

The 31st ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

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Intro: ~~As~~ the free flow of vodka and the tons of caviar at Russian embassies while totalitarian control over Russian and EE masses continues in celebration of the RR, cynics are heard to say: if that is what it could degenerate to, why should you celebrate the event?

But just as bloody White Terror could not wipe out memory of Paris Commune in 1971, neither can the Stalinist usurpers wipe out memory of the Russian masses "storing the heavens" to establish the first workers' state in the world.

The 1st attempt at workers republic--the Paris Commune--was drowned in blood but it is that experience which made possible the ~~the successful~~ successful Rus. Rev.

For Marxists there is no division between theory and practice--the Paris Commune lay the basis for the theory of the break-up of the capitalist state, and that theory laid the basis for the Russian Revolution. *On its eve,* Lenin was drawing the lessons from the heroic ~~the~~ initiative displayed by the Parisian masses--~~the~~ in his work STATE & REV., and just as he came to the application to the Russian scene, he was interrupted in his work. The afterword to this work states:

"I had not succeeded in writing a single line of the ch. (on the RR), being prevented therefrom by a pol. crisis--the eve of the Nov. Rev. of 1917. Such a hindrance can only be welcomed-- It is more pleasant and more useful to live through the experience of a revolution than to write about it."

So we see that for Marxists the most abstract theory is the most concrete practice. Or as Trotsky put it:

"This 'commentator' of Marx was preparing the party for the revolutionary conquest of a sixth of the globe's surface."

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It is this which we are celebrating today; the unfinished ch. of Lenin's State and Rev. was finished by the entrance of the Russian masses on the historic scene to make world history.

VI In that single year, 1917, the Russian workers & peasants won

at the Feb. Revolution

*Two successful  
revolts, no. 74  
Jan. February Rev. - was  
made in 5 days & gives us  
the dynamics of their. Let's  
look at it*

- Feb. 23--Int. Woman's Day celebration  
90,000 strikers
- Feb. 24--strikers doubled. Slogan "Bread!"  
replaced by "Down with Autocracy!"
- Feb. 25--Cossaks called out to put down  
demonstration refuse to do so.
- Feb. 26--Workers from suburbs move over  
Neva, though being fired upon;  
and unto Tauride Palace
- Feb. 27--Soldiers join insurrection; Tsar  
arrested. Political prisoners  
let out.

NOW WORKERS DID IT SPONTANEOUSLY, WITHOUT LEADERSHIP,  
BUT THOUGH THEY ACCOMPLISHED THE REVOLUTION, WITHOUT  
A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY THEY COULD NOT HOLD POWER &  
KERENSKY CAME TO "THE THRONE" TO ASK THEM IN THE NAME  
OF THE REPUBLIC TO CONTINUE THE IMPERIALIST WAR.

*had prepared because they were  
ready not just to fight but  
to govern*  
The instability of this new Provisional  
government opens the regime

The high points: APRIL DAYS -- Lenin rearms the Party but  
Maj Congress of peasants elects Chernov 810, Kerensky 604, Lenin 20.

500,000 demon- JULY DAYS--Month of Great Slander  
strate

September--Kornilov marches on Petrograd.

Between Feb. & Oct. there 4,955 agrarian conflicts with landlords.  
Local militia refuse to put down acts of violence of peasantry.

LT: "RURAL REVOLT LOOSENED LAST BOLTS OF  
THE ARMY."

LENIN'S SLOGANS: PEACE! BREAD! LAND!  
OUT WITH CAPITALIST MINISTERS!  
ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS!

self-determination of nations!

In attempt to conciliate and bring workers over to their side, Compromisers suggest the formation of a

COMM. OF REV. DEFENSE, on 10/9

Bolsheviks accept idea and suggest its staff consist of:

1. praesidium of Soviet
2. representatives of soldiers & of fleet
3. ~~xxx~~ " " rrd. union
4. " " trade unions
5. FACTORY COMMITTEES
6. party's military organization--Red Guard

TROTSKY PRES. OF M.R.C.

APPROVED on Octo. 20, (I'm using old calendar) and within FIVE DAYS--Oct. 25--preparations for insurrection are made and revolution is successful.

