

League of  
Revolutionaries  
for a New America

# Basic Education for New Members

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## Introduction

The United States has seen moments of major social struggle and change. Today's revolution is different.

Social revolution destroys a system, its institutional foundations, its old social order. It transfers power from an old ruling class to new social forces.

The movement the ruling class is confronting this time is qualitatively different than in the past.

“Transformation from electro-mechanical industry requiring human labor to operate gigantic means of industrial production to digitally controlled production requiring little or no human labor is the determining content of our time.”

*Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America*

New means of production are creating a new class. This class cannot survive without overthrowing the system and instituting a cooperative society.

History is made by those who understand the vital role of actively struggling for what they believe in. Unorganized individuals can do nothing. Meaningful activity can only be carried out through organizations, and organizations mean nothing without serious members.

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America, your League, is a democratically based collective of revolutionaries.

Its program and ideas come from the constant study of actual social and economic motion. They politically express the profound economic revolution that is reshaping the world.

The ruling class will use every means at its disposal to protect private property and to maintain its power. They will corral, disorient and dissipate, or they will crush the movement of the new class.

As far as we know the United States is the only country known to have prohibited the education of the enslaved.

First, the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina in 1739 (the largest slave uprising in the British colonies) was the catalyst for legal measures to be taken against those who taught slaves to read or write. Later, the slave revolt led by Nat Turner in Virginia in 1831, resulted in virtually all the slave states passing laws against teaching slaves to read and write.

There were many reasons for severe punishment. Teaching slaves to read and write was a means of communication, a means of planning. The impulse to learn and teach connected people, slaves, former slaves and whites. But we know the real reason this was dangerous to the slave system: teaching slaves to read and write would threaten the social order.

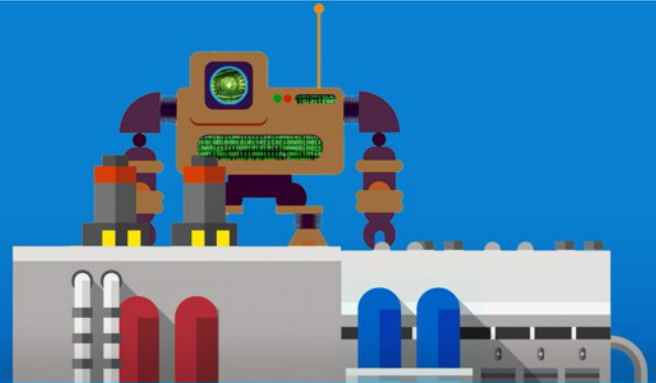
This is the reason we study, and read, and write.

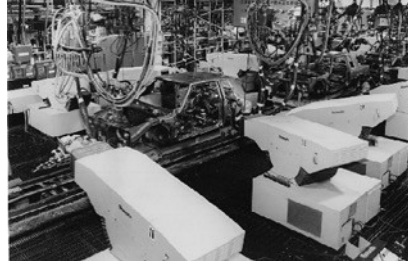
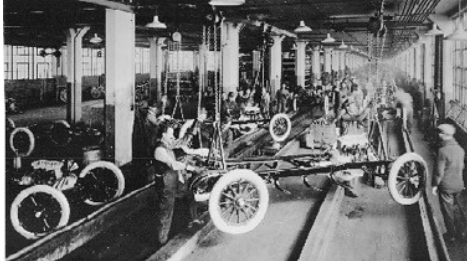
This is a series of eight classes that go over some of the things the League has developed and is based on. Things we need to think about, develop further, strategize about and constantly update. We hope this series will be the first of many that you are a part of.

We'd like to welcome you again.

We need to your constant feedback and input to fight forward to a New America.

## Class 1 | Understanding the Process of Change





## Class 1 | Understanding the Process of Change

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“Nothing of him that doth fade,  
But doth suffer a sea-change”

*William Shakespeare*

~1610

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When people sum up this moment, the moment we are living in, they will say the entire world is talking about change. Whether from politicians or multi-media spokespersons or an 18-year-old demonstrator, “a sea-change,” a Shakespearean term over 400 years old, has resurfaced.

The world has entered an entirely new process. World society is leaving the industrial era and is leaping into the epoch of electronics. Over ten thousand years in the making, we live in a time of a great break in continuity. The end of the necessary participation of labor in the mass of world social activity we call the economy. A period of 10 to 15 thousand years of human labor, exploitation, classes and the state – over.

Of course, we mean over in the sense of transition and transformation. This is why we need to talk about change. Nothing commands the attention of large groups of people like revolution. Over millennia revolutions have crystalized and brought radical change to existing societies. Sometimes revolutions spread, cross borders, cross continents and jump oceans.

The League is an organization of revolutionaries. To get united on what we face, and to be clear on our tasks, we educate ourselves.

### **Study**

One of the hidden or unseen things about a revolution is study. In world history, when revolutionaries are faced with a set of problems that are new, they grasp methods and master concepts and principles. In short, they study the laws of revolution.

Scientists have theorized that climate changes drove the creation of the Agricultural Revolution. Many scientists have also shown that intellectual advances in the human brain played a role. Practically speaking, from what may have been the first known revolution in history, over 5,000 years ago in Egypt, to today's revolution, study and education by the revolutionaries has played a decisive role.

From the revolutionaries of the American Revolution, to Gracchus Babeuf the first great communist of the French Revolution, to the revolutionaries of the Haitian Revolution, to the militant black pamphleteer David Walker of the American Civil War, to Betsy Mix Cowles who supported antislavery political parties and runaway slaves, to Sojourner Truth the ex-slave turned abolitionist orator, John Brown, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, the Soviet revolution, the Chinese revolution, the Angolan Revolution, Fred Hampton, Nelson Peery and so many more — they all studied, they all educated.

As revolutionaries, speakers, editors, writers, organizers and activists they pushed the new ideas of revolution into homes, churches, neighborhoods, newspapers, and schools. They fought, they contributed, they led, they died, and they studied and educated throughout. They transferred the new revolutionary ideas demanded by the reality.

## **Revolutionary Change in America**

There has never ever been a situation like the one we face in the United States today; it is qualitatively new. Studying change — its process, its science — is always on our agenda.

When you “ask” Google what philosophy is, the single sentence answer is:

*noun: philosophy*

the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline

One of our principle tasks is to embed an understanding of how things change into the revolutionary movement. We use philosophy. We use an understanding of knowledge, reality and existence. We don't treat it as an “academic” discipline but as a revolutionary weapon.

## **The Elements of Change**

Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate and one of the 19th century's richest men, made an offhand remark while bragging about his wealth to a newspaper reporter in early 1892: “It isn't the man who does the work that makes the money. It's the man who gets other men to do it.” This really captures the essence of a system of exploitation.

A big stage of industrial development happened immediately after the Civil War. Slavery, which made the 13 colonies valuable, by the mid-1800s had become a fetter on the further development of the productive forces. When it was overthrown, industrial development exploded in the United States. As quickly as 1895, the United States leaped ahead of Britain in greatest manufacturing output. Steel production, the railroads, development of machinery, the production of machinery, banks, utilities, timber, oil, mining, steel, minerals, cash crops all developed at a dizzying rate.

There was explosion of new discoveries and inventions. New processes for making steel, chemicals and explosives were invented. And all of this before 1900! The wealth accumulation, exploitation and expansion were so obscene it was called the Gilded Age.

Leading into and coming out of World War II, the story was more of the same. Suffice it to say the combination of the destruction in huge parts of the world from the war, nuclear weapons, dominant armed forces, and super profits from neo-colonies all combined to make the United States the wealthiest country on earth.

The United States had an advanced factory system (typically known to most people as the system of mass production), based on the last stage of the development of the electro-mechanical industrial means of production.

The nuclear bomb wasn't the only "world changing" invention whose roots were found in WWII. A combination of inventions and devices including the computer (1943), the transistor (1947), the robot (1954), the silicon chip (1961) and the first single-chip microprocessor (1971) formed the basis of the electronic revolution which would ultimately prove to be more important than the nuclear device, the steam engine and agriculture combined.

The real digital electronics revolution came in the late 1960s with the integration of transistors and other semiconductor devices into monolithic circuits. Now integrated circuits (chips) can be found in everything. Advances include the integration of digital communication networks with the computer - the global Internet, fully automated mass production, AI and so on. Mass production of goods and services with no human labor. The beginning of new forms of automation with no human labor.

## **The Science of Change**

At this moment in America we are dealing with fundamental change in society. This starts with change in the economy which results in change in the relations between classes and people.

Our basic approach is the same as any branch of thinking or science.

↯ In world history radical social change is precipitated by fundamental, qualitative change to the economy.

↯ By "fundamental, qualitative" we mean the sum-total of basic characteristics which make a system or process what it is. Quality is the content not the form of something.

↯ "Fundamental, qualitative" change means to put an end to the old content of something, to make something different from what it was.

↯ This happens with the partial, or stage by stage, introduction of something that is new, different, and ultimately antagonistic to the old content. Then we have the ongoing and continuing stages of change, to completion.

