

The Statutes of the Communist International

(Adopted at the Second Congress)

In London, in 1864, was established the first International Association of Workers, later known as the First International. The Statutes of the International Association of Workers read as follows:

"That the emancipation of the working class must be carried out by the working class itself.

"That the struggle for emancipation of the working class does not imply a struggle for class privileges and monopolies, but for equal rights and equal obligations and the abolition of all class domination.

"That the economic subjection of the workers to the monopolists of the means of production, the sources of life, is the cause of servitude in all its forms, the cause of all social misery, mental degradation and political dependence.

"That consequently, the economic emancipation of the working class is the great aim to which every political movement must be subordinated.

"That all endeavors directed to this great aim have hitherto failed because of the lack of solidarity between the various branches of industry in each country and because of the absence of a fraternal bond of unity between the working classes of the different countries.

"That the emancipation of labor is neither a local nor a national problem, but one of a social character embracing every civilized country, and the solution of which depends on the theoretical and practical co-operation of the most progressive countries.

"That the present revival of the workers' movement in the industrial countries of Europe, while awakening new hopes, contains a solemn warning against a relapse into old errors, and calls for an immediate union of the hitherto disconnected movement."

The Second International, which was established in Paris in 1889, undertook to continue the work of the First International. At the outbreak of the world slaughter in 1914 the Second International perished—undermined by opportunism and betrayed by its leaders who rallied to the side of the bourgeoisie.

The Third (Communist) International, established in March, 1919, in Moscow, the capital city of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, proclaims to the whole world that it takes upon itself the task of continuing and completing the great cause begun by the First International Association of Workers.

The Third (Communist) International was formed at a moment when the imperialist slaughter of 1914-1918, in which the imperialist bourgeoisie of the various countries sacrificed twenty million men, had come to an end.

Remember the imperialist war! This is the first appeal of the Communist International to every toiler wherever he may live and whatever language he may speak. Remember that owing to the existence of the capitalist system a small group of imperialists had the opportunity during four long years of compelling the workers of various countries to cut each other's throats. Remember that this imperialist war had reduced Europe and the whole world to a state of extreme destitution and starvation. Remember that unless the capitalist system is overthrown a repetition of this criminal war is not only possible but is inevitable.

The aim of the Communist International is to organize an armed struggle for the overthrow of the international bourgeoisie and the establishment of an international Soviet Republic as a transition to the complete abolition of the capitalist State. The Communist International considers the dictatorship of the proletariat an essential means for the liberation of humanity from the horrors of capitalism; and regards the Soviet form of government as the historically necessary form of this dictatorship.

The imperialist war demonstrated the unity of interest of the world's workers; it emphasized once again what was pointed out in the statutes of the First International; that the emancipation of labor is neither a local nor a national problem, but one of a social and international character.

The Communist International breaks once and for all with the traditions of the Second International which, incidentally, only recognized the white race. The task of the Communist International is to eman-

cipate the workers of the whole world. In its ranks are fraternally united men of all colors—white, yellow and black—the toilers of the entire world.

The Communist International fully and unreservedly upholds the gains of the great proletarian revolution in Russia, the first victorious Socialist revolution in the world's history, and calls upon all workers to follow the same road. The Communist International makes it its duty to support, by all the power at its disposal, every Soviet Republic wherever it may be formed.

The Communist International is aware that for the purpose of the speedy achievement of victory, the international association of the workers which is struggling for the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of Communism, must possess a firm and centralized organization.

To all intents and purposes the Communist International should represent a single universal Communist Party, of which the parties operating in the different countries form individual sections. The organization of the Communist International is directed towards securing for the workers of every country the possibility, at any given moment, of obtaining the maximum of aid from the organized workers of the other countries.

For this purpose the Communist International confirms the following items of its statute:

1.—The new International Association of Workers is established for the purpose of organizing common action between the workers of various countries who are striving towards a single aim: the overthrow of capitalism, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of the international Soviet Republic, the complete abolition of classes and the realization of Socialism—as the first step to Communist society.

