

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

VOLUME 29, EDITION 2

MARCH-APRIL 2019

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Women Demand a Transformed World

As the masses of the world struggle for what kind of future we will have – one of planetary destruction, war, poverty and a small class of the immensely wealthy, or one that protects our mother earth and takes care of all – women are in the forefront of these struggles. Out of necessity and with moral conviction, they are participating as leaders of this historical motion.

The elimination of jobs by labor-replacing automation, inside an economic system based on private property, is shaking up the whole of society. This is creating a new class of workers whose labor is no longer needed, throwing millions out work forever, including those who work on the margins of the economy, unable to make a sustainable living. This has hit every section of society, from the most skilled and higher paid workers, to the least skilled and lowest-paid. This, of course, applies to women workers, and is a large part of the reason that women and children represent the fastest-growing sector of the homeless population today.

Women make up nearly half the workforce and are paid less than their male counterparts. They traditionally work at lower-paid, caretaker jobs. “Women’s work” – that which sustains others – is considered less valuable and is least rewarded in this culture. Much of it is unpaid. Women make up 70 percent of those in poverty. They are vulnerable to sexual harassment on the job. Their fight against sexual exploitation and harassment has gotten much attention in the world of entertainment, but virtually no attention is paid to the widespread workplace abuse of women in low-paid jobs – jobs that women can’t afford to lose, because they have families to feed.

Because of the destruction of working-class men’s lives through the havoc placed on them by rising unemployment, causing despair and the resulting addictions, suicide and premature deaths, women have had the double burden of being the sole providers at a time when they are either lower-paid or displaced by automation. The women of a new class of workers – contingent, part-time, low-paid, unemployed, homeless – have had to fight for basic necessities, without which they and their children can’t survive. They fight for the end to violence against them and their families, and for the social support they need to be able to care for their aging parents; for health care, education, childcare and for food on the family table. Their demands for these basic needs for themselves and their families throw them into positions of leadership in the movement around these demands.

WOMEN IN FOREFRONT OF SOCIAL CHANGE

This past January, for the third consecutive year, women took to the streets across America to protest against government policies, calling for justice and equality. Their



Protesters take to the streets of midtown Manhattan in New York City in January, as part of Women’s March 2019.

Photo: Eva Cruz/Crouching Tiger LLC

signs reflected the multiple demands women are sounding on many fronts of the struggle – including the demands for basic survival needs.

Women whose children have been murdered by the police have organized to get justice and to end the reign of police terror in their communities. They are demanding an end to the abuse of poor children in school systems across the country, where in some cases children with special needs are handcuffed and traumatized for normal childish behavior. Instead of educating our children, schools serving poor communities have become pipelines to prison. Women’s defense of their vulnerable children puts them at the forefront of these fights: for quality public education, against police violence and murder, against the destruction of public housing and their communities, against evictions and the mass displacements caused by gentrification that affect poor women and children by the millions.

Children and babies are ripped from their parents’ arms and locked into cages at the southern border, where people fleeing US-sponsored wars, regime change, drug cartels and destruction come to America to seek refuge. At least two small children have died

of exposure and neglect in frigid cages, and thousands more are being subjected to violence, trauma and abuse. Four women were recently convicted for leaving food and water in the desert near the Arizona/Mexico border, where many people have perished on their hazardous journey to a so-called better life in U.S. This fascist form of terror particularly strikes fear and fury into women’s hearts. It is a frightening harbinger of what is ahead for poor women deemed “unsuitable,” because of their economic status.

The U.S. has a shameful history of stealing children from their families: beginning with Native American children and the separation of families during chattel slavery, children sold “down the river,” and children stolen simply because their parents were poor. Women were leaders in the abolition movement to abolish slavery, long before they even had the right to vote. Harriet Tubman was a liberating light for human emancipation. Mother Jones led and inspired the drive to unionize and for workers’ rights, long before these things were widely supported.

Women, like those in Flint, Michigan, have stepped up to protest and organize resistance to the poisoning of their communities by the corporations and local and state governments. Women lead the movement for welfare rights and many other organizations for social and economic justice. These are demands that families and children deserve to live with dignity. These are demands the whole class must now take up, as automation throws men and women into the street, many

out of work forever, and others into such low-paid and insecure jobs that they must live below the level of survival.

Throughout history, women have been crucial to the survival of the human race, to its care and nurturing, to raising and teaching the future generations, and doing the bulk of the unpaid labor, without which society could not function.

WOMEN DURING THE STAGE OF “ORIGINAL COMMUNISM”

Before class systems arose, women were equal partners in what could be called “original communism.” Humans organized themselves for survival, based on cooperation and equality. Because of their smaller physical size, women were the gatherers, rather than the hunters. With animals hunted by men, the gathering by women supplied most of the food for the family and tribal units. Women were artists and helped create the stories and culture that shaped our humanity and identity. Women were the matriarchal center of families and tribal units: They were respected as life-givers and sustainers, just as they protected nature itself as the Great Mother.

