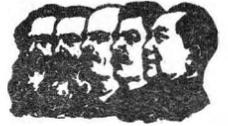


Special Supplement

RESISTANCE

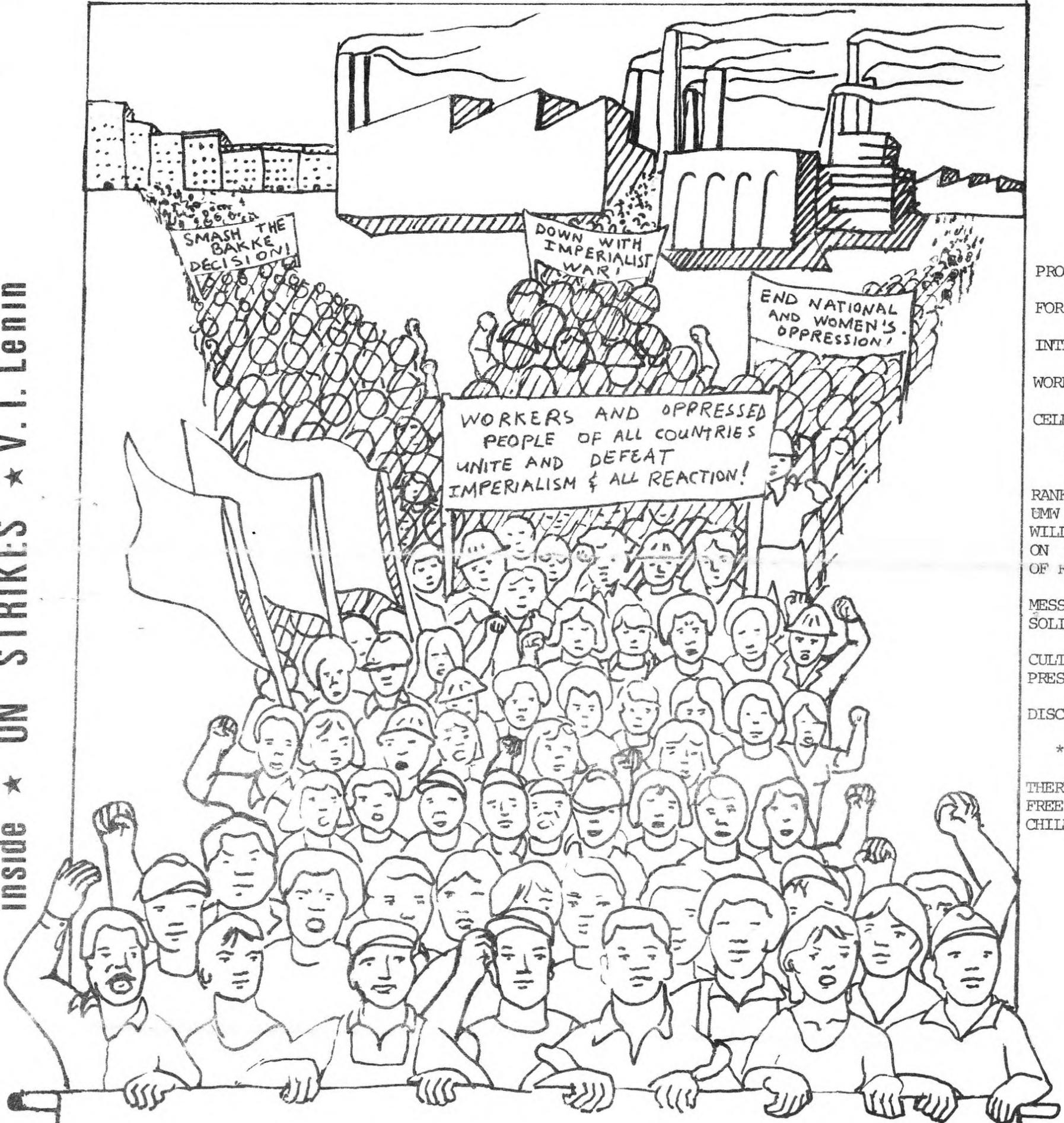
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POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION M-L

Box 513, Triboro Sta / N Y , N Y 10035

inside ★ ON STRIKES ★ V. I. Lenin



CELEBRATE
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

SUNDAY MAY 7

2pm - 7pm

68 ST. entre LEXINGTON Y PARK AVE. - HUNTER COLLEGE (EAST LOUNGE)

PROGRAM
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' DAY
CELEBRATION:

RANK & FILE
UMW MINER
WILL SPEAK
ON EXPERIENCES
OF RECENT STRIKE

MESSAGES OF
SOLIDARITY

CULTURAL
PRESENTATIONS

DISCUSSION

THERE WILL BE
FREE
CHILD CARE !



