

But an attempt to bring about such a basic change would immediately meet the opposition of the capitalists and their State power. This State power consists not only of the bodies of government, but of the army, the police, the courts. In order to expropriate the capitalists the workers first need to discard the existing government machinery and to institute a working class government. Such a revolution was successfully carried through in Russia in 1917, under the leadership of the Communist Party.

This is *the basic change*. Such a revolution frees the workers from wage-slavery and from oppression by the capitalists. The workers are in power. The workers' government suppresses every effort of the capitalists to restore the old system. Under this new workers' government, which guarantees the widest democracy for the masses, the building of socialism begins. Only then is it possible to have social planning to fill the needs of all the masses, to abolish unemployment, to abolish war for profit.

But in order to accomplish the revolution and to defend it the workers need the support of the other exploited sections of the population. While the workers are in a position to organize and lead such a revolution, they cannot carry it through by themselves. They have allies in the population. These allies are:

1. The mass of poor and small farmers, who are oppressed by big business, the trusts, the monopolies and the bankers; also the middle class in the cities, such as the technicians, the professionals, small businessmen, etc., who are suffering from capitalism and who have everything to gain under socialism.

2. The oppressed Negro people.

3. The oppressed peoples of the American colonies—the Philippine Islands, Cuba, etc., and of South and Central America who are under the domination of the capitalists of the U.S.

Among the most important allies of the working class is the Negro people in the United States. This fact determines the relation between the two aspects of the revolution which is developing in this country.

The Combination of Two Revolutions

The revolution for land and freedom in the South and the proletarian revolution in the country as a whole will develop hand in hand. Each will lend strength and support to the other. The working class—both white and Negro—will lead both.

How does it come about that the white workers not only will, but must lend their support to the struggle for Negro liberation?

First of all, because the workers will not be able to overthrow capitalism unless they have the help of the Negro people. This is why we say that it is inevitable that the white workers, even the Southern white workers, fight for Negro freedom and support the struggle of the Negro people. They will do so because it is necessary for their own victory.

The Southern white workers especially will support the Negroes in their struggle. For in the South the power of the landlords and capitalists is threatened most of all in the Black Belt. Here the class struggle is very sharp. This is the weakest front of capitalism. Just imagine what consternation will seize hold of the ruling class of the country when the struggle in the plantation country reaches the stage of revolution! The revolution which breaks out here might indeed be the spark for the proletarian revolution throughout the country. The white workers will understand that the struggle of the Negro people for freedom weakens the power of their own oppressors, the capitalists.

Between the proletarian revolution and the revolution of the Negro people for land and freedom there is a living link. This is the working class. It is among the workers that solidarity first develops and is the strongest. In the cities and towns of the South and in the big industrial centers of the North this solidarity between white and Negro labor is forged. Here reposes the leadership of the two aspects of the revolution.

But there also must be present a conscious organized group of workers, which realizes the necessity of revolution and which leads the masses in their daily struggles towards this end. This is the role of the Communist Party. Communists do not only talk about the future revolution, but are active fighters for the daily interests of the masses. In unions and other working class organizations, in strikes, in demonstrations, in elections, we Communists endeavor, while playing a leading part in the struggles of the masses, to convince them of the correct, revolutionary way out. And one of our principal lines of activity has always been to develop now the solidarity of the white workers and Negro masses, to build this alliance in our daily life and struggles, to assure the combination of the two aspects of the American revolution.