↯ ↯ The new is continually arising and getting stronger, the old being discarded. The final result is something new.

↯ ↯ In world history a qualitative change in the economy is accompanied by the destruction of the old society and the creation of the new.

### **What is Happening Today**

The qualitatively new digital electronic technology has entered the American system of production, which is at the heart of the economy. Chips, computers and robots are the first expressions of new forms of automation that will follow. And not just in mass production. If we were holding this class 20 years ago, we'd have to work at explaining abstractly how computers, robots and software would replace us in every part of the economy. Not today. What part of the economy isn't being changed?

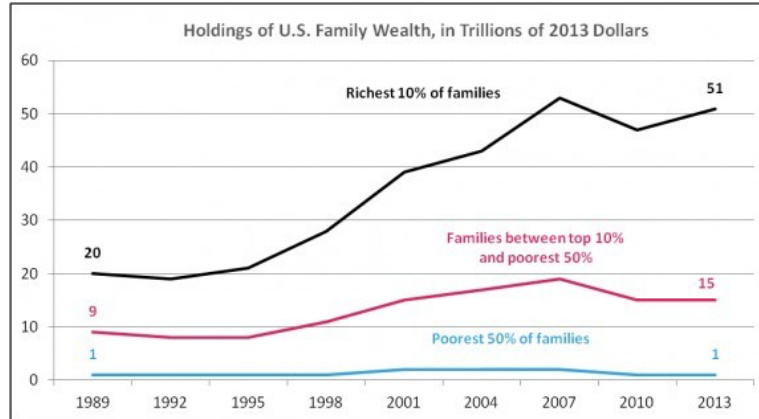
### **What are the Results of These Changes?**

The qualitative changes in the economy are accelerating. This creates greater polarization of wealth and poverty. On the one hand, wealth is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. On the other hand, poverty is spreading out to formerly secure sections of society and creating a new class.

In 1975 when the microprocessor made its debut in an American factory there was one billionaire in the US. In the year of Occupy Wall Street (2011), when talking about the 1% was became part of the consciousness of the mainstream, there were 413 billionaires. Today there are 540 billionaires in the US. In 5 months during 2020, the list of Forbes-certified billionaires “grew” their collective wealth by an estimated \$685 billion. The richest 0.00019 percent of the US population— including Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates—hold \$3.6 trillion in combined wealth on 08/05/20.

This is a reflection of the need to concentrate the wealth and power of the economy into fewer hands. Through direct control of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve, the ruling class is now wielding trillions of dollars in public money to protect its own interests.

For the new class no longer needed in production, marginalized and cast aside, this is a time when the lives of a growing number of the American people are considered worthless. The fate of labor, given qualitative change in the economy, is clear – it beings with job loss, permanent layoffs, part time, sub-minimum wage jobs, complete elimination of all benefits, destroying what's left of health care and pensions, less services, higher prices, and a rapidly declining standard of living.



It is expressed in the forced labor of essential workers this system treats as throwaways. It's expressed in the economic devastation of the millennials. It's expressed in the police killings of over a thousand people in the first 9 months of this year. It's expressed in the decline in health care and education, which were really nothing more than the costs of production to capitalists. The economic changes to date have created over four decades of a widening wealth gap — of economic polarization.

The accelerating development of electronics is the basis for worldwide economic and social destruction. We can see it, we can prove it, we can feel it. As human beings we are wrapped up in survival, in the immediate problems of homelessness, unemployment, the rise of a new racism. Yet we must also study, discuss and understand the historic implications of our time. The science of change explains the emergence of the new.

When we look at the situation objectively, we see our new class as the new revolutionary force. The new class created from every sector of the economy, from every walk of life, as a result of the break in continuity in the economy.

The new class is an objective communist class. It must fight for control of the economy. It is a tireless, constant force for change, a true liberating force.

## Sum Up

When we talk with the American people about change, we always rely on what the abolitionists said of the overwhelming odds they faced as they fought to overthrow the system of slavery: "Liberty knows nothing but victories." With the destruction of capitalism and the creation of new revolutionary forces, the fight — the war — is for the existence of humanity.

The quantitative introduction of a new quality, and the beginning of antagonism, guaranties that polarization takes place. Polarization is the confusing yet relentless way that antagonistic classes separate into poles, struggle, and resolve themselves — the old destroyed, the new preserved and emergent as a new quality. If we look, we can see this possibility in the country today.

Someone once wrote about Darwin “He provided a way of talking about change, of making plausible the emergence of novelty in experience, and of showing how the sloughing off of the old inevitably produces the new.” This is our role now.

If we are to accomplish anything, we must apply this science of change to the thinking of the new class. An introduction of a new mode of thought. Provide a new way of talking about change. Make immense possibilities plausible in this moment of change.

For the first time in American history unity of the class is within our grasp, if we rely on the weapon of class consciousness and the possibility of a new world.

Understanding change is the first step.

### **Discussion**

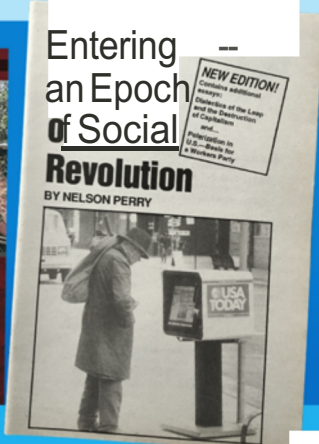
1. Why do we put so much emphasis on studying the process of change?
2. What is the significance of the change from the industrial world to the epoch of electronics? How does this compel changes in society?
3. What position is the new class being pushed into, and why do we describe it as an objectively communist class?
4. What are the implications of an “objective communist economic class” for our role, our education and our propaganda?

### **Additional Readings**

Revolutionary Change in America by Nelson Peery

<https://lrnaeducation.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/revolutionarychangeinamerica-educationpacket.pdf>

# Class 2 | The Revolutionary Process



## Class 2 | The Revolutionary Process

Recently scientific researchers have developed a new deep-learning technique to bring AI (Artificial Intelligence) into more scientific disciplines.

Other researchers have used 3D-printing to explore microswimmers, microscopic organisms, or objects that can move through liquids. Natural examples of microswimmers are bacteria and sperm.

In one U.S. laboratory, hundreds of miniature human brains, the size of sesame seeds, float in Petri dishes, sparking with electrical activity. These tiny structures, known as brain organoids, are grown from human stem cells. Neuroscientists have connected organoids to walking robots, modified their genomes with Neanderthal genes, launched them into orbit aboard the International Space Station, and used them as models to develop more human-like artificial-intelligence systems.

These things are all a part of the constant expansion of the electronic (chip/computer/robot/AI) revolution.

Toyota is testing smart driving technology in Ohio right now.

Far from being over, the economic revolution continues to rampage through the economy. No segment, industry or job remains untouched.

As the economy's contradictions become more acute, the stage is set for the introduction of something new. The economic struggle is the foundation for large numbers of people to be drawn into a fight against the conditions arising from the destruction of the old economic system. The economic revolution is ongoing; the revolutionary process is intensifying.

In a capitalist economy the method of expropriation is the purchase of labor power. The mode of exchange is labor power for money, money for necessary goods and services, for the necessities of life.

Today the means of production have developed past, and come into conflict with, the productive relations. Larger and larger sections of the population are driven into unemployment. The unemployed and underemployed cannot buy back their subsistence. They can't buy back the product of the new electronic, digital means of production. This new section of the class, driven out of social production and into the fight for survival, is an example of political polarity. The struggle of a rapidly growing mass of people is actually a struggle against the political means of control.

The ruling class cannot succeed in its goals without restructuring America's economic, political and cultural life. They must continue to consolidate and expand the merger of corporations and government — anything to stabilize capitalism and institute economic "reforms" to strengthen private property.

### 1 The accelerating pace of change ...



### 2 ... and exponential growth in computing power ...

Computer technology, shown here climbing dramatically by powers of 10, is now progressing more each hour than it did in its entire first 90 years

#### COMPUTER RANKINGS

By calculations per second per \$1,000



**Analytical engine**  
Never fully built, Charles Babbage's invention was designed to solve computational and logical problems



The ruling class must win over to their program a section of the American people who face growing unemployment, poverty and austerity. They appeal to the “middle class” of all identity groups in the name of an all-American unity. At the same time, they isolate the masses within these groups by abandoning any social responsibility for their plight and implementing a fascist police state. Ultimately the structural and racial inequalities within capitalism will make this attempt at all-American unity impossible.

Polarization is critical to the work of the revolutionaries. The political struggle intensifies to the degree that the polarities separate, connections liquidate, and all forces flow to one or the other pole. That depends upon activity coupled with the intellectual development of the combatants.

If we make our plans according to the objective motion, the struggle for the basic necessities of life is the door to entering the revolutionary section of the class. The next step is for the combatants to see that the crisis is systemic.

This is an important step since the struggle is fought out in the socio-political superstructure. The move toward political consciousness is decisive, and we must prepare ourselves for whatever might eventually occur. That preparation begins with a clear understanding of the causal relationship between the economy, politics, and social motion.

