

ON THE ISSUE OF CONTRADICTIONS

All Communists who are guided by the theory of scientific socialism and Marxism-Leninism accept that in the present era there exist four fundamental social contradictions. They are the contradiction between the camps of

world socialism and capitalism ; the contradiction between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie in capitalist countries ; the contradiction between the imperialist states and the oppressed countries ; and the contradictions among the different imperialist states and among monopoly capitalist groups.

The modern revisionists, too, accept this statement as correct. Then, what is the ideological dispute between the revisionists and Marxist-Leninists over the issue of contradictions ? A critical study of the entire controversy in the world Communist movement, centering round this issue, convinces us that it mainly covers two points, namely, first, the un-Marxian and opportunist tendency to treat the contradiction between the socialist camp and imperialism as almost the only contradiction which determines the course of world development while neglecting or underestimating the other fundamental contradictions as of either no consequence or less consequence, and secondly, the advocacy of pet, ready-made and stereotyped methods of solving different fundamental contradictions, i.e., the method of peaceful economic competition to solve the contradiction between the socialist and imperialist camps, the method of peaceful transition to resolve the contradiction between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and the like.

Lenin, analysing the development of capitalism into what is known as the monopoly or imperialist stage, came to the conclusion that 'imperialism is the eve of world socialist revolution.' What does it mean in terms of analysing the class contradictions obtaining in the epoch of imperialism ? It means, first and foremost, to state in the clearest terms possible that the contradiction between the world bourgeoisie and the world proletariat is the central and strongest contradiction of the epoch. Does it ignore or neglect the other fundamental contradictions obtaining in the then prevailing situation ? Not in the least. He also made abundantly clear the existence and growth of inter-imperialist contradictions and the contradiction between the imperialist states and the colonial and dependent countries. But a dialectical study of all these contradictions enabled Lenin to correctly foresee, first, the extreme accentuation of the inter-imperialist contradiction leading

to imperialist war for the redivision of the world between different imperialist states, and secondly, the imperialist war in turn accentuating the contradiction between the workers and capitalists in the capitalist states and also the sharpening of the contradiction between oppressor and oppressed nations, leading to the breaking out of socialist and national liberation revolutions. Life proved the absolute correctness of Lenin's analysis of the world contradictions, and also proved how, despite the fact that the strongest and central contradiction of the epoch was one between the world proletariat and the bourgeoisie, another contradiction, namely, inter-imperialist contradiction did develop to the point of an imperialist war. The salient point that emerges out of this is that it is wrong in theory and harmful in practice to hold the view that the central or dominant contradiction alone gets accentuated and matures all the time, while all other contradictions remain either static or dormant, and do not get aggravated in the process.

To illustrate the point further, let us take the post-October Revolution era, when a new contradiction, the contradiction between the socialist Soviet Union and the imperialist camp emerged and stood as the central and dominant contradiction of all the fundamental contradictions of the period. The interventionist war of the international imperialists against the Soviet Union and the revolutionary war of the Soviet Union in defence of socialist revolution, during the years 1918-20, were the clearest manifestation of the nature of the new strong and central contradiction. But, did it preclude the possibility of other contradictions, such as inter-imperialist contradictions, the contradiction between the oppressor and oppressed nations and the contradiction between the proletariat and bourgeoisie getting sharper and acuter, and in a way somewhat easing for a time the antagonism between the socialist Soviet Union and the imperialist camp ? Life and history again demonstrated that inter-imperialist contradiction and the contradiction between the imperialists and colonial and dependent countries had become very acute, rendered the united front of the imperialists against the Soviet Union impossible for a period, and even led to the second imperialist war between

the Anglo-American and French imperialists on the one side and the German, Italian and Japanese monopolists on the other, during 1939-41.

Then, following the victory in the anti-fascist war and the formation of a powerful camp of socialist states, the contradiction between the camp of socialism and the camp of imperialism remains as the central one among the fundamental contradictions of our time. Notwithstanding the fact that it is so, do we not find that another contradiction, namely, the one between the imperialists and oppressed nations has got accentuated and assumed the acutest form, culminating in the outburst of national liberation revolutions in a series of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the intensification of this contradiction is, of course, influencing the course of all other contradictions, their growth and development? This is exactly what is meant by the world Marxist-Leninists when they say that the contradiction between the oppressor states and oppressed countries, at this stage of development of world history, has become the focus of all the contradictions of our times.

The national liberation revolutions of our times have become a component part of the world socialist revolution.

National liberation struggles which have risen to new heights in Asia, Africa and Latin America in recent times are pounding and undermining the foundations of imperialist rule in these areas.

Their successful march gives a tremendous impetus to the struggles of the working class in the metropolitan countries and accelerates the progress of world socialist revolution.

In a sense, therefore, the whole cause of the international proletarian revolution hinges on the outcome of the revolutionary struggles of the people of these areas.

It is wrong to look upon these national liberation struggles as having only regional importance. They are of tremendous importance to the whole cause of world socialist revolution as well as the cause of world peace.

But the modern revisionists refuse to accept this characterisation and thus fail to orientate their work to this new inevitable development, while, *ad nauseam*, repeating that in the present epoch, the contradiction between the

world systems of socialism and imperialism is the central contradiction, that the solution of all other contradictions depends upon the solution of this central contradiction, and that the chosen method of resolving it is peaceful economic competition, etc.

This totally erroneous and undialectical understanding, study and assessment of the contradictions have landed the revisionists in the following serious opportunist mistakes, which should be discarded:

(i) in the actual recognition of only one contradiction, namely, the one between the socialist and imperialist camps and virtually discounting and underestimating the rest of the contradictions ;

(ii) in the dogmatic advocacy of peaceful transition as a method to resolve the contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and between the oppressor and oppressed nations ;

(iii) in the facile conception that in the new epoch, inter-imperialist contradictions can either be mitigated or eliminated by international agreements among the monopolists ; and

(iv) in the advocacy of 'peaceful economic competition' as the exclusive method of resolving the contradiction between the socialist and imperialist camps.

ON THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE AND LENIN'S THESIS ON IMPERIALISM

War is a constant companion of monopoly capitalism and imperialism. The history of monopoly capitalism and imperialism, its existence and growth during the last half a century and more, is replete with violence, war and bloodshed on a scale and bitterness unknown in history. In the short span of twentyfive years, the world bourgeoisie plunged humanity into two world wars, and slaughtered forty million men while maiming another eighty million, apart from the colossal destruction of wealth accumulated through the toil and sweat of billions of men for ages. Add to this ghastly list, the scores of wars of aggression on several small and weaker states by different imperialist