V. I. Lenin

★★★

In recent years, workers' strikes have become extremely frequent in Russia. There is no longer a single industrial gubernia in which there have not occurred several strikes. And in the big cities strikes never cease. It is understandable therefore, that class-conscious workers and socialists should more and more frequently concern themselves with the question of the significance of strikes, of methods of conducting them, and of the tasks of socialists participating in them.

We wish to attempt to outline some of our ideas on these questions. In our first article we plan to deal generally with the significance of strikes in the working-class movement, in the second we shall deal with anti-strike laws in Russia, and in the third, with the way strikes were and are conducted in Russia and with the attitude that class-conscious workers should adopt to them.

I

In the first place we must seek an explanation for the outbreak and spread of strikes. Everyone who calls to mind strikes from personal experience, from reports of others, or from the newspapers will see immediately that strikes break out and spread wherever big factories arise and grow in number. It would scarcely be possible to find a single one among the bigger factories employing hundreds (at times even thousands) of workers in which strikes have not occurred. When there were only a few big factories in Russia there were few strikes, but ever since big factories have been multiplying rapidly in both the old industrial districts and in new towns and villages strikes have become more frequent.

Why is it that huge scale factory production always leads to strikes? It is because capitalism must necessarily lead to a struggle of the workers against the employers, and when production is on a large scale the struggle of necessity takes on the form of strikes.

Let us explain this.

Capitalism is the name given to that social system under which the land, factories, implements, etc., belong to a small number of landed proprietors and capitalists, while the mass of the people possesses no property, or very little property, and is compelled to hire itself out as workers. The landowners and factory owners hire workers and make them produce wares of this or that kind which they sell on the market. The factory owners, furthermore, pay the workers only such a wage as provides a bare subsistence for them and their families, while everything the worker produces over and above this amount goes into the factory owner's pocket, as his profit. Under capitalist economy, therefore, the people in their mass are the hired workers of others, they do not work for themselves but work for employers for wages. It is understandable that the employers always try to reduce wages, the less they give the workers, the greater their profit. The workers try to get the highest possible wage in order to provide their families with sufficient and wholesome food, to live in good homes, and to dress as other people do and not like beggars. A constant struggle is, therefore, going on between employers and workers over wages, the employer is free to hire whatever worker he thinks fit and, therefore, seeks the cheapest. The worker is free to hire himself out to an employer of his choice, so that he seeks the dearest, the one that will pay him the most. Whether the worker works in the country or in town, whether he hires himself out to a landlord, a rich peasant, a contractor, or a factory owner, he always bargains with the employer, fights with him over the wages.

But is it possible for a single worker to wage a struggle by himself? The number of working people is increasing: peasants are being ruined and flee from the countryside to the town or the factory. The landlords and factory owners are introducing machines that rob the workers of their jobs. In the cities there are increasing numbers of unemployed and in the villages there are more and more beggars, those who are hungry drive wages down lower and lower. It becomes impossible for the worker to fight against the employer by himself. If the worker demands good wages or tries not to consent to a wage cut, the employer tells him to get out,

that there are plenty of hungry people at the gates who would be glad to work for low wages.

When the people are ruined to such an extent that there is always a large number of unemployed in the towns and villages, when the factory owners amass huge fortunes and the small proprietors are squeezed out by the millionaires, the individual worker becomes *absolutely powerless* in face of the capitalist. It then becomes possible for the capitalist to crush the worker completely, to drive him to his death at slave labour and, indeed, not him alone, but his wife and children with him. If we take, for instance those occupations in which the workers have not yet been able to win the protection of the law and in which they cannot offer resistance to the capitalists, we see an inordinately long working day, sometimes as long as 17-19 hours, we see children of 5 or 6 years of age overstraining themselves at work, we see a generation of permanently hungry workers who are gradually dying from starvation. Example: the workers who toil in their own homes for capitalists, besides, any worker can bring to mind a host of other examples! Even under slavery or serfdom there was never any oppression of the working people as terrible as that under capitalism when the workers cannot put up a resistance or cannot win the protection of laws that restrict the arbitrary actions of the employers.

