



STRIKE!

STRIKE!

STRIKE!

THE FIRST CHANCE OF OUR LIFETIMES



***General Strike, Labor Peace,
and The Path to Victory!***



*zine created by sunrise dc
december 2024*



Feeling Powerless? Know that there's a plan

For all our lives, activists have called for and set dates General Strikes, —only for those dates to come and go with no real consequence — except for a slight rise in cynicism. This trend has led many organizers to dismiss the idea of a General Strike altogether. "They don't even have any Labor Organizations involved, it's not gonna happen."

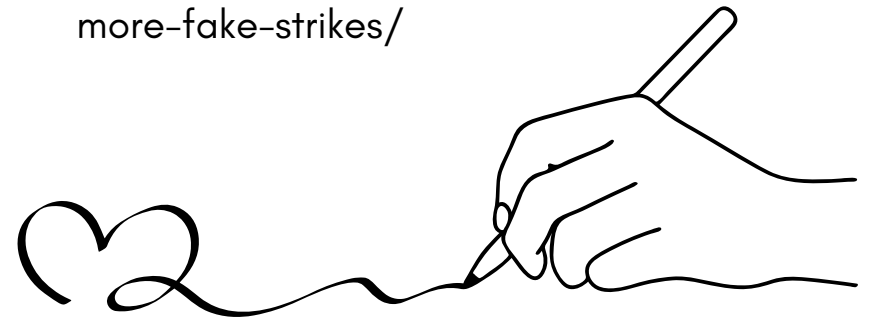
But things are changing, the United Auto Workers (UAW), with its ***400,000 members***, have called for a General Strike on May 1, 2028 and for unions across the nation to join them. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), ***representing 1,700,000 members***, has passed a resolution to join the Strike.

And as a result now Sunrise has thrown it's hat in.



& Sources!

- *No Shortcuts: Building Power in the New Gilded Age* by Jane F. McAlevey
- The AFT Resolution to Join
 - <https://www.aft.org/resolution/supporting-uaws-call-align-contract-expirations-may-1>
- It Could Happen Here Podcast- Episode "The 2028 General Strike and Climate Change"
 - <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/105-it-could-happen-here-30717896/episode/the-2028-general-strike-and-climate-227380922/>
- No More Fake Strikes
 - <https://organizing.work/2019/08/no-more-fake-strikes/>



Recommended Resources

- **Organizing For Power Core Fundamentals Training**
 - <https://www.rosalux.de/en/o4p>
- **For those new to labor organizing-** *No Shortcuts: Building Power in the New Gilded Age* by Jane F. McAlevey
- **Turning a bad union into a fighting one-** *Rules to Win By: Power and Participation in Union Negotiations* by Jane F. McAlevey
- **How to bring down Tyrants-** *This is an Uprising: How Non-Violent Revolt is Shaping the 21st Century* by Mark and Paul Engler
- **How to build the new world-** *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

It's the First Chance of our lifetimes

If the Auto Workers and the Academic Workers are going on strike— If the Teachers are going on Strike, then so must the Students.

With 4 years to both bring more unions on board and prepare our communities for this historic strike, this zine will look into the history of general strikes in the US and abroad, and the type of care infrastructure needed to sustain these actions for the weeks and months needed for their success, as well as what all of us can do to prepare for this critical moment in Movement History.

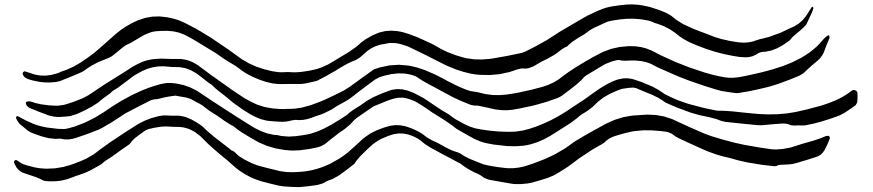


What is a General Strike?

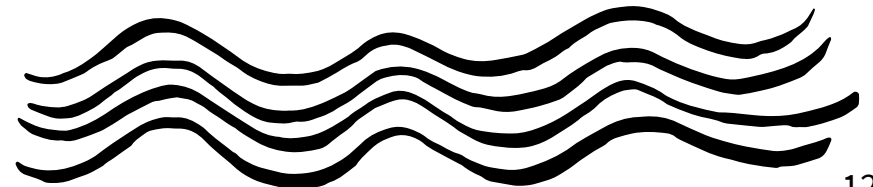
The **general strike** is the most important tool of the working class and the left. It is a strike where participants cease all economic activity, such as working, in order to win demands for **the entire working class**.

They are:

- organized by large coalitions of political, social, and labor organizations
- Includes rallies, marches, boycotts, civil disobedience, non-payment of taxes, and other forms of direct or indirect action
- Cross-industry and solidarity based



graffiti spotted in London
@radicalgraffiti





How to get Involved

How do you get involved?

