

GANDHI-NEHRU-INDIRA: HEROES OR TRAITORS OF THE PEOPLE ?

The Indian people have for centuries been struggling against both their oppressors - landlords to solve the basic question of land and the British colonialists. In 1857-58 this struggle of the Indian people against the British colonialists gave rise to the First War of Independence when the people rose up throughout the length and breadth of India against British colonialism. To prevent another uprising such as this the British imperialists needed an organization that would serve their interests in India. Accordingly, the Indian National Congress was formed for this purpose by a British administrator A.C.Hume, in 1885 and the British could once again rely on the feudal kings and landlords who had always welcomed them in return for personal gain to become members of the INC.

Leaders of the INC like Gandhi, Nehru and Indira Gandhi represented the interests of the landlord class and comprador bourgeoisie who benefited from British rule in India and therefore served British interests rather than fulfil the aspirations of the common Indian people. Thus even though British Imperialists 'left' India in 1947 actual British investment increased. In the 50's U.S. investment dramatically increased in India. To-day, U.S. imperialists and SOVIET SOCIAL imperialists largely control the Indian economy and make super profits by exploiting the Indian people.

Gandhi, Nehru and Indira have in no way fulfilled the aspirations of the common people. The basic problem of land still exists and is to-day being solved not by Indira Gandhi but by the people themselves led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). The second discussion of this series will look into the actual role played by these 'leaders' promoted as heroes of the Indian people.

ALL GENUINELY INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE INVITED.

Indian Progressive Study Group Programme

- | | |
|---|---|
| • <u>Gandhi-Nehru-Indira: Heroes or traitors of the people ?</u> | June 26, 72, 7:30 p.m. at International Student Centre (ISC), 33 St. George St., Toronto. |
| • Farce of Indira Gandhi's "Socialism" | July 3, 72, 7:30 p.m. at ISC |
| • How Imperialists plunder India today! | July 10, 72, 7:30 p.m. at ISC |
| • Is population and Food a problem ? | July 17, 72 7:30 p.m. |
| • Cultural heritage of the Indian people. | July 24, 72, 7:30 p.m. |
| • Can socialism come to India through the road of Parliamentary Democracy ? | July 31, 72, 7:30 p.m. |
- Places for the above to be announced.

"FOLLOW THE NAXALBARI WAY FOR PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC INDIA"

(The programme put before the Indian people by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)

-the cause to which the Indian revolutionaries are dedicated- will be the central theme of this conference)

CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

(details to be announced)

For further information contact:

Indian Progressive Study Group,
P.O.Box 32, Station 'F', Toronto.

HISTORY OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE

On June 19, 72, the Indian Progressive Study Group held the first meeting in its new series on the topic: History of the Indian People.

Chairman Mao has correctly pointed out that "classes struggle, some classes triumph, others are eliminated. Such is the history, such is the history of civilization for thousands of years". India is an agrarian country, a country of peasant masses hard working and talented. More than 75% of the Indian population lives in the countryside. India is a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country. The main class struggle is centered around the question of land i.e. the class struggle between the landlords and landless and landpoor peasants. Out of the 4 major contradictions in India- the contradiction between imperialism and social imperialism on the one hand and our people on the other; the contradiction between feudalism and the broad masses of the people; the contradiction between capital and labour and the contradiction between the ruling classes - the contradiction between feudalism and the broad masses of the people is the principal contradiction.

India has been in the hands of the oppressors who have consistently propagated that the kings and queens, warlords and landlords are the makers of history while the broad masses have no role to play in history. On the contrary, masses are the makers of history and it is the common Indian people who have propelled the progress

continued

continued from page 1

of Indian history. The history of the Indian people which has been a history of innumerable peasant uprisings against feudalism and imperialism, can be divided into 3 major parts :- A) History before the British colonized India. B) History during the British colonialists robbing of India and C) Contemporary India after "Independence!"