CONGRESS OF SOVIETS 10/25

505 vote for transfer of power to soviets  
86 " " govt. of "democ."  
55 " " coalition  
21 " " without cadets.

Since ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ all revisionists try to identify Bolshevism with totalitarianism and claiming Stalinism is the natural result of Bolshevism, let us watch carefully what type of Praesidium the Bolsheviks proposed:

14 Bol.  
7 Soc-Rev.  
3 Men.  
1 Int.

~~Rt. wing~~ Men. / walk out of congress--70 of them show this hostility when Congress votes down negotiations with Prov. Govt.

Martov, with 26, walk out, because Bol. are proceeding with insurrection "alone".

New CEC: of 101 members elected-- 52 Bol.  
29 Left SRs

and they leave space for factions who abandoned Congress to send delegates to CEC on basis of proportional representations.

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ITW IS THIS CONGRESS WHICH BECOMES NEW GOVT OR WORKERS STATE. NEWS BROUGHT IN OF CONQUEST OF PALACE, AND KEY POINTS--A NEARLY BLOODLESS REVOLUTION--the blood did not start flowing till the COUNTERREV. armed by world imperialists attacked on 7 different fronts.

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*Delegates to Peace* *Chairman of the C.E.C.* *Chairman of the C.E.C.*

Most moving chapter in Trotsky's HISTORY OF RUS. REV. is this chapter, describing the singing of the INTERNATIONAL now that it was not just words but actual power:

"Listen, nations!

"The revolution offers you peace.

"The Bolsheviki alone have dared do it. They alone have dared. Eyes shine. All are on their feet... It seems as though no one breathes. The praesidium, the delegates, the guests, the sentries, join in a hymn of insurrection and brotherhood..."

*My own the International is better*  
"The immense sound rolled through the hall, burst windows and doors and soared into the quiet sky. Did it go go altogether into the sky? Did it not go also to the autumn trenches, that patch work upon unhappy, crucified Europe, to her devastated cities and villages, to her mothers and wives in mourning

"Arise ye prisoners of starvation! Arise ye wretched of the earth!"

"The words ~~fixed~~ of the song ~~fixed~~ were freed of all qualifications. They fused with the decree of the govt., whence resounded with the force of a direct act. Everyone felt greater and more important in that hour. THE HEART OF THE REVOLUTION ENLARGED TO THE WIDTH OF THE WHOLE WORLD."

*My own the*  
"We will achieve with our own hand!"

"The omnipotent hand of those millions who had overthrown the monarchy and the bourgeoisie would now strangle the war. The Red Guard from the Vyborg district, the gray soldier with his scar, the old revolutionist who had served his years at hard labor, the young black-bearded sailor from the AURORA--all vowed to carry through to the end this 'last and deciding fight!'"

*Finally*  
"Who was nothing shall be all!"

"All! If the actualities of the past have often been reduced into song, why shall not a song be turned into the actuality of the future?"

VI It is this Russian Revolution which we are celebrating today. From the beginning the Bolsheviks knew they could not maintain power unless the workers in other, more advanced countries came to their aid, by making their own revolution. Lenin wrote to the American workers:

"We are in a besieged fortress until armies of international socialist revolution come to our aid."

~~The armies of the international socialist revolution~~  
not materialize and the inevitable degeneration of the workers state was speeded along by the usurper of power, Stalin, against whom Lenin in his TESTAMENT warned as a cook who would cook only "peppery dishes" and who should be removed from his post of Gen. Sec.

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But revolutionary Marxism showed before that it could withstand the revisionism of the 2nd International and although this, at first, Marxist International, ended by betraying the workers in the interests of WW I imperialists, out of the struggle with it came LENINISM, ~~and~~ the successful Rus. Rev. & The ~~successful~~ Third International. The degeneration, in turn of the Third, has not ended merely in betrayals, but there came out of this struggle the true inheritor of the traditions of revolutionary Marxism, the 4th Int.

When LT was asked: But if what you say is true, if the Moscow Trials are the biggest frame-up in history which decapitated ~~the~~ Lenin's staff of world revolution, doesn't all this makes you pessimistic.

