

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

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Women at the Forefront of Social Transformation

America is polarizing politically, but not primarily along the party lines of the two main political parties, or between red and blue states. There is a deeper polarization of wealth and poverty underway in society, reflected in the inequities that capitalism has wrought in the right to vote, to care for yourself, your children, and your aging parents. More and more of us recognize it is no longer a given to walk down the street or, if you have one, to sleep peacefully in your home without being killed by the police. As the world celebrates International Women's Day in March 2022, women may (as in the historic Chinese saying) "hold up half the sky," but right now humanity and the fate of our earth relies on their leadership within a global, multi-national class that can't survive, unless humanity finds a new way to live.

Gender inequality is built into the historical development of capitalism. Ours is a property system that amasses social wealth in private hands, while requiring most of humanity to work or starve. The propertyless have always worked as wage-laborers, domestics, or slaves and have always been disproportionately female. Today, women make up two-thirds of the global workforce.

What's new? As digital technology is increasingly applied to all areas of production, the only way for corporate private property to continue making profits is to replace human labor. Wealth today can only be made by plundering and speculating. The 2008 financial crisis and the economic collapse of world's economies in COVID times are markers of the end of this economic system.

The owners of global wealth cannot solve the problems of the real economy. People cannot buy necessities without access to money from jobs. Over eighty percent of American workers were living paycheck to paycheck before the pandemic. COVID has speeded up the polarization of wealth and poverty. In 2020 alone, speculative capital plundered the world's collective social wealth more than ever in history, while impoverishing millions worldwide. Neither humanity nor the earth can survive such a dysfunctional system.

The reproduction of society and the planet now rests largely on the sections of society with nothing to lose. Workers are called "essential" during this pandemic because they guarantee life. Most of today's so-called essential workers are women. Caregiving is at the center of a new social force in society. Caregivers of all genders have died, leaving more

than 140,000 American children orphaned in the US due to the pandemic alone. Women's leadership is essential to a new unity based on common necessity.

WOMEN AND GLOBAL FASCISM

Our society has become a corporate dictatorship that devalues life. The vast majority of the world's population is economically interdependent. For capitalism, however, the value of human life follows the value of human labor power. The rulers cannot allow economic equality. Nor can they allow the majority of humanity to create the kind of social relations most of humanity considers necessary for a future on this planet. This is the reason for the dreadful effects of the pandemic on most human life globally.

Our interdependence, though, is also our saving grace. Leaders of a social movement are beginning to understand the objectivity of their mutual connection. Women have kept families and society together on this earth through slavery, migration, pandemics, and war. They have had to fight for life largely outside the system of wage-slavery and against corporate private property relations. Their place in the growing movement for basic needs puts women at the forefront of societal transformation.

Capitalism's rulers are forced to rely more and more on Fascist state forms to control us. Attacks on reproductive rights and other gender violence are at the center of the growth of social fascism. In response to the Texas heartbeat bill, Paxton Smith's high-school valedictorian address went viral. "Millions of us... (now) have... six weeks to decide... if we can take the responsibility to bring another human being into the world," she said. "Without our input or consent, our control over (our) future has been stripped away from us... I hope that you can feel how...dehumanizing it is... I cannot...promote complacency and peace, when there is a war on my body and a war on my rights, a war on the rights of your mothers, a war on the rights of your sisters, a war on the rights of your daughters." This teenager knows what's at stake. She will not accept being a forced to take responsibility for society's failings.

The American constitution has never allowed for economic equality, nor does it protect equal rights regardless of gender. One in three women today face rape, or mental or physical violence. Women of color and LGBTQ folk face the highest rates of violence, with 2021 the deadliest year yet of anti-transgender violence in the United States. Women, particular-



Nurses at Jacobi Hospital in Bronx, New York held a press conference in 2020 about the changes in the sick leave policy. Shutterstock/Steve Sanchez Photos

ly black women, face militarized policing. The death of Black 26-year old ER technician Breonna Taylor became a rallying point for the movement against police terror in America. The movement for #MeToo, clean water, quality healthcare, and public education as well as against attacks on voting rights, militarized border control, and destruction of the planet are all marked today by proletarian wom-

en's leadership.

These movements have never been able to separate social and political rights from economic rights. Gender-violence is a leading cause of homelessness. Those most victimized by a racialized gender violence are becoming leaders for a new class of impoverished workers, the only

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The Future is Ours to Win

Inside Rally, Comrades!