And so, in order to stave off their reduction to such extremities, the workers begin a desperate struggle. As they see that each of them, individually, is completely powerless and that the oppression of capital threatens to crush him, the workers begin to revolt jointly against their employers. Workers' strikes begin. At first the workers often fail to realise what they are trying to achieve, lacking consciousness of the *wherefore* of their action, they simply smash the machines and destroy the factories. They merely want to display their wrath to the factory owners, they are trying out their joint strength in order to get out of an unbearable situation, without yet understanding why their position is so hopeless and what they should strive for.

In all countries the wrath of the workers first took the form of isolated revolts—the police and factory owners in Russia call them "mutinies." In all countries these isolated revolts gave rise to more or less peaceful strikes, on the one hand, and to the all-sided struggle of the working class for its emancipation, on the other.

What significance have strikes (or stoppages) for the struggle of the working class? To answer this question, we must first have a fuller view of strikes. The wages of a worker are determined, as we have seen, by an agreement between the employer and the worker, and if, under these circumstances, the individual worker is completely powerless, it is obvious that workers must fight jointly for their demands, they are compelled to organise strikes either to prevent the employers from reducing wages or to obtain higher wages. It is a fact that in every country with a capitalist system there are strikes of workers. Everywhere, in all the European countries and in America, the workers feel themselves powerless when they are disunited, they can only offer resistance to the employers jointly, either by striking or threatening to strike. As capitalism develops, as big factories are more rapidly opened, as the petty capitalists are more and more ousted by the big capitalists, the more urgent becomes the need for the joint resistance of the workers, because unemployment increases, competition sharpens between the capitalists who strive to produce their wares at the cheapest (to do which they have to pay the workers as little as possible), and the fluctuations of industry become more accentuated and crises* more acute. When industry prospers, the factory owners make big profits but do not think of sharing them with the workers, but when a crisis breaks out, the factory owners try to push the losses on to the workers. The necessity for strikes in capitalist society has been recognised to such an extent by everybody in the European countries that the law in those countries does not forbid the organisation of strikes, only in Russia barbarous laws against strikes still remain in force (we shall speak on another occasion of these laws and their application).

However, strikes, which arise out of the very nature of capitalist society, signify the beginning of the working-class struggle against that system of society. When the rich capitalists are confronted by individual, propertyless workers, this signifies the utter enslavement of the workers. But when those propertyless workers unite, the situation changes. There is no wealth that can be of benefit to the capitalists if they cannot find workers willing to apply their labour-power to the instruments and materials belonging to the capitalists and produce new wealth. As long as workers have to deal with capitalists on an individual basis they remain veritable slaves who must work continuously to profit another in order to obtain a crust of bread, who must

* We shall deal elsewhere in greater detail with crises in industry and their significance to the workers. Here we shall merely note that during recent years in Russia industrial affairs have been going well: industry has been "prospering" but that now (at the end of 1899) there are already clear signs that this "prosperity" will end in a crisis: difficulties in marketing goods, bankruptcies of factory owners, the ruin of petty proprietors and terrible calamities for the workers (unemployment, reduced wages, etc.)

for ever remain docile and inaction when the workers state their demands, submit to the money-bags, they become human beings, they begin to struggle, they should not only serve to enrich the capitalists, but also enable those who work to live as slaves begin to put forward the demand not to work and live as the landlord does, but as the working people do, therefore, always instil fear in

ABOUT THIS P...



As the general crisis of capitalism deepens, the number of strikes and the intensity of them are increasing. At the same time we see a number of international working class strikes as one of the ways in which the workers resist the imperialists' attempt to exploit the crisis on the workers.

Inspired by the great example of the workers who for 110 days paralyzed the industry, workers of all countries are seeing the way in which to struggle for their emancipation.

In order to better understand the role of strikes in the struggle against capitalism, we have translated V. I. Lenin's article on strikes, briefly and to the point, into English. It points to the role of strikes in the revolution and as that of the revolution in the present country today.

