

LENIN



Lenin—from a drawing by Y. Manukhin

VLADIMIR LENIN

1870 - 1924



Kazan University today. Lenin was expelled from it in 1887, after taking part in a student protest

LENIN was born almost a hundred years ago, on April 22, 1870, in a little town on the banks of the Volga.

Lenin was a name he took many years later, in the revolutionary movement. He was born Vladimir Ulyanov, son of a progressive teacher, in the town of Simbirsk—now renamed Ulyanovsk in his honour.

He was one of six children, three boys and three girls—and all of them became revolutionaries.

His eldest brother, Alexander, was executed in 1887, for implication in an attempt to assassinate the tsar, Alexander III.

Vladimir Ulyanov was little more than a boy when he began studying Marxism.

At 17 he was already an active revolutionary. In December 1887, he was expelled from Kazan University for taking part in a student protest meeting, and banished to a tiny village in Kazan region.

From then on he came under police surveillance.

In the village he read and studied. Applications for readmission to the university were rejected and so, in 1889, he went to the Volga town of Samara (now Kuibyshev).

His four years (1889-93) in Samara were a very important period in Lenin's life.

It was then that he accumulated knowledge for the impending revolutionary struggle, then that his Marxist communist views took final shape.

But Samara couldn't give him the scope he needed. In August 1893, he left for the capital, St. Petersburg.

There he contacted a circle of social-democratic students and, with progressive workers, ran Marxist classes.

In 1894 came Lenin's first major work: "What the 'Friends of the People' Are, and How They Fight the Social Democrats."

It was aimed against the Narodniks—groups of revolutionary intellectuals who believed that capitalism wouldn't develop in Russia, which would follow a special unique path.

The Narodniks regarded the peasants as the main revolutionary force and tried to rouse them to struggle against tsarist autocracy.

For that purpose, the revolutionary intellectuals went "into the midst of the people," to the villages.

Lenin demolished the views of the Narodniks. He was the first Russian Marxist to put forward fundamental arguments to show that it was the historic role of Russia's working class to become the leading, advanced revolutionary force of society.

He put forward, for the first time, the great idea of the alliance of the working class and the peasantry.

He saw clearly that, without that alliance, the

overthrow of tsarism and the establishment of working-class rule would be impossible.

In a second book* that year, Lenin's target, as well as the Narodniks were the "legal Marxists"—the intellectuals who "interpreted" Marxism in the open, censored, publications.

Denying its revolutionary character, they tried to adapt Marxism to capitalist ideas.

Lenin plunged into revolutionary work with tremendous energy and passion. He wrote leaflets, articles and pamphlets in clear and lucid language, understandable even to those who had little or no education.

In them, Lenin exposed the state of the workers, their lack of rights and the ruthless way the capitalists exploited them.

Soon Lenin became the recognised leader of the St. Petersburg Marxists.

In the autumn of 1895, he united the city's Marxist groups into one body: the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class.

The embryo of a revolutionary Marxist party, it was

*The Economic Content of Narodism, and the Criticism of it in Mr. Struve's Book.



Lenin in 1897, with members of the St. Petersburg League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class

based on the mass working class movement. But it was short-lived—that December, Lenin and many of its other members were arrested.

Lenin spent 14 months in solitary confinement in a St. Petersburg jail—but that didn't silence him.

He still wrote pamphlets and manifestos, which were smuggled out and printed on secret presses.

In February 1897, Lenin was banished for three years to Snushenskoye, a village on the Yenisei in the frozen heart of Siberia.

A year later he was joined there by Nadezhda Krupskaya, a girl he had met in the revolutionary work in St. Petersburg in 1894.

She, too, had been banished as a member of the



Aged four—young Vladimir Ulyanov



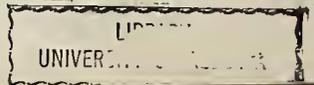
At 17, when he graduated from the high school in Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk)



Family group in the mid-70's. Lenin is sitting on the extreme right



Old Streletskaia Street, Simbirsk, where Lenin was born





1917—return from exile. Lenin (with umbrella) and Nadezhda Krupskaya in Stockholm, on their way home to Russia from Switzerland

Lenin launched a resolute struggle against the imperialist war from its very first day.