With the domestication of animals and the beginnings of agriculture, a great change happened. For the first time, a surplus of crops could be harvested and saved beyond immediate needs. This allowed for an ownership class to arise – those who seized the stored surplus – thus having power over others by either providing or withholding access to these precious survival resources. This created the first instance of private ownership of what people needed to survive. Living things, as well as tools and possessions, then became things that could be owned as private property, along with the earth itself. This was the first profound leap in human society organized around private property.

Every social system since that time has had some form of private property and an owning class. This also created other classes, made up of people who had to work for those who owned the surplus, the land, the tools and other property. Over time, these classes evolved from slaves, to serfs, to workers.

Continues on page 6

CONTENTS

<i>Inside: New Social Force Can Win a World of Abundance</i>	2
<i>From Editors: The Meaning of Venezuela</i>	3
<i>Peace – A Life or Death Question</i>	3
<i>We Face the Same Enemy</i>	4
<i>Strategy and the Political Center of Gravity Today</i>	5
<i>The Fight for Healthcare for All</i>	6

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New Social Force Can Win a World of Abundance

Inside Rally, Comrades!

As the ruling class attempts to impose fascism to maintain the system of private property that is the source of their power and wealth, a strong and diverse social force is rising up to oppose them. This new class of workers that is being created by labor-replacing electronic technology embodies a new social force. Unable to survive today's economy because their jobs have been eliminated, this new class must fight for a new society that is based on the distribution of such necessities as food, housing, clothing, healthcare, and education, according to need.

The article, "We Face the Same Enemy," explains how the ideology, presented by the representatives of the ruling class, demonizes Muslims, Mexicans, Central Americans, Haitians, and others, to place the blame on migrants for the inability of American workers to make ends meet. In reality, the responsibility for global suffering lies with new labor-replacing technology, controlled by an economic system based on private property, a system that the ruling class must protect at all costs. Migrants and U.S. workers of all nationalities face the same enemy – a ruling class – which keeps them divided to prevent the class unity required to reconstruct society in the interests of all humanity.

As is pointed out in "Strategy and the Political Center of Gravity Today," it is inside the new class that we find the current political center of gravity. The progression of labor-replacing, automated production throughout the

economy is forcing the ruling class to strike at its base of political support, by destroying the stable economic conditions of millions of formerly secure workers, that politically tied the mass of society to the ruling class. Their economic stability and security was the foundation for their acceptance of ruling class ideology and their political support of ruling class policies. We call these millions of formerly secure workers the dispossessed section of the new class. They are the current political center of gravity that both sides have to fight over.

Women are fighting for the whole class because their position in society demands it, as is discussed in "Women Demand a Transformed World." This past January, for the third consecutive year, women took to the streets across the U.S. to protest against government policies and call for justice and equality. The women of a new class of workers – contingent, part-time, low-paid, unemployed, homeless – have had to fight for basic necessities, without which they and their children cannot survive. They fight for the end to violence against them and their families, for the social support they need, to be able to care for their aging parents, for healthcare, education, childcare and for food on the family table. Their fight has thrown them into a position of leadership in the movement around these necessities.

Single payer, improved Medicare for all, is not a pipedream, as is made clear in "The Fight for Healthcare for All." The only thing that has kept comprehensive healthcare from being provided to all the people of the United States is refusal, on the part of the ruling capitalist class, in their drive to produce maximum profits at the expense of the people. The rul-

ing class uses the Democrats and Republicans, in a two-party system of rule, to trick, exploit, and oppress us. They have the political power to deny us healthcare for now, but the article argues that healthcare is a right, and rights are fought for. Only with a society of the people, by the people, and for the people, where ownership of the social means of production, including the healthcare industry, is public property owned by society, are we going to solve this conundrum in healthcare, along with all the other basic demands for the necessities of life.

As is clear in this edition's "From the Editors: The Meaning of Venezuela," there is a global workers' movement in the making. Social upheavals are increasing, and protests, marches, and civil disobedience worldwide are characteristic of this epoch. The world's workers need democracy, peace, and the economic conditions to build a stable and cultured life. These demands are the basis of unity for the workers of the world and tie U.S. workers to those of Venezuela.

The role of American revolutionaries is to develop the consciousness of the American working class as it fights its own ruling class for education, healthcare, food, housing and against war. In these battles for the necessities of life, we bring to the fore our real class interests so that we, the working classes of the world, can unite and fight for our future. Together, we can insure that society's productive capacity is transformed from private property to public property, so the abundance made possible by today's advanced technology can be shared and utilized by all. **RC**

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

Today, whether through words or deeds, vast numbers 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.