Today it's being borne out that the dialectical motion of the economics of the leap goes: leap downward, partial recovery, stagnation, polarization, destruction, and another leap downward. These are not categories but are mixed and interpenetrate. The country always goes through partial recovery, then becomes mired in stagnation.

Each time, the new class continues to be squeezed out, left behind, and subject to growing oppression. Given this stage of polarization, everything is expressed as a further concentration of wealth and poverty.

U.S. billionaires saw their net worth rise by almost \$1 trillion, with their wealth rising \$10.2 trillion in the Covid-19 crisis. Yet more than 6 million households missed their rent or mortgage payment in September, and as many as 11 million people living in rental housing were late or behind on rent as of October 2020. The ranks of people living in poverty have grown by some 8 million people or more.

A new level of “equality” of poverty throughout the population is reflected in the record profits of the corporations. Political resistance is inevitable. The new stages of economic polarization push along the process of political polarization.

Our task, the task of leaders of this new motion, is to give those in motion a sense of strategy, an understanding of class consciousness. Class consciousness will emerge from today’s developing struggle. It is the school where revolutionaries connect consciousness and vision with the aggressively changing realities of class, state and fascism.

## **Discussion**

1. How does the advance of new technologies, new means of producing goods, change the situation for the capitalists and for the workers?
2. Polarization has characterized every political revolution. As these relations are torn apart, the “opportunity for new bonds to form” begins. Faced with the fraying bonds that once held it together, all of society is pulled into the process. It is in such times of motion and change that revolutionaries can play their historical role. Discuss the polarization in the process of change in society today and its significance.

## **Additional Readings**

On the Edge of History

<https://rallycomrades.org/2014/01/edge-history/>

International Polarization, Fascism and War

<https://rallycomrades.org/2020/01/international-polarization-fascism-and-war/>

# Class 3 | The Reality We Face





## Class 3 | The Reality We Face

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Reality is that which, when you stop  
believing in it, doesn't go away.

*Phillip K. Dick*

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Any real assessment of the situation we face would not be accurate without looking at the scope of the crisis. Assessing the situation is the way revolutionaries become effective.

The introduction of qualitatively new productive forces is putting all of us into the food lines, homeless shelters, and out onto the streets. Millions crowd in with anyone they can, and even a vehicle as a last stop before the street. The word ‘homeless’ is now attached to virtually anything we are — unemployed or employed, person or family, homeless college student, homeless “professional,” homeless child. Churches during the year-end holidays have taken to reading

long lists of the names of homeless people who have perished on the streets. Homelessness in America is urban, suburban and rural. Homeless encampments aren't confined to freeway overpasses or an abandoned building or two.

Homelessness isn't a category. It's the worst aspect of the economic crisis. It is connected to and a part of the rapidly declining standard of living of many millions more. Mass automation has made every job subject to lower wages and no benefits. Health care and public education are both "costs of production" in a capitalist system. In today's changing economy they are in decline and being destroyed.

In today's economy we don't just face a homeless crisis. Everywhere you turn the destruction of capitalism expresses itself.

### **Multiple and Multiplying Crises in the United States**

**cri·sis** *noun*: a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.

Losing jobs or being driven toward slave wages are only the beginning, as wealth polarizes, and large masses of money are used to make more money. Wealth and property are concentrated into fewer hands. The ruling class, understanding the revolutionary change in the economy as well as we do, is prepared to abandon capitalism as long as they can rally around private property.

In the last 20 years, virtually everything has been pushed toward crisis, and is a source of revolutionary motion.

Studies from New York, Chicago and Los Angeles have described the development of a rent eviction epidemic. As people are pushed to the margins of the economy, their inability to pay rent and mortgages obviously increases. New ever-larger sections of the population are pushed toward homelessness.

Unleashed banking and financial institutions use hordes of cash and privatization to gain ownership and control of "public" utilities, gas, water and electricity. At any moment, falling income and rising prices can lead to shutoffs for tens of thousands.

Ownership and control of energy is tied to the actual base of U.S. power. Historically oil and gas are at the center of this strategy. Domestically the U.S. has an oil and gas system that includes almost one million active oil wells (1,300,000 have been drilled since 2010), and hydraulically fractured wells have increased 1,204 percent to over 300,000. This also includes a 2.4 million-mile underground pipeline system and 135 refineries. All of them are subject to ecological disaster, as a large number of them are in decline, like many other parts of the infrastructure.

The country has always suffered from the corporate dumping of cancer-causing toxins into the ground, rivers and streams. And the American people are suffering the effects of the toxic waste and poisoning that accompanied the old industrial system. The struggle over clean water is also a struggle against a system that guarantees legal theft of water by corporate giants.

There is an opioid death epidemic. The suicide rate has risen by almost 25 percent in the last 20 years. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among Americans between the ages of 15 to 34. Parallel to the increases in suicide, the rate of overdose has doubled. Opioid overdose is a driver in this rising suicide rate. Prescriptions and sales of antidepressants have increased by 65 percent. Sales of opioids by the pharmaceutical industry are up over 700 percent. Like all the intensifying problems in America, this situation is about corporations, Wall Street, political influence, and a little bit of scapegoating — then pay for it all by producing, prescribing and selling more drugs.

With the rise of fascism in America, violence is becoming the weapon of choice against the people.

Police violence and brutality has long been a part of the methods of control. Over the last 5 years police have killed an estimated 5,000-plus people. Since 2015, police in the U.S. haven't gone more than two days without fatally shooting someone. Clearly the police will always be in the picture, defenders of property, always between the people themselves and a system that's not working. Social unrest is growing in many areas of the country. The police generally clash with this unstable and "unruly" new section of the population. A large section of the new class has had an untenable relation with police for decades, being targeted and jailed as in no other wealthy industrial nation on earth. Lack of trust at best, fear and resentment most likely. New oppressive fascist measures have intensified, coupled with people's sense of being marginalized. The result has been the intense conflict over recent police killings. Of the millions in the streets, a large percentage of those in the struggle are young and new participants.

Concentration camps exist in America. The United States government has a huge system of over 200 jails and detention centers across the country run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This system has expanded over three decades. It now captures and holds 500,000 immigrants each year. In total, over 5.6 million people have been imprisoned since 2004. There are countless incidents of death, abuse, and mistreatment of those in immigration detention. Unaccompanied minor children in custody are routinely neglected and horribly mistreated by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and US Border Patrol. Children suffer verbal and physical abuse, and sexual assault. Beatings, deaths and sterilization are all part of the terror.

Worsening economic conditions, growing poverty, and social and ecological destruction have pushed a large section American people to the brink. They have responded, struggling for food, housing, education and health care. Teachers, students, families and communities clash with local governments over education, schools and the conditions they face. Almost 30 million are without healthcare. From Chicago to rural Texas, and in many other parts of the country, hospitals are closing.

These conditions have driven millions to act.

Protests, climate strikes, job actions, fighting in the streets against the police, the national guard, the Army and "security forces": the struggle is rising and the potential for outbreak exists all around the country. As revolutionaries we must assess the situation around us, develop plans, and organize to carry them out. We must connect with people and help to unite our class.

## **Revolutionary Change in the Economy, Revolutionary Change in Society**

The reality is that the abundance created by the new means of production, and the resulting economic revolution, make it possible to meet the needs of hundreds of millions, and solve society's problems. But not under capitalism. An economic paradise of abundance for all is a new possibility — one that must be fought for. Class, wealth and power, and the capitalist state, stand in the way.

Sixty-two percent of Americans agree that the U.S. government's handling of the Coronavirus crisis is going badly. No community is untouched by this devastating pandemic.

The havoc can be seen in the numbers suffering from the social and economic blows to families and individuals. According to an analysis of census data released by the Hamilton Project, nearly 14 million children in the United States went hungry in June. That's an increase of more than 10 million since 2018, and almost three times the number of children who went hungry during the Great Recession of 2007. Three in ten Black families don't have enough food for their children. The relief measures from the federal government are running out, abandoning millions of Americans.

You won't find any of the One Percent among them. In its own way the novel coronavirus found and exposed a society with deep economic polarization. This has greatly exacerbated the existing inequality. The poorer you are the more likely you are to catch the disease, the less likely you are to receive medical help, and the more likely you are to die. In addition, job loss and layoffs, as well as forced labor deemed "essential", are attacks on the most vulnerable workers. Economic difficulty and pain quickly developed into crisis as the pandemic settled in.

Well before COVID-19, the country's landscape was changing, with more of us pushed into hunger, homelessness and illness. Society is undergoing revolutionary change, and a new class is being born, with most of us rapidly becoming a part of that class. The transformation from industry to robotics is the cause of the misery we see all around us.

New digital electronic devices are increasingly being introduced into succeeding sectors of the economy. Self-serve kiosks are everywhere, trash is sorted by and offices are cleaned by robots, packages are delivered by drones, and driverless cars and trucks are being developed. It is projected that up to 20 million manufacturing jobs around the world could be replaced by robots by 2030, according to the analysis firm Oxford Economics.

