

Trotsky on May Day, 1916

The international working class suffers today, as it has for so many long years now, from a deep-going crisis of leadership. On looking back it becomes clear that the starting point of this critical condition dates back 37 years — to the outbreak of World War I, in August 1914.

The powerful Socialist movement then organized in the Second International proved utterly bankrupt. With the exception of a handful of internationalists, whose hard core consisted of the Russian Marxists headed by Lenin and Trotsky, the rest of the top leaders of the Second International capitulated to imperialism.

The reformation of world Socialism proved a more protracted and difficult task than had been foreseen by anyone. The crisis of working leadership was successfully resolved in only one country — and that was Russia, where the rule of landlords and capitalists was abolished by the October 1917 Revolution.

The Third (Communist) International, which came to replace the Second, was not afforded by history time enough to accomplish its task.

Under new circumstances and conditions, the main task confronting the revolutionary Socialists today falls into the general framework of the task that confronted the internationalists of the World War I epoch.

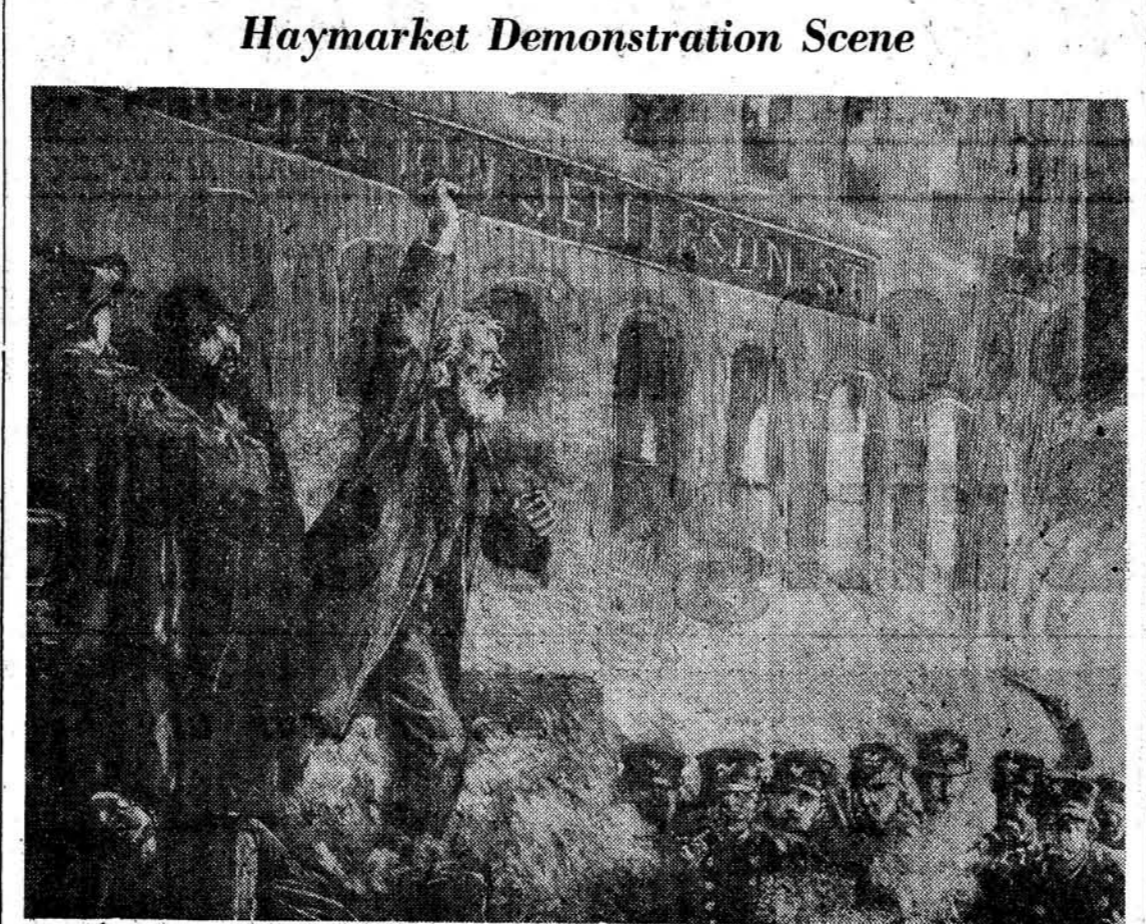
fronting the revolutionary Socialists today falls into the general framework of the task that confronted the internationalists of the World War I epoch. It is highly instructive to learn how our great teachers oriented themselves in the very first stages of the crisis of leadership that still confronts the world working class.

