

# Karl Marx on Revolutionary Class

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**In times when the class struggle**

nears the decisive hour, the progress of dissolution going on within the ruling class, in fact within the whole range of old society, assumes such a violent, glaring character, that a small section of the ruling class cuts itself adrift, and joins the revolutionary class, the class that holds the future in its hands.

Just as, therefore, at an earlier period, a section of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie, so now

**a portion of the bourgeoisie goes over to the proletariat**, and in particular, a portion of the bourgeois ideologists, who have raised themselves to the level of comprehending theoretically the historical movement as a whole.

**Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.**

- K. Marx, F. Engels  
*The Communist Manifesto*

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Original article

2021-05-06

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*“Finally, in times when the class struggle nears the decisive hour, the progress of dissolution going on within the ruling class, in fact within the whole range of old society, assumes such a violent, glaring character, that a small section of the ruling class cuts itself adrift, and joins the revolutionary class, the class that holds the future in its hands. Just as, therefore, at an earlier period, a section of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie, so now a portion of the bourgeoisie goes over to the proletariat, and in particular, a portion of the bourgeois ideologists, who have raised themselves to the level of comprehending theoretically the historical movement as a whole. Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class. The other classes decay and finally disappear in the face of Modern Industry; the proletariat is its special and essential product.” Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”*

Original article