

STALIN ILLUMINES THE PATH

By Ajoy Ghosh, General Secretary, Communist Party of India

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy, No. 50 (214) December 12, 1952

The appearance of Comrade Stalin's classical work, 'Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.' is an event of world-historic significance. Supplying precise answers to the vital and urgent questions that have come to the forefront in every country of the world, both Socialist and capitalist, both where the proletariat wields power and where it is still an oppressed class, Comrade Stalin illumines the path that has to be traversed in the march towards classless society, to Communism, and arms the world-revolutionary movement with a clear perspective and clear understanding of the tasks ahead.

Once again, as in every historic epoch since its appearance, Marxism shows its immense vitality, its creative character, its capacity to act as an unfailing guide to the working class in the struggle for human liberation.

K. Marx and F. Engels transformed Socialism from a utopia into a science by discovering the general laws of development of human society and the specific laws of development of capitalist society. By propounding, on the basis of these laws and with prophetic vision, the inevitable overthrow of the capitalist system and the conquest of power by the proletariat, the founders of scientific Socialism prepared the ground for the mass revolutionary movement of the working class for Socialism.

Making a profound analysis of capitalism in its monopoly phase, V. I. Lenin showed why imperialism is the eve of social revolution of the proletariat. On the basis of the law of uneven development of capitalism in the imperialist era, the law which he discovered and elaborated, Lenin showed the inevitability of sharp conflicts and wars between imperialist states, to re-divide and already divided world, and also predicted the possibility of the victory of Socialism in one country, thereby arming the proletariat of each country with a revolutionary perspective and unfettering its revolutionary initiative.

Guided by the theories of Lenin, the Party of Lenin and Stalin translated this prediction into reality and created the first socialist state in the world.

Basing himself on the theories of Marx and Lenin and further enriching and developing them at each stage of historic development, Comrade Stalin, the architect and builder of Socialism in the U.S.S.R., gives in his latest work a masterly survey of the new world situation, points out the profound significance of the disintegration of the single all-embracing world market and the coming into existence of two parallel world markets. He discovered and elaborated the basic economic law operating in socialist society and the basic economic law operating in present-day capitalist society, i.e. the laws which explain the growing contrast

between the two worlds, which explain the immense superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

Thereby Comrade Stalin enables the proletariat of all countries, both where it has won victories over imperialism and where it is still struggling, to understand clearly what tasks it has to carry out for the establishment of Communist society and also for the overthrow of imperialism where it still rules.

Thus, today when the transition to Communism is being effected in the U.S.S.R., when a number of countries have firmly set out on the path to Socialism and when the crisis of capitalism has deepened as never before, Comrade Stalin's work performs a role similar to that performed by the basic scientific works of Marx and Engels in the hey-day of capitalism and by the works of Lenin in the era when capitalism had entered the phase of decay, when the epoch of imperialism and the proletarian revolution set in.

Discoveries of Profound Revolutionary Significance

Of exceptional significance for a correct understanding of the economic situation in all capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries is the basic economic law of modern capitalism discovered by Comrade Stalin. A key task of the Indian Communist Party is the economic development in India in the light of this law, the specific features and manifestations of this law in a semi-colonial country like ours – both in relation to the British and American imperialists and in relation to the Indian monopolies collaborating with them, for a share in the plunder of their own people.

The continued British hold over our economy and exploitation of our resources – even after the ending of direct British rule – the strangling of India's development, the rapid penetration of American imperialism, the sharp rivalry between British and American imperialists for the Indian market, the black-marketeering and speculations indulged in by Indian monopolists who show little concern for the industrialisation of the country, the shameless looting of the state budget in the name of various schemes and projects, the increasingly heavy burdens imposed on all classes of people, including sections of the national bourgeoisie, by the state which is in the grip of monopolists and landlords, the vast swindling and corruption which have become an integral part of every 'plan' undertaken by the Government, the decline in agriculture and the catastrophic food situation dooming millions to starvation, the shrinking of the market, the stagnation of industries – all these phenomena must be studied by us in the light of the basic economic law formulated by Comrade Stalin.

