

PARTY STUDY SYLLABUS 1976-77

A COURSE ON MARXIST ECONOMICS

PART I

Introduction

The Central Committee, on the suggestion of the Education Committee, has instructed the whole Party to study Marxist Economics. The choice of topic is not accidental. Over a number of years the Central Committee has felt that our Party has exhibited an inexcusable ignorance over questions of Marxist Economics. We must rectify such a basic deficiency.

In the past, discussion of economics within the Party has invariably led to the airing of Keynesian economics under the guise of being Marxist, to the peddling of contemporary bourgeois economic fads and prejudices, indeed to the expression of whatever particular bugbear is residing in our minds, whether it be pronouncements on supply and demand or productivity deals, etc.

The proposed economics course has nothing in common with such an eclectic, lazy approach.

Because our understanding of Marxist economics is impermissably weak (and if we were to be truthfully honest, generally nonexistent), the Central Committee believes the main purpose behind the study is to read and study texts actually written by our historical forefathers, Marx and Engels. We must try and understand and come to grips with what they actually said.

The Central Committee insists this must be our immediate task of education. To this end, the Education Committee will supervise and check the progress of all branches throughout the duration of the course. Therefore the course is not designed to allow branches or individuals to propound pet theories culled either from the contemporary press or from the so-called experts engaged in reinterpreting Marx and Engels. Please do not diverge from this expressed strategy. Do not allow hares to be smuggled in - exert a discipline. If we accomplish this syllabus successfully, it is envisaged that we will try and relate this study to our contemporary situation - we will attempt to devise a syllabus that will relate our study to a proper economic understanding of the world we now inhabit - obviously different in many respects from that of Marx and Engels' day.

But this - the Part 2 of the syllabus - can only be accomplished properly if we truly understand the foundations and framework of Marxist economics. Therefore, we must study the original texts, however difficult or simple they may appear to be. Remembering that there are no experts - we all proceed from ignorance acknowledged or unacknowledged. But let us all agree to learn collectively.

The Education Committee wishes to stress the need to take nothing for granted: if you do not understand, say so; and call for collective discussion, and, hopefully, explanation and enlightenment.

REQUIRED BOOKLIST AND READING

Booklist

- Capital, Volume 1
- Critique of the Gotha Programme
- Wage-Labour and Capital
- The Opium War (Chinese booklet, 32p)
- Wages, Price and Profit

Extra Reading

- Programme
- 4th Congress Document

A. WAGE-LABOUR AND CAPITAL by K. Marx
Introduction of 1891 by F. Engels

- 1) Define Labour Power
 - 2) What is a commodity?
 - 3) What are wages? How are they determined?
 - 4) How is the price of a commodity determined?
 - 5) What is the effect of monopoly on prices? The effect of international monopoly?
 - 6) How is the cost of production of simple labour power determined? Give examples of this in Britain -- say, a doctor, miner, teacher.
 - 7) Are there any other factors?
 - 8) Explain the social relations of production
 - 9) What is surplus value? How is it produced? What is capital?
 - 14) What is the relation between capitalist and workers
 - (a) today?
 - (b) at the end of the 19th Century?
 - 11) Explain nominal wages, relative wages and real wages.
 - 12) Where do profits come from?
 - 13) Why then, even if the material conditions of workers improve, is there still antagonism between the interests of capitalists and workers?
 - 14) Discuss costs of production
 - (a) in the industrial revolution
 - (b) in the World War when there were costs plus 10% for capitalists
 - (c) in declining capitalist Britain
 - (d) under socialism.
 - 15) The increasing use of machinery and/or more sophisticated technology - what influence does it have?
 - 16) Why were the Fords' sewing machine strike (1969) and the Trico women's strike (1976) so important? Was the first a success and the second a failure? If so, why?
 - 17) "The working class gains recruits from the higher strata of society also." How do we explain this in light of the two class line?
 - 18) Explain what is meant by 'crises of capitalism'. What do we mean when we say that British capitalism is in absolute decline?
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B. WAGES, PRICE AND PROFIT
(Read page 20 carefully)

