

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

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BULLETIN

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ALBANIAN EXPORTS

The Albanians believe that there is no political independence without economic independence. To ensure this they are gradually transforming the economy of their country from mainly agricultural to industrial-agrarian and eventually industrial. Heavy industry is extremely important to the building of an independent economy, and for that electric and other sources of power are important.

Albanian exports reflect these efforts in their economy. There are agricultural products - fruit, vegetables, tomato paste, cognac and cigarettes. Some light industry exports are traditional artistic products eg. glassware, hand-woven carpets, carved wooden boxes etc. But the greatest achievements are the finished machine made garments and knitwear, the precision instruments and tools and new developments like processed rubber for industry. Albania is also in the fortunate position of exporting oil and electric energy, as well as several important metals and minerals such as chrome, bitumen, nickel and copper.

The Albanians trade with over forty foreign countries and have to protect their economy from world price rises for example in sugar. They do this by importing 10% less than they export to build up a reserve so that price rises outside Albania are not passed on to the Albanian people. They do not 'export' workers to jobs abroad as Yugoslavia or Britain do. There is no unemployment, no income tax, and instead of cuts the rate of growth in industry since 1970 has been 90% higher than in Europe. Some advertisement for Albania's socialist principles!

In the past few months there have been a number of new books from Albania some of which are reviewed here.

1. We have recently received two booklets from Albania which reproduce editorials from "Zeri i Popullit" (paper of the Albanian Party of Labor) on the Congresses of the French and Soviet revisionist Communist parties held in February and March respectively.

In their appraisal of the Soviet Congress ('The Congress of the Soviet Revisionists - A Congress of Social Imperialist Demagogy and Expansion') the Albanians conclude that its significance lay not in what Brezhnev said in his report but what he left out. While he made much of proletarian internationalism and the great strides being made in the economy he was able to gloss over issues such as Czechoslovakia and the poor harvests at home.

From all accounts the 1971-75 Five Year Plan failed to meet its objectives but the Soviet Union managed to maintain its high level of military expenditure. British Ministry of Defence surveys have indicated that this is between 11% and 12% of the Gross National Product. The real question is how long can the Soviet people remain passive while much of the country's resources is given over to militarisation with resultant food shortages and scarcity of consumer goods.

The booklet on the French Congress ('A Social Democratic Congress of the French Revisionists') highlights one of the most fundamental aspects of Marxism; whether the working class can usher in socialism through Parliament? "It does not respond to the reality of our policy" said George Marchais (Secretary General of the French revisionist Communist Party) in declaring that the dictatorship of the proletariat is now obsolete. This booklet is certainly of topical interest after the failure of the so-called Italian communists to gain power through Parliamentary means.

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2. Draft - Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

This extremely important document is the foundation of the Socialist society that is being built in Albania. It states that the ideology of the country is Marxist-Leninist. All state power derives from and belongs to the working people. There are no

exploiting classes, private property or exploitation of man by man. Article 31 state that citizens pay no levies or taxes whatsoever. It is also the first country to recognise no religion. Every person is guaranteed the right to work, a reasonable pension, medical care and education. On these and the other articles Albania has the basis for creating true Socialism.

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3. The Party of Labour of Albania on the Building and Life of the Party

This book is composed of documents produced by the P.L.A. from the time of its birth in November 1941 up to February 1972. It describes how the Party dealt with the internal problems thrown up in the course of its struggles. It is essential reading for all communists and students of Albania.

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4. A New Victory of the Policy of the P.L.A. in the Uplift of the General Wellbeing of the People.

Only recently, a major decision was taken in Albania. Higher wages have been lowered, amendments made to the wage system and measures have been taken to further narrow the differences between town and country. The pamphlet publishes the decision together with a commentary on its " great political, ideological, economic and social importance " by 'Zeri i Popullit'

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5. The National Conference of Studies on the Anti-Fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian People.

This book is very important being a collection of reports presented at a National Conference on the Liberation War organised by several high-powered committees such as the Institute of Marxist-Leninist Studies of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Albanian Revolution in November 1974. Seven reports given by leading members of the Communist Party as well as academics, trace not merely the historical stages of the anti-fascist war but the revolutionary aspects of the struggle. The general reader will get a great deal of

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FROM ALBANIA

		<u>P.P.</u>
New Albania (bi-monthly)	10p	20p
Albania Today (bi-monthly)	25p	35p
Sub: £1.50p direct from Albania:-		
'Ndermarrja e Librit', Tiranë , Albania.		

