

THE MILITANT PROLETARIAT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649648719

The Militant Proletariat by Austin Lewis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

AUSTIN LEWIS

**THE MILITANT
PROLETARIAT**

The
Militant Proletariat

BY
AUSTIN LEWIS



CHICAGO
CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY
CO-OPERATIVE

Aug 23, 1927



6055C

See ...
✓

76*108

Copyright 1911
By CHARLES H. KEER & COMPANY

GIFT OF
G. A. MOORE



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
MAY 20 1970

457/11/15 m v

CONTENTS

SOCIALISM AND THE PROLETARIAT.....	5
THE MILITANT PROLETARIAT.....	40
WHAT IS A UNION?.....	99
POLITICS	153

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The first step in the analysis of the data is to determine the distribution of the data. The data are normally distributed, and the mean and standard deviation are calculated. The mean is 10.5 and the standard deviation is 1.5. The data are then plotted on a normal distribution curve, and the area under the curve is calculated for each of the three intervals.

The area under the curve for the interval 9 to 11 is 0.2420. The area under the curve for the interval 11 to 12 is 0.2420. The area under the curve for the interval 12 to 13 is 0.2420. The total area under the curve for the three intervals is 0.7260.

The probability of a value falling in the interval 9 to 11 is 0.2420. The probability of a value falling in the interval 11 to 12 is 0.2420. The probability of a value falling in the interval 12 to 13 is 0.2420. The total probability of a value falling in the three intervals is 0.7260.

The Militant Proletariat

I

SOCIALISM AND THE PROLETARIAT

The Socialist movement has based itself upon the proletariat. That fact is undeniable. From the time of the Marxian statement in the Communist Manifesto, there could no longer be any doubt that henceforward the Socialist movement relied upon the proletarian class alone, as the stimulating factor in the social revolution. This was not always the case, for the early Socialists, who had proclaimed their utopian ideas prior to the publication of the Communist Manifesto, had calculated upon something quite other than proletarianism for their victory over the oppression and misery with which they saw themselves surrounded, and which it was their benevolent and philanthropic mission to destroy. The early Socialists had sought to impress their ideas upon the more fortunate, and, by a sort of religion and experimental society building, to purge the world of the evils which possessed it and prepare for a paradisiacal condition of equality and well-being. Against these concepts the pioneers of the modern Socialist movement were compelled to struggle at the very inception, and thus

was written the Communist Manifesto, the first proclamation of the fundamental principles now underlying the world-wide Socialist movement, which asks the question, "In what relation do the Communists stand to the proletarians as a whole?" and replies, "The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to other working class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own by which to shape and mould the proletarian movement." In other words, the Communists, who are the modern Socialists, the term Communist having been used merely to differentiate them from the utopians who had brought the term Socialist into disrepute, do not consider themselves as apart from the proletariat but as constituting part of the proletarian army, differentiating themselves from the ordinary proletarian only by their knowledge of the direction and end of the march. Thus the Manifesto declares, "The Communists are therefore, on the one hand, practically the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement."

There is no question, therefore, that the Socialist movement from its early stages has regarded the proletariat as the means of revolution, as the chief agent in accomplishing the over-

throw of existing social and political conditions and substituting for them something quite other, and this notion by no means expired with its enunciation in the Manifesto. It has remained and still remains as the very foundation doctrine of the Socialist Movement. Marx said, "The proletarian movement is the self-conscious independent movement of the immense majority in the interest of the immense majority." In another place, he states, "The proletarian, the lowest stratum of our present society, cannot stir, cannot raise itself up, without the whole superincumbent structure of official society being sprung into the air." The concluding words of the Communist Manifesto in which the working class of the world is called upon to unite, upon the ground that it has only chains to lose and a world to gain, have become a universal war cry of the Socialist movement, are translated into all modern languages and have already produced a bulky mass of commentary. They may be regarded as the very essence of the Socialist movement. Even today they have not lost their potency and the contest which is waged in the ranks of the Socialist movement has its practical inception in the difference of opinion as to how far a given line of action represents or fails to represent proletarian interests.

The ideas of the proletarian are regarded, therefore, as the materialization of the Socialist philosophy. The ideas of the proletarian are the ideas of socialism; the aspirations of the proletarian are the aspirations of socialism, the victory of socialism is at once the triumph and the annihilation of the proletarian, for, by the