

# WHAT LENINISM MEANS TO US

**We** are approaching nearly hundred years of the Great Russian October Revolution. It is a revolution unequalled by any other event in the history. Its impact on the humanity and its social thinking has not diminished despite the collapse of the Soviet Union. The importance of the Russian Revolution is that it is the greatest revolution of the working people, which lasted more than seven decades and which carried out basic transformations towards socialism. It began in an era of national liberation movements in the colonies and semi-colonies and gave impetus to them. The communists all over the world need to study the experiences of the Russian Revolution to draw necessary conclusions to advance the communist movement.

Comrade Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik party, the working class, organizer of the October socialist revolution, builder of the first socialist state in the world and of the new socialist society. In the teachings of comrade Lenin the toiling people all over the world have a powerful weapon in their struggle for freedom, independence, liberation and social revolution and in their struggle to build a new classless society.

In his book *“What the ‘Friends of the People’ are and How They Fight the Social-Democrats”*, Lenin thoroughly exposed the true character of Narodniks, showing that they were ‘false friends of people’. He showed that it was Marxists who were the real friends of people. For the first time Lenin advanced the idea of a revolutionary alliance of the workers and peasants as the principal means of overthrowing Tsardom, the landlords and the bourgeoisie and outlined the main tasks of the Russian Marxists.

In *“What is to be Done?”* Lenin outlined a concrete organizational plan for the structure of a Marxist party of the working class. He completely demolished the theory of “economism”, exposed the ideology of opportunism and the practice of lagging behind the events. He stressed the importance of theory, of political consciousness and of party as the guiding force of the working class movement.

In his famous work, *“One Step Forward, Two Steps back”*, Lenin *“for the first time in the history of Marxism elaborated the doctrine of party as the leading organization of the proletariat, as the principal weapon of the proletariat, without which the struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat cannot be won”* (Stalin). Lenin successfully upheld the party principle against the circle principle and laid the organizational foundations of the Bolshevik party. He made clear the importance of organization and discipline.

The fundamental tactical principle of his historic book, *“Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution”* is the idea of the hegemony of the proletariat in the bourgeois democratic revolution. The proletariat being in alliance with the peasantry would grow into the hegemony of the proletariat in the socialist revolution. This book already contains the fundamental elements of Leninist theory that it is possible for socialism to be victorious in one country, taken singly. Its invaluable significance is that it enriched Marxism with a new theory of revolution.

In his work, *“Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism”*, Lenin makes a Marxist analysis of imperialism, showing that it is the highest and last stage of capitalism, that it is decaying and moribund capitalism, and at the same time, the eve of socialist revolution. *“This was a new and complete theory of socialist revolution, a theory of affirming the possibility of victory of socialism in separate countries, and indicating the conditions of this victory and its prospects”* (Stalin).

Lenin’s April Thesis laid down for the Bolshevik party a brilliant plan of struggle for the transition from the bourgeois-democratic revolution to the socialist revolution.

In his book *“State and Revolution”*, Lenin expounds and develops the Marxist theory on the state, the proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. Being himself on the study of the experiences of the two revolutions in Russia, Lenin set forth the theory of Republic of Soviets as the political form of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In his work, *"The Immediate Tasks of the Socialist Government"*, Lenin dealt with the main problems of socialist construction, establishment of new, socialist relations of production and other problems including the proletarian democracy.

These works of Lenin show the main stages in the historic development of Bolshevism and Russian revolution, show Marxism-Leninism in action. That is exactly what the teaching of Lenin means to us – guide to action without which the struggle for the emancipation of toiling masses and the struggle for the new classless society cannot be won.

In these troubled times, when imperialism is unleashing attacks on Marxism-Leninism, when the revisionism is distorting its fundamental principles and distorting the achieving of the first socialist state under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, it is imperative on the part of the communist revolutionaries to study in depth the experiences of October Socialist Revolution and keep high aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism and Mao's thought.

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