

III--LT on state-capitalism

I found in going over the old pamphlets that it wasn't always that LT had referred to state-capitalism in quite such an offhand manner as in Revolution Betrayed, and thought some quotes would be valuable:

S.U. & F.I., 1934, Glasgow, p.10: "According to Urbahns the newest form of self-defense of bourgeois regime is state capitalism.....The bourgeois gov'ts. are obliged to pacify the mutiny of their own productive forces with a police club. This is what constitutes the so-called "planned eco." Insofar

as the state attempts to harness & discipline capitalist anarchy it may be called conditionally 'state capitalism.'

But we ~~also~~ should remember that originally Marxists understood by state capitalism only the independent eco. enterprises of the state itself. When the reformists dreamed of overcoming capitalism by means of the municipalisation or governmentalisation of ever greater nos. of transports and industrial enterprises, the Marxists used to reply in rotation this is not socialism, but state capitalism. Subsequently, however, this concept acquired a broader meaning, begun to apply to all the varieties of state intervention into economy; the prol. use the word 'etatism' (statification) in this sense.

"But Urbahns not only expounds the travails of 'state capitalism'--he appraises them after his own manner. In so far as it is generally possible to understand him, he pronounces the regime of 'state capitalism' to be necessary & moreover, a progressive stage in the dev. of society, in the same sense as trusts are progressive compared with the disparate enterprises. So fundamental an error in appraising capitalist planning is enough to bury any approach whatsoever.

"While during epoch of the capitalist upswing, it was possible to view... various forms of statification as progressive manifestations.... the present 'planned economy' must be viewed as a stage that is reactionary through and through! state capitalism strives to tear economy away from the world wide division of labour & adapt the productive forces to the Procrustean bed of the national state.... The present state capitalism neither prepares nor lightens the future work of the socialist state, but, on the contrary, creates for it colossal additional difficulties. The prol. let slip a series of opportune period for the seizure of power. Through this it has created the conditions for Fascist barbarism--in politics; and for the destructive work of 'state capitalism'--in economy. After the conquest of power, the prol. will have to pay economically for its political lapses."

WHAT NEXT, 1932, p.171: ---

"The prol.... is interested in seeing to it that the transition from the pvt. capitalist to the socialist method of prod. be accomplished with the least eco. convulsions & least drain upon the nat'l. wealth."

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