

Taking Power to Create the Future – Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Planet

a conversation with & for revolutionaries

Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 11am PT. 1pm CT. 2pm ET

Defeat fascism. Reimagine our future. Take power to achieve that future

Questions for revolutionaries

1. What is the crisis and the opportunity for working class forces to unify politically in this process? How do we move from the defensive to the offensive in the fight for transformational change?
2. What's our vision and strategy? What's the revolutionary approach to participation in elections in this moment? How does that guide our day-to-day tactics?

*The spark of revolutionary consciousness is asking more than "what" ...
It's why, what's driving this revolution, and how do we win and hold our future?
The systemic root cause of our crises requires systemic change*

Talking points

- Revolutionaries must fight to unify the sections of the society who can be unified across our diversity – race, nation, gender, religion, region – as a united and collective force for revolutionary change to abolish the private property system and the political forces that protect it.
- From the George Floyd rebellion to SCOTUS, a spontaneous movement is arising that is objectively against fascism and for democracy. The 2022 elections are being fought out at all levels in this context.
- We must organize politically and develop tools that are needed – economic, political, social, ecological – to move the revolutionary process toward transformative change, to hold our victory against counter-revolution.

State power, consciousness & the revolutionary process – definitions

State – class power & violence

The state is nothing but an instrument of oppression of one class by another, no less so in a democratic republic than in a monarchy. ... (Friedrich Engels. *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*)

History shows that the state as a special apparatus for coercing people arose wherever and whenever there appeared a division of society into classes, that is, a division into groups of people some of which were permanently in a position to appropriate the labour of others, where some people exploited others. The state is a machine for the oppression of one class by another, a machine for holding in obedience to one class other, subordinated classes. The essence of the state included a special category of people set apart to rule others and who, for the sake and purpose of rule, systematically and permanently have at their disposal a certain apparatus of coercion, an apparatus of violence, such as is represented at the present time, by armed contingents of troops, [police], prisons and other means of subjugating the will of others by force. (V. I. Lenin. *The State: A Lecture Delivered at the Sverdlov University*)

Revolutionary situation

“Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.” V. I. Lenin. *What is to be Done?*

It's not difficult to be revolutionary when the revolution has already broken out and spreads, when everyone joins the revolution, for a simple inclination, to follow fashion, sometimes even for personal career reasons. It's much harder, and much more precious, to know how to be revolutionary when the conditions for a direct, open, truly mass fight don't exist yet; to know how to defend the interests of the revolution in non-revolutionary



institutions, in a non-revolutionary environment, between a mass unable to immediately understand the need for the revolutionary method of action. (V. I. Lenin. *Left Wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder*)

Becoming revolutionaries

It is essential for the oppressed to realize that when they accept the struggle for humanization they also accept, from that moment, their total responsibility for the struggle. They must realize that they are fighting not merely for freedom from hunger, but for . . . freedom to create and to construct, to wonder and to venture. Such freedom requires that the individual be active and responsible, not a slave or a well-fed cog in the machine. . . . It is not enough that humans are not slaves; if social conditions further the existence of automatons, the result will not be love of life, but love of death. The oppressed, who have been shaped by the death-affirming climate of oppression, must find through their struggle the way to life affirming humanization, which does not lie simply in having more to eat (although it does involve having more to eat and cannot fail to include this aspect).

The oppressed have been destroyed precisely because their situation has reduced them to things. In order to regain their humanity they must cease to be things and fight as men and women and people. This is a radical requirement. They cannot enter the struggle as objects in order later to become human beings. The struggle begins with people's recognition that they have been destroyed.

Propaganda, management, manipulation—all arms of domination—cannot be the instruments of their rehumanization. The only effective instrument is a humanizing pedagogy in which the revolutionary leadership establishes a permanent relationship of dialogue with the oppressed. In a humanizing pedagogy the method ceases to be an instrument by which the teachers (in this instance, the revolutionary leadership) can manipulate the students (in this instance, the oppressed), because it expresses the consciousness of the students themselves.

