



*The capitalists have no further social function than that of pocketing dividends, tearing off coupons, and gambling on the Stock Exchange, . . . But the transformation, either into joint-stock companies and trusts, or state ownership, does not do away with the capitalistic nature of the productive forces.*

**Frederick Engels.**

*Socialism : Utopian and Scientific.*

#### **Remembering Frederick Engels**

## **Teachings of Marx-Engels Penetratingly Expose Falsity of Bourgeois Claim of 'People's Capitalism' and Halo of 'Technological Revolution'**

On the occasion of the 97th Death Anniversary of Frederick Engels we pay our profound homage to the memory of this great visionary, the close comrade-in-arms of Karl Marx and the great leader of the world proletariat. No one can think of Marxism without remembering Frederick Engels. As a matter of fact Frederick Engels' contributions in developing and enriching Marxism are invaluable to mankind. Both Marx and Engels defended philosophical materialism in a most resolute and determined manner by giving decisive defeat to various forms of philosophical idealism and opened a new vista before the working class by showing it the way to its emancipation from wage slavery, by a scientific discourse on the historical path of social development in general and a thorough anatomical dissection of capitalism in particular. The ceaseless and uncompromising struggle throughout his life for establishing and defending Marxian philosophy and his life-long fight for the cause of the world proletariat made Frederick Engels a prodigy in the working class movement, an exemplary character and a giant leader in the world communist movement. The name of Frederick Engels has indelibly been written on the pages of history and this will remain so for all time to come.

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## Bourgeois Ideologues' Renewed Attempt to Discredit Marxism

Though Marxism evoked hatred of the entire bourgeois world yet no defender of capitalism could counter the Marxist philosophy during the life-time of Marx and Engels. After Marx and Engels, Lenin defended Marxism in a most resolute manner and gave decisive defeat to the defenders of capitalism-imperialism through his uncompromising struggle and theoretical broadside. The various developments since then again and again confirm and further vindicate the incontrovertibility of Marxism-Leninism. But the recent setback in the working class movement suffered due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the reverses in the East European countries has again provided the defenders of capitalism an opportunity to launch an orchestrated campaign against Marxism. They are trying to confuse the people by contending that the teachings of Marx about the capitalist law of production based on exploitation and oppression are no longer tenable since there has occurred a technological revolution, and so for profit or for accumulation of capital, capitalist production has done away with the exploitation of labour. According to them, the society is no longer divided into classes and the Marxian theory of class struggle is no longer valid. As such, they advocate, the working class should come forward to cooperate with the capitalist system, shaking off its hostile confrontationist attitude for onward and forward march of society.

But this attempt to refute Marxism is nothing new. As a matter of fact the bourgeois ideologues have been trying since the days of Marx to prove Marxism to be wrong and not valid. Lenin wrote: "Half a century ago, when Marx was writing *Capital*, free competition appeared to the overwhelming majority of economists to be a 'natural law'. Official science tried, by a conspiracy of silence, to kill the works of Marx, who by a theoretical and historical analysis of capitalism had proved that free competition gives rise to the concentration of production, which, in turn, at a certain stage of development leads to monopoly. Today, monopoly has become a fact. Economists are writing mountains of books in which they describe the diverse manifestations of monopoly, and continue to declare in chorus that 'Marxism is refuted'. But facts are stubborn things, as the English proverb says, and they have to be reckoned with, whether we like it or not". (*Imperialism The Highest Stage of Capitalism*) So today also the incontrovertible facts have to be reckoned with whether the bourgeois ideologues and the apologists for capitalism-imperialism like it or not. Without countering the scientific analysis of Marx on economic law of motion of modern society they assert and reassert that 'Marxism is outdated' as they believe only in the gospel of Goebbels, the chief propaganda minister of

Fascist Hitler regime, that truth is nothing but persistent propaganda. As a matter of fact this orchestrated propaganda is deliberately launched to confuse the people and masked with class motive. Since the Great October Revolution and the birth of nascent Soviet Union there have been concerted attempts to destroy the first socialist state by the imperialists. The heroic Soviet people under the leadership of the CPSU led by Lenin and then by Stalin defeated the imperialist conspiracies one after another. The fascist attack against the Soviet Union was defeated by the

