

## 1: Popular Front (France) - Wikipedia

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Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Perrin, , n. For more information on the historiography of the CSAR, see the appendix to this volume. Routledge, , 2. Greenwood Press, , Diagnosis and Countermeasures Springfield, Ill.: Bonapartism, National Populism, or Fascism? Rutgers University Press, ; Michel Dobry, ed. See as well our appendix. Dormoy was the minister in charge of investigating the Cagoule; ex-Cagouleurs later assassinated him during the war. And in a member of the Cagoule, Jean Filliol, succeeded in putting Blum in the hospital. They broke the windshield and struck Blum on the head. Maurice Larkin, France since the Popular Front: Government and People, â€” Oxford: Oxford University Press, , 6. Richard Vinen, France, â€” New York: Defending Democracy, â€”38 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ; Jackson, France: The Dark Years, â€” Oxford: The Dark Years, Quoted in Vinen, France, France in the s New York: Norton, , â€” The Dark Years, 74â€” Donnez-nous la main, camarades! Stearns and Herrick Chapman, European Society You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

## 2: Popular front - Wikipedia

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But as the brutality of the Nazi government became clear and there was no sign of its collapse, Communists began to sense that there was a need to radically alter their stance - especially as Hitler had made it clear he regarded the Soviet Union as an enemy state. Under this policy Communist Parties were instructed to form broad alliances with all anti-fascist parties with the aim of both securing social advance at home and a military alliance with the USSR to isolate the fascist dictatorships. The "Popular Fronts" thus formed proved to be successful in forming the government in France, and Spain, and also China. It was not a political success elsewhere. The new policy was signalled in a Pravda article of May , which commented favourably on socialist-Communist collaboration. An imaginative, flexible program of strategy and tactics, in which Communists were permitted to exploit the symbols of patriotism, to assume the role of defenders of national independence, to attack fascism without demanding an end to capitalism as the only remedy, and, most important, to enter upon alliances with other parties, on the basis of fronts or on the basis of a government in which Communists might participate. Many Communist party members quit the party in disgust at this compromise between Hitler and Stalin. Critics and defenders of the Popular Front policy[ edit ] Leon Trotsky and his far-left supporters roundly criticised the Popular Front strategy. Trotsky believed that only united fronts could ultimately be progressive, and that popular fronts were useless because they included non-working class bourgeois forces such as liberals. Trotsky also argued that in popular fronts, working class demands are reduced to their bare minimum, and the ability of the working class to put forward its own independent set of politics is compromised. This view is now common to most Trotskyist groups. Left communist groups also oppose popular fronts, but they came to oppose united fronts as well. In a book written in , the Eurocommunist leader Santiago Carrillo offered a positive assessment of the Popular Front. He argued that in Spain, despite excesses attributable to the passions of civil war, the period of coalition government in Republican areas "contained in embryo the conception of an advance to socialism with democracy, with a multi-party system, parliament, and liberty for the opposition". At legislative elections, voters were presented with a single list of candidates from all parties. In practice, however, only the Communist SED had any real power. It is nominally a coalition of the Communist Party of China and eight minor parties. In practice, however, the minor parties are completely subservient to the CPC, and their leaders are mostly handpicked by the Communists. It referred to movements led by members of the liberal-minded intelligentsia usually themselves members of the local Communist party , in some republics small and peripheral, in others broad-based and influential. It was their initially cautious tone that gave them considerable freedom to organise and gain access to the mass media. In the Baltic republics , they soon became the dominant political force and gradually gained the initiative from the more radical dissident organisations established earlier, moving their republics towards greater autonomy and later independence. A Popular Front was established in Georgia but remained marginal compared to the dominant dissident-led groups, because the April 9 tragedy had radicalised society and it was unable to play the compromise role of similar movements. In the other republics, such organisations existed but never posed a meaningful threat to the incumbent Party and economic elites. Popular Front Chile Frente popular; an electoral and political left-wing coalition in Chile from to February Front populaire left-wing anti-fascist coalition in France in the s. Also Socialist and Communist government from to

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The Great Depression and political crises France at the end of the 1930s had apparently recovered its prewar stability, prosperity, and self-confidence. For a time it even seemed immune to the economic crisis that spread through Europe beginning in 1929; France went serenely on behind its high-tariff barrier, a healthy island in a chaotic world. By 1933, however, France in its turn succumbed to the effects of the Great Depression, and the impact was no less severe than elsewhere. In the right-wing parties lost control of the Chamber to the Radicals and Socialists. During the next two years Herriot and a series of successors groped for a solution to the deepening crisis. Right-wing movements in France—some openly fascist, others advocating a more traditional authoritarianism—grew in size and activity. By 1934 the shaky coalition was at the mercy of an incident—the Stavisky scandal, a sordid affair that tarnished the reputations of several leading Radicals. Antiparliamentary groups of the far right seized the occasion to demonstrate against the regime; on February 6 a huge rally near the Chamber of Deputies degenerated into a bloody battle with armed police, during which 15 rioters were killed and 1,000 injured. The regime survived the crisis, but serious stress persisted. Right-wing agitation was countered by unity of action on the left, grouping all the left-wing parties and the CGT; even the Communists participated in this effort, which culminated in the formation of the Popular Front. Doumergue was soon replaced by Pierre Laval, a former socialist who had migrated toward the right. Laval embarked on a vigorous but unpopular attempt to combat the Depression through traditional techniques: These policies wrecked his cabinet early in 1935 and became campaign issues in the parliamentary election that spring. That election, probably the most bitterly contested since 1928, gave the Popular Front a narrow majority of the popular vote and a large majority in the Chamber. The Socialists for the first time became the largest party; but the greatest proportional gain went to the Communists, who jumped from 10 to 72 seats. Blum, the Socialist leader, became premier. An intellectual, Blum was the first French premier of Jewish origin. His ministers were mostly Socialists and Radicals; the Communists refused his urgent invitation to participate. Blum persuaded industrial leaders to grant immediate wage increases, which ended the strike. Then he pushed additional reforms through parliament: Many other reform bills, however, were stalled in committee or in the Senate, which remained much more conservative than the Chamber. Production surged briefly, then lagged again; unemployment remained high, rising prices offset wage gains, a flight of capital set in. When Blum attempted to impose exchange controls, the Senate rebelled and overthrew his cabinet June 1936. The Popular Front held together for another year, but the Socialists and Radicals were irretrievably divided on economic policy. In April 1937 France returned once more to the usual pattern of unstable centre coalitions, with the Socialists in opposition. The Radical Daladier served as premier in 1938; his finance minister, Paul Reynaud, suspended most of the Popular Front reforms and sought economic recovery through more orthodox policies favoured by business.

