

The Truth About Communism

Why American Revolution is Necessary

Sam Lawlor



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For Vladimir Lenin, his legacy, and to those who may have lost hope for
a better future. Don't give up.

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FOREWORD

By JT Chapman

Growing up in a small town in Texas, politically educated people were hard to come by. I knew I was interested in politics from a young age, but I never aligned myself with any of the politicians that I was seeing on TV. For some reason, it all seemed like a spectacle that meant absolutely nothing to me. It wasn't until I was introduced to theory from the great minds of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin that I felt like I was truly freed from the idiocracy that is American politics. Soon after reading, things started adding up. The world started to make sense. It wasn't until then that I realized just how much the world and humanity is suffering from Capitalism. It was easy for me to rid myself from the American propaganda forced upon us throughout our childhood education once I learned about just how beautiful life can be when the people are prioritized rather than the profits of billionaires. Of course, I wanted to share my newfound knowledge with others, so I created a YouTube channel where I detail all the problems with the American government, and some potential solutions to combat these issues. My goal is to educate others who have revolutionary potential and revolutionary necessity. Outreach and giving assistance to communities that need it is one of the best ways to solidify the future for socialism, and an introduction to theory and revolutionary praxis could be enough to change someone's life. This story that you're about to read does a great job of doing this. Each chapter provides a different aspect of what makes Communism far superior to Capitalism. I am honored to be a part of such a revolutionary space and fully support the messages and themes that are being conveyed in this book.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book means so much to me, and I'm so glad that it is finally completed. I would like to thank my editors for all their work, as well as all of the theorists and professors who were willing to speak with me about their views on socialist history. Without them, none of this would be possible.

1 “State-Sanctioned Violence”

Violence, or “the unlawful exercise of physical force or intimidation by the exhibition of such force” (Oxford Languages), has always been thought of as an extremity, and only occurring in a tiny portion of a given community. We all know violence from our TV screens, our true crime stories, and our nightly news. Acts of violence such as assault or murder, often result in long prison sentences for the citizens of the United States. These criminals are often seen as horrible people, and portrayed as evil on television to strike a chord in the hearts of Americans, to make them nervous.

Unfortunately, these people are so focused on these news stories that they don’t realize the pain and suffering that they go through everyday because of our oppressive capitalist system. The elite has succeeded in defining violence using these terms, so they can commit atrocities under the veil of “strengthening the economy and the nation.” Within every policy that the US government puts in place, there is a decision being made, and when your leaders are just puppets for corporations, those decisions will always put the interests of the billionaire CEOs over the needs of the everyday citizen. This, unfortunately, is the true nature of capitalism. As long as corporations and government officials are left unchecked, they will always pursue short-term profits over sustaining a healthy and prosperous society.

In recent years, America’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic is a perfect example of this dilemma. According to Business Insider, “American billionaires had seen their net worths

grow to \$4 trillion throughout the pandemic; at the time, the top 10 richest billionaires were worth over \$1 trillion — a little more than half the value of President Biden's proposed stimulus package. Those gains were more than the cost of sending a \$3,000 stimulus check to every American.” Not only did billionaires gain significant wealth during the pandemic, but they did so while the majority of the American population were struggling to pay for their basic necessities. COVID-19 meant that the everyday American had to risk their life in order to go to work. *But why would the citizens need to work during a pandemic? Shouldn't the government want to provide in times of hardship?* The Biden administration decided that instead of eradicating the virus, they would focus on “rebuilding the economy” which really means, “preserving the wealth of billionaires and the value of their stocks”. In order to do this, they needed the working class to continue to go to work, so that the wealthy could stay home and collect their checks. This is socialism for the wealthy, and brutal capitalism for the middle and lower classes. Lenin agrees with this idea in *State and Revolution*, when he says, “Democracy for an insignificant minority, democracy for the rich — that is the democracy of capitalist society”. Meanwhile, we continue to be spoon fed these lies about the beauty of our free-market economy, and the “great evils of communism.” Communism is the liberation of the working class, so of course the wealthy, who are in control, are going to tell us that it's bad.

People are getting evicted in record numbers, homeless people are being forced off the streets and arrested, and the billionaires are thriving while we are miserable. Our government is ruthless and violent towards its own citizens, and we are always told that if we want to protest, we need to be peaceful. The hypocrisy is this idea illuminates once you consider all of the pain that the average American citizen has to deal with on a daily basis. Violent uprisings are not only justified but also necessary in order to stomp out one's oppressors. We, as the working people, have the power and the numbers to do this at any moment. Yet, the government makes sure to represent these protests in a negative light in the media, so that more than half the population thinks that revolution is impossible. In reality, if the whole working class worked together to start a revolution, there would be nothing that the government could do to

stop it. Revolutionary violence is not evil. It is not bad if it is against those who have been oppressing us for so long. Lenin details again and again in his works that revolution is the only path to freedom for the working class. He also talks about the pointless electoral politics of the United States when he details that, “The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class shall represent and repress them in parliament.” Yes, America has succeeded in convincing its citizens that voting is the answer to their problems. The fake dichotomy between Democrats and Republicans trick most of the population into believing that both sides aren’t bought and paid for by big corporations. Every election cycle, our leadership tells us that it is the most important election in our lifetime. That way, when the “good guy” wins, the majority of the voting population will fall asleep, and forget about the bad things that are happening, all because they got the guy they wanted in office. All of our politicians lie to us while they’re running for office. They make false promises about the policies they’ll implement that will help the everyday American. After they are elected, nothing gets done. Yet, we still support them and defend them when it’s time for re-election. While Biden was running for office, one of the biggest policies he ran on was canceling student debt, and starting to make higher education free or at least less expensive. This is what convinced most of the young population to vote for him, however we have yet to see any of this actually happen. In fact, the cost of higher education has only increased in the last couple of years.

