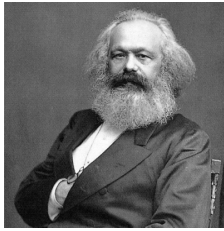


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



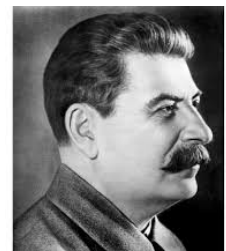
A Journal of Discussion and Debate



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To see the reasoning behind publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’” in the first issue on the web-site below. Though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we include progressive articles from groups with varying views. **Also, note that unsigned articles, as well as comments before articles, are mine (George Gruenthal).**

Note that we reprint many articles without our asking for permission. Clearly the authors are in no way responsible for other views in this publication.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU should appear in February, 2023. Material should be sent in by the end of January.

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No to the Privatization of Public Housing!

In New York and many other major cities, the real estate industry forms a significant sector of the local capitalist class. As such, they are closely linked with the mayors and other local officials. For example, former Mayor Bloomberg had close ties with the Vornado Realty Trust (and its CEO, Steven Roth). New York's former "progressive" mayor de Blasio supported the effort to renew the 421-a tax abatement program. While current Mayor Adams talks about the need to build more "affordable" housing, the question is "affordable for whom?" And who would say that they are for "unaffordable" housing?

The real estate industry is also closely linked to the banking sector, which finances mortgages for co-ops and condominiums. But the working class is most affected by the rapidly increasing cost of rental housing. In the U.S. as a whole, between 2001 to 2018, renter incomes grew by 0.5% while rental prices increased by 13%, and in New York City, rents increased by 35% in 2021 compared to 2020.¹ This is taking place despite the fact that New York City has relatively strict rent control laws.

One of the mainstays of working-class housing in New York is public housing ("projects"). This housing limits rents to no more than 30% of household income. There are over 177,000 units under the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), which officially have some 400,000 residents, but actually probably have some 600,000, over 7% of New York's population. Public housing could put some limits to gentrification by providing an alternative to over-priced private housing. However, most public housing in New York was built between 1945 and 1965, almost no public housing has been built in New York City since the 1950s.²

In many other cities, public housing has been demolished outright. In Chicago, all 17 large housing projects were torn down by 2011. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina provided the excuse to tear down public housing in New Orleans, although these projects withstood major damage from the Hurricane. Of course, all this was done to supposedly provide "better living conditions" for the residents, which was a lie.



Demolition of Dayton Street Houses, Newark, February, 2022

People are suffering from mold, broken elevators (many NYCHA projects are 21 stories tall) and many other bad conditions. The City estimates that some \$40 billion is needed for repairs, as much too little

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/16/renters-rent-increases-us-lease>

² The main exception is Taino Towers in East Harlem, which opened in 1979 with 656 apartments.

money has been allocated for this. Now this will be used for a step-by-step privatization process, through a scheme called the Public Housing Preservation Trust. Interestingly, one of the bill's sponsors in the New York State Legislature was State Senator Julia Salazar, a member of DSA (Democratic Socialists of America).³

An organization called United Front Against Displacement has been organizing among public housing tenants and others against this privatization scheme:

<https://theunitedfrontagainstdisplacement.org/> or www.theufad.org

HUD and Congress: Stop Privatizing Public Housing



United Front Against Displacement started this petition to United States Congress and 1 other
From: Public housing tenants, activists, sympathetic organizations, and individuals

[Sign the Petition!](#)

This is a letter decrying one of the crimes of the 21st century; the nationwide project by Congress, HUD, big banks, and developers to privatize public housing. For decades Congress has cut funding to public housing developments across the country. This is part of a long history of neglect of public housing, which has led to deteriorating and dangerous conditions for tenants. Mold, asbestos, lead paint, water damage, broken windows, rodent infestations, lack of heat, and other unlivable conditions are all a daily reality for tenants in public housing projects across the country. In

Esta es una carta denunciando uno de los grandes crímenes del siglo XXI; el proyecto nacional del Congreso, HUD, los grandes bancos y las inmobiliarias para privatizar la vivienda pública. Durante décadas, el Congreso ha recortado los fondos para desarrollos de viviendas públicas en todo el país. Esto es parte de una larga historia de abandono de la vivienda pública, que ha provocado su deterioro y condiciones peligrosas para los inquilinos. El moho, el asbesto, la pintura con plomo, los daños causados por goteras de agua, las ventanas rotas, las plagas de roedores, la falta de calefacción y otras condiciones no habitables son una realidad diaria para muchos inquilinos de los proyectos de vivienda pública en todo el

³ <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/360-22/mayor-adams-administration-officials-celebrate-passage-nycha-public-housing-preservation-trust>

addition to this lack of respect or concern for peoples' health, tenants are regularly subjected to rude, derogatory, and discriminatory treatment for raising these concerns to managers and local housing authorities.

Now after all these years of letting the projects rot and forcing people to live in deplorable conditions, HUD is giving away all the projects to wealthy developers and the big banks. These predatory interests aim to make billions off of this transfer of wealth and land, all at the expense of the millions of people currently living in public housing. Instead of using funding for much needed repairs of public housing, HUD's budget is now being used to subsidize these privatization projects, which almost always include the construction of new luxury units and the displacement of the vast majority of current project residents.

país. Además de esta falta de respeto y de preocupación por la salud de las personas, los inquilinos son sometidos regularmente a un trato grosero, despectivo y discriminatorio por plantear estas preocupaciones a los administradores y las autoridades locales de vivienda.

Ahora, después de todos estos años de dejar que los proyectos se pudran y de obligar a la gente a vivir en condiciones deplorables, HUD está regalando todos los proyectos a desarrolladores adinerados y a los grandes bancos. Estos intereses depredadores apuntan a ganar miles de millones con esta transferencia de riqueza y tierra, todo a expensas de los millones de personas que actualmente viven en viviendas públicas. En lugar de utilizar fondos para reparaciones muy necesarias de viviendas públicas, el presupuesto de HUD se está utilizando ahora para subsidiar estos proyectos de privatización, que casi siempre incluyen la construcción de nuevas unidades de lujo y el desplazamiento de la gran mayoría de los residentes actuales del proyecto.

Engels: The Housing Question, 1873, now available for \$5 (or free as a pdf) from www.RedStarPublishers.org

This work is a polemic with the followers of Proudhon, who considered the housing question as equivalent to the exploitation of labor power. Engels also points out that: "the workers are forced out of the center of the towns towards the outskirts; that workers' dwellings, and small dwellings in general, become rare and expensive and often altogether unobtainable, for under these circumstances the building industry, which is offered a much better field for speculation by more expensive dwelling houses, builds workers' dwellings only by way of exception."

Engels: Contribución al problema de la vivienda, 1873, ahora disponible por \$5 (o gratis como pdf) de www.RedStarPublishers

Es una polémica con los seguidores de Proudhon, los cuales consideraron al problema de la vivienda como equivalente a la explotación de la fuerza laboral. Engels también dice: "los obreros van siendo desplazados del centro a la periferia; que las viviendas obreras y, en general, las viviendas pequeñas, son cada vez más escasas y más caras, llegando en muchos casos a ser imposible hallar una casa de ese tipo, pues en tales condiciones, la industria de la construcción encuentra en la edificación de casas de alquiler elevado un campo de especulación infinitamente más favorable, y solamente por excepción construye casas para obreros."

Again on “Gun Control”

Although I sometimes reprint material from “lite Trotskyists,” who mostly do not emphasize their Trotskyist roots. It is rare that I reprint material from “ultra-Trots,” such as “The Internationalists.” However, in this case they have taken a principled position on Gun Control. When they are right, they’re right.

