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THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
FACTIONALISM AND TROTSKYISM

Trotsky and the Trotskyites before the court of time and history

BY JESÚS ORTA RUIZ

THE POLICY of Trotsky — Judas Trotsky, as Lenin called him — was characterized by the fact that its capitulating nature was concealed by empty ultraleftist chatter. While Lenin taught the Party that revolutions were not made but rather sprang from crises and historical shifts that developed by virtue of objective laws — regardless of the desires of parties and classes — Trotsky felt that revolutionary changes were the work of certain select groups that could “store” the will of the proletariat for a revolutionary transformation of society. He tried to make people believe that social change came about in an absolutely voluntarist manner. He overlooked the laws of revolution

Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution. By upholding this line at the time when the Russian people were on the way to revolution, he was indicating his lack of faith in the possibility of victory for the working class and its allies in a single country and was ignoring the specific national features of the class struggle.

After the October Revolution, Trotsky evinced his capitulation and lack of faith in the Russian proletariat by talking about carrying the revolution to other countries by force, while Lenin felt that the main thing at that time was to establish the Republic of Soviets of Russia, because, from both the national and international socialist points of view, it was essential to preserve the republic

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In his mistaken theory of permanent revolution, Trotsky said that it was possible to jump over certain stages for there were always historical leaps in the course of social development.

Lenin felt that, under certain conditions of social development, it was possible to avoid some stages. He predicted what we are witnessing and experiencing today. In the era of powerful socialist forces, not all countries and peoples must pass through the historical stages of social development known to man. This does not mean, however, that if the required conditions did not exist it was scientifically permissible to skip certain stages when those stages served to obtain tactical gains. In the case of the Russian Revolution, for example, the correct path was not leaping over the bourgeois democratic revolution but rather working within it to transform it into a socialist revolution.

Time and history have shown that the great Lenin was right. Just as the principles of dialectical materialism dictated, the bourgeois democratic revolution of February 1917 was transformed into the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Trotsky denied the revolutionary potential of many millions of peasants who constituted the great majority of the population in Russia. He was always contemptuous of the role to be played by the workers of the countryside in the revolution.

Lenin, who knew how to lead the masses without forgetting the Marxist principle of space and time, had worked to make possible the alliance of the working class with the peasants from the beginning of the century. The February and October Revolutions were brilliant confirmations of his magnificent strategic plan. In November 1918, Lenin wrote, "Things have turned out just as we said they would. The course taken by the revolution has confirmed the correctness of our reasoning. First, with the 'whole' of the peasants against the monarchy, against the landowners, against medievalism (and to that extent the revolution remains bourgeois, bourgeois-democratic). Then, with the poor peasants, with the semi-proletarians, with all the exploited, against capitalism, including the rural rich, the kulaks, the profiteers, and to that extent the revolution becomes a socialist one."

Trotsky had predicted that the peasants would wage war against the working class and thus threaten to deal the achievements of the revolution a death blow. What happened in fact was what Lenin had predicted. The alliance of the working class with the working peasants constitutes a solid base for Soviet power.

On the eve of the October Revolution, Trotsky said that there was no room for national revolutions in the era of imperialism. He claimed that it was impossible to establish socialism in one country alone. He called for the founding of "the United States of Europe, without monarchies, standing armies or feudal ruling castes and without secret diplomacy."

That slogan, which does not take into account proletarian revolution, reflects the cosmopolitan and capitulating nature of

at that time was to establish the republic. Soviets of Russia, because, from both the national and international socialist points of view, it was essential to preserve the republic where the socialist revolution had already started.

History showed that it was possible to establish and maintain the state of workers and peasants in a single country and that, as Lenin pointed out, revolutions did not all take place at the same time, they were the result of class struggles in specific countries and they developed in political situations that varied from one country to the other.

Trotsky held the view that the revolution should be "extended" all over the world using the armed forces of Soviet Russia. His pseudo-revolutionary adventurism was not limited to the theoretical field. During the peace talks with Germany at Brest, he tried to drag the Russian people into war, which would have put them in danger of military defeat.

Lenin's brilliant policy made possible the achievement of peace, which was needed to consolidate the socialist state whose victory would serve as a model and inspiration for the development of the world revolutionary process. The international revolution would be the dynamic sum of a series of national revolutions that would take place one after the other in different periods according to the objective and subjective conditions of each country. Imperialism would be defeated as the weakest links were broken.

The October Socialist Revolution is now 60 years old, and practice has shattered all the metaphysical and capitulating theories of Trotsky and the Trotskyites. The world's first socialist state held out alone for 28 years. It did not export armed troops, but it did spread all over the world the conviction that workers could free themselves from capitalist oppression and take power for good. When it was attacked by the fascists it chased the enemies from its soil and pursued them all the way to Berlin. A number of new socialist states sprang up in the wake of the glorious Red Army, not imposed from without, but born of specific historical conditions.

Today as the red star shines either as a reality or as a hope over the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America; as the national liberation movements ask for and get the cooperation of the Soviet Union and of all the peoples of the socialist community; and now that the international workers' movement has become a dynamic and influential force, what do the Trotskyites have to say with regard to genuine proletarian internationalism and the world revolution?

Things did not and could not turn out as Trotsky wanted, but they did turn out as Lenin wanted and knew they had to.

However, there are petty bourgeois pseudo-revolutionary minorities who, given the upsurge of socialism and the overwhelming reality of the Soviet Union, have tried to revive Trotsky, building up idols with clay feet.

Rodney Arismendi, first secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay, aptly called Trotskyism "debris from a sunken ship."

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