

"WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, UNITE!!"

# WORKERS' PRESS

THE POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST COLLECTIVE

Vol 1, No. 2

October, 1975

donation 5¢

## MARXISM: A GUIDE TO ACTION

In our last issue we talked about the theory of Marxism. Summing up, it is the science of the working class revolution, the class struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. What does this mean for workers and oppressed people in the USNA? Why must we study and apply Marxism?

In the midst of real economic and political crises, threats of a third world war, high unemployment, widespread hunger, increased crime rates and drug abuse, more and more workers are demanding solutions. The ruling bourgeois class is quick to step in with every brand of lies, deceit, trickery, and force. But they all boil down to the same thing: "forget your problems, trust us, things will get better by and by". Times are hard, and things will not get better until the very source of all the contradictions in this society is destroyed. As long as our present capitalist system exists, where society is run for the profit of a few at the expense of the masses, we will continue to see hunger in the midst of plenty, war preparations covered up by honeyed words about peace, and fascist rule under the guise of democracy.

How can the working class destroy this evil system? The history of the working class movement world-wide, summed up by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao Tsetung, has shown in practice, that the only way for the working class and all oppressed peoples to free themselves is through revolution. Revolution, led by the proletariat and its party\* means the overthrow of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and its replacement with the dictatorship of the working class. This means that the state will be organized and run in the interests of workers and oppressed peoples. And this means that the theory of Marxism must be grasped and applied in practice.

Time and time again, Marxism, as the science of proletarian revolution, has proven to be true, to be the only theory that can successfully guide the working class to free itself from the bonds of wage-slavery. And in the hands of the hundreds of millions of exploited and oppressed peoples throughout the world, it is an unbeatable weapon. Marxism has proven in practice that once it is grasped by the masses of people, long-standing regimes can be overthrown, powerful armies can be defeated, and whole continents transformed.

"For a hundred years, the finest sons and daughters of the disaster-ridden Chinese nation fought and sacrificed their lives, one stepping into the breach as another fell, in quest of the truth that would save the country and the people. This moves us to song and tears. But it was only after World War I and the October Revolution in Russia that we found Marxism-Leninism, the best of truths, the best of weapons for liberating our nation."

--Mao Tsetung

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\* In future articles we will discuss the question of a communist party, what it is and why it is necessary for the proletariat to build one.

# THE C.I.A. IMPERIALISM'S SECRET POLICE

The capitalists of the USNA emerged from World War II as the dominant imperialist power, and moved to consolidate their control with a massive military and economic presence in every corner of the globe. The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) was created in 1947 for the purpose of gathering and coordinating intelligence in these foreign bases to protect "democracy" from "communist aggression".

The imperialists knew that mere information-gathering would not make the world secure for their exploitation and immediately sent the C.I.A. out to secretly infiltrate, disrupt and destroy any movement that threatened their economic and political designs.

In the early 1950's, the C.I.A. spent billions of our tax dollars to prop up non-communist governments in Western Europe, to spread capitalist propaganda into Eastern Europe and China, and to overthrow leftist governments in Guatemala and Iran. The 20,000 operatives and even greater number of contract and foreign agents in the pay of the C.I.A. have infiltrated, bribed, disrupted and even dismantled other nations, their political parties and their labor unions.

The administrations of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and now Ford have all used the secret elite army of the C.I.A. to tally up the following impressive scorecard against the working class and oppressed peoples of the world: In Cuba, the Bay of Pigs invasion; the Dominican Republic - assassination and coup d'etat; the Congo - mercenary troops and assassination of Lumumba; in Brazil, bribery, training of secret police and murder; Chile - election-fixing and support of anti-Marxist strikers, helping to oust Allende; in Vietnam and Southeast Asia - full range of the C.I.A.'s cloak and dagger intrigues employed in coups, assassinations and covert paramilitary operations. And these are just a few examples!

Today we see the C.I.A. pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into Portugal in support of reactionary parties; training and arming elite armies in the Middle East, like the SAVAAK in Iran; disrupting and destroying any movement that stands in the path of imperialism's interests.