- 1) The prices of commodities.
 - 2) What is price?
 - 3) How are the relative values of commodities expressed?
 - 4) What is the market price? Are there any other factors determining this besides supply and demand?
 - 5) Read page 45 'The value of labouring power'. Are there any other factors existing today?
 - 6) Explain surplus value.
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C. CAPITAL (Everyman Edition)

You have learned the bare bones of Marxist political economy from Wage-Labour and Capital and Wages, Price and Profit. Capital puts livingflesh upon those bones. Such a long book (and we are reading only the first of three volumes) is not ideal for branch study one hour per week. Tell us how your branch solves the problem. When Kugelman told Marx that his wife found Capital difficult Marx advised her to start by reading chapters 8, 11, 12 and 24. You may wish to do the same, but eventually every branch must read all the sections listed on the next page.

Chapter 1. Commodities

To page 10.

10-17

26-34

Bottom of 43-58

Chapter 4. Transformation of Money into Capital

131-141

Chapter 5. Surplus Value

169-178

179-193

Chapter 8. The Working Day

230-311

Chapter 11. Co-operation

336-352

Chapter 12. Labour and Manufacture

353-369

Chapter 13. The Factory System

480-547

Now read the Chinese pamphlet on "The Opium War". It shows how the British created inflation in China.

Chapter 17. Labour Power and Wages

583-591

Chapter 18. Time Wages

592-600

Chapter 19. Piece Wages

601-610

Chapter 21. Simple Reproduction

621-635

Chapter 23. Capitalist Accumulation

717-789

Chapter 24. Primary Accumulation

79-847

BACK TO BASICS :
PARTY EDUCATION & THE PRESENT SITUATION

(Summer 1979)

"If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you."
(Rudyard Kipling)

We live in difficult demanding times. Events and circumstances in the world change rapidly, not least so in Britain. Sometimes they develop for the better, though often not. Reaction makes solid preparations to match or outstrip progress, whose sole representative is the workers and peasants of the world.

Confusion of mind is prevalent throughout the world and this ideological disarray is being exacerbated and confounded by the open Judases in China and the idiocies of Albania. The Chinese rulers retreat quite brazenly from the basic tenets of communism and betray their fine revolution. In truth they do not deserve the appellation revisionist; for they do not revise marxism, they ignore it, they disdain it, they attack it. The Albanians remove themselves from workers and their organisations and shelter in the phoney comfort of an international network of their own making largely comprised of CIA Agents and crackpots.

In such times only people and parties who are clear and determined (only those with the "root of the matter" in them as they described it in the English Civil War) will survive and prosper. It is with such a world situation in mind, as well as the awesome absolute decline of capitalism taking place in Britain, that the Party's Education Committee recommends that the next Party study syllabus should be based on the basics of Marxism-Leninism and the fundamentals of our Party line. Basic marxist texts, basic party statements and pamphlets. We have studied Marxist philosophy and Marxist economics, now we must be sure about our political ABC.

While others may vacillate, flounder or openly withdraw into opportunism, we must ensure that our Party and our British working class remain clear and vigilant, true to the class struggle, true to revolution, the salvation of mankind.

The Education Committee

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BACK TO BASICS SYLLABUS : DRAFT OUTLINE

A. CLASS AND THE TWO CLASSES IN BRITAIN

1. Marx & Engels: 'THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO' (1848)
Read Section 1 entitled 'Bourgeois and Proletarians'
2. CPBML Pamphlet: 'THE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THE INTERNAL POLEMIC, 1972-74'
First: pages 1-7, Where did the Working Class come from? and
Second: pages 7-halfway down 9. *Relatively, but how?*
Third: pages 11-13, How many classes?
3. CPBML Pamphlet: 'WHITE COLLAR :- A MYTH DESTROYED, A CLASS MADE STRONGER' (1973?)
4. CPBML Statement: 'BURNING QUESTIONS' (1971)
Read page 4 which deals with the 'middle class- a convenient fiction'.

B. THE STATE

1. Marx & Engels: 'THE MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'
Read the 1872 Preface to the German Edition.
2. Lenin: 'THE STATE AND REVOLUTION' (1917)
Read Chapter 1, 'Class Society and the State' (pp7-27 Chinese ed.)
3. Discuss the British state today, particularly the rise of corporatism.