In the periods where there has been a real mass revolutionary working-class movement in the U.S., it was clear that workers were generally armed for self-defense. For example, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, in her brilliant autobiography “I speak my own piece” (first published by Masses & Mainstream, 1955), she mostly discusses the revolutionary syndicalist Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) in the early years of the 19th century. She gives numerous examples of workers being armed.

For example, on page 85, she quotes from a defense pamphlet for Morrie R. Preston, a leader of the Goldfield Miners Union in 1907, who was on trial for killing John Silva, a reactionary whose restaurant was being picketed for holding back a waitress’s pay and who had charged Preston with a gun: “In the more settled East, the question sometimes arises as to Preston’s right to carry arms. The point being prejudicial, it is well to explain that ‘packing a gun’ is so customary in the West, especially in the mining districts, that nothing is thought of it. On the contrary, a miner from the hills, or a ranger, without his ‘six-shooter’ in plain sight would have excited more curiosity and should not be confused with the Eastern ‘gangster’ practice of ‘carrying concealed weapons’.” She points out: “To bear arms is the Constitutional right of every American.”

Further, in his excellent book, “Negroes with Guns,” first published in 1962, Robert F. Williams discusses his role in organizing the armed defense of the Afro-American community in Monroe, North Carolina, against attacks from the police and other white racists.

Finally, the Black Panther Party was well-known for its advocacy of armed self-defense. In 1967, when the Panthers fought to retain the right to bear arms in California, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and other reactionaries fought against this right.

Of course, none of this is meant to justify any isolated adventurist actions.

The below are excerpts from an (overly) long article in the May-October issue of *The Internationalist*, the whole of which can be read at the URL below:



Democrats Push Gun Control, Tool of Racist Capitalist Repression

Gun Bans Won't Stop Racist Mass Shootings

For Worker/Black/Latino Mobilization Against Cop Terror and Racist Attacks



Hundreds came out in sweltering heat on July 10 in Uvalde, Texas, to protest the action of hundreds of “law enforcement” officials who stood by while shooter killed 19 students and 2 teachers at the “Mexican school.” The police response expressed deep-seated racism of the Anglo capitalist rulers. (Photo: Callaghan O'Hare for The New York Times)

... The Democratic Party, and those who peddle its wares, desperately seek to turn the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution into a dead letter. Mass shootings, liberals say, are due to the fact that there are more guns in the United States than there are people. According to them, only the “responsible” forces of the capitalist state (read: police and military) should have the “privilege” of carrying firearms. While professing concern for the deaths of black people in inner-city neighborhoods, liberals and reformist leftists¹ are actually pandering to racist fears of white suburbanites and demagogic appeals to militarize the ghettos and barrios. This leaves the population defenseless, while trigger-happy cops, criminals and fascists are all heavily armed.

The constitutional “right of the people to keep and bear arms” was the product of the American Revolution, against colonial rule. It was only a political revolution, to be sure, while U.S. capitalism was based on chattel slavery of African Americans and genocide of Native Americans. The Second Amendment is

a fundamental democratic right which we strongly defend. It is doubly important to working people and the oppressed, who are beset by a well-armed ruling class and its professional enforcers.

... For their part, the Republicans and their ultra-racist flank explain the mass shootings as the seemingly random and inexplicable actions of madmen. If only these deeply disturbed souls had more mental health treatment . . . and less diversity training, they wail, all the while piously intoning that their “thoughts and prayers” are with the victims. Yet these right-wing “champions” of gun rights, too, want to “take guns off the street” – just not from white people. They hail the actions of killer cops who regularly cut down civilians at a rate that rose to over 2,000 a year in 2020-21. The victims are overwhelmingly black, Latino, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders and poor white people.

But the mass shootings were neither random nor inexplicable. In all three recent instances – Buffalo, Uvalde, Highland Park – racism and other social pathologies fueled the homicides. In Buffalo, the shooter put out a huge manifesto dripping with repugnant racist bile about so-called immigrant invaders out to “replace” white people. In Uvalde, the refusal of the police to come to the aid of students and teachers under fire reflects a local power structure of Anglo segregationists ruling over a four-fifths Latino town. In Highland Park, the assailant was an avid Trump supporter prominent in harassing Black Lives Matter protests, and an anti-Semite. Yet except for Buffalo, none of this is highlighted in the bourgeois press. Instead, there has been a torrent of propaganda – and legislative proposals – for more gun control.

So two years after millions took to the streets to protest racist cop murder, many calling to “defund” and even “abolish” the police – an impossibility under capitalism – in this summer of 2022, mass shootings and hysteria over a supposed “post-pandemic crime wave” have united liberals and conservatives in calling for more police repression. Liberals want to go after the guns, conservatives want to go after black people, in practice it often amounts to the same thing – and all wings of the bourgeoisie call to beef up and “empower” the cops. Although stymied by the June 23 Supreme Court decision striking down New York’s flatly unconstitutional law restricting permits to carry handguns to those on good terms with the police, the Democratic Party is pushing for more laws to enforce a capitalist state monopoly of deadly force.

So in the name of “crime prevention,” the result will be more black and Latino men slain by kill-crazy cops in the name of controlling guns. Proletarian revolutionaries and class-conscious workers ***defend the democratic right to “keep and bear arms” and oppose gun control***; we uphold the ***right of black armed self-defense***, and call for ***worker/black/Latino mobilization against police terror and racist attacks***.

More on Ukraine War

While we are discussing “The Internationalists,” one should note that the main headline on the first page of their same May-October, 2022, issue says: “Defeat the Imperialist War Drive and U.S./NATO Proxy Regime in Ukraine; Defend Russia, China Against War-Crazed U.S. Rulers.”

This is the same position that the majority of revisionist parties have taken. Of course, “The Internationalists” put their own Trotskyist spin on it. They call Russia “a regional capitalist power” (presumably something short of an imperialist power) and China “a deformed workers state.” This is somewhat worse than the position of those who recognize Russia and China as imperialist powers, but somehow still better than U.S. imperialism.

Lenin points out in Imperialism...: “On the whole, capitalism is growing far more rapidly than before, but this growth is not only becoming more and more uneven in general, its unevenness also manifests itself, in particular, in the decay of the countries which are richest in capital (England).” Of course, today, the country that is in decay is not England (which has been a second-rate imperialist power since

World War II, but the U.S., which has been in (slow) decline, probably since its defeat in Vietnam. And which country is getting richer? China, which is in a bloc with the stronger nuclear power, Russia.

Lenin also states: “The question is: what means other than war could there be *under capitalism* of removing the disparity between the development of productive forces and the accumulation of capital on the one side, and the division of colonies and ‘spheres of influence’ for finance capital on the other?”

This is what is behind the war in Ukraine.

Mayor Adams’ New Policy for the Homeless: “Fascism with a Human Face”



After destroying homeless encampments throughout New York City, Mayor Adams has a new way to try to get homeless people off the streets. He claims that cops, health professionals and other first responders have “legal standing” to involuntarily commit people with mental health problems who appear to be a danger to themselves “due to an inability to meet their basic needs.” AFSCME DC37 Local 2507 (which includes EMT workers) and Local 371 (social workers) should refuse to be used in this policy.

This amounts to the criminalization of poverty and homelessness, since if one does not have the money to pay for housing one cannot meet one’s basic needs. But in reality this is an indictment of capitalism, since in what is supposed to be the “richest country in the world,” millions are unemployed and many of them cannot pay their rent or mortgage.

As with his destruction of homeless encampments, Adams claims that he is doing this for the benefit of the homeless themselves. But he is really doing this in the interest of the big real estate companies (and unfortunately some small condo owners) who do not want to see their property values lowered by homeless people in the streets. If he really wanted to help, he could open up vacant hotel rooms and apartments for them. But he is more likely to create concentration camps (like Rikers Island) for the homeless and unemployed.

<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2022/12/11/to-hell-with-the-railroad-barons-the-railroads-belong-to-the-people/>

To hell with the railroad barons: The railroads belong to the people!

[December 11, 2022](#) [Stephen Millies](#)



Baltimore, Dec. 8. SLL photo: Sharon Black

Nobody should be surprised by President Joe Biden's strikebreaking role in imposing a contract on railroad workers. The agreement had already been voted down by workers in several unions.

The imposed contract fails to address the need for sick days or any time off — paid or unpaid — for employees subject to call 24/7. Workers can still be written up for seeing a doctor or taking their children to a clinic.

Remember that "Amtrak Joe" had represented the Du Pont dynasty as a U.S. senator from Delaware for 36 years. He loyally served the Mastercard plastic loan sharks, also based in Delaware, in that U.S. House of Lords.

Biden worked with the late Senator Strom Thurmond, a vicious racist, to fight school integration. In the 1990s, Biden helped pass laws that increased the prison population to over two million.

The man in the White House can stop a strike of working people seeking fair treatment. But Biden refuses to use his pen to free 78-year-old Leonard Peltier. The Indigenous political prisoner, a leader of the American Indian Movement, has spent 46 years in jail after being framed.

What now?

The BNSF Railway's harsh and arbitrary attendance policy remains in place. This scheme assigns 30 points to every employee.

Except for vacation days, two points will be deducted for being absent on any day from Monday through Thursday. Three points will be taken away for taking off on a Sunday.

Workers will be fined four points if they don't come in on Friday or Saturday. Federal holidays are the grand prize.

Being sick on those days will cost an employee seven points. Never mind that workers and their family members get sick on holidays, too. Many days of overtime are required to earn back new points.

Even the capitalist courts claim to consider people innocent until proven guilty. The BNSF — completely owned by super billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway hedge fund — automatically penalizes workers who "mark off" whether or not they and their children are ill.

One of Buffett's BNSF serfs can be fired for "losing" 30 points despite having a decades-long good record. Railroad management imposed this crap in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic without any negotiating with the unions.

The contract imposed by Biden and Congress doesn't address any working conditions. Many freight engineers and conductors are on call with no set work schedule. They may be forced to be away from their families for a week or more.

So are the maintenance-of-way employees who fix the track. They have to live in bunk cars or motels during the week, sometimes hundreds of miles away from home.

These issues go beyond wages, although that "big wage increase" that the media mentions will be eaten up by inflation. All workers deserve dignity.

An Amtrak yardmaster told this writer that when he worked on the Norfolk Southern Railway, a trainmaster demanded that he do stretching exercises. It was as if this worker and father were back in kindergarten.

Profits first, safety last

This lack of respect has only increased since the introduction of the speed-up system called Precision Scheduled Railroading. There's nothing precise about PSR.

Even capitalists in the chemical, food and other industries [have complained](#) of increased train delays. "They've cut labor below the bone, really," Surface Transportation Board Chair Martin Oberman [told](#) the House Transportation Committee on May 12. "In order to make up for the shortage of labor, they are overworking and abusing the workforces."

PSR helped destroy [62,000 railroad jobs](#) between [March 2015 and November 2022](#). The 30% plunge in jobs and service delays is linked to increasing the [average train length](#) by 25%. Many railroad yards were closed or downsized.

A relentless drive to reduce crew size resulted in the Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, tragedy. Forty-seven people were killed there in 2013 when a runaway train of oil tank cars exploded. There was only one crew member, an engineer, on the train.

PSR was the brainchild of the late Hunter Harrison, the son of a Memphis, Tennessee, cop. [Harrison's daddy](#) helped enforce racial segregation laws for a local ruling class that helped kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

Harrison introduced PSR on the old Illinois Central Railroad, which was gobbled up by the Canadian National Railway. Harrison became the Canadian National's CEO and imposed PSR on all the railway's workers.

Yet as of Dec. 1, all Canadian railroad workers and a million other "federally regulated" employees in Canada [will get 10 sick days](#) annually. Why are Canadian railroaders getting sick days while the U.S. Congress refused to provide any?

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau serves the banksters just as U.S. politicians do. A big difference is that a million workers joined a general strike called by the Canadian Labor Congress on Oct. 14, 1976. They were protesting the cutback policies of Justin Trudeau's father, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Many Canadian workers vote for the New Democratic Party, which was co-founded by the Canadian Labor Congress. That's unlike the U.S. Democratic Party, which was founded by the slavemaster and rapist Thomas Jefferson.

This greater political awareness includes labor defending former Black Panther Party member Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was framed and has spent 41 years in Pennsylvania prisons. The [Ontario Federation of Labor](#) voted in 2011 to "reaffirm its support of Mumia Abu-Jamal and step up its efforts to win his freedom."

We need a people's takeover

The mere threat of a strike has forced both the [Union Pacific and CSX](#) railroads to slightly modify their severe attendance policies. As Frederick Douglass declared, "If there is no struggle there is no progress."

In 1877, a co-worker of Douglass, Peter Clark, addressed striking railroad workers in Cincinnati. ("1877: Year of Violence" by Robert V. Bruce.)

The drop in railroad employment from 2 million workers in 1920 to 150,000 a century later has devastated communities coast-to-coast. These job cuts accelerated as Black workers and women workers were finally being hired in more jobs.

Hamlet, North Carolina, was an important junction on the old Seaboard railroad, now part of the CSX system. Because of the loss of railroad jobs, many local workers were hired by the non-union, low-wage Imperial Foods plant instead.

Twenty-five workers were [killed there on Sept. 3, 1991](#), when a fire broke out. The plant's owner, Emmett J. Rowe, locked the doors because he thought workers – many of whom were Black – would steal chickens.

White and Black workers died together because of Rowe's racism. Forty-nine children were orphaned.

Over 50,000 miles of U.S. railroad lines have been abandoned. The seven big U.S. and Canadian "class 1" railroads [hailed in profits](#) of \$27 billion last year.

That's more than double what these railroads [paid in wages](#). Meanwhile, CSX CEO James Foote [raked in \\$20 million](#).

The railroad monopolies owe not only sick days but reparations. Nine thousand miles of track were laid by enslaved Africans before the Civil War.

Thousands of more miles were built afterward by Black prisoners like [John Henry](#), the "steel driving man." Henry was worked to death by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, then run by Collis P. Huntington, and now part of CSX.

Hundreds of Chinese workers died building Huntington's Central Pacific Railroad across the Sierra Nevada mountains. General George Custer had it coming, and he died while leading an incursion into Lakota Sioux land for the Northern Pacific Railway, now part of BNSF.

Instead of BNSF being owned by Warren Buffett with his \$100 billion-plus fortune, it should be run by the people. To guarantee jobs, service, and safety, we need a people's takeover of the railroads.

The writer is a retired Amtrak worker and a member of the American Train Dispatchers Association and Transportation Communications Union.

José Maria Sisón (affectionately known as Comrade Joma) re-founded the Communist Party of the Philippines, based on Maoism, in 1968. He led the New People's Army in its ongoing war against the various reactionary, pro-imperialist puppet governments in the Philippines. He was arrested by the Marcos dictatorship in 1977 and released in 1986 after Marcos was overthrown. He moved to the Netherlands, where he served as chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front in peace negotiations with the Manila government. One of his many writings is Philippine Society and Revolution under the pseudonym Amado Guerrero.

