

# Planned Economy in the USSR

by Jay Lovestone

(Concluded from last issue)

## Historical Estimate of the Five Year Plan

The Five Year Plan marks the transition of the period of rehabilitation to that of Socialist construction. It is the first, general, all-embracing plan of socialist construction and differs from the previous steps of planned economy in the sense that all preceding efforts were limited in scope. The Five-Year Plan has proven to be the most effective program for hastening the completion of another stage in the development of socialist construction in the U. S. S. R. It is the extension of the socialist revolution to the agricultural front and to the rapid development of heavy industry.

1. The most important feature of the new order being so rapidly advanced in the Soviet Union, the feature which the Five-Year Plan is hastening, is not only the bringing about of new or much higher technique of industry, but is rather the new social spirit based not only on up-to-date technique, the most modern large scale machinery and scientific method; it is especially based on a fundamental change of attitude towards machinery. The Soviet workers and peasants are socializing their machinery, are learning to use their machinery and reap the benefits thereof for the great masses of the population and not for a handful of parasites. That explains all the clenched fists and all the crocodile tears of the enemies of the Soviet Union.

2 Participation of the workers in the administrative apparatus of industry and of the state is a constantly growing phenomenon. More than that it is a basic feature of socialist planned economy. Thus, there is being created a genuine, a working class democracy in every field, in every walk of life, in every form of social relationship.

3 In tempo of construction, as well

as in the volume of capital accumulated, our Soviet brothers, working on the basis of social, of planned, economy have attained an increase in their national economy exceeding every record of economic growth in the history of human-kind.

4. We have seen that capitalist development means the extension of capitalist contradictions. This extension is bound to continue to the point of leading to the collapse of the capitalist system of production. In the Soviet Union, however, we have already secured the first and most essential prerequisite for the initiation of genuine planned economy. That is, the proletariat has captured political power. In the Soviet Union, the law of social development, in contradistinction to the trend in every other country in the world, is leading not in the direction of extending the contradictions but rather in the direction of their gradual elimination. Thus in the Soviet Union there is no contradiction between the extension of productive capacities and the consumption possibilities. Thus, socialist rationalization of industry eradicated unemployment while capitalist rationalization is continuing to increase and develop a permanent army of no occupation. Thus, in the U. S. S. R., the extension of the productive capacities means the constant extension and not restriction of the possibilities for consumption by the masses. Likewise, it is to be stressed that the only country in the world today where there is a constantly rising standard of social services is the land of socialist, planned economy; while all the schemes for so-called planned economy only mean the further deterioration of the standards of living of the workers and wiping out of social and political rights and gains won by the working class through decades of struggle.

5. Last, but not least, historically

speaking, the achievements of socialist construction, the successes of genuine planned economy, are the source and centre of the greatest revolutionary inspiration for the entire international working class, for the toiling masses of all capitalist countries and colonies. Wall Street fully realizes the significance of the monumental progress in socialist construction in the U. S. S. R. One of the leading New York security houses thus recently estimated the role of the Soviet Union:

"Capitalistic countries legislate and regulate the terms under which labor and capital cooperate. The theories of capitalistic countries have again temporarily failed to function. That failure provides the advocates of the socialist theory a welcome opportunity to demonstrate its merits. . . .

"The motive and significance underlying the Soviet Government's Five Year Plan have created the biggest movement since Christianity. The test of time and her government's administrative efficiency and ability to correct and adopt a remedy for every detected fault, will either exhibit the success or only the partial failure of the plan and its purpose. It stands today as 'the greatest economic revolution known to history.' 'One man's life will not suffice to see the end.'" (C. F. Childs & Co., Investment Bulletin, July, 1931).

Plain words and quite an understanding by the enemy class!

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## Some Concrete Achievements

It is now evident that the Five-Year Plan will be completed in four. In fact, in some industries, the plan was completed in even less than four years. In oil, it was completed in 2½ to 3 years.

The rate of economic growth has exceeded the quota set for it under the Five-Year Plan. The first year, 1929, the plan was fulfilled 106%, in 1930, 107%; in 1931, 113%.

The capital investment of the Soviet Union has already been doubled. By the end of the fourth year the total basic capital in industry will be 20 billion rubles, or 150% of what was planned for the entire five years. Collectivization of agriculture is already more than three times fulfilled. Instead of achieving 20% collectivization in five years, the Soviet Union has already secured 62% in three years. In the most important grain regions collectivization is completed.

By the end of 1932, the national income will be 49 billion rubles, or an increase of 90%, instead of the 71% originally provided for in the entire Five-Year Plan.

The conditions of the workers have improved considerably with the large increase in production. It had been planned that by 1933 there would be 15,000,000 workers in the Soviet Union. Actually, there are already 18,700,000 workers and by the end of 1932 there will be at least 21,000,000. It had been planned to have four million industrial workers at the end of the first five years. However, there are already 5,400,000 and there will be 6,200,000 industrial workers in the U.S.S.R. by the end of 1932. The historical significance of this is incalculable, because herein lies the firmest and decisive social basis for the working class victory.

The wage-fund was to be 15,700,000,000 rubles at the end of the fifth year. But it is already 21,100,000,000 rubles and by the end of 1932 will be nearly 27,000,000,000. The budget for social insurance was to be, under the Five-Year Plan, 1,950,000,000 rubles; actually, it has already reached 2,500,000,000 rubles and by the end of 1932 will reach about 3,500,000,000 rubles. The 7-hour day will be completely established by the end of 1932 throughout the entire Soviet Union.

