



**SIGLO XXI 4th International Conference – Karl Marx and the Challenges of the XXI century. Havana, Cuba May 5 to 8, 2008**

In the year 2008 we mark 125 years since Marx's death, 125 years since (in Frederick Engel's words) humanity was shortened by a head, 'the most remarkable head of our time.' Only eleven mourners at Marx's funeral on 17 March 1883 heard Engels (his brother both in ideas and struggles) describe Marx as a man of science but above all, a revolutionary. 'His real mission in life,' Engels pointed out, 'was to contribute in one way or another, to the overthrow of capitalist society and of the state institutions which it had brought into being.' That mission was 'to contribute to the liberation of the modern proletariat'--- a goal that required that the proletariat be 'conscious of its own position and its needs, conscious of the conditions of its emancipation.'

How can we today follow Marx's mission and contribute to the overthrow of capitalism? How can we help the working class become '*conscious of its own position and its needs, conscious of the conditions of its emancipation*'? That is the challenge we face today--- it is a challenge made all the more urgent by the continuing destruction of our living space by the ravages of capitalism.

At the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Conference in Havana on 'The work of Karl Marx and the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we want to renew our commitment to Marx's historic task. And we propose to centre our discussion on three separate but connected themes:

- 1. The nature of contemporary capitalism and imperialism.**
- 2. The articulation of revolutionary subjects:** the construction of a new militant internationalism, social movements, and contemporary types and forms of class struggle required to face and transcend "the system of multiple domination" of capital.
- 3. A socialist alternative:** the need to go beyond reforms of capitalism, the analysis of past socialist experiences and of practical proposals, under current conditions, to construct a communist society that will permit the full development of human capabilities

On 5 May 2008 (the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marx's birth), we will begin 4 days of deliberation in Havana on the work of Marx and the challenges before us all. We invite all who struggle for the necessary and possible world based upon true humanity and solidarity to join us and to demonstrate that Marx is more alive than ever. Join us in Havana together with the Cuban Revolution, victorious for 55 years from the battle of Moncada.

**The Organizing Committee.**

**Havana, Cuba.**

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