

---

# The Crown & The Hands

*A People's History of New York — And What We Must Do*

---

## The History They Don't Teach You

New York State was not built by the rich. It was built by working people — in every county, from the farms to the factories, from the mountains to the cities.

The first rulers of this land were the British Crown and their landlords, bankers, and military. After the Revolution, the British left, but their system remained. The wealth, land, and political power stayed in the hands of the landlords, merchants, and bosses. That system is what we call **The Crown**.

Not a person, but a structure of ownership and control that still exists today — in Albany, on Wall Street, and in every county across the state.

The people became **The Hands**. The workers, the tenants, the farmers. We built the Erie Canal. We worked the farms of the North Country, the mills of Troy, the factories of Buffalo, the railroads and ports downstate. We taught the children, carried the mail, cleaned the buildings, grew the food.

For generations, the Crown ruled and the Hands labored.

But the people fought back.

Tenant farmers in the Hudson Valley waged the Anti-Rent War against the landlords. Garment workers in New York City shut down sweatshops. Steelworkers in Buffalo, auto workers in Rochester, farmworkers in the Finger Lakes, postal workers and teachers across the state organized unions and fought for their rights.

Every time the people organized, the Crown's rule was threatened.

---

# How the Crown Maintained Power

The Crown learned how to hold on.

They used three main tactics:

## **1. Forgetting**

They tore down factories, abandoned towns, and closed farms.

They left entire upstate cities like Troy and Buffalo to decay.

They ended free tuition at CUNY and pushed young people into debt.

They erased the people's history of struggle from schools and media.

They made sure you forgot how strong the people had been.

## **2. Division**

They divided working people by race, language, and geography.

They turned upstate against downstate, city against farm, neighbor against neighbor.

They encouraged distrust and resentment to keep the people divided and weak.

## **3. Pacification**

They offered small reforms, charity programs, and empty promises.

They created nonprofits to manage poverty but never change who holds power.

They also made deals with organized crime.

For decades, they used criminal networks to control neighborhoods, rig union leadership, break strikes, and skim from working people.

Many ordinary people got caught up in that world — some out of survival, others out of desperation, most as victims.

But the Crown always benefited.

They used crime the same way they used the police, the politicians, and the media: to keep the people disorganized and afraid.

And when that wasn't enough, they used open repression — police violence, prisons, surveillance, blacklists, and fear.

---

## What They Fear Most

The Crown is not afraid of noise, slogans, or charity.

It is afraid of one thing:

The people — organized.

That is why they have always feared and attacked labor unions, tenant councils, and people's assemblies.

Because when the working class is organized, it can fight and win.

The secret of organized labor is not complicated.

It is not in slogans or marches.

It is in the fact that it is organized.

To be organized means:

- You do not fight alone.
- You do not wait for permission.
- You know who your people are, what they need, and how to act together.
- You move with discipline and coordination.
- You do not waste energy. You use it strategically.

That is why unions have power.

That is why tenant councils win.

That is why worker assemblies threaten the Crown.

The people can only break the Chains by organizing themselves.

---

## What Must Be Done — Starting Now

You do not need permission. You do not need to wait for politicians. You do not need to fix everything at once.

You need to organize.

---

## How to Start

Form a Committee:

- In your building •On your block •In your workplace •In your union
- In your school •In your neighborhood •In your county

A committee is a group of people who work together to solve shared problems and defend each other. A committee is the beginning of people's power.

---

## What the Committee Does

### 1. Talk to People.

Find out what the real problems are — rent, wages, police, healthcare, jobs, farms closing, utilities gouging.

### 2. Bring People Together.

Hold regular meetings. Build relationships. Encourage participation.

### 3. Make a Plan.

Defend a neighbor from eviction. Organize a petition at work. Demand safety measures. Protect each other.

### 4. Link with Other Committees.

No committee stands alone.

The goal is not to build isolated groups, but to connect them — block by block, farm by farm, shop by shop, city and country.

---

## The Tasks of the Committees

Each committee should:

- Map its block, building, workplace, neighborhood, or county.
  - Identify immediate needs.
  - Set regular meetings.
  - Organize concrete actions.
  - Connect to other committees.
  - Teach the real history of labor, struggle, and people's power in New York.
- 

## The Goal

This is not about charity.

This is not about waiting for elections.

This is not about slogans.

This is about organizing — everywhere.

In every county, every city, every town, every farm, every workplace.

When enough committees are built and connected, the Chains will break.

The Crown will fall.

And the people who built this state — workers, tenants, farmers, teachers, parents — will rule it.

That is how we win.

That is how we build freedom, equality, and dignity — in every county, for everyone.

---