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Bracketed passages were censored by the editorial board of Pravda in Tito's article reproduced in the Soviet CP organ on 6 October 1967. As is well known, the original text of Tito's article appeared in the September 14 issues of the Belgrade daily Borba and the Central Committee weekly Komunist. Tito's article is actually his introduction for the book The October Revolution and the Peoples of Yugoslavia, published in Serbo-Croat in Belgrade recently.

The fiftieth anniversary of the October revolution, of the great work of Lenin and of the Bolshevik party will be celebrated this year not only by the Soviet people but also by the working class and all progressive people in the world as their own holiday. In the history of mankind fifty years are a brief period, but it is extremely important because, thanks to the October revolution, so many changes have taken place in it and such achievements have been realized which are unprecedented in the long history of mankind. These important achievements mark a turning point on the historical path and a new era in which man has been experiencing serious crucibles and decisive moments which have opened endless paths and prospects for his future.

During the course of the last fifty years enormous changes have been taking place in the world, above all in the Soviet Union. From the formerly quite backward Tsarist Russia a highly developed socialist country in every respect has been created under the leadership of Lenin and the Soviet communist party.

Science and culture, especially technology have reached unheard of proportions. Soviet people have been the first to soar up into outer space and they are ever closer to planets.

In that period mankind has suffered, by human and material sacrifices, the most serious tragedy in its history -- World War II, in which the Soviet Union has made the greatest sacrifices and has given a decisive contribution to the victory over the sinister forces of Fascism which had intended by means of horrible bloodsheds and the destruction of tens of millions of people to bring the world into mediaeval slavery.

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With the victory over the Fascist conqueror the balance of forces in the world has changed. The Soviet Union is no longer surrounded by capitalists today. It is now surrounded by socialist friendly countries.

The twentieth and the twenty-second congresses of the CPSU have marked an important stepping-stone in the internal and foreign policy of the USSR in keeping with the requirements and present degree of development both of that great country and of the world in general.

The salvoes fired from the cruiser "Aurora" on November 7, 1917 marking the victory of the socialist revolution in Russia have augured not only the coming into power of those who had been exploited and oppressed until that time, i.e., the great majority of society--the working class and the poor peasants, but have also been the portend of the end of the 1000-year long oppression and the emergence of the new era of socialism of a better and more equitable social system which is leading mankind to a classless communist society.

It is with the victory of the October revolution that the secular aspirations of man and the noble ideas of Marxist teaching about the liberation of the working class and other exploited and oppressed social strata have begun to turn into reality. While the teaching of Marx and Engels, while disclosing the laws of social development, especially the differences and contradictions of the capitalist system, has indicated the paths to the birth of new, progressive social relations, the great October has kindled the revolutionary spirit in the hearts of hundreds of millions of working people the world over and has instilled in them self-reliance in their great struggle for a new world. The spirit of October and Lenin's teaching about the revolution, about imperialism as the sublime stage of capitalism, about the struggle against colonialism and imperialist wars, about the abolition of the class, national and colonialist oppression, about the organization of authority of the working people and the development of new forms of state and social life, about the creation of a society of associated producers, about the setting up of more equitable relations between states and peoples, about the role of the communist party in the transformation of society and everything which constitutes Lenin's genius--have been the revolutionary and ideological guidepost for millions of people who have been waging and are still waging the struggle for juster and more human relations, for the freedom and independence of nations. That is why the October revolution, that magnificent about-face in the life of mankind, has been and still is the stable foundation of the contemporary human history. That is why the achievements of October, that great work of Russian workers and peasants, have been gladly adopted by masses of the workers throughout the world. With its struggle "for peace" without annexations and contributions, for the devolution of the authority on "soviets of workers", military and peasants' deputies, for bread, work and freedom, for (MORE)



fraternization in trenches and the end of the bloodshed of the war, the October revolution has penetrated like lightning in all parts of the world at that time which had suffered so much during the years-long war for the interests of imperialism. October has in this begun to inaugurate new foundations of a sensible organization of human society where--as Marx has been stressing--in contrast to the old society with its economic misery and

political madness, the "international principle of peace will be valid since the same principle--work, will be valid for every nation."