“None of us really anticipated Omicron,” Stanford epidemiologist Dr. Yvonne Maldonado told CNN in a late January overview of current discussion among experts. She added, “I fully expect another version of the virus to come back.” University of California San Francisco epidemiologist Dr. George Rutherford stated: “It’s not at all clear what comes next.” What agreement there is predicts we are not only not out of the woods but that there is no reason to think future variants will be less severe.

Meanwhile, more Americans have

died from Covid than the Afghanistan, Iraq, Gulf, Vietnam, Korean wars and WWII combined. And it’s clearly not over, despite the relaxing of masking and other policies.

This issue of *Rally, Comrades!* recognizes the desperate situation we face, but also points the way forward.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that the numbers of homeless grew in the last four years, in many areas by double-digit percentages. Once one of the most affordable places in America, the homeless population in Fresno, California has increased by as much as 43 percent since the onset of the pandemic. On the streets, homeless tent cities are regularly destroyed during sweeps. “From the Editors: The Unity of Our Class and the

Fight for Home,” brings to light that the homeless are on the front lines in the fight against American fascism.

“End Homelessness, End Corporate Control of Housing,” points out that the real cause of the housing crisis is that major developers and investors deliberately withhold financing. They refuse to build unless and until the housing shortage gets worse, to project home prices and rents high enough to maximize their returns. Zoning regulations are not the determining factor. The real cause is the for-profit housing model itself.

“Women at the Forefront of Social Transformation” states that the American constitution has never allowed for economic equality nor does it protect equal rights regardless of gender. One in three women today face rape, or mental or physical violence. The movement for #MeToo, against attacks on voting rights, against militarized border control and imprisonment of immigrant children as well as the fight for water, healthcare, public education and destruction of the planet are all marked by a new proletarian women’s leadership.

“Dynamics of the Global Capitalist Crisis” addresses the critical importance of understanding the underlying causes for the political and military crises around the globe. While it is true that rivalry and hatred among dominant states have created instability within the global capitalist system, it is important to note that the origins of this instability are within the capitalist crisis of production and the problem of accumulation.

Every day, wage labor is being replaced with automation, and with the

internationalization of production. The ruling class is reorganizing itself around the new reality. We must do the same. As shown in “A New Economy Gives Rise to New World,” those struggling to address the increase in homelessness, hunger, poverty, ecological destruction, and social injustices—and for a better world—are shaped by this situation.

With enough of a push, the worst of the climate crisis could be avoided. “Repairing Ecological Destruction,” discusses how the ruling class is making decisions that are destroying everything—and that the solution is communism. Society must be restructured to be compatible with the new methods of production. Ecological destruction can only be stopped by taking power from the ruling class. Communism is the only system compatible with protecting humans, nature, and the environment, and it is the program of the new class.

So, we face a huge question of how to fight for a new future based on controlling the economy in the interests of the whole of society. Let’s unite with the family whose father braided his daughters’ hair before school and died of Covid-19, with the family whose son was gunned down by police because he fell asleep in his car, with those who have lost their loved ones to the opioid crisis, with the mother separated from her children at the border, with those who are homeless—with our class. Let’s join the struggles together with a vision of transforming ownership of the technology, the means of producing what we need, from private to public hands. With this unity and vision, the future is ours to win. **RC**

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally: to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

Comrade: a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages. It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League, to engage them in debate and discussion, and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Today, whether through words or deeds, vast numbers of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League’s mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, healthcare and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

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End Homelessness, End Corporate Control of Housing

The housing movement in the United States is held back by real internal divisions that are manipulated by the real estate industry to thwart, misdirect, and disorient it. Homeowners struggle valiantly to pay their mortgages and avoid foreclosure by predatory banks. Tenants fight an increasingly desperate battle to pay rent and avoid eviction and displacement. Unhoused people are in a daily war for their very existence, as they struggle for protection from the cold and police persecution.

All of them objectively confront a housing system dominated by big banks, private equity corporations, developers, and corporate landlords. The system is based on maximizing profit and only incidentally provides actual housing for residents, if it provides any housing at all. Securitization of the mortgage industry subjects the entire housing infrastructure to the demands of global speculative capital. Powerful operatives in government, academia, and media promote false narratives to shift the blame for the housing crisis to anywhere except the real culprit – the system itself.

