

# **Do Classes Exist the USSR?**

**By S. M. Zhurovkov, M.S.**

ONE of the conditions for the fulfilment of the tasks of building up a communist society, which the Soviet people are now solving, is the elimination of classes and class differences, for a communist society is first of all a classless society. The struggle for the elimination of classes in the land of Soviets began in the very early stage of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In the process of this struggle the landlord and big capitalist classes were eliminated. The outstanding achievements of socialist construction made it possible to build up the economic base of socialism, to rout the agents of the hostile classes—the Trotskyites and Buharinites—to strengthen the union of the working class and the peasantry, and on the basis of nation-wide collectivisation to eliminate the last, the most numerous class of exploiters in the land of Soviets—the kulaks.

In an appraisal of the significance of the liquidation of the kulaks as a class Stalin wrote: “This was a profound revolution, a leap from the old qualitative state, equivalent in its consequences to the Revolution of October, 1917.”

The liquidation of the exploiting classes in the USSR was immensely significant for the Soviet people, for the reason, first of all, that with the disappearance of the exploiting classes there vanished all the barriers standing in the way of the development of the country, barriers which in the past prevented it from surmounting its age-old economic and cultural backwardness and doomed it enslaving dependence on the more developed West European capitalist states. The liquidation of the parasite classes led, in the second place, to elimination of exploitation of man by man as well as of the

division of society into working people, who did not enjoy the fruits of their labor; and exploiters, who enjoyed all the benefits of life. In the USSR there came a radical redistribution of the national income. In Tsarist Russia the exploiting classes who comprised 15.9 per cent of the population, consumed almost 75 per cent of the national income, whereas the working people, comprising 84.1 per cent of the country's population, received but 25 per cent of the national income. The picture is the same in all the capitalist countries, where a handful of monopolists have seized the major part of the national wealth and income. After the liquidation of the exploiting classes, all the national income was directed to providing for the social and private needs of the working people.

The liquidation of the exploiting classes resulted, in the third place, in the removal of class antagonism inside the Soviet country. In a capitalist society there is perpetual hostility between the oppressor and the oppressed, who wage a ceaseless concealed or open struggle with one another. In the Soviet socialist society there is no such antagonism, there is community of interest, desires and strivings of all strata of the population.

The elimination of parasite classes in the USSR resulted, in the fourth place in the removal of conflicts and clashes between the nations, national groups and nationalities inhabiting the Soviet Union, for national conflicts have always issued from class contradictions, primarily from contradictions between the exploiting classes of the oppressing nation on the one hand and the exploited classes of the oppressed nation, on the other.

The liquidation of the exploiting classes, Stalin has pointed out, "has brought about a radical change in the aspect of the peoples of the USSR; their feeling of mutual distrust has disappeared, a feeling of mutual friendship has developed among them, and thus real fraternal co-operation among the peoples has been established within the system of a single

federated state.”

After the liquidation of the exploiting classes in the USSR, there remained the working class, the peasant class and the intelligentsia. Close friendship and cooperation developed among them. They have rallied for the common struggle of building communism. The aspect of these social groups under socialism has changed beyond recognition.

“... In the new, socialist society,” said Stalin, “crises, poverty, unemployment and destitution had [by 1936—Ed.] disappeared forever. The conditions had been created for a prosperous and cultured life for all members of Soviet society.

“The class composition of the population of the Soviet Union had changed correspondingly. The landlord class and the old big imperialist bourgeoisie had already been eliminated in the period of the Civil War. During the years of socialist construction all the exploiting elements—capitalists, merchants, kulaks and profiteers—had been eliminated. Only insignificant remnants of the eliminated exploiting classes persisted, and their complete elimination was a matter of the very near future.

The working people of the USSR—workers, peasants and intellectuals—had undergone profound change in the period of socialist construction.

“The working class had ceased to be an exploited class bereft of means of production, as it is under capitalism. It had abolished capitalism, taken away the means of production from the capitalists and turned them into public property. It had ceased to be a proletariat in the proper, the old meaning of the term. The proletariat of the USSR, possessing the state power had been transformed into an entirely new class. It had become a working class emancipated from exploitation, a working class which had abolished the capitalist economic system, and had established socialist ownership of the means of production. Hence, it was a working class the like of which the history of

mankind had never known before.