The October socialist revolution and the victory of its ideas, the existence of the first country of socialism, the Soviet Union, have exerted an all-round and permanent influence upon the modern history of the peoples of Yugoslavia. The revolutionary upheavals provoked by October in the world have stepped-up the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, have consolidated the anti-military and national and revolutionary movements and have influenced the peoples of Yugoslavia to create their genuine community of equal peoples in an incessant struggle, under the leadership of the Communist party of Yugoslavia and under most difficult conditions. [The polarization of class forces in the then bourgeois Yugoslavia has also been accelerated in the process of that struggle so that since the very setting up of Yugoslavia all the social and political contradictions which will become the source of its weakness and at the same time the foundation upon which the revolutionary movement, led by the Communist party of Yugoslavia has based its struggle and won the day, had begun to emerge. In other words, the October revolution has had a direct effect upon the consolidation of the Yugoslav revolutionary workers movement, upon the consolidation of national liberation movements, as well as upon the awakening of peasants in their struggle for the land and freedom.]

[The example of October has contributed to the more rapid union of social-democrat and workers organizations which had been independent until that time and which had been set up under different historical and other conditions and had existed in Slovenia, Croatia and Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Vojvodina.]

[In that struggle which had culminated at the time of the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian rule, when powerful revolutionary agrarian movements and movements of workers had appeared in numerous parts of our country, an important part has been played by former prisoners--returnees from the Soviet Russia who, as eyewitnesses and often as participants in the October events, were conveying the ideas of October concerning the struggle for peace, the distribution of land to peasants, the setting up of workers-peasant authority. They have been in various manners the active participants in numerous workers and peasant anti-war and anti-exploitation movements of revolutionary character which had been shaking numerous parts of Yugoslavia at that time while creating a revolutionary situation here.] (PTO)

[The ideas of October can also be remarked in the appearance of revolutionary organization of young people in the setting up of students' councils in secondary schools, in the organizations of students, up to the setting up of the Union of the Yugoslav communist youth.]

The spirit of October has been most rapidly felt and expressed in the most organized fashion in numerous drives of the working class. Strikes, numerous meetings which ended with cheers to the October revolution and requests to act according to the Russian example, on the Soviet model, have not been rare. This has in fact conduced to a more rapid separation of left wings in the above-mentioned workers' organizations out of which the united Socialist workers' party of Yugoslavia (of communists) was set up as far back as in spring in 1919. In its creation a prominent role has been played by communists who had returned from Soviet Russia and who had been working there in various Yugoslav communists groups and organization and had come to the homeland to resume their communist activity.

The development of the revolutionary movement in the country and the activity in popularizing the results of Soviet authority, the translation and distribution of communists literature, have resulted in the fact that the Communist party of Yugoslavia began developing upon Leninist principles as far back as at its Second (Vukovar) congress. The programme adopted at that congress --which included the demand for the dictatorship of the proletariat, class struggle, the development of socialist authority upon the basis of workers' councils, thus outlining the general trend in the creation of a communist society-- is an example of the rapid maturing of the communist movement in the revolutionary situation at that time. It is precisely in this that the ideas of October have been extremely significant. At its inaugural congress the Communist party of Yugoslavia has declared itself--among the first in Europe--for access to the Third, Lenin's International, adopting the struggle of Russian workers and peasants as part of their struggle.

Under the influence of October and Lenin's ideas the Yugoslav revolutionary workers' movement and the Communist party, built upon Marxist principles as its vanguard, have grown and developed into a powerful social factor which had to be taken into consideration as far back as at the time of the formation of the common state of Yugoslav peoples. This movement has stemmed from class workers' organizations which had existed in the eve of World War I and had acted in various ways during the course of that war in order to develop--in the first years of the newly-created common state--into one of the most massive communist movements in Europe with more than 65,000 members and an organized TU movement with more than 200,000 members. (more)



Yugoslav communists organized several major actions at the time in which they even achieved important success, as was the general strike in sign of solidarity against the intervention in socialist revolutions in Russia and in Hungary, on July 20 and 21, 1919 in which the proletariat of Yugoslavia set a brilliant example of internationalist solidarity; the success in municipal elections in the spring and summer of 1920; the winning of 59 seats in a general election for the Constitutional Assembly in November of 1920, etc.

In the units of the Red Guard, that is, the Red Army, a great number of Yugoslav units and regiments were formed, composed of members of all our nations who happened to be in Russia at the time for various reasons. There was an especially great number of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from the areas which were previously under the authority of Austria-Hungary in those units. They avail<sup>ed</sup> themselves of the first opportunity to surrender to the Russians and then joined the revolution in large numbers.

Although all documents on the struggle and participation of the Yugoslav working people in the October Revolution have not yet been studied, it has been established so far that their number can be estimated at more than 30,000 participants in the Revolution who at various times from 1917 to 1921 actively fought on the soil of Soviet Russia in defense of the achievements of the Revolution, and this convincingly testifies to the internationalism of the Yugoslav working people and their highly developed consciousness simultaneously to contribute thereby to the triumph of revolutionary ideas even in their own homeland. Some of the Yugoslavs who fought in the Revolution and the civil war have been given an honorable place in the annals of the October Revolution. All Soviet people have been fully acquainted with the deeds of those Yugoslavs. Among these heroes of the civil war and the Revolution Aleksa Dundic, Danilo Srdic and many others are outstanding figures.

#### The CPY Has Been Born and Developed on the Basis of Leninist Principles

By learning from the experience of the international struggle of the working class, above all, the Bolshevik Party and its Leninist ideas, in various phases of its development the Communist Party of Yugoslavia succeeded in realizing the realities in Yugoslavia by degrees, in grasping its political and social contradictions, in studying the position of the working class and peasantry, the nature of the national liberation movements, and, in accordance with that knowledge, in drafting programmatic principles and methods of struggle which enabled it to be at the head of the revolutionary democratic movement. [The Communist Party

of Yugoslavia realized that monarchist Yugoslavia, as rarely any other country, was full of internal contradictions. From the very beginning of its existence, a constant struggle was conducted in it between the exploited working class and the young bourgeoisie which was anxious promptly to make a fortune, between nationally oppressed nations and the anti-national regimes. The country was affected by contradictions which arose from capitalist exploitation of the countryside, the remnants of feudalism, the struggle among leading Church circles, etc. Because of these contradictions the struggle of great imperialist countries for the creation of spheres of influence and for securing their own positions in our country for a brutal exploitation of our natural resources and the working masses was both intensified and deepened. The history of Yugoslavia up to 1941 is in fact the history of a constant national, political and economic crisis. The country could never be consolidated more seriously and it was pregnant with elements of the Revolution throughout that period. The ruling bourgeois class and its regimes were never able to solve a single contradiction from among the contradictions which were increasingly aggravated and intensified insofar as the struggle of the working class and the growing influence of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia were felt.

Throughout that period the Communist Party of Yugoslavia considered the Soviet Union, as the first socialist country, as a stronghold and model which showed what could be achieved, even for a short time, in a backward and economically undeveloped country as Tsarist Russia was at the time when the exploiting class of land-owners and capitalists was abolished there and when its development was aimed in the direction of socialism. By opening up a socialist prospect for the working class and the whole working people, the Communist Party of Yugoslavia succeeded in converting dissatisfaction accumulated on the soil of social contradictions which corroded capitalist Yugoslavia into a powerful revolutionary weapon, in organizing the working class and the working people of our country, and in orientating them to concentrate on the settlement of existing contradictions and on the creation of an equal community of our nations on new socialist grounds, that is, on the establishment of united and truly united socialist Yugoslavia in which the national problem is settled appropriately.