Housing has historically been instrumental in elevating white supremacy, not only through housing discrimination itself, but also through the impact of housing segregation on education, employment, services, pollution, and policing. The divisions between homeowners, renters, and unhoused people are sharpened and embittered by these racial inequities. African American and Latinx communities have far lower homeownership rates than whites, and correspondingly higher rates of housing insecurity and homelessness.

OVERCOME DIVISIONS

Millions of young people of all colors have given up all hope of realizing the “American Dream” of one day owning a house. Only 23 percent of California households can afford to buy a median-priced home. Those that do manage to buy homes are often trapped into working multiple jobs to pay exorbitant mortgages.

Landlords try to pit homeowners against tenants by claiming tenants are lazy and/or criminal, deserve no rights, and should just move if they cannot afford the rent. According to corporate landlords, there is no such thing as displacement since tenants are only making “free-market choices” when they are torn away from their families and communities and forced to leave their jobs or else commute for hundreds of miles.

Homeowners are often influenced by the NIMBY (not in my backyard) movement that opposes new affordable rental housing (or in some cases any new housing at all). Real estate lobbyists try to persuade homeowners that increasing housing supply to benefit renters will lower their property values.

The system is based on maximizing profit and only incidentally provides actual housing for residents, if it provides any housing at all.

NIMBY propaganda can and often does convince some renters as well as homeowners, even relatively low-income homeowners, that unhoused people are a threat to their neighborhood and unworthy of their sympathy or support. Enhanced by hate speech from media and politicians, this has created an extremely dangerous situation for the unhoused community. In October, Luis Temaj was set on fire and burned to death while asleep in his sleeping bag on a sidewalk in San Francisco. City officials deliberately aggravate divisions by placing shelters (and low-income housing) in poorer neighborhoods and not in upscale neighborhoods.

CAUSE OF HOUSING CRISIS

The housing movement has been complicated by the recent emergence of the

so-called YIMBY (yes in my backyard) movement. YIMBYs are well-funded by tech companies and real estate developers and are primarily relatively younger “urbanist” professionals, who claim the solution is to increase supply by relaxing zoning regulations and allowing more housing construction. YIMBYs have been bitterly and rightfully opposed by renters, whose interests they disregard in their rush to support displacement through so-called transit-oriented development.

YIMBYs have started a big debate over whether the housing crisis is caused by undersupply or just by poor distribution of the housing that exists. The answer is both. There is a real shortage of housing units in certain regions. At the same time, there are thousands of vacant units in recently constructed luxury buildings. But this debate obscures the real issue.

The real cause of the crisis is that major developers and investors deliberately withhold financing and refuse to build, unless and until the housing shortage gets worse, to project home prices and rents high enough to maximize their returns. Zoning regulations are not the determining factor. The real cause is the for-profit housing model itself, and the corporations that dominate it.

SOLUTIONS

The real estate lobby and its supporters have spread the big lie that America cannot afford to house its people. Housing costs are primarily based on land values, and land values are inflated by monopoly ownership and extraction of super-profits from distressed renters. As economist Thorstein Veblen pointed out, modern land ownership is not even legitimate, as it “rests not on a natural right of workmanship but on the ancient feudalistic ground of privilege and prescriptive tenure, vested interest, which runs back to the right of seizure by force and collusion.” In America, force and collusion included enslavement of African Americans and murder and robbery of Native Americans.

The solution is to demolish the system of private ownership of land and rental

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The Unity of Our Class and the Fight for Home

From the Editors

The difficulties of counting the homeless are well documented, but it is more than that which keeps us from gaining a clear picture of the problem. The official figures revolve around 600,000 Americans who are unhoused or seeking housing assistance on any given night, but that number lowballs a massive problem that faces most Americans. As we all know, many Americans live crowded together in housing only a group can afford. Many Americans live out of their cars; for all kinds of personal and financial reasons, homelessness is largely a hidden condition. It can stay that way, in part, because no one in power wants the American working class to see the problem as it is or see our relationship to the problem.

When homelessness first arose as a matter of national concern five decades ago, people used to talk about how many Americans lived “two paychecks from the street.” The California Hope Center recently found that one in seven community college students experienced homelessness while 55 per-

cent were housing insecure. The U.S. Census reveals 3.7 million Americans are housing insecure. In 2021, a Charles Schwab study counted 59 percent of Americans as being only one paycheck from the street. That is 195 million Americans at risk of joining the ranks of 1.6 billion homeless worldwide.

