Opportunists Liquidate Chicano National Question

How is the position of the MLOC different?

Chicano people suffer immense oppression in the U.S. and especially in the Southwest. The cause of this oppression is the domination of the Chicano Nation in the Southwest by U.S. imperialism.

In an earlier part of this series, UNITE! explained the rise and development of the Nation, a Nation stating, "We, the Chicanos and Mexicanos of the U.S. and Mexico. Now, in this, the concluding part of this series, we will expose revisionist and opportunist errors on the Chicano National Question.

No other organization which claims to be Marxist-Leninist currently recognizes the existence of a Chicano Nation. Why is the position of the MLOC so different? We have relied on the science of Marxism-Leninism, on historical materialism. And it is from this viewpoint, the stand of the proletariat, that we studied, analyzed and applied the teachings of comrade Stalin to the specific conditions of the Chicano and Mexican people of the Southwest.

We found many errors in studying the positions of other organizations. These errors stem from two deviations. The primary deviation is a great nation chauvinism, and the secondary deviation is narrow or cultural nationalism.

Great Nation Chauvinism

Great nation chauvinism manifests itself in the way that the state boundaries of the U.S. are inviolate or sacred. Other organizations divorce the national question from the general international situation. They seek to uphold the territorial and national minority status of the U.S.

Stalin, quoting the Russian communist Maximalist, humorously concludes that chauvinism is a "mental poison from the old imperialist mentality of Semich's (a Yugoslav communist) whole proletariat of the whole world's proletariat."

They adopt these chauvinist positions, however, as the nationalistic positions, only a Mexican national minority.

If there is a nation in New Mexico, how do these organizations explain the continuous struggle over land, or the masses' support of the Alliance's call for self-determination and the struggle to regain the land?

One result of chauvinism is to approach the national question from a chauvinist or non-materialist viewpoint.

The Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist (CPML) is an adherent of this viewpoint. In formulating its views on the Chicano Nation, the CPML doesn't even recognize the aspect of the Southwest. They present a distorted, inaccurate history of Mexico, hardly mentioning the Southwest, and then claim there is no Chicano Nation. This is a farce and an insult to the Chicano people.

The Source of Opportunism

What is the material basis for these opportunistic errors, for great nation chauvinism and white supremacist, on the Chicano Nation? Imperialism means the subjugation of nations and peoples. The bourgeoisie has always used the labor of the colonized people from the colonies to bridle a small sector of the working class. Lenin also points out that not only does this bridle create a labor aristocracy but that the influence of the aristocracy infects the workers' movement. It is manifested in a chauvinist stand toward oppressed nations. The influence of this bridle combined with the fact that the U.S. has a large bourgeoisie is the material basis for the opportunism of these organizations.

Regional Autonomy: Whose Choice?

In spite of or because of their unbridled opportunism on the Chicano National Question, the CLP, the RCP and the CPML all call for regional autonomy for the Southwest, or wherever there are sizable, historical concentrations of Mexican-Americans.

In an attempt to blind the Chicano people to their opportunism, and maintain their illusion as a "party of the proletariat," these organizations put forward the sop of regional autonomy. This is a way to alleviate concentrations of national oppression. But in doing this, they distort Stalin once again.

Regional autonomy is the free choice of an oppressed nation in exercising its right of self-determination.

"Thus," argues Stalin, "our views on the national question can be reduced to the following propositions:
(a) recognition of the rights of nations to secession;
(b) regional autonomy for nations remaining within the given state;
(c) special legislation guaranteeing freedom for development for national minorities;"

(Stalin, Marxism and the National and Colonial Question, p. 106-7). Stalin is very clear on this and never confuses nations with national minorities. Regarding national minorities, Stalin proposes that "their rights must be specifically protected. The Party therefore demands complete equality of rights in educational, religious and other matters and the removal of all restrictions on national minorities."

National Autonomy

The CPML, RCP and CLP chauvinists are against national autonomy. But even though these organizations insist they demand regional, and not national autonomy, they objectively bow to Chicano nationalism.

Regional autonomy is a just demand, and not what is in fact a nation. Stalins states that "national autonomy proceeds from the conception as a union of individuals without regard to definite territory.

(Stalin and the National Question, p. 33)

The CPML, RCP and CLP do not consider only areas where the Chicano are a numerical majority. They can't see the multi-national proletariat, the Chicano people to their opportunism, and maintain their illusion as a "party of the proletariat," these organizations put forward the sop of regional autonomy. This is a way to alleviate concentrations of national oppression. But in doing this, they distort Stalin once again.

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