

China's Great Revolution and the Soviet Union's Great Tragedy

by OBSERVER

FROM the beginning, China's great proletarian cultural revolution has hit the Soviet revisionist renegade clique where it hurts the most and shaken its tottering "throne."

Throughout the past year, scarcely a day has passed without the Soviet revisionist clique headed by Brezhnev and Kosygin viciously slandering, attacking and vilifying China's great proletarian cultural revolution. In a constant outpouring of venomous abuse, they allege that China's great cultural revolution is a "great tragedy."

Is this strange? Not at all. History shows that a truly great revolution is always a joyous festival to the revolutionary people but a great tragedy to the reactionary forces.

When the great Paris Commune came into being in 1871, Marx hailed it as the greatest day for the proletariat. But the monarchs and bourgeois rulers in Europe cried out in alarm that it was a dreadful catastrophe.

When the shots of the cruiser *Aurora* reverberated in 1917 and the song of triumph was sounded for the great Russian October Revolution the proletarians and other revolutionary people the world over were elated and inspired. But the imperialists and the renegades of the Second International ground their teeth and said that this would be the "final act" of the Russian revolution, that it was Bolshevik "arbitrariness" and "adventure."

When victory was achieved by the great Chinese revolution in 1949, the people throughout China and the rest of the world were jubilant. But U.S. imperialism shrieked in panic that the situation in China was "unfortunate" and "tragic," and that it was a "most anguished period."

The great proletarian cultural revolution now going on in China is a revolutionary movement which is more deep-going and larger in scale than the Paris Commune, the October Revolution and all past revolutions in China. Is it not quite natural that such a great revolution should give rise to howls and calumny from the

Soviet revisionist clique of renegades and all the reactionary forces in the world?

After the Russian October Revolution Lenin posed the question: Who had abused the first Soviets created by the Russian working class? They were "all the bourgeois scoundrels, the whole gang of bloodsuckers, with Kautsky echoing them."

Brezhnev, Kosygin and their like today are the abject followers of the renegade Kautsky whom Lenin had bitterly denounced. In madly abusing China's great cultural revolution as a "great tragedy," they only fully expose themselves as counter-revolutionaries.

A great tragedy has indeed taken place in the international communist movement of our time. But it has occurred in the Soviet Union, not in China. Its creators are none other than the gang of big renegades and scabs represented by Khrushchov and his successors Brezhnev, Kosygin and company.

Revisionism is now dominant in the homeland of Leninism, where the banner of the great Lenin has been lowered and trampled upon by the Khrushchov revisionist clique.

In the Soviet Union, the first socialist state in the world, set up by Lenin, the dictatorship of the proletariat has today become the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie; capitalism has been restored and the socialist state has changed colour.

Today, the Soviet people who achieved great successes under the guidance of Lenin and the leadership of Stalin have once again been reduced to the position of the oppressed and exploited. They have been deprived of the fruits of the revolution gained at such an inestimable cost in blood shed in protracted struggles.

Today, in the Soviet Union, which was once looked upon by the people throughout the world as the base of the world revolution, and to which the hearts of millions upon millions of revolutionary people were turned, the ruling clique has become the No. 1 accomplice of U.S. imperialism and another headquarters of world reaction. The red star over the Kremlin has completely lost its radiance.

This is a shocking picture and a grave, enormous historical retrogression!

The history of the international communist movement provides almost no instance of proletarian state power in a socialist country being toppled by the international bourgeoisie through armed attack from without. But a fortress can most easily be taken from within. Now, imperialism, which is at the end of its rope, uses war threats against the socialist countries from without, and at the same time is mainly employing the Khrushchov clique to carry out subversion from within, and it has effected "peaceful evolution" in the Soviet Union without losing a single soldier or wasting a single round of ammunition. Is this not a major historical lesson?

The great historical retrogression in the Soviet Union has confronted the international communist movement with an extremely important new question, that is, after seizing power, how can the proletariat retain it and prevent the restoration of capitalism? How can the socialist revolution be carried through to the end in the midst of the acute and complex class struggle? This is a major question which all our Marxist-Leninist predecessors did not encounter, did not live long enough to solve or were unable to solve.

It is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of the present era, our leader of genius Chairman Mao, and the historically unparalleled great proletarian cultural revolution in China led by him that have solved this question theoretically and answered it through the earth-shaking revolutionary practice of millions and millions of people.

The most fundamental lesson to be drawn from the tragedy that took place in the Soviet Union is that proletarian state power has been usurped by the Khrushchov revisionist clique. After the death of the great Marxist-Leninist Stalin, Khrushchov, a careerist and long-time schemer who had sneaked into the Party, and his gang found conditions ripe and staged a palace coup and usurped Party, army and government leadership in the Soviet Union. Since then, state power in the Soviet Union has changed character, a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie has replaced the dictatorship of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie has effected counter-revolutionary restoration through its agents.

As Chairman Mao has pointed out: "Those representatives of the bourgeoisie who have sneaked into the Party, the government, the army and various cultural circles are a bunch of counter-revolutionary revisionists. Once conditions are ripe, they will seize political power and turn the dictatorship of the proletariat into a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie."

China's great proletarian cultural revolution has absorbed this serious historical lesson of the Soviet Union.

This great revolution has profoundly educated and tempered the Chinese people and has also profoundly educated and influenced the revolutionary people all over the world. In China and throughout the world, thousands upon thousands of the revolutionary masses, by their own experience or observation of China's great proletarian cultural revolution, and by comparison and analysis, are further arming themselves with the infinitely brilliant thought of Mao Tse-tung. And revolutionary theory, once grasped by the masses, releases an infinitely powerful material force for the transformation of the world.

