



We Must Follow the Great October Socialist Revolution

On October 25, 1917, the guns of the cruiser Aurora ushered in a new era for humanity. The first successful socialist revolution, the **Great October Socialist Revolution**, had begun.

History up to this point had seen the progression of feudalism to capitalism, an economic system which is aimed at the pursuit of profit. The nineteenth century saw industrialization and world trade fuel capitalism, which gradually replaced the older economic systems. Capitalist businesses formed cartels and monopolies, while at the same time the first Working Men's Associations were formed, the predecessors for modern day trade unions. The revolutionary struggle of the working masses inspired many movements across the world, notably Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848, and the Paris Commune in 1871, where working people took up arms and briefly declared their own government until it was bloodily crushed by the bourgeois reaction. The **Great October Socialist Revolution** was the first successful socialist revolution, which led to the creation of the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist state. The masses of workers were suffering from poor living conditions under capitalism in Russia, as capitalist production is attained through the exploitation of wage labor, where all profit is taken from the workers by the capitalist class.

Under socialism, there are no antagonistic classes and the means of production are public property, being owned by the working people themselves, and the immediate aim of social production is to satisfy people's wants. ¹ The great leader Comrade **Vladimir Lenin** wrote that socialism signified the introduction of a systematic organization of production "to ensure the well-being and many-sided development of all the members of society."² Socialism was victorious in the Soviet Union.³ The socialist stage is a period of time before the transition of society from socialism to communism. "Forward, Towards Communism!" was a slogan bannered on many Soviet buildings. In the Soviet Union, all landlords were abolished, all factories were under common ownership, education was free, housing,

medical care, retirement and job benefits such as vacation leave and sick time were provided to all people. The streets were safe at night and the country was the most democratic country in the world.

The Soviet Union developed itself during the great depression period of the capitalist countries. Imperialist war led to the **Great Patriotic War** where the Soviet Union saved the world from fascism and defeated Hitler Germany. The most barbaric evils of capitalism were defeated by the Red Army, and the Soviet Union then led the world into a period of peace and prosperity. The Soviet Union then led the world in numerous technological breakthroughs, such as Yuri Gagarin, the first human being in space. The Soviet Union, the leader of peace and of all peaceful people, was overthrown in the early 1990s, and now the current world which we the youth have inherited is full of oppression, poor living conditions, and an absurd militarist and jingoist situation in 2017 from the United States which may possibly put humanity on the brink of extinction.

We do not study the October Revolution for nostalgia. It is true that political realities and economic situations are different in every country. In the United States, the success of the October Revolution led to a new reality for working people. The labor movement in the United States had been plagued with opportunism, collaboration, and defeatism.⁴ The corrupt American Federation of Labor of Samuel Gompers pledged its full support to World War One just like the second international groups across Europe did when they took sides in the imperialist war, and the decaying Socialist Party USA sank into deeper sectarianism and membership loss. Two fledgling Communist Parties in the United States were united under Bolshevik discipline and the first Communist Party USA was created in 1919. The famous Industrial Workers of the World organization, which predated the Communist Party, advocated for unionism and many of the leaders of the CPUSA, such as William Z. Foster and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, had their origins in the IWW. Big Bill Haywood, leader of the IWW, lived and died in the Soviet Union. John Reed, another famous American Communist, wrote the book, "10 Days Which Shook the World" about the October Revolution.

The October Revolution inspired Communists within the United States to fight for the rights of working people, for oppressed nationalities, for real trade unions and job security such as Medicare, Social Security, retirement, the 8 hour work day, etc, all of which occurred during the period of the Great Depression. Communists led the creation of a new labor movement in the US, the Congress of Industrial Organizations or CIO. Rank and file trade union workers had great success in activity such as strikes and political action. Communists played a key role in engaging workers, youth, women, the unemployed, racial groups suffering from oppression such as African Americans in the south, and it was the Party that was the dynamic force in the whole movement.⁵ At the same time of supporting labor and workers' rights, the Communist Party USA also supported oppressed nationalities, one of the most notable cases being the Scottsboro Case in 1931 where Party members under the International Labor Defense organization fought for the lives of two young black men, condemned for nothing other than racism, gaining national and world recognition and support, although taking 17 years total, to be eventually freed.⁶

In the United States, the basic themes of big lie anti-communism the Federal Bureau of Investigation expounds are that Marxism-Leninism is a foreign idea; that the Communist Party is related

and connected to a foreign conspiracy and that socialism and communism are destructive of democratic and religious rights. The United States is the foremost capitalist and imperialist power, and the United States is infamous for its red scares, anti-communism and witch-hunts. Yet many people around the world may not know that the Communist Party USA was once the third most powerful force behind the Republican and Democratic Parties, in 1947, when the Party had over a hundred thousand members, from all aspects of life, involved in every struggle, all entirely home-grown. The Communist Party USA has now abandoned its legacy and destroyed its history, but we in the Party of Communists USA and its youth organization the League of Young Communists USA follow Bolshevik discipline, Marxism-Leninism and the Soviet Experience.

One hundred years have passed from the **Great October Socialist Revolution** and its contributions to humanity inspire the masses to fight for the equality of all people and for working class power. A worldwide revolutionary process was inevitably sparked and continues to this day. The October Revolution was the first successful socialist revolution but it will not be the last. Long live the **Great October Socialist Revolution**, long live Marxism-Leninism, long live socialism-communism!

League of Young Communists USA Council of Secretaries 2017



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