**Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists**

**Points of Unity**

Since the 2008 world economic crisis, the specter of working class radicalism has emerged after nearly four decades of retreat. Across the globe, new social movements, class struggles, and left organizations have emerged out of the ashes of a crumbling capitalist order. In the United States, the primary imperialist power today, a strike wave led by teachers and nurses has stoked the fire of class consciousness, while a series of social movements such as Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, and #MeToo have increased combativity.

The decay of the social order has also brought great dangers. The splintering of the neoliberal center has granted space and legitimacy for an emerging fascist and far-right across the world, notably in India, Brazil, Hungary, the Philippines, and Italy where these new forces of the right have ascended into managers of the capitalist state. In even more countries, including the United States, the official state power has openly collaborated with and nurtured far-right movements as a bludgeon against emerging left forces while scapegoating migrants and refugees created by imperialist interventions. We also face an unprecedented climate crisis that is already leading to disaster in poor communities around the world and only shows signs of worsening.

The current order has no solution to impending climate catastrophe and emerging economic, political, and social crises. Thus, the all-too-common weapons of racism, sexism, ableism, and xenophobia have been sharpened in the service of imperialism, nationalism, and capitalist exploitation.

Given these realities, it is more necessary than ever to draw together the forces of the revolutionary left in organizations rooted in the struggles of the exploited and the oppressed.

The Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists are thus committed to contributing to the ongoing radicalization by building a local collective based on revolutionary socialist principles.

In the process of struggle and organization, we affirm these principles as the basis of our project:

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**Against Exploitation --- For Working Class Power!**

The contemporary capitalist system at its most basic level is the exploitation of the labor-power of the working class—the vast majority of society who must work in order to meet their basic needs—by the capitalist class—the small minority of society including factory owners, business executives, real estate developers, and financial speculators who extract wealth from environmental resources and the labor of the working class. The inherent tension between the material interests of the capitalists and the workers is the root of class conflict in our society. In this conflict, we identify wholeheartedly with the working class.

We fight for the revolutionary overthrow of world capitalism. Given the fundamental role of the working class in producing profit for the capitalists through their labor, we recognize the working class as the social force capable of overturning the capitalist system. Political, social, and economic power will never be willingly handed over by the capitalist class; rather, it must be forcibly wrested away by a self-conscious, self-organized working-class movement. The struggle for working-class self-emancipation and democracy is the struggle for socialism.

In addition to the exploitation of workers by the capitalist class, capitalism exploits the environment for the raw materials to accumulate capital. The capitalist system has devastated the environment, leading to a climate crisis which is already producing devastating and irreversible effects on our planet. While the “progressive” element of the state and the capitalist class offer tepid reforms to avert catastrophe, their solutions come nowhere close to even slowing the rate of climate change. Without challenging the logic of capitalism itself, a system which relies on endless growth on a finite planet, we can do nothing to confront this crisis.

While the capitalist class bears the responsibility for the destruction of our natural environment, its effects are felt most acutely by communities that are already marginalized. We thus fight for climate justice and seek to organize with those already facing the effects of climate change, pollution, and environmental devastation and seek to overturn the systemic imperative towards the exploitation of the environment. Without socialism, mitigating the climate crisis is impossible. We fight for a socialist world where humans can maintain a healthy and non-destructive relationship with our natural environment.

**Political Independence of the Working Class**

We stand for the political independence of the working class from bourgeois parties. In the United States, the capitalist class has two primary agents working on its behalf in the political realm: the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Though we recognize progressive shifts which have taken place within the Democratic Party, its character as a capitalist party, its oppressive history, and its role as the graveyard of social movements prevent the left from capturing it or using it towards our own ends.

We recognize that the US electoral system is profoundly undemocratic, and thus support struggles for democratization of the system, such as giving voting rights to felons, ending gerrymandering, etc.

Working class political independence cannot be asserted solely as a principle; it must be forged. To secure this independence in the United States, we need to develop a nation-wide revolutionary party which is 1) rooted in the struggles of working class and oppressed people of today and 2) builds a bridge towards a revolutionary alternative tomorrow. This takes the form of building local and national struggles, labor struggles, and contesting elections with the goal of overthrowing the existing political system, permanently changing the nature of our current political reality.

Winning an election is not the same as winning working-class power. Nevertheless, a socialist electoral campaign can act as a vehicle for increasing the organization of the working class and promoting struggles in workplaces and communities. We therefore support independent electoral campaigns which contribute to cohering, strengthening, and radicalizing the emerging revolutionary left in this country.