Through this great revolution, all revolutionary people understand ever more clearly that during the entire historical period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, classes, class struggle and the struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road exist in society. And, consequently, the danger of a capitalist restoration exists for a long period.

Through this great revolution, all revolutionaries understand more and more clearly that in the class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat political power remains the most fundamental thing of all. The proletariat wants to consolidate its political power and the bourgeoisie wants to overthrow it. The proletariat wants to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie wants to overthrow it. This is a life-and-death struggle. If we lose our vigilance, state power will be usurped by persons of the Khrushchov type and the political power of the proletariat will be lost after it has been seized.

Through this great cultural revolution, all revolutionaries understand ever more clearly that the danger of capitalist restoration comes mainly from those representatives of the bourgeoisie who have sneaked into the organs of the dictatorship of the proletariat, from the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road. The contradiction between the proletariat and the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road is the principal contradiction in socialist society. This is the concentrated expression of the class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and between the socialist road and the capitalist road. The handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road are the main target of the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Through this great cultural revolution, all revolutionaries understand more clearly that the class struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie in the ideological sphere is of vital importance and necessity. **Chairman Mao says: "To overthrow a political power, it is always necessary, first of all, to create public opinion, to do work in the ideological sphere. This is true for the revolutionary class as well as for the counter-revolutionary class." And therefore, "the class struggle in the ideological field between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie will continue to be long and tortuous and**

at times will even become very acute." If the proletariat does not thoroughly defeat the bourgeoisie in the ideological and cultural revolution, then the bourgeoisie will attack the proletariat, first of all, from the ideological and cultural positions, the political power of the proletariat may still be seized by the bourgeoisie and everything that has been achieved through struggle by the labouring people may still be destroyed overnight.

Through this great cultural revolution, all revolutionaries understand more and more clearly that proletarian extensive democracy is the best form for arousing the masses to revolutionary struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Proletarian revolutionaries and the revolutionary masses have launched from below the mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution, bringing out persons of the Khrushchov type into the open, exposing the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, thoroughly refuting, repudiating and overthrowing them, seizing power from their hands and ensuring that the political power of the proletariat is firmly in the hands of the proletarian revolutionaries.

Chairman Mao teaches us: The present great cultural revolution is only the first; and there will inevitably be many more in the future. The issue of who will win in the revolution can only be settled over a long historical period. If things are not properly handled, it is possible for a capitalist restoration to take place at any time. It should not be thought by any Party member or anyone of the people in our country that everything will be all right after one or two great cultural revolutions, or even three or four. We must be very much on the alert and never lose our vigilance.

In a word, through this great revolution, all revolutionaries have acquired a clearer understanding of the laws of the development of socialist society, the laws of the class struggle in socialist society and the laws of the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. All this is the great result of the fact that our great leader Chairman Mao has penetratingly summed up the historical experience of the international proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, drawing particularly on the historical lessons of the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union, and has analysed the contradictions in socialist society, and creatively developed Marxism-Leninism.

Marx and Engels analysed the contradictions in capitalist society, discovered the law of the inevitable extinction of capitalism and founded the theory of scientific socialism.

Lenin and Stalin developed Marxism. They analysed the contradictions of imperialism, solved a series of problems concerning the revolution of the proletariat in the epoch of imperialism, and resolved the theoret-

ical and practical questions of realizing the dictatorship of the proletariat in a single country.

Chairman Mao has developed Marxism-Leninism still further, solved a series of problems concerning the proletarian revolution in the present era, and solved the theoretical and practical questions of carrying on the revolution and preventing the restoration of capitalism under the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is a great leap forward in the revolutionary theory of Marxism-Leninism. It indicates that Marxism-Leninism has developed into a completely new stage, the stage of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Thus the great proletarian cultural revolution which was launched in China on the basis of the scientific theories discovered by Chairman Mao Tse-tung not only has prevented a repetition of the Soviet Union's tragedy in China and smashed the dream of imperialism and revisionism to restore capitalism in China, but it has also opened up a new epoch in the international communist movement, a new era of proletarian socialist world revolution.

China's great cultural revolution is an event for great rejoicing, a great hope and an immense inspiration to the proletariat and revolutionary people all over the world, a heart-stirring song of triumph of the international proletariat which resounds everywhere. But to the imperialists and the Soviet revisionist group of renegades, it is indeed a deep anguish, a big calamity and a great sorrow because their death knell has been sounded, their end is approaching, and their "throne" is going to collapse very soon.

In the history of mankind, the replacement of one social system by another must go through twists and turns and ups and downs. As this was even true of the bourgeois revolution which was the replacement of one system of exploitation by another, it is still more inconceivable that there would be no twists and turns and ups and downs in the proletarian revolution which aims to eliminate all systems of exploitation. From the historical materialist point of view, the great historical retrogression brought on in the Soviet Union, by this bunch of big renegades, the Soviet revisionist ruling clique, is only an episode in history. It is an immensely bad thing. But Chairman Mao has summed up both the positive and the negative historical experiences and found the way to prevent the restoration of capitalism, and so this immensely bad thing is turned into an immensely good thing.

We are now in a new era, an era under the great banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. The Marxist-Leninists and the revolutionary people all over the world, armed with the great invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung, will certainly be able to smash the old world to pieces and drive the imperialists, modern revisionists and the reactionaries of all countries, these monsters and demons, off the stage of history.

(*"Renmin Ribao," June 4, 1967.*)