50th Anniversary of the Death of Karl Marx

The Communist International on the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Karl Marx

To the Working Men and Working Women of all Countries:
To the Exploited and Oppressed of the Entire World.

Fifty years ago, 14th March, 1883, Karl Marx, the greatest thinker, the greatest revolutionary in the history of mankind of all time, died.

He was the man who proved that wealth and poverty, tyranny and slavery do not arise from eternal, divine or unalterable laws of Nature.

He was the man who proved that wealth and poverty, tyranny and slavery are the result of a definite mode of production and the corresponding social institutions which are created and overthrown by people, united in classes, struggling between themselves.

He was the man who discovered the great secret of the capitalist mode of production and bourgeois society—the secret of surplus value appropriated by the capitalists from the unpaid labour of the workers. By the process of accumulation of capital on the basis of the exploitation of the working-class.

He was the man who showed that capitalism, in accordance with its own laws and because of its own inner contradiction, is moving towards its destruction and with iron necessity is creating the conditions for its own annihilation and the establishment of Socialism.

He was the man who showed that capitalism creates and welds together the class which historically is destined to become the gravedigger of capitalism which, in the revolutionary class struggle against the bourgeois class, will have to overthrew the role of the bourgeoisie and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

He was the man who showed that the proletariat, having expropriated the capitalist expropriators, in constant and merciless struggle against all the exploiting classes, will destroy classes and will build up the new classless Socialist society which will bring about Communism.

He was the man who gave to the proletariat the consciousness of their own situation and the consciousness of the conditions for their own liberation. He was the man who armed the working-class with the principles of Communism—the teachings on the conditions for the victory of the proletariat.

He was the man who led the First Communist Party, the "Communist League." He was the man who threw out the world historic rallying cry: "Workers of the world, unite!" He was the man who formed and led the international working men's association—the First International.

The great task of the First International, the liberation of the working-class, is being continued at the present day by the Communist International, which solemnly, before the whole world, at its formation in the capital of the first proletarian state, undertook to finally fulfill the cause of the First International.

The Great Historic Victory of Marxism

On the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the greatest teacher of the working-class, the passionate enemy of the bourgeoisie, the world reveals to us the picture of the great historic victory of Marxism.

Along the path of the dictatorship of the proletariat mapped out by Marx, Socialism is already being victoriously constructed before our eyes on one-sixth of the surface of the globe, in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

According to the law of capitalist development, discovered by Marx, the capitalist system has now, before our eyes, reached its final and culminating stage—the stage of decaying monopolist capitalism.

Writhing in the death agonies of the general crisis, it is approaching a revolutionary crash, slipping into a new imperialist world war.

In the capitalist world, in the East and the West, a mighty revolutionary upsurge is stirring the proletarian and toiling masses.

In the struggle for bread, work and power, the proletarians are marching ahead, answering bourgeois violence with proletarian violence, preparing to deal a death-blow against the rule of capital.

Before our eyes the historic mission of the proletariat, proclaimed by Marx, is being realised.

Marxism is the great science of the working-class which not only aims at explaining the world, but at its revolutionary transformation. It has rallied the broadest masses and has itself become the material revolutionary driving force of history, directed against the bourgeoisie.

During the 50 years which separate us from the death of Marx the passionate struggle for and against Marxism has never ceased.

The struggle for Marxism was an inseparable part of the class struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. This ideological struggle, along with the economic and political struggle served to defend the interests of the working-class, the victory of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie.

Numberless creators of bourgeois ideology have made attempt after attempt to kill Marxism, the revolutionary theory of the working-class. Lecturers and professors, Parsons and priests have made it their profession to "annihilate" Marxism.

Through the churches of all denominations, through the universities and academies, through their politicians—conservative and radical—the bourgeoisie has put into operation against Marxism the weapon of criticism, simultaneously making wide use of the police and troops, for the massacre of the class-conscious sections of the working-class.

The granite rock of Marxism could not be destroyed by the onslaught of these open enemies.

After the death of Marx, under the leadership of the great companions-in-arms of Marx—Friedrich Engels—in the struggle against petty-bourgeois anarchist and social reformist theories, Marxism won the leading position among the broad mass workers' parties and trade union organisations.

From Paris Commune to Russian Revolution

The influence of Marxism grew much wider in the relatively peaceful period between the Paris Commune and the Russian Revolution in 1905.

In the period of the Second International, Marxism won new strata of the working-class, new countries.