“No less profound were the changes that had taken place in the condition of the peasantry of the USSR. In the old days, more than 20,000,000 scattered individual peasant households, small and middle, had delved away in isolation on their small plots, using backward technical equipment. They were exploited by landlords, kulaks, merchants, profiteers, usurers, etc. Now an entirely new peasantry had grown up in the USSR. There were no longer any landlords, merchants, and usurers to exploit the peasants. The overwhelming majority of the peasant households had joined the collective farms, which were based not on private ownership, but on collective ownership of the means of production, collective ownership which had grown from collective labor. This was a new type of peasantry, a peasantry emancipated from all exploitation. It was a peasantry the like of which the history of mankind had never known before.

“The intelligentsia in the USSR had also undergone a change. It had for the most part become an entirely new intelligentsia. The majority of its members came from the ranks of the workers and peasants. It no longer served capitalism, as the old intelligentsia did; it served socialism. It had become an equal member of the socialist society. Together with the workers and peasants was building a new socialist society. This was new type of intelligentsia which served the people and was emancipated from all exploitation. It was an intelligentsia the like of which the history of mankind had never known before.

”Thus the old class dividing lines between the working people of the USSR were being obliterated, the old class exclusiveness was disappearing. The economic and political contradictions between the workers, the peasants and the intellectuals were declining and becoming obliterated. The foundation for the moral and political unity of society had been created.”

In the Soviet Union 80 to 90 per cent of the intelligentsia are people who have come from the working class and the peasantry. They serve the people, for there are no longer any exploiting classes. That is precisely why the Soviet intelligentsia, said Stalin “is now an equal member of Soviet society, in which, side by side with the workers and peasants... it is engaged in building the new, classless, socialist society.”

These changes in the class structure of the USSR are very important for the successful upbuilding of a communist society. As a result of these changes the dividing lines between the working class and the peasantry, and between these classes and the intelligentsia, are being obliterated. The gap between these social groups is steadily diminishing.

Thus, because of the victory of socialism in the USSR, the union of the working class and the peasantry developed, under the guiding influence of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), into moral and political unity of the whole Soviet people.

The task of building up a communist classless society requires the complete obliteration of the remaining minor and non-antagonistic differences between the classes. The surmounting of the contradictions between town and village creates the economic prerequisite for the complete elimination of class differences between the workers and peasants, and the elimination of the contradictions between mental and manual labor will remove the differences between these classes and the intelligentsia.

The Soviet people have already achieved no little success in this respect. A further increase in labor productivity, all-round economic and cultural upsurge in the village, further mechanisation of agriculture and rise of the cultural and technical level of the working class to the level of the engineers and technicians will play a decisive part in the creation of one

of the most important conditions for the final achievement of a communist society—the elimination of class and social differences among the people.

Chapter I of the Constitution of the USSR, dealing with the social structure, in parts reads as follow:

### **Article 1**

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a socialist state of workers and peasants.

### **Article 4**

The economic foundation of the USSR is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production, firmly established as a result of the liquidation of the capitalist system of economy, the abolition of private ownership of the instruments and means of production, and the elimination of the exploitation of man by man.

### **Article 5**

Socialist property in the USSR exists either in the form of state property (belonging to the whole people) or in the form of co-operative and collective farm property (property of collective farms, property of co-operative societies.)

### **Article 6**

The land, its mineral wealth, waters, forests, mills, factories, mines, rail, water and air transport, banks, communications, large state-organized agricultural enterprises

(state farms, machine-and-tractor stations and the like), as well as municipal enterprises and the bulk of the dwelling houses in the cities and industrial localities, are state property, that is, belong to the whole people.

## Article 7

The common enterprises of collective farms and co-operative organizations, with their livestock and implements, the products of the collective farms and co-operative organizations, as well as their common buildings, constitute the common, socialist property of the collective farms and co-operative organizations.

Every household in a collective farm, in addition to its basic income from the common collective farm enterprise, has for its personal use a small plot of household land and, as its personal property, a subsidiary husbandry on the plot, a dwelling house, livestock, poultry and minor agricultural implements—in accordance with the rules of the agricultural artel.

*Source: USSR Information Bulletin, January 27, 1950, Volume X, Number 2, page 48-49, Published twice monthly by the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at 2112 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington 8, D.C.*

Scanned / Digitised by  
The Socialist Truth In Cyprus - London Bureaux  
Web: <http://www.kibristasosyalistgercek.net>  
<http://www.kibristasosyalistgercek.net/intro.htm>  
E-mail: [info@kibristasosyalistgercek.net](mailto:info@kibristasosyalistgercek.net)



March 2010