

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

VOLUME 28, EDITION 2

MARCH-APRIL 2018

RALLYCOMRADES.LRNA.ORG

\$1 DONATION

Rising Global New Class Demands a New World

A new class of workers is growing within the global economy. Its class position is defined by the development of qualitatively new means of production, that are abolishing its economic connection to capitalist society. The new means of production are creating wealth with little or no living labor, and thus are eliminating the function of labor in production. With no economic role in production, this new class is compelled to fight politically for its right to survive, and exists in antagonism to the capitalist ruling class. The political program of the new class is not merely the overthrow of capitalism, but the abolition of the private ownership of the means of production. Global unity is the condition for its national emancipation.

Currently demonstrated technologies (e.g. driverless vehicles, artificial intelligence, industrial robots) have the technical capacity to replace half the global workforce, according to a recent estimate by the McKinsey Global Institute in its 2017 report "Harnessing Automation for a Future that Works." In their 2017 study of U.S. labor markets "Robots and Jobs," economists Daron Acemoglu and Pascual Restrepo identify a link between the deployment of industrial robots and industrial job losses over the past 26 years. As this technology continues to develop, the role of living labor in production is progressively replaced.

The antagonism between the new class and the capitalist ruling class is simultaneously global and historic. It is the result of an historic contradiction that began over 6,000 years ago within the initial stage of class society, and has progressed to its current stage within the global system of capitalist production and distribution. Although the antagonism is expressed differently in different parts of the world, it is the same antagonism nonetheless. It is expressed economically as joblessness and destitution, and in some areas of the world it is expressed as political and military conflict.

NEW CLASS AND ECONOMIC POLARIZATION

The capitalist countries in Europe and North America, where industrialization began in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, are now being hollowed out by the entry of qualitatively new technology into production. Technological change is creating economic polarization and therefore also polarizing society. The empirical record suggests that this process is highly variable across nation-states, and is creating especially intense pressure within three countries: Greece, the United States, and South Africa. Each of these countries experienced quantitative decreases in the ratio of employment to working age popula-



Thousands marched and demonstrated in Detroit to protest the criminal actions of city officials who have shut off the water of tens of thousands of city residents.

Photo © Daymonjhartley.com

tion over the period 2000 to 2016 (a lesser ratio in 2016 compared to 2000, meaning fewer workers per working age residents).

Greece's debt crisis exploded during the 2007/08 recession, its national employment receded, rendering its 2016 employment to population ratio less than it was prior to 2007. The declining U.S. ratio is caused by the destruction of jobs due to the technology revolution, and its war-minded State committed to military spending rather than civilian employment. The South African ratio reflects weak to no growth in employment in the face of significant increases in population. The declining ratios in these three countries are a harbinger song for the rest of the world economy.

Another indicator of economic polarization due to the technological revolution is the number of workers stating that they need to work full time, but are working part-time. Part-time work is officially defined as 34 hours/week or less, and this category of the workforce is sometimes labeled "involuntary part-time workers." For all 35 OECD countries (the world's largest economies except India and China) over the period 2000 to 2016, the number of involuntary part-time workers doubled from 9.3 million to 18.6 million. This growth rate is significant, and reflects the technological elimination of higher paying jobs relative to lower paying jobs. This is a process particularly evident in the U.S. where one-third of jobs pay sub-poverty level wages, even for many older workers who possess a life-time of work experience.

A third indicator of economic polarization related to the technological revolution is the phenomena of destitution and homelessness. Official statistics do not accurately

reflect the scope and breadth of homelessness. There is no public authority committed to systematic data collection, and definitions vary between the so-called "literal homeless" sleeping in shelters or on the street, versus the "precariously housed" homeless doubled-up in shared living quarters. The important fact is that destitution is now a permanent feature of life under capitalism, and reflects two principles: 1) The initial stages of the technological revolution placed the least advantaged workers into highly vulnerable social circumstances that led to homelessness and destitution; and 2) The ability of the State to assist the homeless is constrained by the principle that capital will not pay for those that it can't exploit. Recent evidence on the prevalence of homelessness in the U.S., U.K., Germany, Italy, and Belgium was reported in 2007 by Paul Toro and co-authors in "Homelessness in Europe and the United States." They show that homelessness is advancing more rapidly in the U.S. and the U.K. than in the other three countries, as indicated by higher rates of

homelessness in these two countries. According to the World Bank, unemployment in 2017 in North Africa was generally in double digits and highest in Libya at 18 percent; official unemployment in Sub-Saharan Africa is highly variable across countries and was 22 percent in Namibia; in Latin America, unemployment was highest in Brazil at 13 percent. Youth unemployment is more severe, often twice the rate of adult unemployment; 44 percent in Libya, 44 percent in Namibia, and 30 percent in Brazil.