<https://theredphoenixapl.org/2022/12/16/farewell-comrade-joma/>

Farewell, Comrade Joma

By Editor of *Red Phoenix* on December 16, 2022



While we in the American Party of Labor acknowledge that we had differences and disagreements with Comrade Joma, we say that these were the differences and disagreements that comrades do – and indeed must – have, if our cause is to move forward. But now is not the time to discuss differences. Now is the time to grieve. Today we are deeply saddened and bow our heads in tribute to a great revolutionary and a titan of the peoples' struggle for national self-determination, workers' democracy, and socialism. Farewell, Comrade Joma. The working people of the world will forever sing your name.

This is the first time I am including something from a Maoist group. I think we must acknowledge that the Maoists, despite any differences we have with them, at least understand that what we are seeing, particularly in Ukraine, is a struggle between imperialist blocs. This is important in creating a United Front (while of course continuing to debate ideological differences).

A similar situation exists with regard to certain left-revisionist parties, particularly the Greek KKE but also including groups such as ML Today in the US, which also understand that in Ukraine there is an inter-imperialist war.

Of course, this is all predicated on understanding the need to concentrate our fire on 'our own' imperialist power. This is the only reason that we can at all participate in united actions with those forces that see only US imperialism as the enemy of the world's people.

Rote Fahne 26/2022

Journal of the MLPD [Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany]

China: Mass protests against Xi Jinping

At the end of November, mass protests, especially against the extreme repression caused by Corona measures, have swept dozens of cities and universities across China.

As early as 2014, Xi Jinping sensed that the "social harmony" he propagated was not far away: "The gain and loss of popular support is decisive for the life or death of our Party."¹

The closure of factories, roadblocks, curfews, the welding of apartment doors with sometimes fatal consequences such as the fire in Urumqi were recently on the agenda. Many people no longer accept the brutal surveillance without a fight.



Protest action in Shanghai on November 27

These were the largest protests in China in decades. The "Internationale" was sung in various actions. The movement was spurred on by the courageous struggle of workers at Foxconn in Zhengzhou (Henan), the world's largest factory. They were locked up in the factory premises as in a prison in order to ruthlessly maintain production despite a wave of infections. On November 23, thousands of workers marched through the factory premises demanding higher wages and better occupational health and safety. They also did not back down from police units with water cannons, tear gas and batons.

The courage of the workers radiated throughout the country, breaking through the fear of oppression. At a demonstration in Beijing, a woman told Reuters: "Many people have already been arrested in Shanghai, not just last night. They did it for everyone. ... We have to help these people. Free the people of Shanghai!"²

Marxist-Leninist forces active

At the beginning of December, the revisionist party leadership around Xi Jinping had to make its first concessions. Quarantine rules, mandatory masks and mandatory testing have been significantly relaxed. Officially, this was justified by the more harmless Omicron variant, which prevails in China. But the hasty and uncoordinated easing proves that these are by no means planned measures, but a reaction to the mass protests.

The hectic reaction of the rulers shows their deep crisis. The criticism of the masses sometimes goes much deeper than the current demands show. This is one of the reasons why the government rigorously cracked down on the protests with mass arrests and was able to contain them for the time being. At the same time, the Western imperialists are also trying to influence the struggles. Especially among petty-bourgeois intermediate strata and a section of the youth, there are illusions in the supposed blessings of "Western democracy". But the revolutionary spirit of Mao Zedong cannot be extinguished among sections of the masses in China. There are Marxist-Leninist forces working to build a new revolutionary party. This is the decisive consequence so that the masses can come to terms with the betrayal of socialism in China. (fh)

1. Tagesschau, 27.11.2022

2. Xi Jinping, The Governance of China, p. 451 f., quoted from RW 37

Although the ILWU has a proud record of opposing US imperialism, in this case the ILWU leadership put out a statement: "ILWU declares that it will not work Russian Cargo in Solidarity with the People of Ukraine." This is ridiculous since the US is not sending any cargo to Russia. At the same time, it said nothing about stopping cargo to Ukraine. This position was opposed by a number of former and current members of the ILWU:

<https://mronline.org/2022/10/11/stop-the-ukraine-war-refuse-to-handle-military-cargo/>

Stop the Ukraine War—refuse to handle military cargo

ILWU Must Stand in Opposition to the U.S./NATO-Provoked War!

We, members and retirees of the ILWU, are very concerned about the Coast Committee's public statement of March 3, 2022 on the war in Ukraine. It diverges from the many anti-war positions that our union has taken even when it was unpopular to do so. The ILWU has always criticized NATO's war moves. Since the end of World War II we've opposed U.S. wars and coups in Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Serbia (former Yugoslavia), Cuba (Bay of Pigs Invasion), Chile (coup), El Salvador and Nicaragua.

On May Day 2008, ILWU shutdown all West Coast ports to oppose the "imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan" (as the Caucus resolution read). We have taken action at the point of production against U.S. wars and the apartheid government in South Africa. We refused to load military cargo to the anti-communist military juntas in Chile and El Salvador. We are proud of that legacy. The International Dockworkers Council (European Section) issued a declaration in February calling for an end to the Ukraine war. So must the ILWU.

We are faced with a class war at home and a war abroad between two capitalist governments. Unions are organizing to fight billionaire capitalists like Amazon owner Jeff Bezos and Oakland A's owner John Fisher who's scheming to build a ballpark in the busy port of Oakland. While ILWU is confronting PMA over automation and inflation in contract negotiations, people in Jackson, Mississippi and Flint, Michigan can't get clean drinking water. Worse still black and brown communities face deadly terror

from police and ICE daily. In 2003, police attacked anti-war demonstrators in the port of Oakland chanting “Wars are for profit workers can stop it!”

In 1967, during the Vietnam War, Martin Luther King, Jr. called the U.S. “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world”. After that speech ILWU Local 10 invited him to speak at the union meeting where he was awarded “Honorary Member” status in our union. A year after his anti-war speech he was assassinated. The U.S. has been in a state of perpetual warfare since WWII. The Ukraine war, provoked by U.S./NATO aggression, is a dangerous preliminary war jeopardizing a massive nuclear contamination at Zaphorizhzhia, the largest nuclear plant in Europe, and can lead to nuclear war against Russia and to WWII with China.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Secretary of State James Baker promised not to threaten Russia’s security by moving NATO towards Russia’s border by adding countries of the former Eastern Bloc. That agreement has been broken time and again by the U.S. despite warnings by Russia. We believe there needs to be a position taken on the Ukraine war consistent with ILWU’s history. Dockworkers internationally can stop this bloody war. The reactionary, nationalist governments of Russia and Ukraine won’t.

In 2014, a U.S.-driven Maidan coup in Ukraine overthrew the elected government and burned down the trade union headquarters building in Odessa, killing 48 people. In opposition to the coup two Russian-speaking provinces of Eastern Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, seceded. The democratic right to self-determination from the nationalist Kiev government which banned the Russian language must be recognized for the Eastern and Southern provinces. The neo-fascist Azov Brigade opened fire on the two newly-founded republics of the Donbas region, killing over 15,000 civilians. African immigrants in Ukraine attempting to flee the war were subjected to racial discrimination by the Zelensky government.

Furthermore, his neoliberal capitalist government just passed Law 5371 meaning 70% of Ukraine’s workers cannot have unions negotiate collective bargaining agreements or fight an employer’s firing of workers. This anti-union law is opposed by Ukraine’s Federation of Trade Unions. Zelensky’s martial law prevents workers from protesting anti-labor laws by striking.