LT's answer: If man could develop from the ape to the 3rd Int. he will know how to dev. from the 3rd to the 4th.

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III Because of the reactionary Voorhis law, the SWP cannot belong to the 4th, but we fully subscribe to its principles. The SWP is heir to the traditions of October and "continuator of pioneer Am. Communism & the rev. movement of the Am. wkrs. from which it sprang. Its nucleus has already taken shape in 3 decades of unremitting work and struggle against the stream."

*7*

On this, the 20th anniversary of Trotskyism in America--we have shown through our militant work in trade unions, through line struggles and struggles of minorities, in the fight against fascism, and in bucking the war tide of WWI by going to jail for our revolutionary anti-war views--are best able to appreciate the tremendous leap the American working class has taken in just a single decade, when from barely 3 million ~~union~~ trade unionists in the 30s it jumped to 15 million at the outbreak of WWII.

*No more... quality... = d = ...*

Or we can contrast the per. following WW I, with the post WW II period.

Then Palmer raids drove party underground  
Smashed steel strike, & basic industry remained unorganized.

Now the same attempts at red baiting <sup>Moreover</sup> could not break the trade union movement, now nearly 20 mln. strong, and the T-H Slave Labor Law got a sounding trouncing at the polls.

*had for its hard nut the  
Cable, Nathan <sup>General</sup> Palmer  
but the big game <sup>Perwell</sup> comes.*

*M.A. said = Yes his respects, it's a but  
once as tragedy; the other  
and, one as farce.*

*Had our big game, tens out & a  
no more than a city thing.*

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It is true that they still voted for a capitalist politician. But they displayed independence of thinking--a first attempt at SOCIAL THINKING on the political scene that they displayed first in 1945 on the economic field when they fought not merely for higher wages but raised the slogan

OPEN THE BOOKS.

BT: 10 pr 15 NA. book keeps  
Control of party is in hands of the masses

And when they voted for Truman they wanted the repeal of the TH Slave Labor Law.

They have not as long a road to travel to their rev. as appears on the surface.

in 1905 - 1910  
has returned in 1917

Coming  
We say--that Our thesis on the American Revolution--states--that the "revolutionary movement of Am. wkr. is an organic part of the world rev. process."

Organic part, that is a part of the very organism, of world revolution. Because of the knowledge of this we are busy creating a decisive instrument of the proletarian revolution by building the SWP, the party of the class conscious vanguard.

Because of this confidence in the American workingclass in our own revolutionary role, the nat. sec. of the party could end the speech on the Coming Am. Rev. thus:

"The objective prerequisites for the social rev. will not be lacking. Capitalism itself will provide them. The manpower of the rev. will not be lacking either. The many-millioned masses of the org'd. wkr. of Am. will provide this manpower. It is already partly assembled & partly ready.

"The rest is our part. Our part is to build up this party which believes in the unlimited power and resources of the Am. wkr. and believes no less in its own capacity to org. and lead them to storm & victory."

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On this our 20th anniversary we invite you to join in the struggle by joining the SWP.

HELP US CELEBRATE

31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

AND

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF

THE MILITANT

SPEAKERS

E. GORDON

ORGANIZER, PITTSBURGH BRANCH OF  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY.

K. FOREST

WRITER FOR "THE MILITANT" AND THE  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

SPECIAL FEATURE

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF

LEON TROTSKY

AS RECORDED FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY  
AT

1418 FIFTH AVE. PITTSBURGH

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>ON</sup> AT 4:00 P.M.

BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS \* \* \* \* \* ADMISSION FREE

FOR FUTURE EVENTS MARK DOWN THIS DATE

It is the date for the first in a  
SERIES OF 14 LECTURES AT OUR HEADQUARTERS  
1418 FIFTH AVE. PITTSBURGH

EVERY FRIDAY AT 8:30 P.M. Starting NOV. 19  
OPEN FORUM EVERY SUNDAY \*\* TIMELY TOPICS\*\*

NOVEMBER 19  
KARL MARX'S CAPITAL  
FOREST - INSTRUCTOR

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW SUNDAYS MEETING

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