

One Hundred Years of The Communist Manifesto

By J. R. Johnson

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars. —Leon Trotsky, 1946

We are approaching the one hundredth anniversary of the Communist Manifesto, the greatest document of the people that mankind has ever produced. As the actual date of the anniversary approaches, all shadings in the socialist movement will have their say on the contemporary or historical significance of the Manifesto.

What is most impressive, even to the most superficial or hostile reader of the Manifesto, is the tremendous intensity and momentum with which each aspect of bourgeois society which Marx describes drives relentlessly to the next, leading inexorably to one ultimate conclusion, the victory of the proletarian revolution. Marx in the Manifesto defines the distinctive task of the Communist as representing always the interests of the proletariat as a whole, the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement.

He could see this movement as a whole because he could see that the revolution was coming, and that, like every revolution, it would pose ultimate questions of the whole future of humanity. The theoretical drive and vigor with which he wrote was based on the anticipation of the actual drive and vigor with which the broad masses would explode in violent revolution.

It is this uniting in action of the revolutionary combination of socialized labor with the need to create new social ties pervading all layers of society which will both usher in and distinguish the new socialist society.

No student, in whatever culture or clime, in universities from one end of the world to another, could feel that he had become a part of the educated elite of civilization until he had at least read the Manifesto and put it aside as past history.

One theme underlines the whole development of the Manifesto—the development of the bourgeoisie, as compared with its past accomplishments, to represent the interests of the whole of humanity; on the other hand, the ever-expanding union of the workers which would make them not only into a force to overthrow bourgeois society but also reveal their destiny as the creators of a new freely associated humanity.

Hence, the Manifesto belongs to modern civilization and modern culture. Nothing, not even the burning of books, could ever remove it from such a place.

My correspondence with friends throughout the country, the literature I have followed on the subject as well as the discussions I heard or took part in convince me that these reactions are quite varied. Workers are asking a great many questions about what is occurring in Britain; some have been angered by the developments; some are even becoming disillusioned.

Second Anniversary Of Viet Nam Govt. Hailed by SWP

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 — In a message of greetings to tonight's meeting celebrating the second anniversary of the Viet Nam Republic, James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, declared:

Madras Strike Beaten After 100-Day Battle

After 100 days of battle, the workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills at Madras, India, were forced to call off their strike, reports New Spark, organ of the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India.

South Africa Vets Rap Franco

MANA Spanish naval training ship reached Capetown, South Africa, thousands of ex-soldiers demonstrated against the visit of what they termed "the fascist delegates from Franco Spain."

Since that time I have naturally followed with interest not only the march of events in Britain but also the reactions to it in this country, especially among the working people who are now awakening in ever larger numbers to political life.

Coming—Answers to Your Questions on England

By John G. Wright

In the fall of 1945 it was my privilege to go on a national tour for the Socialist Party on the subject, "The British Labor Victory: Its Meaning for American Workers."

Ecuador Palace Revolt Topples Ibarra Regime

By J. Gomez

The recent overthrow of the dictatorship of Velasco Ibarra in Ecuador was a palace revolution. Velasco Ibarra came to power when the dictatorship of Dr. Arroyo del Rio fell in 1944.

Wall Street Drive for New War Touches Off Bitter Fight in UN

By Joseph Hansen

Tension between Washington and Moscow reached a new high last week as Andrei Vyshinsky attempted a counter-offensive against an attack launched by Secretary of State Marshall in the United Nations.



Spanish naval training ship reached Capetown, South Africa, thousands of ex-soldiers demonstrated against the visit of what they termed "the fascist delegates from Franco Spain."

Marshall aimed at two objectives in his Sept. 17 keynote speech to the General Assembly. (1) He sought to sharpen the dispute with Moscow even at the risk of blowing up the United Nations.

Similarly in the case of Korea, Marshall blamed Moscow for the continued failure to grant this unhappy land its independence. Marshall declared that "the control of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction has perhaps the highest priority if we are to remove the specter of a war of annihilation."

The Fruits of Victory Marshall proposed two revisions unacceptable to the Kremlin in the organization of the United Nations — limitation of the veto and establishment of a special standing committee of the General Assembly to consider disputes the Security Council cannot resolve.

During the war the Stalinists backed Wall Street. They peddled the lie that World War II was not imperialist. As the loudest-mouthed, war-mongers, they came out for the wage freeze, serving as strikebreakers while Wall Street piled up the mountainous profits to which Vyshinsky so belatedly referred in his speech.

International Notes

RESIST ALLIED DESTRUCTION — When the German workers are ordered to dismantle some 900 plants, factories and mills earmarked for destruction or "reparations" on the Allied list, occupation forces in Germany expect "strikes" and demonstrations on a scale far larger than the hunger protests last spring.