The bourgeoisie were driven to make an attempt to destroy Marxism from within the working-class. While continuing their attacks on Marxism, they began, inside the working-class, the falsification of Marxism.

Based on impoverished petty bourgeois elements, and upon a corrupted section of the labour aristocracy which arose out of the proletariat, there appeared revisionism, the theory of the revision and destruction of the principles of Marxism.

The social-democrat, Edward Bernstein, the champion of this revision of Marx in the German social-democratic party, the leading party of the Second International, openly denied all the basic principles of Marxism, and openly tried to eliminate the chief weapon of the working-class, the class struggle, from the arsenal of the labour movement.
Along with this open revision of Marxism there appeared on the scene Centrism, the disguised falsification of Marxism.

Under the cloak of the "defence" of Marx, the Centrists, under the leadership of Karl Kautsky, actually sacrificed the most important theoretical positions of Marxism and created the theoretical basis for the policy of collaboration with the bourgeoisie.

**Reformists Falsified the Teachings of Marx**

The reformists and Centrists first of all falsified the revolutionary teachings of Marx on the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Instead of the revolutionary overthrow and destruction of the bourgeois state—peaceful reforms through Parliament; instead of the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat—the peaceful growing of capitalism into socialism.

This reformist conception acquired undisguised sway in the socialist parties in the Second International after the death of Engels. Revolutionary Marxism was finally abandoned in the Second International when capitalism entered a new phase, the phase of imperialism.

Imperialism directly raised the question of the historic fate of capitalism and of the international working-class: either imperialist enslavement, imperialist war for a new redivision of the world or proletarian revolution for the forcible overthrow of decaying capitalism, for the dictatorship of the proletariat, for socialism.

Disintegrated by opportunism, which degenerated into social chauvinism, social imperialism and social pacifism, the Second International shamefully collapsed.

At the beginning of the imperialist war in 1914, the leading parties went over to the side of their own imperialism and helped their own bourgeoisie to drive worker against worker, peasant against peasant, in the slaughter of the imperialist world war.

The leaders of the Second International wanted to bury revolutionary Marxism by eliminating the class struggle in the interests of the defence of the capitalist fatherland.

In the service of their own bourgeoisie, they shamelessly mocked the internationalism of the working-class.

Dozens of social-democratic ministers doomed to starvation the wives and children of the millions who had been killed at the front, and robbed the workers in the militarised factories of the right to strike.

**Lenin Raises the Banner of Revolution**

It was precisely at this time when the honour of the international working-class was being besmirched every day by its leaders, that the founder and leader of the Bolshevik Party, the only consistent Marxist, Revolutionary Party, which fought for revolutionary Marxism right through its existence, boldly and decisively raised upon the ruins of the collapse of the Second International, the banner of revolutionary proletarian internationalism, the banner of the Third International.

Rallying the revolutionary elements of the workers' movement of the whole world, this banner called for the conversion of imperialist war into civil war.

The Marxist who carried out this great work, the equal of Marx and Engels, was Lenin.

It was Lenin who, from the moment that he entered the labour movement, at the turning point of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, basing himself on an analysis of the new epoch of capitalism—imperialism—fought at the head of the Bolshevik Party for the working-class to fulfil its historic role which had been discovered by Marx.

It was he who, undeviatingly guided by the interest of the international proletarian revolution and the task of the struggle for the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat, worked out the theory and tactics of revolution in the epoch of imperialism.

He was the man who was the incomparable defender and the only consistent continued of Marxism after the death of Marx and Engels. He was the man who, without hesitation, brought about the break with opportunism and carried on a merciless struggle both against revisionism and centrisms, and mercilessly exposed the class treachery of the reformist leaders.

He was the man who, in three revolutions, led the working-class of Tsarist Russia and, in the October Revolution, led the proletariat to victory.

He was the man who built the first proletarian Soviet State and organised the defence of the Proletarian Fatherland against internal and external enemies.

He was the man who showed the path of socialism in town and village and who was the first constructor of socialist society.

He was the man who developed Marxism further for the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions, and who gave to the working-class the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution and the proletarian dictatorship.

Leninism is the only Marxism of the new epoch.

**Marxism Consummated in Workers' Dictatorship**

Marxism, which was cast out from all social-democratic parties, by the leaders of the Second International, was consummated under the leadership of Lenin and his Bolshevik Party in the victorious armed insurrection of the October Revolution.

It was consummated in the creation of the proletarian dictatorship, in the workers' state, inscribing on its red banners the slogan of the Communist manifesto: “Workers of the World, Unite.”