they begin to undermine their position, still, if your mighty arm wills, you will say of the working class. And as the crisis deepens, the landlords, the money-bags, etc., are all like wheels in a gear that extracts various products, and sends them to their destination. The worker in motion by the worker who makes commodities in the factories, shops, and railways. When the entire machine threatens to stop, the capitalists that it is the workers who are the masters—the workers who are claiming their rights. Every strike, every protest, their position is not hopeless. It is what a tremendous effect strikes have on themselves and on the workers. In the factories or at factories in the country, in peaceful times the worker does not contradict the employer's condition. In times of strikes, when the worker's loud voice, he reminds the employer of his rights, he does not demand wages alone, he thinks of all his tools together with him and his family, because, fearing no privations, he is making sacrifices for the working people, he is compared only to the calamities, the loss of wages, often arrests, banishments, they have their homes and their families, these sufferings, the workers demand of their fellow workers and make deals with them, all these sufferings, brought on by neighbouring factories gain reinforcements that their comrades have engaged in. People who endure so much to be able to break the power of the capitalists, said one great teacher of socialism, the English workers. It is necessary to strike, for strikes to begin in

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for ever remain docile and inarticulate hired servants. But when the workers state their demands jointly and refuse to submit to the money-bags, they cease to be slaves—they become human beings, they begin to demand that their labour should not only serve to enrich a handful of idlers, but should also enable those who work to live like human beings. The slaves begin to put forward the demand to become masters, not to work and live as the landlords and capitalists want them to, but as the working people themselves want to. Strikes, therefore, always instil fear into the capitalists because

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION



As the general crisis of imperialism intensifies the number of strikes and of workers that participate in them are increasingly growing. At this time we see a number of sectors of the U.S. multinational working class take up the weapon of strikes as one of the ways to struggle against the imperialists' attempts to put the burden of the crisis on the workers' shoulders.

Inspired by the great example of the coal miners who for 110 days paralyzed the powerful coal industry, workers of all sectors of industry and the services are seeing strikes as the way in which to struggle for their rights.

In order to better understand the role of strikes in the struggle against imperialism, we are printing V. I. Lenin's article ON STRIKES, which deals briefly and to the point with the meaning of strikes for the working class movement, and also points to the role of advanced workers, as well as that of the revolutionaries and communists, given the significant strike movement in the country today.

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they begin to undermine their supremacy. "All wheels stand still, if your mighty arm wills it," a German workers' song says of the working class. And so it is in reality: the factories, the landlords' land, the machines, the railways, etc., etc., are all like wheels in a giant machine—the machine that extracts various products, processes them, and delivers them to their destination. The whole of this machine is set in motion by the worker who tills the soil, extracts ores, makes commodities in the factories, builds houses, workshops, and railways. When the workers refuse to work, the entire machine threatens to stop. Every strike reminds the capitalists that it is the workers and not they who are the real masters—the workers who are more and more loudly proclaiming their rights. Every strike reminds the workers that their position is not hopeless, that they are not alone. See what a tremendous effect strikes have both on the strikers themselves and on the workers at neighbouring or nearby factories or at factories in the same industry. In normal, peaceful times the worker does his job without a murmur, does not contradict the employer, and does not discuss his condition. In times of strikes he states his demands in a loud voice, he reminds the employers of all their abuses, he claims his rights, he does not think of himself and his wages alone, he thinks of all his workmates who have downed tools together with him and who stand up for the workers' cause, fearing no privations. Every strike means many privations for the working people, terrible privations that can be compared only to the calamities of war—hungry families, loss of wages, often arrests, banishment from the towns where they have their homes and their employment. Despite all these sufferings, the workers despise those who desert their fellow workers and make deals with the employers. Despite all these sufferings, brought on by strikes, the workers of neighbouring factories gain renewed courage when they see that their comrades have engaged themselves in struggle. "People who endure so much to bend one single bourgeois will be able to break the power of the whole bourgeoisie,"¹¹⁸ said one great teacher of socialism, Engels, speaking of the strikes of the English workers. It is often enough for one factory to strike, for strikes to begin immediately in a large number

of factories. What a great moral influence they have on how they affect workers who see that they have ceased to be slaves and—if only for the time being—become people on an equal footing with the employers. It brings thoughts of socialism very forcibly to the mind, thoughts of the struggle of the workers for emancipation from the oppression of the capitalists. Often happened that before a big strike in a certain factory or a certain branch of industry in a certain town knew hardly anything and scarcely thought about socialism, but after the strike, strike associations become much more widespread, and more and more workers become socialists.

