

CONCLUSION

Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said, "Marxism can only develop through struggle—this is true not only in the past and present, it is necessarily true in the future also."¹

The great Lenin spent his life in resolute and acute struggle against revisionist and opportunist trends in all their manifestations. He wrote:

Such is my fate. One militant campaign after another against political stupidities, vulgarities, opportunism, etc.

This ever since 1893. And the hatred of the philistines resulting from it. Well, anyhow I would not exchange this fate for "peace" with the philistines.²

It was through the fight against revisionism, opportunism and various other bourgeois trends that Lenin defended Marxism and carried it forward to a new historical stage, namely, the stage of Leninism.

Stalin said:

. . . Leninism was born, grew up and became strong in relentless struggle against opportunism of every

¹"On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People", Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1960, p. 51.

²"Letter to Inessa Armand, December 18, 1916", *Collected Works*, 4th Russian ed., Moscow, Vol. 35, p. 209.

brand, including Centrism in the West (Kautsky) and Centrism in our country (Trotsky, etc.).¹

He also said:

What is contained in Lenin's method was in the main already contained in the teachings of Marx, which, according to Marx himself, were "in essence critical and revolutionary". It is precisely this critical and revolutionary spirit that pervades Lenin's method from beginning to end. But it would be wrong to suppose that Lenin's method is merely the restoration of the method of Marx. As a matter of fact, Lenin's method is not only the restoration, but also the concretisation and further development of the critical and revolutionary method of Marx, of his materialist dialectics.²

Again he said:

Lenin was, and remains, the most loyal and consistent pupil of Marx and Engels, and he wholly and completely based himself on the principles of Marxism.

But Lenin did not merely carry out the teaching of Marx and Engels. He was at the same time the continuer of that teaching.

What does that mean?

It means that he developed further the teaching of Marx and Engels in conformity with the new conditions of development, with the new phase of capitalism, with imperialism. It means that in developing further the teaching of Marx in the new conditions of the class

¹Stalin, "Some Questions Concerning the History of Bolshevism", *Works*, Moscow, Vol. 13, p. 87.

²Stalin, "The Foundations of Leninism", *Works*, Moscow, Vol. 0, pp. 90-91.

struggle, Lenin contributed something new to the general treasury of Marxism as compared with what was created by Marx and Engels, with what could be created in the pre-imperialist period of capitalism; at the same time Lenin's new contribution to the treasury of Marxism is wholly and completely based on the principles laid down by Marx and Engels.

It is in this sense that we speak of Leninism as Marxism of the era of imperialism and proletarian revolutions.¹

The contradictions between Marxism-Leninism on the one hand and revisionism and opportunism on the other are irreconcilable. The struggle against revisionism and opportunism is an inseparable part of the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie and an inseparable part of the people's liberation struggle throughout the world against imperialist enslavement. Without protracted, resolute and unyielding struggle against revisionism and opportunism, there can be no talk about persistence in Marxism-Leninism and opposition to capitalist-imperialism, nor any possibility of victory in the proletarian revolution, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the building of socialism and the transition to communism.

The revisionist and opportunist factions will never disappear of themselves, nor will they see their errors and mend their ways. Lenin said:

The relatively "peaceful" character of the period between 1871 and 1914 served to foster opportunism first

¹ Stalin, "Interview with the First American Labour Delegation", *Works*, Moscow, Vol. 10, pp. 97-98.

as a *mood*, then as a *trend*, until finally it formed a *group or stratum* among the labour bureaucracy and petty-bourgeois fellow-travellers.¹

He also said:

Certain individuals among the present social-chauvinist leaders may return to the proletariat; but the social chauvinist, or (what is the same thing) opportunist *trend* can neither disappear nor "return" to the revolutionary proletariat.²

The history of the growth and collapse of the revisionism and opportunism of the Second International proves that revisionist and opportunist factions, as agencies of the bourgeoisie, become more and more hostile to Marxism-Leninism and revolution with the sharpening of the class struggle and the development of the revolutionary movements of the proletariat and the toiling masses.