Of equally great significance for us are Comrade Stalin's formulations of the tasks, role and possibilities of the present-day peace movement. These formulations, the Reports to the Nineteenth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Comrade Stalin's inspiring speech at the Congress supply weapons of inestimable value in the struggle for the preservation of peace and for the defence of national freedom in face of the growing aggression of the American imperialists.

Drawing attention to the significance of two parallel world markets, Comrade Stalin points out that the area of exploitation by the capitalist powers has shrunk catastrophically, deepening the general crisis of capitalism, making even partial stabilisation impossible and confronting the imperialists with an extremely difficult situation.

Criminal Plans of the Warmongers

In an attempt to solve the crisis at the expense of the common people and of the Soviet Union and the democratic states and with a view to securing world domination, the imperialist aggressors, led by the U.S., are feverishly preparing for war. They build military bases all over the world. They seek to undermine the independence and sovereignty of every country and bring it under their sway in an attempt to avert the crisis and as part of their preparation for world war.

The imperialist aggressors led by the U.S., and the capitalist governments that have become their satellites are destroying every vestige of democratic liberty for they know that the war they are planning cannot be launched without fettering the people who abhor war, love peace and freedom, and have sentiments of deep friendship for the Soviet Union, People's China and the people's democratic countries.

American imperialism's drive towards world war proceeds along the path of enslavement of other countries, the destruction of all democratic liberties and the imposition of colossal burdens on the people.

'U.S. imperialism', says Comrade Malenkov, 'is at present not only the aggressor, it is the world gendarme seeking to strangle freedom wherever possible and to implant fascism'. Hence, it is the greatest enemy of all progressive humanity, not excepting the American people themselves.

Guided by the sole motive of making maximum profit and fearing the people of their own countries, the reactionary bourgeois leaders who value dollars more than national freedom, are becoming a willing party to this nefarious game of the American warmongers. They are facilitating American penetration into their countries, bartering for dollars national sovereignty, national independence, the honour, safety and democratic liberties of their peoples.

We are witnessing the initial phases of the same process in India. America has not merely invaded the Indian market, securing a foothold in vital mineral ores, the Government of India itself has entered into agreements with the American Government on terms which have been characterised as bonds of slavery even by orthodox Gandhi followers. In partnership with the American Government, so-called community projects have been launched enabling an increasingly larger number of American agents to spread out over our whole country.

This is the path that leads to national slavery. This is the path that leads to our country being dragged into the criminal war now being prepared by the American imperialists and their allies.

Inevitably, therefore, the struggle for the preservation of peace becomes clearly linked with the struggle for defence of national freedom. It becomes a struggle into which all classes, sections and elements that abhor war, value freedom and honour, can and must be drawn.

'To bridle and isolate the gamblers of the camp of the imperialist aggressors who seek to embroil the peoples in a sanguinary slaughter for the sake of their profits – such is the principal task of all progressives and peace-loving mankind', (Malenkov).

Peaceful Co-Existence of Two Systems Possible

There are people in our country claiming to be 'revolutionaries' and even 'Leninists' – and their number is by no means small – who scoff at the peace movement. They assert that a world war, a war between the 'two worlds' is inevitable. And to substantiate their 'thesis', they even quote Comrade Stalin's statement about the inevitability of wars as long as imperialism continues.

Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. Comrade Stalin emphasizes the '**inevitability of wars between capitalist countries generally**' (my emphasis) as long as imperialism lasts. This inevitability arises from the law of uneven development of capitalism formulated by Lenin, a law whose correctness has been demonstrated by the entire history of capitalism in the imperialist era, a law which not only does not disappear but operates with accentuated momentum in the situation that has developed since the end of the Second World War. To eliminate the inevitability of wars, Comrade Stalin stresses, it is necessary to abolish imperialism. The present-day peace movement can and must play an important role. But the war for which the Anglo-American bloc headed by the aggressive American imperialists are now preparing, the war which can only be a world war and cause untold misery and distress to all countries and all peoples – this war, though its danger is great, can, undoubtedly, be averted or at least put off for a considerable period of time. And the interest of all peoples demands struggle for preventing this war.

Comrade Stalin teaches:

'Peace will be preserved and consolidated if the peoples take the cause of preserving peace into their own hands and defend it to the end. War may become inevitable if the warmongers succeed in entangling the masses of the people in lies, in deceiving them and drawing them into a new world war'.

