

The Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) is a Marxist–Leninist organization formed in 1985, as many of the Maoist-oriented groups formed in the United States New Communist Movement of the 1970s were shrinking or collapsing. The FRSO tried to consolidate some of these groups into a single, lasting organization.

The FRSO's component groups saw ultraleftism as the New Communist Movement's main error and attempted to reverse what they saw as that movement's excessive divisiveness and sectarianism. The FRSO was founded when the Proletarian Unity League and the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters merged in 1985 and then fused with the Organization for Revolutionary Unity in 1986. It later absorbed other groups too, including the Amílcar Cabral-Paul Robeson Collective in 1988 and the Socialist Organizing Network in 1994.

The FRSO supports self-determination up to and including independence for African Americans in the Black Belt Region of the South, Chicanos in the Southwest and the Hawaiian nation in the Pacific Ocean. Much of the theory behind this comes from Harry Haywood's resolutions at the Comintern in 1928 and 1930. The FRSO's position on the national question is a defining feature of its politics.

The FRSO played a role in the anti-war movement that emerged in 1990 in opposition to the Gulf War. It also helped build the reproductive rights/abortion rights movement in this period, including the massive 1989 demonstration in Washington, D.C.

In response to the fall of Eastern European governments, the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, two distinct positions began to emerge within the FRSO on how to assess socialist countries. One saw the events of 1989–1991 as indicative of a deep crisis in socialism that required what they called "left refoundation". The other continued to assess the experience

of socialist countries as essentially positive, and saw their defeats as the result of revisionism, not as a crisis of Marxism itself. This side continued to identify itself as Marxist–Leninist. At the organization's 1991 Congress, the group's highest decision-making body, a document giving the FRSO's official position, "On the Crisis of Socialism", was adopted. It was reaffirmed at the 1997 Congress. The internal division continued throughout the 1990s until the organization split in 1999.

The FRSO continues to explicitly uphold Marxism–Leninism. It operates according to democratic centralism, and has an anti-revisionist political line toward the world communist movement. The FRSO actively maintains friendly relations with many Marxist–Leninist parties and organizations around the world, and annually participated in the International Communist Seminar.

The FRSO has a unique strategy for revolution in the United States: "to build the strategic alliance between the multinational working class and the oppressed nations under the leadership of the proletariat and its party." It aims to create a multinational, revolutionary Marxist–Leninist Communist party in the U.S.

The FRSO continues to support self-determination for the African-American nation in the Black Belt South, the Chicano nation in the Southwest and the Hawaiian nation in the Pacific Ocean. According to the FRSO, "a single, unified, multinational communist party is needed to build the strategic alliance" in place of the pre-split unity document's "support and encourage[ment of] the independent organization of oppressed nationality revolutionaries and progressives, where they have determined it to be necessary," support that extends even to the formation of communist parties of a single nationality.

FRSO upholds Joseph Stalin as one of the "principal theorists" of Marxism–Leninism, along with Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, and Mao Zedong. The FRSO recognizes Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and China as socialist countries. It also maintains close relations with the Workers Party of Belgium (WPB), participating annually in the WPB's International Communist Seminar. It was one of two U.S.-based groups to attend in 2006, along with the Workers World Party. The FRSO supports national liberation movements in

Palestine, the Philippines and Colombia, and stands in solidarity with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Communist Party of the Philippines, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). Its continued solidarity with the national liberation movements in Colombia and Palestine in particular remain a defining feature of the organization since the 1999 split.

The FRSO is active in the labor movement, the oppressed nationalities movements, the immigrant rights movement, and the student movement. It actively participates in the new Students for a Democratic Society.