Another section of the new class is semi-employed in so-called "informal" jobs that are "highly precarious and vulnerable," according to World Bank's 2017 report "The Informal Economy and the World Bank." The International Labour Organization (2017) estimates that this type of employment constitutes half to three-quarters of non-agricultural employment in North Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In many areas of the world the new class is being forced to flee conflict and hard times, and to migrate across international borders for employment and physical safety. These efforts are most often met with discrimination and second-class citizenship in the receiving country. Such is the case for many of the 12 million undocumented U.S. residents born in Mexico, who face employment discrimination in the form of lower wages, no healthcare insurance, or no retirement benefits. Undocumented workers face the additional threat of deportation.

NEW CLASS MIGRATION

There are an estimated 244 million international migrants in the world today, enough so that if these comprised a separate country, they would be the 5th largest in the world. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 66 million of these migrants are forcibly displaced, and include refugees and displaced persons from conflicts in Colombia, Syria, South Sudan, and Afghanistan. The areas of the world host-

Continues on page 6

CONTENTS

Inside: A Revolutionary Patriotism	2
The Immorality of Deporting America's Dreamers	3
'Whose Water? Our Water!'	3
Battling Old Ideas with the New	4
Class Unity – Indispensable to Defeat Fascism	5
Reform and Revolution	6

SUBSCRIBE TO **RALLY, COMRADES!**

ONE FULL YEAR FOR \$20

Rally, Comrades! stands out, offering a sound and clear analysis of the way forward. We rely completely on volunteers and donations from readers like you to carry out this urgent work.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Please send this coupon with a check or money order payable to "LRNA" to the following address:
LRNA
P.O. Box 477113
Chicago, IL 60647

A Revolutionary Patriotism

Inside Rally, Comrades!

The robots are not coming. They are already here. The world as we have known it is being transformed by a revolutionary electronic technology that is producing incredible abundance, even as it eliminates human labor by the millions. A process that has been underway for some time is now picking up speed, and it portends a future that requires that humanity take the path that leads to a new world of abundance shared by all.

While the ruling class has gone to great lengths to obscure this developing revolution, this reality is now intruding even into the sphere of politics. One candidate for president in 2020 is proposing to make the new technology and its impact the main focus of his campaign. He recognizes that the accelerated pace of developments in automation and in artificial intelligence will soon make many more millions of jobs obsolete, and proposes that "America needs to take radical steps to prevent Great Depression-level unemployment and total societal meltdown."

"Rising Global New Class Demands a New World" shows that, as labor in production is being eliminated, a new class of workers is being created from those growing millions, who have been cast aside. Their fight is now necessarily a fight for food, water, shelter, health care, education. As "Class Unity – Indispensable to Defeat Fascism Today" points out, the ruling class is not about to give up the robots that enrich them, or take care of those they no longer exploit.

The ruling class, in the face of the de-

struction of a capitalist economy and society, is putting into place fascist solutions to the crisis. The bitter battles taking place among the ruling class over how they will carry out their program are part of the struggle to coalesce a fascist movement that reflects the new conditions.

Immigration is a flashpoint of the struggle today. "Rising Global New Class Demands a New World" points out that there are 244 million migrants in the world today, uprooted by famine and war, desperately seeking a means to the survival of themselves and their families. The struggle in the U.S. is an aspect of this global motion. The tactic of the ruling class is to pit the American worker against the immigrant worker, blaming them for the loss of jobs and livelihood.

The current battles in Congress over the fate of DACA youth is a case in point. "From the Editors: The Immorality of Deporting America's Dreamers" shows how the debate is being framed by appealing to "American superiority," as an all-class American unity in opposition to the Dreamers. Political leaders in Washington are intent upon adopting the most draconian immigration policy in a hundred years. Anti-immigration remains in the forefront of a fascist political program.

The battle for access to clean water is another front, where the confrontation between the private property class and the new class is breaking out. "Whose Water? Our Water!" describes the movement – which leapt forward with the poisoning of Flint – that is coming face to face with a corporate government that dismantles democracy as we know it. These water struggles are taking place all over the country, from Michigan to Louisiana, from California to Puerto Rico.

One glaring dimension of all of this is the appalling immorality of it all. How can we even be debating the "legality" of a human being? How can we even consider separating children from their families and deporting them to a country they have never known? How can we allow water to be cut off from families in Detroit because they can't afford it? How can we tolerate the homeless freezing to death in the streets of Atlanta?

What is hitting us in the face now is the destruction we are experiencing; but look a little deeper and you will see: What is emerging from the destruction and the motion for fascist solutions is also the fashioning of a social revolution of its own. The battle by immigrants for their very lives goes beyond defending against the attacks upon them. The battle for clean water is more than a defensive move against the onslaught of a fascist program. The battle of the homeless for food and shelter is more than to merely survive.

"Battling Old Ideas With the New" expresses it concisely: U. S. workers have always fought for a vision of America that expressed the deepest strivings of the people: independence from the chains of exploitation to achieve freedom from want and an expectation of a better life. That is the very definition of a new, revolutionary patriotism that unites rather than divides us.

