

A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT IS NEEDED

Workers are seeing their lives threatened because without work, how can they survive in this world ruled by money, while corporations are taking control of our government and using public funds for their own interests, instead of the taxpayers?

How has the government dealt with the housing crisis?

For Working families

In September 2008, 765,558 U.S. property owners got a default notice. They were warned of a pending auction or were foreclosed on in the third quarter. This translated into one in every 475 U.S. housing units receiving a foreclosure filing.

For Corporations

In 2008, to save the banks, the government initiated nationalization of aspects of the banking system. This was done while disregarding the deteriorating conditions of the people.

What can we do?

We can recognize that this is a different world than that of the past. When capitalism was organized primarily around industrial production, society provided a basic level of maintenance for the workers industry needed. Under the social contract of that time, workers could receive housing and health care. Education was available and oriented to train workers: welfare and unemployment were provided to cover periods without income. *With the electronic revolution, that social contract is being destroyed.* A new social contract needs to be conceived of to reflect the new situation.

What is this new situation?

Society always reorganizes itself around the means of production. A capitalist society has two classes or groups – one that owns the means of production (capitalists) and another which works for the capitalists to earn a living (workers). With the new means of productions, i.e. electronic-driven production of goods and services, the worker is becoming less and less necessary. Robots are doing what the worker once did. Here lies the overriding question of today. If the labor of the worker is needed less and less, what kind of society will we have?

If we leave it up to the capitalists, they will most likely enslave us all so that they can still eek out whatever profit they can. So it will be up to the workers to ensure the new society that we need.

How do we ensure this new society? Let's begin by conceiving of a new social contract for the 21st century around the new means of production, electronics. This new social contract has to be based on what is needed, not on what we can pay monetarily: food, homes, health care, education and equality for all. By conceiving of this new society, we can begin to move towards it.