

April Theses

- 1 The United States is nowhere near the establishment of The Party: a Kautskyan mass political party in which marxists can fight for a Marxian program.
- 2 Red Party is therefore a party in either a *purely* aspirational sense—suggesting the establishment of The Party without hope of a causal role—or in the sense of being a 'party of activists' that intends to help bring about The Party.
- 3 A small 'party of activists' is to be encouraged but *cannot* itself establish The Party.
- 4 The predominant form of the 'party of activists' is the Leninist 'Party of a New Type' as dictated by the Communist International.
- 5 The motivation for the move towards the 'marxist center' and the establishment of Red Party is the collapse of Leninism as a revolutionary political strategy. Therefore, becoming a Leninist Red Party would mean the defeat of our efforts.
- 6 The class character of 'parties of activists' tends to not be particularly proletarian. The existing activist left is recruited primarily from students and teachers, and—despite being in a more precarious situation than they have in the past—they are a small and unrepresentative subsection of the working class. Despite increased urbanization both nationally and globally, suburban and rural poverty has increased in all major demographic categories of the working class in the United States. Yet left activists concentrate in educational hub cities, *de facto* excluding the majority of the proletariat.
- 7 Unionization in the United States is at a record low and is dominated by business union bureaucrats. The merger of socialism and the workers' movement—the classic marxist social democratic strategy that assumed strong labor unions as a base of operations—is impossible without a workers' movement. So even a more proletarian left would necessarily still exist as a subculture, since we are operating without the self-organization of the working class.
 - 1 “The union membership rate—the percent of wage and salary workers who were members of unions— was 10.7 percent in 2016, down 0.4 percentage point from 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The number of wage and salary workers belonging to unions, at 14.6 million in 2016, declined by 240,000 from 2015.”

- 2 “Public-sector workers had a union membership rate (34.4 percent) more than five times higher than that of private-sector workers (6.4 percent).”
- 3 — Bureau of Labor Statistics, [“Labor Unions—2016”](#)
- 8 Our task today is to aid the reassociation of the proletariat. Smashing the oppressive social abandonment of the proletariat is an essential pre-condition for The Party. Otherwise, there is little to prevent us as Red Party from engaging in hyper-activism for its own sake and burning out without many results.
- 9 Given the academic class character of most marxist organizations—and leftist groups more generally—‘parties of activists’ have been *specifically* not well-situated for our task. To the extent leftist groups can manage to attract proletarians, proles find themselves in petty managerial tyrannies with no institutional space for self-activity.
- 10 Red Party must systematically develop a democratic-republican internal culture to avoid the *de facto* drift towards Leninist sect dynamics (‘democratic centralism’) or it should cease all attempts at being *any sort of party* at once for a more constructive type of political organization.

— Lexi Katsopolis, Joseph Sciortino, C. Derick Varn

Further Reading:

Hal Draper, [“Anatomy of the Micro-Sect”](#)

Mike Macnair, [“Communist Strategy and the Party Form”](#),

[“Republican Democracy and Revolutionary Patience”](#)

Scott Jay, [“What is a Marxist Organization?”](#),

[“The Sociology of Leninist Organizations”](#),

[“Sects and Sectarianism”](#)

[“Bureaucracy and Revolution”](#)

[“A Blueprint for a Party of an Old Type”](#)