

INTRODUCING THE BROCK SOCIALIST CLUB

The present state of humanity ... Tens of millions dying of starvation and easily preventable disease each and every year ... Mass migrations of refugees and impoverished people from regions ruined by war, climate change, and economic dislocation ... Falling living standards and collapsing employment opportunities for masses of people living in even the richest countries ... A world economy dominated by several hundred transnational corporations and banks that employ fewer than one percent of the world's workforce ... Throughout the world, the expansion of police powers, government spying and state-surveillance capacities alongside a severe erosion of democratic rights, all justified in the name of a manufactured 'war on terror' ... The rise of xenophobic far-right and openly fascist parties in Ukraine, Great Britain, Greece, France, and other European countries, as the political 'mainstream' shifts more and more to the right in North America, Israel, Japan and elsewhere ... The gutting of what used to be known as 'the welfare state' as conservative, liberal and social-democratic parties alike embrace the precepts of 'neoliberalism' ... The degeneration of corporate-controlled mass media increasingly dominated by narcissistic and sociopathic messages ... The saber-rattling, meddling and blatant aggression of a U.S. 'superpower' obeisant to a parasitic financial oligarchy that places its own greedy interests ahead of the most basic needs of humanity.

The state of contemporary 'mainstream' politics ... Squabbles that remind one of arguments over how best to arrange the deck chairs on the Titanic.

A world dominated by a system that has a name ... Capitalism!

We live in a time of great paradox ... and great peril. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the capitalist world order has enveloped itself in an aura of virtual invincibility, notwithstanding its obvious failure to chart a progressive path forward for humanity. A social order geared above all toward maintaining the wealth, power and privilege of the capitalist class, a *tiny minority* of the human population, has faced little serious organized opposition from its historic adversary, the wage-earning working class. Despite the fact that it now comprises an absolute majority of the world's population, the international working class has been blocked from realizing its great potential to transform the world for the better by (mis)leaderships clearly committed to maintaining the bankrupt capitalist framework.

Capitalist elites and their well-paid publicity agents have claimed triumphantly since the 1990s that 'communism is dead' and that the capitalist profit system would henceforth demonstrate its unrivaled capacity to meet human need and secure social progress. And yet the credibility of such claims are now in tatters, belied by three great crises that now threaten the very survival of humanity: the declining productivity and growing instability of the capitalist world economy, the widening metabolic rift between human activity and the natural world upon which we all depend, and the fundamental irrationality of a nation-state system that pits nation against nation in pursuit of competitive advantage, even as it displays a complete inability to address immense problems that are clearly *global* in scope.

There is but one-way out of this impasse: the revolutionary social transformation that we call *socialism*. Not the bourgeois 'socialism' of the capitalist welfare state; not the bureaucratized 'socialism' of the erstwhile 'Communist' states; and certainly not the 'national socialism' of some movements on the far right. No, the socialism we urgently need is the authentic *scientific, class-struggle, internationalist and emancipatory socialism of Karl Marx* – a socialism based on workers' power and a global, democratically planned socialist economy; a socialism that will replace production for profit with production for human need and ecological sustainability; a socialism transitional to a classless society of abundance; a socialism that can deliver humanity, once and for all, from the capitalist-bred crises and irrationality threatening our very existence.



In the wake of its supposed ‘triumph’ over various caricatures of ‘socialism’, capitalism has revealed that the antagonistic social relations upon which it is based – above all, ruthless exploitation and invidious competition – can only be a seedbed for growing social inequality, environmental degradation, neocolonial pillage, inter-imperialist rivalry and their putrid ideological byproducts: nationalism, racism, xenophobia, sexism, and militarism. The collapse of bureaucratic rule on the basis of collectivized property forms [Stalinism] in the former Soviet bloc and the defeat of reform-oriented labour movements throughout the West have undoubtedly intensified the ideological trend toward ‘neoliberalism’ that began in the 1970s. But the real problem we face is not, in the first place, the prevalence of odious pro-capitalist *ideas*, but rather the barrier that capitalist *social relations* now present to the progressive development of human capacities. Accordingly, the multiple problems of our time can only be solved by replacing the antagonistic logic of capitalism, rooted in the private ownership of the means of production, with a social logic of cooperation and solidarity – a society in which productive capacities are fully socialized, and in which, therefore, ‘the condition for the free development of each is the free development of all’ (Marx and Engels).

The Brock Socialist Club is committed to raising the level of Marxist-socialist consciousness at Brock University, in the Niagara region, and beyond. While our mission is primarily an educational one, we declare our willingness to support any campaign that advances the cause of socialism and serves to show why Marxist socialism is *indispensable* to meeting the great challenges – and opportunities – facing humanity. Although the BSC is not affiliated with any particular current or organization of the ostensibly Marxist left, we support vigorously many of the principles first enunciated by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and developed by such figures as Rosa Luxemburg, Vladimir Lenin, and Leon Trotsky. The most fundamental of these principles can be summed up as follows: the working class (along with its allies among students, intellectuals and others) must organize itself *independently* of the capitalist class and all its agents in an unremitting struggle for an egalitarian-socialist future. We advocate *workers’ governments* to expropriate the wealth of the capitalist class, reorganize the economy to meet human needs, and inaugurate a global order committed to human emancipation, scientific reason, socialist democracy, and the eradication of such age-old iniquities as war, racism and women’s oppression!

If you agree with these ideas, join us! And if you are intrigued but still not convinced, feel free to attend our publicly advertised events and join us in discussion. For more information, please contact us at: brocksoc@gmail.com