## 4: The Great Depression

*In France, for example, the Communist Party joined in forming a popular front in a popular front government, led by the Socialist Léon Blum, was elected. Though the Communists refused ministerial appointments, they pledged full parliamentary support and cooperation.*

StumbleUpon These are heady times for socialists in the United States. In the past two years, socialism has again become an important political current for the first time since the mids. Over thirteen million Americans voted for a self-proclaimed socialistâ€”and Sanders won more voters under thirty years of age in the primaries than both Clinton and Trump combined. The membership of the Democratic Socialists of America DSA has increased from less than 2, in to nearly 30, in late The renewed presence of socialism has reopened a discussion of our political visionâ€”what we are fighting forâ€”and strategyâ€”how we can win. Not surprisingly, many on the new socialist left are looking back to the s and s, the last period of major pro-working-class social reforms and of a mass socialist presence among working people in the United States. At the beginning of his campaign, Sanders invoked Franklin D. The New Deal reforms Sanders evokes were not the product of a farsighted, enlightened reformer, but responses to tumultuous class struggles in the early and mids. These reforms sought to contain explosive social struggles and were never truly universal, excluding women and African-Americans, for example. After mass struggle ebbed, Roosevelt shifted back to his original goal of stabilizing US capitalism while moving toward establishing US global domination during World War II. Progressive reforms came to an abrupt halt in the late s, allowing the rollback of many popular gains during the s. It is true that the CP appeared to have a mass presence in the late s and sâ€”reaching nearly , members; leading important industrial unions, civil rights, and other organizations; and having a significant presence in popular culture. However, the CP had its greatest impact on social struggles and US politics before adopting the popular front strategy in late Communists helped the Congress of Industrial Organizations CIO officialdom derail militant struggles in the late s and s, facilitating the historic shift to the right in US politics during and after World War II. The Democratic Party, which had initially emerged as the main party of the southern slave-owners and northern land and transport speculators in the s, had evolved over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the North, the Democrats were the party of urban real-estate developers, immigrant capitalists, and small business owners. Not surprisingly, the Democrats had shed any residual resistance to US global domination in the early twentieth century and led US entry into World War I in Roosevelt differed from Hoover on two issues: The famous section 7a, which vaguely embraced the right of workers to bargain collectively, lacked any mechanisms for enforcement, and was an afterthought included to win the support of the leadership of the American Federation of Labor AFL. Second, Roosevelt understood much better than Hoover the dangers the struggles of the unemployed posed to capitalist political and economic recovery. Beginning in , communists, socialists, and supporters of A. The unemployed organizations led militant, direct actions in defense of evicted tenants, sit-ins at relief offices, and mass demonstrations for unemployment insurance. In response to unrest among the unemployed, Roosevelt launched the Civilian Conservation Corps in the spring of , followed by the Civilian Works Administration in the fall of , the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in the summer of , and the Works Projects Administration in While putting some five to seven million unemployed to work temporarily between and , these jobs programs short-circuited more radical proposals, were often used to undermine strikes, and discriminated against women and workers of color. Finally, there were explicit quotas on the percentage of African-American and other nonwhite workers who could be employed by these programsâ€”concessions to win the support of the southern Democrats. Women, who were expected to stay home and raise children, were also generally excluded. They urged workers to rely on federal labor mediators appointed under the NIRA, who convinced workers to end strikes and promised negotiations to ensure employer recognition of the new unions. In most cases, mediation resulted in hundreds of union activists losing their jobs or becoming demoralized as employers refused to countenance union recognition. In the wake of these victories, workers across the US, often under the leadership of communist, socialist, Trotskyist, and syndicalist radicals, revived local

workplace committees, engaged in strikes and factory occupations sit-down strikes, and sought to create new rank-and-file controlled internationals in their industries. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers—who led industrial unions and who saw an opportunity to organize the unorganized and tame a potentially radical rank-and-file-based industrial unionism that pressed for an independent Farmer-Labor Party as an alternative to the Democrats. The strike wave culminated in the victory of the Flint, Michigan General Motors sit-down strikes in December and January, followed by a wave of sit-downs in other industries during the spring of 1937. In the wake of these victories, new industrial unions, affiliated with the breakaway CIO, were consolidated in the mass-production industries. Together, the CIO leadership and the northern New Deal Democratic Party liberals worked to systematically wreck independent labor parties that had emerged in several midwestern states and in industrial towns and cities across the North. The second was the Social Security Act, which created old-age pensions, state-administered unemployment insurance, and Aid for Dependent Children, a cash assistance program for widows with children. The last was the Fair Labor Standards Act, which set a national minimum wage and mandated payment of time-and-a-half pay for overtime. While these acts were fundamentally a response to independent, massive, and militant movements from below, they were designed primarily to defuse class conflict and restore social peace by granting minor reforms to win the support of the CIO leadership and defuse labor militancy from below. The historical evidence contradicts the claims of some scholars that the passage of the NLRA, formulated by independent state officials, promoted the growth of industrial unionism. In the aftermath of the Flint strike. General Motors, Chrysler, and Big Steel were unionized, along with hundreds of other companies. Union membership surged to over seven million by the end of 1937; the dam had been broken with little help from the NLRB. These workers were also explicitly excluded from the provisions of the NLRA. Put simply, the vast majority of African-American workers in the South, who were still overwhelmingly domestic workers and wage-earning sharecroppers, were exempted from Social Security pensions and unemployment benefits until the 1960s, and are still denied the minimal protections of the NLRA. Despite the fact that John L. Lewis and his lieutenant Phillip Murray hired hundreds of young Communists as staff organizers, the strikers limited themselves to legal picketing—there were no plant occupations, mass, illegal pickets, or other extra-legal actions that had been crucial to earlier CIO victories. The strike was defeated when New Deal Democratic governors in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania unleashed repression against the strikers, culminating in the Memorial Day Massacre, when the Democratic mayor of Chicago ordered the police to fire on a peaceful SWOC picnic, killing dozens. A revitalized bloc of Congressional Republicans and southern Democrats blocked all attempts by northern pro-labor Democrats to expand labor rights or social programs. Roosevelt shifted his attention to asserting US military and political hegemony as Europe moved to war. By the time World War II began in September 1939, the Roosevelt administration was gearing up for war—rebuilding the US military, promoting war production, and providing military assistance to the allies. The waves of postwar strikes won wage increases that were quickly wiped out by inflation. The CIO was unable to secure plant or industry-wide seniority in most companies, reinforcing the racial and gender divisions among unionized workers. Their legislative agenda remained—and remains today—unrealized. Rather than new legislative gains, labor experienced major setbacks, most notably the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947, which placed major legal restrictions on the activities of unions in the United States. According to Maurice Isserman: The Communists faced stark choices in the mids. They could submerge their political identities and participate in the organization of the CIO on the terms John L. Lewis offered, or they could remain on the outside as principled but unheeded critics. They could accept the fact that, by the mids, most American workers believed that New Deal social programs were the only thing standing between them and destitution, or they could continue to denounce Roosevelt as a capitalist tool and lose all political credibility outside their own ranks. The Communists had their greatest, most positive impact on the class struggles of the 1930s before they adopted the popular front strategy, which actually undermined the possibilities for a militant labor movement, significant social reforms, and left-wing politics, including an independent labor party in the United States. Throughout the 1930s, the CP built a small but active membership among first- and second-generation immigrant workers in the needle trades, coal and iron mining, steel, automobile, and machine-making industries. CP