The method is, in fact, the external form of consciousness manifest in acts, which takes on the fundamental property of consciousness—its intentionality. The essence of consciousness is being with the world, and this behavior is permanent and unavoidable. Accordingly, consciousness is in essence a way towards something apart from itself, outside itself, which surrounds it and which it apprehends by means of its ideational capacity.

Consciousness is thus by definition a method, in the most general sense of the word.

A revolutionary leadership must accordingly practice co-intentional education. Teachers and students (leadership and people), cointent on reality, are both Subjects, not only in the task of unveiling that reality, and thereby coming to know it critically, but in the task of re-creating that knowledge. As they attain this knowledge of reality through common reflection and action, they discover themselves as its permanent re-creators. In this way, the presence of the oppressed in the struggle for their liberation will be what it should be: not pseudo-participation, but committed involvement. (Paulo Freire. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, chpt 1)

Revolutionary process

"We make our own history, but in the first place under very definite presuppositions and conditions." (Engels, *Letter to Joseph Bloch*, September 21, 1890)

Revolution is composed of both objective and subjective aspects. The economic revolution takes place as qualitatively new means of production replace the old. On that basis, a political revolution takes place. A political revolution is the process of a subordinate class overthrowing a ruling class and becoming the ruling class. Together, these two elements constitute a social revolution.

Social revolution begins with the introduction of qualitatively new means of production into the economy. It goes through stages of destruction and reconstruction. Once the process has begun, the destruction is an automatic process. Reconstruction, however, is not automatic. At critical points and through the work of conscious revolutionaries, political revolution (that is, the seizure of political power) facilitates the stage of reconstruction.



After the assumption of political power, the revolution unites and completes itself by changing the mode of distribution and thereby reconstructing society. (*Institute Resource Paper #6 Revolution - the line of march.* ISSS)

Readings from League of Revolutionaries for a New America 2022 documents

Re-cap: What is fascism today? How is it produced by a private property system and forms of fascism in the US and the globe?

We are living in revolutionary times. We witness unheard of advances in science and technology, including the invention of vaccines in record time and the ability to communicate instantly across the globe. We see the growing political awareness and engagement in the huge protests in response to the police murder of George Floyd and so many others, the broadening rejection of white supremacy, the growing climate and water protector movements, and the largest voter turnout in 120 years. At the same time, poverty and homelessness, global pandemics, climate catastrophe and ecological devastation, the dictatorship of corporations, police violence, voter suppression, an attempted coup, and the growth of hate groups, are all accentuated by the development of a 21st century fascism.

The global ruling class that controls the tools and technologies of society has pushed humanity and Nature to the brink. For over a decade now, and in the face of a pandemic, the people of the world, including the United States, have been in rising rebellion against the capitalist class. As a result, the ruling class turns to fascism to use anger and fear to divert and confuse the rising working-class movements. Fascism is the open terroristic dictatorship of corporate power, carried out by the State apparatus. It requires a mass base recruited from those who are or could embrace the fascist alternative. The growth of this mass base is apparent today. ...

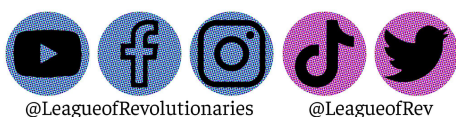
The essence of fascism today — its drive and purpose — is specific to this epoch. In the past, the laws inherent in capitalism could guarantee wealth and power. Now the pursuit of wealth depends on changes in the law and political enforcements. Nothing can escape the enforcing arm of the State protecting investors' access to anything that might enrich them. Fascism today stands on the inequalities of the past epoch to defend private property itself.

