

What is the General Strike?

When Ralph Champlin wrote this pamphlet in 1933, fascism was on the march in Europe and America. He saw the general strike not just as a broad work stoppage, but rather as the occupation of industry by the workers themselves. It was his belief then that only worker control of industry could combat fascist repression and insure world peace.

This conception of the general strike influenced the stay-in strikes of the '30s here and was modified by Japanese workers after World War II when they occupied the industries to make sure they were kept running. More recently, in the 1980s, workers in Bolivia, the Philippines, Poland, and South Africa have militantly taken up the tactic. It remains to be applied on a mass level once and for all to do away with the dangerous foolishness of private or State ownership of production. It is an idea both revolutionary and constructive, with a tremendous future.

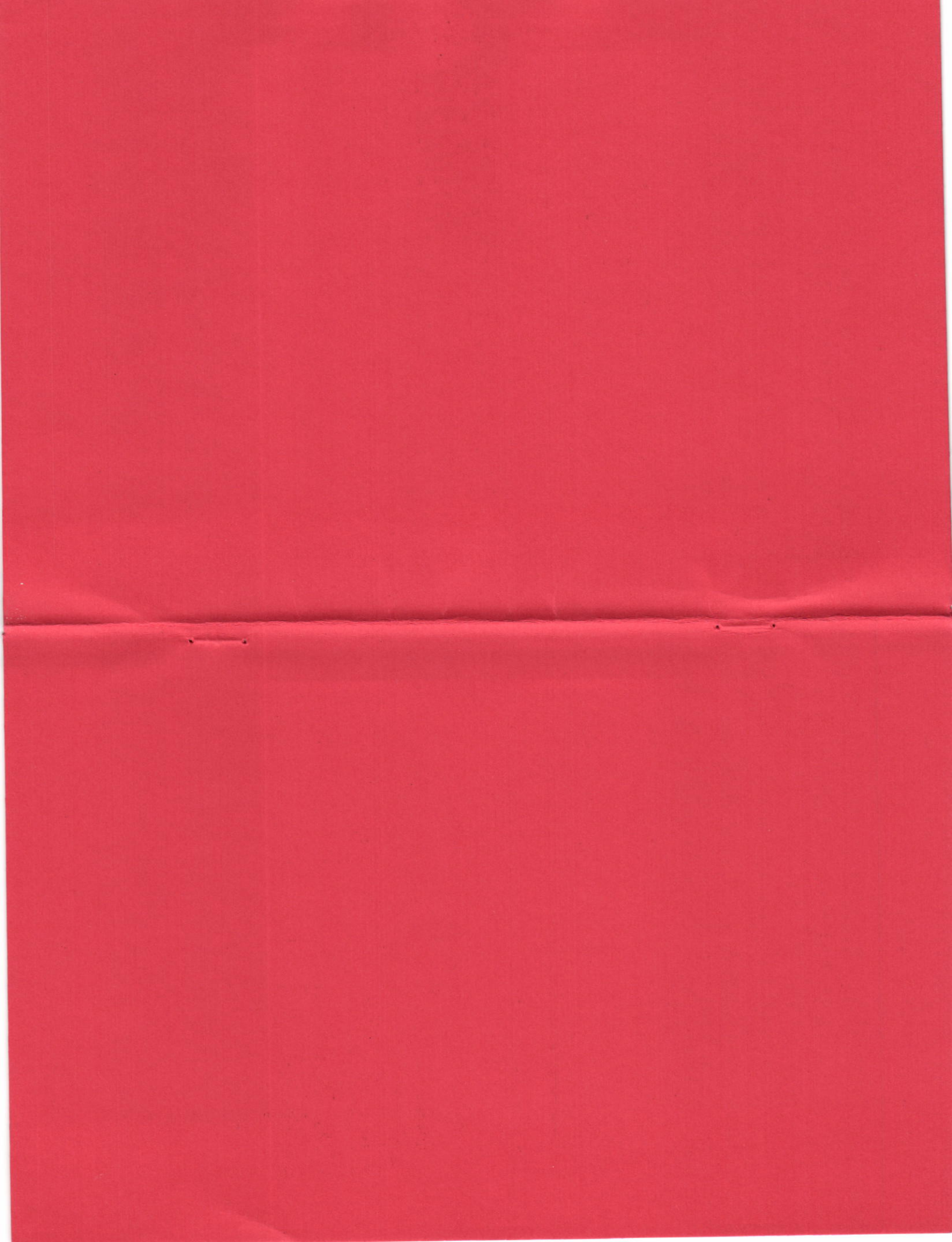
Current IWW literature urges that workers the world over need to reach an understanding among ourselves as to what we will make, where we will ship it, and how we will distribute it in order to make optimal use of our skills and of the Earth's productive resources without either raping the Earth or making slaves of its people.

For information on the IWW or to subscribe to the monthly Industrial Worker, write:

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THE GENERAL STRIKE



the world from social parasitism, courage, clear-thinking and fearless fighting spirit are needed as never before.

Realizing that the control of industry can only come into the hands of the producing class when the producers have sufficient power to keep and to hold this control, the I. W. W. advocates the General Strike on the job reinforced by formidable, determined revolutionary picket-lines of unemployed. The change from private to social ownership being inevitable, only thus can the danger of serious destruction and bloodshed be minimized.

The workingclass should bend every effort to this end. The full current of the revolutionary movement should be directed from the streets to the industries. The revolutionary struggle should be thought out and fought out in terms of industrial action—control, defense, operation. The class struggle, in the last analysis, must be a struggle to control the means of production, transportation and exchange. It will probably be a bitter fight, but one that can have but one ending—complete victory for the workers in the world's industries.

Let come what may, no worker should count the cost. Even at the worst a General Strike could scarcely entail more privation and suffering than one of capitalism's many and all too frequent depressions. The General Strike is saner than insurrection and surer than political action. And beyond it—after the storm—is a scientifically planned and ordered world based on peace, plenty and security for martyred humanity. What other thing is more worth striving for by courageous men and women than the ideal of this classless Industrial Democracy for which the I. W. W. has battled so valorously and for so many years?

PUBLISHED

BY THE

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

103 West Michigan Avenue

Ypsilanti, Michigan

USA, 48197-5438

May 1982



Reprinted May 1986
Reprinted June 1999
Price \$2.50



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER