

Looking back to 2025 and forward to 2026



RALLY / AGRUPÉMONOS

The world began 2025 facing the start of another Donald Trump presidency, genocide in Gaza, and job displacement from A.I. and other technologies. Things soon got worse than expected, as fires and floods ravaged some cities, Trump sent the Border Patrol and military to attack others, and a government shutdown snatched food from hungry children without achieving any reforms.

However, a mighty anti-fascist movement also arose in 2025. Millions took to the streets nationwide, shouting “No Kings” at the president and his elite backers. As the year ended, an army of 100,000 volunteers spread out and convinced one million New York voters to elect Zohran Mamdani as their mayor. (See page 3.) He became the city’s first African-born, openly socialist mayor.

Now is a good time to reflect on what happened this year, to discern the next steps in the class struggle.

LESSONS OF 2025

In 2025 America became a war zone because President Trump sent an armed, masked army into the streets. Claiming to be hunting undocumented criminals, their raids terrorized whole communities of working class people. Immigrants died in detention centers and also while fleeing into traffic, such as Josué Castro Rivera in Virginia and Carlos Roberto Montoya in California. The modern-day Storm Troopers not only shot immigrants like Silverio Villegas González, who was killed after dropping his kids at school in an Illinois suburb. They also shot U.S. citizens Marimar Martinez in Chicago and Carlos Jimenez in Ontario, Calif.

Americans of all nationalities and colors are challenging this attack, which many see as part of a political offensive to impose fascism. Our November article **Bay Area Defeats**

Border Patrol Surge (rally-theleague.org/bay-area-defeats-the-border-patrol-surge/) applauded the activists whose quick mobilization in October worried local capitalists into asking Trump to pause the attack. On October 29 Mission Local news reported on immigration arrests in San Francisco since May, “the vast majority at the courthouses or ICE field office.” But they found that as the movement grew, there were no more arrests of immigrants at immigration courts since October 3.

Activists in the Bay Area and elsewhere had also been energized by the October 18 No Kings protest, which turned out 7 million people against the Trump administration. Our article noted that No Kings “includes very diverse elements, all the way from working class revolutionaries to shameful apologists for corporate Democrats, whose failed policies laid the foundation for MAGA’s rise to power in the first place.” The article concludes: “In the long run, they will have to more fully embrace class demands like those advanced by the Workers Over Billionaires trend within it.”

Part of that effort is taking place within the electoral arena, where broad public support for restoring health care benefits encouraged Democrats to withhold enough votes that a new federal budget couldn’t be passed. That caused the longest federal government funding shutdown in American history, until some Democrats voted with Republicans to pass a budget without the health care assistance. That betrayal is fueling the new kinds of political movements.

Our article **A New Urban Movement: Public Wealth For Public Good** (rally-theleague.org/a-new-urban-movement-public-wealth-for-public-good/) explained how activists in Chicago and New York are proposing that the resources and assets owned collectively by the public should be utilized in ways that benefit society as a whole. In Chicago, the pressure is building for the city to become “a developer of green, affordable housing – reclaiming land and labor for the public good.” In New York, Zohran Mamdani became the

city’s first socialist mayor, with a platform calling for city-run grocery stores and fare-free transit.

These two struggles “represent a growing refusal to accept the capitalist premise that public institutions must serve private interests. Instead, they ask: What if the city itself became the builder, the provider and protector – not in order to extract profit, but to deliver justice?” Our writers conclude that “Whether this is the beginning of a revolutionary transformation depends on what happens next.”

Part of that includes how the people respond to the increasing war dangers the government has provoked in Latin America and the Middle East. After Trump sent bombers over Iran in June, we warned that **Bombing Iran Worsens Suffering in the U.S. and Abroad**. (rally-theleague.org/bombing-iran-worsens-suffering-in-the-u-s-and-abroad/)

The bombs that Trump aimed at Iran’s nuclear science facilities were also intended to intensify fear and hatred among America’s people, to keep us divided and fighting each other instead of them. Last week he raised fear against immigrants. Last month against the Palestinian people and students living here. Today it’s Iranians. ... Our fight isn’t with workers overseas. Our fight is with the system that puts profits over people, everywhere.”