The ILWU must call for an end to the war. Most importantly we must appeal for port actions to the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to refuse to handle military cargo by dockworkers around the world. They both opposed the Zionist massacre of Palestinians last year. They can call for an end to the Ukraine war now. International workers actions refusing to handle military cargo can stop it.

Angela Davis (Honorary Member, ILWU Local 10), Brian McWilliams (#13303 past International President, ILWU) Larry Wright (#8534 ret. Local 10 & 91), Clarence Thomas (#8718 ret. Local 10), Dan Coffman (#92556 past President of Longview, WA Local 21) Jack Heyman (#8780 ret. Local 10 and IBU), David Newton (#101386 Local 10), Michael Vawter (#8145 ret. Local 10), Stephen Barlow (#8301 Local 10 and 34), Leith Jasinowski-Kahl (#57956 Local 19), James Curtis (#9639 ret. Local 10), Jack Mulcahy (#82013 ret. Local 8), Marcus Holder (#101355 ret. Local 10), Keith Shanklin (#9146 past President of Local 34), Michael O’Sullivan (#8985 ret. Local 10), Russ Miyashiro (#13474 Local 34), Aaron Wright (#8862 Local 10), Kevin Gibbons (#8939 Local 19 and 34)

WAPO is a new organization, so its practice is still to be determined. We see that some of the members of the Coordinating Council represent Marxist-Leninist parties, At the same time, we note that only the Western imperialists and Japan are mentioned. We wish WAPO success as a united front organization.



WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANISATION (WAPO)

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16th December, 2022

PRESS RELEASE- SG 001

The Imperialist Aggressiveness and the Birth of the West Africa Peoples Organisation (WAPO)

As you would be aware, West Africa is endowed with abundant extractive wealth in the form of water, forest, energy, minerals and bio-resources. It has an enormous arable lands and a youthful, energetic and creative population. But, up to 90% of this wealth is owned and controlled by capitalist foreign interests from France, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Japan. Only 2.6% of our arable lands are under direct cultivation while our various neocolonial states continue to turn out 75% of its future human labour resources as brawn or non-mental workers. Over 50 years of political independence have left West Africa with no industrialized State. Traditional industry is still crude or rudimentary and characterized by low productivity and output. As we become more dependent, peripheral, neocolonial states run on behalf of imperialism by our political elites and the comprador bourgeoisie, the peoples of West Africa continue to face regional insecurity, insufficiency of healthcare, unemployment, inequality, abuses, exploitation and corruption.

These devastating conditions in which the peoples of West Africa find themselves are the impact and vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. Today, these imperialists and their local elites continue to brutally exploit the region in the form of neo-colonialism through transnational and multinational corporations. The West African Sahel has become one of the unstable region of Africa with recurring armed conflicts, low intensity civil wars, piracy, political and communal violence. Similarly, the presence of large reserves of crude oil and minerals such as uranium are leading to intense geopolitical rivalry and competition. Slowly the imperialists are perniciously surrounding us through the location of military bases and concentration of their troops. At the last count, there are over 20 of such military bases.

Considering this situation, 100 delegates and observers met in the historic town of Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana at a Conference themed “West Africa People for a New World” between 8th to 11th December, 2022. Participants were drawn from organized labour, farmers, women’s movements, youth and cultural organizations, Pan-Africanist formations, political parties and the broad anti-imperialist and progressive movements across West Africa. Our number included observers from Africa’s eastern, southern and northern regions and from Asia and Latin America. Over three days we engaged in intense historical discussion of the situation of West Africa today. We considered our independent history prior to the arrival of European capitalism on our shores. We considered the main frameworks of exploitation of the region – slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism - that an increasingly globalised capitalism has imposed on our development and the lasting political, socio-economic, and cultural problems this has generated for our society.

At the end of three days of intense deliberations, the conference resolved to establish a region-wide

organization to be known as West Africa Peoples Organization (or Organisation des Peuples d'Afrique de l'Ouest in French or Organizaçao do Povo da Africa Ocidental in Portuguese). The West Africa Peoples Organisation (WAPO) is foremost an anti-imperialist network that promotes regional unity across West Africa. It seeks to build a new West Africa with the people and for the people; where the well-being and equality of its citizens are assured within a peaceful development framework based on democratic planning. The ultimate aim of WAPO is to mobilize the working peoples of West Africa to end poverty, inequality, corruption, discrimination, backwardness and violence inflicted on the region by five centuries of colonialist and imperialist domination. Other objectives include uniting our struggles across borders, providing unalloyed solidarity to the working class and confronting imperialists and colonial forces as one.

To achieve this WAPO will promote anti-imperialism and Pan-Africanism across West Africa. It will work alongside other organisations in a multi-faceted African and global struggle against imperialism. Finally, it will also strive to end wasteful competition and profit accumulation by foreign and local capitalist elites.

WAPO elected a seven-member Coordinating Council to lead its efforts over the next four years. The councilors comprise:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| a) | President | Philippe T. NOUDJENOUME of PCB, Benin |
| b) | First Deputy President | Martin EGBANUBI of the Nigerian Union of Allied Health Professional (NUAHP-TUC), Nigeria |
| c) | Second Deputy President | Khady NDIAYE of FRAPP-Fernent, Senegal |
| d) | Secretary General | Kafui KAN-SENAYA of SMG, Ghana |
| e) | Treasurer | Achy EKISSI of PCRCI, Cote d'Ivoire |
| f) | Member | Imanina IMOJA of PAIGC, Guinea Bissau |
| g) | Member | Aboubacar ALASSANE of ORDN, Niger |


KAFUI KAN-SENAYA
 SECRETARY GENERAL
 050 295 8146

Sooner or later, we will get justice and reparations!

Statement of the National Council of Popular Committees (CNCP), Martinique December 10, 2022

Such ignominy would never have been possible in France: Thousands of human beings poisoned by pesticides banned in Europe and imposed under duress, decimated by a horrible pathology, are denied access to justice and reparations by judgments unworthy of magistrates!

Never in the so-called "country of human rights" has an expert who came to testify on behalf of the victims of an air crash been barred from entering a court.

It is because the French colonial power and the segregationist caste that dominates our country are racist that they had no qualms about consciously poisoning all our people in order to enrich themselves and that they feel they are accountable to no one! After all, it is only the continuation of the massacres they have continued to perpetrate throughout the history of the barbaric colonization, slave trade and enslavement of African peoples.

Yes, it is because they are steeped in a supremacist ideology, in all its ugliness, that they allow themselves to commit crimes that they believe should go unpunished.

While French magistrates claim that this does not happen, the workers who have spread the poisonous pesticides under duress continue to die of multiple cancers and endocrine diseases; their children are born with heart or genital malformations or developmental delays; their daughters suffer from endometriosis and, for many, can no longer procreate; those poisoned by fungicides in the airplane hangars or during aerial spraying are affected by uterine or lung cancers, polyarthritis and blindness.

While the French magistrates claim that this does not happen, the criminals that they protect continue to perpetrate their harm: Our country of 1100 km², under the control of France, remains the third largest user of glyphosate. Worse, between January and September of this year 2022, as revealed by the NGO Public Eyes and Greenpeace, France exported 7500 tons of pesticides to Third World countries that are banned on its territory.

Gentlemen and ladies of the French judiciary, to the maneuvers carried out to cover up a crime against humanity and an abominable health scandal, you dare to add a campaign of persecution against those who demand justice and reparation. After they have been gassed and severely brutalized by the French military, anti-Chlordecone activists are being dragged into your courts. The government and the caste do not tolerate their peaceful protest in front of shopping malls belonging to the poisoners to demand justice and reparations.

Gentlemen and ladies of the French judiciary, remember that your peers did as much or worse in Indochina and Algeria! They were driven out! Do you really believe that the inevitable wind of history will not sweep the territory of the last French colonies?