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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 Meaning of Venezuela

From the Editors

The U.S. and world ruling class have their hands full with Venezuela. Venezuela is by no means a weak nation, isolated from the world. It sits on the largest proven oil reserves in the world, and it is one of a growing number of countries across the globe attempting to unshackle themselves from the domination of the U.S. financial and petrodollar system. Fighting back against the U.S. attempts to destroy the country, Venezuela stands as an inspiration to the peoples of the world, for its efforts to better the lives of its people and its defiance of U.S. power.

Within ruling circles both nationally and internationally, a struggle is underway, grappling with changes in the world economy and geopolitics. The Venezuela crisis is at the center of this global process, set in motion by the revolution in technology. The world order that has been in place since the fall of the Soviet Union, a unipolar, hegemonic order dominated by the U.S., is being challenged by the rising of a new multipolar world order, particularly the Russian Federation and China, as they rise to contend with U.S. hegemony. The overriding quality of the process is deepening polarization and instability.

The attacks against Venezuela cannot be separated from the U.S. strategy of economic warfare and military aggression against Iran, Russia, China, and the regional blocs throughout the world, who are challenging U.S. economic, financial, and geopolitical dominance. The current administration is exacerbating this polarization, but is by no means its cause.

Control of, and access to, the global oil supply is central to U.S. strategy. In tandem with the transnational corporations, the U.S. aims to wield control over the vast amounts of Venezuelan oil, and through that control,

dictate to and even strangle the economies of any country that attempts to defy them, particularly China.

The U.S. is a formidable economic and military power. Yet, its deepening polarization of wealth and poverty, astronomical debt, and world economic competition have set the U.S. on a trajectory of decline. Removing its competitors access to Latin America is essential to shore up the economic and geopolitical position of the U.S. in the world.

The attacks against Venezuela cannot be separated from the U.S. strategy of economic warfare and military aggression against other countries throughout the world, who are challenging U.S. dominance. The current administration is exacerbating this polarization, but is by no means its cause.

In the U.S., both political parties are also playing their role in accelerating fascism, protecting the interests of the corporations, and the power of the U.S. State. The Democratic Party and its various media mouthpieces have all of a sudden forgotten how much they hate Trump and are clamoring for Venezuelan blood, right along with the Republicans.

Deepening economic and political polarization define the times, as the global market continues to shrink, and the economic center of gravity shifts from the West to the East. New polarities are developing between the U.S. and its allies, as they are forced to pro-

tect their national economies. Regional blocs outside of the U.S. sphere of influence are also consolidating to protect their markets, and more countries are trying alternatives to using U.S. petrodollars as the exchange currency for oil trading.

China, Russia, Iran, Turkey, India and many smaller nations, vulnerable to U.S. aggression, are increasingly tied together through regional blocs, set up to defend themselves against the economic and geo-

political domination of the U.S. These countries are found throughout the world – Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. It is these very countries who have opposed the U.S. campaign against Venezuela.

The rulers of these countries cannot submit to the U.S. and still continue to develop their economies. But the growing economic instability in the world, the inability of the consumer to buy, and the intense competition for markets, lay the foundation for the inevitable trade wars to turn into shooting wars.

As we go to press, Venezuela is still up

and fighting. If defeated, the consequences will reverberate through the world. It will further polarize the world order, create greater instability, and foster the conditions for world war. It will strengthen the hand of the global fascist movement, and advance the consolidation of the rule of transnational corporate and financial dictatorship.

Worldwide, robotic and electronic production is doing away with human labor in every sector of the economy, while the capacity for untold abundance grows daily. The capitalist economy, based on the buying and selling of labor power is being irreversibly destroyed, as the new productive forces generate a reorganization of economic relations and unleash a struggle to abolish private property. The economy can only conform to the productive capacity of robots and computers, if society's productive capacity is transformed from private property to public property.

There is a global workers' movement in the making. Social upheavals are increasing – protests, marches, and civil disobedience worldwide are characteristic of this epoch. The world's workers need democracy, peace, and the economic conditions to build a stable and cultured life. These demands are the basis of unity for the workers of the world and tie U.S. workers to those of Venezuela.

As American revolutionaries, we have a special role. We have to develop consciousness so that the American working class fights its own ruling class for education, healthcare, food, and housing and against war. In these battles for the necessities of life, we bring to the fore our real class interests. We revolutionaries shed this light so that we, the working classes of the world, can unite as a class and fight for our common interests, not for the capitalist class. This is the real meaning of proletarian internationalism. **RC**

Peace – A Life or Death Question

Why is the U.S. threatening to invade Venezuela and to go to war against Iran? The first thing we have to do, is understand the context for what is happening in the world today. Basically speaking, that context begins from the reality that war is a political inevitability under capitalism. It isn't as if the U.S. has to plan to go to war. They have a plan that includes war. They can't avoid it. War becomes so entangled as an instrument of policy, that if the policy is going to be put forward, war becomes the inevitable means of developing and implementing that policy.

