

Work is rapidly changing ... and so is the worker.

HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

By Sam Marcy

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- The crisis in the trade unions
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The high-tech revolution is transforming the economy, from manufacturing to information processing to the service industries. Corporations see this momentous development as an avenue to greater profits—over the backs of the workers and their unions. Mass layoffs, the de-skilling of the workforce, robots replacing workers—the business magazines are upbeat that this will revive U.S. industry and foster labor-management “cooperation.”

Sam Marcy presents a very different picture. High tech has brought a general anti-labor offensive. Wages are dropping, working conditions are deteriorating and the labor movement is in a crisis.

But what does the future hold? Are strikes like Hormel and Phelps Dodge symptomatic of a new anger and fightback developing among the workers? And who are the working class anyway? Marcy develops a thesis that the growing preponderance of lower-paid workers, especially women and Third World people, is leading to a political shift in the labor movement. This view is richly documented with concrete examples and statistics.

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