members and sympathizers also tried to create independent unions in unorganized industries, including the auto industry. To facilitate these processes, the party developed the Trade Union Educational League TUEL , which convinced thousands of non-CP worker-activists to build democratic and militant industrial unions, to fight foot-dragging AFL officials, and to build an independent labor party. These struggles also open broader and broader layers of the working class to anticapitalist ideas while demonstrating that the forces of official reformismâ€”professional politicians and trade-union bureaucratsâ€”cannot lead successful struggles against capital. However, there were sharp differences. Within the united front, the Communists maintained their political independence to both propagandize for revolutionary socialism and to present alternative strategies and tactics to the forces of official reformism. In the late s, the Comintern, dominated by the new ruling bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, abandoned the united front strategy with tragic consequences. Following this line, Communist parties launched sectarian attacks on reformist leaders, refusing any and all united actions with social-democratic parties and unions. Left to their own political resources, the steel workers eventually accepted federal mediation through the National Recovery Administration NRA , dissipating the promising strike movement of . While refusing to build common organizations with other radicals, the CP built Unemployed Workers Councils in various industrial centers. These groups organized militant, direct actions in defense of evicted tenants, held sit-ins at relief offices, and planned mass demonstrations calling for unemployment insurance. Organizing workers across ethnic, racial, and gender lines, the unemployed movement recruited new working-class cadres to socialist politics in key industrial cities like Detroit, Cleveland, and Akron, and gave workers their first experience of successful struggle since the defeat of the steel strike. When it became obvious that the victory of Hitler would not be short-lived, the world Communist movement went into a profound crisis. Their previous strategy had failed abysmally, and incapable of having an open, democratic discussion of past errors, the world and US Communist movements entered a period of political experimentation. Across the world, the Communist parties returned, pragmatically, to the politics of the united front, building common struggles with social-democratic workers and their organizations, while agitating for action independently of the reformist leaders of the unions and socialist parties. CP militants and sympathizers like Harry Bridges built democratic workplace organizations of rank-and-file workers that could act independently of the ILA bureaucracy; linked these workplace organizations together in a highly democratic industrial union run by the membership with the aid of a small number of full-time officials; and promoted mass participation in strike decisions through elected strike committees that reported to mass meetings of workers. The West Coast longshoremen won union recognition and union regulation of the local labor market hiring hall in the fall of . While AFL bureaucrats easily derailed the strike agitation in basic industry in , the CP and Trotskyists along with other radicals were able to provide an effective alternative leadership after . The CP was particularly successful in building a rank-and-file movement in the automobile industry. The first international industrial union in auto, founded as an AFL affiliate at an August convention in Detroit, remained under the control of Francis J. Dillon, a corrupt and ineffectual AFL official. The height of the CIO strike wave of through early also saw the beginnings of a practical schism between the labor movement and the Roosevelt administration. This practical break with the Democratic Party found expression in literally dozens of labor party experiments at the local and state levels. The convention reversed its decision only after CIO representative Adolph Germer threatened to withhold funding for new organizing. The strategy was elaborated in G. The Struggle Against Fascism and War. The pamphlet ends with an open embrace of US nationalism: Communism is Twentieth Century Americanism. The Communist Party continues the traditions of , of the birth of our country, of the revolutionary Lincoln, who led the historic struggle that preserved our nation. In the greater crisis of today only the Communist Party shows a way to a better life now, and to the future of peace, freedom, and security for all. While many on the US Left predicted that would see the organization of a third party based on the newly created CIO unions, capable of winning twenty to thirty seats in Congress, the CIO leadership instead launched the LNPL to mobilize the newly organized industrial working class for the Democrats. The CP played a critical role in expediting the subordination of local labor parties to the Democratic Party. He also withdrew US troops from Haiti and renounced direct military intervention. However, the Roosevelt administration continued to support dictatorial regimes in Latin America

that protected US investments. In , Earl Browder, party chairperson, stated: There is still much to be done to dissipate the fear and suspicion of Yankee imperialism in order to create confidence throughout Latin America in the role of the United States as a leader of the United Nations. The popular front brought a new orientation toward the African-American middle class. No longer were Black professionals, small business people, and politicians erstwhile allies in the struggle against racism, they were now the legitimate leadership of the Black community. The League for Negro Struggle was abandoned in favor of the National Negro Congress, which brought together African-American trade-union officials, intellectuals, and politicians to lobby for anti-lynching laws and the end of Jim Crow. The end of the s had transformed Black Communists in Harlem from organizers of street rallies and welfare office sit-ins into the most-active cadre in the emerging Democratic Party machine of the charismatic minister Adam Clayton Powell Jr. In the CIO unions, the popular front had profound consequences.

*The Popular Front in France: A short history of the French working class from to The Genesis and Effect of the Popular Front in France Mar 6,*

The government sought to carry out its reforms as rapidly as possible. The Senate voted in favour of these laws within a week. By mid-August the parliament had voted for: Other measures carried out by the Popular Front government improved the pay, pensions, allowances and tax-obligations of public-sector workers and ex-servicemen. The Sales Tax, opposed by the Left as a tax on consumers, was abolished and replaced by a production tax, which was considered to be a tax on the producer instead of the consumer. The government also made some administrative changes to the civil service, such as a new director-general for the Paris police and a new governor for the Bank of France. In addition, a secretariat for sports and leisure was established, while the opportunities for the children of workers and peasants in secondary education were increased. Secondary education was made free to all pupils, whereas previously it had been closed to the poor, who were unable to afford to pay tuition. An Act of August extended to workers in general supplementary allowances that had previously been confined to workers injured in accidents prior to the 9th of January. An order dealing with rescue equipment in mines was issued on 19 August, followed by two orders concerning packing and caving on 25 February. In relation to maritime transport, a Decree of 3 March issued instructions concerning safety. Improvements were made in unemployment allowances, while an Act of August increased the rate of pensions and allowances payable to miners and their dependants. In August, regulations extending the provisions of the Family Allowances Act to agriculture were signed into law. A Decree introduced that same month introduced the inspection of farm dwellings, and at the start of January an Advisory Committee on Rents was appointed by decree. Wages increased sharply, in two years the national average was up 48 percent. At the end of 40 hours, a shopper small factory either had to shut down or replace its best workers; unions refused to compromise on this issue. The hours limitation was ended by the Radicals in. He launched a major program to speed up arms production. The cost forced the abandonment of the social reform programs of the popular front had counted heavily on. In turn the Popular Front was actively fought by right-wing and far-right movements, which often used antisemitic slurs against Blum and other Jewish ministers. The Cagoule far-right group even staged bombings to disrupt the government. Spanish Civil War[ edit ] The Spanish Civil War broke out in July and deeply divided the government, which tried to remain neutral. All the constituents of the French left supported the Republican government in Madrid, while the right supported the Nationalist insurgents. Jackson concludes that the French government "was virtually paralyzed by the menace of Civil War at home, the German danger abroad, and the weakness of her own defenses. By, the Radicals had taken control and forced the Socialists out of the cabinet. In late, the Communists broke with the coalition by voting against the Munich agreement, in which the Popular Front had joined with the British in trying to appease Nazi aggression against Czechoslovakia. The government denounced the Communists as warmongers and the Communists called large-scale strikes in late. The Radical government crushed them and fired over, workers. In effect, the Radical party stood alone. He adds that it "failed to make the great changes its supporters anticipated and left many ordinary French people deeply disillusioned. Many historians blame Blum for being too timid and thereby dissolving the revolutionary fervor of the workers. From the perspective of the far left, "The failure of the Popular Front government was the failure of the parliamentary system," says Allen Douglas. More generally the argument is made that France could not afford the labor reforms, in the face of poor economic conditions, the fears of the business community and the threat of Nazi Germany. The prevailing leftist anti-capitalist discourse against social inequality, was a feature of the Popular Front cultural policy. It failed to pass. Above all the Communists portrayed themselves as French nationalists. Young Communists dressed in costumes from the revolutionary period and the scholars glorified the Jacobins as heroic predecessors. In the s there was a new model, of a separate but equal role for women. The Party discarded its original notions of Communist femininity and female political activism as a gender-neutral revolutionary. It issued a new model more atuned to the mood of the late s and one more acceptable to the