Enver Hoxha

Selected Works Vol:I (on order)	£1.30	£1.60
25 Years of struggles and violence on the road to Socialism	10p	17p
Our policy is an open policy, the policy of Proletarian Principles	6p	12p
Speeches 1967-1968	20p	36p
Speeches 1971-1973 (hardback)	50p	70p
Its in the Party, People, State Power Unity that our strength Lies	10p	17p
History of the Party of Labour of Albania(on order)	£1	£1.30p
The Congress of Capitalist Restoration and Social Imperialism	5p	11p
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People's Health	16	24p
People's Education	16p	24p
The Party of Labour of Albania on the Building and life of the Party	25p	70p

Mehmet Shehu

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania will be guided in all its activities by The Marxist-Leninist General Line of the Party	6p	12p
History of the Party of Labour of Albania Part II (a few left)	20p	30p
PICKAXE AND RIFLE by William Ash	£3.75p	£4.00

NEW BOOKS

A New Victory of the Policy of the Party of Labour of Albania in the Uplift of the General Wellbeing of the People	10p	17p
Draft - Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania	10p	17p
A Social Democratic Congress of the French Revisionists	10p	17p
The Bronze Bush anovel by Dritero Agolli	80p	£1.00
The Congress of the Soviet Revisionists - A Congress of Social Imperialist Demagogy and Expansion	10p	17p
National Conference of Studies on the Anti-Fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian People	30p	45p

There have again been a number of meetings on different topics held by the Society in various parts of the country. Here are reports from three of them.

A well attended meeting on 'Albanian Culture' was held by the New Albania Society on May 21st at the Bellman Bookshop. Prior to the meeting records of traditional Albanian music were played. The two speakers had both been visitors to the country. The first speaker spoke of the meaning of culture to the Albanians. It represented not only their hard won independence and freedom, fought for against all invaders and aggressors, now secured under Socialism, but also the future built by their own efforts not an imported 'pop' culture. She pointed out that there had been a cultural revolution to establish these principles. The second speaker continued this theme with regard to particular forms of culture: art, music, literature, drama, sport and education in general. New Albania was not a competitive philistine society but one in which the people were encouraged to develop to their full potential.

There followed a lively discussion from the floor. Questions were asked about measures to prevent corruptive influences on the youth from outside and the Albanian attitude to foreign culture. It was pointed out that the Albanians were genuinely interested in other people's culture, at the same time recognising that there were those who wished to export their decadence into Albania. Above all the Government and Party of Labour relied on the people to combat unhealthy influences.

The meeting could not ignore Britain and a parallel was drawn - while culture and education thrived in Albania here a life-and-death struggle had commenced to ensure their future.

The audience was invited before departing to see a small exhibition on Albanian life, consisting of photographs displayed in the Bookshop.

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On Friday 14th May there was a meeting held at Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, with a guest speaker from the New Albania Society. The speaker gave a general talk on the history and present position of Albania, showing the tremendous advances made socially, economically, and politically since liberation.

There followed a wide ranging discussion covering many aspects of the Albanian's life, including the philosophy behind it. Of particular interest was the political organisation of a socialist state, and how the Marxist-Leninist principles were actually put into practice. Also education was thoroughly debated. The students showed great interest and found the meeting thought provoking.

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The first meeting of the New Albania Society, Liverpool branch, was held in May at October Books in Temple Court. This branch, like those in a number of other British towns was formed recently to meet the growing interest in Albania of workers outside the capital.

The speaker pointed out that in Albania, a small country about the size of Wales with a population of only about two million and a half, there was no inflation, no unemployment and people payed no taxes at all. Prices were falling and real wages were rising and year by year Albania had the highest economic growth rate of any country in Europe.

How was this done? The answer could be given in one word - socialism. The working people themselves seized state power at the successful conclusion of the war and have governed their country ever since in the interests of the people not in the interest of profit. As a mark of the great achievements of the Albanian people in agriculture and industry and in building a genuine socialist society a new constitution is in the democratic process of being adopted - a constitution which proclaims Albania a People's Socialist Republic.

In the discussion that followed many workers in the audience wanted to know the relevance to Britain of the experience of the heroic people of Albania. It was felt that the main lesson for us here in Britain was that of self-reliance. Our people have the skill and energy and ingenuity to save Britain from the destruction of capitalism and to build a prosperous socialist society if, like the Albanian people, we take our destiny in our own hands. In taking state power we not only serve our own working class but we also make the world a safer place for the Albanian people to continue the development of their country too.

Unfortunately we are forced to raise the subscription to the New Albania Society to £1 due to ever rising costs. We hope that our members realise the need for this.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

NAME

ADDRESS

Please complete the above form and return it to

The Secretary, New Albania Society,

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Rd, London, N.W.5.

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