

CONSTANT DEEPENING OF PARASITISM IN THE PRESENT-STAGE CAPITALIST SOCIETY

World capitalism, imperialism and social-imperialism cannot halt the objective process of their own decay. They will decay more and more and will come to an end through the proletarian revolution

CAPITALIST SOCIETY AT THE LAST STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, IMPERIALISM, IS IN A PROCESS OF ALL-ROUND DECAY. BASING THEMSELVES ON THE HISTORICAL FACTS OF THIS PERIOD AND ON MATERIALIST DIALECTICS, LENIN AND STALIN HAVE SHOWN WITH SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENT THAT THE CAUSES OF THE PARASITIC NATURE AND DECAY OF THIS SOCIETY LIE IN THE VERY CHARACTER OF THE CAPITALIST RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION WHICH HAVE BECOME AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES AND THE ENTIRE SOCIAL PROGRESS. DOMINATION OF MONOPOLIES, WHICH IS THE ESSENTIAL MANIFESTATION OF THESE RELATIONS, LIES AT THE ECONOMIC BASIS OF THE DECAY OF CAPITALISM AT THE STAGE OF IMPERIALISM. FROM THE DOMINATION OF MONOPOLIES STEM THE NEW AND FIERCER ANTAGONISTIC CONTRADICTION AND THE EXACERBATION OF ALL THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ILLS OF THIS OPPRESSING AND EXPLOITING ORDER.

From the time they emerged up until today the monopolies have been unable to heal or, at least, placate the old ailments of this society, or soften the contradictions which characterize the capitalist economy, on the contrary, they have exacerbated them to the extreme, while at the same time causing new contradictions and ulcers which have further deepened the parasitic nature and decay of imperialism. «Monopolies, oligarchies, the tendency to suppression instead of freedom, exploitation of an ever growing number of small and weak countries by a handful of very rich or powerful states, all this,» Lenin pointed out, «represents the distinctive features of imperialism, which force us to define it as parasitic capitalism or decaying capitalism.»¹

These conclusions have resisted all the tests of the times, the attempts of the bourgeoisie to refute them, as well as the efforts of its agencies — opportunism and modern revisionism, which, preaching about the conciliation of

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opposites, locked in a life-and-death struggle against each other, to present these conclusions as «outdated». The transformations that have taken place in the world, the gains of socialism and the world revolutionary movement, all this is a living testimony to the correctness of the ideas of Lenin, the vitality and power of his conclusions. On the basis of the Leninist theory on imperialism, Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses that world capitalism, imperialism and social-imperialism cannot halt the objective process of their own decay, that they will decay more and more and come to an end through the proletarian revolution. This conclusion stems from the Leninist theory on imperialism, from the penetrating scientific analysis made by Lenin of the contradictions affecting the capitalist order at the imperialist stage of its development, it constitutes a new contribution to the struggle to cope from Marxist-Leninist positions with the acute socio-political questions of the epoch we live in.

Imperialism is inconceivable without the political oppression and economic

OPENING

DAY OF ACTIVITY

by DALIP ÇOTA

exploitation of the proletariat and the other working masses inside the country and abroad. This is the foundation upon which rests the whole capitalist mode of production. The emergence of monopolies at the stage of imperialism is accompanied with increased violence against the working masses, with intensified exploitation of the working people inside the country and the extension of this exploitation to the peoples of other countries. Monopolies became the source of the aggressive policy of imperialism and the domination of reaction in all fields of the socio-economic life of the capitalist world. They deepen the parasitism of the capitalist order and extend it, alongside other decaying phenomena, not only in the framework of a given country, but also in the framework of the entire capitalist system, in the «bas-tions» and the rear-line of this system, becoming the carriers and exporters of parasitism and decay wherever their rule is extended. In this process, entire classes and states turn parasitic, with an ever increasing number of people living by «clipping tickets», as Lenin said, the exploitation of other people's labour becoming their only profession.

MONOPOLY DOMINATION AND THE ACTIVE TENDENCY TOWARDS IMPAIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FORCES

The monopolies which dominate in the sphere of production and circulation of goods can secure large profits

without having to encourage technical progress. This they achieve by fixing monopoly high prices on commodities.

