day for "singing and dancing around the May-pole" in celebration of the "May flowers that came from April showers." In this reactionary spirit, the capitalists and their social props in the labor movement (mainly the trade-union reformist and bureacratic leaders, and reformist and revisionist "Communist" parties), have also tried to substitute a "Labor Day" in September (a day of relaxation after a hard and hot summer of exploitation), for revolutionary May Day. In recent years, the U.S. capitalists have also declared May 1 as "Law Day," a day to pay homage to all the bourgeois laws that defend the capitalists and keep the working class in wage slavery. This "Law Day" is the exact opposite of what revolutionary May Day was and is--an international working-class day of struggle against the imperialist system.

In the countries that claim to be socialist, but are really capitalist and imperialist, like the "Soviet" Union and others, May Day is no longer a show of strength of the workers of those countries, but a day where the new bourgeoisie displays its military might, its arsenal against the working class of that country and others.

It is the task of Marxist-Leninists the world over to sum up this history in a scientific fashion, draw the proper lessons, and tell the working class the real truth. The working class must become conscious of the class and the system that exploits and oppresses it, and must know the real solutions to the tremendous problems faced by the majority of workers and toilers world-wide. This again is our purpose for preparing and distributing this pamphlet--to tell the workers the truth about history, present conditions, and what needs to be done to ensure a bright future for generations to come. Workers of every country, regardless of age, sex, nationality or occupation, need to learn the true facts, history and revolutionary significance of the struggles of the international working class. This class history needs to be understood and cherished in order to wage the class struggle against the bourgeoisie, for the socialist revolution.

That is why our groups are working along with other revolutionaries and advanced workers, nationally and internationally, to return the real and true revolutionary history of May Day--International Workers' Day--to its proper place on history's mantle. So as you go through these pages, jot down notes, discuss the contents with your fellow workers, friends and family, and discuss these matters with us, or make written responses to us regarding these questions and others.

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: 1981 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

The Economic and Political Content of the Imperialist System

Imperialism developed on the basis of capitalism, making its major characteristics more profound, and thus represents its last and most developed level. Let us briefly examine those important features from a Marxist-Leninist perspective.

First, the basic features of capitalism remain under imperialism. These are the private ownership and control of the means of production (the factories, mines, land, mills, etc.), political power by the tiny class of capitalists (bourgeoisie) which own and control the means of production, and production for the profit of this class by the extraction of surplus value from the labor of the working class.

Surplus value, the real basis of profit, is simply the value created by labor which is left over after the bourgeoisie pays workers their "value" (in wages). The workers' value, under capitalist exchange, is usually only what it takes to maintain them, their basic needs. Workers are able, through the advanced technique under capitalism, to create much more than their value. It is this extra value--surplus value--which the bourgeoisie, because it owns and controls the means of production, is able to appropriate for itself. This becomes profit, part of which becomes capital in the hands of the bourgeoisie. The capital is used, not for the good of society, but for the private reinvestment (thus enrichment) of each bourgeoisie. Anarchy of production, or lack of planning and coordination, is thus a characteristic of capitalism, and this is turn causes crises of overproduction where commodities are in abundance but workers can't buy them, and periods of mass unemployment.

It is this exploitation of workers, and the oppression which arises on this basis, that conflicts with the high technical and social development of society, the actual socialization of the means of production (the contradiction that production is social, yet appropriation is private, the contradiction that abundance abounds yet the workers who create this cannot partake of this abundance) that lays the basis for a socialist revolution.

Imperialism further develops these basic characteristics. Under the old capitalism free competition in commodity production was the major economic feature, whereas with the development to imperialism, free competition is displaced by monopolies and small-scale production is replaced by large-scale industry, with an enormous concentration of