

1901-1904  
History of Communist  
League Bolshevik  
Short Course

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE  
(Adopted Plenary Session, Aug. 18, 1970)

INTRODUCTION

The Communist League was formed in 1968 by a group of Marxist-Leninists. The purpose of the C.L. is to organize and participate in the struggle of the working class against the U.S. Capitalist class and in the struggle to establish the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

The C.L. is fully aware that "If there is to be revolution, there must be a revolutionary party. Without a revolutionary party, without a party built on the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style, it is impossible to lead the working class and the broad masses of the people in defeating imperialism and its running dogs." At this point in U.S. history there is no revolutionary party.

The C.L. cannot and does not consider itself a party. We believe that a revolutionary party will be built by the merging of true Marxist-Leninist groupings out of their common struggle in theory and practice against the revisionist ideology which is presently holding back the working class movement.

The source of this revisionist ideology is the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and their faithful runningdogs, the Communist Party of the U.S.A. Only by a hard and constant struggle can Marxist-Leninism be put in its proper place as the theoretical beacon lighting our way.

The historical conditions in the U.S. find the spontaneous struggle of the unorganized and unskilled workers in general, and the black and brown minority workers in particular advancing steadily toward direct confrontation with the imperialist state.

The American working class and the national minorities are seeing every day the apparatus for a fascist state coming into being. Fascism develops when the working class and the objective conditions are favorable for the proletarian revolution but when there is no revolutionary party to lead them. If fascism is allowed to develop in the U.S. it will be ten times more ruthless than German Nazism. The German Fascists needed fascism in order to launch their wars of aggression--the U.S. capitalists need fascism in order to continue their war of aggression.

Therefore, the C.L. sees its responsibility in deepening and spreading the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung's Thought to the concrete situation of the U.S.A. Only in this way will the working class be armed against revisionist and bourgeois ideology.

The C.L. understands that "The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them." The C.L. will develop close ties with the masses by taking part in their everyday struggle while constantly learning from them and untiringly teaching them about the bright future of Socialism.

The C.L. hopes from the struggle against revisionist ideology and the daily battle of the working class, to develop strong cadre who are worthy of the title, COMMUNIST. We call upon all honest Marxist-Leninists who realize the necessity

of the struggle and are not afraid of the challenge to join us in liberating our class and destroying forever this evil system of exploitation.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE

- I. THE BASIS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE IS DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM.
  - A. All leading bodies from bottom up are elected.
    1. Every candidate must be voted for separately.
    2. Every League member has the right to object to a candidate and criticize a candidate.
    3. The voting for all candidates is done by secret ballot.
    4. Higher bodies are elected by lower bodies.
  - B. Decisions of the higher bodies are absolutely binding on the lower bodies.
  - C. Reports from leading bodies are made periodically to membership.
    1. Plenary sessions, sessions of the elected officials and leading cadre, will be held to discuss major political developments.
    2. Congresses, organizational membership meetings, will be called when needed to decide the direction of the organization according to major developments in the class struggle.
    3. Membership meetings, by sections may be called from time to time by the Central Committee, the section committee or by the demand of three quarters (3/4) of the section membership.
  - D. Strict discipline and subordination of the minority to the majority.
  - E. Every member has the right and duty to participate in every major decision concerning his own activity or behavior.
  - F. The basis of work is centralism grounded in democracy and democracy led by centralism.
    1. By hearing and discussing the reports by League bodies, the members of the League check on the work of the leading bodies they are subordinate to.
    2. Active participation of every member in the life of the League.
    3. League members should be bold in making criticism and self-criticism.
    4. League meetings and educationals serve as a school for membership.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE

The highest leading body of the C.L. is the Congress, which is called either by the Central Committee or by three quarters (3/4) of the membership. Between the Congresses, the Central Committee is the highest leading body. When the Central Committee is not in session, the Secretariat will carry on the day-to-day work necessary for the League to operate. The Congress is responsible for the election of the Central Committee; the Central Committee is responsible for the election of the Secretariat and for the appointment of section leaders and leaders of various committees and of the editor of the organizational newspaper, the People's Tribune. The organizational committee, headed by the Organizational Secretary, has the function of quickly transferring the organizational and political decisions and discussions from higher bodies to lower bodies. A commission system, functioning as a direct arm of the Central Committee, insures complete and up-to-date information concerning specific areas in the class struggle. The committee system regulates and insures democracy within the organization.

## PRINCIPLES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE C.L.

Membership is open to any person who does not exploit the labour of others, accepts the League program and Constitution, will work in assigned areas of the League, will follow the League decisions, adhere to democratic centralism and give the financial support required.

### A. Qualifications.

1. Applicants must be eighteen years old.
2. Membership is accepted through the club unit and reviewed by the next higher body.
3. An applicant must give his history, background, and an honest explanation of his present ties and beliefs. In addition, each applicant must be sponsored by a member in good standing.
4. Applicants will work in the clubs and assigned work areas. Applicants will serve a probationary period of three (3) months. During this probationary period the new members will have the same rights in participation as all members to voice opinions, vote, be elected to minor posts. After the probationary period he will be given all rights and duties of League membership.
5. League members are free to withdraw from the League. The club will decide the conditions for withdrawal. This will be reviewed by the next highest body.
6. When a League member is cited for an infraction of any of the above rights, duties or qualifications, he will be given a list of his offenses, and will be criticized through the club, then the next higher bodies, and finally the League Congress. All charges that might warrant expulsion will be stated in writing and given to the member in question no later than two club meetings after first charged.
7. Charges may take the form of warning, serious warning, probation, and expulsion.

Members on all levels have the following duties:

1. To study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung's Thought diligently and strive increasingly to raise the level of their understanding.
2. To be bold in making criticism and self-criticism.
3. To build League solidarity.
4. To carry out League policy and decisions, and energetically fulfill the tasks assigned.
5. To strictly observe the Constitution and behave accordingly with Communist ethics, no exceptions being made for any League member, whatever his services or position.
6. To serve the interest of the masses of toilers with all one's energy, strengthen one's ties with them, learn from them, listen with open ears and open mind to their wishes and opinions and report without delay these to the League and finally to explain League policy to them.
7. To be constantly vigilant to protect the League from opportunists, careerists, police agents, and other degenerate elements who might slip into membership.