Today is a revolutionary time, says "Reform and Revolution." Attempts to reform the system are actually struggles to transform our society, from one based on private property, to a new society based upon the distribution of abundance according to need.

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.

Editor: Brooke Heagerty

Editorial Board: Bob Brown, John Slaughter

Photo Editor: Daymon Hartley

Reach us at: RALLY@LRNA.ORG

League of Revolutionaries for a New America

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 cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

LRNA, P.O. Box 477113, Chicago, IL 60647
info@lrna.org | 1(773)486-0028 | lrna.org

Visit the *Rally, Comrades!* website!

rallycomrades.lrna.org

The *Rally, Comrades!* bilingual website provides online 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.

The Immorality of Deporting America's Dreamers

From the Editors

Eighty-seven percent of Americans support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The DACA program protects nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. During September of last year, Donald Trump announced he was rescinding DACA, declaring that he was doing so as part of his "America First" agenda. Now Congress has to act to preserve the program, or DACA recipients, commonly called Dreamers, will begin losing their protected status on March 5, 2018.

This continuing advancement of anti-immigrant debates and policies represent the immoral and fascist nature of ruling class ideas and politics, the new political reality in America today. The ruling class is unleashing the full power of the corporate State, which includes both ruling class political parties, against all workers by concentrating its attacks on immigrant workers.

Even though the anti-immigrant movement in America does not represent the majority view of the American people, it is a major expression of American fascism today. It is being used by the ruling class to cultivate a fascist mass base by appealing to American superiority, laced with white supremacy. For example, take Trump's comments opposing immigrants from so-called "shit hole countries," saying he favored the U.S. getting more immigrants from countries like Norway. The anti-immigration debate is designed to pit American workers against each other, and against the workers of other countries. American workers have common class interests with workers of all countries, and Dreamers are workers in America.

Trump's January State of the Union address is another example. The address contained not only "America First" rhetoric throughout, but also policy proposals along those nationalist lines as well. Central to his "America First" theme was his so-called four pillars on "immigration reform," which he

opened up saying, "Americans are dreamers too." The first three pillars include a \$25 billion U.S.-Mexican border wall; restricting green card family immigration visas to only the spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens; and replacing the current green card diversity-based lottery system with a skills and merit based system. The fourth pillar – a legal status framework for DACA recipients and other DACA eligible immigrants – is conditional, requiring that elements of the first three pillars be included in any "immigration reform" legislation.

With the expiration deadline for the DACA program fast approaching, the Senate failed in mid-February to pass three different immigration legislative bills, including a DACA program and Dreamer protections. As we go to press, the Senate has adjourned and gone on a weeklong recess. It is due to return with only one week remaining before the March 5 DACA expiration date.

Immigrants in the U.S. are part of the American working class. Why do we even

allow debates about breaking up families, or even discuss whether young workers and children who have been in the U.S. for years, should be deported? Such debates and discussions are immoral from the start. The majority of Americans are moral people. With an overwhelming majority of Americans supporting the Dreamers, it is nonsense for American workers to allow the two ruling class political parties to frame the debate on immigration reform.

Congress and the corporate mass media are using these anti-immigration debates to get a section of the U.S. working class to unite with a ruling class fascist program. It is part of its strategy to divide the workers, to build a mass base for fascism in America. Working class unity based on our common class interests is the only weapon we have to defeat the ongoing ruling class fascist offensive. U.S. working class interests can only be politically represented by a working class political party, with a working class political program. As workers, we cannot win unless we begin to do it.

'Whose Water? Our Water!'

The corporate drive to own and/or control the public's water, and the resulting poisoning, shutoffs and rising cost of water, are drawing communities across the country into a life or death struggle for access to clean and affordable water. This scattered, but coalescing movement – which leapt forward after the poisoning of Flint – is coming face to face with a corporate government that even dismantles democracy as we know it to win the fight to own or control the water.

“ Universal access to clean, affordable water regardless of ability to pay is the only answer, and it is the demands of the growing millions in our country and around the world. ”

This demand "Whose Water? Our Water!" is expressed by the numerous water struggles around the country – from Standing Rock, to the corporate dumping of cancer-causing toxins into rivers and streams, to the California drought issues, to the battles against the pipe-

lines, and more. It includes the fight against the legal theft of water by Nestlé Corporation in Michigan and Canada. And in Michigan alone, it includes the fight to replace the Enbridge 5 pipeline, which threatens to burst and create an unimaginable environmental disaster. It includes the ongoing fight against the poisoning of Flint and the massive, non-stop shutoffs in Detroit.

In Detroit, water affordability plans are also an important leg of the fight for water rights. Under affordability plans, water payments are based on a household's ability to pay. In contrast, under water assistance plans that are now in place in many cities, people face shutoffs because they are forced to choose between paying for soaring water bills, food, or rent – forced to choose their route into deeper poverty and privation.

