

Complete sets of the *Workers' Advocate* and some related publications are now posted at the *Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism Online*

Complete sets of back issues of the *Workers' Advocate*, the *Workers' Advocate Supplement*, and the *Chicago Workers' Voice Theoretical Journal* are now available at the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism Online, which is part of the Marxist Internet Archive. These publications show the history of the trend that gave rise to the Communist Voice Organization. It shows important views that were gradually improved over time, and also views and practices that were later rejected. It is the record of a trend that was seriously devoted to building the communist movement on a new basis, and that persisted despite many unexpected zigzags and setbacks in the struggle.

Since 1994, the *Communist Voice* has continued the cause championed by the *Workers' Advocate*, which was published for a quarter of a century from 1969 to 1993. The *Workers' Advocate* was the journal of several organizations, the last one being the Marxist-Leninist Party, USA, which existed from 1980 to 1993. The *Workers' Advocate*, and the organizations behind it, were dedicated to the mass struggles of the time, to basing these struggles on the working class, and to the project of re-establishing a truly communist party in the US. They were particularly devoted to such things as developing workplace agitation independent of the class-collaborationist union bureaucracy, supporting the struggle of the Afro-American people and other oppressed nationalities, solidarity with national liberation movements and anti-imperialist struggles around the world, agitation in the anti-war movement, opposing the influence on the mass movements of the liberal bourgeoisie and the Democratic Party, and the open propagation of communist and socialist ideas.

The *WA* trend saw that it had to wage a theoretical struggle alongside its work in the mass movements and at the workplaces: it sought to rescue Marxism-Leninism from the mud through which the Soviet Union and its supporters were dragging it. The *WA* was an ardent supporter of anti-revisionism; that is, it opposed the distortion or revision of Marxism by which the pro-Soviet regimes justified mass repression and the rule of a new, state-capitalist bourgeoisie. Originally the *WA* trend saw its theoretical task largely as openly spreading revolutionary views among workers and activists. Within a few years, it was to also see how much effort had to be put into developing new views as well.

The trend that rallied around the *Workers' Advocate* was inspired by revolutionary movements around the world as well as the history of communist work in the US. It had its own ideas about what it thought revolutionary work should be, but it originally expected to embrace one of the existing trends in the world revolutionary movement; in the 1970s it took up Maoism and then Enver Hoxha-ism, including their support of Stalin. At the same time, in the latter 1970s it was the main trend in the communist movement that put forward the central role of opposing the "three worlds" theory in order to build an anti-revisionist movement. In the 1980s it gradually developed a deeper critique of world communist and Soviet history, the

origin of revisionist ideas, and the nature of state-capitalist regimes; and this led to a distinctive view of Marxist-Leninist theory opposed to Maoism, Enver Hoxha-ism, Stalinist orientations, Trotskyism, and left communism.

Thus the trend around the *Workers' Advocate* evolved over time and continually re-assessed its positions in the light of experience. It refused to stay silent about the problems in the communist movement; it opposed such practices as keeping these discussions confidential or leaving them out of mass agitation in the working class. The *Workers' Advocate* itself came to an end in 1993 with the dissolution of the MLP, USA in 1993, but the *Communist Voice* has continued the theoretical struggle which the *Workers' Advocate* had begun.

The Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line is part of the Marxist Internet Archive. The MIA provides a valuable service in preserving materials about the history of the communist movement and making them freely available to activists. We assess this history differently than the MIA does, but we think highly of their work. □

Where to find the *Workers' Advocate*

A complete set of the *Workers' Advocate*, 1969-93, is now available in pdf form at

<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/periodicals/workers-advocate/index.htm>,

and in HTML form at

<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-1/workers-advocate/index.htm>.

Where to find the *Workers' Advocate Supplement*

The *Workers' Advocate Supplement*, which appeared from 1985 to 1993, carried many theoretical documents, background materials, and discussion articles. It also carried various political affairs articles, leaflets, and comments that, for lack of space or other reasons, did not make it into *Workers' Advocate* regular issues. It is available in PDF form at

<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/periodicals/wa-supplement/index.htm>

It will soon be available in HTML.

