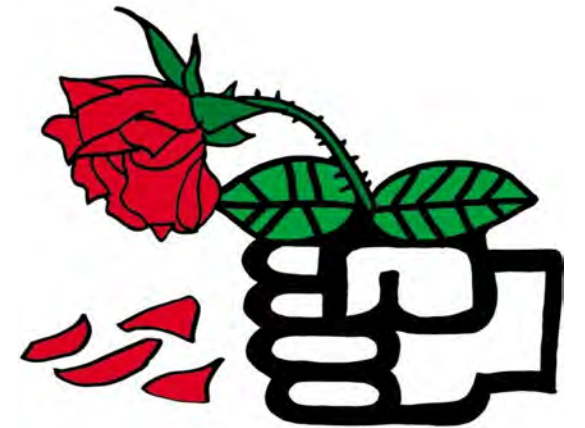


Political Obstacles to Reducing Inequality
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“Every class struggle is a political struggle”



Economic conditions and interests are not simply or straightforwardly translated into policy preferences/ political outcomes.

- Leon Trotsky: “The mere *existence* of privations is not enough to cause an insurrection; if it were, the masses would always be in revolt.”
- Antonio Gramsci: Economic interest alone does not determine how workers [and other citizens] vote. “The counting of votes is the final ceremony of a long process.”
- Francis Fox Piven and Richard Cloward: People experience deprivation within a concrete setting, not as the end product of large and abstract structures like “monopoly capitalism” or unjust welfare and taxation systems. People’s concrete experiences mold their discontent into specific grievances and point out the targets of their anger.

What needs to happen in order to get political groundswell in favor of policies advancing equality?

- Voters would have to prioritize their economic interests.
- Voters would have to understand their economic interests and problems in a way that leads them to support policies advancing equality.
- There would have to be mobilization and organization around the challenge of advancing equality.