Soviet people under the able leadership of Stalin and thus civilisation and mankind were saved from the gravest catastrophe. Despite huge devastation, the Soviet economy was quickly rebuilt within the span of a few years under the able leadership of Stalin and the Soviet Union emerged as the most developed country, parallel to the US imperialist superpower in all respects. But what could not be done by the imperialists through attacks from outside, was accomplished by the enemies from within. After the demise of Stalin, the revisionist clique headed by Khrushchev usurped the leadership of the party and the state and since the 20th Congress of the CPSU the floodgate of revisionism was opened culminating in perestroika and glasnost of counterrevolutionary Gorbachev. The painful result was the restoration of capitalism and disintegration of the Soviet Union and the reverses in the East European countries. The debacle of the erstwhile Soviet Union and the East European countries is the direct result of the revisionist policy of the parties of these countries and these reverses cannot in any way be attributed to any shortcoming of Marxism. But the bourgeois ideologues and the apologists for capitalism-imperialism cannot miss this opportunity to confuse the people by their loud proclamation that 'Marxism is outdated'. By questioning the relevance of Marxism, they betray their pathetic ignorance of Marxism, deliberate or otherwise.

Is it believable that they are ignorant of Marx's views and analysis on technological development? Has Marx's analysis of irreconcilable contradiction between productive forces and production relation in a capitalist society gone wrong today? Is the labour theory of value as propounded by Marx controverted by the bourgeois economists on the solid foundation of reasons? Is not the profit of the capitalists earned by expropriating surplus value which the worker creates besides his wages? Does not capitalism invariably lead to competition among capitalists resulting in technological innovations in its course? Does not capitalism create an industrial reserve army of proletariat to forcefully keep the labour wages at the minimum of the subsistence level to increase the profit? Is any of these contentions of Marx about the capitalist system not valid in spite of technological developments of today? Let us now examine these questions.

### Marx And Engels made a Thorough Anatomical Dissection of Capitalism

From the starting point of the most advanced philosophical, economic, social and political thought of the Nineteenth Century Europe and by analysing and concretising the latest scientific discoveries of that period Marx and Engels made a thorough scientific study of human society in general and capitalist society in particular on the basis of dialectical and historical materialism propounded by him. Marx presented a thorough scientific analysis of the historical course of development of capitalism since its inception and its ultimate doom because of the inherent irreconcilable contradiction within the capitalist system—the contradiction between the productive forces and the production relation in the capitalist society. The fundamental approach and the methodology of Marx's analysis are all the more important. Marx showed that the main features of capitalism are the appearance of two main antagonistic clas-

ses—the workers and the capitalists—within the society and the development of commodity production.

Marx showed how there came into being on the one hand the propertied class owning all the means of production and controlling all the raw materials for production and on the other hand the vast army of industrial proletariat who cannot get their living by themselves except by selling their labour power to the capitalists. If men can get their living by themselves as the peasants tilling their own land or the small craftsmen working for themselves can do, the capitalists cannot get the workers in the factories for commodity production. So one of the essential conditions of capitalism to develop is the growth of wage-workers who are 'free' to sell their labour power or 'free' to starve.

With the accumulation of capital, the capitalist having the means of production and the raw materials engages the workers with whose living touch the raw material is transformed into the finished product—the product for exchange, i.e. commodity. But the secret of

profit in modern capitalist society does not lie in the process of commodity exchange as was the case during the pre-capitalist period when merchants bought cheap in one market and sold dear in another market. The secret of profit of modern capitalist society lies in the sphere of production. Marx has shown that the value that the workers produce exceed the value of their labour power which the capitalist buys by paying wages. The value of labour power is determined as of any other commodity since labour power has also become a saleable commodity in capitalist market. Marx said: "The value of labour power is determined, as in the case of every other commodity, by the labour time necessary for the production, and consequently also the reproduction, of the special article. So far as it has value, it represents no more than a definite quantity of the average labour of society incorporated in it". (*Capital*, Vol.I)

The value of the capitalist investment on factory, raw material and other means of production is embodied unchanged in the final product but the value the capitalist devotes to wage payment expands. The difference between the value of the labour power that the capitalist buys by payment of wages and the value actually created by the worker is the surplus value and this is appropriated by the capitalist class and herein lies the secret of the profit in capitalist system.

As the motive of capitalist production is to earn more and more profit, there is a relentless endeavour on the part of the capitalists to increase the surplus value and this can be done by lengthening the working hours without increasing the wages or by reduction of wages or by introducing improved method of production thereby raising the productivity of the labour or through combination of some of them or all of these methods. On the other hand the workers have been constantly trying to increase the wages. The interest of the capitalists and the workers are thus diametrically opposite, each struggling to change the division of the working day in opposite direction, viz. to increase the profit and to increase the wages. This is the economic basis of class struggle and in capitalist society the capitalist class and the proletariat are interlocked in fierce class struggle.