The ruling class does not want us to see ourselves in those numbers. The rise in America’s homelessness parallels the increase in automation which, under capitalism, has steadily stripped our labor of value. Now, 3D printers alone could virtually solve our housing problem, but the ruling class media repeats the lie that we have been recovering since record housing foreclosures in 2007.

Meanwhile, homelessness kills more and more people each year. Every time we hear the yearly snapshots of a single night’s homeless, we should add 13,000 people who died in the streets that year. The average life expectancy for those unhoused is 50 years, almost 30 years lower than the national average.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that the numbers of homeless grew in the last four years, in many areas

by double-digit percentages. Once one of the most affordable places in America, the homeless population in Fresno, California has increased by as much as 43 percent since the onset of the pandemic. Overcrowded shelters, with high rates of abuse and disease transmission, have become even more deadly. The homeless in cities across America – from New York to Kansas City to Los Angeles – have had to fight for safer housing while cities continuously lift pandemic protocols. On the streets, homeless tent cities are regularly destroyed during sweeps. The homeless are on the front lines in the fight against American fascism.

The new class in America, our class, is the vast majority of people who are one crisis from the street if we are not already there. If we recognized our basis for unity, we would begin to understand our power. A shared understanding of reality, of the revolutionary processes at work, and of a vision of the communist society that is possible, could set us free. The fight for homes is a frontline struggle of this new class, the only class in human history capable of securing a sustainable future and a home where everyone can belong. **RC**

Dynamics of the Global Capitalist Crisis

The current international situation is fraught with political, economic, environmental, and social crises that threaten human existence as we know it. This situation is an expression of the global capitalist crisis. The developing crisis between the Russian Federation and the West, led by the United States, is one example. Central Asia has already become a conflict zone between the United States and the West on the one hand and Russia and China on the other, indicating increased rivalry and animosity between the two camps. If added to previous NATO expansion to Poland and the Baltic states and the 2014 U.S.-inspired coup in Ukraine and the U.S. meddling in Belarus, it becomes apparent that the United States is moving to encircle Russia through NATO. The U.S. attempt in 2008 to destabilize Russia by fomenting trouble through Georgia prompted Russia to invade Georgia and indirectly control significant parts of its territory. Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2015 is an example of Russia standing firm against U.S. machinations to encircle it.

CONTROL OF WEST ASIA

In 2011 the United States launched a war by proxy to dismantle Syria. It indirectly utilized ISIS, al-Qaida, and other forces recruited by U.S. regional allies such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, and Turkey. In 2014, the United States was compelled to enter the battle directly, using its airpower through a hastily constructed international coalition. Russia's direct participation in the war in Syria in 2015, along with other Syrian allies (Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah), thwarted these U.S. hegemonic intentions and its plan to block Russia and China from West Asia. The failure of the United States and NATO in Afghanistan and their withdrawal in 2021 has not prevented them from continuing with attempts to encircle Russia.

It is essential to note that U.S. political, cultural, and military influence in West Asia is vast. The United States projects this power to maintain its influence and domination of the global capitalist system. The United States has more than 700 military bases and installations throughout the world, with a significant number in West Asia.

Despite U.S. destabilizing attempts and crippling sanctions, Iran has stood up to U.S. attempts to dominate the region. Consequently, it constitutes a threat to U.S. imperial interests in West Asia. U.S. support for Israel as a settler-colonial state in Palestine has significantly contributed to making an already dangerous situation even more so.

In addition to U.S.-Israeli operations to perpetrate war and destruction on the region, the United States is building up its forces in the Pacific in a clear move to encircle China. The AUKUS (Australia, the

United Kingdom, and the United States) alliance was created in 2021 to foment instability and increase political and military pressure on China by encouraging and supporting disturbances in Hong Kong under the pretext of democracy, freedom of speech, and human rights. More recently, the United States and its Western allies attempted to turn the tables on China in Taiwan. These events and the belligerent global U.S. posture pushes Russia and China to the edge and makes the present moment dangerous and portentous.

UNDERLYING CAUSES OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY

The critical question for revolutionaries is to understand better the underlying causes for these political and military crises around the globe. While it is true that rivalry and hatred among dominant states have created instability within the global capitalist system, it is important

The wars by the United States on peoples around the world illustrate the reckless disregard the U.S. has for human rights.

to note that the origins of this instability are within the capitalist crisis of production and the problem of accumulation. The 1970s witnessed the beginnings of an electronic revolution that spread like wildfire at the beginning of the 21st century. The relatively quick transformation of production from an economy based on electromechanics to one based on high technology created an unstable global situation.

