

Communist parties and Marxism's revolutionary trajectory

I will argue that Marxism will be the leading doctrine of the working class in the years ahead because we are entering a period of revolutionary storms and Marxism has lost none of its potency as the ideology of the revolutionary working class.

Millions of people will test and discard the older ideologies which all fail to indicate to the workers their task, to be the first to rise in the revolutionary fight against capitalism and to unite all the oppressed and exploited in that struggle.

Action is the best educator of the masses and will be increasingly influenced by Marxism.

Two conclusions can be drawn from both of the two long periods of peace among the world's principal powers (1872-1914 and 1945-present) concerning the tasks of the communist and workers' parties.

First, the importance of theoretical struggle was underestimated.

In these periods of relative stagnation and dormancy, there are important examples of these parties losing sight of the task to prepare the working class for the revolutionary seizure of political power and to build a socialist society.

Engels praised German workers in 1875 for retaining their 'sense of theory.' But by 1914 "the Marxist workers' party of Germany, that model for the whole world, found itself headed by a handful of utter scoundrels... loathsome hangmen drawn from the workers' ranks who had sold themselves to the capitalists, who were in the service of the monarchy and the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie" (Lenin, 1920).

In the second period, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union essentially met the same fate under Gorbachev and his ilk.

Secondly, the 'dialectics of history' are such that impoverishment and the whopping corruption of bourgeois democracy have sharpened political awareness ahead of the economic (strike) struggle.

The lingering effects of this corruption are holding workers back from the economic struggle, a struggle that will only intensify, galvanize and clarify like never before the overall political class struggle.

By necessity, the worker's movement will have to conduct the struggle "pursuant to its three sides – the theoretical, the political, and the practical-economic (resistance to the capitalists)" (Engels, 1875).