## Competition in Capitalism Inevitable

Now the ceaseless endeavour of the capitalist class to earn more and more profit is

not only due to the greed of the individual capitalist, but it is a necessary condition of the economic system itself, i.e. the competition among the capitalists. The insatiable appetite for more capital and therefore for more profit is the condition of the capitalist production and exchange. If a capitalist fails to pursue this aim of earning more and more profit he will soon be eliminated from the race of capital. Engels explained: "But commodity production, like all other forms of production, has its own laws which are inherent in and inseparable from it; and these laws assert themselves in spite of anarchy, in and through anarchy. These laws are manifested in the sole form of social relationship which continues to exist, in exchange, and enforce themselves on the individual producers as compulsory laws of competition.... They assert themselves apart from the producers and against the producers, as the natural laws of their form of production, working blindly. The product dominates the producers." (*Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*)

Marx showed that this compulsory law of competition in the capitalist system makes the capitalist an instrument of technical development for increasing the productivity of labour. The surplus value created through increased productivity of labour due to introduction of better machinery and improved method of production is called relative surplus value. By introduction of new machinery and improved technique the capitalist reduces the labour time per each unit of product below the average socially necessary labour time which is the determining factor in market value and thus he is in a position to reap extra profit. Marx observed: "Like every other increase in productiveness of labour, machinery is intended to cheapen commodities and, by shortening that portion of the working day in which the labour works for himself, to lengthen the other portion that he gives, without an equivalent, to the capitalist. In short, it is a means for producing surplus value." (*Capital*, Vol.I.)

It is to be remembered that Marx's analysis of capitalism as a distinct historical category or rather a definite phase in the history of the development of productive forces was to show its fundamental character, its production relation, its historical role, its motive force, its limitations and irreconcilable contradictions. Marx analysed the fundamental characteristics of capitalism on the basis of the then scientific discoveries and technological revolution brought about by the discovery of steam power and so it is futile to expect that Marx's writings will throw light on detailed aspects of the latest scientific and technological developments of the present time. But the question is whether in fundamental approach and method of analysis Marx's stand was erroneous or not. A careful study will reveal that Marx could visualise the probable development of capitalism to its modern form in its essence. Marx showed that the economic law of competition would constantly haunt the capitalist to make newer and newer technological innovations. Marx said: "Modern industry never looks upon and treats the existing process as final. The technical basis of that industry is, therefore, revolutionary, while all earlier modes of production were essentially conservative. By means of machinery, chemical

processes and other methods, it is continually causing changes not only in the technical basis of production, but also in the functions of the labourer, and in the social combinations of the labour process." (*Ibid*)

In the *Communist Manifesto*, Marx and Engels further said: "The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionising the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society. Conservation of the old modes of production in unaltered form, was, on the contrary, the first condition of existence for all earlier industrial classes. Constant revolutionising of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguish the bourgeois epoch, from all earlier ones".

## Marx Envisioned Machinofacture

Marx regarded the advent of machinofacture (including production of machine by machine) as the mature phase of capitalist mode of production. What Marx showed in his analysis of machinofacture was its basis on the growth of scientific knowledge and making more evident the socialised form of production. Marx showed: "On an ever extending scale, the cooperative form of labour process, the conscious application of science, the planned exploitation of the earth, the transformation of instruments of labour into instruments which can only be used in cooperative work, the economizing of all means of production by their uses as the means of production of combined socialised labour and entanglement of all peoples in the net of world market." (*Capital* - Vol.I)

The phenomenon that machine will play a dominant part and labour will be subjected to machine—the phenomenon seeing which the bourgeois apologists are proclaiming that in modern capitalist production, the exploitation of labour has been done away with—was visualised by Marx as his teachings show how the rare insight of a great revolutionary genius could trace the development of capitalism to its modern form. Marx said: "Every kind of capitalist production, in so far as it is not only a labour process, but also a process of creating surplus value, has this in common, that it is not the workman that employs the instruments of labour, but the instruments of labour that employ the workman. But it is only in the factory system that this inversion for the first time acquires technical and palpable reality. By means of its conversion into an automation, the instrument of labour confronts the labourer, during the labour process, in the shape of capital, of dead labour, that dominates and pumps dry living labour power. The separation of intellectual powers of production from the manual labour, and the conversion of those powers into the might of capital over labour, is, as we have already shown, finally completed by modern industry erected on the foundation of machinery. The special skill of each individual insignificant factory operation vanishes as an infinitesimal quantity before the science, the gigantic physical forces, and the means of labour that are embodied in factory mechanism and, together with that mechanism, constitute the power of the 'master'". (*Capital* - Vol.I)