The open and active role of the State to enforce corporate interests ties these movements together, and it provides an opportunity to raise and deepen the understanding of the underlying issue. The underlying issue is water rights, the seizing of public assets by corporations, bondholders and financiers – and the role of the State in promoting and enforcing the interests of the corporations at the expense of the workers. In all of the fights for universal access to clean and safe water, the fundamental question emerges: Who rules—the interests of the corporations or the interests of society?

These struggles are taking place everywhere around the country. For example, Fort Wayne, Indiana's water became privatized and the people spent 13 years trying to get their water back. For-profit water companies use the poor economic condition of cities to sell them on why they need to hand over their water. In the medium sized town

Coming in Future Issues:

Strategic Orientation and the Fight for Basic Necessities of Life

• • •

The Nature of Revolution and the Tasks of Revolutionaries

• • •

How Do We Make a Difference in a Time of Such Change?

• • •

The Tech Economy of Silicon Valley

• • •

How the Immigrant and Refugee Crisis is Shaping Politics Today

of Lake Station, Indiana, the water company said, "We'll pay a million dollars for you to hand over your water resources." The city is tempted because, like most cities, they are in debt. Then they tell the cities they can pay off some of their debt. Since the cities are strapped for cash, it's budget blackmail. "The biggest issue with privatizing is we're losing control of the operations," said the Lake Station mayor. Whether in Michigan, Louisiana, Indiana or Puerto Rico or countless other communities, the struggle for our water exposes the immorality of a system based on private ownership of natural resources vital to life.

The scattered struggles of the new class of workers for clean and affordable water,

food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education are all politically summed up as a program for nationalization in the interests of the people. Public access to clean and safe water means the nationalization of the nation's water supply, just as public control of quality healthcare and housing and free, quality public education require nationalization in the interests of society and not the private interests of the corporate few.

Water is a human right. Universal access to clean, affordable water regardless of ability to pay is the only answer, and it is the demand of growing millions in our country and around the world.

Battling Old Ideas with the New

While making a new world possible, the electronic revolution is rapidly eliminating the value of labor and destroying the basis for the capitalist system. Since the corporate ruling class desperately wants to maintain control, it is doing everything it can to keep us from recognizing our unity as a rising new class of workers. Mainstream news outlets, social media platforms, leaders, and politicians fuel and manipulate our public debates – playing us against each other and diverting our attention from what’s really going on. This ruling class strategy is precisely why this country often feels more divided than ever, while the reality is very different. Every day the great new class of workers that is being thrown out of the system grows to have more in common, and that’s why the ruling class is fighting so hard to divide us.

TV news includes whole segments devoted to what’s “trending” in social media, and television networks build programs around social media to help further ruling class ideology. As the basis for capitalism has eroded, both mainstream political parties champion ruling class solutions to our problems, whether their agendas play to “conservatism” or “liberalism.” These old ideas jeopardize our future.

As long the workers cling to old ideas, the ruling class benefits from the impression that every concession makes the system look like it works, even if just barely. Politicians champion workers without looking out for their rights. Corporations fund sustainability and diversity programs. Police wear body cameras. Handfuls of CEO’s and celebrities in the media lose their jobs over abuse of power. Social media and late night comedy make fun of one party or another and obvious corruption while yearning for a return to “the good old days.”

Meanwhile, the police state grows. Most television seems to embrace various kinds of populism while showing the tools of fascism as methods used by responsible rulers to ensure our safety. TV crime shows regularly show the accumulation of our personal data as crucial weapons for capturing dangerous criminals. When the gap between the rich and the poor is growing as fast as it is now, the corporate-run State needs workers to embrace ruling class control, and this mindset is generally driven by fear.

WITH OLD IDEAS, ALL ROADS LEAD TO FASCISM

The past three decades of job loss has rightfully made workers afraid. In that fear we have been encouraged to cling to ideas born from the country’s origins and distorted by its history. Many of America’s finest ideals of freedom, equality and justice stem from those escaping the aristocracies of the European Old World. Early Americans saw this country as a New Eden, and held the idea that we lived in a new world without the problems of the old one. Many Americans have been taught in school that the United States has no classes, and that they can be anything they want to be, based upon their personal initiative.

U.S. workers have always fought for a

vision of America that expressed the deepest strivings of the people: independence from the chains of exploitation, the guaranteed ability of every person to contribute to society, to achieve freedom from want and an expectation of a better life. Americans have fought for this vision, but it could only be partially realized. At one time, Americans worshipped King George. Conditions changed, and they fought a revolution to break away from monarchy and English domination. At one time, the American people embraced slavery. Conditions changed. They came to understand they had to end slavery, and they fought a war to do so. Today, conditions are changing once again. New technologies make possible the realization of the vision for which generations of Americans have fought.

