

League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Basic Education for New Members

Class VI The New Class and Communism

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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?