In the national liberation war, that is, the socialist revolution, the CPY succeeded in radically settling these basic contradictions. The CPY could successfully fulfil this historical objective only because from the very beginning it had launched a struggle for these particular objectives, it had created its numerous cadres and the great image of a communist which was derived from a long revolutionary struggle, the image of a fighter who was educated by

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studying the works of the creators of Marxism-Leninism, the experiences of the revolutionaries, particularly the ones who had carried out the great October Revolution. In that struggle thousands of communists and of members of the Union of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia were victimized by fierce terror; many communists were either executed or sentenced to long prison terms in the period when the CPY was banned before the revolution.

[The great sacrifice made by our Party in the course of its development, the experience gained, a close following and use of experience in the revolutionary struggle in other countries helped to build gradually the image of a capable and unshakeable communist as a champion of the cause of the working class and its leader.]

[Our Party did not face difficulties only because of terror, because of pressure exercised by the regime and the general situation which prevailed in old Yugoslavia, particularly after the dictatorship of January 6 was imposed, but also because our Party had to supersede numerous shortcomings in its own ranks such as factionalism, corteges, etc. until it took its own ideological and political positions. This process of internal consolidation of the Party was also aggravated by the fact that the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, as a member of Communist International, in which, like other parties, it enjoyed for a long time both support and various assistance (in the education and training of cadres, the drafting of programmatic concepts, etc.), had been brought into a situation to be practically dissolved by the leadership of that same Comintern.]

The Communist Party of Yugoslavia succeeded in spite of numerous difficulties in establishing the unity of the class TU movement and in making it a strong factor, in creating a strong youth revolutionary movement, in taking strong positions in the national liberation movement of enslaved peoples of Yugoslavia, and by relying on all progressive traditions from the past of our nations and their struggle for freedom and independence, in rallying round it a broad anti-fascist, patriotic, and democratic front.

[By the creation of that front whose basic political demands consisted of the independence of Yugoslavia, the establishment of diplomatic and economic relations with the Soviet Union, of a military alliance, the democratization of life inside the country, the establishment of people's government, etc., the Party succeeded in uniting to a growing extent the democratic and revolutionary forces in the country within a single movement for solving the fundamental economic, social and other problems and for defending independence in face of the threatening fascist aggression.]

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In those years, on the eve of the Second World War, the Party devoted special attention to the popularization of the USSR as the country of the October Revolution, acquainting our peoples with the achievements of her social and economic development. While all bourgeois governments of monarchist Yugoslavia systematically hampered and postponed the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, the Communist Party of Yugoslavia was practically the only channel through which the truth about the USSR was spread in our country. Only in 1940 the government headed by Cvetkovic and Macek was compelled to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR in the face of the immediate fascist threat and, above all, under the pressure of the disturbed public opinion. F 107

The activity of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia as well as that of individual progressive people, its propaganda and political activity, made the truth about the USSR, its international position and significance, to be very well known by our people and this was very important especially during the Second World War.

In those hard days of the Second World War it was realized once more what was the importance of building a party on Leninist principles, on the basis of the science of Marxism, a party which was able to define its own revolutionary strategy and technics at such turning points in history as undoubtedly was the Second World War. As Lenin and his party at the beginning of the First World War firmly stood by internationalist positions in the struggle for the further development of revolutionary activity in the newly created conditions, for converting the imperialist war into a civil war, for the victory of the Revolution by opposing the dominant trends which prevailed in the Second International at the time when the majority of Party leaders expressed solidarity with their bourgeois governments and in fact betrayed the principles of socialism, so the Communist Party of Yugoslavia by consistently defending its anti-fascist and national liberation platform, in turn, succeeded in winning the victory over the fascist invader in its own country. Simultaneously, it was the victory over the treacherous ruling bourgeoisie that capitulated, the victory which ultimately also led to the triumph of the socialist revolution. By converting the uprising of the peoples of Yugoslavia into a national liberation war in which after the first year we had a strong and well organized army - at the heart of "Hitler's bulwark in Europe" - a new front was in fact created.

The victory over the fascist invader was a continuation of that revolutionary process which had started in the October Revolution. As a matter of fact, had not the October socialist revolution been carried out, had not the

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the Soviet Union been in existence, the country which carried the chief burden in the great war in defense of its homeland, in the struggle against fascist hordes, the triumphant revolution in Yugoslavia would not have been carried out, nor would a socialist transformation have taken place in numerous other European countries either. This is why the significance of the victory of the October Revolution as a turning-point in the history of mankind which has opened up a new phase in the triumphant progress towards socialism is also reflected in this.

In half a century Soviet Union has become  
one of leading industrial countries

Fifty years have already gone by since the victory of the October Socialist Revolution. During this period, the Soviet Union has gone through various phases of development. The peoples of the Soviet Union succeeded in reconstructing their great socialist country, and in transforming former backward Tsarist Russia, an under-developed, semi-feudal, and agrarian country into one of the leading industrial countries in the world, with modern technology based on splendid scientific results. [In this period the Soviet working people have been experiencing the joys of victory and successes, but also the bitterness of failures, straying, and other difficulties which had to be surmounted through superhuman efforts. The Soviet society has been following the clear Lenin's path, but was not spared of straying and various deformations which, of course, no socialist society could avoid in the course of its growth and a continuous tendency towards surmounting all the obstacles that hinder its progress.]

[I had the opportunity closely to watch the development of the USSR. In the turmoil of the First World War, I arrived in Russia in 1915 as a war prisoner, and saw its backwardness, and the difficulties in which that country has been involved in the period of a four-year war, as well as later in the period of the revolution and civil war. I realized the misery of poor strata of the people, but also the enthusiasm with which these people were fighting for the victory of their revolution, and building a new world, in developing their homeland and getting rid of semi-feudal and semi-colonial dependence, as well as developing new social relations based on socialist principles by nationalizing the instruments of production and by introducing collective cultivation of land. I was in the Soviet Union also in the period of the fulfilment of its five-year plans on the eve of the Second World War. I witnessed how rapidly the picture of that vast country was changing. I inspected the enterprises under construction, new giants, and saw how people were voluntarily renouncing many things to build the industrial plants.

needed by the socialist society. I have been then watching on the spot also the work in kolkhoses. In all places I noticed great interest of Soviet people in world conditions, and in the struggle of proletariat in other countries.]

[The Second World War imposed, however, tremendous difficulties on Soviet people in their struggle against infuriated fascist soldiery who attempted to destroy the first socialist country and to become masters of the world. But, the freedom-loving peoples united in the anti-Hitlerian

coalition disturbed through their struggle, in which the Soviet Union had assumed the heaviest burden, the sinister plans of fascism, defeated it, and brought about the development of new international relations with a changed map of the world from which the principal fascist powers have been excluded.]

[After the war, I visited again the Soviet Union on several occasions, and also at the beginning of this year. I had the opportunity to watch the rapid changes which have been taking place in that great country, in which, both in Central Asia, and in remote Siberian taigas, gigantic electric power plants and other industrial projects are being built along with completely new towns and, what is the most important, with new people who are well aware of the greatness and significance of their work and of the epoch in which they are living. In all these places I felt the indestructibility of the ideas of great October, which have prevailed in the minds of the Soviet man. They have become a tremendous material force which is encouraging the Soviet people to invest ever greater efforts in building the socialist society. Therefore, no wonder that the Soviet Union in many branches of science and technology is catching up with and even overtaking other, highly developed capitalist countries, and that the Soviet people were the first to master the outer space and are now making preparations for new significant undertakings in revealing the secrets of the Moon and other planets.]