A strike teaches workers to understand the strength of the employers and what the strength of the workers consists in, it teaches them not to think of their own interests alone and not of their own immediate welfare but of all the employers, the whole class of workers. When a factory owner refuses to grant a modest increase in wages and to reduce wages to a still lower level and, in face of the resistance, throws thousands of hungry workers on the street, it becomes quite clear to the workers that the capitalist class as a whole is the enemy of the workers and that the workers can depend only on their united action. It often happens that the workers try his best to deceive the workers to pose as a friend, to conceal his exploitation of the workers, to make promises or lying promises. A strike always demonstrates to the workers at one blow by showing the worker that the capitalist factor is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

A strike moreover, opens the eyes of the workers to the nature, not only of the capitalists, but of the laws as well. Just as the factory owner, as benefactors of the workers, the government and their lackeys try to assure the workers that the capitalist government are equally solicitous for the interests of the owners and the workers, as justice requires, the workers do not know the laws, he has no contact with the courts, especially with those in the high courts, the consequence, often believes all this. The public prosecutor, the factory inspector, the police, frequently troops appear at the factory to demand that they have violated the law, the employer is obliged by law to assemble and openly discuss wages, but workers are declared criminals for refusing to a joint agreement! Workers are driven to the streets, the police close the shops from which they obtain food on credit, an effort is made to starve the workers even when the workers themselves quietly and peacefully. Soldiers are sent to the workers and when they kill unarmed workers, they are not punished. The troops are an expression of his gratitude to the troops who had killed Yaroslavl in 1695). It becomes clear to the workers that the capitalist government is his worst enemy, that the capitalists and binds the workers hands and feet. The workers begin to understand that laws are made for the rich alone, that government officials are not interested, that the working people are gagged, that to make known their needs, that the workers must win for itself the right to strike, the right to publish newspapers, the right to participate in a political party that enacts laws and supervises their fulfilment itself knows full well that strikes of workers and for this reason it has such a strong interest in does everything to stop them as quickly as possible. The German Minister of the Interior, one who has experienced the persistent persecution of socialists and workers, not without reason, stated by his representatives: "Behind every strike lurks the [the] star of revolution."¹¹⁹ Every strike strengthens in the workers the understanding that their enemy and that the working class must struggle against the government for their liberation.

Strikes, therefore, teach the workers to understand that they can struggle against the capitalist system if they are united, strikes teach the workers to understand the struggle of the whole working class against the factory owners and against the arbitrariness of the government. This is the reason that socialists call it a "school of war," a school in which the workers learn to know their enemies for the liberation of the working class, from the yoke of government and from the yoke of capital.

"A school of war" is, however, not only a school, strikes are widespread among the workers, and more and more workers (including some socialists) begin to understand that the working class can confine itself to strike associations alone, that by strikes the working class can achieve a considerable improvement in its conditions or even its emancipation. When there is in a united working class and every

* We shall deal elsewhere in greater detail with crises in industry and their significance to the workers. Here we shall merely note that during recent years in Russia industrial affairs have been going well, industry has been prospering, but that now (at the end of 1899) there are already clear signs that this "prosperity" will end in a crisis—difficulties in marketing goods, bankruptcies of factory owners, the ruin of petty proprietors and terrible calamities for the workers (unemployment, reduced wages, etc.).

IN STRIKES

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of factories. What a great moral influence strikes have,
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ceased to be slaves and if only for the time being, have be-
come people on an equal footing with the rich! Every strike
brings thoughts of socialism very forcibly to the workers
mind, thoughts of the struggle of the entire working class
for emancipation from the oppression of capital. It has
often happened that before a big strike the workers of a
certain factory or a certain branch of industry or of a cer-
tain town knew hardly anything and scarcely ever thought
about socialism, but after the strike, study circles and
associations become much more widespread among them
and more and more workers become socialists.

A strike teaches workers to understand what the strength
of the employers and what the strength of the workers con-
sists in, it teaches them not to think of their own employer
alone and not of their own immediate workmates alone but
of all the employers, the whole class of capitalists and the
whole class of workers. When a factory owner who has amassed
millions from the toil of several generations of workers
refuses to grant a modest increase in wages or even tries to
reduce wages to a still lower level and, if the workers offer
resistance, throws thousands of hungry families out into
the street, it becomes quite clear to the workers that the
capitalist class as a whole is the enemy of the whole working
class and that the workers can depend only on themselves and
their united action. It often happens that a factory owner does
his best to deceive the workers to pose as a benefactor and
conceal his exploitation of the workers by some petty sop
or lying promises. A strike always demolishes this decep-
tion at one blow by showing the workers that their 'bene-
factor' is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

