

SOCIALISM - A REALLY HUMANE

by **AGIM POPA**

Along with liberating the broad masses of the working people from exploitation and exploiters, along with the liquidation of social inequality and injustice, socialism saved them for ever from age-long poverty, misery, ignorance and suffering.

IN THE 40 YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEOPLE'S STATE POWER AND THE SETTING OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON THE ROAD OF SOCIALISM, PRACTICE AND LIVING EXPERIENCE HAVE CONVINCED OUR PEOPLE ABOUT THE GREAT MARXIST-LENINIST TRUTH THAT THE SOCIALIST ORDER IS THE ONLY REAL HUMANE ORDER HISTORY HAS EVER KNOWN. THIS PROFOUNDLY HUMANE CHARACTER CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE ATTRACTIVE POWER OF SOCIALISM IN THE EYES OF WORKING MASSES, PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND THE PEOPLES .

International bourgeoisie, the anti-communist propaganda, with which all the modern revisionists — Yugoslav, Soviet, Eurocommunist, Chinese and others — have joined in essence, have committed themselves in their different ways to a rapid campaign to weaken this attractive power of socialism and to denigrate the socialist order. On the one hand, efforts are made to present the capitalist order as the order of liberty, well-being, humanism, the flowering of the personality of man, etc. But on the other hand, they stop before nothing, slander or humbug, in order to paint the socialist order black, as an anti-humanitarian order in which allegedly there are no freedoms and in which the personality of man is suppressed. It is sufficient to mention the savage attacks of the anti-communist propaganda of the Khrushchevite, Titoite and other revisionists, the Trotskyites and the whole lot of enemies, against Stalin and the dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union, not to go further back to the time of Lenin, or right to the repeated campaigns of slanders and attacks against socialist Albania, in order to grasp the aim of all this.

Instead of socialism built according to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the bourgeoisie and revisionists preach and publicize the socialism with a «human face» like Dubcek's socialism in Czechoslovakia, the «de-

mocratic» socialism which the Eurocommunists offer as an alternative, or socialism of the «state of the entire people» which the Khrushchevite revisionists in the Soviet Union preach, etc. The aim of all of them is to undermine the fundamental teachings of Marxism-Leninism on scientific socialism, in general, and its teachings on the class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat, in particular, which allegedly are the opposite of humanitarianism. The spread of liberalism in all fields, abandonment of the idea of the class struggle and weakening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, make up the essence of the imperialist-revisionist ideological aggression against socialist Albania, covered up under the slogan of «humanitarianism».

There is no secret about the fact that «socialism with a human face», as the bourgeoisie and revisionists preach, is nothing other than the capitalist order with a «socialist» veneer, an attempt at giving capitalism a new lease of life under cover of a new allegedly humane form.

However, history and the facts show that the capitalist order, whatever the form under which it presents itself, the classical form or the form of anti-Marxist «socialism», is downright inhumane.

No face-lifting on the part of the apologists of the bourgeoisie can improve the looks of capitalism; nothing can cover up the fact that it is an order based on the ever growing in-

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tensification of the exploitation of the broad masses of working people, the order which uninterruptedly begets and deepens social inequality, helps the wealthy to become even more wealthy and causes the poor to be impoverished, the order which causes such incurable ills as crises, unemployment, rising cost of living, insecurity for the future, etc., which lie heavy on the working people. The result of the merciless exploitation of the working people by monopolists and the wealthy in the USA, who account for only 1 per cent of the population of the country, is that this 1 per cent possesses 67 per cent of the national assets, at a time when 20 per cent of the population, consisting of poor families, possesses only 5.4 per cent of the national income. In Great Britain, too, only 5 per cent of the population of the country possesses 3/4 of the national assets, while 80 per cent of the population has less than 20 per cent of them. Or, are the millions and tens of millions of unemployed only in the richest and most developed capitalist countries, testimony of humanitarianism?!

The inhuman character of the capitalist order reveals itself especially in the phase of imperialism, in the savage colonial and neo-colonial exploitation and oppression, which condemns the broad masses of the people in whole zones and continents, such as in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania, to suffering and misery, to famine and illiteracy, to rabid racial discrimination or even to the annihilation of entire populations.

The capitalist and imperialist order is the most inhuman the history of the world has ever known, because it is the order which begets the most barbarous, predatory, suppressive, invading and liquidatory wars which have caused and continue to cause

most horrible sufferings and greatest ravages to the peoples. Only in the First and the Second World Wars tens of millions of people lost their lives. The unheard-of crimes of the American imperialists in Vietnam and other places are still alive in the memory of the present generations, just as the barbarous actions of the Soviet social-imperialist occupiers in Afghanistan arouse the legitimate repulsion of progressive peoples and individuals. In our days, the expenditure of the imperialist powers on armaments have reached colossal figures of billions of dollars, at a time when in many countries and zones of the world tens of million of people lack their daily bread, or are short of vital commodities and services. Most of the expenditure which the imperialist powers allocate to science and technique goes to the development and production of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other mass extermination weapons which constitute a serious threat, a danger of throwing the world into a new imperialist slaughter with very serious consequences for the whole civilization. The traffic of arms, which fans up war hysteria, has become the most lucrative business for big capitalist monopolies.