Millions didn't choose to go hungry, lose their jobs, homes, health care, and access to real education. Society, the whole world really, has entered a new stage of development. Given the fundamental changes in the economy, all struggles today are related to the question of how to change society. An economy based in industry, with huge factories employing millions, required a certain level of education, health care, housing, and overall stability to guarantee a workforce. An economy based on automated production needs fewer and fewer workers with each advance.

The struggles over COVID-19, immigration, and murders and police terror and killings, are really over what kind of society America is going to have. The new economy calls for a new

society that distributes the abundance of food, homes, and clothing according to need rather than the ability to pay. However, the ruling class is determined to keep the private property system, the ownership of the means to produce all that is required for human survival, in their own hands.

## **Economic Revolution**

An economic revolution is the substituting of one productive process by another. The problem is that an economy cannot change without changing the society. Society cannot change without changing all the class relations, and a change in class relations means ending the privileges that one class has over others. Ruling classes are prepared to accept new machinery, but they will resist to the death any attempt to change society in such a way as threatens their privilege. Thus, economic changes have historically always ended in revolution.

We must use revolutionary change as the context and frame of reference for discussion about the situation we face and develop class consciousness and strategic thinking to deal with it.

It is helpful to present a context, a frame of reference for the discussion. All of us sense or understand in one way or another that the accelerating development of electronics is the basis of this world-wide economic and social disorganization. We are impacted by and involved in grappling with the immediate problems of homelessness, unemployment, the rise of a new racism, police terror and more. We must develop a mechanism and structure that allows us to study, discuss and understand the historic implications of our time. To develop and embed this understanding into the motion of our new class.

The terms electronics, chips, computers, robots, digital and artificial intelligence may mean different things to many people. To us, their development is a new quality in the process of producing our means of life. This economic revolution is a new quality that is emerging and forming the basis of not any particular aspect of life but is creating, or has the potential to create, a whole new quality of life.

The sum total of the electronic revolution has created matter other than the brain that processes knowledge. This revolution can be compared to the discovery of fire. Fire was more than a means of production — it was the foundation for the quantitative separation of humans from animals. Everything that the following social and economic formations created was based on the discovery of fire. Steel and the steam engine, to name just two things basic to our civilization, are unthinkable without fire.

The scope of the electronic revolution should be viewed in the same way. It's not a "Third Wave" — qualitatively there are no 3rd and 4th industrial revolutions in the production of social wealth. A launching pad for the second great leap for humanity is being created. The result will be humankind's complete separation from the animal world and its restrictive, brutal systems of natural law. Unfettered by such restraints, humanity will begin the journey toward its full realization.

Between the dangerous jungle of our time and that wonderful future lies an epoch of struggle, destruction, revolution and change.

## **We are Changing**

Look at the extreme changes that have taken place in just the last few months. Forty-three Forbes-certified billionaires “grew” their collective wealth by an estimated \$685 billion. The richest 0.00019 percent of the US population now hold \$3.6 trillion. That wealth will actually allow them to empower and then enrich themselves to an even greater extent. And they will.

Over 12 million have contracted the Covid-19. 250,000 and rising have died. Approximately 55 million workers have been declared “essential”- health care, food service, food production, and public transportation, construction, public services, among others. Essential workers are not receiving even the most basic health and safety equipment to combat the spread of the coronavirus, and are dying as a result. Some are walking off the job in protest of unsafe conditions, and demanding personal protective equipment (PPE). They are essential — essentially forced labor. They have no effective rights. Essential workers are an expression of the greatest time of labor-replacing automation in world history. Virtually every form of labor takes on the characteristic of being “throwaway.”

At the same time some 25-45 million Americans are not working. Those that are not receiving some form of unemployment benefits, more than 31 million, are not paying bills, not paying rent, not going back to work.

Millions are going to food giveaways for the first time. They are also speaking out! In one form or another they are “protesting.” There are many forms of protest and motion taking place. Up to 20-25 million have participated in protests.

At times during the last 6 months up to 25 percent of the country was under a curfew order. Tens of thousands have been arrested while protesting. In some cases, people are physically fighting police.

People are being attacked, and also detained by elite Customs and Border Patrol units, by Department of Homeland Security’s Tactical Terrorism Response Teams, by Predator drones, helicopters, planes operated by an array of agencies of the state, national guard, the U.S. Army.

Some of the people are beginning to understand that government and the State are buffered by the police. Many are beginning to understand that police respond to protests about policing with violence. The last 6 months have given people a sense that those in power may not respond to their needs.

Many, many things are beginning to change. People are doing different things and thinking different things.

Great social problems do not happen out of the context of a particular time. To understand any problem, we must understand the period of time in which it occurred. It is not possible to understand a period of time simply by describing a series of events. It’s necessary to understand the crucial content of a time in order to understand it. There have been times of mass social movements in the U.S. We are in a time of social revolution.

The content of our time is the historic shift from production by electro-mechanics, that is, production by human labor aided by electrically-driven machinery, to production by robotics, or production by computer-controlled machinery with no or very little human labor involved. This ongoing economic revolution shapes and determines the social destruction we see around us. It is bringing to the forefront a political struggle unknown up to now in our country.

Everything that's happening is an expression of the fundamental, qualitative changes that are taking place. The important thing is to understand why this is happening and what the political results are bound to be. If this is the process we are going through, if this is the content of our time, it is important for us to see how it plays out in real life — because that is where the battle must be fought.

### **Break in Continuity**

Electronic production has introduced a radically new means of production into the economy, not only destroying the current stage of private property, “capitalism,” but, creating the possibility of a break in the continuity of private property itself.

As one society crumbles, another must be constructed. In whose interest will the new society be constructed? This is the essential problem of all historical “moments” of transition. All manner of forces emerge in the battle for resolution. History shows that the class that understands its independent interests, that has a vision of the desired outcome, and that organizes its forces to achieve the political means to enforce those interests in favor of that outcome, creates the means to politically enforce its class interests. Preparing the class of growing dispossessed to take on this historic role constitutes revolutionaries’ work in this time of epochal transition.

A deepening economic crisis; intensifying competition for markets; an increasingly unstable geopolitical world order in which the U.S. is fighting to remain dominant; the further unraveling of the old political party alignments; and a growing clash within the institutions of government and society are all interacting with one another, and pushing and pulling on one another.

The resolution of this dilemma will have to take a political form. As capitalism as an economic system continues to disintegrate, and the political system of rule becomes increasingly unable to solve the problems of either the workers or the capitalists, the various tendencies are going to separate, and come out with their own programs. Up to this point, we have only had conservative (such as, right-wing Republicans) or reactionary (such as the Ku Klux Klan) motions in the U.S. We will need to sharpen our ability to recognize the nature of these programs from those of the fascists and not be deceived by misconceptions or old categories of the past.

The objective conditions create the possibility, but it will take political revolution — a subjective act — to determine the outcome. The League’s mission, strategy and tactics aim to achieve the first necessary stage in the line of march toward the final outcome — uniting the scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate them and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

## **Discussion**

1. Discuss the reality of today's situation. How is it an expression of the underlying revolutionary process we've assessed?
2. How does the shift from labor-saving to labor-replacing tools of production "change the game," and create the conditions for social revolution?
3. How does electronic production create a break in continuity of private property?
4. Please discuss "Preparing the class of growing dispossessed to take on this historic role constitutes revolutionaries' work in this time of epochal transition."

## **Additional Readings**

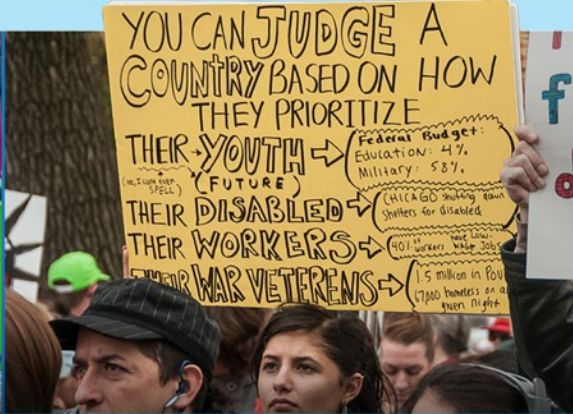
A World to Win

<https://rallycomrades.org/2014/03/world-win/>

The Coronavirus and the Necessity of a Communist Vision

<https://rallycomrades.org/2020/05/the-coronavirus-and-the-necessity-of-a-communist-vision/>

## Class 4 | Our Class, Our New Ideas





## **Class 4 | Our New Class, Our New Ideas**

Alongside the robots and the new technology being used in every part of the economy, a new class of workers is being created. This class faces permanent unemployment and impoverishment, and is made up of all colors and ethnicities. The ruling class must absolutely stop the awakening of this new class and prevent their political organizing. They must deepen the poverty and, at the same time, prevent social upheavals. This can only be done with a fascist police state.