Gradually, new technologies emerged that changed the nature of production from labor-saving devices to labor-replacing technologies. Steel production that required thousands of workers in one factory can now be done with a few hundred workers. The replaced workers had to fend for themselves. The consequences of production based on electronics resulted in a rise in contingent and "gig" workers. Part-time work became more prevalent. Homelessness reached unprecedented proportions, and poverty increased even in highly industrialized countries. It is critical to note that a new class comprising contingent, part-time, seasonal workers, and permanently unemployed is emerging across the globe due to high technology in production and services.

Although U.S.-based transnational corporations control this high technology in the West, a developing global capitalist class reaps benefit from it. Should a country elect to develop its high tech-

nology independently and compete with the United States in international trade, the United States would see such a move as a challenge to its global domination. Political economic instability in the global system would then ensue. It is essential to understand the development of U.S. global domination and the challenges to it.

U.S. GLOBAL DOMINATION

In the United States, neoliberal policies that began under President Jimmy Carter and continued in earnest under President Ronald Reagan exacerbated the situation even more, by facilitating capitalist globalization through high technology based on electronics. A considerable number of corporations moved their operations to low-wage areas worldwide. This shift in production based on electronics and production in low-wage areas accelerated after the breakup of the Soviet Union. The demise of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc in 1990 ush-

ed liberating Kuwait. During this period, the United States quickly moved to liquidate Palestinian claims to their state by sponsoring the Madrid Conference (October 30-November 1, 1991). The Conference brought all Arab states together with Israel to "negotiate" peace and develop economic relations with Israel. Lebanon participated in the conference, even though a resistance movement fought to liberate the south of the country from the Israeli occupier.

This U.S. domination of the unipolar global capitalist system encouraged the United States to tighten its grip on global energy and natural resources. Hence, the invasion of resource-rich Afghanistan in October 2001. Afghanistan's strategic location was also an important consideration. It borders China, Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries that had been part of the Soviet Union. The 2003 invasion of Iraq emboldened U.S. control of global capitalism. The wars and aggression by the United States on peoples and countries around the world amply illustrate the reckless disregard the United States has for human rights, the environment, and the right of nations to self-determination.

CHALLENGES TO U.S. DOMINATION

There are important challenges to U.S. unilateral power in dominating global capitalism. Syria remained defiant despite direct U.S. threats after the invasion of Iraq. The Lebanese resistance movement is still at war with the Israelis that occupy parts of the Lebanese south. The Palestinian people remain steadfast in the West Bank and Gaza against Israeli occupation. In Latin America, the United States has been losing ground, especially in Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. Also, with the rise of China, challenges to U.S. power in recent years are forging a multilateral global capitalist system. It appears, however, that the United States is unrelenting in rejecting this reality and is hell-bent on remaining top dog. This explains its continued machinations to regain its unilateral position in the global capitalist system.

With the stellar development of the forces of production outside of U.S. domination (especially in Russia and China), a return to the old unilateral world is no longer possible. However, a multilateral global capitalist system, which still has a crisis of accumulation at its core, shall continue to face existential threats. The only way for humanity to extricate itself from the danger of war is if the global new class that is forming takes matters into its own hands to seize political power, dismantle private property, and use high technology to benefit all. However, that would require a conscious global communist movement to organize the emerging new class. **RC**

Repairing Ecological Destruction

The following article is based on a report presented to the Secretariat of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

Fossil fuels are not the root cause of climate change—capitalism is. While the capitalist mode of production is completely reliant on the use of fossil fuels, stopping and reversing the climate crisis will take more than simply converting all energy sources to renewable.

The earth has warmed an average of 1.2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels as a result of fossil fuel combustion. More than half of this has occurred just in the past 30 years alone (within the timespan of the world knowing about and trying to solve climate change).

The stark reality is that we have precious little time to orient the eco-social metabolism back to right-relation before near complete global climate and ecological collapse.

The catastrophic widespread droughts and wildfires, polar vortices, hurricanes, sea level rise, desertification, crop failures, famine, etc. that the world has experienced so far are going to increase exponentially in both quantity and quality. The atmospheric and oceanic forces that have stabilized the climate for all of life on Earth for millennia are being upended.

At the same time, an unprecedented crash of the capitalist system is imminent, as electronics replace labor in production. The replacement of humans by automation in production has been driving a cyclical process of overproduction, the creation of a new social class of people pushed out of the economy, and a financial and political crisis driving global polarization. The new technology can produce abundance, but the capitalist system distributes products based on the ability to pay, and the jobs of a new class are being replaced with automation, leaving them penniless.