One of the best known British journals sent a special investigator to look into the labor conditions in the Soviet Union. Mr. C. M. Lloyd, the investigator, found the following: ("The Workers State," *New Statesman and Nation*, October 3, 1931):

"Not only have earnings increased all around and in many cases, under the piece-rate system, to undreamed of figures, but communal provision and privileges have gone far. Pensions, medical care, holiday homes, free or cheap amusements, are all gains. Rents, for the manual worker in particular, are very moderate. Nor is his nourishment confined to what he buys in the store or the shop. Meals are provided in the dining rooms at the factories and at offices, and they are cheap and good."

Despite the decisive victory of securing the absolute predominance of socialist elements in both the city and village, there are still serious shortcomings to be recorded. Thus Molotov, in his speech before the recent session of the Central Committee of the Council of Peoples Commissars, frankly stated:

"The metallurgical industry was in 1932 our weakest spot. Although we undertook extensive construction during this period, production did not increase in the metallurgical industry. This means that extraordinary measures will have to be taken in 1933 in this sphere. The output of pig iron will have to increase to at least 9,000,000 tons as compared with 5,000,000 in 1932. The question of heavy industry and especially that of steel and iron will be the central issue next year. Upon it, as well as upon mining and machine building, will depend the results in all other branches of national economy. The collective farms are also vitally interested in this. If the metallurgical industry fails to carry out its program, the collective farms will not be supplied with the necessary machines, tractors, and trucks. Neither can the other economic tasks be accomplished. Even should it be necessary to curtail output in some other industries in order to guarantee the fulfillment of the program in the metallurgical industry such steps will have to be taken."

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## Marxism And Neo-Malthusianism

# ON ABORTION AND BIRTH-CONTROL

by V. I. Lenin

This article of Lenin was written in 1913.

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At the Russian Medical Congress of the Pirogov Society, the question of abortion, i.e., of the artificial prevention of birth, awoke considerable interest and discussion. The reporter, Litschkus, brought forward data on the extraordinary spread of abortion in the modern so-called civilized States.

In New York there took place in one year 80,000 artificial abortions; in France, as many as 36,000 per month. In Petersburg the percentage of artificial abortions has more than doubled in five years.

The Medical Congress of the Pirogov Society adopted a resolution to the effect that criminal prosecution of the mother for artificial abortion should in no case take place, but that doctors should be judicially prosecuted only when "greed of gain" was present.

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In the discussion the majority, while expressing themselves against the judicial penalty of abortion, naturally also raised the question of "Neo-Malthusianism" so-called (artificial measures for the prevention of conception), and touched on the social side of this matter.

So, for example, Herr Wigdortschik, according to the report of the *Russkoye Slovo*, declared that "the measures for the prevention of conception are to be welcomed"; and Herr Astrachan proclaimed, amid loud applause: "We must convince the mothers that they are bearing children only for them to be later crippled in the schools, to be drawn on for conscription, and finally to commit suicide."

If the report that this kind of outburst of Herr Astrachan awoke stormy applause is correct, the fact does not surprise me. The audience was an audience of bourgeois, middle bourgeois and petty bourgeois elements, with a narrow-minded petty bourgeois psychology. What is to be expected but the flattest liberalism?

But from the standpoint of the working-class there is scarcely to be found a more conspicuous example of

the whole reactionary essence, of the whole poverty and deformity of "social Neo-Malthusianism" than the above-quoted sentence of Herr Astrachan—"To bring children into the world, only for them to be crippled, etc."

Only for this? And why not for them to wage a better, more united, more class-conscious, more determined fight than ourselves against the modern conditions of life which cripple and destroy our generations?

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Here precisely lies the root difference between the psychology of the peasant, the handicraftsman, the intellectual, of the petty bourgeoisie in general, and the psychology of the proletarian.

The petty bourgeois sees and feels that he is going downwards, that life is becoming for him ever more difficult, the struggle for existence ever more ruthless, and that the position of himself and of his family grows ever more desperate.

On this there is no dispute. And the petty bourgeois protests against this.

But how does he protest?

He protests as the representative of a class which is going under without hope, which has lost faith in its own future and become broken and cowardly.

"We can do nothing; therefore rather let us have as few children as possible, who will have to suffer our tortures, our prison-house existence, our poverty and humiliation," so runs the lamentation of the petty bourgeois.

The class-conscious worker is immeasurably far removed from such a standpoint. He does not let his conscious understanding be obscured by such lamentations, however sincere and deeply felt they may be.

Yes, we too, the workers and the mass of the small peasants, we also have to live a life full of unendurable oppression and suffering. Our generation has a more difficult life than our fathers, yet in one respect we are more fortunate than our fathers.

We have learnt to fight, and are learning it ever faster—and to fight not only in isolation, as the best of our fathers did, not merely for alien watchwords of bourgeois fine speakers, but for our own battle-cries, the battle-cries of our own class.

We fight better than our fathers did. Our children will fight still better, and they will win.

The workingclass does not go downwards; on the contrary, it grows gains strength, matures, draws its ranks closer together, trains and steel itself in the fight.

We are pessimists in regard to the prospects of serfdom, of capitalism and of small production; but we are glowing optimists in regard to the prospects of the workingclass movement and its aims.

We are already laying the foundations of the new building, and our children will build it to the end.

Therefore, and only therefore, we

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week

nues but with no results even in stimulating "confidence." Indicative of this is the fact that despite the 142% increase in public works, general building in 1931 fell by 750 million dollars and the trend is still markedly downward.

The war clouds in the Far East are unsettling the European and American capital markets acutely as the Government budgetary deficits continue to mount.