

**SYLLABUS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION OF**  
**CONSTITUTION FOR THE NEW SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN NORTH AMERICA**  
(AND SUPPLEMENTAL RELATED MATERIALS)

**Part One—Two Sessions.**

Main Reading: [\*Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America\*](#), “Introductory Explanation: On the Nature, Purpose and Role of This Constitution” and “Preamble.”

Supplemental Readings:

- [\*Constitutions, Law, and Rights—in capitalist society and in the future socialist society\*](#), the first six selections (down through and including “Why there is no basic ‘right to eat’ under capitalism”), and the last selection “Some Further Thinking on: The Socialist State as a New Kind of State.”
- [\*Communism and Jeffersonian Democracy\*](#), the sections “Slavery, White Supremacy, and Democracy in America” and “Commodities, Polarization, Inequality, and Exploitation.”
- [\*“Ruminations and Wranglings,”\*](#) the first section ([\*“More on Individuals and Social Relations”\*](#));
- [\*The New Communism\*](#), Part II, in the section on the Constitution for the NSR, the paragraph that begins “One of the things that should really be understood” and ends “in order to turn the people against you” (pp. 178-79 in print edition and pdf).

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** Constitutions and laws, base and superstructure, and the radical rupture in advancing to communism.

**Part Two—One Session.**

Main Readings: [\*Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America\*](#):

- Article I, Section 1, "The Legislature" (pp. 9-13 in print edition and pdf);
- Article I, Section 2, "The Executive," up to but not including 2A (pp. 13-18);
- Article II, Section 1, "Government in Regions, Localities and Other Areas...in North America," and Section 2, "Basic institutions" (pp. 48-51);
- Articles V and VI "Adoption of This Constitution," and "Amendments to This Constitution" (pp. 89-91).

Supplemental Readings:

- [\*Constitutions, Law, and Rights\*](#), the selection “Some Further Thinking on: The Socialist State as New Kind of State.”

- [The New Communism](#), Part II, in the section on the Constitution for the NSR, up through (and including) the paragraph (on p. 170) that begins “So, all of this,” and ends “to the contradictions that I have been examining....”
- [Science and Revolution...An Interview with Ardea Skybreak](#), the section, "The Constitution for the New Socialist Republic—A Visionary and Concrete Application of the New Synthesis" (pp. 101-103, print edition).

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** The socialist state as a radically new kind of state, the Constitution for the NSR as an expression of the new communism.

### Part Three—Two Sessions.

Main Readings: [Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America](#):

- Article I, Section 2, (The Executive) Parts A, "The Economy" and B, "The Environment" (pp. 18-22)
- Section 2, E, International Relations (pp. 29-31)
- Article IV, The Economy and Economic Development (pp. 78-89)

Supplemental Readings:

- [The New Communism](#), Part II, the sections “Socialism as an Economic System and a Political System—And a Transition to Communism”; “Internationalism”; and “Abundance, Revolution, and the Advance to Communism—A Dialectical Materialist Understanding.”
- "[State of Emergency, The Plunder of Our Planet, the Environmental Catastrophe, and the Real Revolutionary Solution](#)," *Revolution* #199, the sections "[Communism and Ecology: How Revolution Opens the Way for Humanity to Confront the Environmental Crisis and to Become the Caretakers of the Earth](#)"; and "[Some Key Principles of Socialist Sustainable Development](#).”
- [Communism and Jeffersonian Democracy](#), the section, “Freedom of Conscience as Private Property, 'The Free Market Place of Ideas' – and a Radically Different and Far More Unfettered Search for the Truth.”
- "['Preliminary Transformation into Capital'...And Putting an End to Capitalism](#)," *Revolution* #265

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** The socialist economy as the foundation of the socialist system in relation to the following from [The New Communism](#) (in Part I, the section “The Basic Contradictions and Dynamics of Capitalism,” p. 77): “Ultimately, the mode of production sets the foundation and the limits of change....To put it another way: You have to have an economic system that doesn’t prevent you from making those changes, and instead not only allows but provides a favorable foundation for those changes.”

#### Part Four—One Session.

Main Reading: [Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America](#): Article I, Section 2, C, Defense and Security (pp. 22-28).

Supplemental Reading:

- "[Alain Badiou's 'Politics of Emancipation' A Communism Locked Within the Confines of the Bourgeois World,](#)" Chapter III, Section I, "What the Socialist State is Good For, How it Will Withers Away, and Why Alain Badiou Winds Up With the Bourgeois State," down to but not including "A Brief Note on Philosophy" (from [Demarcations: A Journal of Communist Theory and Polemic](#), Issue 1).