U.S. military policy is designed to create regional instability and conflicts around the world, as a counter to the growing economic influence of its adversaries. The crisis in Venezuela and the U.S. role in it, is signaling future military aggression against other countries, who will not submit to U.S. demands. These conditions set the context for war in the world. Military intervention against Venezuela today would engulf Latin America in a regional war. Tomorrow it could be Iran, as a means to position the U.S. to attack China, which could turn into a full-scale world war.

If not prevented, U.S. global strategy will likely wreak havoc on the peoples of the world.

Around the globe, deepening economic and political polarization define the times. As the U.S. loses its economic dominance in the world, it is increasing its war footing. U.S. military policy is designed to create regional instability and conflicts around the world.

The U.S. has to clear away all political opposition to its strate-

gy. The U.S. has worked in tandem with corporations, the police, and the military, and in some cases, the transnational drug cartels to disrupt, attack, and overturn Latin American socialist governments and replace them with right-wing and fascist governments. These steps cannot be separated from the worldwide coordinated effort to build a front/network of right-wing and fascist parties in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and to which we can add the undemocratic regimes of the Middle East, and parts of Africa and Asia. To protect its private property interests, a rising global ruling class is creating a fascist world order and is conceptualizing a fascist world view.

At the same time, in a desperate fight for more markets, more profit, more everything, the ruling class is stage by stage – based first on an interconnected economic system facilitated by digital communication – tying the world together, shaping a world culture, and laying the foundation for world revolution. This is being done with the most highly developed level of means of production in human history. The needs of the global masses can only be realized through the revolutionary construction of a peaceful, cooperative society, based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

Peace is a life and death question for the masses. It is now a matter of survival for humanity itself. To impose peace on the war-makers is a profoundly revolutionary act. It means creating a society where exploitation and inequality can be done away with, ending war forever. **RC**

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 rallycomrades.lrna.org/contact-us

We Face the Same Enemy

What has happened to the America millions believed in and fought for – the beacon of hope, democracy, and opportunity known around the world, the America of the Statue of Liberty? Why is it that our nation’s president demonizes Muslims, Mexicans, Central Americans, Haitians, and many others, from what he calls “s__ hole countries?” The answers to these questions drive to the core of what direction we take as a nation, and what the future holds for all children and the world we live in.

We are living in times of momentous change, unparalleled in human history. Every corner of the world has been drawn into the whirlwind of modern productive methods and global trade. New technology that replaces human labor has upset the entire dynamic of how the capitalist economic system functions. It is drawing into sharp contrast the continued control of private property by the capitalist class, where workers are no longer necessary, yet have no other means of surviving.

Labor-replacing technology has the potential to satisfy humanity’s wants and needs like were never possible before. However, with this technology existing as private property of the ruling class, intense misery, displacement, starvation, and suffering is the result and becomes the rule, while the abundance that is produced spoils or gathers dust. A handful of billionaires grow ever richer, casting aside workers they no longer need. This is an intolerable situation.

FASCISM AMERICAN STYLE

The specter of fascism is once again rearing its ugly head in this country and around the world. The merger of the corporations and the State is already in place. If the ruling class is to maintain private property and their control over the State they must suppress the struggle of millions fighting for survival. The ruling class must brutally suppress democracy, and impose a fascist State. In the process, it must abandon the stated moral principles upon which the country was founded. It includes cultivating a mass base from disaffected and confused workers, something which Trump and others have done consistently with the border wall and other issues. We face a battlefield where the enemy diverts attention sole-

ly to immigrants as the source of the problem, when the real intent is to divide and defeat the entire working class.

Today, the attacks on immigrants occur in the setting of unprecedented worldwide migration, cast into motion by the globalization of the world’s economy, and all of its consequences. The massive displacement of people around the world results from intense competition for regional and world markets, that is leading to war and violence. Crop failures and drought from man-made climate change, earthquakes, hurricanes, and many other disasters compel many to migrate. Drug and human trafficking grow along with migration. Unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Agreement have forced millions to leave their homelands.

We are not disposable people to be lied to and pitted against one another. We must build bonds of class unity and internationalism across the globe. The sooner we see our common class interests, the sooner we can unite based on those interests to reap the benefit of what the new technology promises.

Capitalism has always resorted to the age-old weapon of “divide and conquer,” to weaken the working class. This is the context for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, e-verify, anti-immigrant legislation, lack of immigration reform, attacks on the caravans from Central America, family separations, children in cages, and the government shutdown demanding a border wall. Criminalization and fear abound to scapegoat even child immigrants.

POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD

For a time, until other developed world economies began to catch up following the devastation of their industries in World War II,

the U.S. was an unrivaled economic powerhouse, where the “American Dream” was proclaimed a reality for all. Though the “dream” wasn’t a reality for everyone, this vision functioned as a magnet for immigrants from around the world. Those immigrants who were wealthy were accepted without qualm, as occurs today. However, the vast majority of immigrants have been economically exploited to keep all wages lower, as they entered at the bottom of the wage scale, performing the least desirable and most dangerous jobs, while they struggled to make a future for themselves and their families.

In the past, the relatively well-paid workers of the industrial Midwest area, now known as the “Rust Belt,” and others throughout the country, served as pillars of support for U.S. imperialism. These workers constituted a

world and plans to add many more. It is projected that by 2030 nearly half of all jobs in the U.S. will be automated.

Just as capitalists are in intense competition for the domination of production and the market, workers have been forced into a competition to live since the beginnings of capitalism. Now, in the midst of the most bountiful production of the necessities of life the world has ever seen, workers labor at bare subsistence wages or are cast out onto the streets to beg – regardless of whether they were skilled or unskilled workers. Under globalization, this process is taking hold throughout the world.

Representatives of the ruling class, like Trump and others, point the finger of blame at desperate migrants, to explain to the millions of suffering US workers why they have lost their chance at achieving the American Dream. In reality, it is the new labor-replacing technology, combined with an economic system based on private property that the ruling class must protect at all costs, that is responsible for such suffering.

In truth, immigrants and U.S. workers of all nationalities face the same enemy, a ruling class, whose only solution is to keep them divided and thus defenseless. The same ruling class that displaced U.S. workers under Free Trade Agreements is the same ruling class that caused Mexicans, Central Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Haitians to migrate. A principal tactic of the ruling class is to isolate immigrants as undesirable or criminal. The ruling class then uses that precedent to criminalize, step by step, the working class as a whole. It is part of the effort to eliminate democracy and institute fascism and to suppress the struggle of all workers for a new society.

THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

We are not disposable people to be lied to and pitted against one another. The sooner we see that we have common class interests, the sooner we can unite based on those interests to reap the benefit of what the new technology promises.

Our first step is for society to demand that the government take care of the people, regardless of color or national origin. Government should serve the people and not the corporations. Globalized production binds us together, regardless of national origin. There is no viable choice other than a society run cooperatively, here and globally. In such a society, cooperation and fulfilling the needs of humanity are the guiding principles. Workers in America and across the world have the same needs and demands. The League of Revolutionaries extends its hand of comradeship around the globe.

We must build the bonds of class unity and internationalism across the globe. Taking on the interests and well-being of immigrants as our own is a place to start. We defend them not just because it is the morally correct thing to do. We defend them because they are our class brothers and sisters. Our mutual human survival and that of the planet depends upon our unified efforts. Forward to victory! **RC**

Coming in Future Issues:

The Coming Crisis

• • •

Citizens United and the Future of Democracy

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‘Bottom Rail on Top This Time’: African Americans and Program of the New Class

• • •

The Wall Will Fall — Reflections from the Tijuana Border

Strategy and the Political Center of Gravity Today

To focus on everything is to focus on nothing. The function of strategy is to determine the direction of delivering the main blow towards achieving a desired end or goal. Tactics are part of strategy, subordinate to it and facilitating it. The goal of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is to build an organization of revolutionaries that not only helps shape the political and intellectual formation of the class, but also seeks to influence the ongoing revolutionary process in America. Where do we concentrate in order to push the process forward?

For many years the League has written about the emergence of a new class. A part of the working class, this new class is created by the qualitatively new, labor-replacing means of electronic production. These workers have been driven outside of, or to the margins of the economy. Without living-wage jobs, tens of millions of workers constitute this new class in America, and their numbers grow daily. These workers cannot secure the basic necessities of life until society as a whole owns the new means of production, where the fruits of social production are distributed to all according to need.

In his book, *On War*, the great military strategist Karl von Clausewitz wrote, “There is no higher and simpler law of strategy than to focus military force on the most vulnerable part of your enemy’s defense,” dubbed the center of gravity. For us, the center of gravity is a political concept. We use this concept as a means of developing an assessment and a strategic plan to address the overall struggle of our class.

Inside this new class we find the current political center of gravity. The progression of labor-replacing, automated production throughout the economy has now hit the center of American politics. The ruling class is being forced to strike at its own foundation, its base of political support. It is destroying the stable economic conditions of millions of formerly secure workers that politically tied the mass of society to the ruling class. Their economic stability and security was the foundation for their acceptance of ruling class ideology and their political support of ruling class policies. We call these millions of formerly secure workers the dispossessed section of the new class. They are that section of the working class that possessed things. They are being dispossessed. Because they had something, and because they were the political middle, they are the current political center of gravity that both sides have to fight over.