They are not always interested in licensing technical inventions. More often than not, they buy patents for new inventions not to put them to good use but merely to pigeonhole them, only to prevent them from falling in the hands of their competitors. The achievements of science are applied in production not when they help facilitate the conditions of work for the working men, but only when and where the monopolies can have maximum profits and strengthen their dominant positions through fierce competition. «Frequently», Comrade Enver Hoxha says, «the big firms come up against difficulties in scientific research, but once something is discovered, they buy up the patents and hire qualified workers; however, they apply the research only when their own interests require this.»² The history of development of capitalism in the phase of imperialism knows hundreds and thousands of such cases. This is dictated by the domination of the monopolies which, in their very essence, are a socio-economic element that impedes the development of the productive forces. However, this does not imply that under imperialism the productive forces make no progress at all, since alongside inhibiting tendencies, there exist also tendencies to development which is conditioned and encouraged by fierce competition. Comrade Enver Hoxha points out that, «Greed for profits and competition force the monopolies to

invest in advanced technology in the process of production. But in the entire historical process of the development of imperialism, the dominant tendency is towards disproportional development and restraint on development.»³

Technical-scientific revolution, with the development of which the bourgeois and revisionist ideologists make such a great play, does not change the parasitic and decaying nature of capitalism in the phase of imperialism, because its economic, political and social nature remains unaltered. On the contrary, it constantly deepens its parasitism and decay, by strengthening the positions of state monopoly capitalism, increasing monopoly profits to the maximum and further sophisticating the forms of exploitation of the proletariat and the other working masses. This revolution which is made with the aim of securing maximum profits develops unevenly in the different branches of the economy. It is a source of colossal profits for the monopolies, on the one hand, and a cause of deepening disproportions between the different branches of the economy, as well as in the entire national economy which grows more and more unstable. A considerable part of the material, financial and human resources of the capitalist countries has been placed in the service of the war industry. About 4-5 times more funds are expended on work for the development of chemical and bacteriological weapons than on the struggle against various diseases. These facts show that the technical-scientific revo-

lution in the bourgeois-revisionist countries is not carried out in the interests of the working people, although it is the product of their own mind and toil, but moreover, to their detriment. Again this revolution, which is not carried out in the same manner in all the countries of the capitalist world, is the cause for an ever greater deepening of the unequal development of the economy of these countries. As a result, a situation has been created in which the developed capitalist countries have been transformed into exporters of everything, even of agricultural products, while many agrarian countries, because of the unequal development, have been transformed into importers of these products. In the undeveloped or developing capitalist countries, in which most of the world population lives and which account for over 70 per cent of the raw materials and energy resources, not even 10 per cent of world industrial production is realized.

Technical-scientific revolution, when applied in those branches and spheres of production where big profits are made, causes striking disproportions in the socio-economic development of capitalist countries. Thus, for example, in the USA, which is the most developed country of the capitalist world, notable disproportions exist in the development of its different regions. In the Soviet Union disproportions in the socio-economic development of the various republics are just as great and growing ever greater. In the same manner, in China too, there are striking socio-economic distinctions between the maritime regions and the inner parts of the country. Especially great in the capitalist world are the distinctions between town and countryside, which have further deepened the centuries-old antagonistic contradiction between town and countryside.

Imperialism reveals its decay at the present stage of development, especially in the unprecedented propor-

tions assumed by the militarization of the economy and the entire life of the country, which, as Comrade Enver Hoxha points out, «has become a characteristic feature of all the capitalist and revisionist countries.»⁴ Everywhere in these countries the process of production is becoming ever more subservient to the demands of the war industry, the production of weapons and military equipment, and the major achievements of science and technology are utilized, and colossal material financial means are spent for this purpose. About 50 million people and more than half of the scientists of the capitalist and revisionist world work for the war industry of these countries. Direct military expenditure by the main capitalist and revisionist countries is estimated at nearly 500 billion dollars a year. In the 1980 fiscal year the two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union, to mention only them, expended about 270 billion dollars for military purposes, while in the 1981 fiscal year this expenditure will exceed 300 billion dollars.

Bent on world hegemony and domination, the USA and the Soviet Union are making extensive use of the arms trade «which», as Comrade Enver Hoxha says, «is another clear expression of the decay of imperialism.»⁵ Every year they sell more than 20 billion dollars worth of weapons to countries ruled by reactionary and fascist cliques — Chile, Israel, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, the South African Union, South Korea, as well as to countries rich in strategic raw materials and oil, in which the imperialist powers are greatly interested.

The stepping up of the militarization of the economy and the arms race is inseparably accompanied by increased parasitism and deepening decay of the capitalist-revisionist system, because huge material, financial, and work means are thrown out of the sphere of useful activities for social production. Colossal expenditure for military

purposes has unprecedentedly deepened chronic deficits in the state budgets and the balance of payments of the capitalist and revisionist countries. The burden of debts has become unbearable for the satellite countries of imperialism and social-imperialism. In 1979 the revisionist countries of Eastern Europe had incurred debts in excess of 75 billion dollars, whereas the debts of the undeveloped capitalist countries (without including the member countries of OPEC) were estimated at 150 billion dollars, or four times as much as five years ago.

