

THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION 1905 - 1955

- WEEK 1 DISCUSSION - WHY THIS TOPIC & WHY NOW (Someone can outline study material here)
- WEEK 2 What elements comprise the British revolution - are they significantly different from those in 20th Century Russia?
- WEEK 3 What was the significance for the European Labour movement of such a formula for class political organization - How have we developed it?
- WEEK 4 The Bolsheviks knew their enemy well. Why were they virtually alone in their opposition to the 1st World War? Can we say, perhaps, that the Russians were much clearer than we here in Britain with regards the nature of the first imperialist war?
- WEEK 5 Does rejection of terrorism by a working class signify a step forward in terms of class consciousness?
- How does a Labour movement (not just the party) conduct its work when illegal?
- WEEK 6 The National Question - one of the most significant (but underrated) aspects of the Russian revolution. How does the national question relate to revolution in present day Europe?
- WEEK 7 P1 Why do we wait to be attacked?
- P2 To be read alongside Economics of Genocide P11 pages 14-15. What makes these programmes revolutionary?
- WEEK 8 How significant was the Russian Revolution to the workers of the world?

WEEK 9 What qualities must a communist party have in order to enable it to turn from the tasks of war, to peace, to building socialism?

WEEK 10 Why was it that the Bolshevik party should have such a violent struggle, so early on, over the question of trade unions? How significant was this struggle in shaping the attitude of the party towards the class and its mass organizations?

WEEK 11 Why can you build socialism in one country, but not capitalism in one country?
What advantage would accrue should revolution take place in more than one country at approximately a similar time?
Why might socialism in one country be considered a principle of the British working class and our party?

WEEK 12 It is one thing to say that independent mass organizations of workers can act as a watchdog against degeneration of the party - but how does the party (which should be the leadership) stop itself from degenerating?

WEEK 13 What is the function of the army under socialism?

Can proletarian democracy extend to the armed forces?

Marx castigated Proudhon for supporting Poland when it was invaded by Russia - because Russia had abolished slavery whereas Poland had not. Having made our revolution - would we sanction the use of our working class army if NATO invaded Ireland to prevent its unification?

WEEK 14 How far do the experiences of the USSR and the reality of its existence today - define the context in which we make our revolution here?

week 15 Can the dictatorship of the proletariat still be considered a pre-requisite for the transition from capitalism to socialism?

What were the principal problems faced by the USSR in this period of transition? Are they analogous to those we might face in Britain?

week 16 Discuss the principles on which industrialization is based. Can these principles be applied in Britain?

Did the Stakhanov movement represent the roots of future communist society or was it a reflection of weakness and social democracy i.e. we'll stand back and watch you do it?

week 17 What is the relationship between collectivization and revolutionary change? Can you foresee similar collect farms in Britain?

week 18 Assess the importance of the various pre-requisites for the completion of a planned economy?

What is the importance of Stalin's statement "We are 50 or a 100 years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this distance in 10 years. Either we do it or they crush us".

week 19 Was the formula of Soviet democracy a purely national phenomena? Having established such a form of working class democracy, how do we safeguard it from abusers?

week 20 What was the effect of capitalist encirclement for the USSR? Why was the USSR the only country attacked by Hitler which did not have a fifth column.

week 21

Why was defence of the USSR so important in this period?
Is it important for exactly the same reasons to-day?

week 22

What long term effects did the war have on the USSR, on Britain and the relationship between the two?

week 23

Is the opening of a second front in Britain to-day one of the tasks of our revolution?

week 24

Is it correct to say, as some still do that the existence of a COMINTERN would block the growth of revisionism. (Bear in mind that Browderism flourished whilst the COMINTERN existed & Khrushchevism gained power despite the COMINFORM successor to the COMINTERN).

Is the worldwide organization of communists a tactic, a principle or irrelevant in 1982.

week 25

Was the post war aim of the USSR, the consolidation of socialism the building of communism in one country, or simply making good the damage of war? Which do you think it should have been?

week 26

How far does the Fulton speech serve as a basis for understanding Soviet economic, political and military priorities from 1946 to today

Is peaceful co-existence a principle, a tactic, a misnomer, or simply socialism buying time?

Is there any difference between Stalin's application of peaceful co-existence and that of Khrushchev?

week 27

With capitalism's crusade against the USSR is it still true to say that the greater threat to peace comes from inter-imperialist rivalry

What are we to learn from the all Russian Peace movement of 1914 - 1917?

BOOK 28 Is it correct to interpret this, as many did in the USSR in this period, as meaning such things as language, mathematics, logic, biology are 'independent' i.e. not serving either the peasantry, the workers or the capitalists exclusively?

BOOK 29 Is the science of marxism 'good for one epoch' or 'for all time'.

BOOK 30 How far did the "objective processes which operate independently of the will of man" dictate the nature and rate of Soviet development?

What was stopping the Soviet government from being able to 'do everything and anything'.

BOOK 31 We say there are only 2 classes in Britain. Can capitalism satisfy Stalin's requirements for breaking down the antagonisms and/or distinctions between town and country and 'mental and physical labour'.

BOOK 32 Is it true to say that the single world market of capitalism has disintegrated? If so why does Poland and Rumania owe so much money to Western Banks?

In what ways does the secession of the USSR and peoples democracies from capitalism contribute to capitalism's absolute decline?

BOOK 33 Is Stalin right to say "the new relations of production are the... decisive force... determines the development of the productive forces... without which the latter would be doomed to stagnation".

In what way do present day relations of production conflict with the onward development of the productive forces in capitalist Britain?

week 34
How does communism signify a qualitative step forward from socialism as well as a quantitative one?

Is it possible to solve such contradictions of socialism as

the raising of collective farm property to the level of public property by means of gradual 'transition or conversion' or does the temporary victory of Khrushchevism mean that even under the dictatorship of the proletariat ^{so-called} non-antagonistic contradictions invariably become antagonistic?

week 35
It has been said that the cult of personality was a 'derivative of the paternalism inherent in small scale commodity production'. Does that mean that until communism does away with such commodity production that the presence of a 'cult' is inevitable.