- Get community institutions on board
- Get jobs at strategically important/unionized fields- learn how to organize them on board
- Learn to organize through the *Organizing for Power Core Fundamentals Trainings*
- Unionize your own workplace
- Join Sunrise or another community organization!



Past General Strikes

1835 Philadelphia General Strike

- First in US history
- Won first 10 hour work day

1892 New Orleans General Strike

- 5 union strong, cross-racial
- Won 10 hour work day

1919 Winnipeg General Strike

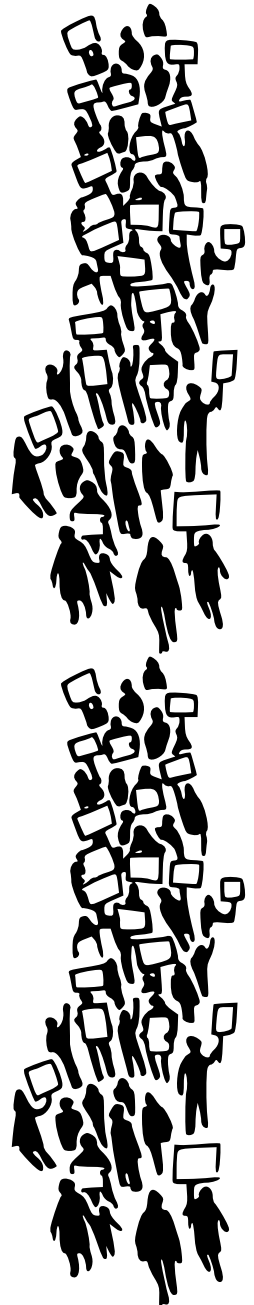
- Led by immigrants
- Changed labor politics in Canada

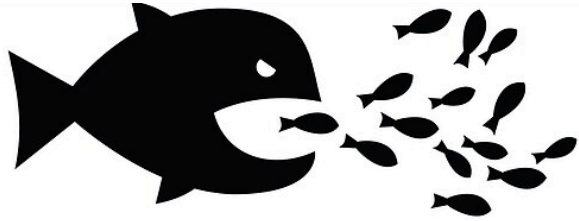
1946 Oakland General Strike

- Most recent US strike
- Caused a wave of strikes across the nation

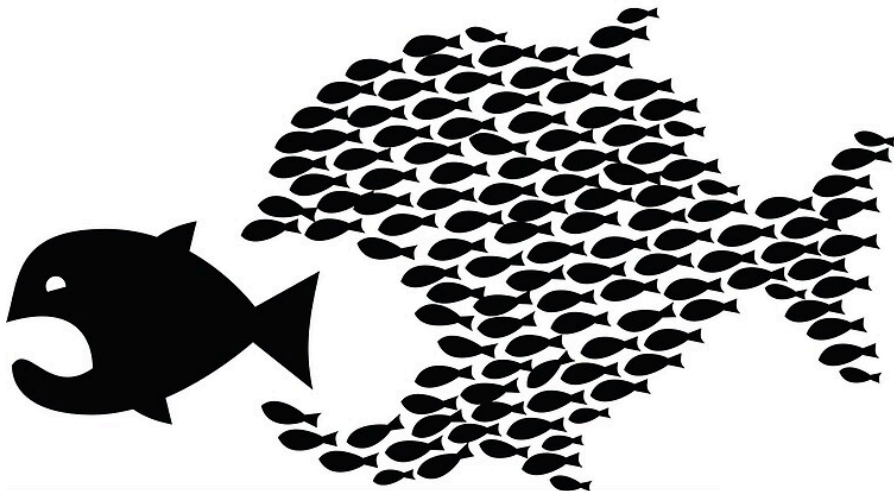
What do they have in common?

- Dense network of organized workers
- Expanded through solidarity strikes
- Demands expanded as solidarity expanded
- Improved conditions for workers





ORGANIZE!



How We Prepare

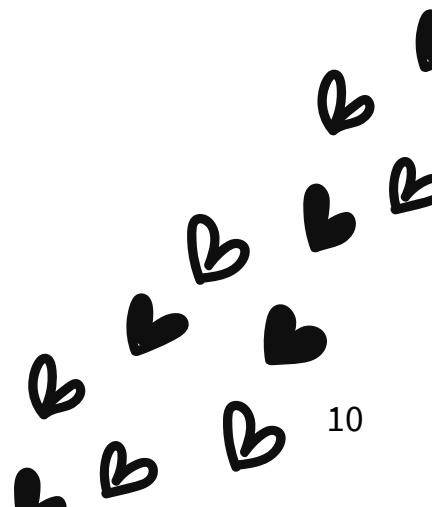
How did General Strikes maintain themselves?