THE DISPOSSESSED: CURRENT POLITICAL CENTER OF GRAVITY

Those who make up the ranks of these dispossessed workers had secure jobs, many owned homes, had accumulated personal possessions, and had lived fairly stable lives. Some have been cast out of the economy altogether into the ranks of the most destitute, while others have entered the ranks of the marginally employed, finding only low-wage, part-time, contingent jobs. They are all colors and nationalities. They have been social-

ly active in that they vote, attend church, and participate in different civic or community activities. They are educated (in that they have at least a high school education), and they are socially aware and used to organization. They are not at all a cohesive political entity, and have been pitted against one another along color, ethnic, gender, and religious lines.

Because they are part of the unraveling “middle” of American politics that supported the policies of the ruling class, many tend to be the most socially and economically conservative. Now the destruction of their economic position creates the conditions for them to accept new ideas, which revolutionaries must bring to them. The ruling class understands the significance of this dispossessed section of the new class, but it has nothing to provide them but ideology. They are no longer economically secure. They are not getting their relatively well-paying jobs back. They have no redress for their grievances. The ruling class has nothing for them. These dispossessed workers have been thrust into the growing, day-to-day struggles of the new class for the basic necessities of life.

At the same time, these dispossessed workers are that section of the new class that can pull the entire class forward. Their deteriorating economic position puts the dispossessed in a position where they have to move against their conditions. It is impossible to predict which way they are going to move, but when they do they are going to pull – by virtue of their position in society – a huge section of society with them. Because these dispossessed workers are the current political center of gravity, they are the strategic point of concentration for advancing this stage of the revolutionary process, and for building an organization of revolutionaries.

GROWTH OF DISPOSSESSED SECTION OF THE NEW CLASS

The 2008 financial meltdown and the years that followed resulted in massive economic destruction of tremendous proportions. Suddenly, millions of economically secure workers of all colors and nationalities became dispossessed. These millions of dispossessed workers instantly joined the ranks of the growing new class. Every sector of the economy was affected as millions were made jobless. Millions lost their homes, retirement pensions and life savings. Economic historian Adam Tooze vividly describes the sheer magnitude of this working class economic destruction in his September 2018 *Foreign Affairs* article, “The Forgotten History of the Financial Crisis.” He states, “In the United States between late 2008 and early 2009, 800,000 people were losing their jobs every month. By 2015, over nine million American families would lose their homes to foreclosure – the largest forced population movement in the United States since the Dust Bowl.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 8.7 million jobs were lost between the start of the recession and early 2010. The highest number of job loss was in manufacturing, at more than 2.1 million, followed by construc-

tion losing nearly 2 million. However, workers suffered job losses in most sectors of the economy. And job losses continued in many economic sectors in the years that followed. For instance, the job losses that occurred in the public sector was illustrated in the August 2012 report by the Hamilton Project of the Brookings Institution: “Total government (i.e., the sum of state, local, and federal) employment has decreased by over 580,000 jobs since the end of the recession, the largest decrease in any sector since the recovery began in July 2009...In 2011 there were over 220,000 fewer teachers in America’s classrooms than in 2009, a reduction accounting for nearly forty percent of the decrease in public-sector jobs during this period.”

A 2017 study undertaken by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that within the next decade, up to 800 million of today’s jobs worldwide could be eliminated by robotic automation. And a 2017 study by the research firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), estimates that nearly 40 percent of all jobs in the U.S. will be replaced by robots and artificial intelligence by the year 2032. Jobs in manufacturing, transportation, warehousing and retail are at the top of the list. Many of these jobs provide some measure of economic stability and security. The entire jobs economy is being rapidly transformed and restructured by the constantly advancing labor-replacing, automated, technology. As these jobs are eliminated at an accelerated rate, the dispossessed section of our class grows daily.

A recent example is the announcement by General Motors that it will lay off 15% of its salaried workforce and shut down five production plants this year. It is estimated that 10 million self-driving cars could be on the road in the near future. And the trucking industry, with 8.7 million workers, is not far behind. Robots are increasingly replacing warehouse workers everywhere, and digital online shopping has already wiped out tens of thousands of brick-and-mortar retail stores that litter the landscape across the country. Across the U.S., 8000 retail stores shut down in 2017. More than 160,000 women workers lost their jobs in just that year alone.

THE DISPOSSESSED ARE CRITICAL TO REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY

The first step is to unite the thinking of the dispossessed workers with an understanding of their actual conditions. They cannot be-

come aware of their conditions until they stop thinking like the ruling class. The reality of their new situation creates the conditions that allow them to break with the thinking that formerly tied them to the ruling class. They have to be won over to think according to what they are. If revolutionaries do not win over at least a section of these dispossessed workers, they will be turned toward fascism. Politics today is being shaped by who influences this section. This was borne out in the 2016 general elections and the 2018 mid-terms, as contending forces appealed for the support of these dispossessed workers.

