



The proletariat as a class arose out of the industrial revolution, during which a plethora of new industrial machines were invented which made production exponentially more efficient. These machines, like steam engines, power looms, spinning jennies etc were expensive and so only the already wealthy bourgeoisie could purchase them. The massive boom in efficiency brought on by this new technology made many previous skilled laborers obsolete, anyone could learn how to operate a loom, pull a lever, stamp a piece of metal. When all of these skilled workers were no longer able to keep up with the industrial capacity of the massive capitalist tycoons they too had to give up their obsolete hand looms and work for the capitalists too. Just like that the working class morphed, they ceased to be owners of their own means of production and became proletarians, forced to work on the capitalist's loom to make a living. As the efficiency of these machines grew, so did the deskilling of laborers, the further division of labor, a worker used to participate in the entire process of production but now it's the machinery, not the worker carrying the bulk of the production, a worker only had to pull a lever and the machine performs this same basic function reliably. This process continued, bringing artisans from small towns into industrial cities and turning them into proletarians who must work on the capitalist side of the bourgeoisie to make a wage and survive until there were 2 primary encampments which define capitalism, the proletarian/wage-laborer/worker and the bourgeoisie/capitalist/owner.



Conclusion

Communism is the movement whose purpose is the abolition of class via the revolutionary seizure of power by and self-abolition of the proletariat. Communism is made possible by capitalism which created the bourgeoisie and proletariat (among other minor classes which we had no space to discuss). The bourgeoisie's wealth allowed them to buy capital which made the labor of skilled manufacturers obsolete, sending hordes of people into cities and making them proletarians. The most revolutionary sections of the proletariat have risen up a number of times throughout history, communists recognize, critique and learn from these experiments into post-capitalist organization. In earlier uprisings the proletariat joined forces with the bourgeoisie because their interests were aligned in abolishing the old feudal systems of power but now that feudal society is essentially non-existent, the bourgeoisie have become the barrier to the movement of history. A proletarian revolution must build its own new forms of power rather than just reorientating the bourgeois state. A post-capitalist society will be organized by all the members of the society for the purpose of meeting every individual's need and with the help that every individual can provide. The aims and ideas of communism have been both purposefully and mistakenly obscured in a number of ways which have to be clarified to properly orientate the revolutionary working class.

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~Karl Marx

now in existence."
conditions of this movement result from the premises
which abolishes the present state of things. The
adjust itself. We call communism the real movement
be established, an ideal to which really [will] have to
"Communism is for us not a state of affairs which is to

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what it can with an organized and clear path forward.
stumbles in the right direction but it will never be able to achieve
its head cut off, amnesia and wandering about, sometimes it
of good praxis. A movement with no theory is like a chicken with
proletarians and organizers reading this. Good theory is the basis
proper understanding of class and class power to any of the
The second goal of this Zine is to convey the importance of a
topics..

This Zine provides a number of entry-ways to different
communists, there is a "Further Learning" section at the end of
zine has sparked an interest in further learning about the ideas of
share this Zine in printable pdf can be found on our website. If this
by communists, if after you've finished reading it, you want to
goal of the Zine is to share an introduction to the basic ideas held
This Zine has two goals which it will attempt to achieve, the first
of Communism" and is formatted as a series of questions which
This Zine is adapted from Friedrich Engels' catechism "Principles
the Zine answers.

Further Learning

Further Reading

Wage-Labor and Capital Value, Price and Profit State and Revolution	The Dictatorship of the Proletariat
Marx	Lenin
Real Communism VS Vulgar Socialism	Capitalism in the Modern Day
Marx	Critique of Political Economy
Critique of the Gotha Programme Society of the Spectacle Capital Vol. 1	Capitalism in the Modern Day
Marx	Bordorff
Critique of Political Economy	The Dictatorship of the Proletariat
Marx	Marx
Capital Vol. 2 Capital Vol. 3 The Civil War in France Capitalist Realism	Capitalism in the Modern Day
Marx	Fisher
Marxism and Colonialism	Critique of Tactic
Marx	Luxemburg
The Wretched of the Earth Reform or Revolution Principles of Communism	The Original Text
Fanon	Engels
Trade Unions: Against The Working Class Dialogue With Stalin	Critique of Stalinism
Trotsky	Bordiga
Dictatorship of the Proletariat	Mariist Anthropology
Better, Fewer But Better Origin of The Family, Private Property and the State	Engels
Lenin	