C. REVOLUTION AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

1. Lenin: 'THE STATE AND REVOLUTION'
Read Section 3 of Chapter 2, 'The Presentation of the Question by Marx in 1852' and read Chapter 3 'The Experience of the Paris Commune of 1871. Marx's Analysis.' (pp41-30 (pp.44-68)
2. Stalin: 'THE FOUNDATIONS OF LENINISM' (1924)
Read Chapter 4, 'The Dictatorship of the Proletariat' (pp41-55 Chinese edition)
3. Stalin: extract from 'REPORT TO THE 18th CONGRESS OF C.P.S.U. (B) 1939'
Read Section *111, 4. entitled "Some Questions of Theory" - just the first few pages on the question of the state and socialist state in particular. (NOTE WELL - this is to be duplicated for the Party)
4. LENIN: 'THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION & THE RENEGADE KAUTSKY'
Read the first 4 chapters, 'How Kautsky Transformed Marx into an ordinary liberal', 'Bourgeois and Proletarian Democracy', 'Can there be equality between the exploited and the exploiter' and 'The Soviets dare not become state organisations'.

D. COMMUNISM AND THE WITHERING AWAY OF THE STATE

1. Lenin: 'THE STATE AND REVOLUTION'
Read chapter 5, 'The Economic basis of the withering away of the state' (pp101-124)

E. THE NATURE OF THE WORKING CLASS / THE LABOUR MOVEMENT / TRADE UNIONS

1. CPBML 2nd CONGRESS STATEMENT, 'THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS & ITS PARTY' (1971)
Read section entitled 'Class Struggle in Britain' (pp.5-7)

- E2. CPBML 2nd CONGRESS STATEMENT, 'THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS & ITS PARTY'.
Read Section entitled 'Trade Unions and Class Struggle'(pp8-9)
3. CPBML PAMPHLET, 'DEFINITIVE STATEMENT..'
Read extract, beginning halfway down page 9("Of the recognition of unions..") to page 11.
4. THE BIRTH OF LABOUR ARISTOCRACY IDEAS, ETC.
EXTRACTS FROM ENGELS AND LENIN'S WRITINGS ON BRITAIN
Read the extracts provided in a duplicated form by the Party.
5. CPBML STUDY SYLLABUS(1975), 'TRADE UNIONS, THE LABOUR MOVEMENT, THE STRUGGLE OF THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS.' PART 2.'
Soon to be reissued.
6. LENIN: 'IMPERIALISM - HIGHEST STAGE OF CAPITALISM'(1920)
Compare readings 1,2,3,5 with 4 and 6.
Read pp 8-10 and chapter 8, 'The Parasitism and Decay of Capitalism', pp118-131 in Chinese edition.
7. CPBML STATEMENT) THE STRUGGLE OF IDEAS (1974)
To be reissued if unavailable.
8. CPBML STATEMENT - BURNING QUESTIONS FOR OUR PARTY(1971)
Read pages 1-3 and page 5
To be reissued if unavailable.

F. THE PARTY

I.

Marx & Engels: 'THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO'

Read the first sections of Chapter 2 'Proletarians and Communists' up to the sentence beginning: "They merely express in general terms actual relations springing from an existing class struggle.."

2. Stalin: 'THE FOUNDATIONS OF LENINISM'
Read Chapter 8 on 'The Party(pp.104-121) Chinese edition)
3. Our Party has never just imitated experience of previous parties. We have done things in our own way. The Education Committee is going to attempt to write down some of the achievements methods procedures developed by our Party over 11 years. Once completed it will be distributed to branches.
4. CPBML PRE-CONGRESS CONTRIBUTIONS
'On Discipline'(Pre-Congress 1976)
'The Question of Discipline in a Marxist Leninist Party(Pre-Congress 1979)
'The Conduct of the Party under more difficult conditions'(Pre-Congress 1979)
5. CPBML PAMPHLET - 'DEFINITIVE STATEMENT'
Read pages 15-16
6. CPBML 2nd CONGRESS STATEMENT(1971)
Read sections entitled 'The Party and Class Struggle' and 'The Party of the Working Class' (pages 9-13)

G. PEACE AND WAR)- INTERNATIONALISM

- I. Lenin: 'On War & Peace/3 Articles'
Read Chapter I of the first article entitled 'Socialism and War' (pages 4-27 Chinese edition)

G2. RESOLUTION OF STUTTGART CONGRESS 1907
BASLE MANIFFESTO 1912

3. BRITAIN IN THE WORLD 1977 - CPBML PAMPHLET

H. OUR PARTY'S STRATEGY AND DIRECTION

I. CPBML 4th CONGRESS STATEMENT 1976
Be sure to read complete version.

2. CPBML 5th CONGRESS STATEMENT

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EDUCATION SYLLABUS : REVISIONISM & SOCIAL
DEMOCRACY.

