

COMMUNIST LINE



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MARXIST STUDY GUIDE ON THE CPUSA

The role of revolutionary theory, which has been emphasized so much by the great teachers, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, must assume special importance at the present time with the deepening of the imperialist crisis, the increasing contention between the two super-powers, the growing threat of imperialist war, and the increasing attacks on the working class through both fascist terror and the maneuvers of the social democrats and labor aristocrats.

In this context, the ideological firmness of cadre, the capacity to keep step theoretically with political events, is of decisive importance. To meet the increasing needs of the struggle on the ideological and political fronts, in order to forge a genuine vanguard communist party armed with the most advanced revolutionary theory, the ranks of Marxist-Leninist theorists must be strengthened and the overall theoretical development of the party insured.

COMMUNIST LINE No 4 was developed in response to numerous inquiries resulting from COMMUNIST LINE No 1, requesting study material on the history of the CPUSA. COMMUNIST LINE No 4 is offered by the MLOC as a bibliography for the study and investigation of the history of the two line struggle within the CPUSA on some important questions which faced the revolutionary movement prior to the dissolution of the CPUSA in 1944. It is in no sense complete, nor does it alone provide adequate insight into the objective basis for the subjective changes which occurred in the world, the U.S. and the CPUSA. However, it is a beginning.

The preliminary study of the degeneration of the CPUSA in COMMUNIST LINE NO 1 was just that, a preliminary study. The bibliography produced here should assist cadre and friends to deepen the study of the history of the objective and subjective conditions in the U.S., in order to break with opportunism. To reconstitute a vanguard communist party, a solid advance must be made in the fusion of the workers' and communist movement in the course of breaking with opportunism ideologically, politically and organizationally. The long legacy of opportunism in the U.S., the strong material basis for opportunism, must be thoroughly understood. We must study the basis for this legacy, its main manifestations, and learn the lessons to be drawn from the two line struggles that took place within the international communist movement and the CPUSA.

The historical legacy of opportunism in practice can,

in part, be explained by the gross theoretical lagging behind of most party cadre in the CPUSA. These cadre, more often than not, could only see what was taking place on the surface, and could neither understand, nor were able to conduct a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the deep processes which were transforming the course of the class struggle.

It is the objective of the MLOC with COMMUNIST LINE No.4 to arouse interest in the study of theoretical problems, to encourage comrades and friends to take up work on the theoretical front, to encourage an atmosphere of struggle and the creative exchange of ideas among revolutionaries, and to provide some concrete assistance through this bibliography, to those who seek to undertake study of the CPUSA.

As this bibliography suggests, the work in the field of theory calls for serious study, painstaking research and perseverance. This is particularly true in regard to the history of the U.S. communist movement, which has been systematically distorted and revised. But if we really want to arm ourselves theoretically to understand and change the world, we must study hard and spare no effort.

While many of the items may appear to be difficult to obtain, many major city libraries or universities have either copies or access to copies on inter-library loan. Both THE COMMUNIST and THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL are available (at an outrageous price) through Greenwood Publishers. We note this so that comrades and friends might be able to pressure local libraries to acquire sets or copies, on the basis of a large demand.

Marxist theory arose in the course of class struggle, and Marxist theorists are trained in the course of class struggle. A real grasp of Marxism does not come from books alone, but mainly through practical communist work and close contact with the masses.

Grasping firmly Marxist-Leninist theory is the compass which will guide the revolution in the U.S. to victory. To use this compass, we must have a profound grasp of the development and motion of history, and particularly of the history of objective and subjective conditions in the U.S.

As Stalin stated,

"A theory, when it is a genuine theory, gives practical workers the power of orientation, clarity and perspective, faith in their work and confidence in the victory of our cause."
Stalin, LENINISM, vol. 2, p. 253.

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