Today, fascism is the step-by-step, law-by-law, precedent-by-precedent changes to the legal superstructure that favor financial investments (especially financial speculation). Fascism is necessary to set in place the structure that guarantees the dominance of the new speculative economy that arises with the restructuring and elimination of jobs. The 2020 CARES Act allowed corporations almost unlimited access to Federal Reserve funds. Especially after the 2008 financial crash, the Treasury Dept and the Federal Reserve — in consultation with the leaders of major banks — reorganized the financial sector to preserve and protect it. Water and housing, among other essentials of life, are privatized and financialized. This illustrates that capitalism must go beyond the laws that favored its growth.

The ruling class is reorganizing the government to attempt to protect their interests by merging the State, and all its financial, political, and military power, with the corporations. This reorganization openly represents the interests of the national and global capitalists, not the people of the country. Many recognize that the U.S. government is developing into a fully fascist apparatus. This awareness forces the rulers to dispense with the elements of bourgeois democracy by which they have been able to control the population.

Special bodies of armed people have become indispensable for the dominant class to maintain control over the exploited class. This power is the State: police, a standing army, prisons, the court system, and institutions of coercion of all kinds. As in anything else financing, administration and structure are required to develop and uphold this special power. The officials also stand "above society" protected by special laws and immunity. Force is their last resort, which is why they are operating at a strategic disadvantage.

The role of the State apparatus in society today is the same as the slave-owning class of the U.S.: as historian Kenneth Stampp put it, "To Make Them Stand in Fear." Force, the leading aspect of control of the new fascist



reorganization of the State, is marked by American concentration camps at the border; more than one in 500 Americans has died of Coronavirus; over 10,000 Haitian immigrants, first stranded under a Texas bridge, then deported to Haiti.

Police have killed over five thousand Americans between 2015 and 2020, with 880 more in the past year. In fact, representatives of the state have criminalized the very existence of immigrants, homeless persons, and much more.

A rising social movement is going beyond simply blaming the corporations. Workers are bringing their demands against the State... In response to a rising social movement the rulers unleash a fascist offensive. The assault disproportionately targets Black, Indigenous and people of color, as well as women and LGBTQIA people. Systems of domination like the patriarchy are an integral part of the capitalist structuring of society, and an important pillar of fascist ideology. Re-entrenchment of the patriarchy always accompanies fascist advance. The Constitution offers no protection for anyone. The U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Roe v. Wade will disproportionately affect low-income women and women of color who will bear the brunt of this ruling. This is another fascist thrust that attacks not only reproductive health and justice but also the very notion of bodily autonomy.

The Supreme Court's decision imposes the doctrine of "states' rights" on the country. The failure of Congress and the Courts to protect the right to vote and to extend the Voting Rights Act confirms this intention. States are now empowered to carry out this plot so our rage and organizing must be pointed against state, local and federal leaders, as well the U.S. Supreme Court. Any elected official that seeks to force their way into the most private and intimate of all decisions must understand this is a deal-breaker that will force them out of office, and there will not be business as usual.

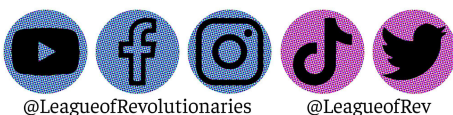
... The legal advance of fascism has attacked the framework of bourgeois democracy itself. By the spring of 2021, more than 360 bills had come before state legislatures to limit, suppress or overthrow the right to vote. In the past decades we have seen a judiciary heavily infiltrated by a legal cadre organized in the fascist-minded Federalist Society. The rulers have launched legislative and court campaigns around reproductive rights, school vouchers, against vaccinations and public health, and for "states' rights," all of which are intended as code to divide and continue to conquer along racial, gender, and any lines they can.