The question of development of computers and other modern technologies is to be judged with this yardstick. It is no doubt true

that introduction of all these latest innovations has lessened and minimised the part played by the human labour. But does it invalidate Marx's theory of value which showed how surplus value or profit is earned by appropriating human labour power? Firstly, we should remember that by labour Marx meant labour in abstract form which contains both manual and mental labour. So building up of modern technology entails both mental and manual labour and it is man who creates machine in which intellectual power is embodied. Moreover, in operating these machines, human labour, however small the quantity may be, will be necessary as no machine can work without the living touch of man. So all these computers and other modern technologies are introduced to increase the productivity of man, i.e. to increase the relative surplus value. So these technological revolutions have only helped in reaping superprofits to the capitalists since the motive force of capitalist system has not changed, the employer-employee relations or rather the capitalist production relations have not changed.

In this connection one point should be noted. The monopoly houses and the transnational corporations which control the latest technologies share a fraction of the superprofits with the employees of these concerns, of course the lion's share is kept by the employer, and as a result these employees might be better off to a certain extent than the vast masses of the people including unemployed or the people thrown out of employment due to introduction of the latest technology who are robbed by these monopoly houses and the transnational corporations. It is to be remembered that by such act the employees of these concerns are being bourgeoisified; these employees must bear in mind that by a little bit of distribution of the scheme of the superprofit the employer-employee relationship is not at all abolished and they remain mere wage slaves. They have to realise through conscious effort that they are creating much more relative surplus value through increased productivity of labour than they are paid for. So as long as the capitalist system exists they will only help the capitalist class to earn superprofits at the cost of them and the people. For the earning of superprofits they try to reduce the cost even by largescale pollution of the global environment. There have been going on huge accumulation and concentration of capital. All the resources of the globe is under the control of the capitalist class, all the means of production are owned by them, all the technological information and knowledge have been covered by the capitalists. The stark reality is that the fruits of scientific and technological development cannot be used in the service of humanity, on the contrary these are used only for the superprofits of the capitalist class. The technological knowhow is now nothing but a commodity in the hands of the capitalists and it is being used as a means of neocolonial exploitation. The recent talks in the Uruguay Round and on the Dunkel proposal on Intellectual Property Rights show how the giant multinational corporations try to keep their stranglehold on the people of backward countries and perpetuate their dominance over them.

## Concentration of Wealth in A Few Hands and Pauperisation of Masses Inevitable in Capitalism

But what catastrophe has been brought about by this huge accumulation and concentra-

tion of wealth in the hands of the capitalists is for everybody to see. Famine, hunger, malnutrition and death not only in Ethiopia, unemployment, ignorance, violence and periodic starvation deaths not only in India and other Third World countries, but even in metropolitan capitalist countries the vast reserve army of the proletariat is languishing in dire poverty under inhuman living condition. Does this state of affairs render Marx's analysis invalid? On the contrary, it once again vindicates Marxism. Marx said: "The greater the social wealth, the functioning capital, the extent and energy of its growth, and, therefore, also the absolute mass of the proletariat and the productiveness of its labour, the greater is the industrial reserve army.

... The greater this reserve army in proportion to the active labour army, the greater is the mass of a consolidated surplus population, whose misery is in inverse ratio to its torment of labour. The more extensive, finally, the Lazarus-layers of the working class, and the industrial reserve army, the greater is official pauperism. This is the absolute general law of capitalist accumulation. ... Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation at the opposite pole, i.e. on the side of the class that produces its own product in the form of capital." (*Capital* Vol.I). Does this teaching of Marx reflect the present-day objective reality or not? Has the technological revolution made the teaching untenable? Surely not. Rather the present-day reality of mass pauperisation once again vindicates Marxism.

But the mass pauperisation inevitably leads to capitalist crisis. Since the motive force of production in the capitalist society is profit, the capitalists always try to increase the surplus value, i.e. the unpaid portion of the value created by the worker and the higher the share of profit, the share of wages in the output becomes relatively lower. So the capitalist method of production is in the vortex of a contradiction. There is a constant tendency in the capitalist society to undermine its mass market since wages of the workers are spent to buy the products brought by the capitalists in the market. Capitalism grows and expands and ultimately the entire globe becomes the market of the capitalists. The masses whom the capitalist exploits constitute the very market of the capitalists. Marx speaks of "tendency of capitalist production to develop the productive forces as if only the absolute power of consumption of the entire society would be their limit." (*Capital*, Vol.III)

Thus the contradiction between the unlimited expansion of productive forces and relative restriction of mass market inevitably leads to periodic crisis. In the *Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels wrote: "For many a decade past, the history of industry and commerce is but the history of revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production, against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeoisie and of its rule. It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their periodical return put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on its trial, each time more threateningly. In these crises a great part, not only of the existing

products, but also of the previously created productive forces, are periodically destroyed. In these crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of overproduction. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed. And why? Because there is too much civilisation, too much means of subsistence, too much industry, too much commerce. The productive forces at the disposal of society no longer tend to further the development of the conditions of the bourgeois property; on the contrary they have become too powerful for these conditions, by which they are fettered, and so soon as they overcome these fetters, they bring disorder into the whole of bourgeois society, endanger the existence of bourgeois property. The conditions of bourgeois society are too narrow to comprise the wealth created by them."

