

Unfortunately there is not too much to the Mage article "The YSL Right Wing and the 'Crisis of World Stalinism'." Its weakness flows fundamentally from its false method - i.e. the attempt to expose the Shachtmanite ideological capitulation to social democracy using the arguments Lenin developed in his 1919 polemic against Kautsky. Because the historical context of Lenin's polemic is completely different from that of the situation in 1957, Mage invariably intangles himself in hopeless contradictions trying to prove that the Shachtmanite orientation of struggle for "general democratic aims" in the Stalinist States must lead to the establishment of bourgeois democracy - i.e. to a capitalist counterrevolution.

He argues: "~~some~~ 'pure', 'classless' democracy 'in general' can only express the domination of the economically strongest class, i.e. is necessarily bourgeois democracy." p 5. And since he must locate a more potent social force (in the context of ~~world~~ the entire Stalinist system) which would ~~represent~~ embody that capitalist counterrevolution he postulates the development of absurdities like the establishment of "a petty-bourgeois government [!] in either Poland or Hungary" which would "if allowed to stabilize itself and get a firm grip on the country, ~~would~~ ... bring about a return to capitalism, and

in very short order." p. 7 The article is full
of such unreal, totally hypothetical arguments
against the struggle for "general democratic aims."
Clearly, ~~the way~~ ^{what} Mage should have ^{done in his} approached
~~the~~ polemic against the Shachtmanites was
to ~~have~~ ^{developed} a counterposed view on
the way the working class is mobilized
for the overthrow of the bureaucracy - i. e.
develop a program for power in the East.
~~This way~~ Instead in the article this is
raised in a completely sideways manner.