A strike moreover, opens the eyes of the workers to the
nature, not only of the capitalists, but of the government
and the laws as well. Just as the factory owners try to pose
as benefactors of the workers, the government officials and
their lackeys try to assure the workers that the tsar and the
tsarist government are equally solicitous of both the factory
owners and the workers as justice requires. The worker does
not know the laws, he has no contact with government offi-
cials, especially with those in the higher posts and as a
consequence often believes all this. Then comes a strike.
The public prosecutor, the factory inspector, the police and
frequently troops, appear at the factory. The workers learn
that they have violated the law, the employers are permitted
by law to assemble and openly discuss ways of reducing work-
ers' wages, but workers are declared criminals if they come
to a joint agreement! Workers are driven out of their homes,
the police close the shops from which the workers might ob-
tain food on credit, an effort is made to incite the soldiers
against the workers even when the workers conduct them-
selves quietly and peacefully. Soldiers are even ordered to fire
on the workers and when they kill unarmed workers by shoot-
ing the fleeing crowd in the back, the tsar himself sends
the troops an expression of his gratitude (in this way the
tsar thanked the troops who had killed striking workers in
Yaroslavl in 1895). It becomes clear to every worker that the
tsarist government is his worst enemy, since it defends the
capitalists and binds the workers hand and foot. The work-
ers begin to understand that laws are made in the interests
of the rich alone, that government officials protect those
interests, that the working people are gagged and not allowed
to make known their needs, that the working class must
win for itself the right to strike, the right to publish workers'
newspapers, the right to participate in a national assembly
that enacts laws and supervises their fulfilment. The govern-
ment itself knows full well that strikes open the eyes of the
workers and for this reason it has such a fear of strikes and
does everything to stop them as quickly as possible. One
German Minister of the Interior, one who was notorious for
the persistent persecution of socialists and class-conscious
workers, not without reason, stated before the people's
representatives: "Behind every strike lurks the hydra[mon-
ster] of revolution!" Every strike strengthens and develops
in the workers the understanding that the government is
their enemy and that the working class must prepare itself to
struggle against the government for the people's rights.

Strikes, therefore, teach the workers to unite, they show
them that they can struggle against the capitalists only when
they are united, strikes teach the workers to think of the
struggle of the whole working class against the whole class
of factory owners and against the arbitrary, police govern-
ment. This is the reason that socialists call strikes a school
of war, a school in which the workers learn to make war on
their enemies for the liberation of the whole people, of all
who labour, from the yoke of government officials and from
the yoke of capital.

'A school of war' is, however, not war itself. When
strikes are widespread among the workers, some of the work-
ers (including some socialists) begin to believe that the
working class can confine itself to strikes, strike funds, or
strike associations alone, that by strikes alone the working
class can achieve a considerable improvement in its condi-
tions or even its emancipation. When they see what power
there is in a united working class and even in small strikes

some think that the working class has only to organise a
general strike throughout the whole country for the workers
to get everything they want from the capitalists and the
government. This idea was also expressed by the workers
of other countries when the working class movement was
in its early stages and the workers were still very inex-
perienced. It is a mistaken idea. Strikes are one of the ways
in which the working class struggles for its emancipation,
but they are not the only way, and if the workers do not
turn their attention to other means of conducting the strug-
gle, they will slow down the growth and the successes of the
working class. It is true that funds are needed to maintain
the workers during strikes, if strikes are to be successful.
Such workers' funds (usually funds of workers in separate
branches of industry, separate trades or workshop) are
maintained in all countries, but here in Russia this is espe-
cially difficult because the police keep track of them, seize
the money, and arrest the workers. The workers of course
are able to hide from the police, naturally the organisation
of such funds is valuable, and we do not want to advise work-
ers against setting them up. But it must not be supposed
that workers' funds, when prohibited by law, will attract
large numbers of contributors, and so long as the member-
ship in such organisations is small workers' funds will not
prove of great use. Furthermore, even in those countries
where workers' unions exist openly and have huge funds at
their disposal the working class can still not confine it-
self to strikes as a means of struggle. All that is necessary is a
hitch in the affairs of industry (a crisis such as the one
that is approaching in Russia today) and the factory owners
will even deliberately cause strikes because it is to their
advantage to cease work for a time and to deplete the work-
ers' funds. The workers, therefore, cannot, under any cir-
cumstances, confine themselves to strike actions and strike
associations. Secondly, strikes can only be successful where
workers are sufficiently class-conscious, where they are able
to select an opportune moment for striking, where they
know how to put forward their demands and where they
have connections with socialists and are able to procure
leaflets and pamphlets through them. There are still very
few such workers in Russia, and every effort must be exerted
to increase their number in order to make the working class
cause known to the masses of workers and to acquaint them
with socialism and the working class struggle. This is a task
that the socialists and class-conscious workers must undertake
jointly by organising a socialist working class party for this
purpose. Thirdly, strikes, as we have seen, show the workers
that the government is their enemy and that a struggle against
the government must be carried on. Actually, it is strikes
that have gradually taught the working class of all countries
to struggle against the governments for workers' rights and
for the rights of the people as a whole. As we have said,
only a socialist workers' party can carry on this struggle by
spreading among the workers a true conception of the govern-
ment and of the working class cause. On another occasion we
shall discuss specifically how strikes are conducted in Russia
and how class-conscious workers should avail themselves of
them. Here we must point out that strikes are, as we said
above, 'a school of war' and not the war itself, that strikes
are only one means of struggle, only one aspect of the work-
ing class movement. From individual strikes the workers
can and must go over, as indeed they are actually doing
in all countries, to a struggle of the entire working class for
the emancipation of all who labour. When all class-conscious
workers become socialists, i.e. when they strive for this
emancipation when they unite throughout the whole country
in order to spread socialism among the workers, in order to
teach the workers all the means of struggle against their
enemies, when they build up a socialist workers' party that
struggles for the emancipation of the people as a whole from
government oppression and for the emancipation of all work-
ing people from the yoke of capital—only then will the
working class become an integral part of that great move-
ment of the workers of all countries that unites all workers
and raises the red banner inscribed with the words: "Work-
ers of all countries, unite!"