Where to find the *Chicago Workers' Voice Theoretical Journal*

After the dissolution of the MLP in 1993, some comrades wanted to continue communist work. At first, the *Chicago Workers' Voice Theoretical Journal*, put out by the *Chicago Workers' Voice* group, was the common journal for all of us, and it carried a number of articles on the controversy over the

dissolution of the MLP,USA. But the *CWV* group soon disagreed with the views of most comrades outside Chicago, and broke off relations with us. This led to the publication of the *Communist Voice* and the founding, some months later, of the Communist Voice Organization. The last issue of the *CWVTJ* was in November 1998, and some time afterwards the *Chicago Workers' Voice* group dissolved without notice. A complete set of the *CWVTJ*, 1994-98, can be found at <https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/periodicals/cwv-tj/index.htm>.

The book *From Baba to Tovarishch: The Bolshevik Revolution and Soviet Women's Struggle for Liberation*, published by the *CWV* in 1994, can be found at

<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/nem-7/baba.pdf>.

Other sources

A useful list of articles from the *WA* and *WAS*, sorted according to category, can be found in the March 20, 1992 issue (vol. 8, #3) of the *Workers' Advocate Supplement*. See <https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/periodicals/wa-supplement/8-3.pdf>.

Additional materials from the history of the *WA* trend appear on the CVO website at www.comunistvoice.org, but they are presently scattered under various categories. □

The *Detroit Workers' Voice* mailing list

This issue of the *Communist Voice* is composed largely of articles that first appeared on the *Detroit Workers Voice* email list. The *DWV* list originally served mainly as a way to notify interested people in the Detroit area of *Detroit Workers' Voice* Discussion Group meetings, but its purpose has grown over time. Today, most of its readers are not in metro Detroit, and some are scattered around the world. It has become a way of keeping people in touch with the views and activities, not just of the *DWV* and the Detroit Marxist-Leninist Study Group, but of the Communist Voice Organization generally. The items sent out include not just *DWV* leaflets, but articles, leaflets, and comments from supporters of the CVO trend generally, including leaflets from the Seattle Communist Study Group. Moreover, the list is not just for people who agree with us, but for anyone who's interested in seeing what our views are or in contributing to serious discussion of the issues which we deal with.

Over the last several years the *DWV* list has carried material on subjects such as

- what's happening to the working class in some important industries,
- the deepening environmental crisis,
- the Syrian uprising and the significance of the Arab Spring,
- the massive miners' strikes in South Africa and the separation of the largest union in South Africa, the National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA), from the ANC,
- the struggle in Ukraine,
- Obama's health care bill,
- the financial crisis in the US,
- the crisis in Greece, and
- the difference between real socialism and the state-

capitalist regimes.

These materials support mass struggles both here and around the world, such as workers' struggles for a decent life, Black Lives Matter!, movements against dictatorships, and the environmental movement. But the CVO also pays close attention to the political and theoretical crisis in the left. The present weakness of the left around the world isn't due simply to a lack of sufficient size: there is also a profound crisis concerning the methods and goals of the working class movement. The Stalinist model of socialism proved to be repulsive state-capitalism, and Trotskyism has proved to be no alternative to bankrupt Stalinism. So the Communist Voice Organization calls on activists who want to fight capitalism to join with us in opposing the bankrupt theories and practices of the past – from Western-style capitalism to Stalinist state capitalism, from reliance on the pro-capitalist trade union bigwigs to "left" communist sectarianism toward "impure" struggles. We need to lay the basis for the revolutionary working-class movement of the future by revitalizing the left-wing theory and practice of today. To help achieve this, it's important to be aware of the different views about the crisis of the left, and to consider what has to change in the left.

The *DWV* list had been, until September 2014, a very low frequency list, with items about once a month. But since then the list aims to cover more material, including excerpts from the best writing of other trends, and send out items at least weekly.

To subscribe to the *DWV* email list, send us a note at mail@communistvoice.org with your email address. We also welcome comments and suggested materials. Links to many recent items from the list can usually be found at <http://www.comunistvoice.org/New.html>. □