

# ROAD-MAP TO SOCIALISM

**“Win the battle of democracy”**

**“Do away with private property”**

**“Abolish the wages system altogether”**

**Achieve abundance for all and inscribe on the banners:**

**From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs!**

**“The proletarians cannot become masters of the productive forces of society, except by abolishing their own previous mode of appropriation, and thereby also every other previous mode of appropriation. ... All previous historical movements were movements of minorities, or in the interest of minorities. The proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interest of the immense majority. ... the theory of the Communists may be summed up in a single sentence: Abolition of private property ... of buying and selling... The working men have no country ... the proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite!”** - Marx-Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, 1848.

Engels observed **“that the communist revolution will not merely be a national phenomenon but must take place simultaneously in all civilized countries ... It is a world-wide revolution and will therefore be world-wide in scope.”** (*Principles of Communism*, October, 1847)

~ **“To conquer political power has therefore become the great duty of the working classes.... the emancipation of the working classes requires their fraternal concurrences”** (Marx, 1864, *Inaugural Address of the Working Men’s International Association*, Collected Works, Vol. 20, p.12, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1985)

~ **“The emancipation of the working class must be conquered by the working classes themselves.”** - Marx, *Provisional Rules of the Working Men’s International Association*, 1864.

~ **“Considering,**

**That against the collective power of the propertied classes, the working class cannot act, as a class, except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct from, and opposed to, all old parties formed by the propertied classes. That this constitution of the working class into a political party is indispensable in order to ensure the triumph of the social revolution and its ultimate end - the abolition of classes.”** - *Resolution IX, London Conference of the International*, 1871.

“At the same time, and quite apart from the general servitude involved in the wages system, the working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of these everyday struggles. They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the causes of those effects; that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction; that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady. They ought, therefore, not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerilla fights incessantly springing up from the never ceasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market. They ought to understand that, with all the miseries it imposes upon them, the present system simultaneously engenders the *material*

*conditions* and the *social forms* necessary for an economical reconstruction of society. **Instead of the conservative motto: “A fair day's wage for a fair day's work!” they ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword: “Abolition of the wages system!”**[emphasis added] ~ Marx, *Value, Price and Profit*, CW, Vol. 20, pp. 148-49; Also at: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1865/value-price-profit/ch03.htm#c14>

## **1880: Marx on Universal Suffrage and Political Self-organization**

“Considering

That the emancipation of the productive class is that of all human beings without distinction of sex or race;

That the producers can be free only insofar as they are in possession of the means of production;

That there are only two forms under which the means of production can belong to them:

1. The individual form which has never existed generally and which is being more and more eliminated by the process of industry;
2. The collective form whose material and intellectual elements are being formed by the very development of capitalist society.

Considering

That this collective appropriation can only be the outcome of the revolutionary action of the productive class – or **proletariat – organized in a separate political party.**

**That such organization must be pursued by all the means, which the proletariat has at its disposal, including universal suffrage, thus transformed from the instrument of trickery, which it has been up till now into an instrument of emancipation.**” [Emphasis added]

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**“For the full representation of labour in Parliament, as well as for the preparation of the abolition of the wages system, organizations will become necessary, not of separate Trades, but of the working class as body. And the sooner this is done the better. ...”**(Engels, *Trades Unions*, written on about May 20, 1881, C. W. 24, pp. 386-89)

**Capture Parliaments by electing majority socialist MPs (actually Socialist Delegates) mandated to pronounce: Annulment of all property and territorial rights whereby all that is on and in the Earth becomes the common heritage of the whole humanity.**

- Socialists are not against persons, but against capitalism.
- Socialism has never and nowhere been tried at all.
- When it will be done, it will have to be established worldwide.
- World socialism can be established only through a peaceful and democratic way, by means of collective understanding, number and rallies of the working class. However, if any minority group obstructs initiation of socialism, socialists will have to advance by encountering it. But force does not mean violence. Force or power is born out of the union of knowledge based on materialist conception of history and an independent

organization of the working class. It is number, understanding and solidarity that constitute real force. Only working class is the majority – 95% of the population of the world. It is only the working class who perform all work in capitalism. Therefore their power is not violent.

- Winning elections does not weaken the argument for applying force, rather strengthens it. On the other hand, without taking the first step of declaring the legal defeat of capitalism through its own constitution, applying force against an elected government not only becomes futile, but also decimates the truth that it is the class conscious working class who is the majority.
- To win the battle of democracy after understanding what we are going to do, where the danger lies, what and why socialism has a double advantage: (a) we can show the socialist majority by sending majority delegates (not merely representatives) to the parliament, and (b) in case there be any attempt from any corner to block this mandate by using parliament, we can abandon the legality of the parliament, This tactics of social change via democratic means is free from violence and certain.
- Arriving at the majority and with it instead of reforming capitalism and running its administration socialists will get set to its abolition; they will not accept any administrative posts of capitalist society before arriving at the position of its abolition. The task of socialist delegates (MPs) is not to help run the capitalist governing process, but to incapacitate the process itself, to facilitate the abolition of capitalism by the immense majority of socialists. Because, socialists neither support nor oppose the reforms of capitalism. Their only and immediate aim is to establish socialism.
- Without informed majority participation in order to reach at a democratic decision in the interest of all the conception of vote and democracy is meaningless. We need participatory democracy.
- Socialists do not trust political leaders, since the existence of leaders means the existence of followers and both remaining drowned in political ignorance. Leader/follower relation is anti-democratic. Organization and leadership are not the same thing; there can be organization without leadership. Leadership is not necessary when an organization is democratic. The immense majority of people of society can create socialism consciously in their own interest and with their own initiative.
- A socialist party does not require a leader, socialists are all equals.
- The **World Socialist Party (India)** has organization, but no leadership. This organization is carrying on political class struggle as a vigilant guard of one most appropriate and pertinent explanation first put forward by the **Socialist Party of Great Britain** in 1904.

In Marxian conception **socialism** and **communism** are synonymous. Marx and Engels have used the two terms alternatively to mean the same thing - post-revolutionary participatory democratic socialist administration of things – affairs of life – in lieu of the capitalist administration of men. In Marx's view the principle of communism or socialism is: **From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs.**

- \* See: The World Socialist Party (India) INTRODUCTION at:  
<http://www.worldsocialistpartyindia.org/introduction.doc>

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