

Convention Resolution
Third Camp Manifesto.

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The IS has undertaken the drafting of a Third Camp Socialist Manifesto at this time because 1) we believe the world situation makes third camp socialist ideas more compelling than at any time in recent history; 2) because we believe that as a result of that and the meteoric rise of anti-war and opposition movements in the US there is a significant audience for these revolutionary ideas; and 3) because the existence of a network of comrades holding a third camp outlook that crosses organizational lines provides a broader means of distribution for these ideas and literature and educational activities based on them.

In the last couple of years class and national rebellion has sharpened in the front yards of both declining systems of social oppression -- capitalism and stalinism. The escalation of the arms race, on the one hand, and the rise of the nuclear disarmament movements in Europe and, now the US, all underline the need for a way to break the grip of the two superpowers that lead the major alliances representing those social systems. For us, the rebellions in both camps and the rise of the movement in Europe point toward the living forces of the Third Camp. Thus, the Third Camp view, as a Marxist analysis of the modern world and its power relations provides for a new generation of radicals, as well as for those whose ideas have failed to provide a credible explanation for events, a method of organizing political understanding. The Manifesto is a first, popular, presentation of those ideas directed at today's political activists.

The audience for Third Camp ideas is, of course, among those active in the movements rapidly rising in the US. While many of these are students, new to politics, the anti-war movements are also pulling into their ranks trade union, Black and women's movement activists, whose world views could stand some updating. The Manifesto is written, in style and presentation of content, primarily to those newer to politics, but should be usable with others as well. It is not meant to answer every question, but to provide a framework that can provoke discussion in the various movements around Third Camp ideas.

In order to broaden both the distribution and appeal of these ideas we will approach others with Third Camp views, some independent, some in groups, to sponsor an agreed-upon final draft of the Third Camp Socialist Manifesto. This would be put in pamphlet form and all the groups and individuals sponsoring-- or others willing to do so--would help distribute this in the broadest way.

It is our hope that this project will lead to other joint educational or action projects by the broader Third Camp tendency on the revolutionary left. Such activities might include forums, speaking tours, or the formation of contingents at demonstrations (so long as this did not become simply a retreat from a more significant political intervention in the anti-war movements).

We do not believe that a Third Camp regroupment is viable in the near future, as the Third Camp world view does not necessarily determine agreement on questions of practice in US politics or trade union questions. However, in a broader and more long range sense, we do see the development of a Third Camp tendency on the revolutionary socialist left as an important goal. We believe that such a tendency could be forged in the context of a broader socialist regroupment, in which a variety of ideological tendencies would be represented. The publication of this manifesto is not a barrier to the broader regroupment either. Indeed, the clear statement of theoretical and political assumptions by all the trends that might be concerned with regroupment is a necessary part of that process.

The IS Political Committee will appoint a small committee to circulate the manifesto and negotiate over changes in its content and its final stylization with those who would be likely to support such a project.