

Maoist Communist Union

Our Orientation for Communists
within the Working Class Movement
in the Struggle for Revolution



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Maoist Communist Union (MCU) is a communist organization in the United States. We are working to create a vanguard communist party. This necessarily entails the development of both the working class movement and Marxism, and ultimately, the fusion of the two.

In the last few years we have seen some very promising and exciting developments in popular movements in the United States. From the George Floyd Uprisings, to the uptick in labor union struggles, to the revival of the mass anti-imperialist movement with the opposition to the genocide in Gaza, it is clear that the oppressed masses in the U.S. are increasingly fed up with their conditions and the global status quo. In line with these developments there has been a revived interest in Marxism as people work to understand the world and how to change it. However, despite this interest in Marxism, these popular movements have largely been under the ideological sway and political leadership of various petty-bourgeois and bourgeois trends. These range from radical left-liberal ideology—which seeks major change, but remains mired in the concepts and framework of the bourgeois world—to business union leaders with a militant facade, whose bankruptcy is evident in how they brag about “taking on big corporations” while simultaneously promoting collaboration between Labor and Capital.

With this sort of mis-leadership, the past few years have also provided some painful lessons of how movements stumble and collapse, provided that we are willing to see them. As long as popular movements remain within the confines of radical but bourgeois ideologies (such as left-liberalism and trade unionism), the defeats of the past few years will be repeated as discontent grows, just on a bigger scale. This risk is all the more real because the bourgeoisie is adapting to the new domestic and international circumstances and crafting new forms of populist ideology suited to the shifting status quo. These new forms of populism aim to preserve the class dictatorship of the capitalists, and they span the gamut from Trump’s Neonativism, to Biden’s rebranding as a “pro-union” politician, and Bernie’s tepid social democracy. These are already finding resonance with significant sections of the broad masses and the working class.

However, the situation is far from hopeless. We can get out of the current morass, if the working class movement gains strength and, with the aid of

communist leadership,¹ help to guide these popular movements to join in the struggle for the eventual revolutionary overthrow of the U.S. capitalist class. Of course, a great deal of ideological and theoretical clarity is needed, as a socialist revolution in a country of hundreds of millions of people is no simple matter.

Given that a key stumbling block of recent popular movements has been the petty-bourgeois and bourgeois ideologies which have guided them, we need to develop specifically proletarian leadership of popular movements. This is because only the proletariat has a unique class interest in overcoming all forms of oppression and exploitation, and therefore only the proletariat is capable of ultimately uniting all who can be united in the socialist revolution. In order to develop proletarian leadership we need to both study Marxism (and its highest stage of development, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism) and promote Marxism among the working class movement to aid in its development and ideological clarity.

On the first point, studying Marxism is itself a serious task. To paraphrase Lenin, modern communist consciousness is based on profound scientific knowledge. In the U.S. there is a general dearth of clarity on the lessons of the revolutions of the 20th Century and their eventual defeats, not to mention the history of the work that Marx and Engels did in the 19th Century. We must seriously study the history of class struggles under socialism, and how and why capitalism was eventually restored in the USSR and China. In addition to studying the lessons of history and topics like dialectical materialism and political economy, we also must learn the history of this country and understand the present reality (e.g. contradictions among the ruling class, the current economic situation, etc.). All of this requires a lot of collective effort to study, discuss, debate, and learn.

In MCU we have taken some important steps to develop our own under-

1 As Marx and Engels noted in *The Communist Manifesto*: “The Communists, therefore, are on the one hand, practically, the most advanced and resolute section of the working-class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement.”

standing of Marxism, including serious investigation into topics like the Cultural Revolution in China, the history of the CPUSA, the bourgeoisie's shift from Neoliberalism to Neomercantilism, etc. However, we still have a lot to learn and have been in a continual process of learning and casting off old mistaken ideas that we held. Only through serious and detailed study and investigation is it possible to develop ourselves as communists worthy of leading the working class movement.

On the second point, in order to spread Marxism among the working class movement, we aim to take up the approach of Lenin and the Bolshevik Party. We concentrate our organizing efforts and propaganda on the advanced workers in the labor union movement, especially the industrial proletariat. Through winning over these advanced workers to Marxism, we can, in turn, work with them to spread Marxism to the intermediate and even backwards workers. Through political propaganda, we can also teach these advanced workers about various issues and outrages in the society, and teach them of the social conditions of other classes and strata (e.g. the homeless, college students, reserve army of labor, etc.) from a distinctly proletarian perspective. In this way, we can teach them how to win these sections of society over to the socialist revolution while simultaneously struggling against the petty-bourgeois illusions that these other strata cling to.

Through all of this work we aim to ultimately fuse with the advanced section of the working class (which is still scattered and dispersed), become a Communist vanguard party, and ultimately be in a position to lead a socialist revolution in this country on the path to communism. That goal is still a very long way off, but we can see the line of continuity between our present actions and our future goal. The road ahead of us is long and winding; it involves many challenges, hardships, and obstacles. However, with clarity on the lessons of Marxism to guide our work and courageous and self-sacrificing spirit we can overcome all difficulties and chart a course forward out of the swamp of capitalist society and towards socialism and communism.

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