

# MARXISM FOR TODAY

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## IV

It was evident that a new and revolutionary force was coming to life, a force that was destined not only to revolutionize society in the future, but also to revolutionize Socialist theory and the Socialist movement immediately.

Pre-Marxian socialism could not adapt itself to the new revolutionary situation. It was rather afraid of it. The awakening proletarian movement could not, on the other hand, accept and assimilate pre-Marxian socialism, a socialism that was for the workers a socialism of escape rather than of struggle.

Engels labeled this socialism "utopian" and this name has stuck. Both Marx and Engels had a very high opinion of their utopian forerunners. They freely and willingly acknowledged their debt to them, but accept their socialism they could not.

Utopian socialism was as unscientific as it was unrealistic. The utopian were excellent critics of existing social conditions, but had not the slightest knowledge of the inner mechanism and the dynamic forces of society. They approached society, its laws and evolution, from a purely idealistic and metaphysical point of view that Marx and Engels not only rejected as false but also condemned as harmful.

### "True Reasons"

What was wrong with the world according to the utopians was that

human reason till now had failed to find the true principles upon which society should be organized. Ignorance of "true reason and justice" was at the root of all evil. "All the nations of the world," complains Robert Owen, "... are today governed by force, fraud, falsehood and fear, emanating from ignorance of governors and governed."

This view of Owen is common to all utopian socialists of his time, as well as to all utopians of our own time. All that is necessary for the reorganization of society is the "true principle." In our time it is the "blue print," the "right plan" that can appeal to all "reasonable and good people." Once this true principle is found, the rest will take care of itself. Those socialists and social reformers of our day who call conferences to work out the "blue print" for socialism are really continuing the work of the utopians.

### "Man of Genius"

Summing up the ideas of utopian socialism, Engels says, "If pure reason and justice have not hitherto ruled the world, this has been (in the conception of the utopians) the case only because men have not rightly understood them. What was wanted was the 'individual man of genius who has now arisen and who understands the truth.'"

Once this "individual man of

genius" is here everything will be all right; he will show us our errors and the way to eternal happiness.

The question, why this individual man of genius has been so late in arriving, does not bother the utopian. Social changes are, for him, in no way connected with time and space.

That the man of genius has not arisen, is for the utopian not an inevitable event, explains Engels, "it is a mere happy accident. He might just as well have been born 500 years earlier and might then have spared humanity 500 years of error, strife and suffering."

## 'Anti-War Frank' Joins Arms Race

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naval projects above the regular naval budget.

The bulk of this money is to be spent in armaments in the Pacific: \$14,715,000 on Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hawaii; \$4,335,000 on Mare Island, California, Naval Base; \$4,610,000 on Puget Sound Naval Base; \$2,659,000 on San Diego Air Base; \$5,621,000 for submarine and air bases on the Pacific terminals of the Panama Canal.

The Work Relief Bill signed by the President only a few days ago specifically appropriates \$600,000,000 for the CCC and increases the