The war, after all, was far from unexpected. Lenin had repeatedly warned that the capitalists were preparing for it and urged a struggle against it.

International socialist congresses had worked out the tactics of the social-democrats with regard to war.

The leaders of West European socialist parties had pledged to fight against war and, in the event of one breaking out, to lead the working class to the overthrow of capitalism.

But when war did break out, the leaders of those parties betrayed the interests of the workers and openly sided with the bourgeoisie of their own countries. In many countries the "socialists" entered the government, and in Germany they voted for war credits.

They maintained that the struggle for socialism, the international class solidarity of the workers were peacetime matters.

In wartime, they said, the workers should forget about their class interests and subordinate everything to the war.

In Russia this policy was conducted by Plekhanov, Alexinsky and Maslov, among others.

Another section of the socialists, headed by Kautsky in Germany and Trotsky in Russia, adopted a stand known as "centrism."

They declared their disagreement both with those who were for or against the war.

In practice, however, they supported the war camp.

The treachery of the socialist leaders led to the collapse of the Second International, which was to have led the workers of the world in the struggle against the war.

In that grim moment of history, Lenin and the Bolshevik party called for a declaration of war on war.

Weapons should not be trained on brothers, fellow-workers from other countries, they declared, but on the reactionary bourgeois governments.

It was a call for proletarian revolution.

The national question assumed special importance at that time.

In preparing the world war, the bourgeoisie and the big landowners had stirred up national strife and tried to split the working class.

The tsarist government suppressed the national liberation movement and incited one nation against another.

Lenin set the Bolsheviks the task of defending the international unity of the working-class movement, because he regarded that unity as the main condition of its strength.

In a multi-national country like Russia it was extremely important to achieve a merging of the class struggle of the Russian workers with the struggle of all the working people of the oppressed nations.

During the war Lenin wrote his "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism," in which he expounded, for the first time, the essence of the new epoch mankind had entered.

In this book Lenin showed that, by the beginning of the 20th century, capitalism had entered a new period of its development: imperialism.

Lenin adopted a new approach to the possibility of the victory of the proletarian revolution.

Previously the Marxists had held that the socialist revolution could not triumph in one country, that the revolution could win only in all or in the majority of the most developed capitalist countries simultaneously.

On the strength of new data on social development Lenin came to the conclusion that, in the epoch of imperialism the socialist revolution could, to begin with,

triumph in a few or even in one particular capitalist country.

This theory showed the workers a revolutionary way out of the imperialist war.

When the bourgeois-democratic revolution broke out in Russia in February 1917, Lenin was in Switzerland.

As soon as he learned of the victory of the revolution and the overthrow of tsarism, he cabled the Russian Bolsheviks and wrote his "Letters from Afar," in which he gave detailed answers to all the questions facing the party in connection with the revolution.

Lenin was eager to return to Russia. "You cannot even imagine what torture it is for all of us to stay here at such a time," he wrote.

He persistently sought ways of returning to Russia at the earliest possible moment.

But, while allowing the emigres of other parties unhampered passage to Russia, the imperialists would not let Lenin and his associates through, for fear of their influence on the revolutionary masses.

It was with great difficulty and with the help of Swiss social-democrats that Lenin finally succeeded in organising the return home of a group of Bolsheviks and other emigres via Germany—the only way open to them at the time.

After an exile lasting for almost ten years, Lenin arrived in Petrograd on April 3, 1917. Revolutionary Russia welcomed him, its leader, with great joy and jubilation.

On April 4, Lenin presented the theses which went down in history as the *April Theses* to a Bolshevik meeting in Petrograd.

They were to play a decisive role in determining the correct line of the party in the new historical situation.

Lenin set forth a concrete, clear-cut plan of struggle for the transition from the bourgeois-democratic revolution—which had given power to the bourgeoisie—to a socialist revolution which was to give power to the working class and the poor peasants . . .

Lenin thought a peaceful development of the revolution possible under those conditions.

The seventh (April) All-Russia conference of the Bolsheviks had approved Lenin's political platform.

And, from the day he returned to Russia, Lenin headed the central committee, the *Pravda* editorial board and the Petrograd Bolshevik organisation.

At the First All-Russian Congress of Peasant Deputies, Lenin called for the immediate seizure of the estates of big landowners, and spoke of the need for an



Hunted by the Provisional Government, Lenin escaped to Finland, disguised as a railwayman. This photograph is from his false passport

independent organisation of labourers and poor peasants.