By Leon Trotsky
In a society where the very basis of life — which is the process of production — remains without planned organization, all social relations sweep, in the final analysis, over the heads of the people.

If at the outset, this war did enter into the conscious plans and calculations of the private property-owners as a "continuation of politics by other means," then in the course of last year, the consequences of this war have swept far above the heads of the propertied classes.

Of this society, based on anarchy, and whose destinies are slipping out of its own hands, the proletariat is a component part. The Socialist movement has, in theory, foreseen this war, and has forecast in the main its social consequences.

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Reproduction of an old newspaper drawing of police attack on the Chicago Haymarket meeting on May 4, 1886, during the fight for the eight-hour day.

broke out, it confronted the working masses not as a lawful political event, but as a new political condition of the inimical capitalist society, but rather as a catastrophe that had descended from the outside upon the "nation" as a whole.

For the Socialist parliamentarian or publicist the change of fronts frequently finds its expression in — and is limited by — a formal "hostility" to the war and in refusing to accept any responsibility for it.

Counter-mobilization means the task of revolutionary action. Cognizance of this fact is what actually underlies the ideological war between the revolutionary internationalists and the social-patriotic allies of militarism.

SWP LAUNCHES CONTEST FOR 'MILITANT' SALES

(Continued from Page 1)
subs, or individual copies of the paper is up to the individual. The main thing is to get the maximum number of points. The campaign will conclude Sunday, July 1.

The Leagues will be divided up as follows among the branches of the SWP:

- 2. Konikow League
Boston Flint
Newark Milwaukee
Philadelphia Youngstown
Cleveland

The leagues have been named after Oscar Coover, Paul Kujac and Antoinette Konikow, comrades who during their lives so well symbolized the rank and file workers who are going to spark-plug this campaign.

Bankers Urges U.S. Tax Low Incomes

James Shelton, president of the American Bankers Association, said on April 16 that the government should "look to persons earning under \$6,000 a year" for tax increases.

The Buffalo branch of the SWP has launched its campaign by ordering 5,000 copies of The Militant's May Day issue.

Your First Issue?

If this is the first time you have ever read The Militant, you now have an idea of the kind of newspaper we publish. It is a weekly that pulls no punches in fighting for socialism.

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STOP WAR IN KOREA -- BRING GIs HOME NOW!

(Continued from Page 1)
has been assembled anywhere since World War II. In intensity, the fire power is greater and the destruction of human life is larger per square mile of terrain than it ever has been before.

John. B. Bennett of Michigan. It reads: "Myself and a few thousand other GIs would like to know the answers to several questions. The biggest question at the present is, just why are we over here?

There can be only one foreign policy — the American people will understand and approve. That's to get the troops out of Korea and home as fast as possible and to end the war without delay.

The publicists and theoreticians of the Second International have worked might and main to demean the thought of Socialism down to the level of its present political role. Last year's May Day represented the low point in this process of decadence, degradation and treachery.

"Our announced policy does not include any clear program for the granting to the Koreans of a free, independent republic. Our announced program is simply to kill, and I submit that that is a program which is immoral, which is illogical, and which cries for an intelligent advancement of our foreign policy toward goals which the American people will understand and approve."

There can be only one foreign policy — the American people will understand and approve. That's to get the troops out of Korea and home as fast as possible and to end the war without delay.

WHY ARE WE THERE?

But none of these supporters of U.S. intervention who thus bewail the atrocities in Korea offers any way to immediately end the war whose purpose is "to kill and to kill and to kill" and which is reducing Korea to "grave mounds, tree stumps and ruined homes."