Your arrogance makes you blind. Know that our people will always stand up to you, whether through their mobilizations, the internationalization of their struggle, the judicial procedures at the international level and any other form of legitimate struggle.

Sooner or later, we will get justice and reparations! The supremacists will be punished!

**For the CNCP, President
Jean ABAUL**



The Russian Revolution and its contribution to human rights

Analyzing the history of the well-known Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) we can see that the first work to recognize these rights was the "Declaration of the Rights of Working and Exploited People", drafted by Lenin and approved by the session of the Central Executive Committee of January 3, 1918, which was ratified, with some modifications, on January 12 by the Third All-Russian Congress of Soviets.

With this Declaration, the triumphant proletariat made public a proposal that overcame bourgeois individualism and vindicated the dignity of the workers and peoples, thus creating the embryo of ESCR, that is, the right to work, housing, health and free education, leisure and recreation.

The power of the workers made it possible to guarantee social rights for the population as a whole. Free housing was provided; food and education was assured for all; schools for the sons and daughters of workers. In relation to health, everyone had access to care, self-care and health education.

This position of the Bolsheviks was not new, it was the development of the ideas that they had been putting forward since 1896. Lenin pointed out in his pamphlet titled "A Retrograde Trend in Russian Social-Democracy" (1899), that the overthrow of absolutism meant "the tsar's renunciation of absolute power; the granting to the people of the right to elect their own representatives for legislation, for supervision over the actions of the government officials, for supervision over the collection and disbursement of state revenues. This type of government in which the people participate in legislation and administration is called the *constitutional* form of government."

The Russian revolutionaries, from the beginning, understood that the task of the revolution was not only to overthrow absolutism, but to fight for a different society.

The actions of Soviet power had subsequent and immediate echoes in 1917 with the Mexican Constitution and the German Weimar Constitution in 1919. These two documents recognized the ESCR and became proposals of the bourgeoisie of a progressive liberal and social democratic hue, respectively,

through which these rights were recognized in order to demobilize the mass actions of struggle that the workers and peoples had been developing.

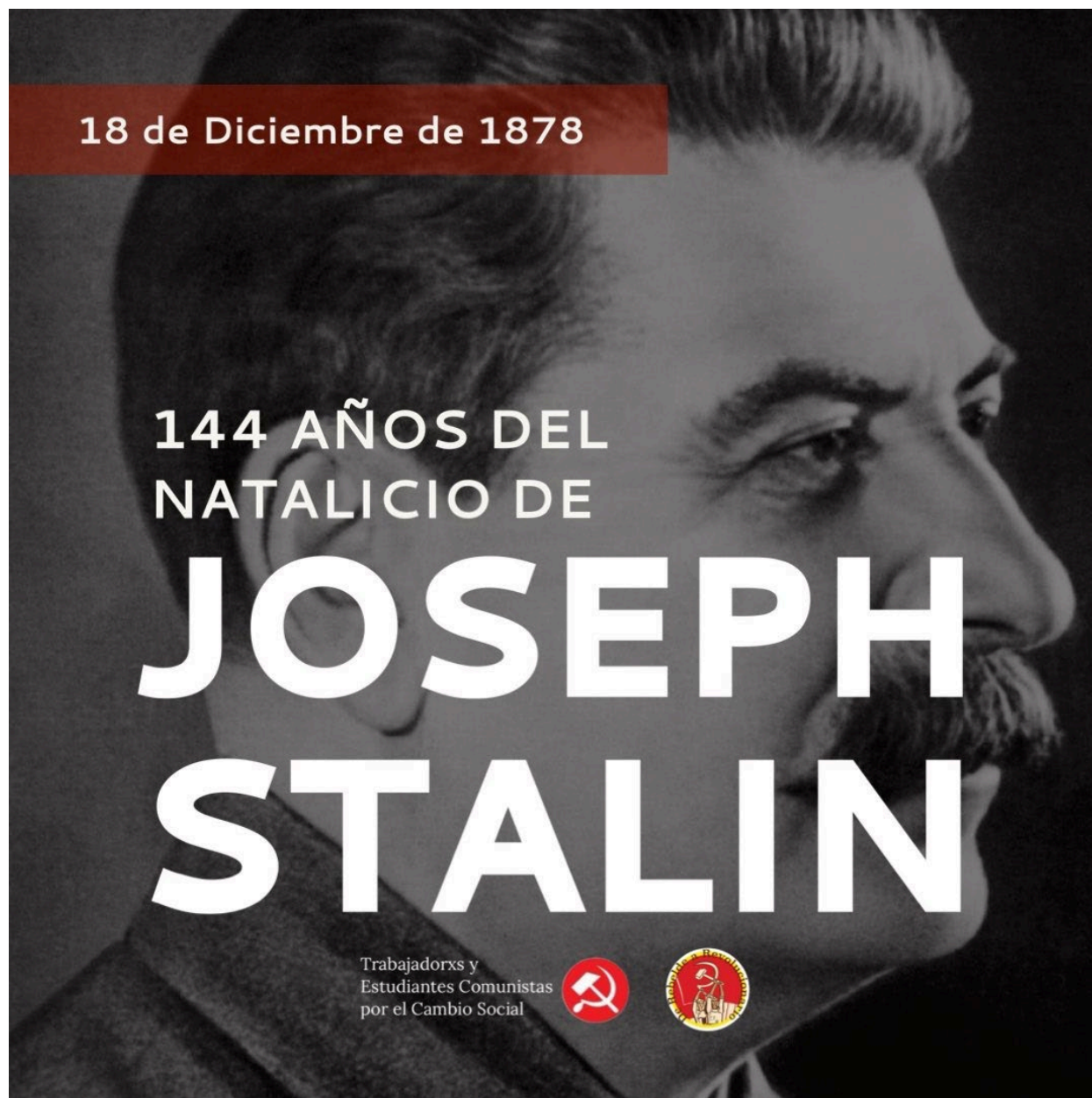
Likewise, many of the rights in favor of women, such as equal pay, abortion and others, were recognized by the Soviet power, today these are the banner of struggle of the peoples in Ecuador. The heroic deed of the workers and the Bolshevik party left its mark on the history of humanity.

Beyond the use that the ruling classes can make of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the truth is that capitalism had to recognize a minimum of dignity that the peoples should have.

The rights of Soviet workers and peoples were consolidated and expressed more fully in the Constitution of 1936. Comrade Stalin stated: What distinguishes the Draft of the new Constitution is the fact that it does not confine itself to stating the formal rights of citizens, but especially stresses the guarantees of these rights, the means by which these rights can be exercised. It does not merely proclaim equality of rights for citizens, but ensures it by giving legislative embodiment to the fact that the regime of exploitation has been abolished, to the fact that the citizens have been emancipated from all exploitation. It does not merely proclaim the right to work, but ensures it by giving legislative embodiment to the fact that there are no crises in Soviet society, and that unemployment has been abolished. It does not merely proclaim democratic liberties, but legislatively ensures them by providing definite material resources.”