We are faced with new times and choices. Our country has entered a political, moral, social, cultural, and economic crisis. As technology advances, the further development of the means of production creates new causes, visions, and demands, especially amongst the new generation. There is no reason for people to be without homes when housing can be constructed in a few hours. No child should be denied food, shelter or clothing when there's an abundance of these things.

What stands between us and a new America is a ruling class that is compelled to keep its power and wealth, even if it means that the United States becomes a fascist country.

Economic life is the environment for the political thinking of the workers. The economy is undergoing a huge change, from production that relies on human labor to production with no human labor. With such changes in the economy, changes in the political ideas and thinking of the workers are inevitable. Such changes take place with the destruction of an old mode of thought and the creation of a new.

It has been said that the only revolutionary thing in the world is the human mind. And that statement is correct. The change in how everything we need to live is produced creates the

conditions, but this by itself has never has created a revolution. Hunger, oppression and exploitation have created conditions for revolution, but have never created a revolution. The only thing that carries humanity from what is possible on to new realities is a mass of human minds that have grasped a new vision and are prepared to fight for it.

How do people grasp new ideas? We have theoretically projected, and history has fully confirmed, that reorganizing the components of any historical period will not change the quality of that period. Things change only when something new is added or something is extracted. Let us look at the process and determine what history demands from us today.

New ideas do not come out of the blue. Advanced thinkers whose profession is revolution observe qualitative changes in the material world of social production. They understand that such changes in the material world are the foundation for changes in the ideological or intellectual world. From studying changes in production, revolutionaries project possible or even inevitable changes in society. In the final analysis, the role of the revolutionary is to reorganize society to make it compatible with the new mode of production.

After these ideas have been formulated and systematized, organizations of revolutionary intellectuals carry these new ideas out to the masses. It is only when the masses understand that these new ideas are an outgrowth of a new economic and political situation, only then are they able to advance from "fighting back" against intolerable conditions to fighting forward to a new world.

Thus, the transference of new ideas, or propaganda, is the sole role of the revolutionary.

Over the years, the ruling class has carefully developed an "ethnic" form of struggle. This could take root in this country because of the existing division set up between black and white. The divisions within the working class are very deep and can only be overcome through intellectual struggle linked to daily practical experience. But that process cannot begin without the quantitative introduction of a new quality of thinking.

To have a revolution, qualitatively different thinking on the part of the workers must reflect each stage of change in the quality of the means of production. Today we have to stress the meaning of the struggles our class is embroiled in. The quality of the process must be stressed. The Freedom movement of the 1960s was a brilliant example of this. The fighters who rode the busses, manned the picket lines and formed the ranks for the marches were fighting for "Freedom" rather than any quantitative aspect. This gave the movement moral superiority over their foe, who conversely was forced to stress the quantitative aspects. We must prove that capitalism is through, that something is fundamentally changing, and that we have to fight to control the outcome of that change. During the leap we are in, the quantitative aspects of the old are stronger than those of the new. It is the strength of the new quality that gives it victory. This means that every spontaneous revolutionary activity, every struggle of the class, must be used to explain the quality of their activity. The only way we are going to win them over to communism is to show them that they are the communists, and what they are fighting for is communism. We must convince the mass that history is moving toward communism.

Our first task is to make the fighting elements of the workers class conscious. At this point social consciousness is beginning to be a political force. The bourgeoisie understands that some sort of consciousness is going to emerge. They are striving to restrict it to social consciousness and reformism. We must block them with the rational and dialectical position of class consciousness and solidarity.

What we must do immediately is to address the problem of changing the minds of the people in the fight for their daily bread.

Our task is first to win the workers to communism on the basis of the development of the productive forces — not as some good idea. Second, we have to convince them that their welfare lies in seizing the political power that will enable them to use these new forces in their own interest. We have to explain that their spontaneous efforts to house, feed and clothe themselves are in flat contradiction to the capitalist system, and especially against the interests of the ruling class. In other words, our task is to guarantee that an intellectual leap takes place as a reflection of the leap in the objective sphere.

### **Introducing New Ideas is What We Do**

The history of revolution shows that fundamental change in society does not occur without the introduction of new ideas. What we have in our favor today, over any other historical period, is that the conditions are favorable for abolishing private property forever. Millions are being propelled into motion against the capitalist system, but revolutionary transformation cannot take place unless there is an understanding of the root of the problem, and of the solution. Poverty and oppression — or even the energy of a global movement against today's horrendous conditions — only create the opportunity for change. They have never on their own created revolution. Only a vision of what's possible can do that. That's what we mean when we talk about introducing new ideas. What's new today is that a society that nourishes the material, intellectual, spiritual and cultural needs of all its people is possible. The role of revolutionaries is to help align the people's thinking with the possibilities of today.

Our country's history offers ample warnings of the consequences of failing to align people's thinking with the possibilities offered by the objective changes. After the Civil War, the possibility of a more democratic America existed for the American people. Despite the tremendous upheavals and opportunities offered, the workers never gave up the ideology of the capitalists and they never took the program of the Freedman as their program. The result was the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and the subjugation of all workers through the oppression of the African Americans.

Today, the future of humanity is at stake. The task is clear. The new class must become conscious of its own interests as a class. It must become conscious of its own practical strivings for a world where the fruits of society are distributed to all regardless of ability to pay. It is the role of revolutionaries to utilize all possible means — through speaking, writing, and cultural expressions — to point the way out of humanity's crisis. Armed with such an understanding, the new class can fulfill its historic mission to take society toward a new world. The League or Revolutionaries for a New America has taken up this task.

## **Discussion**

1. How does the revolutionary process make it possible to change the thinking of large groups of workers?
2. Why is it key to emphasize the meaning of the struggles taking place today?
3. Why do we say that new ideas are decisive for our class to transform society?
4. Please discuss: The new class must become conscious of its own interests as a class. It must become conscious of its own practical strivings for a world where the fruits of society are distributed to all regardless of ability to pay. It is the role of revolutionaries to utilize all means – through speaking, writing, and cultural expressions - to point the way out of humanity’s crisis. So, what is it that we are doing along these lines? What might be stopping us or pushing us forward?

## **Additional Readings**

Unity of Our Class: Indispensable Step for the Liberation of Humanity

<https://rallycomrades.org/2017/08/unity-class-indispensable-step-liberation-humanity/>

A World to Win

<https://rallycomrades.org/2014/03/world-win/>

Consciousness of Society’s Ills Fuels U.S. Upsurges

<https://rallycomrades.org/2012/05/consciousness-of-societys-ills-fuels-u-s-upsurges/>

## Class 5 | A Changing but Central Question





## **Class 5 | Race in America: A Changing, but Central Question**

We stand at the edge of the most revolutionary of times. Profound social changes, driven forward by changes in the economy, are opening a window of opportunity that allows us to make up for the past half-century of stagnation. As in previous moments of great change, some revolutionaries become stuck and are unable to move forward with changing times. That mud is theoretical confusion. This confusion arises when revolutionaries hold to unchanging doctrine or theory while disregarding constantly changing facts. The unending fight for clarity is precisely the effort to keep theory and doctrine united with and reflecting the facts of a constantly changing world.

Today it is broadly accepted that humanity has entered a period of epochal change. The fundamental changes in the production and distribution of the means of life compel all social relations and formations to change accordingly. Such change isn't simply the destruction of the old and introduction of the new. It is a complex process involving changing relationships of form and content and of quantity and quality. Such a period demands a leadership capable of understanding and working with social motion in transition. In America today, the rapidly growing mass movement is dangerously compromised by a lack of such clarity. Quantitative changes in the economy are incremental, but as they accumulate, they force social changes that

appear suddenly, and as crisis. Social ideas do not evolve as a reflection of the evolution of the economy. The ruling class will not allow them to. The old ideas serve a very important role as a reactionary counterbalance to the emergence of revolutionary new ideas. Such old ideas, the hangovers from previous periods, have played a very special role in disorienting radical movements in our country. There is much we must learn from history in this regard.

At the center of these old ideas is the political concept of race and how to deal with it. The question of race was the central issue in preventing the American people from achieving their goals in the Revolutionary War. Those goals, enshrined in our documents of the Revolution, were unattainable for the mass of white toilers while a quarter of the working class was in chains. The question of race was central to frustrating the popular aims of the Civil War. Before abandoning the goal of breaking the political back of the planters, the American people first had to abandon the vision, "And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea." Playing the race card did this. The question of race was also the central issue that prevented the breakout of the union movement in the 1930s and 40s. There was no way to advance and secure the unions without organizing the South. The unions could not or would not take this step. The alternative was to create the conditions for the trade unions to become something akin to a labor front and an appendage of the State Department. Revolutionaries and people of good will fought every step of the way, but the lack of understanding of the political, rather than biological, nature of the race question led to their defeat.