“ Our class must counter the old ruling class ideas with a new patriotism that recognizes our class and our country as part of a changing global system that must advance our understanding of freedom, equality and justice. ”

America has a rich history of the workers struggling against exploitation and oppression. On our scattered fronts, Americans recognized the country wasn’t exempt from the problems of the old world – the old aristocratic class system that limited freedom was simply replaced with a new one. Europeans who came to America with money incorporated many of the first American businesses, and others survived by selling them their labor. Though many Americans arrived as indentured servants, by 1641 African-Americans became trapped in a system of lifelong slavery. A private property-based class system developed that we live with to this day, though most workers own nothing or little to nothing.

To keep workers from tackling this reality head on, and to keep them from grasping the power new technologies have placed in their hands, the ruling class uses historical prejudices to divide people. But it is not limited to the nationalist and racist prejudices we associate with past fascist movements. Two of the world’s richest men, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, often express compassion for those being left behind; but the great masses of workers no longer matter to the system that gives Gates and Buffet their power. The new class of workers, having no stake in the current system, needs control of a new cooperative society that will provide for our needs.

The continuing control exerted by the old system led Buffet to tell *The Washington Post* in 2011, “There’s been class warfare going on for the past twenty years, and my class has won.” Today’s ruling class depends upon con-

trolling a population being pushed out of the system by automation. By the 1980s whole armies of workers were losing their jobs, and concepts such as “downsizing” and the idea of “a permanent underclass” became household words. At that moment, American poverty rates began to escalate alongside a 500% jump in incarceration rates. Today 45 million Americans live below the poverty line, and well over 2 million Americans live behind bars. It became obvious that what we were seeing was not an underclass, but a new class.

The same year Buffet described the class war as won, Forbes published an article entitled, “The 147 Companies that Control Everything.” A corporate ruling class has taken over the government and controls all pro-

America. We have the technology to provide clean water to everyone in the world, yet 63 million Americans suffer unsafe drinking water. The United States stands virtually alone in the developed world by not offering universal health care. Many countries offer free higher education, while the United States moves toward privatization of public schools. Recent business trends move toward increased privatization of all aspects of American life that were once considered public, including our drinking water and even our national parks. On a global scale, the argument over climate change is an argument for the survival of our species in the face of the insatiable demands of a capitalist system that gobbles up tens of thousands of acres of oxygen-giving rainforest every day. Meanwhile, capitalists fight over the world’s resources with nuclear arms aimed at one another.

It is a basic truth that in 2018 our future depends upon the new class coming together politically. That new class is made up of every American worker who once sold their labor in exchange for the necessities of life, and who is now facing absolute loss of control over their lives. Specifically, that means workers must recognize the potential of today’s technologies to provide all of our needs and fight for our food, shelter, water, health care, and education.

Fundamental to that understanding is a recognition that the ruling class’ strategy is to divide us, to divert our attention and win us over to a fascist solution. Seeing through that strategy, we are moving from the social awareness of injustice many of us share to a social consciousness that leads to recognizing ourselves as a class. In this way, the new class will develop a class consciousness that will enable us to gain the power as one, providing for our mutual needs.

We must have a new economic system based upon cooperation. We must counter the old ruling class ideas of individualism, American exceptionalism and patriotism with a new patriotism that recognizes our class and our country as a part of a changing global system that must advance our understanding of freedom, equality and justice. By embracing the world as it really is, we can build a new world that embraces the potential, the hopes and the dreams that lie at the heart of every worker in America.

duction, our media, our food and now, through privatization schemes, our education, our water, and our environmental future. The interests of America’s ruling class are tied to the fate of a worldwide ruling class, just as America’s new class is tied to the fate of those who are imperiled by the worldwide turn toward fascism.

A REVOLUTIONARY NEW PATRIOTISM

The ruling class has used individualist ideals to keep us divided, when conditions demand we come together as a revolutionary new class to fight for the very necessities of life. America produces enough food to feed the entire world, but over 41 million Americans go hungry. We have five times the houses needed to end homelessness in

Join the League of Revolutionaries for a New America!

Society can now create the abundance the new technology promises, and so a new world: a cooperative society, with this abundance distributed according to need. In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

Join us! For more information or a free information packet, email LRNA at info@lrna.org, or call 773-486-0028, or write LRNA, P.O. Box 477113, Chicago, IL 60647. Sign up and stay informed at <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/contact-us>

Class Unity – Indispensable to Defeating Fascism Today

Americans of all colors were stunned to see the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis marching in their cities, but shock turned into outrage, when racists brutally assaulted hundreds of people across the country and murdered Heather Heyer at their “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. But it is a dangerous mistake to confuse the fascism that is crawling out of the devastation of today’s hi-tech global capitalism with the fascism that crawled out of the rubble of World War I and the Great Depression.

It may seem like today’s fascism only aims at using old forms of oppression for people of color. After all, the most violent “alt-right” activists declare that’s their goal. But the ruling class has a very different plan – a political offensive to transform the State into a direct, brutal dictatorship they can unleash against the growing struggle of workers of all colors for basic necessities like housing, food and education.