Dear comrades,

With the request and approval of the Central Committee, the Education Committee proposes a second syllabus to be studied by ALL members. It is necessary to know the roots of revisionism and social - democracy in order to improve our work with the working class and to defeat these enemies.

STALIN.

Foundations of Leninism (Chapters I,2,3,4,7.)

LENIN.

The Proletarian Revolution & Renegade Kautsky (Ch.I pp.5-19, Ch.2 pp.19-30, Ch.7 pp.72-90 Chinese edition)

LENIN.

Left-Wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder (Ch. 5-9, pp. 26-92)

MAO TSE TUNG.

Rectify the Party's Style of Work (in pamphlet form and in Selected Readings.)

ENVER HOXHA.

Speech in Moscow, 1960.

also

Study Marxist-Leninist Theory Linking it Closely with Revolutionary Practice

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. Why is it that so far the British working class has failed to make revolution ?
2. Every Marxist-Leninist Party is in danger of revisionism. What forms could this take in our Party ?
3. What does it mean to have Marxist-Leninist leadership of the working class ?

BOOKS.

Foundations of Leninism	Stalin	8p.
Left-Wing Communism	Lenin	8p.
The Proletarian Revolution & Renegade Kautsky	Lenin	10p.
Rectify the Party's Style of Work	Mao	5p.(SR 20)
Speech in Moscow 1960	Hoxha	5p.
Study Marxist-Leninist Theory	Hoxha	5p.

Also useful : Proletarian Revolution &
Proletarian Dictatorship
(quotes)

Lenin 10p.

Available from Bellman/ $\frac{1}{3}$ discount to members.

Marxism - What is it?

"Philosophers have merely interpreted the world, in various ways, the point however is to change it."

In this sentence is summed up the whole essence of Marxism. Marxism is a scientific understanding of capitalism, and more. It is, based on this understanding, a guide to action - it is the theory of making revolution.

We all know and have experienced some of the effects of capitalism. We have seen that capitalism can produce on the one hand great fortunes of wealth - the multi-millionaire Howard Hughes', while it also produces and allows on the other pensioners to exist on £10 per week.

Capitalism creates unemployment while people need and want the goods which could be produced by the skills of those on the dole. Our "free enterprise" society stops food being produced - and pours milk down the drain in order to keep profits up, while in parts of the world people starve and rickets increases within our children in this country.

Our society produces corrupt politicians while we have to "morally" accept and be content with a maximum £6 per week rise. Capitalism creates pornography, hyperthermia, illiteracy and slums. Yet capitalism is not eternal, it can be transformed. It is inevitable that one day it will be overthrown and replaced by socialism.

Do we understand these scientific explanations offered by Marxists since the 1840's?. Do we fully understand our society and how we will change it?. It is hoped that this present study course will contribute some of the answers. It attempts to look at the developments of Marxism through the work of Marx and Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao tse-tung. We are ^{not} falling into the trap of seeing history as being the result of the works of "great" men, although we do recognise the contributions to our revolutionary understanding by these people in summing up the historical experiences of the international working class.

Their experiences will guide us to our revolution in Britain!

<u>Week I</u>	Marx and Engels	-	Reading "The Communist Manifesto" K. Marx
<u>Week II</u>	V. I. Lenin	-	Reading "The Foundations of Leninism" J. V. Stalin - pages 1-51 + Lenin "The State"
<u>Week III</u>	J. V. Stalin	-	Reading "The Foundations of Leninism" J. V. Stalin - As Above + pages 101-118

Week IV

Mao tse-tung

- Reading Mao "On Practice"

Week V

Britain

- Reading "The British Working Class
and its' Party"