Class unity can only be developed through common activity based on an understanding of common class interests. Today the many different struggles for the basic necessities of life are tied together by common class interests that have a common cause. Class unity is achieved by intellectual struggle that is linked to the daily experiences of these common struggles for the basic necessities of life. Once armed with a class understanding and a vision of what is possible, the dispossessed section of the new class will be instrumental in bringing such an understanding and vision to the class as a whole.

As revolutionaries are produced by this moment throughout society, our task is clear: to fight for the growing consciousness of our class as a class for itself, whose historic task is to construct a new cooperative society on behalf of all of humanity. Today, this task requires that we focus on those who are the politically decisive force. That force is the growing dispossessed section of the new class. Concentration on this political center of gravity is a critically important part of revolutionary strategy and tactics. We must understand and grasp this reality and change toward it.

Recent economic forecasts by ruling class think tanks are sending warnings of an impending global economic crisis and resulting social uprisings. Such conditions are certain to unleash a full-blown fascist offensive. This reality confirms the urgency of developing class unity amongst the new class, with specific concentration on its dispossessed sector. The growing equality of poverty only creates the possibility of class unity – this unity still has to be fought for by conscious people. **RC**

Join the Discussion

Articles in *Rally, Comrades!* offer revolutionaries a fresh perspective! They offer analysis and vision, and outline the role revolutionaries play in a strategy to achieve that vision. Share *Rally, Comrades!* with others, use it in your classes, discussion groups and study circles. Spread the vision of a new world and the possibility of achieving it.

The Fight for Healthcare for All

There have been over 70 unsuccessful attempts to repeal “Obamacare” – the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – including 2 trips to the US Supreme Court. Trump and the Republicans, upon capturing the presidency, felt they needed to repeal the ACA in order to finance their proposed 2017 tax cuts, to enrich themselves and the billionaires. When this failed, the Republicans went ahead and passed the 2017 tax cut bill anyway, adding to the national debt to the tune of a whopping \$2.2 trillion, and then used this to attack the ACA.

In a shrewd maneuver, they reduced the Individual Mandate tax penalty within the ACA to zero. This rendered it no longer a tax, whereby Congress would have no authority under the auspices of the US Commerce Clause, which could supposedly eliminate the Individual Mandate and the ACA. No sooner than the tax cut law was passed, 20 Republican state attorneys general, (once again) sued to challenge the ACA, and on December 14, 2018, in a surprise decision, Texas U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor ruled that tax reform eliminated the individual mandate and consequently made the ACA “invalid as a whole.”

While the appeals process is underway, this represents another attack in the struggle for Single Payer, H.R. 676 – Expanded and Improved Medicare for All (Everybody in, Nobody out), and threatens to push back further the availability of healthcare for all residents of the United States and its territories. The struggle for single payer has gone through all types of twists and turns, and throughout the process, the ruling class has narrowed the fight down to the fight for the ACA. It’s now a fight to maintain coverage for pre-existing conditions, allowing offspring to be covered up to age 26 on their parents coverage, expanding Medicaid, and subsidies for low income and the disabled. All of this will be gone if this ruling is upheld. All the while, the ruling class points out the futility of “Medicare for All,” while the struggle for H.R. 676 is disconnected and isolated from the ongoing healthcare struggles and the coalescing of the revolutionaries around the approaching rev-

olution for the basic necessities of life.

This fight around healthcare has caused all types of splits in the political process, and once again the Democrats have used it to their political advantage. Even though they used healthcare to recapture the U.S. House in the 2018 mid-term elections, the split in the Democratic Party between those who support single payer and those that don’t has intensified. Right now, in the U.S. Congress, there are 123 co-sponsors of H.R. 676. It has the highest number of co-sponsors of any pending healthcare legislation. Yet, the Bernie “Medicare for All” caucus has arisen in the House, where over half of the H.R. 676 co-sponsors have joined, and where one of the co-chairs, Representative Pramila Jayapal (D. Washington) wants to introduce a new bill.

It is a testament to the strangle-hold that the capitalist class has over the economy and politics of the country, that there is austerity and scarcity in health care. Making money from people’s suffering is sick and disgusting..

Single Payer, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, H.R. 676, is no longer some pipe-dream of the left. It never was. It was only the denial on the part of the ruling capitalist class, in their drive to produce maximum profits at the expense of the people, that has kept comprehensive healthcare from being provided to all the people of the United States. Healthcare today is the most profitable sector of the U.S. economy. Healthcare stocks have stood up better than any other “equities” on the U.S. stock exchanges. Consequently, it has never been about providing healthcare to all the people, and the struggle around

Medicare/Medicaid has been a political football to be tossed about, all the while moving the goal posts and diverting the movement, depending upon where the struggle was at any moment.