With capitalism no longer able to provide basic needs for increasing numbers of people, the ruling class is gearing toward more and more openly violent means of maintaining private ownership. Society faces either a new system which distributes basic necessities to all based on common ownership, or an increasingly repressive, murderous system based on private ownership. These are the objective conditions, upon which a subjective movement toward a resolution is developing. Without immediate and combined halting of fossil fuel emissions and draw-down of carbon, it's logical to presume there will be no abundance to distribute from automation in 30 years.

The movement for a Green New Deal is an example of a step which will likely receive some implementation, but is also being staged as a reconstruction of capitalist profiteering around new productive forces. Simultaneously, a groundswell

movement in direct opposition to existing and new fossil fuel projects and ecological destruction (led by and aligned with Indigenous people's sovereignty) is rising. Real questions of political power are more dire than ever. We know that decarbonization, the replacement of fossil-fuel-intensive modes of production, is key to survival on earth, but who is going to control it?

Human and ecological destruction are bound to the same system—revolution means nothing less than complete reorganization of production and distribution, back into the hands of the people, and back into the hands of nature. To address the dual ecological and social crisis, a vision of a re-united human and ecological stage of history is needed to fuel a social revolution on a scale never before seen.

PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION

Throughout all of nature, ecosystems are premised on a community of organisms and non-biological factors interacting to maintain a balanced, resilient metabolism, where local outputs become local inputs—cycling, yet ever evolving and adapting. Capitalism and private productive ownership in general are historically bound by the disruption of this process.

As capitalist production developed, it required a greater number of urban industrial workers, while also fueling rural depopulation through the mechanization of agriculture. Both processes created and then deepened the system's reliance on the use of fossil fuels. As the products of agriculture were shipped further and further away from their point of origin, the water, carbon, nitrogen, and other cycles flowing within soils became ruptured. Agriculture shifted from a technology reliant on the relative local recycling of necessary soil organic matter and nutrients to a reliance on imported fertilizers.

This qualitative shift in the geo-political dynamics of agriculture is the first example of the metabolic rift. Metabolism refers to the reactions of life-sustaining processes within a system. The term, metabolic rift, is used by some in ecology and social movements to explain the basic antago-

nism between private property and natural systems. Any time the soil is plowed or sprayed with fertilizers, a forest cleared, the ocean overfished, or fossil fuels burned, ecological metabolism is ruptured, all to uphold the logic of capital. A positive feedback loop is created through an endless drive to compensate for the system's declining sustainability by leaning further into capitalism's reliance on fossil fuels by the further exploitation of new forests, oceans, and people.

The metabolic rift theory also allows us to understand certain important nuances in the definition of communism, an economic system where necessities of life are distributed according to need. Pre-private property forms of society, what's known as ancient communism, saw the existence of eco-social metabolic unity (rather than rifts) premised on the communal ownership of the means and ecological modes of production—ways of sustaining society without resorting to disturbing the balance of ecosystems. Because we existed in partnership with the reproduction of ecological processes, there was truly an "abundance" which we were able to distribute according to need, and "from each according to ability" applied not just to humans but to the broader community of life.

Now, every globalized capitalist industry is based on the exploitation of nature—the induced scarcity of ecosystem reproduction. Fossil fuels are the lifeblood of capitalism, and the interaction of fossil fuels and capitalism is globalizing the metabolic rift in the form of the climate crisis. However, it will ultimately take the complete elimination of capitalism to stop and reverse the crisis - and the metabolic rift as a whole - not just the switching of energy from fossil fuels to renewable.

THE WAY FORWARD

If you look at any eco-social struggles on Earth, from the halting of oil or gas pipelines, deforestation, and mining, to the struggles against environmental racism and peasant and agrarian movements, there are unbroken lines of cultures, modes of production and distribution, thought, and spirituality based

on metabolic unity (rather than rifts). The power and potential of socio-ecological harmony is and always has been kept alive by Indigenous struggles, despite intense repression by the ruling class. We need to look no further than the countless Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island (so-called North America) who understand metabolic unity in a practical way and demand rematriation in their struggle to steward the land.

