaderas of the Mexican Revolution to the Russian women of the 1917 Revolution, women have been at the forefront of every historically significant struggle of the twentieth century. As society once again finds itself immersed in economic, social and political turmoil, women as members of a new class of workers, those either thrown out of, or thrown to the margins of the economy, are rising up to the historical challenges of our day.

Today, as electronic production destroys the old industrial economy and society, women are once again in the forefront of the fight for a new society. Women, disproportionately represented in the lowest paid sections of

the working class, are in direct conflict with the State to gain access to the necessities of daily life. The problems of our time cannot be solved in the old way. The myriad of interlocking crises of our day can only be resolved by the winning of a cooperative society.

From Ferguson to Tahrir Square, from the Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda to the Moral Monday struggles, from Occupy Wall Street to Black Lives Matter, from the Dream

Defenders, to the Dreamers everywhere, there is struggle and women are leading from behind the scenes and on the front lines of the struggle for a new society. March 8th is a day to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of women to the struggle for our collective emancipation. Let us celebrate it, while always remembering the struggle continues.

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America unites with the moral outrage of the American people and inspires them with a vision of a society that nourishes the material, intellectual, spiritual and cultural needs of all of its people. Join us!

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