

# POLITICS

The history of all hitherto existing society (that is, all written history) is the history of class struggles.

Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary re-construction of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.

"Communist Manifesto."

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The "politics" of the working class are comprised within the confines of the Class Struggle. And, conversely, the Class Struggle is, necessarily, waged on the political field.

By this statement we do not imply that the political action of the working class must be limited within the bounds of constitutional convention or of parliamentary procedure, nor that the means employed in waging the Class Struggle must everywhere be the same. Political action we define as any action taken by the slave class against the master class to obtain control of the powers of state, or by the master class to retain control, using these powers to secure them in the means of life.

For one country it may be the ballot, in another the mass strike, in a third insurrection.

These matters will be determined and dictated by the exigencies of time and place.

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In the industrial field the workers appear as sellers of the one commodity, labor-power; they are rivals, rather than allies. As, with the sellers of any commodity, competition forces combination to a certain extent, so with