



MANIFESTO *of the* COMMUNIST PARTY

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MARX-ENGELS-LENIN INSTITUTE, MOSCOW

MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

By

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—○—
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Authorised English Translation

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FOREWORD

This is our second edition of **The Communist Manifesto** in the version revised and authorised by one of its authors, Frederick Engels, as issued in London in 1888. The preface by Engels to that edition is given before the text of the **Manifesto**; all other prefaces by the authors to a number of the editions of the **Manifesto** in various languages are printed after the text. The translations of the latter prefaces have again been compared with the original manuscripts and revised for this edition.

We add here, for the first time, a translation of the joint preface by Marx and Engels to the Russian edition of 1882, which Engels thought had been lost and which he translated anew for his preface to the German edition of 1890. The manuscript has since been discovered among P. L. Lavrov's posthumous papers. Although the differences between the two versions are slight, we are appending the original preface as a historical document written by the two authors of the **Manifesto**.

In addition to the footnotes by Engels, we add a number of notes by the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, Moscow.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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PREFACE

The **Manifesto** was published as the platform of the Communist League, a workmen's association, first exclusively German, later on international, and, under the political conditions of the Continent before 1848, unavoidably a secret society. At a Congress of the League, held in London in November, 1847, Marx and Engels were commissioned to prepare for publication a complete theoretical and practical party programme. Drawn up in German, in January, 1848, the manuscript was sent to the printer in London a few weeks before the French revolution of February 24th. A French translation was brought out in Paris, shortly before the insurrection of June, 1848. The first English translation, by Miss Helen Macfarlane, appeared in George Julian Harney's **Red Republican**, London, 1850. A Danish and a Polish edition had also been published.

The defeat of the Parisian insurrection of June, 1848—the first great battle between proletariat and bourgeoisie—drove again into the background, for a time, the social and political aspirations of the European working class. Thenceforth, the struggle for supremacy was again, as it had been before the revolution of February, solely between different sections of the propertied class; the working class was reduced to a fight for political elbow-room, and to the position of extreme wing of the middle-class Radicals. Wherever independent proletarian movements continued to show signs of life, they were ruthlessly hunted down. Thus the Prussian police hunted out the Central Board of the Communist League then located in Cologne. The members were arrested, and, after eighteen months' imprisonment, they were tried in October, 1852. This celebrated "Cologne Communist Trial" lasted from October 4 till November 12; seven of the prisoners were sentenced to terms of imprisonment in a fortress, varying from three to six years. Immediately after the sentence, the League was formally dissolved by the remaining members. As to the **Manifesto**, it seemed thenceforth to be doomed to oblivion.

When the European working class had recovered sufficient strength for another attack on the ruling classes, the International Workingmen's Association sprang up. But this association, formed with the express aim of welding into one body the whole militant proletariat of Europe and America, could not at once proclaim the principles laid down in the **Manifesto**. The International was bound to have a programme broad enough to be acceptable to the English trades' unions, to the followers of Proudhon in France, Belgium,