

The Process of Development

lessness are all elements of unemployment. Unemployment today is different from the 1930s. Then it was simply a cyclical crisis. Today, the cyclical crisis is taking shape within and expresses the historic crisis. It is not curable within capitalism.

For example, during the late 1940s Ford's River Rouge auto plant had 60,000 workers. Today it has 16,000. This peaking out and numerical decline in the number of workers concentrated in a single plant reflects the decline of mechanically based industry and the growth of a new form of labor — electronics. The application of electricity was a stage of development of the mechanical forces and created labor saving devices. Electricity, however, provided the basis for the new development. Electronics, totally separate from mechanics, means labor replacing instruments. By replacing mechanical labor the property relations that were built around them have become untenable.

Dialectical and historical materialism is our philosophical approach to the study of the real world in constant change. People organize around production. They have always organized to secure the basic necessities of

life — food, clothing, and housing — regardless of the level of the means of production. This means that the productive forces lead. People invent the wheel, or the spinning jenny, or the steam engine, or the vacuum tube to make their work easier or profitable. The application of science to industry, and the resulting advance in the productive forces, compels the restructuring of the social relations.

Dialectics teaches us that the process of development is through definite, indispensable, knowable and predictable quantitative stages with a leap into a new quality.

A process is the totality of stages of development of dialectical motion. Matter is in motion due to internal contradictions, and the changes compel it forward. As Stalin said, things and phenomena in nature have their "positive and negative sides, the past and the future, something dying away, and something developing."

A process is dialectical because there is some line of compulsion that creates and unites the contradictory elements; forces them to struggle and polarize; and creates a synthesis by their mutual destruction. Social production is such a line of compulsion. An individual might stand aside from this line of compulsion, but society cannot.