
Soviet Russia: A Triumph of Marxism.

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The pages of history, since history has been written, are filled with the stories of the revolt of oppressed classes against their rulers.

Again and again during the fifty centuries of the life of man of which we have a record, the disinherited, the exploited, the ruled have risen to challenge the power of their rulers. Slaves have fought against their masters, the serfs against their overlords, the freemen of the cities against the feudal aristocracy.

Slave uprisings in ancient Athens, Spartacan revolts against Rome, peasant wars in medieval Germany, Wat Tyler marching his yeoman into London — these are but a few of the outstanding incidents in the age-long struggle of the oppressed and exploited against those who ruled and robbed them.

In all ages there has burned in the hearts of the downtrodden a bitter resentment and protest against a social system which gave wealth and power to the few and condemned the masses to lives of struggle for the bare necessities of existence. This resentment has flared out in blind revolts when the lot of the oppressed became too bitter — revolts which were usually easily put down by the better organized and better armed rulers of the time.

The capitalist system presents but one more example of what has been the story of the ages — a dominant group of exploiters robbing the masses of the people, a ruling class living in luxury and

splendor at the expense of the deprivation and barren lives of masses of the producers of wealth.

If we were to judge this situation by the history of the past we might expect merely a repetition of the past — the masses of exploited workers driven to blind revolt, drowned in their own blood by the better organized and better armed rulers.

But two new elements have entered into the situation, which differentiates the struggle between workers and capitalists of today from the struggle between exploiters of the past. A new form of production has brought with it the conditions for uniting great masses of the exploited and has greatly increased their power as a class. The struggle against the exploiters is no longer a blind revolt against oppression and the consequent misery but a conscious struggle of the exploited with a definite goal as its aim.

It is an illustration of the second point that Soviet Russia stands as the inspiration the world over.

It was Karl Marx, who through this analysis of capitalist society and his theory of the coming proletarian revolution for the first time in the history of the class struggle made an exploited class conscious of its role and gave it a definite program of action and definite aims. Fundamentally, the Socialist parties the world over were based upon Marxism. Even when their programs were a distortion of the principles laid down by Marx,

the basic reason of their existence was the belief in the correctness of the Marxian analysis of capitalism and the forecast drawn out of this analysis that capitalist society must give way to socialism.

For a half century, in all capitalist countries of the world, the most advance, the conscious workers organized on the basis of the Marxian theory. Millions of workers worked and sacrificed in their belief that the Marxian analysis of capitalism was correct. It was a magnificent demonstration of belief, of faith, for until the Russian Revolution the Marxian analysis remained a theory, a theory well fortified with fact it is true, but still a theory which through some unexpected development, some unknown factor, might be proven incorrect.

It is as the working out of the Marxian theory, as a triumph of Marxism, that Soviet Russia is the greatest inspiration. An isolated triumph of the workers in a single country based upon a blind revolt springing out of misery and suffering under the whip of their rulers might have its inspiration, however temporary it might be.

But the triumph of a general theory of the development of capitalist society, of the Marxian theory, which finds like conditions and like forces at work in every capitalist country — that is some-

thing which has greater meaning and which is a greater inspiration.

If Marx was right in his gauging of the forces in capitalist society, of the character of these forces in their development and their expression, then we can look forward with confidence to the coming day when a Communist social order will replace capitalism the world over. Soviet Russia stands as the proof of the correctness of the Marxian analysis.

Today what Marx said and wrote about capitalism and the coming proletarian revolution is theory no longer. Today we, who once called ourselves Socialists and now call ourselves Communists, are building our movement and organizations, not upon a theory, but upon a demonstrated fact. The proletarian revolution which established Soviet Russia, which for six years has held the whole capitalist world at bay, which has survived hunger and starvation, is the living demonstration of the truth of what Marx said and wrote.

Soviet Russia means that in Germany, where the clashing forces are now nearing a climax, in France, in Italy, in the United States, in every capitalist country of the world, the proletarian revolution will come, will triumph, that Capitalism must give way to Communism.

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