At the height of the Civil Rights movement, when Medicare/Medicaid were being born, “Medicare for All” could have been provided, but Wall Street and the for-profit healthcare industry wasn’t having any of it. Nor was the “Solid South,” through which Wall Street controlled the country. At that time the struggle for Medicare, among other things, boiled down to a question of age. Since the life expectancy for African Americans was less than 64 years of age and for Black males it was under 61 years, the final compromise settled at the ripe old age of 65.

In the released taped phone conversations

ourselves under the threat of not even receiving “Obamacare.”

Why is it that countries all over the world, especially the so-called “developed” countries, can guarantee a modicum of healthcare to all, achieve decent, and in some cases superior health results, at a lower cost, but we can’t? Unless of course, you have the money, and even then, if you have some insurance, you can still be denied healthcare. It is a testament to the strangle-hold that the capitalist class has over the economy and politics of the country, that there is austerity and scarcity in healthcare. Making money from people’s suffering is sick and disgusting.

It’s no secret that the U.S. spends more money on healthcare than any other country on the face of the Earth. Yet our mortality rate ranks number 32 in the world. Spending on all healthcare increased 3.9% last year to \$3.5 trillion. healthcare spending as a share of U.S. Gross Domestic Product is 17.9%. More than 1/6 of our economy is related to healthcare. More than enough for a single payer, universal, comprehensive, “Medicare for All,” public healthcare system – from the day you’re born to the day you die. “Everybody in, Nobody out!” We’re already paying for it. We’re just not getting it! And why? Because we don’t have the political power.

The Democratic Party is a part of a two party system of rule, along with the Republicans, that the ruling capitalist class uses to trick us, exploit us, and oppress us. They have the political power to deny us. But suffice it to say that by hook or crook, by any means necessary, we are going to get our Improved Medicare for All, H.R. 676, call it what you may. Healthcare is a right, and rights are fought for. Only with a society of the people, by the people, and for the people, where ownership of the social means of production, including the healthcare industry, is public property owned by society, are we going to solve this conundrum in healthcare, along with all the other basic demands for the necessities of life.

Single Payer, H.R. 676 points the way. **RC**

of President Lyndon Johnson (LBJ), a piece in the June 25, 2011 commentary by Thomas G. Donlan of *Barron’s* describes LBJ talking to Democratic U.S. congressman Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Mills tells LBJ, “I think we’ve got you something that we won’t only run on in ‘66,’ but we’ll run on from hereafter.” The intent of passing Medicare in 1965 was to get out the vote and get Democrats elected. Prior to becoming president, Barack Obama proclaimed, “If it was up to me, I would go with single payer.” Instead, here we are: as they push the goal posts back again, we find

Women Demand a Transformed World (Continued from page 1)

Along with class systems came the subjugation of women and patriarchy – the concept of the superiority of men over women. Birthing children became a method of either producing heirs to those who owned – the rulers and masters – or a method to produce new slaves, serfs or workers. Children were no longer new members of society to be nurtured and taught. They were now destined to take their place in the class into which they were born. Women became factories for birthing new workers, under the control of their male rulers, masters, and owners – expressed as patriarchy.

This was codified in the laws that were invented to uphold the customs that perpetuated the class system and kept people in their place within it: exploiters and the exploited. Key to this was men’s ownership and domination of women, integrated into this system through ties of blood, as the mothers of children and the wives of men. Some women

were also slaves, as well as being held in positions of sexual bondage, through various forms of prostitution. This is the common thread of women’s position in society, throughout the millennia, and has been battled out with each step in the struggle for liberation that women have fought.

WOMEN’S DEMANDS ARE FOR A NEW WORLD OF COOPERATION

With the epochal change in the economy and all of society, brought on by the new technologies that are replacing labor forever, the world is undergoing a leap from the existing society – a class system based on private property, with the labor of one class enriching another – to a new society organized for sharing all of the abundance the new technologies produce. This is a cooperative economic and social system that can end violence and war and eliminate all want, hunger and homelessness forever. All we need to

survive and thrive is already being produced, and we have the ability to distribute these things overnight. Humanity could put its creative energies into healing the earth, creating sustainable technologies, developing poison-free agriculture, raising and educating our children, enjoying various arts, and reclaiming our full humanity. In such an evolved global society, women will take their rightful place as co-creators.

This outcome cannot be realized until the whole of humanity is freed from the shackles of class exploitation. Those women on the forefront of the survival battles that involve the whole class are key to the liberation of all. They are stepping forward at this time to lead these battles. The liberation of women depends on the liberation of the oppressed class and the restoration of what it means to be “whole” as a human race: cooperation and sharing as the ground and flower of this evolution. **RC**