Marx and Engels presented this analysis on the bourgeois society nearly one and a half century ago and it is not only for all conscious people but for all those who are not apologists of capitalism-imperialism, to see how true it is even today despite latest technological revolution.

In order to avert this periodic crisis the capitalist world made many experiments. When the measures prescribed by the Keynesian economists failed and landed the economy into the vortex of a graver crisis, the bourgeoisie went back again to the concept of 'free market'. But the so-called free market economy has historically been discredited and this is nothing new. These are nothing but desperate attempts like the catching of a straw by a drowning man. All these measures are further intensifying the crisis and landing the economy in utter chaos and total anarchy. As a matter of fact the bourgeoisie are incapable of resolving the crisis by any means whatsoever as they fail to realize that this crisis is due to the inherent law of capitalism. The bourgeois economists take a monetarist approach to resolve this crisis, i.e. they think that by regulating the money circulation, the ills of the capitalist economy can be remedied. So during the period of stagnation they pumped money into the market to revive the industrial development; but the result is not any buoyancy in industrial activity but rapid inflation and this is now creating stagflation, i.e. stagnation despite inflationary measure. The monetarist approach of the bourgeois economists cannot cure the ills of the capitalist crisis since any attempt to rejuvenate the market by any artificial means cannot bring about any relative improvement in the purchasing power of the masses; as, if it so happens, it will invariably lead to erosion of profit of the capitalists. Lenin long ago pointed out, "It goes without saying that if capitalism could develop agriculture, if it could raise the living standards of masses, who in spite of amazing technical progress are everywhere still half-starved and poverty stricken there could be no question of surplus capital. This 'argument' is very often advanced by the petty bourgeois critics of capitalism. But if capitalism did these things it would not be capitalism; for both uneven development and a semi-starvation level of existence of the masses are fundamental and inevitable conditions and constitute premises of this mode of production. As long as capitalism

remains what it is, surplus capital will be utilised not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries." (*Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism*)

## To Increase Profit Capital Diverted to Speculation

But if the scope of exporting capital abroad is limited, the same may be diverted to speculative activity through the banks and other financial institutions. The amazing growth of service sector has created confusion in the minds of some people and there is an attempt to project this service sector as alternative to the industrial sector. But this is furthest from truth. Commodity production is the basis of capitalist economy; but the growth of monopoly and the financial oligarchy has separated the ownership of capital from the application of capital to production. The financial oligarchy at present controls all the wealth of the country and this control is being exercised through banks and other financial institutions. Lenin, while analysing capitalism during the period of imperialism, showed: "It is characteristic of capitalism in general that the ownership of capital is separated from the application of capital to production, that money capital is separated from industrial or productive capital, and the rentier who lives entirely on income obtained from money capital, is separated from the entrepreneur and from all who are directly concerned in the management of capital. Imperialism, or the domination of finance capital is that highest stage of capitalism in which this separation reaches vast proportions. The supremacy of finance capital over all other forms of capital means the predominance of the rentier and of the financial oligarchy; it means that a small number of financially 'powerful' states stand out among all the rest." (*Ibid*)

It is because of this separation of money capital from industrial capital that there has been a tremendous growth in the service sector in the imperialist countries like the USA, England, France, Germany etc. The investment plans are being worked out in the capitals of these countries whereas actual production is being carried out in a Third World country with its cheap labour power and raw materials. Thus the industrial production has been relegated to the background in these imperialist countries where the service sector has come to the forefront. So Lenin's analysis of imperialism even today vindicates the incontrovertibility of Marxism, the technological revolution notwithstanding.