At meetings, he exposed the counter-revolutionary policy of the Provisional Government, and of the Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries, who were pursuing a policy of compromise with that government.

Lenin urged that only the transfer of all power to the Soviets of Workers' and Peasants' Deputies could help Russia out of the impasse which had resulted from the domination of the capitalists.

His ideas were gripping the minds of the workers, peasants and soldiers in increasing numbers.

The Provisional Government launched a campaign of slander against Lenin and the Bolsheviks, in an effort to deprive the party of its leadership. In July it issued a warrant for Lenin's arrest and took all possible steps to seize and kill him.

But the party and the revolutionary workers protected him, and by a decision of the central committee, Lenin went underground.



The shack at Raziiv, near Petrograd, where Lenin hid during the late summer of 1917

He was hidden by workers on the shore of Lake Raziiv, near Petrograd, where he lived in a hut as a haymaker.

There he wrote articles and letters and prepared his book *The State and Revolution* in which he developed the ideas of Marx and Engels on the state and the dictatorship of the proletariat as applied to the new historical situation, ridding them of opportunistic distortions.

But it soon became dangerous to stay in the hut. In August Lenin travelled on a locomotive to Finland, disguised as a fireman.

From his hiding place Lenin directed the Party's Sixth Congress, held in Petrograd that summer.

The Congress was unanimously against Lenin surrendering to be tried as demanded by the bourgeoisie, and protested against the persecution of the leader of the revolutionary proletariat.

It called upon the party, the working class and poor peasants to work for the overthrow of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie and landowners by means of an armed uprising.

In the conditions then obtaining, it declared, it was no longer possible for the working class to take over power peacefully.

In the autumn of 1917, as the revolutionary crisis came to a head, Lenin arrived secretly in Petrograd, to give direct guidance to the uprising.



A worker reads Lenin's *April Theses* from *Pravda* to his comrades—a famous drawing by Vasiliyev

At the Ninth Party Congress, even before the war was over, Lenin set the task of reviving the country.

On the basis of his programme, the congress considered the question of a single economic plan, laying the main emphasis on the electrification of the national economy.

Lenin held that large scale industry and electrification were essential for socialist and communist construction. "Communism is Soviet power plus the electrification of the whole country," he said.

A commission, made up of leading scientists and engineers and headed by Krzhizhanovsky, a veteran member of the party, was set up on Lenin's initiative at the beginning of 1920.

One can get an idea of the guidance given by Lenin in the work of the commission from his numerous letters and notes to Krzhizhanovsky, Klasson, Winter and other eminent scientists.

It was decided to build 30 large power stations within 10 to 15 years, to increase output 17 times over and total industrial output to almost 15 times the 1920 figure.

Lenin regarded this plan as the basis of the party's economic work, as its second programme. Work began on it right away, in the years of economic dislocation and fighting against internal and external enemies.

Lenin was overjoyed when he saw electric lights going on in the small village of Kashino near Moscow—dubbed "Ilyich lamps" by the local peasants.

In 1920 the last onslaught of the imperialists was beaten back, and the Civil War ended in a historic victory of the people.

The party, headed by Lenin, had led the Soviet people skilfully and fearlessly through all the hardships of the civil war, but now they were confronted by tremendous new difficulties in peaceful economic construction.

Industrial output was a mere seventh of the prewar figure, meagre as that had been. The situation was particularly bad in the areas where the whiteguards and foreign interventionists had held sway.

Most enterprises stood idle because of the lack of fuel and raw materials. Less than a couple of pounds of cast iron and a yard of cotton fabric were being produced per head.

Railway transport was totally disrupted. Factory workers in the towns were starving.

In that grim period Lenin's wisdom showed itself with a new force. He proposed a sharp turn in the economic policy of the party and the state.

The New Economic Policy (NEP) was a development of the plan for laying the foundations of socialist economy, outlined by Lenin in 1918 in his pamphlet *The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government*.

Lenin explained that the rehabilitation of the national economy should start with agriculture, because it could not meet the needs of the industrial centres for grain and raw materials.

He pointed out that petty farming prevailed in the country. The working class had to get along with millions of peasants, it had to change their outlook and draw them into socialist construction.