When legal means are insufficient to guarantee their aims to protect private property, the ruling class resorts to extra-legal means. The attempted coup of January 6, 2021 and the violence and visibility of white supremacist groups (including their infiltration of police and sheriff departments across the country and the armed forces) over the last few years have given us a taste of the extra-legal means. The perpetrators of the coup have intensified their efforts since January 6 with voter suppression, gerrymandering and changing laws to overturn elections. Should such efforts fail, researchers at U. Chicago have reported that 21 million Americans support restoring Donald Trump to the presidency by force. The ruling class is preparing the mass base for a politically violent fascist movement. In this light the packing of the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary and, in the fall of 2021, a Texas law empowering vigilantes to interfere in reproductive rights are part and parcel of consolidating that mass base.

From the LRNA Program, 2022

Our country and the world stand at a crossroads. Humanity has the potential for economic security and abundance. A community of the people, by the people, and for the people, where children can grow in peace, is possible as never before. Or--if we do nothing — we face increasingly unlivable conditions caused by private ownership of the wealth that human labor has created.

Today's economic revolution is creating a new class of displaced workers, who must try to find work in a system that no longer needs them. They are part-time, contingent, minimum, and sub-minimum wage or unemployed



workers, including vast numbers of refugees, migrants, people of color, women and youth. In the United States, the legacy of slavery ensures that African Americans are at the heart of the growing numbers of this class as it struggles to survive the end of sustainable work. The advent of AI (artificial intelligence) represents a new kind of robotics that is automation without human involvement on an even higher level. The bloodsucking private property system is replacing us with new technologies.

While the productivity of digital technology makes shared well-being possible for all humanity, the private property system is driving workers into destitution and often homelessness and speeds up the extraction that is destroying the earth. The rapidly accelerating extinction event we experience today has created a race between revolution and annihilation.

We have never been here before. Workers being displaced by the market are becoming a revolutionary class, because we have no stake in the system and cannot survive without confronting it.

Deeper dive session #3: Answering “Questions for revolutionaries”

#1. What is the crisis and the opportunity for working class forces to unify politically in this process? How do we move from the defensive to the offensive in the fight for transformational change?

- **From the George Floyd rebellion to SCOTUS, a spontaneous movement is arising that is objectively against fascism and for democracy. The 2022 elections are being fought out at all levels in this context.**

From the LRNA Political Resolution, 2022: The fight against fascism is a fight for basic human needs for all, for democracy, for the control of government, and for the future of humanity and the planet. By taking the offensive to defeat fascism, the working class can pass over to the offensive against capitalism and private property, the seedbed of fascism.

A new displaced class. The digital technology eliminating jobs is creating a new class of displaced workers, including many who were at one time economically secure. This core of displaced workers serves as a harbinger of things to come for the rest. This new class comes directly up against a system of private corporate property that withholds basic needs if you can't pay. They are workers who are part-time, contingent, minimum and sub-minimum wage, and unemployed, including migrants and vast numbers of women and youth. The whole society is reacting to this change. The capitalist class, in its full political power, reveals its utter disregard for human life and public safety. As society lurches from crisis to crisis, capitalism faces problems beyond its capacity to solve. The old status quo is collapsing. The center cannot hold. These escalating crises mark a social process that is irreversible.

A new abolitionist class. A developing fascist government, where corporations have become merged with the State, serves the needs of the corporations to protect their ability to amass wealth, their private property. The ruling class will not pay to feed, house, clothe and educate workers they no longer need. How will the people understand this, and how will they respond? While the economic relations develop more or less on their own – that is objectively – the understanding of the people is the subjective side of the process. Here revolutionaries do our work to keep the movement on track. Armed with the understanding that private property must be abolished as the organizing framework of society, this new class uses this knowledge as a guide to action.

The demands for housing, adequate food, medical care, and education – regardless of ability to pay – are not simply utopian ideas. Distribution according to need rather than who can pay is not only possible; it is necessary to resolve the crises we face today, which is why these are demands for the abolition of capitalism, private property and private profit. That makes the new displaced class growing from the digital economy an abolitionist class. It is a new social force that is uniquely capable of leading the fight to transform society for everyone.



...

