

WWP Lesson Plan – The State and Revolution

This template was created to help those planning and teaching Party classes to make those interactive, interesting and consistent so that they can be reproduced in the future.

<p>*Teacher Preparations and</p>	<p>*Consider accessibility and accommodation needs in communicating with candidates, sending material in advance for preparation, reading aloud in class, etc.</p> <p>*For this class, make several copies of “Talking Outline: Dialectical and Historical Materialism,” to be shared during read-aloud. Not everyone may have electronic access during class!</p> <p>* The class leader(s) should tell participants to please ask the group to STOP the reading--at any point--if they get spaced out, confused or have questions or comments or examples. This will encourage deeper conversation.</p>
<p>*Essential Understandings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The State is an Instrument for the Exploitation of the Oppressed Class, the army, courts, cops, military, prisons and tax collectors and has consistently served the privileged classes — first slave owners, then feudal lords and, today, the capitalists. (What Is Marxism All About?)• The state has become almost completely merged with the capitalist class itself. (Paraphrased from Lenin, State and Revolution)• A state can have the form of a bourgeois democracy; it can be a monarchy; it may be ruled by a military junta. And in modern society, on the very edge of the 21st century, it may have a totalitarian or fascist form. (Sam Marcy, “A Marxist Defense of the LA Rebellion”)• The overthrow of capitalism worldwide will set the stage for the gradual withering away of the state as the world currently knows it. (What Is Marxism All About?)• The workers state maximizes democracy for the working class as it exercises a dictatorship over the remnants of the former capitalist ruling class. (What Is Marxism All About?)

Overview of Class	<p>This class will use the provided “Talking Outline” on the State and Revolution as a guide.</p> <p>The outline consists of a series of questions to be read aloud and discussed by the class. Class leaders can decide if discussion of the questions should come before reading the excerpts, after— or both! Some excerpts have comments included as well, about important points to be raised or potential issues to address. For further or future discussion, at the end of the outline are brief passages on the State written by other Left forces to present contrasting views on the question of the State to that of Workers World Party.</p>
Motivating Question	Give an ice-breaker question relevant to this class. For example: What do you think of when you hear the words “workers’ state”?
Readings, Materials, Links	<p>Lenin, State and Revolution, Chapter 1 Marcy, A Marxist Defense of the LA Rebellion</p> <p>What is Marxism All About workers.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How the State Arose ● The State Today
Methods of learning: (Several methods: people learn in different ways)	<p>Reading/reading out loud together</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Student-led presentations</p>
Discussion Questions	Questions are included in the “Talking Outline” document.
Organizing	What are some recent examples of resistance to capitalist state power that you have observed or participated in? What tactics were strongest? less successful?
Skill Building	Divide into pairs and choose one of the positions on the state given by other left currents (appended to the end of the “Talking Outline”). Take turns critiquing that position from a Leninist point of view.
Reflection	<p>Save some time at the end for participants to answer questions about the class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or make less confusing?