It is crucial that our class understand the way corporate misuse of new technology pushes the ruling class towards implementing a new fascist system. In May, **Working Class Power in the Age of A.I. and Technofascism** (rally-theleague.org/working-class-power-in-the-age-of-ai-and-technofascism/) explained that “The elimination of human labor creates a political dilemma for the ruling class. How to control – or eliminate – the surplus workers left behind? The spread of genocide today is not an accident in places like Palestine, Yemen and Sudan. In the United States, it is reflected in the trend toward mass deportations, mass incarceration and internment camps for unhoused people. It is the driving force behind today’s fascist offensive.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

But it does not have to be this way. If workers controlled this technological revolution, it could produce an inexpensive abundance of basic needs, eliminate drudgery, solve pressing social problems and liberate humanity from unnecessary toil. The question is how to gain that control. That question was also a focus of the article **From the Defensive to the Offensive Against Fascism** (rally-theleague.org/from-the-defensive-to-the-offensive-against-fascism/).

The January firestorm in the Los Angeles area burned over 16,000 structures while killing at least 27 people. Many also lost their jobs and businesses. Politicians blamed the 80 mile per hour winds and 2024 being the hottest, driest summer in the city’s history. A different analysis came in our February article **Ange-lenos fight wildfires, capitalism’s vultures** (rally-theleague.org/angelenos-fight-wildfires-capitalisms-vultures/)

We began 2025 with January’s **Private Healthcare Insurance Kills** (rally-theleague.org/private-healthcare-insurance-kills/), which reported that “On January 10 5,000 nurses, doctors, midwives, and nurse practitioners launched a strike against under staffing at Providence Health and Services, the largest hospital chain in the Pacific Northwest. ... This growing movement is not just about fixing a broken healthcare system; it’s about dismantling the root cause of the crisis – private ownership of the resources and wealth that sustain life.”

“The failure of the current system to provide care for all is a symptom of a society where corporations dictate the terms of survival, extracting profits from human suffering while abandoning those who no longer serve their interests. The movement for universal healthcare is a powerful example of how collective action can challenge corporate power and inspire hope. From successful campaigns to eliminate medical debt to state-level pushes for universal healthcare programs, these fighters are showing what is possible when people come together.”

Class, race, revolution in new ‘Motown’ book

A new history of the Detroit League of Revolutionary Black Workers challenges revolutionaries to assess the 1960s and '70s and determine what is different today and how to respond.

In September 2025, the University of Georgia Press published “Motown and the Making of Working-Class Revolutionaries: The Story of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers” by Jerome Scott and Walda Katz-Fishman. Scott was a leader of the LRBW fired from the Chrysler Detroit Forge plant after helping lead a wildcat strike against unsafe conditions in 1973. Katz-Fishman is a scholar-activist and professor of sociology at Howard University who has worked closely with former members of the LRBW since she attended Wayne State University in Detroit in the 1970s.

The publishers say “Motown” offers “a fresh perspective on class, race and revolution in the United States.” The book is a deeply researched examination of the rise and decline of the Detroit auto industry and its consequences.

Scott and Katz-Fishman interviewed 40 people in an LRBW oral history project begun in 2016. Many were LRBW activists. Others helped the LRBW members in some way – lawyers, student activists, and revolutionaries from outside Detroit who worked with former LRBW members in other revolutionary formations after the LRBW’s end.

The book is an inspiring record of revolutionaries adapting to a changing world and assessing how to advance the revolutionary process.

The former LRBW members recount the horrific conditions in the auto plants, the challenges the LRBW faced, and the long struggle to build other revolutionary organizations after the LRBW split in 1971. The people interviewed reflect on what the hard-fought battles of the 1960s mean for today. They are self-critical about mistakes that were made – particularly about the way women were treated in the LRBW. They are brutally realistic about today’s economic and political conditions.

The people who were interviewed describe their political lives after 1971. First, they joined the Communist League in 1972. Then they helped found the Communist Labor Party in 1974 and the League of Revolutionaries for a New America in the 1990s.

Repeatedly, those interviewed stress the importance of political education. After the LRBW split, the working-class members of the LRBW embarked on deep study of the history and theory of revolutions which continues today. This has let the LRBW veterans of the LRBW make sense of the profound changes since the 1970s and continue contributing to the revolutionary movement.