Again let us quote what Lenin taught us on the role of surplus capital in the speculation activity. Lenin said: "... this means that the development of capitalism has arrived at a stage when, although commodity production still 'reigns' and continues to be regarded as the basis of economic life, it has in reality been undermined and the bulk of the profits go to the 'geniuses' of financial manipulation. At the basis of these manipulations and swindles lies socialised production; but the immense progress of mankind which achieved this socialisation, goes to benefit the speculators." (*Ibid*)

Does not this teaching of Lenin, the worthy disciple of Marx and Engels, reflect the



reality of the capitalist world? Speculation and swindles are now the general feature of the entire capitalist world. This teaching nakedly exposes the reality, be it so-called share market boom or the security scam of the recent time in our country.

Under capitalism, the contradiction between the productive forces and the production relation becomes irreconcilable; the productive forces have been socialised but the fruits of this socialised production are being appropriated by a handful of people, the owning class and as a result the production relation is acting as fetters to the productive forces. Marx said: "In all countries it has now become a truth demonstrable to every unprejudiced mind and only denied by those whose interest it is to hedge other people in a fool's paradise, that no improvement of machinery, no appliance of science to production, no contrivances of communication, no new colonies, no immigration, no opening of markets, no free trade, nor all these things put together, will do away with the miseries of the industrious masses; but that, on the present false base, every fresh development of the productive power of labour must tend to deepen social contrasts and point social antagonisms." (*Marx's Address to First International Working Men's Association*)

### 'Market Economy' Nakedly Exposed in USA, Its Votary

This social contrast and social antagonism are today most vivid in all the capitalist societies including that of the USA, the mightiest imperialist power of the present time. After a thoroughgoing survey on the English proletariat Engels, while presenting a vivid description on the condition of the working class in England, the then most powerful capitalist country, wrote nearly one hundred and fifty years ago: "Since capital, the direct or indirect control of the means of subsistence is the weapon with which this social warfare is carried on, it is clear that all the disadvantages of such a state must fall upon the poor. For him no man has the slightest concern. Cast into the whirlpool, he must struggle through as well as he can. If he is so happy as to find work, i.e. if the bourgeoisie does him the favour to enrich itself by means of him, wages await him which scarcely suffice to keep body and soul together; if he can get no work he may steal, if he is not afraid of the police, or starve, in which case the police will take care that he does so in a quiet and inoffensive manner. During my residence in England at least 20 or 30 persons had died of simple starvation under the most revolting circumstances .... But indirectly, far more than directly, many have died of starvation, where long continued want of proper nourishment has called forth fatal illness, when it has produced such debility that causes, which might otherwise have remained inoperative brought on severe illness or death. The English working men called this 'social murder' and accuse our whole society of perpetrating this crime perpetually. Are they wrong!" (*The Condition of The Working Class in England*)

After one hundred and fifty years since Engels had presented this horrid picture of the condition of the proletariat in England, the most powerful capitalist country of that period, if we look into the USA, which is, at present the most

powerful imperialist country in the world, a still more horifying picture will be revealed. In the *International Business Week* (May 18, 1992), it is described thus: "... the breeding ground of economic misery is the American city, where a crisis has been festering for years... the day-to-day living conditions with which many of America's urban poor must contend tell an equally compelling story — a tale of economic injustice. . . . Last year 30 million people—or about 14.7 per cent of the total population were living in poverty... wages and jobs for the less skilled have dropped sharply. . . . Almost 3 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1979. .... No matter their race or ethnic background, though, the poor suffer from inadequate health care, failing schools and the terror of drug related violence." Many industrial towns of the USA have been totally deserted as the industries were closed down. The entire American society is rocked by a most serious cultural and moral crisis—drug, sex and violence have horribly violently torn apart the fabric of the US society. When these facts most nakedly manifest the gravest crises in all spheres of life in the US society, the haven of the 'market economy', the spokesman of the 'market economy' hypocritically turns a blind eye to these realities and loudly proclaims 'market economy' to be the panacea of all evils!

### Fascism the Last Resort of Capitalism Whether Developed or Underdeveloped

Capitalism today is out and out rotten and reactionary. The more the capitalist economy is enmeshed in crisis, the more the capitalist class is trying to shift this crisis on to the shoulders of the common people. At the same time, on the political front the ruling capitalist class is resorting to ruthless autocratic measures to crush any democratic movement against the capitalists. All the capitalist countries, be they advanced or relatively backward, have resorted to fascism, the gravest enemy of mankind. Fascism is now appearing with its dual character, of repression and deception; some deceptive measures under radical cloak are being adopted to hoodwink the people while all democratic movements are ruthlessly crushed with most brutal force. Under fascism, we find at one pole a few millionaires and some nicely paid skilled workers who are created through introduction of latest technology and projected as the showpiece of the society and at the other pole the vast multitude of the masses who are languishing in dire poverty, deprivation, agony, misery, hunger, disease and death. The theory of Nietzsche, the fascist philosopher, is being exactly translated into action in all the capitalist countries. Nietzsche argued that men were not equal in power or ability and so the powerful would rule and the weak would claim no right, i.e. the doctrine of the survival of the fittest. Nietzsche advocated the concept of 'superman' and considered the common man to be "hanging by a thread between the superman and the animals." The inevitable polarisation of the capitalist society is sought to be justified through this philosophy. In this connection the teaching of Engels is worth recalling. Engels taught us: "The proletariat would increase in geometrical proportion in consequence of the progressive ruin of the lower middle class and the giant strides with which capital is concentrating itself in the hands of the few; and the