Kissinger, Ford, Rockefeller and other powerful representatives of the imperialist bourgeoisie direct the activities of the C.I.A. through the National Security Council, and are able to hide its dirty work and the billions of dollars it spends each year from public, and even congressional view, by the cloak of "national security". The recent revelations of the use of the C.I.A. in domestic operations like Watergate, and currently opening private mail and bugging private telephone conversations, have the liberal bourgeoisie acting "shocked" and calling for investigations and reforms.

But these senate intelligence "hearings" and the phoney Rockefeller commission before it have served only to cover up their more sinister deeds, not to punish the criminals. Exposures of the chemical and biological weapons in the C.I.A.'s arsenal, in direct violation of international treaties, have resulted in "censure" and congressional wrist-slapping.

Obviously, the bourgeoisie is as incapable as it is unwilling to reform and control its most powerful and secret weapon, the C.I.A. DON'T TRUST THE BOURGEOISIE to dismantle this weapon aimed at the proletariat and the oppressed people all over the world! These capitalists understand their faltering position in the class struggle and will use every arm of their state power to prevent and delay the inevitable...the proletarian socialist revolution, a revolution which will destroy their private ownership of the means of production and their state apparatus. In short, a revolution which will put an end to the exploitation and oppression of the peoples of the world.

## TELEVISION: A COP OUT!

Turn on your television any evening and more than likely you'll find yourself staring down the barrel of a police gun. The three major TV stations in the area show over twenty cop shows a week during prime time. These shows vary from the ultra-militaristic S.W.A.T., to cool, hip BARETTA, to POLICE WOMAN. Despite the superficial differences in them, these shows all have several common themes -- protect law and order, the cops are almost always the good guys, and the good guys always win.

These programs fail to deal with the economic and political causes that lie

behind crime in our capitalist society, for example, the needs of the increasingly impoverished masses, the greed and habits of consumption which the capitalist system perpetuates, the decadence and boredom of the conditions of life, the continual infringement on our democratic rights, and perhaps most important, the existence of private property concentrated in the hands of the bourgeoisie while the proletariat has little more than their ability to work. Nor do these shows portray the police for what they really are -- the armed apparatus designed to protect the bourgeois state and its private property.

Over and over again we see the cops pictured in all-powerful, all-good, almost super-human roles. The realities of graft and corruption within the police force, the harassment or even murder of unarmed, often innocent victims, the militancy and resistance of working people, especially national minorities, against police terror and repression, these facts never adorn the screen. Instead, we see the relentless pursuit of "sick" criminal elements in society by "heroic" cops who can do no wrong. Never do we see the outrageous crimes of war, poverty, exploitation, oppression -- crimes perpetuated by an entire class, the bourgeoisie! And this is because the bourgeoisie owns the TV networks, the local stations, the studios and companies that advertise. We cannot expect that they would reveal their own crimes. Rather, they focus on the lesser, petty crimes of the oppressed masses.

Why does the bourgeois TV media put so many cop shows on the screen? First, because the bourgeoisie wants people to believe that the masses of people are responsible for crime in our society. The bourgeois class tries to shift the blame for society's ills on our backs in order to take the heat off themselves. Second, cop shows can help to develop a mass hysteria towards criminals and criminality. Playing upon these fears, which understandably include the actual fears that people have in response to skyrocketing crime rates, the bourgeoisie can justify increased expenditures for police forces, better weapons, computer technology, etc. These weapons will, at some time in the future, likely be turned full force against all of us. Third, cop shows are revealing more and more illegal arrests and constitutional violations of suspect's rights. In fact, we are being groomed for the development of a fascist state.

We know that the police are not servants of the people, but protectors of the bourgeoisie and their state. The cops can play make-believe all they want, but they will never make us believe that their purpose is to serve the people.

## WHERE DO PROFITS COME FROM ?

The U S Commerce Department reported that in the second quarter of 1975, USNA capitalists received 105 billion dollars in gross profits off their business operations. Where did these profits come from? How were they generated in our present system of production? This is a fundamental question of political economy. For the advanced worker there is an instinctive understanding that capitalist profits come from their toil. He knows that the wealth of our society is produced by the workers. He makes the correct observation that the capitalists (i.e. the Rockefellers, Mellons, Kennedy's) do not work but receive the bulk of this wealth, and that they must take it from those who produce it, the working people. This conception, while correct, lacks a scientific basis to explain just how and under what conditions the capitalist is able to live as a parasite on the working people of the world.

