

PARTY STUDY SYLLABUS 1978

A COURSE IN MARXIST ECONOMICS : PART 2

PROBLEMS OF A COUNTRY WHERE SOCIALISM IS ESTABLISHED

REQUIRED BOOKLIST AND READING

Stalin : Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR.
Stalin : On the Opposition(1921-27)
Lenin : State and Revolution
Lenin : Economics and Politics in the Era of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat
Engels : Principles of Communism
Marx : Critique of the Gotha Programme
From China : New China's First Quarter Century
 : Why China has No Inflation
 : China's Renminbi - One of the few stable currencies in the world (Published in 1969; search your collections)
From Korea : Our Party's Policy for the Building of an Independent National Economy
Enver Hoxha : Report to 7th Congress
Mehmet Shehu : Report on the 5th Five-Year Plan (1971)
Mehmet Shehu : Report on the 6th Five-Year Plan (1976)
Mao Tse Tung : Vol.5 Selected Works

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A.ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SOCIALISM IN USSR(1952) by Stalin

- 1) What is the character of economic laws under socialism? (pp.1-9, 49-51,87-90)
- 2) Does commodity production exist under socialism? (pp.9-18)
- 3) How does the law of value operate under socialism? (pp.18-23)
- 4) Why is it necessary to abolish the antithesis between town and country, and between mental and physical labour under socialism? (pp.24-9) Would such problems arise in a socialist Britain?
- 5) What is the difference between the basic economic laws of modern capitalism and socialism? (pp.37-42)(pp.75-81)
- 6) Do the relations of production ever achieve complete conformity with the character of the productive forces? (pp.51-2)
- 7) Can means of production be regarded as commodities in a socialist system? (pp.53-5)
- 8) Do enterprises have to make a profit under socialism? (pp.57)
- 9) Why is it an error to underrate the role of relations of production under socialism? Can communism be reduced to the struggle for proper organisation of the productive forces and their rational utilisation in social production?" (pp.60-71)

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B.PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNISM (1847) by Engels

Read Question & Answers 12 and 13.

- 1) What kind of a new social order will socialism introduce? (pp.11-12, Question 14)
- 2) Is it possible to abolish private property at one stroke?(p.14, Question 17) Relate to contemporary Britain.
- 3) Read Question 18 which bears the imprint of its time. (pp.14-17) Discussion: 'What might be the course of a British Revolution?' Would not points 1,2,4,6,7,12 be useful guidelines? What else would we be required to do?
- 4) What will be the consequences of the final abolition of private property? (pp.17-20 Question 20)

C. CRITIQUE OF THE GOTHA PROGRAMME by Marx

- 1) What happens to the total social product under socialism? What deductions will be necessary? (pp.12-14)
- 2) Does equal right of the producers exist under socialism? If so, when will it be overcome? (pp.15-17)
- 3) Can socialism be presented as turning principally on questions of distribution? (pg.18) How does Marx's criticism of the vulgar socialists help us to understand contemporary attempts to disguise the real character of socialism?

D. CAN SOCIALISM BE BUILT IN ONE COUNTRY?

- 1) The above question is dealt with fully by Stalin. See the collection of his articles entitled 'On the Opposition' (Page numbers refer to Chinese edition) pp.317-330, 534-538, 542-47, 634-648.
How important a principle is this to our Party line? Is it one of the facets of our line that distinguishes us? Does the working class think it is a feasible proposition for Britain?

E. A BRIEF STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIES

(The Education Committee suggests the following method of study for this section:- Make a comrade or comrades responsible for a particular item. It is then their responsibility to study the text and topic, prepare a contribution for branch study and lead the discussion. The list of books below is extensive, yet not exclusive. You may wish to study some but not all.)

- 1) 'Our Party's Policy for the Building of an Independent National Economy' - Korean pamphlet.
'New China's First Quarter Century' - Chinese pamphlet
'Why there is no inflation in China' - Chinese pamphlet
Enver Hoxha : 'Report to 7th Congress' (pp.30-73)
Mehmet Shehu : 'Report on the 5th Five-Year Plan (1971-75)
Mehmet Shehu : 'Report on the 6th Five-year Plan (1976-80)
'China's Renminbi - One of the Few Stable Currencies in the World' (published back in 1969)
Several articles in Volume 5 of Mao's Selected Works deal with the socialist transformation of China.
See also Kim Il Sung for similar articles in his Selected Works (available in bookshop)

A proper study of the above should lead to the discussion of some of the following:- economic independence-self reliance-dictatorship of proletariat-nationalisation of industry-priority to which sections of the national economy-proper ratio between the production of the means of production and the manufacture of consumer goods-relationship between heavy industry, light industry and agriculture-raw materials-socialist accumulation- proper balance between accumulation and consumption-why socialism can do without without taxation-etc, etc.

- 2) While pursuing this section of study, we should continually keep in mind what a socialist Britain has to learn from all this varied experience, as well as the areas where we have different problems and would need different solutions. This section of study should make the Party consider what we would need within a socialist economy - encourage to study what exists in the different economic branches of capitalist Britain (or what is missing or declining). Has our study helped to make more real our slogan of 'Save Britain'?

F. THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

- 1) Read pp.102-122 of Lenin's 'State and Revolution' and Lenin's 'Economics and Politics in the Dictatorship of the Proletariat'. What makes a socialist economy socialist and not state monopoly capitalist?