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** Why there is a need for armed forces, separate from the general population, during the socialist stage (or at least for a long time into the socialist transition), how this must be radically different from bourgeois armed forces and how it relates to the role of the masses of people in being the decisive force, within the socialist country, in exercising the dictatorship of the proletariat and carrying forward this revolutionary transition.

#### Part Five—One Session.

Main Readings: [Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America](#):

- Article I, Section 2 D, Justice and the Rights of the People (pp. 28-29)
- Article III, Rights of the People and the Struggle to Uproot All Exploitation and Oppression (pp. 63-78)
- Article I, Section 3, The Judiciary and Legal Adjudication (pp. 43-47)

Supplemental Readings:

- [Science and Revolution...An Interview with Ardea Skybreak](#), the section "Let's Not Get Frightened By Terms Like Dictatorship of the Proletariat...We Live Under a Bourgeois Dictatorship Now" (pp. 155-57, print edition; pp. 108-109, pdf) up through (and including) the paragraph that ends "...that are all geared to accumulating profit privately, as capital, as domination over and exploitation of others."
- "[Birds Cannot Give Birth to Crocodiles, But Humanity Can Soar Beyond the Horizon,](#)" [Part 1](#), the sections:
  - "[You Want to Radically Change the World—You Have to Make Revolution, and Establish a Revolutionary State Power](#)"
  - "[The Theory of 'Social Contract' and the Lack of Materialism](#)"
  - "[The Fundamental Difference Between Communism and Anarchism](#)"
  - "[Dictatorship of the Proletariat—and the Transition Beyond Dictatorship](#)"
  - "[Bourgeois Political Philosophy, Its Limitations and Distortions](#)"
  - "[An Historic Leap, A Whole New Height and Vista](#)"

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** What is the unity, and what is the opposition, between the rights of the people (and related principles) set forth in this Constitution and the need for and role of the dictatorship of the proletariat? (A series of related questions: What are the ways—note: “ways,” plural—that the dictatorship of the proletariat is similar to the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie? In what ways is the dictatorship of the proletariat radically and fundamentally different? Which of these—the similarities or the differences—constitutes the principal aspect, and why?)

### Part Six—One Session.

Main Readings: [Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America](#): Article I, Sections F through J—“Education,” “Science and Scientific Endeavor,” “Health and Medicine,” “The Media,” “Art and Culture” (pp. 31-43).

Supplemental Readings:

- [Science and Revolution...An Interview with Ardea Skybreak](#), “A Scientific Approach to Society, and Changing the World,” “A Scientific Outlook, A Boundless Curiosity About the World,” (pp. 1-12, print edition; pp. 1-9, pdf), and “The New Synthesis of Communism, Solid Core and Elasticity” (pp. 55-61, print edition; pp. 38-43, pdf)
- [“But How Can We Ever Be Sure Anything Is True?...Such Philosophical Relativism Offers Creationism Easy Pickings,”](#) an excerpt from *The Science of Evolution and the Myth of Creationism: Knowing What’s Real and Why It Matters*.
- [The New Communism](#), Part I, “Self and a ‘Consumerist’ Approach to Ideas” and “What Is Your Life Going to Be About?—Raising People’s Sights,” pp. 98-106.

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** How is the principle of solid core, with a lot of elasticity on the basis of the solid core, applied in the various sections of the *Constitution* in the Main Readings this time? How and why is the approach in this *Constitution* fundamentally different than how these spheres are approached in capitalist society?

(Note: As part of the discussion, there was a contrasting of what is said in this *Constitution* on science with what is said in [Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution](#) on this subject (particularly the paragraph in Section 8 that begins “To promote the Progress of Science and useful arts...,” which is frequently quoted by Bill Nye, the science guy). This is a very stark and revealing contrast!)

### Part Seven—One Session.

Main Reading: [Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America](#): Article II, Section 3, “Minority and Formerly Oppressed Nationalities” (pp. 51-63).

Supplemental Readings:

- “How This System Has Betrayed Black People: Two Crucial Turning Points,” by Bob Avakian in [“The Oppression of Black People & The Revolutionary Struggle to End All Oppression.”](#)
- [“Why DO People Come Here?”](#) *Revolution* #208, July 25, 2010
- [“Reply to Letter on the Section ‘Minority and Formerly Oppressed Nationalities,’](#) *Revolution* #225, February 27, 2011.

**Pivotal Point (or main theme):** Why does this *Constitution* take the approach it does to the questions addressed in these sections, and how does this relate to, and constitute an expression of, the strategic orientation of advancing toward the goal of a communist world?

**Part Eight—One Session: Review and Overview.**

[Ten Sessions Overall.]