And this could be achieved only by means of the new economic policy. What was the essence of that policy and why was it called "new"?

Lenin proposed that the surplus-requisitioning system be replaced by a tax in kind and that private trade in grain and other surplus products be allowed.

He set the party the task of improving the organisation of trade and reorganising the co-operatives, he demanded that communists should learn to trade and to supply workers and peasants with better and cheaper goods than they had got from the capitalists.

This would make the peasants interested in producing more grain which, in turn, would serve as an impetus for the rehabilitation and development of the national economy.

Lenin said that NEP would strengthen the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and consolidate Soviet power.

The Tenth Party Congress in 1921 adopted the New Economic Policy.



Lenin and Nadezhda Krupskaya at the opening of the Kashino power station—one of the first projects of the young Soviet republic's electrification programme—in November, 1920.



And so, electricity was brought to the villages

It was at first a retreat, in a way, because it allowed private trade and the hiring of labour, which led to a partial revival of capitalism.

But it was a temporary retreat, which spelt no danger to the Soviet system.

Power was in the hands of the workers and peasants; industry, the land, the banks, the railways and the waterways were state property.

The hardships experienced by the country told on the situation in the Communist Party.

At the end of 1920 it had more than 500,000 members, of whom fewer than half were workers, a quarter peasants, and the rest office workers and intellectuals.

Some former Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries found their way into the party and a section of the membership was politically unstable.

Anti-party groupings headed by Trotsky and other factionalists appeared on the scene again, coming out against the party's line on the question of ways of carrying out socialist construction and the role of the trade unions.

The opposition violated party discipline and tried to split the party.

The danger was seen in good time by Lenin, who attached great importance to party unity as one of the main sources of its strength.

A split within the party, he said, would inevitably lead to a break-up of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry, to the collapse of Soviet power and a return to capitalism.

The congress adopted a resolution drafted by Lenin, on strengthening the party's unity and declared that members of the party, including members of the central committee, would be liable to expulsion if they engaged in factional activity.

Lenin wrote the pamphlet *The Tax in Kind* and articles *The Fourth Anniversary of the October Revolution* and *The Importance of Gold Now and After the Complete Victory of Socialism* in which he

explained in detail the essence of NEP and ways of carrying it out.

On the basis of his analysis, the party started work on rehabilitating the economy, improving living conditions, and reviving the coal-mining, oil and iron and steel industries.

The first power stations on the Volkhov river went up—one of them built under Lenin's direct supervision. Cost-accounting, profitability of production, material incentives for workers, encouragement of the economic use of material resources and improvement of production were all considered by him to be of great importance for the rehabilitation and development of industry.

The party and the government worked to consolidate centralised national economic planning, while promoting local initiative.

Lenin had a keen eye for everything that was promising in science and technology.

He took a lively interest in the use of coal-cutters in the Donetsk Coal Basin, the hydraulic extraction of peat, and so on.

There are many documents testifying to his great interest in inventions and to the great support he gave the inventors.

Lenin gave a great deal of attention to the organisation of administrative work and the operation of the state machinery. He could not tolerate red tape and inefficiency.

He took an active part in framing Soviet legislation and did his utmost to secure the observance of socialist legality.

His advice was that every major undertaking should receive the widest possible mass discussion before it went on to the statute book.

The terrible strain, coupled with the after-effects of his wounds—one bullet still remained in his body—undermined Lenin's health.

From the winter of 1921, at the insistence of his doctors, he often had to interrupt his work, take treatment and convalesce.

In 1922, the state of his health grew much worse but he continued to attend daily to the affairs of state.

That March he addressed the Eleventh Party Congress.

In the political report he gave on behalf of the central committee, he assessed the results of NEP's first year and announced that good progress had been made on all sectors of the economy and that the alliance between the working class and the peasantry had grown stronger.

At the same time, he criticised shortcomings and set an example of Bolshevik criticism and self-criticism aimed at improving the activities of the government, party and economic bodies.

He declared that the retreat was over and that it was now time to organise an offensive against the capitalist elements.

He noted the party's role in building the new life and stated prophetically that no force on earth could nullify the gains of the revolution—"for these are no longer 'our' gains, but world-historic gains."

That was the last party congress Lenin was to address. He moved to the village of Gorki, near Moscow, where he became very ill at the end of May.