Further Viewing/Listening

Marx was not a "statist" Learning about Marx with Jordan Peterson	Capitalism in the Modern Day
Cuck Philosophy	Zero Books
Basics of Marxist Economics	Miscellaneous Marxism
Xeixzy	
Marx in Minutes - Abolish Private Property Is Capitalism Too Big to Fail?	Visions of a New Society
Xeixzy	Javier Llana Cantu
Marx and Engels Were Not Egalitarians Marx on Freedom and Human Nature	Red Plateaus
anarchopac	
Will We Have to Work Under Socialism? The Intelligent Organization Pt. 1	Dispelling Myths About Marxism
Xeixzy	
Pop the Left: The Dictatorship of the Proletariat Pop the Left Marx vs Lassalle	Dispelling Myths About Marxism
Dictatorship of the Proletariat	Zero Books
Critique of Bourgeois Ideology	
The Problem With Human Rights What Constitutes a Socialist Society	Xeixzy
Cuck Philosophy	



Principles Of Communism

What is Communism?

Communism is the movement towards abolishing class society and all of the social relations specific to it via the revolutionary action of the proletariat.

What is the proletariat?

The proletariat is the class in our current society which makes their living from the sale of their labor-power and who owns no capital: whose life and death, whose sole existence depends on the demand for labor - hence, on the competition of business. The proletariat is the working class particular to capitalism.

So the proletariat hasn't always existed?

No. There has been a working class for every productive society prior to capitalism but the proletariat has a particular relation to the means of production that distinguishes itself from other earlier working classes.

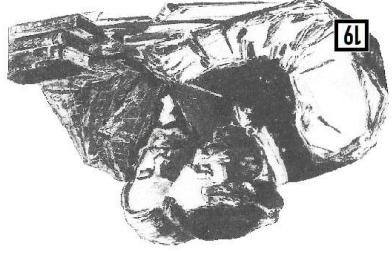
How did the proletariat come to be?

What separates proletarians from slaves?

There have been a number of working classes, all of which have been the primary working classes of earlier societies. The ruling classes. Slaves, serfs and artisan manufacturers have had different relations to the means of production and to the means of subsistence.

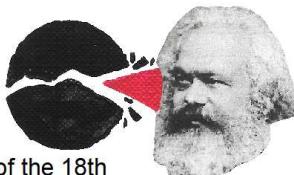
What working classes were there prior to capitalism?

Capitalism isn't just the relation between a boss and a worker, it's every productive social relation (production for exchange, wage-labor, alienation, profit etc) and the state of affairs that results from them in our current society, communism is the movement to abolish this state of affairs.



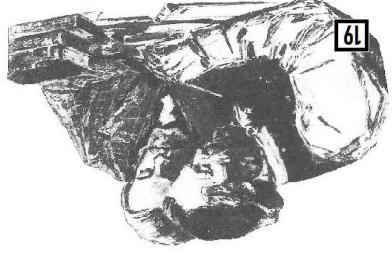
What are the conditions that define the sale of labor-power from proletarians to the bourgeoisie?

of the bourgeoisie as evidenced by its immediate turn to violently suppressing the revolutionary proletariat. In virtually all of the revolutions against feudal society of the 18th and 19th century the bourgeoisie and the proletariat worked together in overthrowing the monarchies but the revolutionary proletariat in every instance had to immediately take up a new struggle against the new ruling capitalist class. The bourgeoisie were a progressive force in the overthrowing of monarchies but immediately became a reactionary power which crushed the proletariat.



The explosion of production also came with a new problem, unique to capitalism. Whereas in previous societies there were crises caused by under production, a drought drying up all the fields and causing a famine for instance, capitalism has crises of overproduction. The goal of the capitalist is to make as much money as possible, to do this they have to sell as many goods as possible, when another capitalist sets the price of their goods lower than this other capitalist, a race to the bottom begins wherein one capitalist reaches their price floor and gets priced out of the market, the easiest place to cut costs is in the wages of the workers who make them. So competition between capitalists and workers drives down prices of goods and labor-power.

Eventually this process reaches a point where the market is inundated with so many cheap goods that no one is there to



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Capitalism from the top. And their "communist" party, both of these states direct enterprises everywhere from the ardent anti-communists and their dictatorship of South Korea to present day China and the military dictatorships of North Korea and Cuba to remnants of private-property exists for remains, there are/were state-directed funds extraction of profit which private-property owned companies either a capitalist minister for a state-run firm, the government minister personally owns a corporation or is owned property", the state is a tool of a particular class, socialism can also not be reduced to "When the state

just getting rid of your boss.

