

# WHO WE ARE

## A short political presentation

The comrades regrouped around the journal *Prospettiva Marxista* (*Marxist Perspective*) are determined to use the conceptual instruments of Marxism in order to analyse the dynamics of capitalist society and the developments of the relations between imperialist States and powers; in so doing they seek to help strengthen the foundations of a proletarian policy adequate to the tasks and problems of our times.

The definition of the tasks that we set ourselves and the means through which we seek to pursue them largely derive from an assessment of our political experience. The lacunae and shortcomings we detected in the political organisations of which we have been members did not drive us toward resignation or an abandonment of political engagement. On the contrary, through the *Prospettiva Marxista* initiative, our intention is to help enrich and give greater capacity for orientation to a 'Marxist school' that in our opinion, beyond its specific components, is passing through a critical stage.

The largest component of our regroupment comes from the experience of *Lotta Comunista*; those breaking from this organisation came together in identifying its de facto failure to recognise the principle of the freedom of scientific hypotheses. For us this principle, far from being reducible to the realm of intellectual affectation, meant and means a basic guarantee of continuity with Marxism's scientific framework and of coherence in the inner life of an organisation that claims to be Marxist. We have been able to realise that the denial of the freedom of scientific hypotheses, the denial of the possibility of going forward by using Marxism's conceptual instruments and taking the development of real processes as the only parameter for their verification – when these hypotheses ought to have a central, proper place in party life – inevitably impoverishes the process of cadre formation and nullifies the possibilities of starting a debate which can provide for mechanisms that complete and correct the centrally-elaborated analysis.

As such, in launching the journal *Pagine Marxiste*, we committed ourselves to embarking on a political effort which, with the passing of time, could create the conditions for seeking to solve the tasks of theoretical clarification that we still consider a priority, and that we thought were not being fulfilled by the organisation from which we came.

As it happened, in the group around *Pagine Marxiste*, the obstacles and resistances to recognising a real freedom of scientific hypotheses increasingly again came to the surface. The need for a full recognition of the freedom of scientific hypotheses again collided with the criteria of preserving homogeneity – with this being understood not as a result to be attained, whenever possible, through a clear debate carried on in the open between Marxist militants, but as a kind of facade of unity meant to hide an internal discussion that was conceived as the only proper place for hypotheses and reflections that did not achieve unanimous agreement inside the group. We therefore had to admit that, within *Pagine Marxiste* – among comrades whose sincere loyalty to communist aspirations we recognise – there had survived criteria, logics and even conceptions of activity and of political organisation that we considered a matter of the past. Recognising these deep differences over the notion of the freedom of scientific hypotheses also had to mean recognising our differences regarding the tasks, priorities and criteria upon which a common work could be established. So the only coherent decision to take was separation, and embarking on a new political journey.

Today, the immediate task we set ourselves is, within the limits of our possibilities, to help raise the level of reflection within that heterogeneous universe which we could conventionally define as the class-struggle left, encouraging a clearer understanding of the processes that the capitalist socio-economic formation is passing through and the terms of the challenges the proletariat faces and will face in the future. We shall try our best to preserve our contribution

from the mortifying unanimity that is unfortunately so often mistaken for party 'spirit' or 'discipline'. As against this, we hope that a wide-ranging, clear and open debate within the boundaries of the Marxist school can produce men and women, theses and projects fit to raise the consciousness and political strength of the working class.