When his condition slightly improved in mid-July, he resumed his business correspondence and ordered some books.

In October he went back to work, chairing meetings





Lenin, convalescing at Gorki, August-September, 1922

'LENIN HAS DIED BUT LENINISM LIVES ON'



January 27, 1924. Lenin's funeral procession. In those days, about 300,000 applied to join the Communist Party

of the Council of People's Commissars, taking part in the work of the party central committee and delivering speeches.

At the Fourth Congress of the Comintern on November 13, 1922, Lenin gave a report, *Five Years of the Russian Revolution and the Prospects of World Revolution*.

He told delegates what Soviet power had achieved on the basis of the new economic policy. And he called on the delegates to regard the Soviet experience in a creative, not dogmatic, way.

On November 20, Lenin spoke at a meeting of the Moscow Soviet. He voiced his firm conviction that "the Russia of the NEP will become a socialist Russia."

That was Lenin's last public speech.

Lenin had always fought against the oppression and inequality of non-Russian nationalities, which was so profitable for the exploiters.

After the victory of the revolution he displayed untiring concern for the development of the national republics, for he regarded friendship of nations as the basis of the Soviet state's strength.

He proposed that the various Soviet republics unite into a single federal state. But how were they to be united and on what basis?

Lenin answered this question in his letters *On the*

Formation of the USSR and On the Question of Nationalities or 'Autonomisation'

Lenin said that it was necessary to set up a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a voluntary alliance of equal and independent nations, based on the principles of proletarian internationalism—an entirely new type of multi-national state based on friendship of nations.

The First All-Union Congress of the Soviets in December 1922 carried out Lenin's ideas—it adopted a decision to set up the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Lenin was elected Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

In December 1922, Lenin's health deteriorated, but he rallied somewhat in January and February.

It was then that he dictated his last articles: *Letter to the Congress, Pages from a Diary, On Co-operation, Our Revolution, How We Should Reorganise the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, Better Fewer But Better*.

They were Lenin's political testament.

His indomitable will, his awareness of the responsibility he bore, his concern for the party and for the further development of the Soviet republic gave him strength to overcome the suffering attendant upon his illness and to do what appeared to be beyond human powers—to create a number of remarkable works in a mere six weeks, in defiance of serious ill-health.

In the last few articles he wrote, Lenin explained again and again that it was necessary to carry out a peaceful foreign policy, to fight persistently for peace, for the establishment of business contacts with the bourgeois countries, for economic competition between the socialist and capitalist systems.

Lenin firmly believed that socialism, as a more advanced system, would ultimately triumph in all countries. But he also called on the people to be vigilant, to strengthen the country's defences and cherish their Red Army.

Early in March, 1923, his health sharply deteriorated and he went back to Gorki. There was some improvement in mid-summer, and in October he again returned to the Kremlin.

But on January 21, 1924, at 6.50 p.m., Lenin died of cerebral haemorrhage.

The sad news spread like lightning throughout the country, the whole world.

"All that is really great and heroic in the working class," the appeal of the party central committee to the people said, "the fearless mind, the iron, unbending, stubborn, all-conquering will, the impacable hatred of slavery and oppression, the revolutionary passion which moves mountains, the boundless faith in the creative forces of the masses, the tremendous organisational genius—all this found its brilliant embodiment in Lenin whose name became a symbol of the new world from West to East, from South to North."

On January 23, the coffin containing Lenin's body was carried from Gorki to Moscow and laid in state in the Hall of Columns of Moscow's House of Trade Unions.

Despite the bitter cold, hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants, Red Army men and office workers, delegations of working people from all parts of the Soviet Union, adults and children filed past his coffin for four days and nights, to pay their last respects to the great man. The people's grief was boundless.

On January 25, the Second All-Union Congress of Soviets met in session at the Bolshoi Theatre, in memory of the working people's leader and teacher.

The congress adopted a decision to perpetuate Lenin's memory and issued a statement to the working people of the world.

The congress emphasised that the broad and massive propagation of Lenin's works, carrying the ideas of communism to the whole world, would be the best monument to Lenin.

At the request of the workers of Petrograd, the city of Petrograd was renamed Leningrad.

Lenin's death was a great loss to the party, the Soviet working class and the international working-class and communist movement.

