

## **Proposal for the next Labor Reading Group**

*Submitted by Shane R., Aaron H.*

### **Aims:**

- To learn and think critically about labor history to better situate ourselves currently as socialists and unionists and to apply lessons from those topics to better guide us in our work in labor
- To build involvement from EBDSA members
- To establish relationships with non-DSA labor activists
- To further establish EBDSA in the labor community, especially in the area of public education unionism

### **Educational Goals**

For participants...

- To develop an understanding of how the ebbs and flows of the labor movement are linked to the highs and lows of its labor militancy and the historical relationship between capital and labor;
- To develop an understanding of the role of racism and other oppressions as a tool of social control in dividing the working class;
- To critically reflect on the current gap between socialists and the labor movement;
- To be able to analyze how the historical struggles of labor bear directly on its challenges today
- To understand and contextualize the recent streak of public sector teacher strikes

### **Engagement Goals**

The Labor Reading Group (LRG) shall aim to recruit at least 25% of those who participate in the reading group and who are not already active in the activities of the Labor Committee.

### **Scope**

This second run of the reading group shall:

- Be a study of the recent wave of public education strikes
- Situate the strike wave within the broader context of labor history
- Build understanding of the place of education unionism in the broader labor movement, historically and now
- Reflect on the role of socialist organizations in public sector strikes

### **Audience**

- Labor Committee members
- EBDSA members
- Union members, labor group members, and labor activists with special outreach to East Bay public education union members

### **Content**

Red State Revolt, by Eric Blanc

Selections from Marge Murphy's [Blackboard Unions](#) and Jon Shelton's [Teacher Strike!](#) for historic contextualization, and other short articles as appropriate

- The LRG working with the Committee's co-chairs shall submit a proposal to the EBDSA SC to obtain 30 copies of the book to distribute to participants of the reading group for a suggested donation. If the LRG is not able to obtain these, PDFs shall be provided to participants in case they can neither afford the book nor obtain the book in a timely manner.

### **Format**

- Time period: the book shall be completed in a span of no more than 10 weeks, meeting every other week, reading approximately 55 pages per session from Blanc, and no more than ten pages each week from the other sources.
- Expected minimum attendance: 30
- Group: encompasses all participants; divided into subgroups
  - Subgroups: composed of ten people each with a lead; expectation of at least 3 subgroups
- Leads: Fred G., Joe B. and Helena W., one more person to be secured

### **Launch**

The LRG shall launch its second run in partnership with the Political Education Committee (PEC) through the latter's Night School to generate interest from attendees and register those interested to participate. At the first meeting of the LRG, in addition to the presentation of the overview, logistics and organizational details for the group, Fred G. will present his well-honed slideshow history of education unionism in California.

### **Budget**

- \$300 + tax, shipping, and handling for thirty (30) copies of Red State Revolt to be distributed to participants in the LRG free of charge.
- \$100 for promotional literature.