The militarization of the economy and military expenditure, in general, weigh almost exclusively on the broad working masses because the capitalist state covers them with such means as increased inflation, rising prices for mass consumer goods and ever higher tariffs for services, growing rents, taxes and fees, etc. All this has led to an unseen increase of the cost of living. In 1979, in most capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist countries prices for mass consumer goods went up 20-50 per cent, whereas inflation oscillated between 8 and 20 per cent. Militarization and the arms race serve the monopolies, the financial oligarchy, to ensure maximum profits, to enlarge the capitalist market, to increase their capacity for hegemony and expansion, being at the same time a means of the exploiting class to crush all revolutionary movement of the proletariat and other working masses at home and abroad. In order to carry out its policy of oppression and exploitation, expansion and hegemony, imperialism maintains a large police apparatus of millions of gendarmes.

All this has brought about an unexampled deepening and exacerbation of all the contradictions of capitalist reproduction, caused economic crises of overproduction and made them more and more frequent. The period between two crises, which in the first half of this century was 7-9 years,

today is 4-6 years. This has further increased irregularities in the mechanism of capitalist reproduction. As a consequence, capitalist reproduction is going through a chaotic and contradictory development. The more and more frequent crises of overproduction are clear testimony to the deep-going rottenness of present-day monopoly capitalism, of the inability of this system to ensure the further development of the productive forces.

PARASITISM AND ROTTENNESS IN ALL FIELDS

The present-day capitalist society is becoming more and more polarized into proletarians and into bourgeois. The general law of capitalist accumulation, discovered by Marx more than one century before, is operating with increased force. Where the impoverishment of the working people is growing deeper, the profits of the monopolies are increasing out of all proportion. The parasitic strata of rentiers and stockholders, of people who have dissociated themselves from production and live in fabulous luxury on the income they secure from speculation with negotiable notes, have grown excessively. This process is encouraged especially by the rapid rate of increase of the export of capital, which Lenin described as utter parasitism. The role of rentiers today is played not only by individual bourgeois or limited groups of bourgeois, but even by entire states of the parasitic type. They export capital and live on the fruits of colonial and neo-colonial exploitation, appropriating interest rates and dividends from the exported capital. The main capitalist countries, especially the two superpowers, their multinational monopolies, etc. are the greatest parasites of our time.

The monopoly, imperialist and social-imperialist bourgeois not only lead a parasitic life themselves, but also divert from the sector of useful productive work an ever increasing number of people whom they engage in the non-productive sphere. In most capitalist countries, 30-50 per cent of the active population is employed in the non-productive sphere. At a time when these countries spend hundreds of billions of dollars annually for a huge bureaucratic apparatus, armies, spying, public relations, or even pet animals, about 1.5 billion people in the world live on the verge of starvation, the unemployed are more than 110 million. All this clearly shows the inability of the present capitalist system to make a national use of the main force of production of society — the labour power, it is another expression of the rottenness of this system.

Capitalist parasitism and decay, at the stage of imperialism, find their expression in the creation of the worker aristocracy, in the «leaders» of the working class being bought up by the bourgeoisie. In conditions of monopoly domination when the class struggle of the proletariat is exacerbated to the maximum, the monopoly, imperialist and social-imperialist bourgeoisie does its utmost to paralyze this struggle in order to defend the capitalist order at all costs. To this end, utilizing a minimum part of the maximum profit created through the exploitation of the proletariat and the broad masses of working people at home and abroad, the bourgeoisie corrupts the upper strata of the proletariat, creates the worker aristocracy, turning them into its own agents in the ranks of the worker movement.

The bourgeoisie pays fat salaries to the worker aristocracy, and especially the leaders of the reformist and revisionist parties, the chiefs of bourgeois trade unions, creating privileges for them at work, special facilities of

housing and recreation. This stratum betrays the interests of the working class, becomes the social base of opportunism and reformism in the worker movement and tries with various forms and means «to deceive and confuse the proletariat, to dampen its revolutionary vigour.»⁶ It is precisely the reformist and revisionist trade union chiefs who try to placate the workers and to keep the working class movement under control so that every action should take part within the bounds allowed by the bourgeoisie, so that nothing should impair its interests and, especially, threaten the foundations of capitalist power.

The all-round decay of imperialism today is seen clearly in the political life. The political power of capital has been dealt heavy blows which have opened wide breaches in its system, affecting all the political and administrative structures, all the institutes of the state power and political parties of the bourgeoisie. This is clearly seen in the ever more frequently recurring government crises. Only in Italy, where the decay of capitalism at its base and superstructure is reflected more clearly, forty governments have succeeded one another from the end of the Second World War up till today. In all the main capitalist countries, the positions of the principal political parties wielding state power have been seriously weakened. Corruption in the ranks of these parties is rampant. Political scandals, like the «Lockheed» affair in Italy, Japan, in the Federal German Republic, in Holland and other countries in which cabinet chiefs were involved, buying up of statesmen and senators by the multinational companies, have become frequent occurrences in the life of the countries where capital holds sway.