To compensate for this terrible loss, the party rallied still closer around its central committee, while the working class rallied around Lenin's party.

Scores of thousands of non-party workers applied to join and the central committee announced a special Lenin Enrolment of workers at the bench.

Within a few weeks, over 240,000 workers had joined.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which Lenin created and tempered, leads the Soviet people along Lenin's way, always mindful of his behests, remaining loyal to his teaching and developing it in the light of new experience.

Lenin left the Soviet Communist Party and the international communist movement a great revolutionary teaching—Leninism.

In his thirty years of political activity, he wrote hundreds of books and pamphlets, thousands of articles and letters; he delivered a great number of speeches at Party Congresses, conferences and rallies of working people.

In Soviet times, Lenin's works have been published in big editions as *Collected* and *Selected Works* and as separate publications.

LENIN'S PLAN FOR SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

Closely interconnected, Lenin's last letters and articles are essentially a single work, in which he completed the elaboration of a great plan for building socialism in the USSR and set out in general form a programme for the socialist transformation of Russia in the light of the general prospects of the world liberation movement.

While Trotsky and his followers asserted that Russia lacked the conditions necessary for the construction of socialism, Lenin put forward scientific grounds for the view that Russia had everything necessary for the victory of socialism.

The chief task, Lenin pointed out, was to rehabilitate industry and to develop it further—heavy industry, in particular—to overcome technical and economic backwardness and overtake the leading countries in the world.

This called for the industrialisation and electrification of the country and for higher labour productivity.

Lenin believed it essential to strengthen the alliance of workers and peasants for the construction of socialism.

The working class was to lead the peasantry, to draw it into socialist construction, to help the peasants reorganise their small-scale, scattered individual households into big mechanised collective farms.

Co-operation was the only way of drawing the peasants into socialist construction, because co-operative societies made it possible to combine the peasants' personal interests with the interests of the state and society as a whole.

The Soviet state was to help the peasants set up co-operative societies, by supplying tractors and other farm machinery.

Lenin linked the construction of socialism with cultural revolution.

He said that no means should be stinted to promote education.

He set the party the task of eradicating illiteracy as quickly as possible, of broadening the network of elementary, secondary, specialised and higher schools, of developing all sciences.

The basic elements of Lenin's plan for socialist construction were industrialisation, the socialist transformation of agriculture through co-operative societies and a cultural revolution.

The working class state, Lenin said, was the basic instrument of socialist construction.

Soviet power smashed the old state machine and

created a new, Soviet state machine, with the working people involved on a broad scale.

That was a tremendous historic achievement.

In the early stages, however, not all sectors of the new state machine worked efficiently enough. The new Soviet personnel lacked the experience of government work.

Lenin persevered to teach the people how to manage the state. He fought red tape, formalism and a callous attitude to working people's needs and interests, and set a personal example of organisation.

Under his chairmanship, the sessions of the Council of People's Commissars were always conducted in a businesslike way.

He was never a minute late. He demanded that all speakers should present accurate, verified facts and figures.

He had no patience with generalities, vague statements and indefinite, inaccurate information.

He listened with great interest to people from the provinces, to the opinions of rank-and-file workers.

Lenin set great stores on teamwork and did everything to encourage it.

He always insisted on an all-round discussion of such problems and on a collective decision.

At the same time, Lenin explained that collective leadership pre-supposed, rather than ruled out, strict personal responsibility for a job.

He demanded, of all party and government workers, initiative, a strict sense of personal responsibility, a careful check on the observance of Soviet laws and regulations and on how things worked out in practice, as he liked to put it.

Lenin made the highest demands on the communists. The party members, he stressed, had no advantages or privileges over the other working people—they just had greater responsibilities.

While requiring that government and party workers should show strict discipline, Lenin was himself a model of discipline. Every decision of the party was a law for him. Soviet laws and rules of life in socialist society are binding on all, he said, and he never allowed anyone to break these rules.

Lenin possessed remarkable human qualities: modesty, unpretentiousness and sensitivity to the feelings of others. He could not stand being praised and glorified.

The Fifth Edition of Lenin's *Collected Works* in 55 volumes was completed in 1965, and is a veritable treasure-house of Lenin's great ideas, containing almost 9,000 documents.

Lenin's works are widely read in many countries, and have been published in more than a hundred languages.

His works marked a new, Leninist, stage in the development of Marxism, in the epoch which set in at the turn of the century, the epoch of the collapse of capitalism and the establishment and triumph of socialism and communism.

Lenin creatively developed Marxism and enriched it with new conclusions and propositions.

The attempts of bourgeois ideologists and revisionists of all hues to contrast Marxism and Leninism are therefore futile.

Leninism is Marxism, the development by Lenin of every aspect of it in new historical conditions. Leninism is Marxism of the contemporary epoch.

Marxism-Leninism is not a rigid doctrine but one which is continuously developing.

Lenin warned against memorising Marxist tenets and turning them into a dogma. He urged that Marxism be developed creatively and applied skilfully to each historical situation.

He emphasised that "Marxism is the art of determining the policy best suited to any of the circumstances that may arise."

Many political doctrines in the past had tried to explain the meaning of social phenomena and to forecast the future, but all of them proved untenable. Marxism-Leninism alone is being constantly confirmed by life, winning increasing recognition among various sections of society and in all countries.

Marxism-Leninism is the only theory of social development which has stood the test of time.

The teaching of Marx, Engels and Lenin is so viable because it expresses the essential interests of the working class, the most revolutionary class, because it offers scientific solutions of the basic problems of the life and struggle of all the working and oppressed peoples.

The indomitable strength and significance of Marxism-Leninism lie in the fact that it expresses the course of social development correctly and makes it possible not only to give a correct appraisal to past and present but to foresee the future as well.

Marxist teaching is all-powerful because it is true, Lenin said.

Lenin has gone down in history as the greatest leader of the proletarian revolution, creator and leader of the Communist Party, founder of the first socialist state which, in a few short years, became a great, highly developed industrial power.

Next April, the Soviet people and the world will be marking the centenary of Lenin's birth.

At the recent International Party conference in Moscow was united in its call to workers everywhere to pay tribute to Vladimir Lenin and his teaching.



The LCC plaque on the house in Percy Street—demolished last year—where Lenin stayed in 1905, at the time of the Third Party Congress

LENIN in LONDON

LENIN had many links with London — particularly with the area around Clerkenwell Green.

The two-storey building No. 37-38 Clerkenwell Green, now the Marx Memorial Library, housed the press of the British social-democrats at the beginning of the century.

For more than a year, from April 1902 to May 1903, Lenin edited *Iskra* from Clerkenwell Green. The paper was printed there on rice paper, and prepared for dispatch to Russia.

Lenin came to London several times — in all spending more than a year there.

In London he brought out 17 issues of the newspaper *Iskra*.

He played an active part in London in the work of three congresses of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party — the 2nd, 3rd and 5th congresses.

And in London he wrote several important articles and pamphlets. With his associates he fought there for the establishment of a new type.

Lenin and his wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, first came to London at the beginning of April, 1902. At that time he was only 32.

The editors of *Iskra* had left Munich, where the paper had previously come out, because the German police, linked with the tsarist secret police, had begun to display suspiciously excessive curiosity.

The owner of the press on which they printed said he would take no further risks!

Where should they go? Lenin was in favour of London, but Plekhanov and Axelrod, his colleagues on the editorial board, preferred Switzerland.

Lenin hoped that he and the other members of the editorial board would find it easier to work at a greater distance from Plekhanov, who regarded himself as the kingpin of the party, and was not very fond of the views of others if they cut across his own.

Most members of the editorial board supported Lenin, and *Iskra* came to London.

Lenin and Krupskaya travelled to Charing Cross station, where they were met by the exiled revolutionary Nikolai Alexeyev.

He was a member of the "League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class."

In 1898, he had been arrested and banished to the Vyatskaya gubernia, but a year later he fled the country, coming to London.

Alexeyev spoke English well, and was regarded as an "old-timer" in England.

It was he who, at the request of the editorial board of *Iskra*, started negotiations with Harry Quelch, editor of the English social-democratic weekly *Justice*, concerning facilities for printing *Iskra* at the Clerkenwell Green press.

Quelch gave instant and willing consent.

For about a week Lenin and his wife lived in lodgings. Then they found themselves two unfurnished rooms in Finsbury, at 30 Holford Square.