middle class elements of the Popular Front. It now portrayed the ideal Young Communist as a paragon of moral probity with her commitment to marriage and motherhood, and gender-specific public activism. This signaled the beginning of tourism in France. Although beach resorts had long existed, they had been restricted to the upper class. Tens of thousands of families who had never seen the sea before now played in the waves, and Leo Lagrange arranged around , discounted rail trips and hotel accommodation on a massive scale. Thus, Lagrange stated that "It cannot be a question in a democratic country of militarizing the distractions and the pleasures of the masses and of transforming the joy skillfully distributed into a means of not thinking. Hitler has been very clever at that sort of thing, and there is no reason why a democratic government should not do the same. From this principle of relating sport to the " degeneration of the race" and other scientific racist theories, only one step had to be taken. But scientific racist positions were upheld inside the SFIO and the Radical-Socialist Party, who supported colonialism and found in this discourse a perfect ideological alibi to justify colonial rule. The trials for these Olympiads proceeded on 4 July in the Pershing stadium in Paris. Through their club, the FSGT , or individually, 1, French athletes were registered with these anti-fascist Olympiads. A PCF deputy declared: It passed and France participated at Berlin. Million Franc Race In , the Popular Front organized the Million Franc Race to induce automobile manufacturers to develop race cars capable of competing with the German Mercedes-Benz and Auto Union racers of the time, which were backed by the Nazi government as part of its sports policy. Wimille would later take part in the Resistance. French colonial empires and Colonialism The Popular Front initiated the Blum-Viollette proposal , which was supposed to grant French citizenship to a minority of Algerian Muslims. The French Communist Party PCF restricted itself to a "support without participation" of the government meaning it took part to the parliamentary majority but did not have any ministers.

## 6: The Popular Front: Rethinking CPUSA History

*The genesis and effect of the Popular Front in France Front populaire ; France--Politics and government Share: Terms and Conditions | Notice.*

CP had a real and significant impact on the mass struggles of industrial workers, the unemployed and African Americans before the anticommunist witch-hunts of the late s and s. Not surprisingly, the CP has been the subject of intense scholarly debate for the last half century. Until the late s, most historians of the U. In the wake of the African-American and student rebellions of the s and the beginnings of the wave of wildcat strikes that shook U. Grouped around the journal *Radical America*, 2 James Green, Staughton Lynd, Nelson Lichtenstein, Marty Glaberman and others produced a series of pathbreaking investigations of the rise and decline of industrial working class militancy in this country Inspired by the seminal work of the revolutionary socialist Art Preis, 3 the *Radical America* school examined the links between working-class self-organization and struggle and political radicalism. They found that the CP bore major responsibility for both the explosive industrial struggles that created the CIO and the political maneuvering that bureaucratized the new industrial unions. The *Radical America* historians detailed how shifts in the policies of the Comintern shaped the workplace, union and community politics of CP members to the benefit and detriment of working-class radicalism in the United States. In the late s and early s, as the hopes sparked by the mass movements of the s and the worker militancy of the early s faded, most of the generation radicalized the decade before abandoned their revolutionary expectations for the classic politics of U. The growth of a new social democratic politics on the U. These historians argue that the CP faced some difficult choices because revolution was not on the agenda in the United States. As Maurice Isserman put it: They could submerge their political identities and participate in the organization of the CIO on the terms John L. Lewis offered, or they could remain on the outside as principled but unheeded critics. They could accept the fact that, by the mids, most American workers believed that New Deal social programs were the only thing standing between them and destitution, or they could continue to denounce Roosevelt as a capitalist tool and lose all political credibility outside their own ranks. Unfortunately, the Soviet leadership again saddled it with a semi-sectarian line in the late s, forcing the U. This essay begins from a very different perspective about what was possible in the United States in the s and s, and comes to very different conclusions about the role of the CP in this period. The popular front strategy of the s and s, like the social-democratic strategy of today, is profoundly utopian. The demobilization of popular militancy and the scuttling of experiments in independent politics after prepared the ground for the right-wing offensive that began during World War II and culminated in the purge of the radical left from the organized labor movement in the late s. While socialist revolution was clearly not on the agenda, I believe three important opportunities existed during these years. First, it was possible to construct militant and democratic industrial unions. Such unions, like the CIO unions of the mids, could confront employers on the shop-floor and picket line, could promote the organization of the unorganized in all regions of the United States, could act across industry lines in solidarity with other groups of workers, and could bring together organizations of the unemployed, women and racial minorities to fight for such class-wide demands as unemployment insurance or an end to racist violence. A labor party was a real possibility in the s and s. Such a party could have been both an electoral alternative to the Democrats and Republicans, and the vehicle for class wide struggles for the rights of workers, women and racial minorities. Finally, the s and s presented the opportunity for building a mass, although minority, socialist and revolutionary current in the U. None of these possibilities were realized. Instead of a viable labor party that could have led a political battle against antiunion legislation like the Smith and Taft-Hartley Acts, the labor movement was the junior partner in the capitalist-dominated Democratic party. Finally, instead of a small, mass socialist current in the labor movement, the s ended with a purge of radicals and leftists from the unions and the historic divorce of socialist politics from the life of the U. It is my contention that the CP played a major role organizing and leading the struggles that opened these possibilities before , but that its strategic reorientation after the popular front-contributed significantly to aborting these opportunities. It would be unrealistic to claim that a relatively