A real equality of poverty is emerging, as more and more workers of all colors are displaced. This creates the basis for class unity within a divided working class. For the first time, the formula that has been used to control and exploit all workers for centuries is beginning to crumble. For most of U.S. history, privileges granted to white workers over workers of color, and to U.S.-citizen workers over migrant workers, have kept the workers apart. Digital technology drives down the value of labor, and the rulers are forced to abandon the economic, national and social bribery that was once systematically given to more privileged workers.

...

Whether in military war or in political war, it is not possible to defeat an enemy without defeating that enemy's strategy. Simply attacking the enemy's tactics cannot win the war. Fighting back without putting forward a vision of what is possible today only disarms our class. Strategically, our class is on the offensive. This is so because qualitatively new means of production are destroying the capitalist system and creating the foundation for a world without private property. Tactically, our class is on the defensive. It is preoccupied either with trying to regain what it had or with simply surviving because it does not understand what is possible. The last trench of the ruling class, their defense of private property, is where we must orient all our tactics. We can take advantage of the fact that many are questioning the need for capitalism to go on the offensive with our tactics. We need not make that our main line of attack. We want to add what others cannot. We attack the system of private property. We point out the necessity, this time, of overthrowing private property and transferring these gigantic means of production into public property.

From the LRNA Program, 2022

As people struggle to survive war, climate catastrophe, poverty, and pandemic, a new fascist state form is arising to crush us - the naked rule of corporate power. It uses the historic American weapon of white supremacy to attack communities of color, divide the working class, and rob the American people of our vote and the limited legal rights we have left. White supremacy is the legacy of the settler colonialism, slavery, land theft, and genocide of indigenous peoples that America was founded on. Fascism resorts to violence to control the working class, even controlling our intimate relationships and our personal identities. Society must replace corporations and financial institutions with publicly owned entities, or else they will continue to fasten their fascist grip over every aspect of our lives.

We need food, housing, education, and healthcare. We need an opportunity to contribute to society and to help save the planet. We need freedom from police terror, mass incarceration, and gender oppression. We fight for a government that takes care of people first. Ultimately this requires public ownership of the means to create wealth - the land, infrastructure, and technology - and distribution according to need. The fight for basic needs propels every other social struggle, because none of society's social, moral, or ecological problems can be solved as long as the private property system exists.

#2. What's our vision and strategy? What's the revolutionary approach to participation in elections in this moment? How does that guide our day-to-day tactics?

- **Revolutionaries must fight to unify the sections of the society who can be unified across our diversity – race, nation, gender, religion, region – as a united and collective force for revolutionary change to abolish the private property system and the political forces that protect it.**
- **We must organize politically and develop tools that are needed – economic, political, social, ecological – to move the revolutionary process toward transformative change, to hold our victory against counter-revolution.**



From the LRNA Political Resolution, 2022

Distribution of goods and services based on need, and the contribution of each person to society according to their ability is the definition of communism. This is a practical solution to the problems facing the new displaced class and society today. Only a cooperative, society based on a communist economy can make the rational decisions that will unleash a future of regenerative abundance for humanity and life on earth.

It is time to get to the *cause* of the problem, to put an end to all inequalities within society and the assaults on Nature. The only way to heal the destructive rupture is the abolition of private property as the organizing framework of society.

That future will depend on what people understand and do in response to the ravages directed by the global ruling class. In this political resolution we make an assessment of the tumult of the world we find, estimate the developing consciousness of the revolutionary class, and, most important, lay out a course of action for revolutionaries.

...

The League's mission is to unite with other revolutionaries around the demands of the working class, especially the class of displaced workers, and show how the solution is a cooperative, communist society, where social wealth is owned in common and distributed according to need.

To accomplish this mission, the League's tactic is to carry out the struggle for political unity where the growing equality of poverty exists. The fight for class consciousness and unity has to be carried on by the revolutionaries throughout the country, within every section of the working class. As workers begin to gain class consciousness, they will politicize those around them. Today the workers can take no steps forward apart from resolving the problems that confront the displaced as a whole, unity based on what is practical, real, and possible.