**Against Oppression --- For Liberation!**

We recognize that capitalism is dependent upon systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, LGBT-phobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and antisemitism, among others. These oppressions have been developed and hardened by the ruling classes to drive a wedge between workers and to super-exploit workers of marginalized identities. At the same time, oppression has taken on a life of its own beyond what is necessary to secure the continued functioning of capitalism and must be struggled against on its own terms. Consequently, we fight for feminism, trans liberation, Black liberation, sanctuary for immigrants and refugees, and participate in all other struggles against oppression.

Recognizing that oppression is both structural and individual, we also support efforts by oppressed communities to self-organize, including forming separate organizations or developing caucuses within our group.

We are committed to building a multi-racial, multi-gendered, and multi-generational organization. This requires rooting out oppressive beliefs and actions on the left generally, and within our organization specifically. We seek to develop practices and structures which facilitate an organizational culture which opposes all forms of oppression, which can forefront the experiences of survivors and oppressed people when handling cases of oppressive behavior and abuse on the left, and develop a system of accountability in which the burden of obtaining justice does not fall on survivors or otherwise marginalized persons and does not require their re-traumatization.

We are committed to making our organizational spaces accessible. We aim to build spaces constructed around the diverse needs of a diverse working class. Thus we seek to make accommodations based upon disability, language, and learning style.

We believe it is essential for revolutionaries to study and theorize oppression today while contributing consistently to struggles against oppression in our workplaces, in our community, and in our society. The struggle against oppression is not secondary to the struggle against exploitation—it is part of the revolutionary core.

**For Internationalism and a Communist World**

The capitalist system has drawn together the entire world into a common social system held together by exploitation and oppression. To overthrow such a system, our solution, too, must be international. We recognize this interconnectedness not just as “systemic” but also in the way it shapes the experience and struggles of working class people. Therefore, we see our struggle in the belly of the beast of the US empire as deeply linked with the struggles of workers and oppressed people in all countries.

We oppose all forms of imperialism, colonialism, and settler-colonialism. As revolutionary socialists in the United States, the world’s most powerful empire, we have a duty to resist the overt and covert imperialism of the capitalists of our country and to fight for the self-determination of Native peoples, the US colony of Puerto Rico, and other colonized territories. We understand that imperialism is embedded into capitalism, and it is imperative that revolutionaries struggle resolutely against the imperialists of our nation while offering support to movements from below against the capitalist classes of other nations. While imperialism often manifests in the explicit forms of war and violence, we also commit to struggle against more covert forms of imperialism: embargos, sanctions, neo-liberal trade deals, and coercive forms of economic aid. We oppose the intervention of imperialist powers in the affairs of other nations and the exploitation of the resources of underdeveloped countries and Indigenous lands by multinational corporations.

We fight for a world without borders, where the fundamental right of people to movement is secured and the rights of every individual, regardless of place of origin, are respected.

**For Revolutionary Socialism**

We understand socialism as the state of affairs whereby the working class maintains full democratic control of the means of production. In its essence, socialism is the struggle of the vast majority to attain full economic, social, and political rights in a world free of oppression and exploitation. Given our understanding of the history of our struggle and the dynamics of contemporary capitalism, we recognize that the working class can only achieve power through the revolutionary overthrow of the existing system. This means the abolition of all systems of oppression, inequality, and coercion—police, prisons, private property, wage labor, and the employing class—and their replacement by democratic structures which prioritize people over profit. Our goal is a stateless, classless society based on the principle: from each according to their ability, to each according to their need.

**Our Organizational Model**

We seek to build a local socialist collective which can contribute both theoretically and practically to fighting against exploitation and oppression in Columbus and build the struggle for a socialist world. We are a network of revolutionary activists who study together and struggle together. We are committed to develop ourselves and each other theoretically and in the struggles. We seek to build a revolutionary community which supports one another.

We aim to build movements, community struggles, and workplace organizations to defend and fight for the interests of the working class and oppressed people. We organize as a democratic, member-run organization.

We see our organization as one component of a much larger struggle which includes other local, national, and international organizations. We aim to build links and connections with all of those contributing to the struggle for socialism.

On the theoretical plane, we are committed to studying and developing historical materialist theory for the 21st century. Revolutionary theory is one of the greatest weapons against capitalist exploitation and oppression. To develop theory, it is necessary to study and assess the history of our movement, understand the local, national, and international conditions of contemporary capitalism, and integrate the lived experience of working class and oppressed people. We see historical materialism not as a dogma, but a living system of knowledge which develops along with the development of our reality itself. Thus, we are committed to studying and developing theory which draws insight from Marxism, anarchism, Black feminism, intersectionality, queer theory, and a diverse array of thought.

We aim to build a broad revolutionary organization which encourages collaboration and common action between all of those on the left while developing a fighting revolutionary tendency in the movements of today. Our maxim is: diversity in thought, unity in action.

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**We Have Nothing to Lose but Our Chains and a World to Win!**