

# An Outline of the Communist International

Adopted by the Congress of the Communist International in Moscow [March 1-6, 1919]

I.

THE contradictions concealed in the womb of the capitalist system, burst forth with tremendous power in a terrible explosion—the great imperialist world war.

Capitalism endeavored to overcome its own anarchy through the organization of production. Instead of numerous rival employers mighty capitalist corporations were formed (syndicates, kartells, trusts). The financial interests (or bank capital) united with industrial capital; the whole economic life was thus swayed by the financial capital oligarchy, which, thanks to its organization, became the sole ruler of the nation. Instead of free competition monopoly prevailed. The individual capitalist became the corporation capitalist. The insane anarchy of competition was supplanted by organization.

But as the anarchy of the capitalist system of production was substituted by capitalist organization in each individual country, the competitive combats, the anarchy, in world production became ever more acute, and the struggle between the best organized robber states led to the horrible world-war as a natural result. The greed for profit forced the world capitalist groups to fight among themselves for new markets, new sources of duties and raw material, the cheap labor power of the colonial slaves. The imperialist states, which shared among them the whole world, and reduced to beasts of burden many millions of African, Australian, Asiatic and American proletarians and

peasants, sooner or later had to expect to meet each other in a fearful conflict, sooner or later had to show the real anarchistic nature of capital. So originated the great crime—the robber world war.

Capitalism endeavored to overcome its contradictory social structure. Bourgeois society is a class society but capital in the great civilized states attempted to conceal the social contrasts. At the expense of the robbed colonial peoples capital corrupted its wageslaves, created the reciprocity of interests between exploited and exploiters in relation to the subjugated colonies—yellow, black, and red colonial peoples—and fettered the European and American workingclass to the imperialistic Fatherland.

But the same method of permanent corruption, from which the patriotism of the workingclass and its intellectual subjugation originated, brought forth the opposite result, due to the war. The physical annihilation, total enslavement, terrible pressure, misery, degeneration and world hunger of the proletariat is the final tribute to the capitalist system, which is already collapsing. The imperialistic war has developed into civil war.

This marks a new epoch—the epoch of the abolition of Capitalism, its decomposition, and the rise of the Communist revolution of the proletariat. The imperialistic system collapses and produces fermentation in the colonies, and among the formerly dependent small nations; a revolt of the proletariat resulting in victorious proletarian revolution in some countries; the abolition of imperial-

istic armies; and exposes the total incapability of the ruling class to direct any longer the destiny of the people's masses—that is the picture of modern conditions throughout the world. Man, whose culture is now ruined, is menaced by annihilation. There is only one power which can save him; the power of the proletariat. The old capitalist "order" is gone, it cannot prevail any more. The final result of the capitalist system of production is chaos, and only the great productive class, the working class, can bring order out of this chaos. This it will accomplish by building the new system of society, the Communist system. The workers must destroy capitalist rule, must make war impossible, annihilate the boundary lines of states, reduce the whole world to a community working for itself, and realize the brotherhood and liberation of all peoples.

Against this world-capital arms itself. Under the disguise of the "League of Nations" and pacific phrases it makes a last desperate effort to bolster up the falling remnants of the capitalist system and direct its force against the ever-growing proletarian revolution.

In answer to this huge new conspiracy of decaying Capitalism the proletariat must conquer political power. This power it must direct against its class enemies, and set in motion all the wheels of economic revolution. The final victory of the world proletariat means the beginning of the real history of liberated man.

## Why Political Democracy Must Go

(Concluded from page 4)

were so firmly entrenched in power that they could not be dislodged. Also, the "interests" would be in the position of Opposition Party, where they could safely sabotage the Democratic administration and at the same time criticize it for being inefficient.

Woodrow Wilson, author of the "New Freedom," was elected to the Presidency by the small property-holders—the Progressive elements. The achievements of his first administration reflect the constituency which elected him.

