

OUR ROAD

The Political Line of the
League of Poor Peasants



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We vow, on the blood spilled by our comrades on the Santa Elina farm, to carry the struggle for land, for democracy, justice, and work to its final victory, at any cost.

~ Oath taken by the resisters of the Battle of Santa Elina at the founding of the MCC, in Jaru-RO, February 25, 1996, signed by the continuators of the Santa Elina struggle and founders of the League of Poor Peasants.

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Presentation

Dear companions,

Our Road first appeared 22 years ago, in mid-1996. It contained the summary of the studies and ideas resulting from the social practice, mainly in the class struggle, of hundreds of militant revolutionary companions and companions from the popular masses from different regions of our country. Its purpose was to serve as a basic orientation for intervention in the peasant movement in the struggle for the conquest of land and for the transformations necessary for the social and political liberation of the poor people of the countryside in particular, and for the liberation of the Brazilian people and our Nation from the yoke of imperialism, in general.

Under the impact of the dramatic events of August 9, 1995 in Corumbiara — Rondônia, where thousands of peasants camped in the Santa Elina farm imposed the fiercest resistance to the savagery of the *latifundium*

and its old bureaucratic genocidal State, in its cowardly act of sowing terror and evicting more than 600 families, the peasant movement of our country entered a new stage of its history. Those events deeply marked the history of the popular movement in the state of Rondônia and in our country, also deeply demarcating the field between the various political currents in the popular movement and in Brazilian society.

With them began an open struggle inside the peasant movement about the direction, political line, and methods of organization and struggle. In fact, it started a necessary and inevitable process of separation and purging for the peasant movement, of its two-line struggle between the proletarian and bourgeois lines, the democratic or the bureaucratic line, in its long and complex course in our country.

This struggle is the one between the road of opportunism, which is the same bureaucratic road of the bourgeoisie and the landlords, who have always subordinated the peasant movement to electoral projects,

treating the peasants as a secondary class in the class struggle, and the revolutionary road, the only one capable of effectively conquering the land through the complete destruction of the *latifundium*, because it is guided by the revolutionary program of transformations for the countryside considering the poor peasants as the main force for the revolutionary democratic transformations of our country, based on the worker-peasant alliance.

Since the heroic Battle of Santa Elina, throughout 23 years, the experience of the popular struggle in our country has only confirmed the analysis and orientation of *Our Road*. It has also presented important challenges that have required new responses to new problems, imposing on us the need to revise and adjust aspects of our orientation, as occurred throughout the 13-and-a-half years of management by the opportunist PT/PCdoB/PSB/PDT parties, supported by the rest of the so-called “electoral left,” by CONTAG, MST, the central unions, and other organizations controlled by opportunism.

With the electoral triumph of Luiz Inácio in 2002, the opportunist leaderships, although increasingly decadent, have still prevailed in the peasant movement and have had every opportunity to demonstrate and prove who their theses really serve: the big bourgeoisie, the landlords, and imperialism. But not the poor peasants. Let's see: after 13-and-a-half years of their governments (Luiz Inácio and Dilma), in truth a mere shift in the administration of this old bureaucratic-landlord, imperialist servant State, that ended in its most complete failure, sunk in the economic and general crisis of decomposition of bureaucratic-capitalism and amidst the general crisis of imperialism.

Furthermore, the serious political crisis that ousted Dilma Rousseff by impeachment is an expression of the contention between the factions of the ruling classes, due to this same economic crisis. In all these years, the poor peasants can only say that their situation got worse. Was it not Luiz Inácio who said, among so many campaign promises, that "if he had to take only one measure in his government, it would be

agrarian reform?" Yes, it was him! Was it not the opportunists who gained, no less, control of the Ministry of Agrarian Development, and was it not the cadres linked to the national leadership of the MST and CONTAG who occupied the most important positions in INCRA at the national and state levels? Yes, they did!

And what has all this been for? What all this serves is to show all poor peasants the failure of the usual old "government land reform" drivel. This has served to unmask all the opportunists, the shameless electioneers that they are, and this entire government, which has revealed itself to be nothing more than a shift in the administration of this old bureaucratic-landlord, imperialist servant State. The only thing left to the peasant movement is to carry on the struggle for a genuine agrarian revolution.

But for this it is necessary to reject the rotten opportunist road of conciliation, taking the thorny, difficult revolutionary road of the struggle for the complete destruction of the *latifundium*. And it is to wage this

struggle, and to give a great impulse to the peasant movement, that *Our Road* was born, always new, invariable, reinvigorated, and incontrovertible.

Revision and Editorial Committee,

Goiânia, June 2018.

I. FOR AN AGRARIAN PROGRAM OF RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Introduction

The agrarian-peasant question in Brazil, contrary to the relegation of its meaning by reactionaries, bourgeois academics, the press monopolies, and opportunists of different affiliations, continues to be central, of fundamental importance for the solution of the great national problems, and is the basis for achieving a true democracy. It is not by chance that the struggle for land has never stopped and has been growing in recent decades, to the point that the dominant classes themselves have had to make it a central point in their government policies — not to change anything in relation to their structure, but as an attempt to paralyze the growing and militant peasant movement.