As we enter this new epoch of transformation, the race question again presents itself as a changing but central question. This time we dare not fail. Racism in America has been directed against the Irish, the Native Americans, the Latin Americans, and the Asians, among others. Most of all it has centered on the African Americans, because it is a political question. Politics, it has been written, is the art of the class struggle. Nothing could be more artful than to use a myth to convince literally millions of people to do harm to themselves in the interests of the people they are struggling against. Yet this is precisely what has happened in our history. It happened because the American people became convinced that they were dealing with a biological rather than a political question. We emphasize this point because the great economic and political changes taking place are having a profound effect on the politics of race and color. First, let us look at the African American community.

One of the ideological hangovers from the period of segregation is the tendency to see African Americans as a category rather than a scattered grouping of some 40 million individuals who have different histories, ideals, and goals and who belong to various economic classes. Today there is no such thing as the African American "people." This characterization was correct years ago when the pressure of segregation isolated the African Americans from the rest of society. This isolation allowed for the creation of a common culture, internal class stratification, and a common political agenda. As the economic basis of segregation weakened, so did the social and political cohesiveness of the African American community.

To the degree that segregation weakened, the African American community, as such, disintegrated. As possibilities developed, the better-situated Black upper class moved away from the "ghetto" and became a part of the Anglo-American bourgeoisie. In the main, they continue to pander to the Black masses, since they still need a social base for their economic and social

advancement. Actually, the two classes have little in common, and both sides are accelerating the drift toward class orientation. A broad strata of civil, military, and police officers, and corporate, educational, and government officials are Black, giving the impression that there is an end to segregation, and the struggle around class has taken the place of the struggle around race. Some revolutionaries hold to the idea that race is still the predominant factor. Others are dropping the question of race and declaring that the today there is only the question of class. Race and racism are political weapons to facilitate class exploitation and should never be placed in opposition to class. It is not a question of either/or. Both factors are at play, and the question is which factor predominates under what circumstance, and in which direction the general motion is going.

There is no question that the old-style segregation and lynch-mob form of racism has declined. Race is a political factor and must change its form to function in changing circumstance. Today, the salient aspect of the social struggle is the intensifying war against the new proletarian class created by electronics. For historical reasons, the most vulnerable sector is Black. The draconian slashing of the so-called safety net has been accomplished by presenting it as a Black thing. The attacks against education and health care are always carefully couched in terms of race. This political maneuvering is taking place within the reality of a growing social consciousness within this new proletarian class. The ruling class cannot abandon the weapon of race, since it is historically evolved and an integral part of American politics. While remaining fully conscious of the viability of the race question, we revolutionaries concentrate on the question of class, which is the arising and progressive aspect.

There has never been a complete separation of the workers according to color. The decline of the racial designation of work and the commonality of unemployment is creating opportunities for class solidarity on an entirely new level. Previously, what unity there was, was built around common problems in the factory shop. Today we can speak of building class unity – something far beyond workplace problems and in the arena of political struggle. In summary, political struggle is an art. It requires more than an adherence to theory or doctrine. It requires the ability to sum up, to make decisions on the basis of the temporary relationship of subjective and objective forces. This is nowhere more true than in the effort to unite the historically disparate sectors of the new, revolutionary class.

### ***About the Author***

“Race in America: A Changing, but Central Question” was written by Comrade Nelson Peery (1921-2015). Nelson was a World War II veteran with three campaign ribbons and four battle stars. After the war, Black veterans became the foundation of the modern Freedom movement, and Nelson was among them. Nelson had 75 years of experience in the communist movement and was a founding member of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

The education of the comrades was always of primary importance to Comrade Nelson Peery. I realized this the first time I heard him speak.

I was a young man looking for answers about how to fight this racist imperialist system when I was invited to a forum that was a debate between black nationalists and

communists. I was not impressed with the arguments of either side of debate panel. Then the floor was opened for comments.

The man who rose to speak appeared to be about my father's age. He personified immense dignity and he had a certain old-fashioned genteelness. When he spoke, he broke the ice with a bit of humor and appreciation for the opportunity to say a few words. He then proceeded to explain in just a minute or two, why communism was the only solution for the working class, for national liberation, and for Black freedom. He was elegant in the simplicity in which he explained the case for communism, and he inspired those who heard him to want to learn more.

I decided to join the study group of the California Communist League.

It was always a privilege for me to learn from Nelson. He brought so much personal history intertwined with the history of the world. He lived the history we study. He grew up in the great depression with its virulent racism. He had family and friends murdered with impunity. He had to study war and put it into practice fighting both the fascist Axis in World War II and the racist enemy wearing the same uniform as his.

Nelson knew from history that new ideas must challenge the dominant ideas of ruling class. America's revolutionary history demonstrates this. Nelson knew that the revolutionary movement has to be a conscious movement. It depends on people's thinking as the main weapon in the revolutionary struggle. It requires revolutionaries to study and learn from philosophy, history, science, social movements and revolutionary theory and, to apply these lessons in practice.

Nelson understood that the movement needed an organization of revolutionaries that understood this essential revolutionary task of infusing a revolutionary vision and class consciousness into the already existing revolutionary movement for justice and the necessities of life. He sometimes spoke of comrades who can walk on two feet. One foot in spontaneous movement, shoulder to shoulder, in the fight for justice and the necessities of life. The other foot, as conscious revolutionaries, bringing the understanding that only when the working class becomes the ruling class and takes social control and ownership of means of production and distribution, can the abundance already created be distributed based on need and not ability to pay.

Robotics replacing workers creates a revolution in the economic base of society, but not in the superstructure of class relationships. Horrible conditions and labor replacing technologies create the conditions for revolutions but only real people acting with consciousness, understanding and purpose make revolutions and make history.

It is this understanding that Nelson expressed when he said, "what is needed today is a core of educators who are capable of helping the people understand what they already know. More than that, we need speakers who are capable of explaining the situation and the inevitable resolution in such a way as to excite people for their historic revolutionary tasks."

Nelson was exemplary in modeling this teaching style. He was a great storyteller and teacher. With his passion, humor, sensitivity, courage, and profound knowledge and

understanding, he taught revolutionaries and he contributed to the body of revolutionary theory.

He was not afraid to challenge sacred texts when an objective analysis of the current evolving material and subjective conditions demanded a re-evaluation and new understanding. Always, "the purpose of knowing the world is to change it." And so new analysis, creates new understanding and requires new practice.

That is why the very mission of the League is centered around education and propaganda – trying to better understand what is going on in society, what the future holds, and to share those ideas and understandings with those alongside of whom we fight.

Nelson would humbly acknowledge that the formation of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America was the product of decades of collectivity and not of any single individual, but it must be acknowledged that Comrade Nelson's contribution was paramount and indispensable.

The development of the Program of League Education for New Members is a part of the legacy of Comrade Nelson Peery.

– TQ

## **Discussion**

1. How has race played a central role in disorienting radical movements in the U.S.? Discuss historical examples such as the Civil War, and the situation today.
2. What is the difference between addressing race as a biological question and addressing it as a political question?
3. Discuss the relationship between race and class today.
4. Discuss: "The decline of the racial designation of work and the commonality of unemployment is creating opportunities for class solidarity on an entirely new level. Previously, what unity there was, was built around common problems in the factory shop. Today we can speak of building class unity – something far beyond workplace problems and in the arena of political struggle." How is the material basis for racism being eroded?

## **Additional Readings**

Death to Slavery: Ending the Myth of Race in the United States

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2012/11/death-to-slavery-ending-the-myth-of-race-in-the-united-states/>

## Class 6 |

**A third of US families** face a different kind of poverty



**The cause of communism is practical**



## **Class 6 | The New Class and Communism**

A new social group is forming. They have been driven outside the marketplace of the capitalist economy, but as human beings they must eat—they must consume. This new class is growing daily through the process of technological innovation. Classes are formed by the introduction of new productive equipment. That is, by the reorganization of the production of the means of life. In the past, the new class was almost always tied to and worked with the new means of production. Today’s new class is shoved away from the means of production and out of society.

There has always been unemployment and poverty under capitalism. Today’s unemployment and poverty is something new. Unemployment is structural and is expanding because it is an integral part of the emerging economy and cannot be eliminated. Every quantitative stage in the development of capitalism prepared the ground for the leap to robotics. Labor-saving devices were becoming more sophisticated and evolving toward a leap from labor-saving devices to labor-replacing devices. It was a very dialectical process marked by quantitative stages of development. Then came a leap to a new quality — robotics. A new economic revolution has occurred. As a result, millions of structurally unemployed people became a “useless class” that would never again be needed in production.

The important thing to see is that the new American proletariat is outside bourgeois society, and is more and more being forced into a position where it must attack and destroy this society in order to live. Despite its current disorganization and its seeming political irrelevance, it is a revolutionary class destined to organize all the non-capitalist mass of people around itself for the transformation to a practical kind of communist society.

The polarization of wealth and poverty is the result of changes in the mode of production. Forty million Americans filed for unemployment during the pandemic, but billionaires saw their net worth increase by half a trillion dollars. The government disproportionately gives more aid to the largest economic forces.

Unequal bailouts guarantee that the 1% always has massive amounts of money on hand to invest and thus make profit. The capitalists calculate, in the final analysis, that they have the police and army to handle social fallout. And so they are constantly engineering a real drive towards fascist reorganization of the state.