Human influence upon ecology pre-colonization was foundational to our understanding of these natural systems. Whether it was the controlled burns of grassland, directed succession in forest ecosystems, the biodiversity of agricultural systems, or any other countless examples of Indigenous reproduction of the eco-social metabolism, any attempt to reverse the metabolic rift must center this holistic knowledge and sovereignty. In a sense, the Land Back movement is the subjective expression of an objective response needed to counteract the metabolic rift.

A vision of society no longer alienated from the ecosystems in which we live is an indispensable weapon in class struggle. It is something the ruling class cannot deliver. As a planet, we are all tied to developing new eco-social structures transcendent of capitalism.

We are looking at a new class, not just as it's created by automation, but as it's created by the metabolic rift as well. A new class who can only survive if the metabolic rift is healed. If the new class created by automation fully integrates its current revolutionary battles fighting for housing, food, health care, safety, and education for all with the tactics of the forces demanding Land Back for Indigenous peoples, a just transition for fossil fuel industry employees, and the potential of agroecology and decentralized renewable energy, we can achieve a revolutionary outcome and heal the metabolic rift.

With enough of a push, the worst of the climate crisis could be avoided. The ruling class is making decisions that are destroying everything—and the solution for nature (including humanity) is communism. Society must be restructured to be compatible with the new tools. Ecological destruction can only be stopped by taking power from the ruling class.

Communism is the only system compatible with protecting humans, nature, and the environment, and it is the program of the new class. Healing the metabolic rift is a process; it cannot be carried out immediately. But as the political struggle against private property proceeds, revolutionaries will test and experiment with the restoration of metabolic unity, learning from different projects across the globe, and ultimately finding ways to integrate its promise into the healing of the entire Planet. **RC**

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Rally, Comrades! articles offer revolutionaries a fresh perspective! They offer analysis and vision, and outline a strategy to achieve that vision.

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A New Economy Gives Rise to New World

The walls and foundations of a 3D-printed home can be completed in two days with a three-to-four-person crew and reduces the production costs down to as little as \$4,000 per unit. In Los Angeles alone, 1,500 homeless people died on the streets during the pandemic.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, it would cost \$20 billion to end homelessness in the United States. That does not exist in any budget being put forth. The U.S. government budget for military spending in 2022 is \$778 billion.

So why are there so many people homeless and hundreds of thousands more on the verge of losing their homes?

Every social upheaval today is defined by the tremendous changes that have taken place in the way humans produce what they need. Labor-replacing means of production, hostile to the existing productive relations, have created an epoch of social revolution. And it has created a new class in the United States and the world, that cannot survive within a system based on buying and selling. It is stripping away the economic inequalities that have existed among the working class, as workers of all ethnicities, colors, genders, and backgrounds find themselves without, in an increasingly desperate situation.

Since 1980 about 7.5 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in large part through automated, robotic production. It is no coincidence that homelessness in the United States became the fate of many of those affected. At the same time, the government made huge slashes to the "social safety net," essentially taking away any means of survival from those who no longer contributed their labor to the economy. With no job, there are no wages, and no way to pay for a home, food, healthcare.

In 2021, approximately three million robots are in U.S. factories performing the work with little to no human labor involved. As many as 30 percent of jobs

will be replaced by automation, especially the repetitive ones. It is projected that 375 million jobs worldwide will be lost by 2030, with up to 80 million U.S. jobs at risk of being automated.

Eleven million children in the United States do not receive adequate food and nutrition. Millions of young people, our future generations, have lost or are losing any ties to the economy. World-wide, twenty-three per cent of young people aged 18-24 who were working pre-pandemic are now unemployed, and those who are working have reported reductions in hours and income.

An International Labour Organization (ILO) study found that "the impact of the pandemic on young people [is] systematic, deep and disproportionate. Students' perceptions of their future career prospects are bleak, with 40 percent facing the future with uncertainty and 14 percent with fear," the report adds. "Globally, young people are feeling more uncertain about what the future holds." (*Youth and Covid-19, Impacts on Jobs, Education, Rights and Mental Well-Being*, ILO)

The Brookings Institution estimated that 36 million workers will lose their jobs because of artificial intelligence. AI and automation go beyond simple job replacement.