The electronic revolution is creating a new class of workers, whose labor is being made obsolete by labor replacing technology. They are demanding that the government take action to resolve the problems they face, such as unemployment, lack of health care, homelessness and other social ills, but the ruling class is not about to give up the robots that enrich them, or take care of those they no longer exploit. Instead, the ruling class is developing a new political superstructure to oversee the production relations of the computer age and an ideology that facilitates the merger of the State and corporations that fascism today represents.

The ruling class is adjusting its ideology to the new conditions, feeling its way towards a more fully formed fascist political ideology that will facilitate the new fascist forms of government and State power. Views that support and justify the path of this transition are emerging in every intellectual sphere. The importance of the bitter battles taking place among the ruling class over how they will carry out their program is part of the struggle to coalesce a fascist movement that reflects the new conditions.

This kind of transition is nothing new. If we look at the history of the world for the last thousands of years, we can see that the letting go of one system, and fighting to rebuild another, has happened over and over. Slavery, feudalism, and capitalism are stages in the development of private property. But they themselves were not the goal. The strategic goal was private property. If the capitalists have to change the form in order to maintain that content, they have proven they will do that. They are doing that now. While they attack the rights and standard of living of the masses, they are evolving, step by step, this new system based on private property.

Fascism today is not an attempt by the ruling class to return to the past, but is rather a means to facilitate this revolutionary transition in their interests.

FASCISM – ATTACK ON THE NEW CLASS

As brutal as old industrial-era ideological fascism like the Klan’s is, the main danger the working class now faces is different. Today’s fascism aims to keep the ruling class in control of the electronic economic revolution and to guarantee the system of private property under these new conditions.

The ruling class knows it can’t completely prevent the growing struggle for the necessities of life. They rely on their operatives in the government, media, and academia to turn sections of the working class against each other, especially through divisive ethnic and identity politics. The top leaders of the Democratic Party are crucial to the success of this ruling class strategy, though most workers and activists don’t understand that these liberal leaders are part of the new fascist offensive. Democratic presidents promote militarization, war and the national security State. Bill Clinton led the gutting of welfare for the poor, and Barack Obama caused the illegal detention of hundreds of U.S. citizens, when he launched the deportation of more undocumented immigrants than any president. Democratic mayors have presided over

weapon to attack the new class and prevent it from seeing itself as a class.

What confuses some people is that there is often the often open disagreement on tactics, and the frequent use of populist rhetoric seeming to attack the capitalist class. In October, *The Christian Post* reported how “Bannon slammed decades worth of globalist decisions made by ‘political elites’ that have pushed American manufacturing jobs out of the country.” Bannon said the elites, “took those jobs to Asia and those factories to Asia and left us with gutted communities and opioid addicts.” He insisted that “economic nationalism is understanding that we are going to bring those jobs back.”

However, when Bannon was Chief Strategist for Donald Trump, they only “brought back” new attacks on immigrants and tax breaks for global companies, which opened up a few jobs (far less than the millions of jobs being eliminated by new technologies). Clearly, the ruling class and its spokespersons in both major parties are united on the fascist strategy of transforming the government to openly serve the corporations and repress the growing struggles for basic needs. Their disagree-

torical perspective, comparing it with two other great transformations, the agricultural revolution and the industrial revolution.”

Gingrich also wrote “The gap between objective changes in the world at large and the stagnation of politics and government is undermining the very fabric of our political system.” To deal with that threat, while increasing the political power of global capitalists, he and others of his ilk stirred up conflict between one section of newly destabilized workers against another, by manipulating differences of color and national origin. This was effective then, and today everyone sees that the anti-immigrant politics promoted 25 years ago by the “new conservatives” now play a central role in American politics.

ATTACK ON IMMIGRANTS UNDERMINES RIGHTS OF ALL

In October 2017, Steve Bannon told *The Christian Post*, “It doesn’t matter what your race is or ethnicity, your gender, your religion, your sexual preference ... as long as you are a citizen of this republic, that’s what matters.” Such statements have opened the way for the fascist cultivation of all-class national unity across color lines by blaming immigrant workers for the growing poverty in the U.S. The withdrawal of protections for those fleeing some Central American countries, the threatened end of DACA, and other attacks are now focus points in elections, political mobilizations, and legislative debates.

Less obvious is how the bipartisan steps to increase deportations and reduce the rights of immigrants have actually begun to weaken the rights of citizens, too. Last August, Northwestern University researchers announced that between 2011 and 2017 the Obama Administration had unjustly detained over 650 citizens for weeks and even years, mostly in privately run prisons. Their average time of detention was 6 months. Jacqueline Stevens, director of the Deportation Research Clinic, told the press, “The new data show that the detention of U.S. citizens is not just a possibility, but a persistent fact.”