2.—The new International Association of Workers has been given the name of **The Communist International**.

3.—All the parties and organizations comprising the Communist International bear the name of the Communist Party of the particular country (section of the Communist International).

4.—The World Congress of all parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International is the supreme authority of this International. The World Congress as a rule assembles not less frequently than once a year. It confirms the programmes of the different parties comprising the Communist International; it discusses and decides the more important questions of programme and tactics connected with the activity of the Communist International. The allocation of **decisive votes** at the World Congress between the constituent parties and organizations is decided by a **special regulation** of the Congress; it is necessary to strive for the speedy establishment of a standard of representation based on the actual membership and real influence of the party in question.

5.—The World Congress elects an Executive Committee of the Communist International which serves as the principal authority of the Communist International in the interim between the World Congresses. The Executive Committee is responsible only to the World Congress.

6.—The place of residence of the Executive Committee of the Communist International is determined at each World Congress.

7.—A special World Congress of the Communist International may be convened either by regulation of the Executive Committee, or on the demand of one-half of the number of the parties affiliated to the Communist International at the time of the previous World Congress.

8.—The greater part of the work and principal responsibility in regard to the Executive Committee of the Communist International devolves upon the party in the particular country where, in keeping with the regulation of the World Congress, the Executive Committee has its residence for the time being. The party of the country in question sends to the Executive Committee not less than five members with a **decisive vote**. In addition, each of the

ten or twelve largest Communist Parties is entitled to send one representative with a **decisive vote** to the Executive Committee. The list of these representatives has to be ratified by the World Congress. The remaining parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International each enjoy the right of sending to the Executive Committee one representative with a **consultative vote**.

9.—The Executive Committee is the principal authority of the Communist International during the Convention. The Executive Committee publishes, in not less than four languages, the central organ of the Communist International (the periodical, the "Communist International"). The Executive Committee makes the necessary appeals on behalf of the Communist International and issues instructions obligatory on all parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International. The Executive Committee has the right to demand from affiliated parties the exclusion of groups of members guilty of the infringement of international proletarian discipline, and also to exclude from the Communist International any parties that infringe the regulations of the World Congress, such parties having the right to appeal to the World Congress. Where necessary the Executive Committee organizes in different countries its technical and auxiliary bureaux, which are entirely under the control of the Executive Committee.

10.—The Executive Committee of the International has the right to include in its ranks representatives (with a consultative vote only) from parties and organizations not accepted in the Communist International but which are **sympathetic** towards Communism.

11.—The organs of all the parties and organizations forming part of the Communist International, as well as of those who are recognized sympathizers with the Communist International, are obliged to publish all official regulations of the Communist International and of its Executive Committee.

12.—The general conditions prevailing in Europe and America make obligatory upon the Communists of the whole world the formation of **illegal** Communist organizations alongside of those existing legally. The Executive Committee has charge of the universal application of this rule.

13.—All the more important political relations between the individual parties forming part of the Communist International are customarily carried on through the medium of the Executive Committee. In cases of urgent need, however, direct relations are permissible, provided that the Executive Committee is informed thereof at the same time.

14.—Trade Unions that have accepted the Communist platform and are united internationally under the control of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, form Trade Union Sections of the Communist International. The Communist Trade Unions send their representatives to the world Congresses of the Communist International through the medium of the Communist parties of their respective countries. Trade Union Sections of the Communist International **delegate** a representative with a **decisive vote** to the Executive Committee of the Communist International. The Executive Committee of the Communist International has the right to send a representative with a **decisive vote** to the Trade Union Section of the Communist International.

15.—The International League of Young Communists is subject to the Communist International and its Executive Committee. One representative of the Executive Committee of the International League of Young Communists with a **decisive vote** is delegated to the Executive Committee of the Communist International. The Executive Committee of the Communist International, on the other hand, has the right of sending a representative with a **decisive vote** to the Executive Committee of the International League of Young Communists. Relations between the League of Young Communists and the Communist Party in each country are based

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