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Socialism influences the world's development, primarily by the positive aspects of its own development

During the past twenty-five years, since the beginning of our revolution, in which our peoples, in a common struggle against fascism, achieved close co-operation and brotherhood with the peoples of the Soviet Union, our relations with the Soviet Union have passed through various phases. Overcoming the difficulties caused by Stalin's policy, these relations developed steadily, to the interests of both sides. In one word, a good basis has been created for the development of economic and political relations based on equality, and conditions have been created for many identical or similar standpoints and joint peaceful activities in the international field. Major events in the development of this cooperation were the so-called Belgrade and Moscow Declarations. These Declarations defined the principles on which relations among socialist countries and communist parties should be based, such as equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and parties, and respect for an independent and free internal development.

The fostering of relations of this kind is of enormous importance to the present-day world where evidence is furnished to show to what extent some of the warnings given by Lenin were far-sighted and ingenious. These relations are above all in keeping with the development of equality between countries and peoples with different social systems. They are in keeping with the present-day struggle for peace and for the development of international policy based on the implementation of peaceful coexistence which does not imply the maintenance of status quo but an active struggle against imperialism and colonialism, and an active struggle for the establishment of equality and the closest possible relations between all peoples and states, with the object of removing the causes of tension, overcoming groups of blocs, and settling all disputes by peaceful methods. This also stresses the need for giving assistance to the newly-liberated countries in their struggle for the preservation and consolidation of independence.

In the present-day world where science and technology, and especially means of destruction, are developing so rapidly, there can be no other alternative but peaceful coexistence. Otherwise there would be the danger of self-annihilation, which human beings who are endowed with reason cannot permit to occur. In this respect, the socialist countries have a special role, especially the Soviet Union as one of the mightiest powers. The Soviet Union, with its huge material potentials and with a high degree of the development of its science

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and technology, is in a position to make a great contribution to the establishment of relations which would be further developed on the basis of the concepts of the interconnection and growing interdependence of the world today.

During the past fifty years of the struggle for socialism it has been shown how inexhaustible the forces of the people who were awakened and roused to action by the revolution and who became a subject of history, are. The October Revolution and the development of socialism in the Soviet Union and other countries showed that the development of socialism implies the growing participation of the working people in the processes of governing the state and society. For it is only in this way that it is possible to provide for the development of all the creative abilities of a man as a producer and a manager, since "the free development of every individual man is the precondition for the free development of all," as the founders of the Marxist science, our genius-like teachers Marx and Engels emphasized from the very beginning. It has also been shown to what extent Lenin was right when he persistently demanded that as many citizens as possible should be involved in the government of the state and society, emphasizing that this was the only guarantee for the development of socialism.

Among many well-known ideas of Lenin, I should like to quote here only his words uttered on this point during the early days of the Soviet authority:

"Citizens, all of them without any exception, should take part in appraising and governing the state. It is important for us that we should attract absolutely all workers to take part in the government of the state. This is an extremely difficult task. But socialism cannot be achieved by a minority, by the party. Socialism can be achieved by tens of millions of people when they learn how to do it by themselves. What we regard as our contribution is our endeavour to help the masses, to help them to undertake this job immediately, and not to learn how to do it from books and lectures. If what our revolution is carrying out is not an accidental undertaking, and we are deeply convinced it is not, and is not the product of a decision of our Party, but an inevitable product of any revolution which Marx described as popular, i.e., a revolution created by the masses of people themselves, by their slogans and their aspirations, and not by a repetition of programs of the old bourgeois republic, and if we view matters in this way, then we will be able to achieve what is the most essential" (Lenin, Collection of Complete Works, Volume 36, page 55, Moscow, V Edition).