Karl Marx, in his development of scientific socialism, was able to give these correct intuitions a thorough scientific basis in the theory of surplus value. First, Marx showed that under capitalism, goods (commodities) are produced not for direct consumption by the producer but for the market (exchange). In their exchange, the value of commodities is determined by the amount of general labor required to produce them. That is, one ounce of gold and ten tons of coal will exchange with each other in these proportions because they both required for their production on the average the same amount of general labor. Further, Marx revealed that the value of the worker's commodity, labor-power (the capacity to work), was likewise determined by the amount of labor required to produce the means of subsistence (i.e. food, housing, clothing) necessary to reproduce the worker and his family. He most emphatically pointed out that this same commodity, labor-power, had the unique property of being able to create new value when hired out and put to use by the capitalist.

In the process of capitalist production, the capitalist buys raw materials, machines, fuel, etc (means of production) and hires the workers to act on these means of production in such a way as to create a new product. Marx uncovered the fact that as the workers labor, they transfer the old value incorporated in the means of production to the new product and also add new value to the product

as a result of their immediate labor. As is admitted by the capitalist, this new value is greater than the value of the means of subsistence paid out to the workers in the form of wages. In other words, during the process of production the laborer produces enough new value to replace that amount of value consumed by him in the means of subsistence plus some more, a surplus. This latter amount is called surplus value. And this surplus value, under the present mode of capitalist production, goes to the capitalist free of charge to allow him to live a life of luxury without having to work.

To clarify this point, let us take the following example. Assume that the daily cost of the means of subsistence for a worker is equal to four hours of general labor, or \$30; for 10 workers this would be \$300. And suppose that 10 such workers are hired by a capitalist to make dresses for 8 hours a day. In addition to labor-power, the capitalist buys machines, fuel, raw materials, and a building which cost \$365,000 or \$1,000 per day. The workers act on the machines and raw materials and produce 500 dresses a day worth a total of \$1,600. Since the capitalist paid out daily \$1,300 and received \$1,600, he was very happy to report that each day he had made a profit of \$300. Again the question is: where did this profit come from? The machines? No. Machines don't have the ability to produce new value; rather, their value is merely passed on to the new product, the dresses. Where, then, did this come from? The workers! Because while they were laboring, they passed on the value of the means of production (worth \$1,000) to the dresses, and simultaneously, added 8 hours of new value worth \$600 to the new product for a combined total of \$1,600. Of the new value, one-half, \$300, went to replace the means of subsistence consumed by the workers (wages) and the other half, \$300, went to the capitalist. This latter portion is the surplus value. From this pool of surplus value, the industrial capitalist must give a portion to the financial capitalist in the form of interest and a portion to the landowner in the form of rent.

In our example we saw that one-half of the new value created by the workers (\$300) was used to pay the workers their wage, but the other half (\$300) was not paid for and was taken by the capitalist for his own use. Thus the capitalist lives on the unpaid labor of the workers. Looked at in another way, the workers labor one-half of the day for themselves, and one-half of the day for the capitalist to allow him to live a life of leisure and luxury. This is what we mean when we say that the worker is exploited under the capitalist system of production. Moreover, the actual condition of the worker under capitalism is, in essence, no different from the ancient slave, the slave of the old south, or the medieval serf; all of these laboring classes had to produce a surplus for their masters to live on. This is why we say that capitalism is in reality wage-slavery.

In our next issue, we will discuss, in greater detail, just how the capitalist can expand his amount of surplus value at the expense of the workers' wage.)

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## WHO WE ARE

Workers' Press is written and published by the Marxist-Leninist Collective. We are a communist organization based on Marxism-Leninism, the science of the revolutionary class struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. We are part of the international struggle of the working class to end exploitation and oppression by overthrowing capitalism and establishing socialism. We aim to bring communist ideas and analyses to the working class. We strive to broaden the outlook of fellow workers and to arm workers with proletarian class consciousness so that together we can lead the struggle against all forms of oppression and exploitation by imperialism. To do this we must organize ourselves into an independent political party to concentrate the resistance of the working class into a single fighting force. This newsletter will provide a link whereby advanced workers can attach themselves to revolutionary ideas and a revolutionary organization.

We want this newsletter to become a workers' newsletter. We therefore call on all workers to bring articles, announcements, and letters to us. Correspondence and inquiries should be sent to:

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