proletariat would soon embrace the whole nation, with the exception of a few millionaires. But in this development there comes a stage at which the proletariat perceives how easily the existing power may be overthrown, and then follows a revolution. (*The Condition of The Working Class in England*) So the bourgeois dream of perpetuating this polarisation will soon be shattered. In this connection another teaching of Engels is also to be recalled. Engels said: "Since exploitation of one class by another is the basis of civilization, its whole development moves in a continuous contradiction. Every advance in production is at the same time a retrogression in the condition of the oppressed class, that is of the great majority. What is boon for the one is necessarily a bane for the other; each new emancipation of one class always means a new oppression of another class. The most striking proof of this is furnished by the introduction of machinery, the effects of which are wellknown today." (*The Origin of The Family, Private Property And The State*) The machinery or the technological development instead of being a boon to mankind has become a bane to it. The capitalist class, having cornered all the latest technological innovations is using it for superprofits and as the manufacture of the most deadly weapons is the source of the highest profit, the capitalist class is engaged in manufacturing these weapons. The imperialist countries are using these weapons to create war tension and blackmail other countries to keep the people of those countries under perpetual subjugation. Again while the capitalist class is encouraging the development of technical aspect of science for increasing the production, it at the same time taking special care so that scientific bent of mind is destroyed and cannot grow further among the people. For this reason the ruling class is pandering to the religious sentiments of the common people with the vile motive and spreading obscurantist ideas and thoughts on the one hand and on the other it is encouraging putrid and decadent culture and narrow and out and out rotten individualism among the people. The ruling clique of all the capitalist countries is aiding and abetting the divisive and separatist forces and instigating the racial feelings in order to create a permanent divide among the people with the aim of perpetuating the capitalist class rule.

### Capitalism-Imperialism Gravest Enemy of Civilisation

But despite all these desperate measures and designs the capitalist world is incapable of coming out of the grave crisis in which it is enmeshed; rather every attempt to resolve the crisis is plunging it in a far graver crisis. The imperialist countries are trying to transfer their crises to the countries of the Third World by various neocolonial attacks, both overt and covert. Capitalism-imperialism today is the gravest danger to human civilization. In this connection the 'Pentagon Plan' as has been revealed in the Press recently is worth reckoning. The US imperialists have drawn up a grand plan to

maintain their world-wide supremacy militarily and also in collusion with their contenders after granting them some concessions, i.e. by division of world market among the imperialists through mutual agreement, maintaining the supremacy of the US imperialists themselves.

## Amazing All-Round Development in Socialism

When capitalism-imperialism is the source of all evils and wars, when capitalist society is marked by unemployment, uncertainty, agony, misery, illiteracy, drug, violence, disease and death and when that society is rocked by a most serious and unprecedented cultural and moral crisis, the people have seen with great admiration the amazing all-round development under socialism. Despite the mortal attack on socialism firstly by the revisionist clique and then by the counterrevolutionary plan of Gorbachev clique in collusion with the imperialists, no one can deny the great all-round development of man even at the initial stage of socialism which is the transitional phase to communism. Even the bourgeois economists were dumbfounded by the amazing economic achievements and most of the intelligentsia of the entire world were magnetically attracted by the achievements of socialism. Not only unemployment problem was fully solved, and inflation had no room in the economy, not only cultural and educational development was ensured, not only beggary, prostitution and crime were all things of the past but also the gate to all round development of man was opened by putting an end to the capitalist exploitation, so that the human society can transcend to the cherished goal of communism where, as Engels lucidly explained : "The conditions of existence forcing man's environment, which up to now have dominated man, at this point passed under the dominion and control of man, who now for the first time becomes the real conscious master of nature, because and in so far as he has become master of his socialisation. The laws of his own social activity which have hitherto confronted him as extraneous laws of nature dominating him, will then be applied by men with complete understanding, and hence will be dominated by man. Men's socialisation of themselves, which has hitherto stood in opposition to them as forced upon them as nature and history will then become the voluntary act of men themselves. The objective, extraneous forces which have hitherto dominated history, will then pass under the control of men themselves. It is only from this point on that men, with till consciousness will make their own history themselves; it is only from this point on that the social causes set in motion by men will have predominantly and in constantly increasing measure the effects willed by men. It is humanity's leap from the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom. (Socialism : Utopian and Scientific)