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EDUCATION



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ML)

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CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY!!!

★★★

LISTEN TO A COAL MINER SPEAK ON THE
EXPERIENCES OF THE RECENT STRIKE

SUNDAY, MAY 7 2 PM - 7 PM

68 Street, between LEXINGTON & PARK AVF
(HUNTER COLLEGE -EAST LOUNGE)

THERE WILL BE FREE CHILD CARE!

HEAD HIGH REBELLIOUS AND SMILING, FISTS CLOSED, IN THE HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS WORKERS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY
 IN ALL COUNTRIES IN ALL LANGUAGES, REGARDLESS OF CULTURAL, ETHNIC, POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, WORKERS MARCH
 TOGETHER RAISING THE RED FLAG OF THE PROLETARIAT AND SHOUTING UNTIL HOARSE
 LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS! DOWN WITH THE EXPLOITERS!

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY!

Of all political activities celebrated during the year the celebration of May Day, International Workers' Day, has a singular importance. This day symbolizes the unity, solidarity and brotherhood of all the workers of the world.

On May Day, we remember the many comrades who have dedicated their lives to the struggle for our rights. We remember the heroes and heroines who have fallen on the battlefield fighting for our class interests.

On May Day, we must remember that in spite of national, ethnic, political and religious differences, all workers are part of the same social class and as such are subject to the same system of exploitation and oppression -- capitalism.

On May Day, we remember that the capitalist system is responsible for all the problems and sufferings of our class. They are to blame for the many of us who are jobless. They are responsible for the low salaries and high prices. They condemn us to live in old, dilapidated buildings. They deny us a decent education. They condemn us to die due to the lack of adequate medical services. While many of our children are condemned to die the horrible death of drug abuse, the bourgeoisie is one of the largest drug traffickers in the world. They are also the ones that have their police club, arrest, and kill us when we strike in defense of our rights. Bloodsuckers that they are, they live in luxury at our expense. They are our enemy -- the capitalist exploiters who own the factories, mines, banks, land, buildings, hotels, restaurants, means of transportation and communication, the Mafia and the CIA.

On May Day, we must remember that we are not only the ones that are exploited by Yankee imperialism. We must remember that these same imperialists oppress our brothers and sisters in the third world, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This same system keeps alive the apartheid system in Azania (South Africa), Namibia (South West Africa) and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). It maintains the criminal regime of Balaguer in power in the Dominican Republic, Somoza in Nicaragua, the bloodsucker Duvalier in Haiti. Also its tentacles maintain the colonial system in Puerto Rico and the domination of the Philippines, Panama and many other nations around the world. They also maintain the Zionist regime in Israel which oppresses the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples.

On May Day, we must remember that U.S. imperialism is not the only one that oppresses the people of the world and its own working class. We must remember that the British, French, German and Japanese imperialists also oppress and exploit. We must remember also that there is another imperialist superpower so powerful that it can challenge the U.S. imperialists' world domination at this time.

