Strategy Note 321, 24 June 2025

Beyond current labor union law

As part of their attack on unions, some of the superwealthy in the United States (and their servants) seek to weaken the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

A recent report from the Independent Organizing Network summarizes the current situation.

The NLRA doesn't serve working people. Congress passed it to buy our union movement off from revolutionary goals. It tends to bureaucratize and professionalize unions. It promotes thinking about union organizing in a very narrow way. And it forms the legal context for many mainstream unions in the United States today.

We should defend the NLRA and simultaneously organize without relying on it. We shouldn't just prepare for a post-NLRA world, we should organize now beyond the NLRA.

The NLRA does *not* form the foundation for labor union power. It merely offers a temporary and familiar structure within the current legal system.

Our power comes from our collective action, especially from our ability to (1) stop production for profit by our employers and/or (2) redirect our collective production in ways that serve us and working people in general instead of serving owners and their hired managers.

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