Capitalism-imperialism today is tottering on its last leg and the objective condition is very much ripe for world socialist revolution. Despite setback in the Soviet Union and the East European countries the communists and the progressive people are coming out, braving white terror of annihilation and persecution at the grassroots level, in the streets of Petrograd and in Moscow against capitalist order and in defence of communism and in defence of Lenin and Stalin as they cannot reconcile themselves to the capitalist restoration and also they cannot

allow denigration of Lenin and Stalin. It is, however, to be borne in mind by them that only sporadic outburst and protest will not help; they will have to organize sustained movements by building up a real revolutionary working class party on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, which is a guide to action. We live in a law-governed society and we cannot change the laws. But by understanding the laws and stipulating their course we can achieve the object. Here we recall the teaching of Engels : "The forces operating in society work exactly like the forces operating in nature : blindly, violently, destructively, as long as we do not understand them and fail to take them into account. But when once we have come to know them and understood how they work, their direction and their effects, the gradual subjection of them to our will and the use of them for the attainment of our aim depend entirely upon ourselves." (*The Origin of The Family, Private Property And The State*)

## Capitalism Will Not Automatically Disintegrate

The objective situation obtaining today is very much ripe for world socialist revolution. Capitalism has been continuing its existence still not because of its intrinsic merit or inner resilience as the bourgeois ideologues want us to believe. It is to be understood that despite grave crisis capitalist system will not automatically crumble. Those who think that capitalist system will disintegrate because of economic crisis are utterly wrong. They are only reducing Marxism to economic determinism. Engels explained : " .... According to the materialist conception of history the ultimately determining element in history is the production and reproduction of real life. More than this neither Marx nor I have ever asserted. Hence, if somebody twists this into saying that the economic element is the only determining one, he transforms that proposition into a meaningless, abstract senseless phrase . . . We make our history ourselves, but under very definite assumptions and conditions. Among these, the economic ones are ultimately decisive. But the political ones, etc. and even the traditions which haunt human minds also play a part, although not the decisive ones." (*Letter to Bloch*).

It is clear from this teaching of Engels that economic crisis will not automatically lead to disintegration of the capitalist society and the people will have to make their own history by themselves by acting on the law that is governing the course of social development of mankind. Despite serious crisis capitalism will continue unless it is overthrown by conscious and concerted action of the working class. But what is standing in the way is that the working class movement is beset with revisionism, legalism, economism, parliamentarism and opportunism. The labour lieutenants of the bourgeoisie are emasculating the working class movement from within. About these labour lieutenants of the bourgeoisie Engels wrote : "They form an aristocracy among the working class; they have succeeded in enforcing for themselves a relatively

comfortable position, and they accept it as final, they are very nice people indeed nowadays to deal with, for any sensible capitalist in particular and for the whole capitalist class in general." (*Preface to the Condition of The Working Class in England*).

## Working Class to Be Freed From The Clutches of Labour Aristocracy For Radical Change of Society

The social democratic force which is represented today by the national communists or the communists in name only but social democratic in deed, is the main pillar of capitalism. This social democratic force is destroying the revolutionary essence or the revolutionary soul of the working class movement and channelising the workers' discontent in the blind alley of economism, reformism, and parliamentarism. As Stalin, the worthy disciple of Marx, Engels and Lenin, taught us : It is impossible to put an end to capitalism without putting an end to social democracy.

So unless the social democratic force is defeated and all the pernicious thoughts which are permeating and polluting the working class movement from within are wiped out, it is not possible to bring about a radical change in society. The working class will have to realise that as long as it remains the prisoner of thoughts, ideas, values, ethics and culture of the exploiting capitalist class it will remain slave to the exploitation of capital and cannot develop as the material force of change in history. Capitalism has outlived its usefulness in the historical development of human society and remains today as the breeding ground of all-round crisis and wars. The capitalist society is enmeshed in a serious cultural and moral crisis—cultural degradation, moral depravity, erosion of all values, drug and violence are the general feature of all capitalist societies. The acutest political, economic and cultural crises by which capitalism is rocked today are nothing but the birthpang of a new civilization. Marxian science has shown the inexorable law of motion of modern society and so real homage to Frederick Engels can be paid only by acting on this law with a correct base political line to bring about a radical change of the society.

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