

About This Issue

This issue of People's Democracy contains the second and final installment of "A Brief Review Of The History And Basic Principles Of Dialectical Materialism". The article's first installment, which appeared in the May-June issue of this Journal, briefly described the basic features of the two world outlooks, idealism and materialism, and traced the history of philosophy up to dialectical materialism's development. This final installment first of all describes the basic characteristics of metaphysics (the method of analysis associated with idealism and mechanistic materialism) and then describes the basic laws of dialectics (the method of analysis associated with dialectical materialism)--in the process, demonstrating through a number of contemporary examples the applicability of the various laws of dialectics to the concrete practice of the American revolution. Following a summary of dialectical materialism's basic philosophical principles, the article concludes by stressing the decisive role of practice in determining the correctness or incorrectness of any theory, program, strategy, or tactic developed on the basis of the dialectical-materialist world outlook.

With the publication of the final installment of this article, People's Democracy has accomplished the purposes its initial phase of existence was designed to achieve. Briefly, these purposes were as follows: 1) To document the U.S. Anti-Revisionist Movement's scattered, disunited, isolated state and to identify the Period and Phase in which the movement currently finds itself; 2) to identify the principal reason for the movement's current chaotic state; 3) to identify the philosophical root of this reason; 4) to establish the existence of organized forces opposing this philosophical deviation; and 5) to identify the key task in the chain of tasks currently confronting these organized forces, which, if grasped, would provide the basis for the movement advancing to the next Phase and, eventually, to the next Period.

As the reader will recall, the U.S. Anti-Revisionist Movement is currently mired in its Third Period, the Period of Theory and Line. This Period is comprised of four Phases: 1) The assimilation of the basic laws and principles of the world's most advanced revolutionary theory, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought; 2) The application of those laws and principles to the U.S.'s concrete and peculiar conditions; 3) The development of

the programme for the given stages of the American revolution; and 4) The development of the corresponding strategy for each of the American revolution's given stages. The existence of several "parties" and "parties-to-be" notwithstanding, the U.S. Anti-Revisionist Movement remains in the Third Period's First Phase.

Not only do the first four issues of People's Democracy demonstrate the correctness of the above contention, they also provide the basis for advancing to the Third Period's Second Phase. More specifically, Volume 1, Number 1 documents the scattered, disunited, isolated state of the U.S. Anti-Revisionist Movement and points out that the principal reason for this chaotic state of affairs is Left Opportunism--the philosophical manifestation of which is dogmatism, the organizational manifestation of which is sectarianism, and the political manifestation of which is the line of one stage revolution; Volume 1, Number 2 introduces the line that the transformation to socialism in the U.S. involves a two stage revolution; and Volume 1, Number 3 establishes the existence of organized forces who oppose the ultra-leftism that has wreaked havoc in the U.S. Anti-Revisionist Movement for the past 21 years (the Anti-Left Tendency) and stresses that any effort on the part of the Anti-Left Tendency to rectify the political and organizational manifestations of the movement's Left Opportunism must be preceded by the effort to mobilize the broadest possible array of principled forces against the movement's prevailing philosophical deviation (dogmatism). And it is for the purpose of helping to overcome dogmatism that Volume 1, Numbers 3 and 4 have presented the two-installment article reviewing the basic principles of dialectical materialism and applying those principles to the concrete practice of the American revolution.

Having thus accomplished the purposes People's Democracy's initial phase of existence was designed to achieve, the temptation is to proceed immediately to the Third Period's Second Phase (the application of dialectical materialism's basic laws and principles to the U.S.'s concrete and peculiar conditions). In the course of dealing with the particularities of the Third Period's First Phase, however, certain internal and external contradictions emerged which prevent the First Phase from being brought to a successful conclusion at this time. Therefore, in order to devote the fullest possible attention to the situation, People's Democracy will temporarily suspend publication until the outstanding contradictions have been resolved. In the interim, People's Democracy will maintain contact with its readers through other means and will continue its practice of answering all correspondence.