The other imperialist superpower is the Soviet Union. This imperialist power, was for many years a shining beacon for many of the world's oppressed peoples. It was in this country that the first socialist revolution took place and where it was proven, in practice, that it is possible to build socialism in one country, and that the socialist system represents the highest aspirations of our class. However, this country stopped being a socialist country and has become another imperialist superpower.



The U.S.S.R., as well as the U.S., exploit and oppress the peoples of the world, maintain fascist military dictatorships in power, jail and kill revolutionaries and exploit and oppress their respective working class. Thus we see the neo-colonial domination of the Soviet social imperialists in Cuba and Angola, the support of the fascist Mengistu regime in Ethiopia, and the massacre of the patriotic and revolutionary forces in Eritrea through their Cuban puppet troops. The Soviet Union and the United States are two superpowers that jointly constitute the main enemy of the peoples of the world. In the struggle for world hegemony and control the two superpowers are leading humanity towards a third world war.

May Day reminds us that despite all the evils mentioned, unemployment, inflation, poor housing, education and medical services, repression by the courts, police and other repressive institutions, the colonial control and oppression of nations and peoples around the world, the danger of war and fascism -- despite these and many other dangers and evils, the future is bright. We, the workers and oppressed people of the world will definitely build the future. The days left for the imperialists are numbered. The struggle of the working class, of the oppressed nations and people of the world constitute an irresistible torrent that will ultimately engulf and destroy imperialism once and for all. THE FUTURE IS DEFINITELY OURS!!!

On May Day we look joyously on the victorious advances made by the struggles of the people of Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe. We are confident that the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian people is advancing towards victory despite the tricks of the two superpowers. We rejoice at how the masses in Nicaragua are rocking the Somoza dictatorship, at how the workers of the UTIER (electrical

and water workers union) in Puerto Rico held one of the longest and most militant strikes in this U.S. colony. We also see the irresistible forward strides which the Eritrean revolutionaries have made against the fascist Junta and the Cuban mercenaries, merging their two national liberation movements into a strong united front, which none and no thing can stop.

On May Day, we remember with joy that we in the U.S. also wage struggle. We joyously look upon the glorious coal miners strike and how these fellow workers were able to paralyze the coal industry for 110 days. This strike clearly showed the strength, ability and potential of our class for struggle. Workers from many industries, men and women of all nationalities came to the aid of the miners. The striking farmers organized food caravans which provided foodstuff for the striking miners. Revolutionary and progressive organizations organized collections to aid the miners strike fund.

This unity, this spirit of solidarity was a small example of the power of our class when it unites and brings together under its leadership those oppressed classes and class sectors to struggle against the imperialist enemy.

On May Day we must remember that in order to be able to struggle effectively against the capitalist class that oppresses us we have to be organized. The capitalists have the Democratic Party and the Republican Party which represent their interests. We need our own party! This party has to be a revolutionary party, it has to be a party guided by the science of revolution -- Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. Only a Communist Party which gathers the best sons and daughters of the working class, which gathers workers of all nationalities and races, can organize and lead us to the revolutionary seizure of power.

Fellow workers, we must celebrate this May Day full of revolutionary optimism and confidence in the future. We know that the struggle is long and hard, however, ultimately we will win! The future is ours and we will build it with our struggle. The multinational working class in the U.S. is struggling against its exploiter. We will occupy our place in the trenches in this life and death struggle against the capitalist class, which exploits and oppresses us, and we will carry out our glorious task of ultimately defeating the U.S. imperialists.

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS
AND ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD!

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM AND SOCIAL IMPERIALISM!

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED NATIONS AND PEOPLES
OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

★★★ MAIN SPEAKER

RANK & FILE UMW COAL MINER WILL SPEAK
ON THE EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS OF
THE RECENT MINERS STRIKE

★★★ ALSO

cultural presentations messages of solidarity,
discussion, dinner

ALSO



HAIL
THE GLORIOUS
COAL MINERS STRIKE!
LEARN FROM THEM
FIGHT LIKE THEM!

HUNTER COLLEGE EAST LOUNGE
68th St. & LEXINGTON AVE.
IRT to 68th St. stop

MAY 7th
2pm

FREE
CHILDCARE

New York Committee
for Celebration of
May Day

HAIL THE COAL MINERS' HEROIC STRUGGLES