But the bourgeois fatherland succeeded in making the class organization of the proletariat its ideological captive. And this has become revealed on a scale and in forms no one had expected.

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LEON TROTSKY Presents The Living Thoughts of Karl Marx -- 184 pp. \$1.00

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THEIR MORALS AND OURS

By Leon Trotsky
64 pages 25 cents
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Latest Catalogue on Request

The Voice of Haymarket Speaks to Us Today

By Frank Poole

Working people in the U.S. welcome holidays. Especially when they are paid holidays. Most holidays however are not of the people's own choosing but have been handed down by tradition or by the authorities.

dangerous ruffians at large in this city; two sneaking cowards are trying to create trouble. One of them is named Parsons; the other is named Spies.

There is one day — not a paid holiday, by a long shot — which is the class-conscious worker's day of solemn celebration. This day is unique in that it was made historic by the American working class and was then adopted by the labor and socialist movement of the whole world as a day of commemoration of past struggles and re-dedication for struggles still ahead.

MURDER OF PICKETS
In every important industrial city in the country workers laid down tools and paraded on May 1, 1886 for the shorter work week.

Eight Hour Day
A trade union resolution of 1884 set May 1, 1886 as the date workers should demand the eight hour day.

THE WITCH HUNT
The capitalists of 1886 pushed the witch hunt to extremes. Union smashing was the order of the day for the police.

Chicago was the strongest and most militant labor center in the country. This was in no small measure due to the socialist and anarchist labor leaders there.

The main demand of the May Day movement triumphed despite the terrible witch-hunting and red-baiting unleashed by the employers in the 1880s.

Socialist Workers Party May Day Celebrations

NEW YORK
Tues., May 1, 8 P.M.
at HOTEL CAPITOL
8th Ave. & 51st St.
Chairman: JAMES P. CANNON
National Secretary SWP
Speaker: JOSEPH HANSEN
Former Candidate for U. S. Senate
"Why Truman Fired MacArthur — The Crisis of U. S. Foreign Policy"

NEWARK
Friday, May 4, 8 P.M.
at 423 Springfield Ave.
Speaker: JOSEPH HANSEN
"Why Truman Fired MacArthur — The Crisis of U. S. Foreign Policy"
Refreshments — Dancing

BOSTON
Sat., May 5, 8 P.M.
at 30 Stuart Street
Speaker: DAVID WEISS
"Is America Heading Toward War or Peace?"

CHICAGO
Sat., April 28, 7 P.M.
at NEW HEADQUARTERS
734 S. Wabash
BANQUET JUBILEE
Speaker: FARRELL DOBBS
Chairman SWP
"Socialism Marches Forward"
M. C. ARNE SWABECK
International Smagsbord
(all the food you can eat!)
Donation \$1.25

MILWAUKEE
Sunday, April 29
2:30 P.M.
at 917 N. Third St., 3rd floor
Speakers and Social
Admission Free

SAN FRANCISCO - OAKLAND
Sat., April 28
at 1739 Fillmore St., 4th floor
SMORGASBORD DINNER
6 - 8 P.M.
— All you can eat —
Famous Film Classic
"Mother"
at 9 P.M.
Donation \$1.50 for both
Dancing and Refreshments

BUFFALO
Sat., May 5, 8 P.M.
at 629 Main St.
Prominent Speakers
"The War Drive and the Tasks of American Labor"
Admission Free

SEATTLE
Tues., May 1, 8 P.M.
at FRYE HOTEL
3rd and Yesler
Speakers:
JOHN BLACK
"May Day 1951"
MELBA BAKER
"May Day 1886"
Dramatic Readings — Music
Donation 35 cents
Unemployed Free

TWIN CITIES
Tues., May 1, 8 P.M.
at 10 S. 4th St., Minneapolis
Speaker:
VINCENT R. DUNNE
SWP Labor Secretary
"May Day and the Militants"
First celebration in redecorated, streamlined headquarters.
Friends of Militant cordially invited.

Militant Readers Invited