small group, whose working class core never exceeded 20, members, could have alone prevented the bureaucratization of the CIO, the subordination of labor to the Democratic party or the post-World War II witch-hunt. As we will see, when the CP did not subordinate the organization of rank-and-file workers to the CIO officialdom, they achieved their greatest successes in the west coast longshore, automobile and electrical machinery and appliance industries. When the CP made its peace with Lewis and the CIO leadership after , they suffered tremendous setbacks in the steel and Gulf coast longshore industries. The late s saw the end of industrial militancy and, with it, the impetus for the capitalist state to continue granting concessions to working people. Throughout the s, the CPUSA built a small but significant membership and periphery of sympathizers among first and second generation immigrant workers in industries as diverse as the needle trades, coal and iron mining, steel, automobile and machine making. Communist workers in these industries were at the center of generally unsuccessful attempts to build rank-and-file reform movements in the existing, bureaucratized AFL unions ILGWU and UMW or to organize independent industrial unions in industries like auto. Through TUEL, the CP labor activists helped to educate thousands of worker activists in the need to organize the unorganized into democratic and militant industrial unions, to fight the AFL officialdom, and to build an independent labor party. The s were a crucial period in the history of the Comintern. With the end of the wave of revolutionary workers struggles that swept Europe between and , the Communist parties found themselves in an unexpected situation. The seizure of power, which revolutionaries believed was imminent in Europe after the Russian Revolution, was no longer on the immediate historical agenda in any major capitalist country. Only through direct confrontations with capital in the workplace and communities do workers develop the power to win improved wages and working conditions or state policies that benefit working and oppressed peoples. These struggles also open broader and broader layers of workers to radical, revolutionary and anti-capitalist ideas. The Comintern viewed social-democratic leaders, parliamentary politicians and officials of the unions as an obstacle, not only to revolutionary struggle but even to effective struggle for reform, because of their particular social position. The fate of full-time union officials, party functionaries and parliamentary politicians is independent of the fate of workers on the shop floor or the people in communities they profess to represent. As a result, the social democracy relies on election campaigns, lobbying and other parliamentary maneuvers, and routinized collective bargaining, opposing strikes and demonstrations that could lead to the destruction of the union and party apparatus that provide their livelihood. Instead, they sought to organize within the existing, bureaucratic, social-democratic led unions. While promoting common struggles, Communists remained politically independentâ€”presenting their own strategy for winning these struggles for reforms and criticizing the strategies of the social-democratic leaders. In the case of countries with mass CPs Germany and France , CPs sought to involve the leaders of the reformist parties and unions in common campaigns against the employers and the state. In these struggles, Communists argued for militancy, democratic organization, and no reliance on the institutions of the capitalist state mediation of strikes, etc. The installation of Earl Browder as the main leader of the CP and the dismantling of the last vestiges of internal party democracy, the ending of the formal right to present alternative documents to the membership in preparation for national conventions, coincided with a radical shift in Comintern strategy. Throughout the capitalist world, the Communist parties launched sectarian attacks on the social-democratic and reformist leaders, refusing any and all united action with the social-democratic parties and unions. There the sizeable CP fraction refused to participate the growing rank-and-file movement in the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers AFL agitating for a general strike to win union recognition during and the first half of While refusing to build common unemployed organizations with other radicals, especially members of the Socialist Party SP and the formation led by A. Muste, the CP built the most important organization of the unemployed in various industrial centers. The Unemployed Workers Councils organized militant, direct actions in defense of evicted tenants, sit-ins at relief offices, and mass demonstrations for unemployment insurance in Washington, DC and other cities. The successful struggles of the Unemployed Councils won immediate relief for the unemployed and were pivotal to the establishment of federal unemployment insurance in The unemployed struggles also prepared for the struggles that created the C In the North, the CP organized multiracial Unemployed Councils, fought housing and educational segregation and built committees in

solidarity with the anti-lynching struggles in the South. TUUL unions became the beachheads of industrial unionism in the Southern industrial cities like Birmingham. Through the ILD, the CP mobilized millions of people through out the country in defense of nine young African-American men falsely accused of raping two white women. The profound confusion of the leadership of the world and U. During this time, CP worker militants, in an informal united front with members of the SP and other worker radicals, played a crucial role in the wave of mass strikes that established the CIO in the mass production industries. The CP militants and sympathizers like Harry Bridges led this massive confrontation, which literally halted all shipping on the West Coast. They built democratic, workplace organizations of rank and file workers that could act independently of the ILA bureaucracy; linked these workplace organizations together in a highly democratic industrial union run by the membership with the aid of a small number of full-time officials; and promoted mass participation in strike decisions through elected strike committees that reported to mass meetings of workers. Together, these three strikes set the stage for the rapid growth of the CIO during the next three years. Whereas the AFL bureaucracy had easily derailed the strike agitation in basic industry during , the CP along with other radicals were able to provide an effective alternative leadership after The CP was particularly successful in building a rank-and-file movement in the automobile industry. The first international industrial union in auto, founded as an AFL affiliate at an August convention in Detroit, remained under the control of the corrupt and ineffectual AFL official Dillon. Lewis and the emerging CIO bureaucracy. As we saw, the AFL officialdom was able, without significant opposition, to divert the first wave of industrial militancy in into the pacific and ultimately fruitless channels of National Recovery Administration mediation. By contrast, the CP and other radicals time and again convinced striking workers in to refuse to end strikes, sit-ins and other forms of direct action in favor of reliance on federal mediation. This practical break with the Democratic party found expression in literally dozens of Labor Party experiments at the local and state levels. The new strategy had two central components: The impact of the popular front was evident first in the field of electoral politics. While many on the U. In exchange for influence with Lewis, the CP progressively abandoned the independent organization of the rank and file and the promotion of direct action. The first impact of the new strategy can be seen in the automobile industry. They encouraged the left Socialists, Trotskyists, dissident Communists and members of the CPers leading the sit-in to end the strike and evacuate the plants prior to winning union recognition from GM. However, the Flint sitdowners, under the more independent leadership of left Socialists, Trotskyists and others radicals, refused. The seizure of Fisher 4 brought the strike to a rapid and successful conclusion. The strikers were restricted to routine picketing, which did not prevent the use of scabs. The day to day direction of the strike remained in the hands of Murray and the unelected organizers. Having chosen to pursue collaboration with the Democratic administration and the new CIO officialdom, the CP was incapable of presenting an alternative strategy in the steel organizing campaign. The NLRB postponed the certification election until October , allowing the local employers and the city police to unleash a reign of terror against ILWU organizers and striking taxi drivers. Committed to the NLRB process, the ILWU refused to organize the massive picketing and self-defense squads that had allowed them to defeat mass arrests, police attacks on pickets and the massive use of scabs on the west coast. While they did organize integrated locals, the ILWU refused to confront segregation off the docks. The social composition of the CP changed in the late s and early s. While total party membership would grow to its all-time high of , in , the percentage of members who were industrial, clerical or service sector workers fell, and the percentage who were semiprofessionals teachers, social workers, nurses and professionals engineers, lawyers, doctors grew quite sharply in the late s. While unemployment began to fall after , unemployed organizing continued to be an important arena for the CP and other radicals. The popular front brought a different, dramatically less independent orientation toward the African-American middle class. No longer were Black professionals, small business people and Democratic politicians practical allies in the struggle against racism; they were now the legitimate leadership of the Black community. By the end of the s, the CP in Alabama had been transformed politically and socially from an organization of African-American workers and farmers leading strikes, sit-ins and armed confrontations with industrialists, mine owners and landlords into an organization of middle class white liberals,

