



**LENIN'S PREDICTION
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REVOLUTIONARY
STORMS
IN THE EAST**

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REVOLUTIONARY STORMS
ON THE
TRAIL OF THE
PEOPLE

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WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!



Vladimir Lenin

EDITOR'S NOTE

"Hongqi" ("Red Flag"), the theoretical journal of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, published in its No. 2 issue of 1965 five articles and extracts from Lenin's works in which he discussed the prospect of revolutionary storms in the East. "Hongqi" prefaced the collection with an editor's comment, which reads as follows:

We reprint in this issue some articles and extracts from Lenin's works in which he analysed the prospect of revolutionary storms in the East.

Most of these articles were first published in the early part of the present century, when the European bourgeoisie had long since become decadent and reactionary, while the down-trodden and benighted peoples in the East had awakened from medieval stagnation. Lenin enthusiastically acclaimed the "new source of great world storms" that had opened up in Asia. He predicted that the revolutionary movements of the East would have repercussions in the European capitalist countries and give an impetus to their proletarian revolution.

We see from Lenin's articles how he sympathized with and supported the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed nations and people and how he despised and condemned the wrong attitude taken by the revisionists of the Second International who regarded the movement in the colonies as "an insignificant national and completely peaceful movement".

The revolutionary storms in Asia before World War I and the October Revolution, which Lenin warmly applauded, were still democratic revolutions led by the bourgeoisie. However, a great change has taken place in the Asian people's revolutionary movements since World War I and the October Revolution, and particularly since World War II. The proletariat has entered the stage of history and assumed leadership in the revolution in many countries. The people of China and a few other countries have broken through the imperialist front in the East and embarked on the broad road of building socialism. In many other countries, the revolutionary people have overthrown the direct colonial rule of imperialism and established national independent states.

Lenin further pointed out after the October Revolution that the mass of people in the colonial countries "will play a very important revolutionary role in the coming phases of the world revolution". History has fully borne out Lenin's scientific prediction. The peoples in the East who had been looked down upon for centuries are now standing in the forefront of the world revolution, taking positive action and "participating in deciding the destiny of the whole world". The East which used to be carved up by the imperialist powers as they pleased has now become the anti-imperialist, revolutionary and fighting East.

The great victories won by the south Vietnamese people in their patriotic struggle against U.S. aggression fully show

the might of the people's revolutionary forces in the East. Under the telling blows of the south Vietnamese people the reputedly strong U.S. imperialism has sustained a crushing defeat and found itself in a desperate situation, from which it cannot extricate itself.

Violent revolutionary storms have arisen not only in Asia but also in Africa and Latin America. In 1963, in the light of this new world situation the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party further elaborated Lenin's propositions in its "A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement". It said:

The various types of contradictions in the contemporary world are concentrated in the vast areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America; these are the most vulnerable areas under imperialist rule and the storm-centres of world revolution dealing direct blows at imperialism.

The national democratic revolutionary movement in these areas and the international socialist revolutionary movement are the two great historical currents of our time.

The national democratic revolution in these areas is an important component of the contemporary proletarian world revolution.

The anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the people in Asia, Africa and Latin America are pounding and undermining the foundations of the rule of imperialism and colonialism, old and new, and are now a mighty force in defence of world peace.

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,

who constitute the overwhelming majority of the world's population.

Therefore, the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle of the people in Asia, Africa and Latin America is definitely not merely a matter of regional significance but one of overall importance for the whole cause of proletarian world revolution.*

Like Lenin all Marxists rejoice over the vigorous development of the national liberation movement. The wider the flames of the struggle of national liberation spread, the more delighted and encouraged they feel. Just as Lenin did, they carefully study the experience of the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed nations and resolutely support this great revolutionary struggle with practical action.

Although these articles of Lenin's were written about 40 or 50 years ago, they still have great theoretical and practical significance for the revolutionary peoples of the world. Lenin said, "After the experience both of Europe and Asia, whoever now speaks of *non-class* politics and of *non-class* Socialism simply deserves to be put in a cage and exhibited alongside of the Australian kangaroo." Has not reality confirmed this statement?

* *The Polemic on the General Line of the International Communist Movement*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1965, p. 13.

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[ASIA IS A NEW SOURCE OF WORLD REVOLUTIONARY STORMS]*

The opportunists had scarcely had their fill of praising "social peace" and the needlessness of storms under "democracy" when a new source of great world storms opened up in Asia. The Russian Revolution was followed by the Turkish, the Persian and the Chinese revolutions. It is in this era of storms and their "repercussion" in Europe that we are now living. Whatever may be the fate of the great Chinese Republic, against which the various "civilized" hyenas are now gnashing their teeth, no power on earth can restore the old serfdom in Asia, or wipe out the heroic democracy of the masses of the people in the Asiatic and semi-Asiatic countries.

Certain people who were inattentive to the conditions of preparation and development of the mass struggle were driven to despair and to anarchism by the prolonged postponements of the decisive struggle against capitalism in Europe. We

* Title supplied by *Hongqi*.

can now see how short-sighted and craven this anarchist despair is.

