Paths to Change

How industrial workers built political movements

TOT.C.1.1 "Describe the growth of reformist political movements and the growth of radical and revolutionary political movements, including anarchism, socialism, and communism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each movement's goal, circle how it gained supporters, and number any methods it used to seek change. Use your marks to compare reformist and revolutionary approaches.

Workers Organize for Change

1. In nineteenth-century Britain, industrial cities drew workers into crowded neighborhoods. Many had little political power, even as factories shaped their lives. Reformers sought change through laws and elections rather than overthrowing the state. The Chartist movement, launched in 1838, demanded voting rights for more men and secret ballots. Workers gathered signatures on huge petitions and held public meetings. Although Parliament rejected their petitions, Chartist organizing made voting reform a national issue. Britain later expanded male voting rights through acts of Parliament.

2. Industrial growth also helped socialist movements spread across Europe. Socialists argued that workers, rather than private owners alone, should control major industries. Some socialists formed parties to seek shorter workdays and public services through elections. Others organized unions or favored revolution. In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published The Communist Manifesto, calling for workers to overthrow capitalist rule. Their communist vision sought shared ownership of productive property and an end to class divisions. Printed pamphlets and growing worker organizations carried these arguments across borders.

3. Anarchists rejected rule by a state, including a workers' state. Many envisioned communities and workplaces run through voluntary cooperation. In the late nineteenth century, anarchist networks grew among workers in parts of Spain, Italy, and France. Some organized unions and strikes; a minority used violence against rulers, a tactic many other anarchists opposed. Across these movements, newspapers, rail travel, and crowded industrial cities helped ideas spread. Reformists tried to change existing governments, while revolutionaries argued that political and economic systems had to be replaced.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Chartists build a movement for political reform?

2. How could two socialist groups seek change in different ways?

3. What helped communist ideas spread beyond the people who first wrote about them?

4. How did anarchists' goal differ from the communist vision in the passage, and how did anarchist networks grow?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a port city in 1900 where factory workers face long hours and many cannot vote. In four sentences, compare how a reformist group and a revolutionary group might seek change, and explain one way each could gain supporters.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each movement's goal, circle how it gained supporters, and number any methods it used to seek change. Use your marks to compare reformist and revolutionary approaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Chartists build a movement for political reform?	**They held public meetings and gathered signatures on petitions demanding more voting rights for men and secret ballots.**
2	How could two socialist groups seek change in different ways?	**One could form a party and seek changes through elections; another could favor revolution.**
3	What helped communist ideas spread beyond the people who first wrote about them?	**Printed pamphlets and growing worker organizations carried the ideas across borders.**
4	How did anarchists' goal differ from the communist vision in the passage, and how did anarchist networks grow?	**Anarchists rejected any state, including a workers' state, while the communists described workers overthrowing capitalist rule. Anarchist networks grew among workers in parts of Spain, Italy, and France.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A reformist group in this port city could petition lawmakers to expand voting rights and limit factory hours. It could gain supporters by holding meetings near the docks and collecting signatures. A communist group might instead call on workers to replace capitalist rule and take shared control of factories. It could spread its ideas through pamphlets and worker organizations, drawing support from people frustrated by long hours.

Accept other passage-supported ways movements organized and spread. For Part 3, look for a clear difference between changing an existing government and replacing a political or economic system.