

# MARXISM FOR TODAY

By HAIM KANTOROVITCH

## VII

**S**Ocialism, for the Utopian, is in no way bound with space and time. It may be established at any time, at any place. It does not depend on the stage of development of society, but only on the "happy accident" of the rise of a great leader. Utopianism is said to be a stage in the history of Socialism which we have long since passed.

But when one hears that all that China needs to establish Socialism is a Lenin, one is not so sure that Utopianism is really a thing of the past.

Not only of time and of space was Utopian Socialism independent, but also of social life. Socialism was for the Utopians an eternal truth that had nothing to do with either the problems or the struggles of their time. Society was divided, of course, into economic classes. There was a bitter class struggle in their midst. There is, of course, no doubt that these class struggles were the real, unconscious motives behind their search for the "true principle" on which to rebuild society. It was the plight and poverty of the masses that stirred them.

### The "Good People"

Nevertheless it hardly occurred to them to base their Socialism on the struggles of the masses for a better life. Utopian Socialism was for the workers, but not of the workers. Their appeal was not made to any class in particular, but to all classes, to humanity. So-

cialism was to be built up by good people who could understand the "true principle." The rich and powerful are best fitted for this task.

Most of the Utopians were afraid of the workers and their struggles. Saint Simon threatened the French capitalists that if they did not accept his plans the workers would get them.

"Robert Owen was evidently of the opinion," says Mr. Beer, "that it would do no good to society to reveal to the workmen the mysteries of wealth making and the principles of Communism before they had made a successful attempt to reorientate their character, to distinguish their violent class-warfare against the rich."

### Sit and Wait

He knew of the "class-warfare" of the workers against the rich, but this class warfare had to be "extinguished" before the workers could be available for his Socialist principles. There was no place for the workers as workers

in the Utopian Socialist movement. All the working class had to do was to wait until good people created Socialism.

The working class, however, did not wait even at the time when Utopian Socialism was at the height of its popularity. A labor movement was developing. The class-struggle had begun to take on more and more conscious form. Trade unions sprang up everywhere. They knew nothing about Utopian Socialism, and the Utopians thought little of them.

### The Trade Unions

In his controversy with Proudhon, Marx showed the necessity and the historical significance of the trade unions "which in spite of all the apprehensions and warnings of Utopians and economists, the workers have gone on establishing and perfecting, in order to be able to withstand the domination of capital."

The Utopians did not notice, and if they noticed, saw no connection between this rising labor movement and their own Socialist ideas. For Marx this movement was the basis and guarantee of his Socialism. The triumph of Socialism is the triumph of labor in its class-struggle against all other classes of society. Thus proletarian Socialism was born with Marxism.

(To Be Continued)