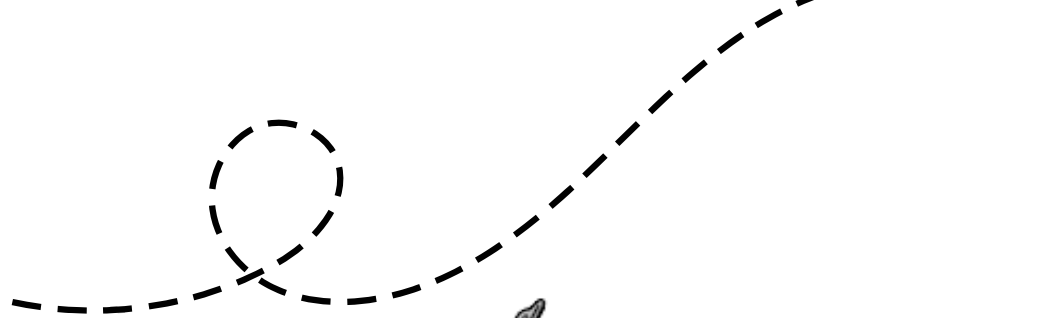
- Mutual Aid
- Religious Communities
- Neighborly Communities
- Women's invisible labor (in the past taken for granted)

We need to build these structures up and bring them on board!

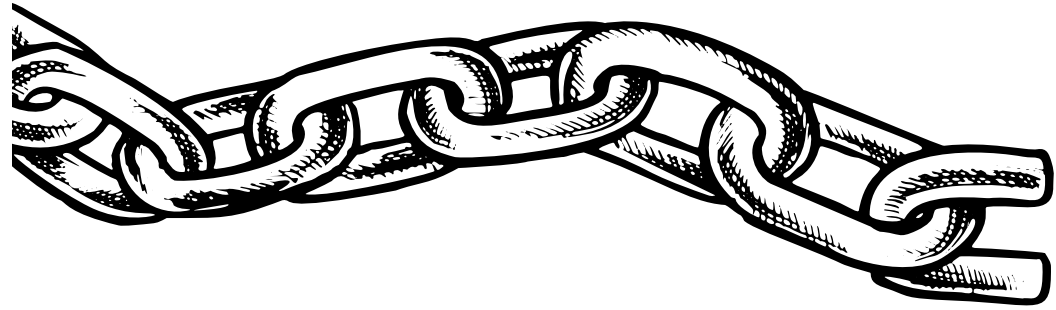
Invest in and build up:

- Community gardens
- Soup kitchens
- Community centers
- Communal living
- Block parties
- Homesteading skills





art by no bonzo



The Era of Labor Peace

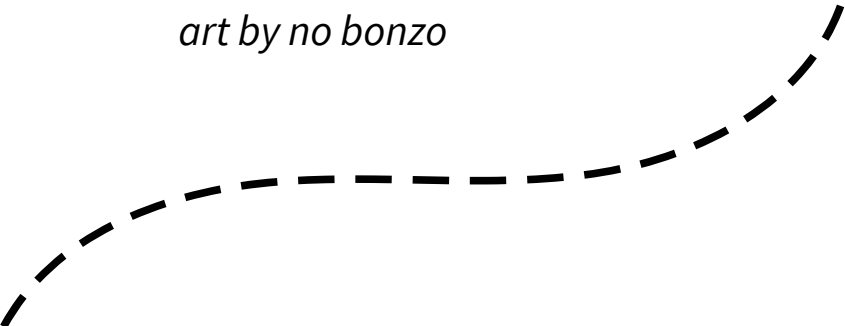
If they're so powerful why haven't we had one in 80 years? The answer is Labor Peace. Labor peace is essentially a peace treaty between labor, employers, and the government.

Three-way peace treaty

- Employers agree to legally enforced labor "rights"
- Unions give up the right to Strike outside of negotiations
- The government plays referee

Why general strikes stopped

- The Outlawing of Solidarity Strikes in the Taft Hartley Act (1947)
- Labor Peace Clauses put into contracts during WWII to prevent supply shortages



Return of the Strike

Teachers have lead the way, and locals across the country have been following their lead

Chicago Teachers Union

- Union kept conceding to employer demands to keep their relationship good
- Rank and File Members took control and started striking for actual demands leading to support from the public

Association of Flight Attendants

- AFA President called for general strike to end the 2019 Government Shutdown - Trump folded to the threat within days

United Auto Workers

- Rank and File Member power on the Rise:
 - Shawn Fain becomes first democratically elected UAW president in history
- UAW takes on the Big 3 automakers, Wins, Sets their Sights Higher
 - Eroded their labor peace clause

The 2028 General Strike

New Path to a General Strike:

- UAW called for all unions around the world to align their contracts to end on May 1st, 2028 - International Workers Day

Current Players

- United Auto Workers (UAW)
- American Federation of Teachers
- Sunrise Movement, DSA, and GND Coalition
- Individual Union Locals across the country.

What It Could Mean

- The end of labor peace
- The return of regular general strikes
- The main path towards serious climate action
- Wins for the entire working class

***We have four years
to prepare***