Revolution but the radical proletariat around the globe rose up at the same time, worker's councils in Hungary, Germany and elsewhere declared independence, workers and soldiers organized strikes and mutinies in France, the Irish rose up against British control in the Easter Rising, etc. In the end though the only revolutions that managed to survive were the Russian and Mongolian revolutions. In February of 1917 the Russian Czar was toppled by a popular movement of protests, strikes and military mutinies, shortly thereafter the bourgeoisie seized control and established the provisional government while the radical proletariat held the soviets (Russian for worker's councils). Some of the driving issues behind the revolution were opposition to World War One and food rationing, when the bourgeois provisional government failed to either pull out of the war or get bread to people, the protests, strikes and mutinies began again, leading to the October Revolution which put power unto the hands of the society. Unfortunately the situation was dire from the beginning of the Soviet Union's establishment, it was still largely feudal and without having gone through the development of capitalism there wasn't a strong proletariat class, this issue could've been remedied but virtually all of the other proletarian uprisings and revolutions were violently crushed, isolating the Russian Revolution. Slowly the power of the soviets was diminished and the communist party of the USSR bureaucratized, the dictatorship of the proletariat degenerated into a state-directed bourgeois dictatorship which Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin lamented

Another person may say that socialism/communism is expanding the pool of owners to the workers doesn't "worker ownership of the means of production" but just still remain even if they are chosen by the collective of workers themselves, a co-operative firm may provide better working conditions, better wages etc but it still subject to the hell of capitalism that can't be remedied by

supporting your offspring, partner, to maintaining society in any complex society, a portion of your labor may go to "owns the full fruits of their labor" which is an impossibility as a whole.

Some leftists may say that socialism is when a person for is a bourgeois state with stronger social programs, a himself as a "democratic socialist" but what he advocates marketplace of ideas. Senator Bernie Sanders describes commodities which pass for socialism/communism on the knowledge we picked up to examine a number of the it's time to work from the other direction and use the until now it has attempted to answer that question but now This zine opened by asking "What is communism?" and

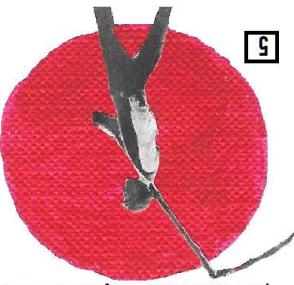
What Isn't Communism?

before his passing in a series of essays and public statements including the letter "How We Should Reorganize the Workers' and Peasants' Inspectorate". By the 1930's the party had been thoroughly conquered by counter-revolutionary bureaucrats like Stalin who began a purge on anyone they deemed a threat to power, this included reactionaries and monarchists but it also included many of the same revolutionaries like Gavril Myasnikov who fought to establish the Soviet Union and then fought to maintain power in the hands of the workers.

The next series of uprisings occurred in 1968, though they took the form of mass protests, riots and a general strike rather than armed revolt. French students built barricades and inspired a series of wildcat solidarity strikes, American demonstrators fought cops at the DNC, 1000's riots after Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered, in other nations radicals protested against imperialism both from the Soviet Union and NATO, particularly the Vietnam War. 1968 was also just 2 years after the formation of the Black Panther Party.



serfs while still being a working class are also a renting class, serfs own the property they work on and with which they work, proletarians on the other hand own no means of production, they have to labor on the capitalist's property. The serfs must give title to their lord in exchange for use of the land whereas the proletarian receives wages in exchange for the capitalist's property. The sale of labor-power on the market gives the capitalist a profit which is the capitalist's property.



What Separates Proletarians from Serfs?

Prison system for instance. Are enclaves of capitalism where slavery still exists, the US are enclaves of capitalism it is important to note that there working class of capitalism the proletariat is the primary of private property. While the proletariat is the whole system the proletariat to be free they abolish the whole system relation of slavery wherever they become a proletariat, for instead provided the basic square needed to survive by their master. The conditions of a slave's freedom from slavery are reduced to the abolition of the specific private property means of subsistence, a slave receives no wages but is instead provided the basic square needed to acquire the property. A proletarian has to receive wages to sell their labor-power, parts of their life compartmentalized into hours, weekdays and weekends a proletarian must sell their labor-power, parts of

What were the consequences of the industrial revolution?