The fact that Asia, with its population of eight hundred million, has been drawn into the struggle for these same European ideals should inspire us with courage and not despair.

The Asiatic revolutions have revealed the same spinelessness and baseness of liberalism, the same exceptional importance of the independence of the democratic masses, and the same sharp demarcation between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie of all kinds. After the experience both of Europe and Asia, whoever now speaks of *non*-class politics and of *non*-class Socialism simply deserves to be put in a cage and exhibited alongside of the Australian kangaroo.

After Asia, Europe has also begun to stir, although not in the Asiatic way. The "peaceful" period of 1872-1904 has passed completely, never to return. The high cost of living and the oppression of the trusts is leading to an unprecedented intensification of the economic struggle, which has aroused even the British workers, who have been most corrupted by liberalism. Before our eyes a political crisis is brewing even in that extreme "diehard", bourgeois-Junker country, Germany. Feverish arming and the policy of imperialism are turning modern Europe into a "social peace" which is more like a barrel of gunpowder than anything else. And at the same time the decay of *all* the bourgeois parties and the maturing of the proletariat is steadily progressing.

Each of the three great periods of world history since the appearance of Marxism has brought for it new confirmation

and new triumphs. But a still greater triumph awaits Marxism, as the doctrine of the proletariat, in the period of history that we are now entering.

First published on March 1, 1913

Excerpts from V. I. Lenin, "The Historical Destiny of the Doctrine of Karl Marx", *Collected Works*, 4th Russian edition, Vol. XVIII, pp. 546-47.

THE AWAKENING OF ASIA

Was it so long ago that China was considered a typical land of age-old unmitigated stagnation? Today China is a land of seething political activity, the scene of a virile social movement and of a democratic upsurge. Following the 1905 movement in Russia, the democratic revolution spread to the whole of Asia—to Turkey, Persia, China. Ferment is growing in British India.

A significant development is the spread of the revolutionary democratic movement to the Dutch East Indies, to Java and the other Dutch colonies with their population of some 40 million.

It is being carried forward, first, by the popular masses of Java, among whom a nationalist movement has arisen under the banner of Islam. Second, by a native intelligentsia brought into being by the development of capitalism. It consists of acclimatized Europeans who demand independence for the Dutch East Indies. Third, by the fairly large Chinese population in Java and the other islands, which brought over the revolutionary movement from their native land.

Describing this awakening of the Dutch East Indies, van Ravesteyn, the Dutch Marxist, points out that the age-old despotism and tyranny of the Dutch Government now meet with resolute resistance and protest from the masses of the native population.

The usual events of a pre-revolutionary period have begun: Unions and parties are being founded at amazing speed. The government is banning them, thereby only fanning the resentment and accelerating the growth of the movement. Recently, for example, it dissolved the "Indian Party"¹ because its constitution and programme spoke of the striving for *independence*. The Dutch Derzhimordas² (with the approval, incidentally, of the clericals and liberals — European liberalism is rotten to the core!) regarded this clause as a criminal attempt at separation from the Netherlands! The dissolved party was, of course, revived under a different name.

A National Union of the native people has been formed in Java. It already has a membership of 80,000 and is holding mass meetings. There is no stopping the growth of the democratic movement.

World capitalism and the 1905 movement in Russia have finally aroused Asia. Hundreds of millions of the down-trodden and benighted have awakened from medieval stagnation to a new life and are rising to fight for elementary human rights and democracy.

The workers of the advanced countries follow with interest and inspiration this powerful growth of the liberation movement, in all its various forms, in every part of the world. The bourgeoisie of Europe, scared by the might of the labour movement, is throwing itself into the arms of the forces of reaction, militarism, clericalism and obscurantism. But the proletariat of the European countries and the young

democracy of Asia, fully confident of its strength and with abiding faith in the masses, are advancing to take the place of this decadent and moribund bourgeoisie.

The awakening of Asia and the beginning of the struggle for power by the advanced proletariat of Europe are symbols of the new phase in world history that began early this century.

First published on May 7, 1913

V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, 4th
Russian edition, Vol. XIX, pp. 65-
66.

BACKWARD EUROPE AND ADVANCED ASIA

The conjunction of these words seems paradoxical. Who does not know that Europe is advanced and Asia backward? But the words taken for the title for this article contain a bitter truth.

In civilized and advanced Europe, with its brilliantly developed machine industry, its rich all-round culture and its constitutions, a historical moment has been reached when the commanding bourgeoisie, out of fear for the growth and increasing strength of the proletariat, is supporting everything backward, moribund and medieval. The moribund bourgeoisie is combining with all obsolete and obsolescent forces in an endeavour to preserve tottering wage slavery.

Advanced Europe is commanded by a bourgeoisie which supports everything backward. In our day Europe is advanced not *thanks to*, but *in spite of* the bourgeoisie, for the proletariat alone is adding to the million-strong army of fighters for a better future, it alone is preserving and propagating implacable enmity towards backwardness, savagery, privilege, slavery and the humiliation of man by man.

In "advanced" Europe, the *sole advanced* class is the proletariat. The living bourgeoisie, on the other hand, is