

# Why the Stalin Revaluation Takes Place at This Time

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THIS IS A QUESTION that is being asked on many sides: how does it happen that the Stalin cult of personality is being combatted just at this particular time. Yet the answer to it is quite obvious.



To begin with, the revaluation was made both possible and immediately necessary by the death of Stalin. As I have pointed out in previous articles, in view of the existing situation when Stalin was alive, with his tremendous prestige in the Communist Party and among the masses, it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, to have gone through with any such revaluation. If it had been undertaken upon a decisive scale, it could have resulted in a disastrous split. Premier Cyrankiewicz of Poland makes this pretty clear when he says, (N.Y. Times, April 2): "it would have been a crime against the revolution and the nation to march against the revolution because of distortions."

Once Stalin had passed away, however, this split danger ceased; then a review of Stalin and his work, and the re-establishment of Party democracy and collective leadership became readily possible. It was begun promptly, almost immediately after Stalin's death. In order to eliminate the cult of the individual at the roots, it was neces-

sary to assay from the ground up Stalin's policies and methods of work, in first line, for the sake of the health and effectiveness of the Party. This is the main reason why Stalin's revaluation is taking place at the present time.

A SECOND basic reason for this development is that it constitutes a major contribution to the growth of peaceful coexistence among the various countries of the world. It is thus a measure of the first order. Over the years, partly due to Stalin's excesses with his exaggerated emphasis upon his own personality but mainly as a result of hate-inspired bourgeois war propaganda, the USSR has been pictured far and wide as a police-state; one that constituted a war menace to the world.

The present elimination of Stalin's cult of personality and the general re-strengthening of Soviet democracy which is accompanying it, will go far to liquidate the above anti-Soviet slander. This in turn will greatly facilitate the working together of the USSR with other states upon a mutually friendly basis. This peaceful perspective is very alarming to the Wall St. imperialists, who cherish as the apple of their eye big lies that the Soviet Union is a police-state and an aggressive imperialist power.

A THIRD important reason for the current thorough-going re-evaluation of Stalin's role and the re-establishment of collective leadership in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is that this will also greatly as-

sist in overcoming the present split in the world trade union and political movements, and it will also help to clear the way for the development of progressive people's front movements in various countries. It is a tragic fact that the powerful Social Democratic labor movements of the world are heavily penetrated with bourgeois-inspired anti-Soviet moods, and the resulting split is a veritable disaster to international labor. As the forces of Socialism grow ever stronger on a world scale, however, this division in labor's ranks must and will be overcome. The revaluation of Stalin, with all its implications and ramifications, is a long stride in this general direction.

The revaluation of Stalin, with its strengthening of the C. P.S.U., its healthful lessons for other workers' organizations, its facilitation of peaceful coexistence among nations, and its tendency toward uniting the forces of world labor, will prove historically to be a great step forward for the international forces of peace, prosperity, and Socialism. There are some people, admirers of Stalin, who believe, as the bourgeois spokesmen are shouting, that his reputation will be utterly destroyed in the revaluation of his work that is now taking place. But this is not so, as the recent editorial in Pravda on the question, makes evident.

When all of Stalin's shortcomings and leadership excesses have been exposed and explained, he will still stand as a fighter who performed great services in the building of Soviet and world Socialism.