Every passing day provides new facts about the correctness of J. Stalin's thesis that the fundamental economic law of present-day capitalism is «securing maximum profit through the exploitation, ruination and impoverishment of the majority of the population of the country, and the enslavement and systematic plunder of the peoples of other countries, especially the backward countries, and, lastly, through wars and the militarization of national economy, which constitute the means for securing the biggest profits possible».1 Anti-huma-

itarianism lies in the very foundations of the capitalist order, is embodied in its nature as a social order. In capitalism, the working men, the broad masses of the people, create everything needed for living and for the society, but the results of their work are alienated, transformed into a destructive force which is directed against them and exploits them.

In the field of the spiritual world, anti-humanitarianism pervades every cell of the bourgeois-revisionist society. It fosters selfishness and individualism, accompanied by such typical manifestations as spiritual vacuum and degeneration of the man, idealism and use of violence, the spread of crime, drug addiction, moral degeneration, etc., to unprecedented proportions.

Historical experience and the facts show both the anti-humanitarian essence of capitalism, on the one hand, and the profoundly humane character of the real socialist order, on the other. What has this order given the Albanian people and what has it excluded irrevocably from their lives?

Socialism saved the working people of our country once and for good from the exploitation of man by man, barred all the paths to any form of exploitation. The **bey**, the **bayraktar**, the wealthy, the merchant, the usurer and the whole lot of exploiters have remained only as a hated memory of the dark past. In socialist Albania there are no exploited and exploiters, no rich and poor, but only working people who work for themselves and enjoy the fruit of their free work for themselves and their families. Our socialist society respects and honours the work of the millions of working people, who are scorned in capitalism where exploitation and the exploited are raised on the pedestal.

Along with liberating the broad mas-

ses of the working people from exploitation and exploiters, along with the liquidation of social inequality and injustice, socialism saved them forever from age-long poverty, misery, ignorance and suffering. It is an historical truth, acceptable to our daily life, that in our country the well-being of the people, and not of a minority, keeps rising continuously. The broad masses of working people have been liberated from such grave ills of the capitalist-revisionist society as crises, unemployment, rising cost of living, taxes and fees, insecurity about the future, etc. However, as J. Stalin said, there is real freedom for man, and not freedom on paper, only there where the exploitation and oppression have been wiped out, where there is no unemployment and poverty and man is not haunted by the fear that tomorrow he might lose his job, his house, his means of livelihood. The extensive development of health service and free medical aid, the creation of facilities for mother and child care, social insurances guaranteed for temporary incapacity for work and for old age, the development of education for the masses free from charge, the electrification of all the villages of the country in a record time, the accommodation of most of the population in new houses and the very low house rents, the state and social assistance in cases of earthquakes and other natural calamities — all these and many other achievements of our people in the epoch of socialism are clear proof of the profound humane character of our socialist order, of the fact that the concern for the man is in the centre of the attention and constitutes the very aim of the construction of socialism. Unlike capitalism, in which the aim of production is the appropriation of capitalist profit, and in which man with his own needs is totally disregarded, the aim of socialist production, as J. Stalin has shown with facts, is not profit, but the fulfilment of the needs of man, in their totality, material and cultural. This constitutes the fundamental economic law of socialism.

The establishment of the people's state power as a form of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the setting out of the country on the road of

socialism freed the Albanian people from the economic and social viewpoint, and from any political suppression. The social and state life of Albania is characterized, to the highest degree, by uninterrupted development and deepening of socialist democracy, effective participation of the broad masses of the people in the running of the country, by the fact that they decide their own destiny. In our country it is the people, under the leadership of the Party, who, through their representatives whom they elect in a democratic manner, or directly through their own voice, decide on everything, exercise their control on everyone and for everything. The dictatorship of the proletariat represents the most complete democracy, genuine and effective democracy for the broad masses of the people.

The embarkment on the socialist road is connected also with the liquidation of any form of oppression by foreigners, with guaranteeing the genuine national independence and sovereignty of the people, with barring the road to dependence, subjugation and exploitation by imperialism, of any kind and in any form. At the same time, the Constitution of socialist Albania sanctions the prohibition of any fascist, anti-democratic, war-mongering and racial organization, and propaganda of national suppression, sternly opposes any form of aggression and colonial and neo-colonial exploitation, any foreign tutelage, dictation and hegemony, defends the principle of the people's self-determination, the exercise of sovereignty and complete equality of all the countries in their international relations, powerfully supports the revolutionary movement of the working class and peoples' struggle for freedom, independence, social progress and socialism. All this, which is rigorously put into practice, is clear expression of our socialist humanitarianism.

