

Our Main Differences

The Defeat of the Right in and their split from the Worker-communist Party of Iran

By Azar Majedi and A.J.

After the passing away of Mansoor Hekmat, the late leader of the worker-communist party and movement, sharp political differences began to arise within the leadership of the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) developing into a Right-wing bloc, primarily consisting of the ranks of the WPI's Kurdistan Committee around the policies and views of Koorosh Modaresi. When these internal debates were made available to the cadres, this bloc decided to leave the Party. Instead of remaining within the ranks of the Worker-communist Party and continuing their struggle in the framework of a communist and radical programme and policies, they decided to leave and separate their path from that of worker-communism.

This bloc has now formed another party called WPI-Hekmatist. By using Mansoor Hekmat's name, it aims to conceal its Right-wing views and methods within a Left and communist wrapping and to convert Mansoor Hekmat's credibility into capital for itself - a socialist-bourgeois group. However, the political theses of this group - as revealed over the past two years as well as their actions - do not have any similarity with the views and tradition of Mansoor Hekmat. In the real world, political parties must be judged not in the way they describe themselves but as they truly are. Using Mansoor Hekmat's name is a tremendous injustice to him. We will not allow the Right to sacrifice his credibility for its own self-interests.

Unfortunately, many of those who succumbed to this separation did not have much affinity with the dominant policies of the Right-wing bloc. But the adverse methods of this group were able to affect a number especially when internal documents and debates were not yet available to the cadres and members of the Party. This bloc constantly withstood all attempts to make the debates, which would clearly reveal their right-wing views and its critique by the Left, available to the cadres and members. This thereby gave rise to conditions in which this bloc could take advantage of informal and behind the scene circles to advance its position. But the political truth could not remain hidden once the debates were made available to the cadres.

The split was the result of a period of heated internal debate at the highest levels of the Party and the result of the clear response it received from the majority of the cadres. The Right-wing policies and views that were formulated and asserted by Koorosh Modaresi never became the WPI's official policy. The Left-wing in the Party never allowed these policies to take root. In the final analysis, the Worker-communist Party, Mansoor Hekmat's party, stood firmly and resolutely against these right-wing policies and theses, which represent class collusion and a moving away from socialism.

How must one look at these developments? The Worker-communist Party is a social and influential Party and internal developments must be examined and evaluated within the social and political developments in society. The absence of Mansoor Hekmat - under conditions in which Iranian society is facing important and decisive political developments - allowed this Right-wing trend to raise its head in the Party. Its views and tactics are

fundamentally those that are expressed and publicised by Right-wing political trends and

1. This bloc refrains from the immediate establishment of socialism ('socialism later'): Socialism is not its urgent and immediate task. It has announced that even after the Worker-communist Party gains political power, it will not implement its socialist programme and socialism. It believes that implementing socialism will disperse the ranks that have gathered under the banner of worker-communism. This is a classic Right-wing thesis in the ranks of the Left. This is clearly contrary to the WPI's programme and Mansoor Hekmat's communism. The struggle over the necessity of immediately implementing socialism and 'socialism immediately' was one of the main areas of struggle within the Party in this period.

2. This bloc diminishes the role and position of a social revolution in the current developments: The WPI is a Party that 'struggles for the complete victory of the social revolution of the working class and the introduction of workers' communist programme in its entirety' (A Better World). A social revolution is the most possible and humane way to bring about a Socialist Republic, a system that guarantees freedom, equality and prosperity. The class colluding policies of this bloc are fundamentally based on diminishing the role and position of a social revolution. Ignoring the great revolution that is underway and abstaining from organising and leading it is one of the main pillars of this bloc's political strategy - the revolution that can only become a victorious workers' revolution with our all-out efforts. From this bloc's point of view, revolution is an 'uncivilised, violent, and undemocratic' phenomenon. This explanation of revolution falls within the framework of right-wing views in the society. Consequently, reliance on means other than a social revolution to obtain political power and overthrow the political and economic system of the ruling class have become another pillar of this bloc. These efforts have no other meaning than class collusion and their turning their back on the workers' revolution.

3. This bloc creates stages in the revolutionary process: In social developments, the WPI and Mansoor Hekmat's communism is committed to organising and leading the social revolution of the working class and a socialist revolution. This bloc's theses, like all the non-communist groups, are reliant on creating states in the revolution - that is a democratic revolution and then a socialist revolution. The theory of revolutionary stages has no other meaning other than to delay the task of organising and guiding the social revolution of the working class. It effectively delays the overthrow of the capitalist system and the end of an upside down world of poverty and misery, exploitation and suppression, discrimination and inequality. The policies of this bloc effectively make communists negligent regarding the revolutionary developments and puts off the task of a workers' revolution to some undetermined future. The defeat of these theses during the social developments in history is completely clear for all communists of the Marxist tradition.

4. This bloc advocates a coalition government versus a workers' state: The strategic policies of this bloc in the current developments are based on the establishment of a coalition government inclusive of Right and Left groups of society and even including segments of the 2nd Khordad forces or the Reformists within the Islamic regime (such as Hajarian). These wholly Right-wing policies are completely opposed to the fundamental principles and political positions of the WPI and the communist tradition of Mansoor Hekmat. The WPI has had a crucial role in defeating the 2nd Khordad or so-called Reformist project. Participating in a 'Hajarian' style government under any condition is a reactionary policy. The WPI strives to overthrow the entirety of the Islamic regime of Iran and immediately establish a Socialist Republic based on people's councils. The strategy of this bloc, however, is based upon the right-wing and non-communist thesis of 'coalition government plus a constituent assembly groups in society. The crux of these political views and differences are as follows:

plus a referendum'; these have no place in our movement. These theses already have their

5. This bloc advocates for a 'party of multiple views', which is contrary to a united worker-communist party. The WPI is a modern, humane party reliant upon principled and clear communist standards and norms. After Mansoor Hekmat's passing away, this trend raised the thesis of changing the WPI from a party that is 'uni-pillar for the workers' revolution' with 'united view and action' (Our Differences) to a 'party of multiple views'. This thesis is an attempt to create an environment within the Party that will allow the expression of the Right trend in it. The thesis of 'multiple views' is contrary to the existence of a united party. Once again the WPI has come out strong in this historical test. The Right-wing in the Party has been defeated and left our ranks. Despite a numerical loss, the Party has come out of this stronger and more resolute. The losses will soon be made up. Iranian society is on the brink of an immense social development. The society will quickly lean to the Left and to worker-communism. The present period is the period of our unprecedented growth and expansion. The WPI is the hope of innumerable people for freedom, equality and prosperity.

We pledge to keep Mansoor Hekmat's banner higher than ever. We call on all to join the ranks of the WPI. This is the Party of all those who struggle for freedom and equality.

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