FILLING A VOID

“Motown” is the first history of

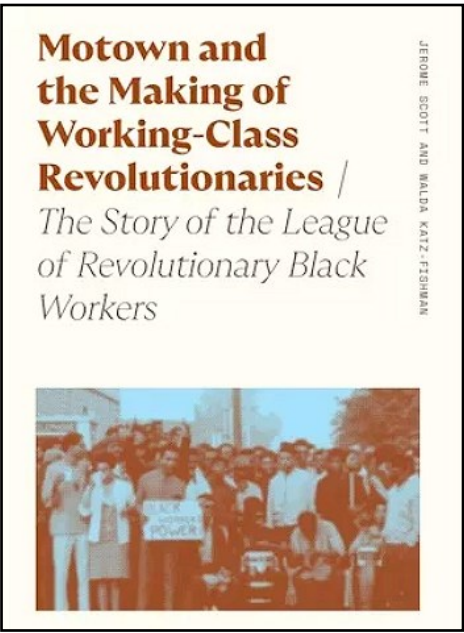
the LRBW created by members and allies of the LRBW themselves. The few studies of the LRBW that exist were written by academics who were not part of the LRBW.

Scott and Katz-Fishman point out that it was no accident that Detroit was home to the LRBW. In the 20th century, Detroit was the center of world auto production. The expansion of the U.S. auto industry brought workers from all over the world. This was the context for the rise of the LRBW – black workers at the point of production responding to the exploitation and white supremacy of that moment.

The book describes the industry’s technological changes from the first assembly line in 1913 to the arrival of automation in the 1960s and '70s.

The authors point out that “the violent state repression by the police, National Guard and army to quell the working-class uprising during the [July] 1967 Detroit Rebellion and the wildcat strike at Dodge Main in 1968 together sparked a critical working-class reaction.” Within a year after the rebellion and wildcat strike wave, the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) was born. Other Revolutionary Union Movement groups soon followed. The need for an umbrella organization of RUMs led to the LRBW’s birth.

The book describes how many key leaders of the LRBW such as General Baker, John Williams, Mike Hamlin, Luke Tripp, Chuck Wooten,



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS

Ken Cockrel and John Watson met up in the early 1960s. It recounts the struggles they led including major wildcat strikes. These leaders reflect on the strengths and limits of wildcat strikes. As the book explains: “Strikes called by the union required ninety days’ notice to the corporation, allowing it to stockpile needed parts and prepare. Wildcat strikes ... were called by the workers without union agreement or negotiation with the company.”

This book should be studied widely as a model for revolutionaries to sum up experiences in the 1960s and '70s, and assess what to do now.

For information about how to obtain a copy of this important book, go to: www.motownrevolutionaries.org

Rally! mission statement

Rally! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

We fight alongside all who seek to abolish: poverty, ecological disaster, fascism, war, white supremacy, gender oppression and other attacks on the working class. We fight for a government that takes care of people first.

Our articles especially lift up the fight for humanity’s basic needs, which propels every other social struggle. We focus our work, along with other fighters, on developing strategic thinking that can unleash the energy of the millions of people who are driven to fight for a better world.

Together we can participate in the reconstruction of society, on a new foundation, where social wealth is owned in common and distributed according to need.

Editorial policy

Rally! is a vehicle to reach out to and communicate with revolutionaries both within and outside of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

The Editorial Board is responsible for preparing the printed and website versions of **Rally!** to represent the League’s political positions and policies, the Board’s editorial and formatting guidelines, and the political points agreed on with article writers.

Editorial board: Allen Harris, Kimberly King, Joyce Mills, Steve Teixeira

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ments and analysis of key questions of importance to revolutionaries.

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

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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Zohran Mamdani wins in N.Y. by offering real solutions

From the Editors of Rally! / ¡Agrupémonos! voice of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old African-born immigrant and democratic socialist who is also a member of the Working Families Party, was elected mayor of New York last November 4 on a platform that corporate Democrats refused to endorse. His election night victory speech captured the historic moment:

“For as long as we can remember, the working people of New York have been told by the wealthy and the well-connected that power does not belong in their hands.” But now, he declared, “The future is in our hands.”

This wasn’t just another election. Over 100,000 volunteers built a movement that spoke directly to the affordability crisis crushing working people. Mamdani’s campaign centered on workers like Wesley, an 1199SEIU union organizer forced to commute two hours each way from Pennsylvania because the rent in New York is unaffordable. It elevated the taxi driver Mamdani went on a 15-day hunger strike with outside City Hall, who still drives seven days a week. “My brother, we are in City Hall now,” Mamdani told him.