In order to get out of this predicament and confusion and to preserve its domination, the monopoly bourgeoisie is gradually renouncing its pseudo-democratic methods and encouraging

fascist tendencies by strengthening its means of violence, the army, police, secret services, organs of justice etc. It is strengthening the right-wingers in the ruling parties, the partisans of the «hard line». Neo-fascist and neo-nazi parties and organizations, especially in the Federal German Republic and Italy, Japan, Great Britain and other countries, are growing more and more active.

The reactionary course of the internal policy of imperialism expressed itself in the aggressive foreign policy of the imperialist powers, especially the two superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union, in their policy of pressure, blackmail, plots and open aggression. In the countries in which the great imperialist powers and the superpowers, in the first place, see their positions endangered, or to which they want to extend their domination, they organize military coups of the fascist type as in Indonesia, Chile and elsewhere, or resort to open military intervention and aggression as in the Dominican Republic, Czechoslovakia, Angola, Vietnam, Afganistan and recently in Salvador.

The deepening of the degeneration and decay of the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist society can be seen today in its degeneration in the field of philosophy, the arts and culture, as well as in the way of life, in the sweeping wave of degeneration, crime, sex and drugs. All these phenomena of degeneration are encouraged and propagated by an entire industry working on misinformation, falsification, crime, violence and vice with the aim of bemusing people, of numbing their revolutionary consciousness, of making them apolitical, of urging them towards a life devoid of all ideals. Never has there been so much moral decay, such degeneration in the way of life, such deep spiritual depression, as this which we see in the capitalist-revisionist world today, says Comrade Enver Hoxha.

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From penetrating class analysis the PLA and Comrade Enver Hoxha have made of the present situation in the world, of the contradictions eroding the capitalist-revisionist system and of the ever mounting revolutionary tide of the proletariat, the scientific conclusion emerges that imperialism unavoidably begets the revolution, and that the revolution is a law for the liquidation of imperialism.

The modern revisionists of all colours, making a great play with some new phenomena of contemporary capitalism of the second half of the 20th century, preach that allegedly capitalism today has entered a new phase of its history which is radically different from that of Lenin's analysis, that allegedly in this phase more «socialist elements» are being introduced into the capitalist society, and therefore the transition to socialism, according to them, will be carried out gradually, through reforms and increasing the specific weight of «socialist elements», without revolution.

The present-day capitalist reality clearly shows the falseness of these views and preachings. The deeper the trend to the transition to state monopoly capitalism, the more reaction get rooted, the greater and more acute the antagonistic contradictions, and the more urgent the need for the socialist revolution. Comrade Enver Hoxha, rejecting with facts the theorizings of the modern revisionists on the changed nature of imperialism, proves with scientific argument that all the changes that have taken place in the imperialist system are only changes in its form, whereas its economic, political and social nature, its economic laws and contradictions, in essence, have not altered, on the contrary the exploitation and oppression of the working class and other working masses by the capitalist monopolies have been

stepped up further. The present-day bourgeois state, which is completely in the hands of the monopolists, has grown still more reactionary. Imperialism, with monopoly domination as its essential feature, was born in the framework of the capitalist relations of production and the operation of the economic laws of capitalism, and continues to exist today in the same conditions. The contradiction between the social character of production and the private capitalist character of appropriation is becoming ever more pronounced; this, as is known, makes the socialist revolution an objective necessity. The proletariat and the other masses of the oppressed and exploited are growing more and more aware of the causes of their misery, understanding that the source of it should be sought in the very nature of the capitalist order, in the aggressive and predatory activities of the imperialist powers, especially the superpowers. They are growing more and more aware that the present-day bourgeois-revisionist society, the exploiting system of world imperialism must be overthrown and that the only means of salvation is the revolutionary struggle.

1 V. I. Lenin, *Selected Works*, vol. 1, p. 857, Alb. ed.

2 Enver Hoxha, «Imperialism and the Revolution», pp. 121-122, Alb. ed.

3 Enver Hoxha, «Imperialism and the Revolution», p. 121, Alb. ed.

4 Enver Hoxha, «Imperialism and the Revolution», p. 122, Alb. ed.

5 Enver Hoxha, «Imperialism and the Revolution», p. 123, Alb. ed.

6 Enver Hoxha, «Imperialism and the Revolution», p. 124, Alb. ed.