

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY AND MARXIST MOVEMENT

by Nelson Peery

Nelson Peery is a World War II hero and a bricklayer by profession. A veteran Black Communist he left the CP USA in 1958 in protest against Khrushchevism. An inspirer of the famous "Detroit Revolutionary Union Movement" a militant Black Worker's Movement in the 1960's - he was until recently the Chairman of the Communist Labour Party (C.L.P.).

Leningrad has followed Stalingrad into history. A vocal movement is calling for Lenin's body to follow Stalin's to the crematory. Communist parties around the world are changing their label to Social Democrat and calling for the restoration of capitalism under the guise of creating a "market economy." Communists everywhere are asking, "Have we failed?"

In such times of confusion and uncertainty, Marxists must struggle for clarity in philosophy and theory. They must not become bogged down in the subjectivity of soul searching. Only with clarity in philosophy and theory can they establish a scientific line of march in this new situation.

Socialism became scientific when the objective process became the primary aspect and the foundation for the subjective (political, theoretical, ideological) aspect in the struggle for socialism. The discovery of the laws of historical materialism and surplus value put socialism on a scientific basis.

The essence of that historical materialism is: "At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come in conflict with the existing relations of production.... Then begins an epoch of social revolution."

Fundamentally, the material productive forces of capitalism and socialism up until the present period have been machinery powered first by humans, animals or water, and, then by electricity. Productive or economic relations of socialism on the one hand and capitalism on the other were formed on the basis of electro-mechanical industry to stabilize the social and political relations, the class

dictatorships of these opposing systems. However, both were industrial, value-producing societies and therefore inexorably drawn into mutual competition in the world market. Socialism and capitalism, both compatible with industry, were locked in a deadly political struggle to defend the mutually hostile productive relations.

The socialist industrial economy is a value — producing system without the exploitation of the working class. This does not protect the workers from the current economic and eventually political disorganization that takes place when products with very little or no labour power embodied in them are placed on the market in competition with the fruits of their labour.

Over the past decade we have noted the very rapid growth and widespread use of computers and robotics within this electro-mechanical industry. Electronics makes electro-mechanics obsolete wherever it is introduced. The cost-cutting efficiency of electronics compels all managers to employ them once the competition uses them. The result is that the productive relations of both socialism

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and capitalism are standing on a new and incompatible base. These new material forces of production are in conflict with the existing relations of production. The industrial world, capitalist and socialist, is entering an epoch of social revolution.

The transformation from agriculture to industry was a historically inevitable

objective process. It was carried out within the capitalist system in France and within the socialist system in the Soviet Union. Capitalism and socialism are antagonistic political and economic formations. But they are both industrial societies.

The proletarian revolution led by Lenin took place within the social revolution from an agrarian to an industrial society. The Bolsheviks proved to all the task of the revolutionary. While some so-called Marxists were bemoaning the disintegration of the Second International, Lenin was moving to establish proletarian power as the form to reorganize society around industry.

The current transformation from industrial to electronic production is an economic revolution. The economic revolution is followed by a social revolution. The social revolution is already underway. The disintegration of the Comintern parties and the bribed sector of the industrial proletariat in the capitalist countries is part of the process of clearing away the old political lumber in order to construct the new. In the socialist countries, state socialism could not be the foundation for the principle of "to each according to need." Electronics can create and is creating the abundance that makes possible a society organized around this principle. The communist movement today struggles for an economic system, not simply an ideology.

The task of the proletarian revolutionary is becoming clear. The economic revolution is accelerating and deepening the current capitalist cyclical crisis. The

economic crisis is clearing the way and preparing the workers for the communist agitator and propagandist. In the capitalist and socialist countries our task is to make the workers class conscious, to prepare them for the seizure of political power within the framework of the ongoing social revolution.

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The Bolsheviks faced a historic fork in the road. They had to decide if industrialization could and should be carried out within the productive relations of capitalism or socialism. On a higher and more complex level, we are again faced with the question: Which path for the revolution? Will the inevitable reorganization of society around electronics end with a sophisticated fascism to maintain class privilege? Or will there be a proletarian revolution, a rapid development of electronics and the historical move to

communism? The objective factors are in place. Now humanity must write its history.

We face a long and difficult period of struggle. The passivity of the working class, the legacy of modern revisionism, and the rising nationalism amongst the peoples make our task very difficult. On the other hand, the *economic* struggle between the industrial worker and the bourgeoisie at the point of production is no longer the fulcrum of the class struggle. The emerging *political* struggle between an increasingly unemployed, poverty-stricken proletarian class and an increasingly repressive state is clearer, stronger, firmer, broader, mightier than before. This facilitates our task.

Fascist forces are preparing their offensive in both socialist and capitalist countries. Their banners of brutal aggressive nationalism momentarily cover the bayonets of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie. The fascists intend to take power and revenge.

Fully a third of the earth has experienced life without the exploitation of labour. The majority of the earth, weapons in hand, has fought for it. Humanity has never relinquished its victories or its dreams. History rushes forward precisely to preserve them.

The Soviet workers, the embattled peoples of Latin America, the bloodstained fighters of Africa, the indomitable revolutionaries of Asia, and, yes, the experienced proletariat of Europe and North America will soon break through the smothering silence imposed by the bourgeois media. The ebbing is done. The ice is breaking. The sky is darkest before the dawn; the future is world revolution.

With confidence in the science of society, with faith in our class and peoples, our Communist Labour Party eagerly looks forward to this final conflict. At last, at long last, the American communist will become a revolutionary.