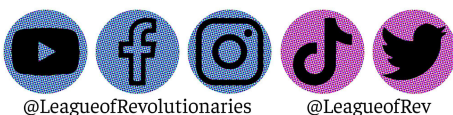
Consciousness lags behind the objective changes we are observing. Therefore, the intellectual grasp of class unity, the subjective side, must be fought for. Recognition of the necessity for that kind of unity is a result of consciousness. The task will not be easy because we are confronting centuries of national, ethnic, and racial divisions. They can only be overcome through intellectual struggle linked to daily experience. Every struggle of the class must be used to explain the meaning of their activity, to show them a vision of the cooperative society that is possible and a strategy to get there. Our strategic focus is on the political unity of the new class. Distribution based on need reflects the reality of life today and the potential of the new technology.

On the Elections:

The intersection of street rebellions and elections make them *schools for social consciousness*. They create the opportunity to talk about the need for class power to take government out of the hands of the corporations and put it into the hands of we the people.

Workers are at different levels in their understanding. Where some are ready to revolt, others still feel the system can be reformed. Again, it will take patiently working toward a common understanding and action, including creation of a third party.

The technological revolution is splitting and destroying Democrats, Republicans, and virtually every other political organization today. Part of participating in elections means assessing this polarization and the possible development of a third party. Third parties will not simply be one or another of the individual third-party formations in existence today but will reflect the broad social motion as it develops.



The development of a third party will accelerate the political polarization in society and the political formation of the displaced class. It is part of the process of the scattered economic struggles becoming united political struggles against the government. It is a necessary and inevitable step toward a workers' party and the social consciousness that a workers' party could represent.

...

In the 18th century, few could envision the abolition of the slavery on the plantations of the western hemisphere. But at a certain point, the abolition of slavery became possible and necessary. That private property relation was overthrown. And we can see, in the future, how the abolition of all relations of private property is possible and necessary.

The urgencies of today call for a broad unity of the movement for the life-or-death needs of the people. Organizations may differ on *how* they fight for these needs; they can unite on the basis of those practical needs and demands. We in the LRNA commit to the struggle for this practical unity.

On our purpose in building an organization of revolutionaries

From the LRNA Program, 2022

The purpose of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is to build consciousness and unity among the most impacted workers, to be able to secure the needs of humanity and avoid the destitution and environmental disaster threatening life on our planet as we know it.

The 2020 rebellions showed that today, whether through words or deeds, masses of socially conscious people are declaring themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the system's poverty, racism, and ecological disaster. The League's mission is to unite with other revolutionaries around the demands of the working class, especially the class of displaced workers, and show how the solution is a cooperative, communist society, where social wealth is owned in common and distributed according to need.

Victory cannot be won without class unity based on exposure and rejection of the white supremacy and hetero-patriarchy so deeply rooted in the structure of the American economy, politics, and history. In the practical struggle, people are uniting from below. The growing equality of misery is forming them into a social force. We rely on this developing practical unity to build conscious political understanding. Victory cannot be won until we gain the political power necessary to defeat fascism and organize the cooperative society we need.

We fight shoulder to shoulder with all social and political organizations and sections of society that seek to put an end to poverty, social and ecological doom, fascism, and war. Without a vision, the people perish. Human beings have proven that they can survive the barbarism of slavery, famine, and world wars, and build a better world out of destruction. History has given the world for the future of life on earth.

The battle is a class struggle because the ruling class is the enemy of humanity and the earth itself. The program of the workers who are being displaced is showing the way. We in the League welcome and will join with every effort to unite around the demands of the revolutionary class and secure the imperiled future of life on earth.

9.28.2022

League of Revolutionaries for a New America
Revolutionary Education /Rev Tech Deeper Dive Collective

