ABSTRACT:

THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION:
MATERICAL-ECONOMIC BASIS OF
EMERGENT
INTRA-BOURGEOIS CLASS CONFLICTS AND CRISES

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Marxist analysis of the previous two bourgeois revolutions in the material-economic base of society (the Industrial Revolutions, *circa* 1760-1850 and 1880-1925) provided explanations of emergent social-political and cultural characteristics of the various sections of capital, and of their internecine struggles. So too, the third, or “Information Revolution,” is re-shaping today’s bourgeoisie. Phase I of the e-revolution (*i.e.*, late-1970’s-to-early-80’s; introducing digital processors in manufacturing and related organizational innovations), was led by Japanese and Northern-European capital. It devastated US manufacturing, and especially the regional and/or middle bourgeoisie, driving it to attempt the “Republican Revolution” and impeachment in the 1990’s. Today, the Bush administration is an alliance of this section with the extractive and military-industrial big bourgeoisie and associated sections of finance capital. It has excluded “Wall Street insiders,” and much of highly capitalized, high-tech capital, which flourished in Phase II of the Information Revolution (*i.e.*, 1990’s-to-present, combining digital processors with communications into new personal and commercial networks, and the internet). These sections were prominent in the Clinton-Gore administration, and they require a different social policy. The presently ruling sections of capital are also those most dependent on antiquated US oil- and automobile-centric infrastructure, increasingly in contradiction to technical-organizational advances of the Information Society, and global environmental realities. Marxists have always stressed the role of intensified intra-bourgeois contradictions and crises for the emergence of a revolutionary situation.