African-American professionals and a handful of labor officials. While important bastions of mass production industry in the North had been organized, attempts to complete the organization of key industries like auto or to organize the South had been stalled. The new CIO international unions were increasingly bureaucratized, as Lewis and Murray either imposed top-down run organizing committees in steel and meatpacking or, in auto, rubber and machine-making unions, created a dual structure of field representatives and regional directors accountable to the new CIO officialdom. Unfortunately, when one scratches the surface and examines the actual membership and practice of the CP during the war, we find a very different reality. The pledge, by making the union leaders responsible for the compliance of their members, enlisted the labor officialdom as active allies of capital in its renewed struggle to regain control on the shop floor. This policy extended the logic of the popular front alliance with Roosevelt and the CIO leadership. In the words of Maurice Isserman: The CP advocated various schemes to increase the pace and intensity of work. At its convention, the Michigan CIO passed resolutions demanding an immediate end to the pledge and calling for a break with Roosevelt and the formation of a labor party for the elections. First, the creation of a labor movement completely loyal to U.

*Amish False Witness Ettie Smith Amish Mysteries Volume 8 More references related to amish false witness ettie smith amish mysteries volume 8 Toro Lawn Mower Manual.*

Megan Erickson A new left is emerging in the United States. The explosive growth of the Democratic Socialists of America DSA , which has now reached thirty thousand members, marks the rebirth of socialist politics and organization — one we have not seen since the late s and early s. Today, we have an opportunity to build a democratically organized, multi-tendency political organization capable of popularizing socialism and training thousands of new radicals as political militants. This revival demands new discussions of strategy. In a recent essay , Joseph M. Schwartz and Bhaskar Sunkara, two leading DSA members, propose a strategy to once again make socialism a mass presence in the United States. All socialists should agree with much of their vision. Socialists not only have to be the most competent organizers in struggle, but they have to offer an analysis that reveals the systemic roots of a particular crisis and offer reforms that challenge the logic of capitalism. When forced to reveal it, they referred to an authoritarian Soviet Union as their model. Thus, the Communists put themselves in a position that prevented them from ever winning hegemony within the US working-class movement from liberal forces. On the one hand, the Communist Party appeared to have a mass presence in the late s and s: Indeed, a more careful examination of history shows that the CP had its greatest impact on social struggles and American politics before the party adopted the Popular Front strategy in late . Of course, no revolutionary breakthrough in the United States was on the immediate agenda at any point in the s and s. These struggles not only created the possibility of an independent labor party but also built a small, mass socialist current within the working class. None of these possibilities were realized. Instead of militant unions capable of building class unity, we saw the consolidation of bureaucratic business unionism in the CIO and the deepening of racial and gender divisions in the working class. Instead of a mass party, the labor movement and every subsequent social movement tied itself to a Democratic Party that over time collaborated in the rightward shift in US politics. Finally, rather than a small mass socialist current in the working class, we have witnessed the historic divorce of socialist politics from American workers. In the late s, industrial militancy dissipated, and, as it disappeared, the capitalist state had no reason to grant further concessions to working people. American Communism Before Throughout the s, the CP built a small but active membership among first- and second-generation immigrant workers in industries as diverse as the needle trades, coal and iron mining, steel, and automobile and machine making. CP members and sympathizers also tried to create independent unions in unorganized industries, including the auto industry. To facilitate these processes, the party developed the Trade Union Educational League TUEL , which convinced thousands of non-CP worker-activists to build democratic and militant industrial unions, to fight AFL officials, and to build an independent labor party. This strategy rested on the belief that working-class radicalism grew out of militant mass struggles against employers and the state. Only through direct confrontation with capital in their workplaces and communities do workers develop the power to win better wages and working conditions or force state policies that benefit workers and the oppressed. These struggles also open broader and broader layers of the working class to anticapitalist ideas while demonstrating that the forces of official reformism — professional politicians and trade union bureaucrats — cannot lead successful struggles against capital. Following this line, Communist parties launched sectarian attacks on reformist leaders, refusing any and all united actions with social-democratic parties and unions. On the other hand, the CP did important work among the unemployed in this same period. While refusing to build common organizations with other radicals, especially members of the Socialist Party SP and A. These groups organized militant, direct actions in defense of evicted tenants, held sit-ins at relief offices, and planned mass demonstrations calling for unemployment insurance. Their successful struggles won immediate relief for the unemployed, helping establish federal unemployment insurance in . The councils also organized across ethnic, racial, and gender lines, recruited new working-class cadres to socialist politics in key industrial cities like Detroit, Cleveland, and Akron, and gave the working class its first experience of success since the defeat of the steel strike. In the North, the CP

included black Americans in their Unemployed Councils, fought housing and educational segregation, and created committees that worked in solidarity with anti-lynching struggles. When it became obvious that the victory would not be short-lived, the international Communist movement spiraled into a profound crisis. Its previous strategy had failed abysmally, but it could not have an open, democratic discussion of past errors. As a result, the Comintern and the CP entered a period of political confusion and experimentation. In the United States, Communist workers, in an informal united front with the SP and other worker radicals, played crucial roles in the strike wave that established the CIO in the mass production industries. Alongside Trotskyists, left-socialists, and Wobblies, they built rank-and-file movements in AFL unions that agitated for democratic, industrial movements capable of taking industry-wide strike action independent of the leadership or their erstwhile allies in the Roosevelt administration. The CP gathered the first fruits of its new strategy on the Pacific coast. Militants and sympathizers like Harry Bridges built democratic, workplace organizations of rank-and-file workers that could act independently of the ILA bureaucracy, brought these groups together in a highly democratic industrial union run by the membership with the aid of a small number of full-time officials, and promoted mass participation in strike decisions through elected committees that reported to worker meetings. In the auto, rubber, maritime, electrical appliance, and machine-making industries, Communist and other radical workers led rank-and-file movements from within AFL locals to create new unions. After AFL officials derailed the strike agitation in basic industry during , the CP, along with other radicals, provided an effective alternative leadership. The CP was particularly successful in building a rank-and-file movement in the auto industry. This powerful movement, which coalesced into the Progressive Caucus, organized unauthorized strikes against individual plants and small producers from to This first international industrial union in auto was founded as an AFL affiliate in August and remained under the control of the corrupt and ineffectual official Frances Dillon for its first year. Thanks to its alliances with other revolutionaries and radicals, the CP could have elected Mortimer, its most prominent worker-leader, as the first president of the UAW-CIO in April But, by then, the party had already begun cementing its center-left alliance with John L. The new industrial federation could not have won these early battles without breaking with the federal government. In , AFL officials managed to divert the first wave of industrial militancy into the ultimately fruitless channels of National Recovery Administration mediation, but, between and , the CP and other radicals convinced workers to maintain strikes, sit-ins, and other forms of direct action instead of turning to federal mediation. This practical break with the Democratic Party found expression in dozens of Labor Party experiments at the local and state levels. The strategy had two central components: The party hoped that loyally supporting Lewis and other pro-Roosevelt CIO leaders would help convince the president to enter a collective security agreement with the USSR. Popular frontism transformed the CP. In , many on the US left predicted that a third party, based on the newly created CIO unions, would win twenty to thirty congressional seats. For workers in CIO unions, the popular front strategy had even more severe consequences. In exchange for influence with Lewis, the CP abandoned its history of organizing the rank and file and promoting direct action, especially in the automobile industry. They encouraged the left-socialists, Trotskyists, dissident Communists, and CP members who led the sit-in to end the strike and evacuate the plants before winning union recognition. Against the wishes of CP members in Flint, the strikers refused. They instead occupied the strategically crucial Fisher 4 plant, where GM built its engines. The seizure of Fisher 4 brought the strike to a rapid and successful conclusion. The next spring, the Communists used their prestige among the autoworkers to help Lewis and the CIO leadership block the spread of sit-down strikes to Chrysler and other non-union corporations. The strikers were restricted to routine picketing, which did not prevent management from hiring scabs. The union was relying on the newly established National Labor Relations Board to secure recognition. In order to prove its loyalty to CIO officials, the CP dissolved its own shop-floor organizations, freeing Communists who had become officials from accountability to their rank-and-file comrades. Party membership became less an opportunity to organize with other radical workers in order to shape the life of the union and more a way to get off the shop floor and become a union bureaucrat. As a result, the social composition of the CP radically changed in the late s and early s: Important bastions of industry in the North had been unionized, but attempts to complete the organization of key industries like auto or to make inroads in the South had