The revolutionary teachings of Marx found their real place and only bearer in the Communist International founded by Lenin, and in its sections, the Communist Parties.

Under the banner of Marxist-Leninism, the Communist Parties, the organised vanguard of the working-class, heroically lead the fights of the proletariat, the toiling peasants and the oppressed nations, for the destruction of all exploitation, of all oppression.

But the Second International, restored after the war, and its social-democratic parties, what have they in common with Marxism and its theories and practice?

Instead of revolutionary philosophy, dialectic materialism—reactionary idealism.

Instead of the theory of the class struggle as the driving force of social development—collaboration with the bourgeoisie.

Instead of the theory of the inevitability of the rise of periodic economic crises on the basis of the contradictions between social production and capitalist appropriation—the theory of overcoming the crisis by organised capitalism.

Instead of the theory of the inevitability of war under capitalism—the theory of eliminating war by the international organisation of the imperialist bandits of the League of Nations.

Instead of the theory of the bourgeois State as the apparatus of violence of the bourgeoisie against the working-class—the theory that the bourgeois State stands above classes, adjusting and reconciling the contradictory interests of the proletarian and the bourgeoisie.

Instead of the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as the transition stage of capitalism to socialism—the theory of a transition period of coalition governments with the bourgeoisie.

Instead of the theory of a socialist construction on the basis of the dictatorship of the proletariat—the theory of economic democracy carried out by a bourgeois Government.

Instead of the defence of the rights of nations to self-determination to the point of separation and the complete liberation of the colonies and dependent countries—the theory of the civilising role of imperialism in the colonies, and support for their own bourgeoisie in oppressing national minorities and plundering dependent countries and colonies.

There is not a single principle of Marxism which the leaders of social-democracy and the reformist trade union movement have not tried to distort and refute.

There is not a single revolutionary action of the workers under the banner of Marxism which they have not tried to break by deception, strike-breaking, and the murder of the workers.

What has happened to the theories of social-democracy in face of stern historic facts?
The devastation of the world economic crisis and the tremendous poverty of the toiling masses brought by the crisis, the use of merciless mass terror by the bourgeoisie against the workers and peasants, the growth of bourgeois democracy into fascism, the end of the relative stabilisation of capitalism and the transition to a new cycle of revolutions and wars—all these have scattered like smoke the theories which social-democracy put forward in opposition to revolutionary Marxism.

But Marxism is marching forward victoriously. Continued and developed in Leninism, it is being carried into practice in the U.S.S.R.

The Workers' Theory

The revolutionary teachings of the working-class, slandered and falsified by social-democracy, the theory of the despised, the exploited and the oppressed, has become the theory of the working-class which rules on one-sixth of the earth's surface, the theory of many millions of workers, struggling in capitalist countries against the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

Marxism-Leninism was the guide to victorious action in the heroic civil war, in the fights against imperialist intervention, in which the victorious proletariat of the Soviet Union firmly held on to its power and retained the expropriated means of production.

Marxism-Leninism was the guide to victorious action in the struggle for socialist industrialisation, in which the workers of the Soviet Union, filled with the enthusiasm of shock work, transformed a backward agrarian country into an industrial country, raising the standard of living of the workers and completely liquidating unemployment.

Marxism-Leninism was the guide to victorious action in the struggle for the collectivisation of millions of small and middle peasant farms, in the struggle for the formation of giant socialist agricultural farms, and in the liquidation of the last capitalist class, the kulaks.

Marxism-Leninism was the guide to victorious action in carrying out the First Five-Year Plan, in which the proletariat of the Soviet Union proved that the working-class is capable of creating the new as well as destroying the old.

Marxism-Leninism was the guide to revolutionary action when the proletariat of the U.S.S.R. showed that it was fully possible to construct socialist society in a single country, and that the Soviet system is the only economic system which has no crises, and overcomes difficulties which are insuperable for capitalism.

Marxism-Leninism was and is the guide to victorious action which made the Bolshevik Party, under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, victorious, showed it the path, steering it and making it capable of conquering all difficulties, of capturing the strongest fortress.

The First Five-Year Plan was triumphantly carried out in the hostile surroundings of the whole capitalist world and international social-democracy, with the help of the revolutionary proletariat of all countries.

It was triumphant only because the leading Party of the Soviet proletariat, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, uncompromisingly defended Marxism-Leninism in incessant struggle against every falsification from the Right and the "Left."