This was about 15 minutes walk from Clerkenwell Green, near Kings Cross and literally within a stone's throw of Judd Street, where half a century earlier Alexander Herzen had set up the "Free Russian Press" and printed *Kolokol* (The Bell).

In his reminiscences, *Lenin in London*, Alexeyev cites some interesting facts of Lenin's life in the British capital.

Lenin's landlady, Mrs. Yeo, Alexeyev recalls, was puzzled by the "exceedingly simple furnishing of the rooms."

As they were let unfurnished, Lenin had to buy

"furniture," but he bought only the scantiest — a bed, chairs, tables, and a few shelves for books.

The landlady was particularly upset that Krupskaya wore no wedding ring.

"She had to reconcile herself to this circumstance," writes Alexeyev, "when it was explained to her that her lodgers were a quite respectable married couple, and that if she regarded the absence of a ring as reprehensible she ran the risk of being sued for defamation of character."

The landlady was reassured and no longer doubted the respectability of her "German lodgers."

Lenin and Krupskaya lived very modestly.

"We were very short of money," wrote Krupskaya later.

She cooked their meals on a primus stove, and was herself up to the eyes in work.

To Mrs. Yeo, she was "just a housewife." It never occurred to her that when Krupskaya set out with her bag to go shopping, she was in fact spending whole days decoding secret messages, holding letters over a flame to bring out the "invisible ink." And her shopping bag was frequently full of coded letters which she was sending to various centres in Russia.

Lenin was very interested in the working class districts of London. He loved to climb to the top of a bus to observe the street scenes.

He and Krupskaya would explore the east end on foot, comparing it with the fashionable districts to the west.

He attended many British workers' meetings and rallies, to listen to the speakers.

"We went to all sorts of meetings," wrote Krupskaya. "We even went to a social-democratic church where, after the sermon, the congregation rose and chanted the prayer: 'lead us, Lord, out of the kingdom of capitalism into the kingdom of socialism.'"

All these, however, were but incidents in their life in England. The most important was the publication of *Iskra*, and the organisation of the 2nd Congress of the party.

A few days after his arrival in London, Lenin applied to the British Museum for a ticket for the Reading Room.

The entry in the Reading Room register for April 29, 1902, reads: "Jacob Richter, Dr. of Laws, 30 Holford Square, Reading Room ticket No. A72453." Followed by Lenin's signature, "J. Richter."

According to Krupskaya, Lenin spent "half his time" in the Reading Room. He would arrive there each morning at nine and work until dinner time.

There Lenin wrote many of the articles which appeared in *Iskra*, and his first pamphlet for the peasants, *To the Poor Peasantry*.

Lenin liked working in the British Museum Reading Room. "It's a fine institution; there is a great deal to be learned from it. Especially this exceptional reference department," he commented.

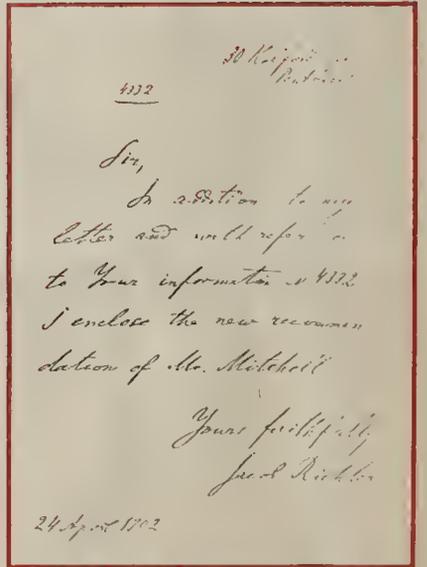
He worked there again several years later, when he was writing *Materialism and Empirio-criticism*.

The whole burden of bringing out *Iskra* and preparing the 2nd Congress fell on Lenin.

The other editorial board members were missing, for one reason or another: Martov soon moved to Paris and Potresov was sick, Axelrod wasn't in London, and Plekhanov came only once, while Vera Zasluch, who was living in London, was out of touch with Russia.

"The correspondence with Russia frayed his (Lenin's) nerves terribly," Krupskaya wrote.

"To wait weeks and months for answers to letters, to expect always that the whole of the work would fail, to be in a constant state of uncertainty as to how things



A letter from Lenin, supporting his application, in the name of "Dr. Richter," for a reader's ticket at the British Museum