HE DID NOT FLINCH

The Mamdani campaign raised awareness about how power is held, what the working class deserves and what is possible. By illuminating the class relations responsible for the suffering of the masses of New Yorkers and offering a programmatic solution of taxing billionaire wealth to fund affordability for the people of New York, the campaign introduced ideas of class and power.

Trump called him a communist. Mamdani didn’t flinch. “I am young, despite my best efforts to grow older,” he said. “I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologize for any of this.”

His defiance speaks to a generation of young workers – millennials and Gen Z – who are part of a new class of workers created by a new digital economy that makes their lives unaffordable. A growing part of the working class are underpaid and underemployed workers, gig workers in temporary and part-time jobs without benefits, and those being displaced by artificial intelligence (A.I.) and robots. They voted for



PHOTO: RON ADAR

New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mandani presents his Affordability Agenda calculator during his campaign. His victory on November 4 showed that workers could unite around their actual needs and win. It signaled hope for building independent political power. He will take office on January 1, 2026.

someone who named their reality and offered real solutions.

The corporate Democrats’ refusal to endorse Mamdani exposed the battle over which class government serves. But working people didn’t wait for permission. Instead, they knocked on doors, had conversations, raised consciousness, and built power from below.

As Mamdani said, “No longer would politics be something that is done to us. Now, it is something that we do.” This is what political consciousness looks like – people who understand that they need to fight together for power in order to get and create the things their communities need.

TURN THE VOLUME UP

Mamdani also connected his agenda to defeating fascism. He promised to “Trump-proof NYC” and made it personal: “Donald Trump, since I know you’re watching, I have four words for you: Turn the volume up.”

He explained that stopping Trump means dismantling the conditions that allowed Trump to accumulate power

– holding bad landlords accountable, ending corruption that lets billionaires evade taxes, expanding labor protections and defending immigrants. He made the powerful united statement, “To get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us.”

Mamdani’s platform directly challenges corporate property relations. Freezing rents attacks landlord profits. Free buses challenge the financialization of public transit. City-owned grocery stores mean public ownership competing with corporate food monopolies. Universal childcare removes another profit center from private hands. These policies point toward a future where society’s wealth is controlled by and for working people.

The victory also signals hope for building independent political power. Mamdani’s campaign defeating the establishment shows that workers can unite around their actual needs and win. This is the kind of political struggle that can lead to a new government that serves the people and the planet, not corporations.

As Mamdani told the crowd,

quoting Eugene Debs: “The sun may have set over our city this evening, but I can see the dawn of a better day for humanity.” What happened in New York reflects what’s stirring across the country. The same class of displaced workers – struggling with unaffordable rent, stagnant wages and a system that no longer needs them – exists in every city and town in America. They’re ready for a politics that speaks to their real needs without condescension.

But victory won’t come automatically. Mamdani’s campaign showed what it takes: 100,000 volunteers, relentless organizing, door after door, conversation after conversation. It takes unity across all sections of the working class. It takes developing a clear vision of the cooperative society we’re fighting for and getting it out to people. It takes strategy to build real political power. And it takes hard work – the kind that refuses to give up even when the odds seem impossible. New York proved what becomes possible when working people organize around their needs and fight for power together. Now the question is: who’s next?

Uniting beyond separate struggles

In a recent national discussion about America’s deepening political crisis, organizers from across the country raised the same alarm. Grass-roots activists, health care workers and church leaders tell them that America’s poorest people are being crushed by job losses, racism and shrinking social protections. In fact, an economic revolution is underway, driven by technology replacing jobs on an escalating scale. This creates a crisis and an opportunity. The crisis is that it is being opportunistically politicized by MAGA/billionaire forces, in what many call “a drive toward fascism.”

The opportunity is that millions are mobilizing against both these economic and political threats. Participants identified two main groups in this fight. “There are people who’ve been relatively economically secure – government workers, doctors, scientists, nurses who are losing jobs to A.I. or through political purges,” said registered nurse Rita Valenti from Georgia. “Then there are those who have lived in crisis for a long time, who are disproportionately Black, immigrant and Indigenous.”

Many believe the administration has little interest in governing. Its real goals, they said, are control over people and wealth. “If you can’t produce for ‘massa,’ they have little use for you,” said Maureen Taylor, Detroit resident and State Chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. She sent an October 22 gathering of respected activists a warning that the federal government had announced:

- Some housing subsidies will be interrupted starting in November.
- Food Stamps will be delayed, with no date specified for their return.
- Monthly Medicaid premium costs may double or triple in November.