Stalin's Role in Building Socialism – 144 Years Since Joseph Stalin's Birth

December 18, 2022 ~ Giokollontai



On December 18, 1878, Joseph Stalin, known as the Man of Steel, was born. Anti-communist bourgeois propaganda as well as academia, the intelligentsia of the imperialist countries and the revisionists, have created the paradigm that Stalin was a ruthless and cruel dictator. Today we can know the truth with certainty, thanks to the secret archives of the USSR that have been revealed by Russian and other important historians such as Grover Furr of the US, who through their investigations have been able to refute the vile slanders about Stalin of this bourgeois anti-communist propaganda. We recommended the books: *Khrushchev lied*; *Stalin, Waiting for the truth*; *The Murder of Sergei Kirov*; *The Mystery of The Katyn Massacre: The evidence, The solution*, by Grover Furr; *Trotskyism: Counter-Revolution in Disguise*, by M. J. Olgin; *The Permanent Revolution Defeated*, by Jorge Echazú Alvarado; *Trotskyism or Leninism*,

by Harpal Brar; *Another look at Stalin*, by Ludo Martens; *The Great Conspiracy Against Russia*, by Michael Sayers and Albert E. Khan.

We reproduce this writing authored by E. Ódena, taken from the blog of Universidad Obrera, about the comrade and great communist leader Joseph Stalin, in commemoration of his birth.

Stalin's Role in Building Socialism – E. Ódena

Despite the subsequent betrayal after Stalin's death by the new leaders of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the USSR, the Great October Revolution of 1917 opened a new era in the history of mankind, the era of socialist revolutions led by the proletariat and its Party. The era of building socialism as a first step towards communist society.

And in this era, after the death of the great genius of the revolution, Lenin, Comrade Stalin has played a role not only on the highest plane, but even decisive. Nothing and no one, no matter how vile the calumnies of reaction and the counter-revolutionaries, can hide this objective truth.

When Lenin died in January 1924, the objective conditions for the construction of socialism in the USSR were not only extremely complex and difficult internally, but also externally. On the one hand, the country was backward and impoverished and ruined by imperialist war and then by civil war, and the first military aggression of more than 14 capitalist countries that combined their forces against the new socialist state.

But Stalin, at the head of the Party, knew how to draw a correct and bold line to build socialist society and this, despite the capitalist encirclement and the fierce class struggle that continued internally. Thus the Soviet people, under the leadership of Stalin and the Party, undertook not only the industrialization of the country, laying the economic foundations of socialism, but also the enormous task of transforming backward and abandoned agriculture, the countryside, into developed and advanced agriculture.

Through collectivization plans drawn up under Stalin's personal leadership, agriculture in the USSR became the most advanced in the world, with more than 242,000 kolkhozes (socialist cooperatives) and more than 4,000 sovkhoses (state farms) being built.

During the years 1927-1928 a great effort was made to reinforce the provision of tractors and agricultural machinery to cooperative members and state farms. Relying essentially on the poor peasantry, the collectivization of agriculture as a whole was developed, thus defeating the kulaks (middle and rich peasants⁴ who opposed the socialist regime) in practice based on solid foundations.

Similarly, Stalin turned the plans for the electrification of the whole country into reality, which had been planned before Comrade Lenin died, which made it possible to accelerate the industrialization of the whole country under the best conditions.

“Can such a radical transformation of the old bourgeois order be achieved without a violent revolution, without the dictatorship of the proletariat? Obviously not. To think that such a revolution can be carried out peacefully, within the framework of bourgeois democracy, which is adapted to the rule of the bourgeoisie, means that one has either gone out of one's mind and lost normal human understanding, or has grossly and openly repudiated the proletarian revolution.” *Joseph Stalin* [From “*Concerning Questions of Leninism*”]

⁴ The kulaks were rich peasants; they did not include the middle peasants – *translator's note*.



La Revolución Rusa y su aporte a los derechos humanos

Analizando la historia de los conocidos Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (DESC) podremos ver que el primer texto en reconocer estos derechos fue la “Declaración de los derechos del pueblo trabajador y explotado”, redactada por Lenin y aprobada por la sesión del Comité Ejecutivo Central del 3 de enero de 1918, misma que se ratificó, con algunas modificaciones, el 12 de enero por el III Congreso de los Soviets de toda Rusia.

Con esta Declaración, el proletariado triunfante hizo público una propuesta que supere el individualismo burgués y reivindique la dignidad de los trabajadores y pueblos, creando, de esta manera, el embrión de los DESC, esto es el derecho al trabajo, vivienda, salud y educación gratuita, esparcimiento y recreación.

El poder de los trabajadores permitió garantizar los derechos sociales para la población en su conjunto. Se proveyó vivienda gratuita; alimentación; la educación fue asegurada para todos; las escuelas para los hijos e hijas de los trabajadores. En relación con la salud, todos tenían acceso al cuidado, autocuidado y educación para la salud.

Esta posición de los bolcheviques no era nueva, era el desarrollo de las ideas que desde 1896 venían planteando. Lenin señalaba en su folleto titulado “Una tendencia regresiva en la socialdemocracia rusa” (1899), que el derrocamiento del absolutismo significaba “(...) la renuncia del zar a ejercer un poder ilimitado: el otorgamiento al pueblo del derecho a elegir sus representantes para la elaboración de las leyes, para vigilar las actividades de los funcionarios, la percepción y la utilización de los medios financieros del Estado. Esa forma de gobierno, en la cual el pueblo participa en la legislación y en la administración, se llama forma constitucional de gobierno”.

Los revolucionarios rusos, desde sus inicios, comprendieron que la tarea de la revolución no solo era derrocar el absolutismo, sino que era necesario luchar por una sociedad diferente.

Las acciones del poder soviético tuvieron ecos posteriores e inmediatos en el año 1917 con la Constitución mexicana y la Constitución alemana de Weimar en 1919. Estas dos normas reconocen los DESC y se convierten en propuestas de la burguesía de tinte liberal progresista y socialdemócrata,

respectivamente, mediante las cuales, se reconocen derechos para desmovilizar las masivas acciones de lucha que los trabajadores y pueblos venían desarrollando.

Así mismo, muchos de los derechos en favor de la mujer como la igualdad salarial, el aborto y otros, fueron reconocidos por el poder soviético, hoy estos están siendo bandera de lucha de los pueblos en el Ecuador. La gesta heroica de los obreros y el partido bolchevique deja su huella en la historia de la humanidad.

Más allá del uso que las clases dominantes puedan hacer de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, lo cierto es que el capitalismo tuvo que reconocer mínimos de dignidad que deben tener los pueblos.