Arrested citizens have fought back with lawsuits. Last year, the U.S. government agreed to pay Sergio Carrillo \$20,000 for detaining him for 3 days and almost deporting him in 2016, despite him being a U.S. citizen for 20 years. This 39-year old owner of a landscaping business was in a Home Depot parking lot in Rialto, California, when INS agents arrested him and sent him to a private detention center in the Mojave Desert. But don’t assume this settlement proves that the legal system will defend a citizen’s rights if INS arrests them.

Just four months earlier, an appeals court in New York overturned a judge’s decision to pay Davino Wilson \$82,500 after immigration officers unjustly held this U.S. citizen for three years. The court said the deadline for his lawsuit had expired while he was in custody, so he couldn’t be paid for being held unjustly so long. The district judge who had awarded him the money had pointed out that Wilson didn’t know about the deadline because people in immigration detention don’t have a right to an at-

Continues on page 6

“ Millions of workers being expelled from capitalist production need to hear that they belong to a new class, one that’s in a life or death struggle with the ruling class over which of them the new technology will serve. The electronic revolution is putting an end to the capitalist system and offering the possibility of a world where all can be provided for. ”

the growing epidemic of homelessness in New York, Los Angeles, and other cities.

Another example of the fascist ideology that is emerging is seen through Steve Bannon, who calls the KKK and Nazis an “ethno-nationalist fringe element,” because they focus on racial ideas instead of on the actual economic problems of American workers. After the Charlottesville murder in August, he told *USA Today* that he hoped the Left would try to fight about racial ideas without dealing with the suffering of workers, “I want them to talk about racism every day. If the left is focused on race and identity, and we go with economic nationalism, we can crush the Democrats.”

Bannon’s ideas represents a current of thought that includes, but is not limited to, racism based on color. The ruling class is faced with a growing new class of all colors whose struggle for the necessities of life brings them in conflict with the productive relations of capitalism. They are embracing a new form of racism which is based on economic status not only color. This provides them with an additional

ments are only over the tactics, the specific quantitative steps to take toward that qualitative change at a particular time.

Though leaders like the Clintons and Bannon may rise and fall, spokespersons shaping these ideas are all influenced by their years spent studying how the electronic revolution has been undermining industrial capitalism. For example, over 20 years ago conservative Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich linked up with internationally prominent futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler, even though they worked closely with Democrats like Clinton’s vice-president Al Gore.

The Toffler’s taught that electronic technology was destroying the industrial jobs economy, writing that “it is no longer possible to reduce joblessness simply by increasing the number of jobs, because the problem is no longer merely numbers. Unemployment has gone from quantitative to qualitative.” In 1994 Gingrich wrote in his Foreword to the Toffler’s book *Creating a New Civilization*, “They placed the information revolution in his-

Reform and Revolution

Building Block

The defining characteristic of capitalism is that the owners of capital exploit human labor to produce commodities that the workers must then purchase with their wages in order to live.

Labor-replacing technologies completely shatter that relationship. Neither robots nor permanently unemployed workers do any shopping. Society polarizes into two great camps – one side possessing the vast wealth of society and the abundance being produced – with the other living permanently in abject poverty and want. The further along that this antagonism develops, the further our society moves away from reforming the existing system and moves toward revolution.

It was just a matter of time before this economic antagonism found its political expression. One example of this is evidenced by the polarizing effect of the Trump campaign and presidency. The size, the scope, and the sustainability of the demonstrations against the policies of the Trump administration have caused many in the movement to compare this period with the civil rights and antiwar upheavals of the 1960s. The demands of the movement today are around many of the same issues as they were back then: healthcare, education, housing, jobs, racism, police brutality, women's rights and war are just some of those issues.

In the past period these demands could be partially met and some reforms in the interests of the workers could be obtained because the capitalist system was still expanding. Today this is not the case. In the 1960s there was still plenty of room for technological developments that were compatible with the capitalist system. For instance, fundamental changes in the production process and the economy of the South overthrew the sharecropping system and gave rise to the civil rights movement. In 1947 International Harvester introduced the mechanical cotton picker into southern agriculture. As mechanization spread it cheapened the labor of agricultural workers, lowered their wages, and wiped out sharecropping. Cotton for centuries had been exclusively picked by hand. By the 1970s it was completely picked by machine.

Agricultural laborers, no longer needed in the South, led to the Great Migration of around 5 million people to higher wages and steady employment needed in northern and southern cities. At the same time industrial manufacturing was expanding around the globe. Its rapid expansion in the U.S. was in large part due to the fact that the U.S. was the only industrialized country whose industrial infrastructure wasn't ravaged by the destruction of World War II. The industrialization of the South was part of that process. To achieve its economic goals the ruling class had to dismantle the old system of segregation and Jim Crow. This intersected with the great historical struggles and goals of African Americans for freedom and equality. This was the last great reform to be won in this country. It was

a reform, because it left capitalist relations of production untouched.