When the power of the new machinery created by the industrial revolution surged the markets around the world with cheap goods, people were forced to abandon their skilled personal manufacturing and go where the capital was, concentrating labor and capital into cities. This massive concentration of workers is necessary for capitalism to function but it also lays the groundwork for capitalism's abolition. Workers become socialized in their workplaces and working-class neighborhoods, they come together not only with their co-workers but now with the advent of long-distance communication technology, with workers around the world, this process is necessary to capitalism's functioning but it also allows the proletariat to plot, to organize.

The wealth of the emergent bourgeoisie made them powerful yet they were still excluded from the real institutions of power controlled by the aristocracy, lords and kings of feudalism so the bourgeoisie built their own forms of power outside of those institutions and in many cases (most notably the French Revolution) violently overthrew the previous feudal institutions. The new forms of power the bourgeoisie created became the liberal democracy, the capitalist state, it arose out of combat with the prior feudal monarchies but its real purpose was to ensure the supremacy

The society directly following capitalism will be communism, a necessarily classless society, there cannot be a group of distinct owners and workers, rather every member of society would be the fulfilment of their needs for all individuals of the society. Capitalism develops the productive forces which allow communism to provide all individuals with a home, a meal, a drink, a ability, to each according to their need", the driving motive of a communist society would be the fulfilling need of the needs for all individuals of the society. Capitalism

What might a post-capitalist society look like?

buy enough of it, if no one buys the capitalist's goods then the profits of the capitalist drags up, the capitalist lays off workers, when the workers have no job they can buy even less and so we have the basis for the boom and bust cycle of capitalism. These busts are inherent to capitalism and will continue to destroy the lives of workers so long as capitalism remains, in 1929, 2008 and now this bust is being written (late 2020) on the brink of another catastrophe bust which will decimate lives and communities which may eventually recover but only to be crushed again by another bust so long as capitalism remains.

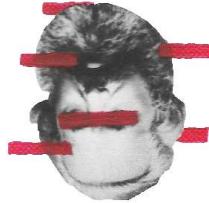
English etc, they become one grand proletarian revolution which fights for the interests of the proletariat everywhere.

What does communism mean for me?

Capitalism's driving motive is the accumulation of profit into the hands of a few capitalists and so the way capitalist society is oriented is towards the mass production of cheap crap no one needs, phones that break every few years, garbage food that wrecks your health, etc because those make the money, they get people hooked. Communism's driving motive is meeting the needs of everyone, you won't have to struggle to pay rent because a home will be due to all, as will all the other means of social reproduction, food, water, means of communication etc.

Capitalism structures production robotically, if you've ever sympathized with the expression "a cog in the machine", this

is on purpose, it is simply more efficient for your bosses if you pull one lever, pack one box, flip one purger, type one memo forever until you retire or die. Communists recognize labor as a fundamental part of existence, communism is liberatory because it frees you to engage in any form of productive labor without becoming a



In the years 1916-1923 there was another wave of revolutions, this time they had a truly proletarian nature to them. The most

wiped out across history most traces of feudalism were the turn of the 20th century most nobility became dominant. By monarchies fell and the capitalist class became dominant. By bourgeoisie, virtually all of their demands were met, the victories were symbolic but over the next few decades, for the revolutionaries of 1848 were crushed though, their immediate were needed to help overturn the old feudal order. Most of force, the feudal monarchies and aristocrats of old were still in power in a number of places and liberal revolutionaries where the bourgeoisie may still have been a progressive force who rose up in the German Revolution (and who later served as a general for the Union during the American Civil War). These revolts took place in a time (and who later served as a general for the German Revolution communists generally who rose up in August 1848, a Engels himself was the aide-de-camp to General Willrich, a German states, liberals tried to overthrow monarchies etc, one sweeping entity, nationalists tried to unite the revolutionaries proletarians rising up in other nations to form Revolts in dozens of nations across the world sprouted up against a variety of issues, communists tried to unite with nationalists and the progressive bourgeoisie took the lead of, took a significant part in but which reformers, liberals,

"worker". Here's how the communist theorist Karl Marx describes day-to-day production under communism: "... while in communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman or critic."

What might the organization of labor look like after capitalism?