A significant proof of the humane character of the socialist order in our country is the equality of everyone before the law, the prohibition by law and in practice of any restrictions or privileges regarding the rights and duties of citizens on account of sex, race, nationality, education, social position and material situation. In this

context, one of the major victories in the humanitarian work of the Party and the socialist order in our country is the all-round emancipation of the women, the guaranteed equality of women with men in all walks of economic, political and spiritual life, the liberation of the women from the centuries-old burden of backward and patriarchal concepts and customs, the enslaving influence of religion, etc., their transformation into a great and conscious active force of social advance on the road of socialism.

Our socialist life is living testimony of the fact that socialism creates the most favourable conditions for the development of the personality of man, not for a privileged minority, but for the broadest masses of working people, for the development of their abilities and cultivation of their talents in all fields. In Albania, where only 40 years before over 80 per cent of the population did not know how to write, and read, where secondary school was an aspiration that only a very limited number of people could realize, whereas university training was a privilege for special people, where there was not a single higher school and professional theatre, a complete overthrow has taken place. Now Albania has become the country in which education and culture have a broad massive character, in which one in every 3-4 people goes to school, healthy socialist arts with the broad participation of the masses are flourishing, the country where broad horizons have been opened up to science, and where the technical-scientific revolution and experimentation is made by the masses. In our country broad avenues have been opened up to everyone to cultivate and develop his vocation, talent, capacity and individuality in the most diverse fields. Another great humanitarian achievement of socialist Albania is the liberation of the consciousness of the working people from the shackles of religious obscurantism. The magnificent achievements made in the 40 years of the people's state power and socialist construction in our country, translated in the language of facts, speak of a reality.

The whole of our socialist social life is the embodiment of true humanism in action. Unlike the capital-

ist relations of private ownership which foster opposed interests, selfishness, divisions and animosities, the socialist relations of production educate and encourage solidarity, mutual assistance, pure friendship and love among the working people. «Socialist humanism in our country is becoming more and more a phenomenon of the masses,» says Comrade Enver Hoxha. «Profound love of working people for one another is the main characteristic of our socialist society. All the energies which everyone in our country pours into the common social work have the one single aim: the defence of the Homeland, freedom and the people, the well-being, happiness and beauty of the spiritual world of the man. Therefore, the organized masses of working people all over Albania today work with a high consciousness... 'All for one and one for all,' is our motto. In this aspect, too, the examples of boundless love for the Homeland, the people, the man, in our country, are innumerable.»²

Our socialist humanism is humanism for the people, for the broadest sections of the masses of the people and not for a minority. It puts the general interest in the first place, without negating personal interest, which it combines correctly with the general interest and subordinates it to the latter. This means the greatest concern for the man in the fullest and broadest sense of the word.

Everything that has been achieved and realized in our country in the interest and benefit of the people in these 40 years has not come of itself,

in a plain-sailing course. All this has been achieved, safeguarded and further developed in the process of ceaseless class struggle against internal and external enemies who have always tried to make the people pay as heavily as possible for these victories and turn them back to the past, as well as against the influences of alien ideologies, which, if given a free field of activity, lead to the degeneration of the people and the socialist order, to undermining and overthrow of the socialist order through the «peaceful» counter-revolution, and to the re-establishment of capitalism in a new form, as occurred in the Soviet Union and some other countries.

By directing its attacks against Marxism-Leninism, revolution, and socialism, the bourgeois and revisionist propaganda speaks in the name of a non-class or supra-class humanism, humanism «for everyone», in the name of Christian mercy. But such humanism is false and deceptive since it justifies the bourgeois and imperialist order of oppression and exploitation, alienates the masses from the revolutionary struggle for its overthrow, preaches submission, defends the enemies of the people and demands that they be given freedom of action in order to sap and overthrow the power of the people where the people have seized it and to put them back to capitalist thralldom.

Our socialist humanism is not and cannot be humanism above classes, for everyone, or humanism which preaches christian mercy for the enemy. In the society with classes there is and can be no humanism in general terms,

just as there is and can be no democracy for all, but there is humanism either for the majority of the working people or for the exploiting minority, either for the people or for their enemies. In our society there is no room for humanism and mercy for the enemy who raise their hands and act against the people and socialism.

In socialist society the general method and stand adopted towards working people who err is that of social criticism, of persuasion and education, in order to combat the illness and save the sick, without negating the need for juridical and administrative measures towards those who persist in their mistakes and violation.

Socialist humanism pervades the whole work of the Party and its levers with the people. Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses that the work of the Party and its attitude towards the people must be always of this kind and not such as to wear and tear people, instead it must help them to be revived, open the horizons of pleasant and fruitful creative work for them. Comrade Enver Hoxha says: «Through a well-studied political and educative work we must ensure that the new man of our socialist society finds the substance of his happy life in the line of the Party and the road on which it leads them.»³

1 J. Stalin, *Selected Works*, p. 580, Alb. ed.

2 Enver Hoxha, *Reports and Speeches 1969-1970*, p. 281, Alb. ed.

3 Enver Hoxha, *Reports and Speeches, 1978-1979*, p. 63, Alb. ed.