All of the social motion we see is in fact based on this massive polarization in the economy.

Communism is a social organization based on the common ownership of the socially necessary means of production.

Originally, humanity had an objective need for communism because of the low level of the means of production, and the consequent impossibility of life without collective effort and ownership. For possibly one or two million years, the greatest part of human history was objectively communist in form. The destruction of this objective yet primitive communism was not possible until new means of production made private property possible. Now the destruction of the systems of exploitation of labor, the crushing down and exploitation of billions of people, is made possible by the introduction of new means of production. These new means of production include the microchip, computers, robots, AI and more. They all represent a fully automated economy that does not need human labor.

When we point to a new objective communist movement, we are speaking of the three billion people (worldwide) who demand to be fed, housed and educated even if they don't have the money to pay for it. This movement must immediately reach the point of understanding that they must take over this automated equipment, the entire electronic digital economy, and run it for the benefit of humanity, rather than for the profit of the few.

The world is in constant motion. Revolutionary politics conform to change. The progression of the new computer, robot, AI revolution in the economy is now hitting the center of American politics – in virtually every sector of the old economy. Formerly secure sections of the working class are imploding. Their deteriorating economic position is forcing them to move against these conditions. These sections of the new class - educated, socially aware and familiar with organization, all colors and nationalities - are being hit. They are not at all a cohesive political entity, and oftentimes very conservative. The ruling class is being forced to strike at its own foundation. It is impoverishing and brutalizing the very people who once supported them. This

new relationship of forces – the destruction and undermining of the rulers’ base of support, and the loss of their reserves – is creating the basis for a new stage of the social revolution.

We see that the definition of this new class includes everybody who’s been in any way displaced by computers and robots, or are in danger of being replaced. We see a massive swath of the American people who are contingent workers. We see a situation where there is an equality in the loss of “economic well-being”. With the degeneration of capitalism as a result of the revolution in the economy, the equality of poverty is coming to the fore. We can now talk in terms of unity of action. For the ruling class, private property is qualitative, therefore strategic. Ultimately, control of the economy is strategic for our new class. The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In order to fight forward toward these goals and objectives we need class unity. Class unity is indispensable. There is already objective unity – the equality of poverty. The next step is the conscious unity of the new class of workers, united around the commonality of its interests in the fight for a common solution.

## **Discussion**

1. The new class, objectively communist, is a new revolutionary force. The essence of every struggle for a better life is objectively the struggle for communism. There is no possibility of political reserves for the ruling class.
2. History is on our side.
3. “For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.” What does this mean? What are the implications of this for the role of the league?
4. If there is an objective communist movement, how is its subjective understanding expressed in the objective social motion?
5. How do we recognize it and advance it, including the class consciousness of the class that is already being expressed?
6. “The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.” How do we know this is true?
7. Why can’t the capitalist class just share the wealth more equitably?
8. Why must the working class take power, abolish private property in the form of capital, and produce and distribute the abundance created according to need?

## **Additional Readings**

The New Class: A definition

<https://rallycomrades.org/2006-2011/articles/v16ed1art5.html>

New Class Demands Distribution According to Need

<https://rallycomrades.org/2016/07/new-class-demands-distribution-according-to-need/>

Rising Global New Class Demands a New World

<https://rallycomrades.org/2018/03/rising-global-new-class-demands-new-world/>

## **From Communism to Communism**

<https://rallycomrades.org/2016/03/from-communism-to-communism/>

Class 7 |





## **Class 7 | Fascism and the Role of the State**

### **The Objective Rise of Fascism and the Role of the State**

The system of private property is completely antagonistic to the existence of a new objective communist class; therefore, the ruling class is pursuing a new objective fascism.

Accelerated advancements in electronic technology will continue to permanently replace workers by the millions. This cannot be reversed by the rulers, even if they wanted to. All they can do tactically is try to deal with the resulting consequences of this increasing economic, social, and political polarization.

While wealth and poverty may be one expression of polarization, the polarization that has earth-shaking implications is the polarization of opposing classes. One class, the ruling class, is interested in only one thing – how to preserve private property in a new world in which the capitalist form of property is being discarded.

The State is an instrument of force in the hands of the ruling class. Its basic purpose is to protect and further the political and economic interests of the ruling class. This includes doing whatever is necessary to clear the way for the economy to develop along the lines necessary for the ruling class. Fascism is the merger of the State and the corporations. Today the State is changing its form to protect private property, under conditions of the destruction of the current economic foundation of private property.

In the U.S., 21st century fascism is objectively in place. The corporations are fully merged with the State apparatus. This modern-day fascism has been developed in stages to prevent the collapse of the capitalist economy. It has evolved to manage and control the complexities of a globally integrated and fragile U.S. economy. It is a form of rule that provides protection for capitalist private property, and later the development of the subjective side of fascism. Global tensions are rising, increasing the threat of world war. And the global economy teeters on the brink of another downturn. If such a crisis should occur, it could advance a coalescing of government, military and openly fascist forces to go on a full-blown fascist offensive.

The objective foundations of fascism are already in place. The corporations have completely merged with the government and are directing the economy in their own interest. This is graphically demonstrated by the passing of the 2018 Tax Cut and Reform Act, as well as in the 2019 budget. These measures reflect a corporate ruling class on the attack, directly assaulting the new class economically by cutting public resources that provide for the needs vital to life. They also indicate that the ruling class is prepared to use direct force to block, control, and defeat the new class that is rising to fight for its own class interests.

In the industrial era fascism was defined as the dictatorship of a section of the bourgeoisie. Today the entire bourgeoisie is moving to embrace fascism. Today, there are no fundamentally contradictory interests within the capitalist class, regardless of political differences. There are no principal differences between the various parts of the political apparatus of the ruling class.

Let's examine the question, is the practical movement in the United States for the reform of capitalism, or is it moving in the direction of its destruction?

The demands of the spontaneous movement are objective: housing, food, health care and other basic necessities of life. This movement is coming into conflict with the State, which is standing in the way of securing these basic necessities. This movement is in fact, if not in understanding, struggling to transfer capitalist property into public property, in order to feed, clothe, house and care for itself.

Today, the defeat of fascism means the victory of the revolution. The old society is being destroyed by objective forces, and the only way to have democracy, and access to the necessities of life, is to fight forward into a cooperative society.

All the current statistics show that the American people are getting poorer and poorer. The struggle they face is for the distribution of the wherewithal of life on a different principle than on how much money you have. For the first time in history we have a practical, an objective

communist movement upon which to build a subjective, political communist movement. The unity of these two things makes our victory absolutely inevitable.

As League members and American revolutionaries, we have a special role. We have to develop consciousness, so the American working class fights its own ruling class for education, health care, food, and housing, and against war. In these battles for the necessities of life, we bring to the fore our real class interests. We bring forward a vision of a peaceful, cooperative communist society as the practical solution to the problems of our class.

The fascists are not simply the racist gangs. The real threat is the ruling class. It cannot bring back jobs or prosperity, with an increasingly laborless economy that is irrevocably broken. The ruling class understands that in order to control a working class in rebellion against its conditions they must transform the State into a direct, brutal dictatorship, a militarized police state. With his election Trump plays his role by clearing the way for a section of the American people to accept fascist solutions.

This fascist offensive is an attack on the lives of the workers. Millions of working people of all nationalities and colors are seeing their jobs eliminated, or reduced to contingent low-wage labor, leading to families being thrown out onto the streets. The response of the ruling class to the growing hunger is to cut food stamps. Millions more are being denied access to health care. For many more an education is becoming unattainable. The demand for a decent life is at the heart of the outrage around the country and the world, and this is the essence of the fight against fascism today.

The impulses toward unity and the deep morality of our class must be infused with the knowledge that the world they are already fighting for is possible today. They must come to see that achieving this vision will require them to transform society in their own interest, and that class unity is the condition for their being able to move toward that end.

Today, new conditions are being developing that set the stage for how we go forward. The Civil War and Reconstruction marked a turning point in the battle for democracy. What followed was a regime that, in the heart of America, could only be described as fascist — a brutal regime of terror that replaced any semblance of democracy.

More than a century later, we are once again at a point of crisis. This time, as millions are on the rise in response to an assault not only on their rights, but on their very access to the means of life, the ruling class, drawing upon the darkest moments of American history, is fighting to continue as a ruling class, and to preserve its treasure and private property at all costs.

In this current context, we see how the whole array of voter suppression measures being used are part of the process of the ruling class's replacement of democracy by legal means, and of their institution of a fascist State. Of course, we have to fight all of these measures in all of their forms. But we also understand that we are a part of the rising tide of the revolutionary river that has coursed through American history from its beginning.

You cannot stop a river. You can attempt to divert it, even to dam it up, but it will in the end achieve its destination. For us, that destination is a new world in which every human being is valued, in which everyone can contribute to their fullest, and in which the treasure of society is distributed to all in need. That is the true meaning of democracy, and that is our destiny.