While it may be impossible to know the minutiae of a society that doesn't exist there are a number of maxims by which a classless society must organize itself, it must necessarily be moneyless because currency mediates exchange-value which leads to production for exchange, which is a central social relation of capitalism. Communism must be orientated on the idea of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need" meaning that every member of society produces for a common pool which can be enjoyed by all members of the society, a common pool which guarantees a home, food, water and time for the basic human need to engage our own personal unalienated fulfilling productive labor.

There are other instances of the worldwide proletariat rising in revolt together though, namely in the years 1848, 1916-1923 and 1968. 1848 was a year that saw a number of revolutions, riots and armed uprisings which the revolutionary proletariat

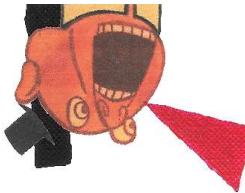
of the commune was purposefully obscured from the world. They weren't ready, perhaps because the revolutionary nature they rise in solidarity with the Paris Commune, perhaps because they established universal male suffrage and banned forms of child labor etc. Eventually through the worldwide proletariat did not establish the death penalty and military conscription.

Commune in the short time remained standing achieved some other socialists today still believe. The Paris Commune as some other socialists today still believe. The Paris Commune within the institutions and attempting to proletarianize seizing bourgeois institutions and bourgeois power or by via working within the institutions of bourgeois power or by illuminated the fact that proletarian power cannot be achieved by the people of Paris at any time. The Paris Commune for a council of delegates who were subject to immediate recall by the delegates who were subject to immediate election for old Parisian government and immediately held new elections of the proletariat". The Paris Commune kicked out all of the old Parisian government which he described as the "first dictatorship of Marx, like all other communists was inspired by the Paris Commune (1871) which he described by the Paris

What might proletarian power look like?

The verbiage marxists use to describe class power is primarily the class dictatorship, Marx described the society we live in now as a "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie" and described the process wherein the proletariat overturns this society as the "dictatorship of the proletariat". There may be some confusion about the use of this term to describe what this zine has been calling "class power" until now, this is another case of definitions changing with time and confusing the meaning of statements made long ago. Today we generally understand a dictatorship to mean "rule by a dictator", an all powerful tyrant but Marx would describe our current society as a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie despite the fact that we don't have a dictator (not yet at least). In Marx's day the popular definition of dictatorship was "absolute authority in a given subject", so a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie is the capitalist's absolute control of the economy and political society. A dictatorship of the proletariat then would mean the empowerment of every proletarian to participate in the direction of society and domination of the bourgeoisie.

What are some real-life examples of a dictatorship of the proletariat?



How do we achieve this new society?

Very short phrase actually contains within it the whole basis which subverts profit from the wages of proletarians. This class of owners (capitalists) must own the private property all of the relations that are inherent to private property, a person's home, assuming said toothbrush or a personal ownership, like that of a simple toothbrush or a capitalist society, it does not however contain the basis of capitalist property which is used for the extraction of profit from another.

Engels' day so it's important to clarify what private property today has shifted greatly from what it meant in Marx and means for communists. Private property is very basically, property which is used to extract profit from the labor of others. But, the phrase private property contains within it all of the relations that are inherent to private property, a definition of private property in common conversation

What is private property?

A fulfilling life. The best and most concise way to describe communism is the abolition of private property.

Though a clean, peaceful overturning of capitalist society is certainly the most preferable path for all communists to take, we have seen what the entrenched ruling classes will do when their power is threatened even by a peaceful mass of workers, violent counter-revolution. Communists acknowledge this fact and so they prepare for armed international proletarian revolution, the proletariat must both build up its own forms of power which is distinct and separate from bourgeois power and destroy the old reactionary bourgeois state. The orientation of this new revolutionary power must be fixated on the goal of self-abolition because of course class power implies class which communism is without. Just as capitalism makes communism possible by creating and socializing a mass of proletarians, the global, all encompassing nature of capitalism means that revolution too must be global, it is simply not possible to establish an enclave of communism surrounded by a hostile world of capitalism. Obviously the basis of revolution is organized in locations and sectors, when say a group of revolutionary proletarians in Oregon throw off the chains of the capitalists and create worker power, they have taken the first step towards revolutionary transformation but the worldwide proletariat remains in this struggle. Should proletarians in England or wherever else also rise up, the situation evolves, though these revolts begin as Oregonian, English etc, they become one grand proletarian revolution