The argument that always seems to be made is that enacting these policies would be too radical. It is important to realize that maintaining the status quo, which is what we’re always to do, is the most radical thing we can do. Maintaining the status quo means poverty for the masses, and luxury for the few. Subtle changes in who is running the country isn’t going to change any of this. That’s why Lenin explains how “Socialists must explain to the masses that they have no other road of salvation except the revolutionary overthrow of ‘their’ governments.” Anything less results in so-called “reformism” which, in the long run, does nothing but reduce the chances of a proletarian revolution. It is important to mention that there is no such thing as a peaceful revolution. In order for one to

occur, there will be bloodshed. However, this does not mean that said bloodshed is not justified and necessary. Revolutions throughout history have been criticized for their violent nature, however, most of this violence happened against counter-revolutionaries (mostly fascists) who refused to comply with the new socialist government and policies. The majority of fascists living in the Soviet Union during the socialist revolution weren't even killed. They were put into prison for a couple years, where they were rehabilitated into people who could participate in a socialist society. That being said, if a revolution were to happen here in the United States, that would most likely mean that there would be a class war of some sorts. The American military is strong, and well-funded. They would use every soldier, every bomb threat, every unit they could, in order to stop the revolution from occurring. A revolution requires a group of communists large enough to deal with this, and a group that would be willing to risk their lives for the cause. Theoretically, a revolution could happen here pretty easily and without much turmoil if the revolutionaries waited until the United States was already on the brink of economic collapse. This way, by our sheer numbers the overthrow could possibly even happen overnight, as has happened in other countries throughout history under these same conditions.

It should be mentioned the ways in which a socialist revolution would benefit the working class, in order to justify the actions detailed above. A revolution would result in the complete liberation of the proletariat, and would allow them access to the means of production. This means they would be their own bosses in the workplace. Everyone in a given business would have equal say in how much pay they should receive, and the business should be run. All of the profit of the business would make its way back into the hands of the workers, and not to a CEO. This means that wages would increase significantly, to a point where all workers would be able to survive off of their wages. This doesn't even consider the fact that the government will provide everyone with basic necessities, (food, water, shelter, healthcare, etc), completely for free. This means that the leftover money that would usually be spent on rent and insurance bills, could be spent on luxury items or saved. Since most violence and crime that happens in our society almost

always has poverty as a determining factor, the elimination of poverty would drastically reduce crime rates. If everyone is given the things they need to survive, then there would be no need for them to steal, rob people, or hurt other people on the basis of taking things from them. When a government isn't run solely on the profit motive, the working people will benefit the most and be able to thrive in their own society. This newfound freedom that the worker would have due to not having to work as much, would result in an abundance of creativity, and the ability to explore what they really enjoy doing. In a capitalist society, a musician will find it hard to obtain a job in their field of expertise. This forces them to choose an occupation that has nothing to do with music in order to pay the bills. When they get home from their jobs, they're almost always too tired to be creative and write music. Instead, they have to relax their brain and rest in order to have energy for the next day of work. In a post-revolution socialist society, these workers would work significantly less hours during the week, and could therefore spend the rest of their time doing what they love. This would result in an abundance of creativity and innovation from people with a wide variety of interests.

This future may seem optimistic to some, but it is well within the realm of possibility. The main thing that is holding people back is the idea of being violent towards our government. However, violence against an evil and oppressive force isn't violence at all; it's self-defense. Our future livelihood is being constantly threatened by increasing costs of living, preventable climate disaster, and an avoidable pandemic, and all we're currently doing is waiting for doomsday. Here in the United States, we tend to be blinded by the news and stories that are told to us through a pro-American lens, but when one removes these rose-colored glasses, the true evil of the system is unveiled. There is no peaceful political party in the United States. Both the Democrats and the Republicans are warmongering, power hungry parties that will inflict damage on their own citizens if that means they make their corporate owners a few bucks. Things like marxist theory and revolutionary optimism are crucial for this very reason, and the sooner we start organizing, the sooner we can plan for a future where we are not forced to work for

someone else's profit. A future where the people actually have a say in their own lives. A true democracy.

C

Class, **3, 4, 5**

Communism, **3**

D

Democracy, **3, 7**

L

Lenin, **3, 4**

R

Revolution, **3, 4, 5, 6**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sam Lawlor is an English major at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also currently pursuing a minor in Creative Writing, which is what sparked the interest in him to write this book. He was always interested in writing from a young age, ever since he won the Young Author's Award in elementary school, but his interest in politics is a more recent discovery. Whether it's fiction or nonfiction, Lawlor is serious about the inclusion of revolutionary politics in his works. Although he understands that it may be hard to find people who are willing to promote topics on socialism, he knows just how important it is for him to spread the word about something he is passionate about. Lawlor lives in Chicago, not too far from where he attends school.