The revisionist faction is a sworn enemy of Marxism, yet it swears by the name of Marx. Lenin said:

You cannot prevent it from doing so any more than a trading firm can be prevented from using any label, any sign, any advertisement it pleases.³

He said on another occasion:

What is now happening to Marx's teaching has, in the course of history, happened repeatedly to the teach-

¹ "Opportunism and the Collapse of the Second International", *Collected Works*, Moscow, Vol. 22, p. 111.

² "Imperialism and the Split in the Socialist Movement", *Collected Works*, New York, Vol. XIX, p. 349.

³ *Ibid.*

ings of revolutionary thinkers and leaders of oppressed classes struggling for emancipation. During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes constantly hounded them, received their teachings with the most savage malice, the most furious hatred and the most unscrupulous campaigns of lies and slander. After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonize them, so to say, and to surround their *names* with a certain halo for the "consolation" of the oppressed classes and with the object of duping the latter, while at the same time emasculating the *essence* of the revolutionary teaching, blunting its revolutionary edge and vulgarizing it. At the present time, the bourgeoisie and the opportunists within the working-class movement concur in this "doctoring" of Marxism. They omit, obliterate and distort the revolutionary side of this teaching, its revolutionary soul. They push to the foreground and extol what is or seems acceptable to the bourgeoisie.¹

Marxists should be able to see through such tricks of the revisionists and opportunists, and, like Lenin, relentlessly tear off their masks, discredit them before the broad masses of the people and leave them no place to hide anywhere in the world.

Lenin taught that the winning over of the masses is the key to the struggle against revisionism and opportunism. He declared:

. . . it is our duty . . . if we wish to remain Socialists, to go down *lower* and *deeper*, to the real masses:

¹"The State and Revolution", *Selected Works*, Moscow, Vol. II, Part 1, p. 202.

this is the whole meaning and the whole content of the struggle against opportunism.¹

He said further:

Against the social-traitors, against reformism and opportunism, this political line can and must be followed in *all* spheres of the struggle without exception. And then we shall win the working masses. And with the working masses, the Marxist centralized political party, the vanguard of the proletariat, will take the people along the right road to the triumph of the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proletarian instead of bourgeois democracy, to the Soviet Republic, to the socialist system.²

The conflict of Marxism against revisionism and opportunism is a protracted and tortuous one. Lenin said that it "now flares up in a bright flame and now dies down and smoulders under the ashes of imposing 'truce resolutions'".³ Despite the bankruptcy of the old-line revisionists and opportunists, so long as the capitalist class and imperialism exist they will always try to train new ones as their agents in the communist movement. In the early days of 1917, Lenin predicted that during the decades ahead "new Plekhanovs, new Scheidemanns, new sentimental conciliators like Kautsky will grow up from the depths of the 'united' international Social-

¹"Imperialism and the Split in the Socialist Movement", *op. cit.*, p. 351.

²*Greetings to Italian, French and German Communists*, F.L.P.H., Moscow, p. 21.

³"What Is to Be Done?", *Collected Works*, Moscow, Vol. 5, p. 353.

Democracy".¹ The lesson is that we must always be on the watch for the emergence of revisionism and opportunism of any kind and wage a persistent struggle against them.

The history of the development of the communist movement eloquently confirms the invincibility of Marxism-Leninism. It is all powerful because it is correct. Marxism-Leninism helps the proletariat to see clearly what it is struggling for and to understand the laws of changing events, so that it can march resolutely forward in the proper direction and assuredly win and consolidate victory. Although revisionists and opportunists may raise a temporary hue and cry, they do not, after all, amount to more than an adverse current in the communist movement as a whole, and they will eventually be submerged in the revolutionary torrent of Marxism-Leninism. No force has ever been able to stop Marxism-Leninism from marching onward triumphantly, and no force ever will.

¹ "A Turn in World Politics", *Collected Works*, New York, Vol. XIX, p. 428.