## Manifesto, May 1930

## Luís Carlos Prestes

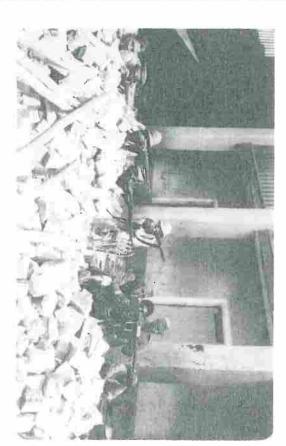
and become a communist, replied with the following manifesto. Liberal Alliance, the political coalition that seized power in 1930. Quite natu effort to gain his endorsement. Prestes, who during his exile had visited Moscow tional oligarchy. Many of these tenentes later resurfaced as members of the rally, the Liberal Alliance sent overtures to the immensely respected Prestes in an tenentes captured the imagination of a public disenchanted with Brazil's tradibacklands hoping to stir a popular uprising. Although their mission failed, the reform-minded military officers, the tenentes, who traversed the Brazilian Between 1924 and 1926, Luís Carlos Prestes commanded a group of young

tion through which we need to pass, these lines are directed plantations and ranches, to the miserable masses of our backlands and to the struggle and to the sacrifice on behalf of the profound transformavery especially to the sincere revolutionaries, to those who are disposed To the suffering proletariat of our cities, to the workers oppressed by

ing, in order that we might be able to reach the coveted victory. plete modification in the political orientation that we have been followrevolutionary Brazilian moment, and to show the necessity of a comobjective of clarifying and stating in detail my opinion with respect to the Stripped of any rhetorical whims, they were written with the principal

not convinced of the uselessness of such efforts. journed. One more electoral farce, methodically and most carefully preingenuous competition of many and by a great number of dreamers stil pared by the petty politicians, it was brought to fulfillment with the The last political campaign [the 1930 presidential election] ended ad

people cheaply mystified by an apparently democratic campaign, but which in its depths, was nothing more than the fight between the op One more time, the real popular interests were sacrificed and all



Rebel soldiers in the 1930 Revolution in the city of Recife. (Robert M. Levine

posite interests of two oligarchic currents, supported and stimulated by Brazilian politicians deliver, with timid feet and hands, the entire Nation. the two greatest imperialisms that enslave us, and to whom the petty

persecution by which the proletarian associations of the entire Country ary proposals of the struggling oligarchies are identical [to those of the persecution against workers fighting for their own rights. The reactionitself, during the height of elections, there was initiated the most violent stand up for the revocation of the latest oppressive laws, there was no one struggle that I now propose against all the oppressors. . . . Despite all this aries, on whom, I believe, I can still count in the frank and decided the elements of the Liberal Alliance a great number of sincere revolutionwere victims during the last electoral campaign, and in Rio Grande do Sui within the Liberal Alliance who would protest against the brutal political revolutionary demagoguery and despite saying that the liberals would Liberal Alliance] . . Making such affirmations, I cannot, however, cease recognizing among

## The Social Question

## Platform of the Liberal Alliance, 1930

tries to carry out some of the promises made while campaigning over, Vargas reorganized the national government, creating new cabinet minis platform. Once the successful October coup seated him as chief of state, more tenentes, addressed social problems, as can be seen in this excerpt from their impoverished Brazilians—Vargas's Liberal Alliance, borrowing from the exiled nized labor as a matter for the police and ignored the plight of the millions of lose, but his proposals for change represented a significant new direction for Brazil. In contrast to the incumbent administration—which regarded orga-Vargas campaigned for the presidency in colorless fashion, as if he expected to

and old people, credit, salary relief, and even recreation, including sports and artistic culture. It is time to think of creating agricultural schools and hygiene, diet, housing, protection of women and children, of invalids respective needs. These measures should include instruction, education sures to create a national Labor Code. Both the urban and rural protween the states and the federal government to study and adopt meanow, unfortunately do not heed. We need to coordinate activities beevery civilized nation are subject to special conditions that we, up to of women and children in factories and commercial establishments in applied or only in tiny measures, sporadically, in spite of the promises letariat require instructional measures, applied to both, to address their whose conventions and regulations we fail to observe. . . . The activities responsibilities as members of the International Labor Organization, that have been made by us as signers of the Versailles Treaty and of our ties. The little that we have in terms of social legislation either is not the problems that will have to be dealt with seriously by public authori-One cannot negate the existence of a social question in Brazil as one of

> sanitation to the countryside, constructing workers' villas, granting vaindustrial training centers, of making factories and mills safe, bringing cations, [establishing] a minimum salary, consumer cooperatives, and