First, *defeat of the open Imperialist scheme to annex Mexico*. The small property-holder is not a partner in Imperialism, any more than he is a partner in the great trusts. Capitalist Imperialism does away with the small property-holder. Therefore he is opposed to annexations, and can afford to give his humanitarian sentiments full play.

Second, *the Federal Reserve Act*. The small property-holder has a desperate fear of financial panics, which eliminate him at one blow. He wants to guard against them, and stabilize finance so that the plutocrats cannot destroy him at will.

Third, *Taxation of Great Wealth*. The Income and Inheritance taxes are for the purpose of relieving the overwhelming burden of taxation which lies upon the small property-holder.

Fourth, *The Industrial Relations Commission, Child Labor Law, etc.* Social legislation is the small property-holder's method of reforming capitalism so that he can exist in it. He is at the mercy of both organized Labor and organized Capital, and is more affected by labor troubles than the great capitalist. He must conciliate both Labor and Capital. At the same time, he is not interested in wholesale cheap labor, and he himself is too close to the proletariat, and too liable to be pushed into its ranks, to relish the idea of mass starvation and debauchery of the workers.

In 1912 and 1913 the abuses of savage industrial tyranny provoked a series of gigantic labor troubles—Lawrence, Paterson, Michigan, Colorado, etc. The small property-holder became alarmed, and demanded that these abuses be remedied.

So much for the most important political victories of what were, without contradiction, the great majority of the voters in the United States—the small property-holders and those dominated by their psychology.\* If political "democracy" worked, this majority, which elected the President, and swept Congress and the Legislatures, should have been able to enforce its will.

But what has actually happened? The Imperialist scheme to annex Mexico was temporarily defeated—but last month the American State Department warned the Mexican Government not to dare carry out its plan of heavily taxing the oil-wells owned by American capitalists—and passports were given to American oil-kings to go to Paris and present their private-property claims to the Peace Conference. And even as I write, a counter-revolution financed by American and foreign oil-interests, with a bureau of information in New York's financial district, is attempting to overthrow the Car-

ranza Government, and promising in case of success to leave the property of foreigners alone.

During the War, the United States Government, with armed force, has overthrown the Governments of two Caribbean countries, Haiti and Santo Domingo, and set up a military dictatorship there.

The Federal Reserve Act, designed to avoid panics, was framed by the Big Interests. It does not provide against panics—but on the contrary, it places the Treasury of the United States at the mercy of the great financial interests.

Great wealth has been taxed to run the Government, and the War—but the Government has become more and more an instrument designed to protect and foster private property; that is to say, to create ever more and more great wealth.

The Industrial Relations Commission discovered such hideous industrial conditions in America, conditions which pointed so definitely to the fact that only the Social Revolution could cure them, that the small property-holders became frightened. The Commission was discredited by both plutocratic and Progressive press (such papers as *The New Republic* being particularly exasperated by the "intemperateness" of its report). Nothing ever came of it, except such schemes as John D. Rockefeller's, which pretended to cure conditions by making Labor even more helpless.

The Child Labor Law was declared "unconstitutional" by the Supreme Court, in spite of the widely-heralded appointment of Louis D. Brandeis, a Liberal, as Supreme Court Justice.

Thus we can see the failure of political democracy even among the ruling class—the property-holders, where Marx says one of its most important functions is to act as arbitrator.

The grand bourgeoisie makes use of the State to conserve and extend great capitalist interests at the expense of all other classes.

[To be continued]

\*The Eight-hour Law belongs to a category which I shall treat later.

### To Bronx Branches

Lettish Branch No. 1, at a regular monthly meeting, decided to invite the other branches of Local Bronx which have joined the Left Wing to arrange a bazaar for the benefit of the Left Wing paper, *The Communist*. Please discuss the matter at your membership meetings and communicate immediately with the Secretary of the Lettish Branch.

J. ANDERSON.

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