stalled. The unions were increasingly bureaucratized, as Lewis and Murray either imposed top-down committees in steel and meatpacking or, in the case of the rank-and-file unions in auto, rubber, and machine making, created a dual structure of field representatives and regional directors accountable to the central leadership. During the war, party membership grew to almost one hundred thousand, leading many historians to cite these years as the height of twentieth-century American radicalism. But when we scratch the surface, we find a different reality. World War II provided the CIO bureaucracy with the opportunity to consolidate its control over the new industrial unions. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the CIO "which Murray took over after Lewis led the UMW out of the federation in opposition to the war" agreed to the no-strike pledge in exchange for representation on the War Labor Board and government enforcement of union shop rules in basic industry. The CIO leadership hoped that wartime cooperation would strengthen its position in industry and government, but the alliances actually weakened the union both politically and economically. The no-strike pledge made leadership responsible for rank-and-file compliance, thereby enlisting labor officials as active allies of capital in its renewed struggle for control of the shop floor. Anti-Stalinist socialists in the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Party enjoyed some success coordinating wartime strikes. At its convention, the Michigan CIO passed resolutions making these very demands. As the wartime alliance between the USSR and the US broke down and the CP once again opposed American imperialism, anticommunists used their newfound credibility to purge Communists and other radicals from the labor movement. Recently, scholars of the postwar labor movement have attempted to argue that the anti-CP purge of the CIO produced fundamentally different strategies and tactics for industrial unionism in the United States. Maurice Zeitlin and Judith Stepan-Norris have pointed to language in contracts negotiated by CP-led CIO unions that allow strike action over grievances and other forms of shop-floor militancy. Both leftist and centrist unions embraced the National Labor Relations Board framework for securing recognition, the bureaucratic grievance procedure, and routine collective bargaining punctuated by strikes organized from above that remained within the boundaries of a restrictive capitalist legal system. Regardless, the postwar purge had a profound impact on American unions. Second, the purge crystallized divisions within the working class. By 1945, the electrical manufacturing industry had eighty different unions representing half the number of workers that the Communist-led UE had organized in 1937. The substantial minority of socialist workers, who maintained traditions of industrial militancy and radicalism within the increasingly bureaucratic unions, all but disappeared. We cannot guarantee that, had the CP continued its militant united front policy, the outcome of the New Deal-Fair Deal cycle of class struggle would have been substantially different. Even with the best politics, the Communists may not have been able to prevent the new industrial unions from bureaucratizing, to build a labor party, or to stop anticommunist hysteria from sweeping the labor movement. A Popular Front Today? We do not yet pose such a threat today. Pursuing such a strategy would divert us from our tasks of rebuilding popular resistance and educating for socialism. Second, any attempt to permeate the labor leadership "by supporting progressive union officials who pay lip service to our political agenda or by becoming staff organizers" is bound to fail. The American labor bureaucracy today has only become more committed to allying with Democrats and cooperating with management. To look to any of them to revive the American labor movement is wrongheaded. Finally, the Democratic Party has become even more impermeable to the Left today than ever before. Since the first Clinton administration and the consolidation of neoliberal hegemony among Democrats, the party has undergone a twofold transformation. Their control of campaign funding allows them to crush any left-wing insurgency within the party. On the other, a career in the Democratic Party has become a viable path to personal enrichment. And I embrace their call for engaging in both socialist education and the hard work of building resistance to capital in workplaces and communities. We agree that independence from the corporate Democrats, union leaders, and NGO staffers is crucial.

### 8: What the French election results mean for the presidential race | World news | The Guardian

*Reconciling France against Democracy assesses them from a variety of perspectives and considers the extent to which they foreshadowed Jean-Marie Le Pen's Front National. Political Science Quarterly Author by.*

