

## At the Crossroads

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With the 1917 October revolution humanity's liberation from class society was initiated. To realize this liberation is not the work of one, two or even ten generations; the goal, the Communist society where each contributes according to ability and receives according to need, where the freest material and spiritual development takes place, is created only after an entire era of world history, the epoch of socialism. The struggle between socialism and capitalism, between old and new in the foundation of society and in human consciousness will, sometimes less pronouncedly, sometimes in an intense form, take place as long as capitalism still exists in a part of the world, perhaps even for generations, after world socialism has been established.

Before this struggle has been concluded with the victory of Communism, it is conceivable that one or more socialist countries will degenerate into capitalism.

In the socialist society, capitalist tendencies arise spontaneously or as a result of deliberate wrecking work from the capitalist side; the struggle is economic, political, ideological, and is carried on from the outside as well as from the inside. The Yugoslav revolution, which stumbled at the start will suffice as an example.

Economic difficulties during the building of socialism can pave the way for the resurrection of capitalism; one may try to make a short cut by flirting with the inherited profit motive, one can play along with the

property sense of the peasants, or one can create the nucleus of a new capitalist class by increasing the difference between wages of the workers and of the "responsible" bureaucrats.

The more profound reason for the return of capitalism in that way pushing itself in is the failure of the Communist Party in the work to change the human consciousness in step with the building of the foundation for socialism. Human consciousness is not formed automatically. The foundation of socialism is created only by determined Communists, and the difficulties on the way will present demands for a renewed strengthening of the ideological orientation.

Forty-seven years after the October Revolution the Soviet Union stands at a crossroads. We wish good luck for the forces that fight to overcome revisionism and opportunism, and which on the basis of Marxism will settle with the bureaucratic strata which during these years led socialism astray.

