

The Russian Uprising (January 26, 1905)

The Russian uprising will have a marked tendency toward the solidarity of all the workers of the world.

The uprising in Russia is not unexpected to those who have been watching the trend of events in that country. The wretched condition of the working classes in the industrial centers and among the peasantry has been exploited in the newspapers and magazines of all civilized countries during these many years, and all thoughtful men have long since realized that the limits must come at last.

The oppressed and half-starved workers have risen in revolt, and this revolt now presages revolution, which may or may not be temporarily restrained, but which will finally sweep the Russian monarchy out of existence.

From the standpoint of organized labor, the revolution has special significance. It means that the working classes of Russia, so long in the rear ranks of the international movement, are arousing from their lethargy and are resolved to break the political chains that fetter them and take their place where they properly belong, in the bonds of international unionism.

The uprising of the Russian workers under such extraordinary conditions is watched with eagerness by the organized workers of all countries, who are profoundly in sympathy with their thrice enslaved Russian comrades and heartily wish them triumph over the soulless despots that have so long tyrannized over them.

The Russian monarchy will rule with blood and iron until it is shot or blown out of existence. Gorky,¹ the socialist leader, has the true spirit, and his is the voice of the revolution. He is the idol of the downtrodden millions of Russia, and should he be put to death the fate of the Russian empire would be all the sooner sealed.

The noteworthy feature of this uprising is the universal interest with which every move is followed. It is recognized to be a proletarian revolt, and the rulers of all foreign countries comprehend its significance and are gravely concerned about its results.

Not only this, but the unanimity with which the Russian workers have struck and the spontaneity with which the strike has spread from place to

place suggests to the capitalist class of all countries, the United States included, that the time may be near when the workers of all lands, conscious of the wrongs they are suffering and conscious of the power they have to right them may inaugurate a universal strike at the ballot box as well as in factory, mill, and mine, and not cease striking until the struggle is victorious and labor is free throughout the world.

Telegram published in the *New York World*, approximately Jan. 26, 1905. Reprinted as "Proletarian Cause" in *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, vol. 42, whole no. 17,395 (Jan. 27, 1905), p. 2.

¹ Maxim Gorky (born Alexei Maximovich Peshkov, 1868-1936) was a leading Russian literary figure of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Gorky made use of a social realist style, breaking with convention to highlight the daily struggles of common people in many of his novels and short stories. A socialist activist, Gorky supported the revolutionary movement but came to oppose the brutality and stifling of dissent by the Bolshevik regime during the civil war period. He emigrated to the West in 1921, eventually settling in Italy. The rise of fascism in Italy prompted Gorky to accommodate himself to the Stalin regime. He returned to the Soviet Union in 1931, thereafter dutifully writing in support of the government and serving as president of the Union of Soviet Writers. Gorky died of natural causes in 1936; the top two Soviet leaders, Joseph Stalin and V.M. Molotov, led the procession at his widely publicized funeral as pallbearers.