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Comrade Stalin, the continuer of the work of Marx and Lenin, enriched and is still enriching the teachings of Marx and Lenin on proletarian dictatorship by solving the task of constructing socialism in the U.S.S.R.

On to Victory in Lands of Exploitation

Marxism-Leninism is marching to victory in the capitalist countries, where the revolutionary upsurge is growing.

In China, the masses of workers and peasants, organised into a Soviet Government on an enormous territory, are fighting heroically under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party for their national and social liberation, against the counter-revolutionary Kuomintang, against Japanese and world imperialism, pointing the way to the workers of Japan, India, Indo-China, and all the enslaved colonial peoples.

The German, Polish and Bulgarian workers and peasants, the proletarians and the toilers of other capitalist countries, under the leadership of the Communist vanguard, in the struggles against fascism and social-fascism, are carrying out the behests of Marx and Lenin, struggling for the majority of the working-class for the revolutionary struggle, for Soviet Germany, Soviet Poland, Soviet Bulgaria.

The heroic working-class of Germany will not be broken by frenzied fascist reaction, which reflects the convulsions of the expiring capitalist system.

Marxism-Leninism is marching forward victoriously in the strikes and uprisings of the Spanish proletariat and exploited peasants, in which the Communist Party is winning the leadership of the working masses from anti-Marxist anarcho-syndicalism and reformism.

Marxism-Leninism is marching forward in the struggles of the millions of workers, small peasants and toiling peoples of all the imperialist, colonial and semi-colonial countries, against the capitalist offensive, against reaction and fascism, against terror, against imperialist war, in defence of the Soviet Union from armed intervention.

The entire ideological super-structure of capitalism is crashing everywhere. In this general crisis of bourgeois ideologies, only the revolutionary teachings of Marxism-Leninism receive new proofs of their truth every day.

"The teachings of Marx are all-powerful, because they are true."—(Lenin).

No wonder that the old falsifiers of Marxism, the arch enemies of Marxism-Leninism, the social-fascist leaders of the Second International, are again making an attempt to cloak themselves with Marxism. They are now making the discovery that there are "two Marxist parties," one of which is the party of social-fascism.

They do this to hinder the united front of the revolutionary and social-democratic workers, to keep them away from the struggle against the capitalist offensive, against fascism, against imperialist war, and to drive them into the arms of the class enemies.

They do this to prevent the unity of the proletarian class movement, split by the treachery of the Second International from being restored under the banner of Marxism-Leninism, under the banner of the Communist International.

Think carefully, social-democratic workers, and you proletarians who belong to the reformist trade unions!

Is it possible that Marxism means in one Party struggles for higher wages, for unemployment relief and organisation of struggles against the oppression of capitalist rationalisation—and in the other: support of wage-cuts and reduction of unemployment relief, and support and encouragement for capitalist rationalisation and compulsory labour?

Is it possible that Marxism means for one Party revolutionary readiness for sacrifice in the struggle against the bourgeois, imprisonment, shooting, hanging, as was the case with Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, and thousands, tens of thousands, of revolutionary proletarians throughout the capitalist world—while for the other Party—ministerial posts in bourgeois Governments, posts of police chiefs, hangmen of the revolutionary proletarians, as was the case with Noske and Zorgiebel, the German social-democratic leaders?

Is it possible that Marxism means in one Party proletarian internationalism, determined revolutionary struggle against imperialist war, while in the other Party it means defence of the bourgeois Fatherland, pacifist deception in order to cover up imperialist war preparations, and slander of the Soviet Union, the only Fatherland of the international working-class?

Is it possible that Marxism in one country led by the Communist Party to the dictatorship of the proletariat, to the expropriation of the means of production of the capitalists, to the rise of proletarians to heads of gigantic socialist enterprises—while in the other country it is leading to the growth of capitalist enslavement under the leadership of the social-democratic party?

Is it possible that Marxism in one country led to socialism and in the other country—to fascism!
Think it over, proletarians!
Can there be two kinds of Marxism?

Give your answer to the first Communist, to the first revolutionary proletarian—the fighter for the teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin—you come across.

Think it over, and decide whether or not we are right when we declare that Marx belongs to the Communists.

To us, the Communists, who, at the head of the millions of proletarians in the daily uncompromising class struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression, are carrying out his great teachings.

To us, Communists, who, in the Soviet Union are the master builders of the socialist society, who, in the imperialist and colonial countries are defending and protecting with our life’s blood Marxism-Leninism, defending socialism; which has been carried out in the Soviet Union.