## **Discussion**

1. Examine/discuss: How is the ruling class using the mass base for fascism through both the Democratic and Republican parties?
2. How does this show the way that fascism is developing today?
3. What are some of the contradictions that are faced by the ruling and how are they attempting to deal with those contradictions (economy, coronavirus)?
4. What is their weakness, and what is our strength?

## **Additional Readings**

The Changing Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries

<https://rallycomrades.org/2013/11/changing-situation-tasks-revolutionaries/>

League of Revolutionaries for a New America Political Resolution

<https://rallycomrades.org/2018/09/illuminating-the-path-to-a-new-america/>

# New ideas



## Class 8 | The League

A world economic revolution has made world political revolution inevitable. The question is: What kind of revolution will it be?

Organizations are created to answer that question. Building an organization to guarantee that the struggle will be in the interests of the common people is a huge and historic task. It cannot be done by leaders and followers. It can only be accomplished by an organization with a structure that allows and demands that all of the members have a voice in determining what is to be done and each has a specific responsibility in carrying that decision out.

"Our task is to be part of the historic effort to transform the disorganized American mass into a conscious political force. Our tactic is to participate in their crossing over from the defensive to the offensive. Our goal is to utilize this spontaneous process to prepare the people to reclaim their country by struggling to achieve political power and transforming the property relations from private to public."

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America has to be in position, connected, and oriented to participate in the broad and sweeping possibilities of the American people's change in thinking.

Our Program sums up our estimate of the situation that we face. Carrying out the Program is the fundamental work of the LRNA and its organization bodies.

### Assessment and Planning

Assessment: the process of considering all the information about a situation... The first thing you must do is make an assessment of the situation.

*Cambridge Dictionary*

We continuously strive to understand what is making social motion happen. We address this through an ongoing assessment of the quantitative stages of the revolutionary process. We look at the objective situation, we try to understand what caused it and what will happen as a result.

Making a political assessment depends upon our understanding as much as we can about the situation. We have to know our class enemy, and we have to know ourselves. It is important to have a thoroughly objective, scientific, and in-depth grasp of the real situation. What are the moving parts? What are the forces in motion? And why.

Planning: the act of deciding how to do something.

*Cambridge Dictionary*

Our Program and assessment of the world has to be reflected in our planning - what we do as an organization.

Our assessment will provide us with the objective foundation for a plan of work that will allow us to propagandize people as they rise up, build the organization with them, and develop them as communists. Based on our mission and political assessment, planning is to identify, train, and organize the tens of thousands of people who are moving toward revolution.

We keep planning to its essentials. What is our relation to other social forces? Who are they? How and where can we carry out a campaign to build the LRNA? Where and how should all of our resources (cadre, papers, energy, propaganda, funds, etc.) be allocated? Ultimately how can we contact, connect, and work with those in motion?

Planning requires an assessment of the objective situation and of our resources in each locale. On the basis of the assessment and mission, a plan is developed to take the new ideas we are talking about (propaganda) to the revolutionaries.

As we recruit new members, they become a part of this ongoing process.

## **Propaganda**

League propaganda is "material or information propagated to advance a cause." Propaganda introduces the new ideas that are needed to push this process forward.

Revolutionaries emancipate the thinking of new class forces in motion to play their decisive role in the emancipation of humanity. We grasp the significance of the contradiction between society's productive forces and its productive relations. Guided by philosophy — which is the study of the processes governing thought, principles, and laws of motion — we put ourselves in a position to be a force for class consciousness.

The results of the capitalist crisis push people into the streets to right what they perceive as wrong. It is revolutionary propaganda that points out class interests, that unmask the enemy and points the way forward with a vision of a new society. We can accomplish our goals because potentially powerful social forces resulting from changes in the economy are spontaneously moving toward challenging the existing property system. These social forces — the spontaneous movement — are fighting for their immediate needs, such as education, medical care, or housing, within the existing system. This is the objective side — something that both the enemy class and LRNA have to deal with. The subjective side is the thinking of the people we are trying to influence. Participating in the marches and the different forms of motion, we can be there with our propaganda, with consciousness and vision. We participate by being a part of the motion, events, and organizational efforts. We participate from a propagandistic standpoint. We are a revolutionary organization in America that talks in terms of changing a system.

## **Vision**

Vision and mission:

- A vision statement focuses on tomorrow and what an organization wants to ultimately become.
- A mission statement focuses on today and what an organization does to achieve it.

*ClearVoice*

We know this country is in crisis. What is behind the crisis, the economy – that is, the way things are produced and distributed – is the foundation of society and the political system.

Revolutionaries today must think in terms of a system, ending the system of private property. A change will not occur within the capitalist system. These elementary things must be developed from the outset. The economic foundation of society has changed. This will inevitably change the society and political system. Significant upsurges are the beginning. We face a qualitative leap and must exacerbate the antagonism between productive forces and relations.

We always strengthen our grasp of the revolutionary significance of the electronic revolution in production, the emergence of a new revolutionary sector of the working class, and the beginnings of an objective communist movement. We know this is the only force that can create the conditions for a transfer of political power from the capitalists to the working class.

What do we mean by an objective communist movement? That movement which arises when there is such an intense antagonism between private ownership of the necessities of life and the social character of distribution and consumption that the entire social order begins to collapse. Communism – society's ownership and control of the socially necessary means of life – is the only means by which society's actual, practical demands can be resolved.

The historic leap in the economy presents us with an urgent problem. Fascism is gaining ground as the ruling class takes the tactical offensive in an attempt to shore up its strategic weakness. Historically, the objective communist movement is on the offensive, but subjectively – intellectually – is anticommunist. It doesn't have the slightest chance of success unless it comes to understand that communism is the solution. Nothing can be done except through the process of changing people's minds as they struggle for the basics of life. This is our propaganda task.

## **Next Stage**

The next stage is the outward motion of the League. To accomplish anything, we must grow – grow in such a way that we carry out our mission.

That mission calls for us to unite the revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class and to educate and win them over to a cooperative communist resolution of the problem.

Our Program maps out the development of the battlefield and the forces at work. It gives us direction, vision, and goals. Every day we must organize to carry it out. The League's outward motion can be accomplished if we are clear about our mission. Every member contributes their energy to carry it out.

If revolutionaries understand the significance of consciousness they can influence the people they lead. Then the question we must answer is, how are the leaders of this revolutionary class to be developed as strategic thinkers, as revolutionaries positioned to shape class consciousness as a condition of moving along the path to revolutionary solutions? This gets to the heart of the question: what kind of organization is the League building, and what are the tasks of the League at this particular point?

The League is where the revolutionaries can receive the tools necessary to resolve the problems facing society today. By bringing the revolutionaries who are the leaders of the dispossessed into the League, the conditions can be set not only for their development and training but also for the League to build the type of organization that can be about change. Understanding it, visualizing it, preparing our class to lead in that change.

This is the moment for an organization of revolutionaries to develop strategic leadership, to inspire the people with a vision of the new society. Revolutionaries enter into every social struggle with a propaganda message that empowers people with the consciousness to strive for this new society and understand their responsibility to carry out their role in history.

Doing widespread propaganda does not mean that revolutionaries step away from the heat of battle, or propagandize from a distance. Revolutionaries accomplish their mission by working within the practical struggle. From within the struggle, revolutionaries offer solutions to the questions of the day, pushing the movement forward along its line of march from scattered defensive battles to united political struggle. Unity is the key to victory. Unity rests upon objective equality and subjective consciousness. The unity of the revolutionary section of the class stands on class consciousness.

Today every struggle is a battle over actual/real class interests and a school for revolutionary ideas and propaganda.

This is your organization. All the correct lines and organizational structures mean nothing without people. The success of the organization, and we deeply believe the future of this country, depends on its members. The future is up to us. Let us collectively seize and secure that future.

Building the LRNA so that it can participate in the struggles of the day, so that it can educate and propagandize, is central to all our planning. The LRNA has to recruit people and develop them as cadre who can function as propagandists, and recruit others.

## **Discussion**

1. Discuss how these elements help us make an assessment in our Area or committee:
  - How is the ruling class changing its methods of control of the developing social struggle?
  - What forces are in motion against this?
  - What is our relation to other social forces? Specify who they are.
  - How and where can we carry out a campaign to build the League?
2. Why is an organization of revolutionaries needed for our class to win? What is our role?
3. Discuss: "Participating in the marches and the different forms of motion, we can be there with our propaganda with consciousness and vision. We participate by being a part of the motion, events, and organizational effort. We participate from a propagandistic standpoint. We are a revolutionary organization in America that talks in terms of changing a system."
4. How is this related to a visionary perspective?
5. Discuss the Program and mission of the League.

## **Additional Readings**

Organization Determines Everything

<https://rallycomrades.org/2012/05/organization-determines-everything/>

Revolutionary Times Demand an Organization of Revolutionaries

<https://rallycomrades.org/2006-2011/articles/v18ed4art2.html>

League of Revolutionaries for a New America Program

<http://rallycomrades.org/2018/11/program-of-the-league-of-revolutionaries-for-a-new-america-2018/>