These political changes reflect deeper shifts in the economy. In the past, America’s ruling class expanded industry while keeping workers divided. White skilled workers received better pay and housing, while Black and poor workers faced low wages and police violence. Now, as digital technology replaces more jobs, people are beginning to see who their real enemies are.

CONNECTING SEPARATE STRUGGLES

People are having to fight in new ways. Many are linking their struggles instead of treating them as sepa-



PHOTO - BETTO RODRIGUES
A sign held by a No Kings marcher in Los Angeles last October 18 suggests a way to bring struggles together.

rate issues. In New Orleans, at the 20th anniversary commemoration of Hurricane Katrina, the capitalist roots of climate change, mass incarceration, detentions and eugenics in public health were laid bare.

From the South to the Midwest, anger is spreading. “There’s shock that these bastards are stealing money from the poor for the one percent,” said Ethel Long-Scott, revolutionary leader against poverty and for human rights from California. She added that people are trying to unite – “disabled people and care providers, for example.” Still, many fights remain defensive, pushing back against harm, but not yet questioning the system itself.

Even professional workers laid off from government agencies “aren’t yet making the connection to the class nature” of what’s happening, one speaker said. Many still rely on the Democratic Party, though “some here aren’t confident there’ll even be elections.” Revolutionaries who join these fights can help others see that only a united working class can defeat fascism.

New alliances are forming, but old divisions remain. “Some folks here said we need immigrants put out to save jobs of Black people,” reported Maureen Taylor. Others described similar tensions. Yet job losses, Medicaid cuts and automation hit people across color lines. “Federal workers being laid off or fired by the millions have the same class enemy as those

who are threatening to withhold Food Stamps from 42 million recipients. I watched a TSA worker on TV explain that after he leaves that stressful job without pay, he drives for DoorDash® to pay for his daughter’s schooling.”

Government violence against immigrants could soon be turned against striking unions, but many labor leaders still act “as if the old social contract still exists,” she said. “This economic fascism is meant to burn that away.” In contrast, the Federal Unionists Network has gone beyond workplace organizing to call on a united resistance against GOP budget cuts, mobilizing a convergence of federal workers with broader urban working-class movements.

“The attacks have a straight-up white supremacy,” said a Georgia activist. “The violence was always under the surface – now it has permission to be out there.” She recalled how their governor’s campaign showed him “in a truck with a shotgun,” promising to chase immigrants out. Yet immigrant communities are responding with courage and creativity. Across the country, they are building “sophisticated mutual aid hubs” to survive growing hostility.

Ethel Long-Scott pointed out the need to move from defensive fights to transformative strategies and demands, such as the new popular movement that is fighting to ensure affordability and meeting basic needs

by calling on cities to use “public wealth” for public good. Examples are:

- Chicago proposals for Green Social Housing, “Bring Chicago Home” revenue proposals and “Cut the Tape” development initiatives;
- New York activists’ promotion of city-run grocery stores, fare-free transit, municipal provision of basic needs, free childcare;
- Oakland proposals for self-governed shelters, community land trusts, housing cooperatives, sweat equity model.

UNITY AGAINST A SYSTEM

Faith leaders are stepping forward, too. Some have joined demonstrations and defended immigrants from state violence. A Detroit participant said her pastor even felt frustrated after not being arrested at a protest. “They ask, ‘What the hell are we going to do about this fascism?’ – in those words,” she said.

Courts have become both battlegrounds and barriers. Some local judges have challenged parts of the Trump agenda. Yet “lower courts are also stripping Medicare funding from the poor,” one participant said. Meanwhile, “The Supreme Court are MAGA enablers.”

Participants agreed on one lesson: people must build their own power. “In 2005 during Katrina, it became clear – no one’s coming to save us,” said a Southern organizer. Unity of our working class is vital to saving ourselves and our planet.

Despite fatigue and fear, hope remains. “The future is up to us,” one leader said. The challenge now is deciding what real political unity looks like, especially when disagreements run deep. And as people see that capitalism is the problem, not the solution, they face a new question: “What kind of system can meet basic needs sustainably?”

Revolutionaries can use each battle as “schools for revolution,” building working-class unity deliberately, step by step. Part of that is using all available means and media to crush ruling class messaging while building collective strategies. Another important part is offering a vision of hope and concrete accomplishments, to counteract discouragement and despair.

Across the country, more Americans are reaching the same conclusion: survival – and justice – depend on acting together as a class.