

Joseph Stalin was a great Marxist-Leninist. He inherited Marxism-Leninism, and defended it against many enemies. He led the building of socialism in the U.S.S.R. He led the Soviet people in the struggle against the Nazis. All this the world proletariat will never forget.

But comrade Stalin also made many mistakes.

After the kulaks were eliminated, he repeatedly declared: "The exploitation of man by man has now been abolished....All the exploiting classes have now been eliminated."<sup>1</sup> And again: "The feature that distinguishes Soviet society today from any capitalist society is that it no longer contains antagonistic, hostile classes; that the exploiting classes have been eliminated."<sup>2</sup>

This was simply not true. Many groups of people received far over the average income. Is this not exploitation? Indeed, bourgeois elements crop up throughout the stage of socialism.

Stalin failed to realize that class struggle still existed after the kulaks were eliminated. He said: "Soviet society, liberated from the yoke of exploitation, knows no such antagonisms, is free of class conflicts, and presents a picture of friendly collaboration...."<sup>3</sup>

All this but a few short years after they had expelled some 270,000 party members!

Stalin failed to recognize that the question of which would win out, the socialist road or the capitalist road, was yet to be decided, and thought that capitalist restoration could come only from invasion. He said: "The socialist ownership of the means of production has been established as the unshakable foundation of our Soviet society."<sup>4</sup> He also said: "The final victory of socialism is the full guarantee against attempts at intervention, and hence against restoration, for any serious attempt at restoration can be made only with serious support from outside, only with the support of international capital."<sup>5</sup>

The revisionist take-over completely disproves both of these.

These errors came from two places. On the one hand, the Soviet Union was the first, and at the time, the only country to build socialism, so there was no historical experience to sum up. On the other hand, Stalin did not apply dialectics to socialist society, that is, he one-sidedly stressed the positive aspects, while completely ignoring the negative aspects, such as the bourgeois elements, the possibility of internal restoration of capitalism, etc. In so doing, he obscured the contradictions of socialist society, and denied the struggle of opposites.

Chairman Mao has repeatedly pointed out:

"In the historical period of socialism, there are still



classes, class contradictions and class struggle, there is the struggle between the socialist road and capitalist road, and there is the danger of capitalist restoration. We must recognize the protracted and complex nature of this struggle. We must heighten our vigilance. We must conduct socialist education. We must correctly understand and handle class contradictions and class struggle, distinguish the contradictions between ourselves and the enemy from those among the people and handle them correctly. Otherwise a socialist country like ours will turn into its opposite and degenerate, and a capitalist restoration will take place!"<sup>6</sup>

The question of Stalin is inseparable from the restoration of capitalism in the U.S.S.R.

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1. J.V. Stalin, On the Draft Constitution of the U.S.S.R., Problems of Leninism, FLPH Moscow, 1953, p. 683.
2. J.V. Stalin, Report to the 18th Congress of the CPSU, Problems of Leninism, FLPH Moscow, 1953, p. 777.
3. loc. cit.
4. Stalin, Draft Constitution, op. cit., p. 683
5. Stalin, On the Problems of Leninism, Problems of Leninism, op. cit., p. 191.
6. Mao, quoted in Lin Piao, Report to the 9th National Congress CPC, pp. 20-21.

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