What began in the 1970s as labor-replacing, electronic technology that was no longer compatible with capitalism has rapidly grown and is now becoming more economically and politically polarized. The upsurge of a movement for the basic necessities of life is proof of this. While many participants in the movement perceive themselves as resisting Trump, they are actually rebelling against capitalism and its private property relationships. Epochal changes in the production process and the economy have brought about what we are going through now.

Today the capitalist economic system has penetrated every corner of the globe. It has nowhere to expand. Social orders do not disappear until there is no longer any room for an economic system to expand. Unprecedented production and unprecedented want describe our time. Millions of workers in the U.S. are struggling to survive, demanding the basic necessities of life. Today, any reform efforts to gain free universal healthcare for all, free universal and equal education for all, or an end to homelessness, challenges the private property of the capitalist class.

While these struggles may appear to be efforts to reform the system, they are actually struggles to transform our society from one based on a system of private property to a new cooperative system where the society owns the means of production and the social product is distributed according to need. High technology automation is producing such abundance that it makes distribution according to need a practical necessity. Today is a revolutionary time that is calling forth the creation of a new society that promises an economic paradise for all of humanity.

This Building Block article is one of a series that explains a basic concept of the revolutionary process, challenging readers to explore its meaning for political work in today's environment.

Global New Class ...

(Continued from page 1)

ing international migrants is, in order of magnitude, Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa.

New class migrants are leaving their place of origin in hope of attaining a better life in a new country. In fact, this better life is right before our eyes, as soon as we organize society to make it happen. Qualitatively new production methods make material abundance for everyone possible, yet the constraints of capitalist society are intensifying competition for jobs, while failing to distribute the material abundance of production. Higher paid jobs as well as lower paid jobs are being eliminated by technology. There is no way out for the new class, so long as the ruling capitalist class holds power.

New class migrants can play a special role in connecting the new class in their host country to the new class in their country of origin, and in helping to educate the class about international opportunities for solidarity and organization.

POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONFLICT DRIVEN BY CAPITALIST ANTAGONISM

It is becoming increasingly evident that the planet is threatened by world war, including the possibility that war can go nuclear. The war danger reflects antagonism between qualitatively new technology versus capitalist relations of production, and the fact that the new technology is destroying capitalist markets, and along with this, the entire capitalist system. The mad scramble for markets and profits portends world economic collapse and world war, and presently there are military conflicts in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

In this context international unity of the new class becomes the foundation for

peace and prosperity for all. If united internationally, the new class has the capacity to forever end war by abolishing private property and by establishing property relations that realize the objective possibility of economic abundance for all.

PROGRAM OF THE NEW CLASS DEPENDS UPON INTERNATIONAL UNITY

The program of the new class is to abolish private property and to reorganize society based on distribution according to need. Nationalization can be a step along the way toward achieving this program, to the extent it favors the majority and begins to nationalize the means of producing food, housing, healthcare, education, water, and all of the other necessities of life. Nationalization is thus a step toward centralizing new class political influence in the fight for political power.

The struggle over nationalization was ignited in the U.S. by the capitalists' bailout during and after the 2007/08 recession. Banks were bailed out, not the homeowners who lost their homes to foreclosure. Corporations were bailed out, not the workers who lost their jobs. The new class needs nationalization in its interests, the interests of the majority rather than those of the corporate shareholders.

Unity of the new class is a strategic necessity, and can be summed up as "all for one and one for all." The new class is not an industrial working class that is going back to work. Its capacity to unite internationally is the foundation for its economic and social security, the end of warfare, and a bridge to real human freedom. By giving voice to its program broadly and directly, we build a future for our class and for all of humanity.

Class Unity ... (Continued from page 5)

torney. Despite that, the appeals court ruled that this injustice toward a U.S. citizen didn't matter, because the laws for immigrant detention also apply to them.

THE WAY FORWARD

Anti-immigrant politics and attacks against other groups of workers in our society are designed to pit the workers against one another in the jobs, housing, and healthcare we are all fighting for. But this politics will prevent the new class of workers from building a united struggle – and we can't win without that. As the number of citizens caught in the net of raids and arrests of the undocumented climbs toward one thousand,

it can be shown that fascism today threatens the rights of the entire American working class. We must work to unite its various sectors on the basis of our common class interests, not just defend each sector separately.

As the workers, regardless of color, sex, or nationality, face the destruction of the world around them, it is up to revolutionaries to teach that the fascist offensive is rooted in the weakness of the ruling class, not its strength. This fascist offensive is the means by which the ruling class, despite its populist rhetoric, is fighting to preserve the system of private property and ensure their survival as a ruling class.

Workers being expelled from capital-

ist production by the millions need to hear that they belong to a new class, one that's in a life or death struggle with the ruling class over which of them the new technology will serve. The electronic revolution is putting an end to the capitalist system and offering the possibility of a world where all can be provided for.

Political unity of our class is the next essential step in our quest for this new world. Revolutionaries teach the true nature of fascism today, and in doing so, move our class from the defensive – defending the capitalist system and what they once had – to the offensive – fight for the cooperative society that is now possible.