The stand of those who assert that a world war cannot be prevented, and that the socialist and capitalist worlds cannot co-exist peacefully amounts in reality to ideological surrender to imperialism.

Their assertion that the two worlds must inevitably go to war against each other means acceptance of the imperialist thesis that if, instead of two systems, there had been only one system, even the capitalist system, that would have been a factor for peace – a thesis the falseness of which has been proved by the entire history of imperialism. It is an assertion based on the denial of the peaceful nature of the socialist and democratic states.

Their thesis that a third world war is inevitable is a thesis which does not take into account the immense and growing might of the socialist and democratic states – itself the biggest factor for peace – the strength of the working class and revolutionary movement, the strength of the peoples' urge for peace and for national freedom.

Their thesis that a third world war is inevitable leads, therefore, to passivity in face of the offensive of the warmongers, passivity in face of the threat to national freedom, passivity on the struggle for peace.

The two systems can co-exist peacefully. This fundamental Lenin-Stalin thesis holds as true today as ever before. Nay, it holds more true than ever before because of the growing might of the peace-loving socialist and democratic states, the immense sweep of the peace movement and the increasing strength of the working class and national revolutionary forces.

As Comrade Malenkov points out: 'The present correlation of forces between the camp of imperialism and war and the camp of democracy and peace makes this prospect' – the prospect of preserving peace and preventing world war – 'a completely real one.'

Peace Movement – Movement for Preserving Peace and Preventing War

Undoubtedly, the danger of world war is real. But immensely powerful are the forces ranged against it. And these forces are growing stronger every day.

The peace movement aims at rousing the broad masses in struggle for preserving peace and averting a new world war. Every war brings immense misery to the people and retards human progress. Also, one war starts, no matter between which states, the danger of world war will grow.

The peace movement – the broadest non-party, democratic movement for the preservation of peace – will, if it succeeds, result in preventing a particular war, in its temporary postponement, in the temporary preservation of a particular peace. But its success is not enough to eliminate the inevitability of inter-imperialist wars in general – the inevitability of which arises from the economic laws that operate in capitalist society.

All the friendship, and love that the capitalist states profess for each other, all their talk about united struggle against the 'menace' of Communism, cannot conceal the reality that inside the shrunken capitalist world, fierce antagonism rages –

antagonism between the victor imperialist powers of the second world war and the vanquished powers, antagonism between the victor powers themselves, above all between Britain and America, for markets, for spheres of investment, for spheres of influence. And as the crisis of capitalism deepens and as the prospect of success in a war against the socialist and democratic world grows dimmer, these antagonisms more and more come to the forefront and sharpen.

Nevertheless, the longer peace is preserved, the greater grows the contrast between the two worlds, the stronger grows the working class and revolutionary movement and the greater, therefore, grows the possibility of banishing wars in general through the abolition of imperialism itself.

Such is the perspective that Comrade Stalin's work and the Nineteenth Party Congress documents based on this work open out before the entire world revolutionary movement.

Communist Party – The Party That Upholds National Freedom and Sovereignty

In his inspiring speech which concluded the memorable Nineteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U., Comrade Stalin made a profound analysis of the role of the reactionary bourgeois leaders of the capitalist world and defined the role that the Communist and Democratic Parties must play. The reactionary bourgeoisie today sells the rights and independence of the nation. For it, national sovereignty, which it swore by in the past, means nothing. For it, democratic liberties, which it once fought for and even upheld, are an obstacle in the path of its anti-national, anti-people's policies. It, therefore, destroys democratic liberties.

In this situation it is the Communist and Democratic Parties in each country that must uphold and fight for national freedom and national sovereignty, democratic rights and liberties, rallying to this sacred cause all progressive classes, sections and elements. In this way and in this way alone can they become the guiding force of the nation, its true champion.

This is the role that our Party must carry out in India. It must be in the forefront in the struggle for liquidation of all vestiges of British rule, for defence of the national independence and sovereignty threatened by the American aggressors, for preservation of peace, for a life of happiness and prosperity for the people. Guided by the teaching of Comrade Stalin our Party must forge itself into an instrument powerful enough to carry out these tasks.