To us, Communists, who are struggling for the liberation of all those who are oppressed by capitalist exploitation from the slavery of capitalism, struggling for the world dictatorship of the proletariat, for world Communism.

Marx belongs to the Communists!

To us, the Communists, who have carried Marxism-Leninism to the countries of the Near and Far East, to China and India, to Indo-China, to Arabia, to colonial Africa, and to the semi-colonial countries of South and Central America, and who have extended the fighting front of the proletariat for socialist society by drawing the oppressed peoples into the fight against the common enemy, against the imperialist bourgeoisie.

Marx belongs to the Communists!

To us, the class-conscious revolutionary workers in imperialist and colonial countries, who are organising and leading strikes against wage-cuts and against dismissals, organising the struggle of the unemployed for relief and social insurance.

Marx belongs to us, the fighters against reaction, fascism, terror and imperialist war, to us who, through our revolutionary struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression, are organising the toiling peasants and the oppressed peoples.

To us young working men and working women, for whom capitalism has taken away our means of livelihood and the possibility of vocational training.

To us, who are struggling courageously and with determination, in order to avoid the fate of our fathers, and not to become cannon fodder in imperialist wars; to us, who are not willing to live the life of exploited wage slaves.

Marx belongs to the revolutionary proletarian fighters, for Marx, above all, was a revolutionist, and the teachings of Marxism-Leninism are the teachings of the organisation and leadership of the revolution against capitalism.

Marx belongs to those who are carrying out his teachings in practice.

Proletarians! Make his teaching yours! Bear them to all corners of the earth!

Strengthen the class-consciousness of the working-class. Strengthen the united front of all workers, under the leadership of the international of Marx, Engels and Lenin, the international struggle for the proletarian dictatorship, for socialism, carry into practice the teachings of Marx.

The victorious movement of revolutionary Marxism cannot be held back by the fascists, the followers of the collapsing capitalist system!

The dying capitalist system cannot be saved either by vile provocations against the working-class or by the bloody terror of fascist gangs.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL.

Socialist Construction in the Soviet Union

New Work—New Life

15. The Secret of Planned Economy

By W. (Special Correspondent of the Inprecorr in the Soviet Union)

There is just as much misunderstanding abroad regarding the nature of planned economy in the Soviet Union as there is regarding the nature of socialist discipline. People often imagine that officials in high government offices engage in complicated calculations and work up plans which are then either realised or not. Such a view often causes capitalist savants, especially in the U.S.A., to reason as follows: "We can calculate and estimate better than the Russians, who, as is known, are very weak in the rules of arithmetic; why should not we then produce a better Five-Year Plan than they?"

If I remember rightly it was the American Professor Stuart Chase who proudly and arrogantly declared: "Why do the Russians make such a great fuss about their planned economy when the idea of planned economy was invented more than a century ago by an American bourgeois scientist."

Be that as it may, at any rate capitalism has advanced no farther with the idea of planned economy than with the slogan, likewise invented by the bourgeoisie, of "Liberty, Fraternity and Equality." The idea of planned economy crops up in the capitalist world during the periodically recurring devastating crises in a monstrous anarchy of economy. The Bolsheviks have successfully completed their first Five Year Plan precisely at a time when the capitalist world is experiencing its profoundest economic crisis resulting from the general crisis of capitalism, when capitalist anarchy is holding unprecedented orgies. What is the reason for this?

Scientific planning of course plays a big role. In addition to the ability to calculate and estimate, scientific planning requires a tremendous knowledge of the natural resources of the country, of the technical and economic conditions of production, and much else besides. It is not in this, however, that the chief difference lies. In order to grasp the secret of the successes of the Five Year Plan we must go into the workshops and factories. Instead of going into a lot of details, let us take a glance at two factory leaflets issued by the Kharkov Electro-Technical Factory (formerly A.E.G.). No. 343 deals with the counter-plan for 1932, the second, issued a year later, deals with the counter-plan for the second Five Year Plan:

Proletarians of all lands, unite!

GENERATOR

(No. 343)

18th November, 1931.

TO SET UP THE COUNTER-PLAN

on the basis of extremely economical use of material.
100 per cent. utilisation of the existing plant and equipment.

That is the basis for working out the control figures and the technical counter-plan for 1932.

Chief things: Economy in the use of metal; utilisation of the workshops and plant; rationalisation of the technical processes; improvement in the quality of production and productivity of labour.

New Construction: Substitution of non-ferrous metals by ferrous metals. Diminution of waste, economy in fuel and electrical energy, reduction of overhead charges.