The Great Depression Economic depressions were nothing new. They had occurred in the past at irregular intervals, just as they do today; however the Great Depression was of such severity and magnitude and lasted so long, that it must of necessity be spoken of as a proper name, with capital letters. The entire world was affected from to , and its effects were only ended by the outbreak of World War II. The end result was the death of the optimism that had previously existed in Europe. Desperate people looked for leaders who would "do something" to end their suffering as millions of people became unemployed and farms failed. Insecurity was a reality for the masses. The Depression was apparently triggered although not caused by the great Stock Market crash of in the United States, when inequalities in income had created a serious imbalance between realistic investment in the market and wild speculation. Net investment in factories, farm equipment, etc. Stock prices soared on the strength of huge sums of money invested in the market. Dietmar Rothterman, a financial historian has commented in his *Global Impact of the Great Depression* that "It should have been clear to everybody concerned that a crash was inevitable under such conditions. With the collapse of the market, he lost everything, and would have been forced to leave his home had not the university at which he taught not bought it and rented it back to him. Intense buying "on margin" soon led to a collapse of the entire stock market. Those who had lost fortunes bought no new consumer products, and prices fell as production slowed. Unemployment rose and the entire American economy was caught in a downward spiral. Although the stock market crash indicated the onset of the depression, and in fact may have triggered it, it would be a misjudgment to conclude that the crash was the proximate cause of the depression. Banks had made loans on too easy terms to customers with little prospect of repayment, and businesses had continued to build inventories even when sales slowed. The causes of the depression were complex and multifaceted; so much so that no one reason can be identified as the efficient genesis. With American bankers, strapped for cash, recalled short term loans, many made to European concerns, gold reserves flowed from European banks to the United States. It became harder for Europeans to borrow money and a panic resulted with the general public withdrawing money from banks. World prices collapsed as businesses around the world dumped industrial products and agricultural commodities in a desperate attempt to raise cash to pay debts. This led to a production crisis between and when world output of goods fell by 38 percent. Each country turned inward and tried to go it alone. Britain went off the gold standard in , and refused to convert bank notes to gold, while reducing the value of the Pound sterling at the same time. It hoped to make its products cheaper on world markets; but because more than twenty nations, including the United States, went off the gold standard, few countries realized any real advantage. Many countries, including the U. Recovery finally began in Two factors appear as likely culprits for the economic collapse of to First, the international economy lacked leadership able to maintain stability. The British had been the traditional leaders of the world economy, but their own economy was seriously weakened. Intent on preserving its own economy, the United States erected high tariffs and cut back on international lending. Secondly, poor national economic policy played an important part. Governments cut their budgets and reduced spending when they should have run large deficits in an attempt to stimulate their economies. This policy, first advocated by John Maynard Keynes, became established policy after the Depression, but at the time, most traditional economists viewed his theories with horror. The result of the economic downturn was mass unemployment on a scale never seen before. When the situation appeared hopeless, many people lost their spirit and their dignity. Homes and lives were disrupted or destroyed. Young people postponed marriages and birthrates fell sharply. Suicide rates and mental illness increased substantially. Unemployment on such a massive scale was a time bomb, waiting to explode. Only Germany was hit harder by the Depression than the United States. The Great Depression marked the end of a period of optimism in America. President Franklin Roosevelt proposed to fight the Depression with a policy of forceful government intervention rather than socialism or government ownership of industry. He called his

program the "New Deal. History Courses, it will only receive cursory mention. Suffice it to say that Roosevelt adopted many Keynesian economic policies, but these policies alone did not end the Depression. Response to the Depression in Scandinavia: Scandinavian governments, largely socialist, responded most favorably and successfully to the depression. The Swedish government used a system of large scale government deficits to finance public works and maintain production and employment. Social welfare programs were increased, including old age pensions, unemployment insurance, subsidized housing, and maternity allowances. The high taxes to pay for this system fell on the rich first, but eventually on everyone. Even so, democracy and the economies of the Scandinavian countries thrived. The Scandinavian system seemed to be the proper compromise between cruel Communism and sick capitalism. Recovery and Reform in Britain and France: British government officials followed orthodox government policy, and maintained a balanced budget. Although they did not follow the Keynesian theory which Franklin Roosevelt espoused, a slow but sure recovery took place. Unemployment went down and production increased. The performance was not brilliant, but it was sufficient. The old industries of textiles and coal production, geared primarily to foreign markets, declined while domestic markets, particularly automobiles and housing, boomed. The Depression came late to France, as it was less industrialized and more isolated from the world economy. However, once it arrived, it set up housekeeping and appeared to move in for good. Economic stability seemed to be permanent, and as a result the government was also unstable. The government was made up of numerous political parties which seemed unable to cooperate with each other for very long. In , five coalition cabinets formed and fell quickly. As a result, the unity which had made government instability bearable collapsed. In February, , French fascists rioted and threatened to undermine the republic. Thus, the moderate republicanism that had characterized France was attacked on two fronts. Alarmed at the prospects of fascism, French communists, socialists and radicals formed an alliance known as the Popular Front for the t national elections. The strongest party after the election were the Socialists, with seats in Parliament. The Communists increased their seats from 10 to Radicals who were really rather moderate when compared to the Communists and conservatives lost ground. The government encouraged unionism, and created a program which included a forty hour work week and paid vacations. These efforts soon fell victim to rapid inflation and calls for revolution from fascists and communists. Wealthy Frenchmen sneaked their money out of the country and labor unrest grew. Civil War in Spain fanned the fires of dissent. Communists demanded that France support the Spanish Republicans while the conservatives would have been happy to join Mussolini and Hitler in aiding the Spanish fascists. France was on the brink of civil war when Blum was forced to resign in June and the Popular Front quickly collapsed. France drifted aimlessly, preoccupied with Hitler and the rearmament of Germany.

### 9: The New Deal and the Popular Front | International Socialist Review

*"Genesis and effect of the Popular Front in France." "Online version:".. "France".. "The genesis and effect of the Popular Front in France"@en.*

See Article History Popular front, any coalition of working-class and middle-class parties united for the defense of democratic forms against a presumed Fascist assault. In the mid-1930s European Communist concern over the gains of Fascism, combined with a Soviet policy shift, led Communist parties to join with Socialist, liberal, and moderate parties in popular fronts against Fascist conquest. In France and Spain, popular front governments were formed. The early successes of Fascism in Italy and Germany had initially been regarded with equanimity by the Soviet Communist leadership. In the 1930s, when the Stalinist purges were in progress and deviations from current Stalinist orthodoxy were officially deemed more dangerous to the ultimate success of the proletarian revolution than the assaults of the far right, the Soviet attitude was shared by European Communists; in Germany, for instance, the Communists joined with the Nazis in bringing down the Weimar Republic. In time, however, the clear Fascist determination to annihilate Communist cadres, coupled with the Communist realization that the divided state of the left had greatly facilitated the achievements of the right, aroused among European Communists considerable sentiment favouring alliance with at least the non-Communist left to combat Fascism. Growing awareness of the danger of a German attack on the U. S. This policy shift, which saw the Soviets join the League of Nations in 1933, was a decisive factor in bringing the Soviet leadership to its advocacy of the popular front. At the same time, Joseph Stalin began to pursue a clandestine policy of seeking an alliance with Adolf Hitler—which bore fruit in August 1939. The goal of revolution was deferred until the immediate battle at hand was won, and Communists were urged not to frighten away the non-Communists in the coalition with revolutionary rhetoric. In France, for example, the Communist Party joined in forming a popular front in 1936. Though the Communists refused ministerial appointments, they pledged full parliamentary support and cooperation. The regime succeeded in implementing an extensive program of social reform, including the institution of the 40-hour workweek. The financial situation deteriorated, however, and Blum was replaced in June 1937, whereupon the liberals began to exclude other coalition members, including the Communists, from the government. In 1937 Blum again tried, unsuccessfully, to establish a popular front ministry. Though it may have prevented socio-economic conditions in France from becoming fertile ground for any domestic Fascist movement, the French Popular Front did little in the international arena to stop the march of Fascism. A broad-based popular front government was elected in Spain in February 1937. Considerable turmoil followed, however, and in July General Francisco Franco led a Fascist insurrection against the legal government. Eventually the Soviets did intervene, supplying limited military aid to the Republican forces. Soon Stalin, however, for reasons that are unclear, conducted a violent purge of the Spanish extreme left, including Anarchists, Syndicalists, and Trotskyites. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

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