It is unnecessary to stress how much these ideas remain important even today, fifty years after the October

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Revolution, particularly at a period when economic and social reforms are under way in almost all socialist countries. The basic objective of these reforms is, in fact, to make the economic and social system as perfect as possible, with the object of increasing the productivity of labour and achieving the further development of socialist society. Of course, with the conscious participation of every individual producer, and on the basis of his interest in this development, and a coordination of personal interests with the interests of socialist society as a whole. It is only a development along these lines which can make it possible to achieve a complete emancipation and a creative exercise of the abilities of a human personality under socialism, a respect for human rights and human dignity. And this is really the basic purpose of socialist society.

[Drawing attention to the complex nature and the possible variety of forms and paths leading towards socialism, Lenin often subjected to criticism various simplifications or abstract and simplified concepts of the contradictions between capitalism and socialism, concepts which do not go any deeper into an analysis of specific forms or degrees of transitional developments. This was what even certain representatives of the socialist movement itself were often unable to understand. Addressing himself precisely to them, Lenin said that "they do not understand that it was not in vain and not without reason that the teachers of socialism spoke of the 'prolonged pains of childbirth' of a new society, referring to the whole period of the transition from capitalism to socialism. In this respect, that new society is nevertheless only an abstract notion which cannot be brought to life otherwise than through a series of most varied, imperfect, concrete attempts to create one type of a socialist state or another" (ibid., pages 301-302).]

In his deep understanding of the Marxist science, Lenin, at the very beginning of his revolutionary activity, in his early works, emphasized that the general postulates of Marxism would be differently applied in different countries, depending on their national and other specific features, and on their specific historical situations. Understanding Marxism to be a theory which is permanently developing and being made more complete on the basis of changes in the realities and on the basis of new knowledge, and as a theory which provides only possibilities for a general orientation of the revolutionary struggle, Lenin was capable of becoming a genius and a strategist of the October Revolution, and a great champion of the further development of the Marxist science. For this reason he was able to grasp both the basic trends and the specific features of the proletarian revolution in Russia, and the most general and most important characteristics of this revolution, characteristics which were contributed to the treasury of the theory and practice of socialism.

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Emphasising everything that this revolution had achieved to indebt progressive mankind, opening the era of socialism, establishing the Soviet socialist authority, confirming in practice that government is not a matter of those who are privileged, and, finally, giving evidence of the advantages of the new system of the development of productive forces, as the general basis on which human freedom is to be developed, Lenin was always far from treating any specific forms in absolute terms. Because he knew that every new victory of the revolution would create something new, something of its own and thus make the practice of socialism richer.

Of course, the present-day realities also show that the forms and paths of development towards socialism must be varied, that socialism cannot be anybody's monopoly. The October Socialist Revolution opened an era of massive movement towards socialism, and, by its victory, paved the way for the victory of socialism in other countries as well. [Possibilities were created for the development of socialism in small countries, independently of the attitude of the leaders of one socialist country or another towards the socialist development in other countries.]

There is growing evidence to confirm the correctness of the idea endorsed by representatives of both various socialist countries and various workers parties, and proclaimed in the resolution of the CC CPSU in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, that "socialism is now influencing the world's development, primarily by the positive aspects of its own example." To express support for these basic messages of the October Revolution, means to express the greatest possible allegiance to its ideas and to make a contribution to the further victory of socialism in the world.

[In this way, the new epoch of mankind, inaugurated by the October Revolution, will be given more perfect, more humane forms, and a more universal significance, irrespective of the difficulties created in the way of the development of socialism by conservative concepts and inadequate methods among its own ranks, and in spite of the resistance of reactionary forces which are using all possible methods, including war, in an endeavour to halt the wheel of history, and to prevent the victory of what is historically inevitable.]

[May this book, which is devoted to the Soviet Union as to a child of the October Revolution, and which is written by Soviet and our authors, serve this same purpose.]

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