During pre-British times India as a whole was divided into numerous small kingdoms with the kings continuously fighting among themselves for more territory. Throughout, India had been subjected to invasion after invasion against which the Indian people always fought whereas the feudal kings and princes hardly put up any resistance to these conquests. During this time the feudal system developed and consolidated. For centuries three departments had existed under the feudal kings namely, the Department of War (i.e. external robbing), the Department of Finance (i.e. internal robbing) and the Department of Public Works. The Indian peasants had the land they tilled but had to pay heavy taxes to the king in return.

In 1600 A.D. the British colonialists came under the guise of "traders" with the intention of robbing and looting India and used the policy of 'divide and rule' to conquer India. Feudal kings and landlords consistently welcomed the British colonialists while the common people continuously opposed the British expansion in India. For centuries the village economy based on hand tilling coupled with hand weaving and hand spinning had been a self-sufficient economy. British colonialists completely neglected the public works for agriculture and destroyed the hand spinning and weaving industry by inundating the country with British textile. By destroying this economic base of the village economy surplus labour was created which would now flock to the cities to act as wage labour while destruction of the hand industry created an enormous market for British industries; forced cultivation of cash crops (cotton, tea, jute etc.) insured a constant supply of raw materials for England.

Through the system of Zemindari and Roytari, forcefully imposed on the Indian people by the British colonizers, the Indian peasants were dispossessed of their hereditary claims to the soil in favour of tax collectors called Zemindars. This new class of Zemindars were loyal to the British colonialists and constantly betrayed the aspirations of the common people to free themselves from the yoke of British imperialism. The continued uprisings of the Indian people were reflected in the First War of Independence - a war fought by the peasantry and rebel soldiers. This National War of Independence turned into a conflagration engulfing the whole of India, inflicting many humiliating defeats on the British colonialists shaking the very foundation of British rule. But this uprising failed as the feudal class sold out to the British and the people had ^{no} scientific theory ^{revolutionary} nor leadership capable of leading them to victory. Undaunted the people continued their struggle thereafter.

The British colonialists, with the spectre of 1857-58 fresh in their minds realized that they needed an organization composed of the Indian feudal landlord class that was ready to liquidate the militancy of the Indian masses and prepared to hoodwink the people with a sham independence. Thus in 1885, A.O. Hume, a British administrator formed the Indian National Congress (INC) to fulfil the requirements of the British imperialists to continue their plunder of India. It was the British who promoted Gandhi 'the champion of the peoples aspirations and the apostle of peace and non-violence'. By using the INC and Gandhi the British colonialists were able to divert and liquidate the struggle of the Indian people. The heroic Indian people themselves continued to wage struggle against British imperialism and feudalism. For example, between 1906-1909 there were in one area of Bengal and Assam alone, over 557 uprisings led by youth and students.

In 1947 the British colonialists "left" India in the hands of this same class of sellouts - feudal landlords and comprador bourgeoisie to ensure their continued plunder of India and after 1947 British investment in India increased considerably. Under the hoax of "Independence" India was turned into a neo-colony from a colony.

The Indian ruling class could never resolve the question of the suffering of the landless and landpoor peasants inflicted by the blood sucking landlord class as the ruling class itself perpetuates the sufferings of the people. In 1967 the heroic event, the Naxalbari uprising took place. This was the first time when the science of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought was applied to the concrete conditions of India. In 1969, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) was formed under the leadership of comrade Charu Mazumdar. Since 1967, the Indian people have found their aspiration of freeing themselves from the yoke of feudalism and imperialism in the path illuminated by Naxalbari; of solving the contradiction between the landlord class and the peasantry regarding the question of land.

So we see that the history of the Indian people is the history of uprisings and struggles against their oppressors. To-day, the Indian people are following the Naxalbari way for a People's Democratic India to get rid of the 4 mountains on their back - Imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, Soviet Social imperialism, feudalism and comprador-bureaucrat capitalism. They are bound to win as they have both a scientific theory as well as revolutionary leadership, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), capable of leading them to victory.

Meeting to Denounce the harrassment of patriotic Indians by imperialist lackey police.
Time: Sunday, June 25, 72, 3:30 p.m. at Woodgreen United Church, 875 Queen St. East.