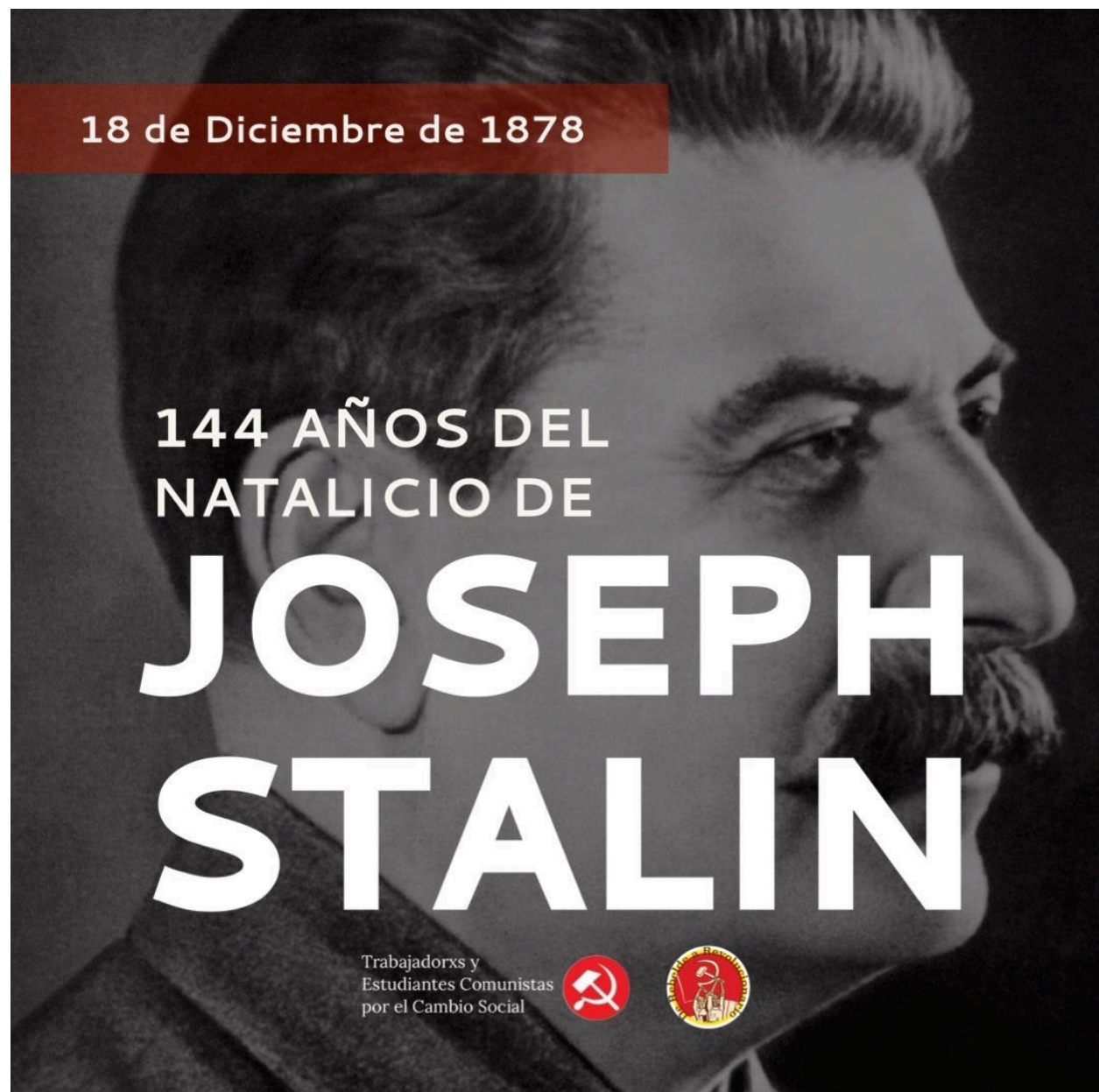
Los derechos de los trabajadores y pueblos soviéticos se consolidaron y expresaron con mayor plenitud en la Constitución de 1936, la misma que, al decir del camarada Stalin, “(...) no se limita a enunciar los derechos formales **35**

de los ciudadanos, sino que hace hincapié en las garantías de estos derechos, en los medios para su ejercicio. No proclama simplemente la igualdad de derechos de los ciudadanos, sino que los asegura consolidando legislativamente la supresión del régimen de explotación, la emancipación de los ciudadanos de toda explotación. No proclama simplemente el derecho al trabajo, sino que lo garantiza, consolidando legislativamente la ausencia de crisis en la sociedad soviética, la supresión del paro forzoso. No solamente proclama las libertades democráticas, sino que las garantiza legislativamente, facilitando los medios materiales necesarios.”

<https://derebeldearevolucionario.com/>

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18 De diciembre De 2022 ~ Giokollontai



Un día como hoy, 18 de diciembre de 1878, nació Joseph Stalin, conocido como el hombre de acero. La propaganda burguesa anticomunista así como la academia, la inteligencia de los países imperialistas y los revisionistas, han creado el paradigma de que Stalin fue un dictador implacable y cruel. Hoy podemos saber con certeza la verdad, gracias a los

archivos secretos de la URSS que han sido develados por historiadores rusos y otros importantes como el estadounidense Grover Furr, que a través de sus investigaciones han podido desmentir las viles calumnias sobre Stalin de esta propaganda burguesa anticomunista. Libros recomendados: *Krushov mintió; Stalin, esperando la verdad; The Murder of Sergei Kirov; The Mystery of The Katyn Massacre: The evidence, The solution*, autor Grover Furr; *Trotskismo: la contrarrevolución disfrazada*, M. J. Olgin; *La revolución permanente derrotada*, Jorge Echazú Alvarado; *Trotskismo o Leninismo*, Harpal Brar; *Otra mirada de Stalin*, Ludo Martens; *La gran conspiración contra Rusia*, Michael Sayers y Albert E. Khan.

Reproducimos este escrito de la autoría de E. Ódena, tomado del blog de Universidad Obrera, sobre el camarada y gran líder comunista Joseph Stalin, en conmemoración de su natalicio.

El papel de Stalin en la construcción del socialismo – E. Ódena

Pese a la posterior traición tras la muerte de Stalin de los nuevos dirigentes de la Unión Soviética y del Partido Comunista de la URSS, la Gran Revolución de Octubre de 1917 abrió en la historia de la humanidad una nueva era, la era de las revoluciones socialistas dirigidas por el proletariado y por su Partido, la era de la edificación del socialismo como primer paso hacia la sociedad comunista.

Y en esta era, tras la muerte del gran genio de la revolución que fue Lenin, el camarada Stalin ha desempeñado un papel no sólo de primerísimo plano, sino incluso decisivo. Nada ni nadie, por más que lo intenten con viles calumnias la reacción y los contrarrevolucionarios, podrán ocultar esta verdad objetiva.

Al morir Lenin en enero de 1924, las condiciones objetivas de la construcción del socialismo en la URSS eran no sólo sumamente complejas y difíciles en el plano interior, sino también en el exterior. De un lado, el país era atrasado y estaba empobrecido y destruido por la guerra imperialista y después por la guerra civil, y la primera agresión militar de más de 14 países capitalistas que conjugaron sus fuerzas contra el nuevo Estado socialista.

Pero Stalin, a la cabeza del Partido, supo trazar una justa y audaz línea para edificar la sociedad socialista y ello, pese al cerco capitalista y a la encarnizada lucha de clases que continuaba en el plano interior. Así el pueblo soviético, bajo la dirección de Stalin y del Partido, emprendió no sólo la industrialización del país, sentando las bases económicas del socialismo, sino también la ingente tarea de transformar la atrasada y abandonada agricultura, el campo, en una agricultura desarrollada y avanzada.

Mediante los planes de colectivización trazados bajo la dirección personal de Stalin, la agricultura en la URSS pasó a ser la más avanzada del mundo, constituyéndose más de 242.000 koljoses (cooperativas socialistas) y más de 4.000 sovjoses (granjas estatales).

Durante los años 1927-1928 se llevó a cabo un gran esfuerzo por reforzar la entrega de tractores y maquinaria agrícola a los cooperativistas y a las granjas estatales. Apoyándose esencialmente en el campesinado pobre, se pasó a la colectivización del conjunto de la agricultura, derrotando así en la práctica sobre bases sólidas a los kulaks (campesinos medios y ricos* que se oponían al régimen socialista).

* Los kulaks eran los campesinos ricos – no incluyen los campesinos medios – *nota del traductor en inglés.*

De igual modo, Stalin convirtió en realidad los planes de electrificación de todo el país, que había previsto antes de morir el camarada Lenin, lo que permitió acelerar la industrialización de todo el país en condiciones óptimas.

“¿Es posible lograr una transformación radical del orden burgués sin una revolución violenta, sin la dictadura del proletariado? Evidentemente que no. Quien crea que semejante revolución puede llevarse a cabo pacíficamente sin salirse del marco de la democracia burguesa, adaptada a la dominación de la burguesía, ha perdido la cabeza y toda noción del sentido común, o reniega cínica o abiertamente de la revolución proletaria.” *Joseph Stalin* [De “*Questiones de leninismo*”]