"While AI has yet to attain human-like cognition, artificial neural networks that replicate language processing – a system thought to be a critical component behind higher cognition – are starting to look surprisingly similar to what we see taking place in the brain. ... In November, a group of researchers at MIT published a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences demonstrating that analyzing trends in machine learning can provide a window into these mechanisms of higher cognitive brain function. Perhaps even more astounding is the study's implication that AI is undergoing a convergent evolution with nature – without anyone programming it to do so." ("MIT Researchers Just Discovered

an AI Mimicking the Brain on Its Own," Eric James Beyer, Dec. 18, 2021 *Interesting Engineering*)

The developments we see are far beyond past improvements in human productivity like the industrial revolution. This revolutionary process unfolding in the economy is creating a huge leap forward in human development, resulting in the social and political disruptions we experience now, international in scope. The capitalism we are so familiar with is being undone by this leap. The qualitatively new means of production are in deepening antagonism with private, capitalist ownership of socially necessary means of subsistence.

Every day, wage labor is being replaced with automation and with the internationalization of production. We are seeing a new corporate state emerging – a state that guarantees the corporate well-being of the capitalists as a class, not so much as individual corporations as they have in the past. Today the rulers are protecting the well-being of their class to maintain control over the new means of production and the wealth it creates.

The ruling class is reorganizing itself around the new reality. We must do the same. Those struggling to address the increase in homelessness, hunger, poverty, and social injustices – and for a better world – are shaped by this situation.

The coronavirus pandemic is hastening this process as more corporations introduce robots to clean hospitals, hotels, and offices, to transport and distribute goods, and take over healthcare duties.

What is being called the Great Resignation, reflects the 18 percent of

healthcare workers who have left the field, the one in three women who considered leaving or changing their jobs in the last year in large part due to childcare availability and costs, and those leaving low-wage jobs rather than risk becoming sick or dying. Some left because of losing pay increases referred to as "hero pay." One thing is for sure. Very few of us can stay unemployed for long without risking homelessness and greater poverty.

The ruling class of America understands that it faces a problem of having narrower parts of the population here, and in the world, which can buy the tremendous amount of goods being produced. The natural solution would be to distribute these goods to those who need them, those being pushed out of the economy. Anyone can see that is not happening. Instead, the rulers are compelled to put in place laws, use force and historical divisions to prevent the new class of workers from uniting to challenge their power.

The police killings of citizens, arrests, and beatings of those who protest, the imprisonment of millions, the criminalization of the homeless and the poverty-stricken, and the irresponsible response resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands from Covid-19 show us how the ruling class is going forward.

The destruction of the economy is forcing society to reorganize. Fascism and the amassing of ever greater wealth by the ruling class is their answer. Our class must fight to change the forms of ownership of socially necessary property from private to public. Only then will the economy conform to the productive capacity of robots and computers. **RC**

End Corporate Control of Housing

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housing. Ultimately, we need to nationalize land and make residential areas freely and equitably available for all to use on the basis of need. Homeowners should be given their homes free and clear, tenants should be given ownership of the units they live in, and unhoused people should be granted vacant government or corporate-owned homes to house themselves and their families.

The next step is to establish and expand a social housing sector that will build or acquire decent homes that people can rent or own for 30 percent of their income. Social housing is purposely built to meet human needs and fulfill human rights, not corporate profit. Although social housing has been built in various cities like Vienna and Singapore, based on very particular historical conditions, social housing at the current moment in the United States will not be built without a significant expansion of the revolutionary movement, and ultimately an actual

political revolution that transfers power from the corporate ruling class to a government run by the working class. The role of revolutionaries is to work with in all the various sectors of the housing movement and fight for its unity and its consciousness of who the real enemies are and how to defeat them.

The growing movement to create housing that is cooperative, free, community-based, and supportive is increasingly confronting state power in the form of sanitation sweeps, police power, and city politicians trying to use homelessness as a political path to power. This growing movement is uncompromising and is step by step uniting tenant rights groups, street vendors, and homeowners. This movement's demands for housing, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care as a method and a principle for everything that is done is increasingly being embraced by social forces throughout the country. **RC**

Women at the Forefront of Transformation

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class that has the ability to restructure and reproduce society in the interest of life. To control our lives and those of our families and communities, this collective social force must make demands on government and ultimately be the government.

Humanity's way forward is a cooperative economy that uses our social wealth to fight for life and the health of the planet. Any pretense about "the right to life" without that must be exposed for what it is, an apology for the forces of death and destruction. What's new is that so-

ciety as a whole must find the ways to do, consciously and collectively, what those thrown out of this private property system were historically forced to do to survive. The role of revolutionaries is reconstruction. We are part of and rely on the leaders of a common necessity, teaching as we fight to make our class conscious of its rightful place in history. In the name of parents, caregivers, and essential workers everywhere, Happy International Women's Day!" **RC**