

Timely messages of the October Revolution in our contemporary struggle for socialism under conditions of imperialist war

Comrades,

The Great October Revolution was a leap in human history that for the first time managed to establish a socialist state and subsequently to build socialism, thereby ending the exploitation of man by man. It clearly showed that socialism-communism is a higher stage of human society, where for the first time mankind is consciously in control of its own destiny. We honor the Soviet workers and communists who realized this great achievement and were able to defend it for 70 years against the capitalist onslaught. We are still learning from the Soviet experience of building and leading a worker's state as well as their assistance to the cause of revolution around the world. We are continuing that fight, to unite the working class and oppressed strata in the name of proletarian internationalism.

The world today is wrought with economic and military conflict, registering some 50 hotbeds of armed conflict around the world¹. The war in Ukraine has revealed and intensified the extent of the current crisis of capitalism-imperialism. It demonstrates how sharp the imperialist competition between the dominant Euro-atlantic bloc and the rising Asian bloc has become. This is a competition for securing monopoly profits for finance capital, to secure markets for commodities and capital export and sources of raw materials. The victims in these conflicts, whether open or covert, whether by "peaceful" or military means, whether on the "winning" or "losing" side, are always the working people.

For us communists, this means that we have to fight against all forces that want to maintain this system of exploitation and oppression; whether they are conservative, liberal or social-democratic, "left" or right. Our allies in this fight are none other than the masses of the workers, small farmers and self-employed; all those who labor for their livelihoods and are exploited at the hands of the capitalists. Our enemies are the capitalists of all countries, as their interests are fundamentally opposed to those of the working people. An alliance with the capitalists, under whatever flag it may appear, means a betrayal of the workers of the world.

This dictates that we carry out our struggle in the organizations of the labor movement, in the workplaces and in the trade unions, against social-democracy and other bourgeois forces. This struggle can only be waged against them and to their exclusion, if we are serious about preparing

¹ SIPRI. (2025). 2. Armed conflict and conflict management. <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2025/02>

the working class for the overthrow of capitalism. Of course this struggle can take different forms, but this must be its general direction, its fundamental logic.

Today, as we are witnessing an unprecedented wave of preparation for war on all levels, from the economic to the psychological. At the same time we are witnessing a slew of cuts to social benefits, housing, healthcare, unemployment funds and other measures that are especially important for the poorest among us. It is clear that these two facts have a causal relation, that capitalist states prioritize the preparation for an imperialist slaughter over the wellbeing of the working people.

[Attacks on the 8 hour work day, which is already becoming a phantom for an increasing number of workers as overtime work continues to rise, the right to strike and assembly, are further proof of the hostile attitude of the capitalist states. The betrayal of the leaders of the trade unions in hitching the unions and their membership to the policy of our states is becoming increasingly apparent. We can hear everything from arguments of “strengthening the economy to preserve jobs” to accepting poor deals in collective agreements “to maintain industrial peace” and to seeing the manufacture of weapons as a possible rejuvenation of manufacturing. All this serves to prepare the new world war for the redivision of the world, while the working people are being trampled.]

Rearmament is firmly part of the logic of imperialism, which increasingly necessitates war as a way out of the economic recession. Finland’s integration into NATO continues, as majority state-owned company Patria undertakes the manufacturing of parts for F-35 jets which are used, for example, in Israel’s genocide of Palestinians. The production happens mainly in NATO countries who prepare for war against the ruling classes of Russia, China, Iran, and most recently with threats of invasion against Venezuela. We stand in solidarity with the people of these countries, rejecting the war plans of the capitalist states involved.

The history of October, is a history of revolutionary struggle against war, unmasking the impotence and inconsistency of a pacifist outlook. It is due to such an outlook that we witnessed the creation of the Soviet Union after the First Imperialist World War and the creation of a whole series of socialist countries, both in Eastern Europe and in China, after the Second World War. The fight against the imperialist war was for Lenin and the Bolsheviks not only a means for ending the slaughter, but also to end the capitalist system that gives rise to war.

Lenin, the Bolsheviks and the Comintern struggled decisively against the forces of opportunism, which betrayed their own ideals when they supported the bourgeois class of the different belligerent countries. This struggle is of acute relevance today as both China and Russia try to hitch so-called communist’ and workers’ parties to their respective carts. This is done by invoking the possibility of a more just “multipolar world” or by abusing the nostalgia of the Soviet Union and its historic victory over the forces of fascism, which is created by capitalism and serves to perpetuate it in times of crisis.

Lenin brilliantly showed the connection between the system of imperialism with the existence of opportunism in the labor movement. It is precisely because imperialism continuously creates the penetration of bourgeois ideas into the labor movement, that we have to constantly work to eliminate these influences. They cannot structurally be done away with by administrative measures, but only through education of the Party by struggling against opportunism in the labor movement.

The old-type social-democratic parties, which were a mere accessory to their parliamentary groups, did not prepare sufficiently for revolutionary conditions. The degeneration of these parties over many years eventually led to an open betrayal of the working class. It clearly showed that a Party of the New Type had become necessary under conditions of imperialism. This party was a party for the revolution, a party that mandated the activity of its members and a strict conscious discipline that followed democratic centralism. Everything in this type of party had to advance the revolutionary struggle.

Today we are standing at a crossroads. Just as the living conditions of the working people are worsening, as the ruling classes of all countries are preparing for a violent redivision of the world, so too the living conditions of the working people are degenerating. Because of this we are experiencing a rising mood that demands a radical break with the existing system. The question is, if we are going to be part of this broader movement, being swallowed up and in turn accepting the general moral cries for radical change, or if we are going to maintain our bearings and be able to lead this movement with a firm grasp of scientific communism.

I think the answer is clear: We can only build a communist movement worthy of the name, by an affirmation of the theory of Marxism-Leninism and by reassessing our own history which led to the historic failures of the communist parties. We must not be afraid of such a criticism, as it will only serve to clearly confront us with the tasks at hand.

I think some main points of our strategic outlook can be generalized:

1. The world has entered the stage of monopoly capitalism, imperialism, where the struggle between the monopolies of all countries, but primarily between the “Great Powers” determines the conditions that we have to struggle in.
2. As monopoly capitalism is the dominant mode of production, our immediate strategic aim can only be the struggle for socialism. Intermediate stages, such as “anti-fascist popular front governments” or “anti-monopoly democracy” have to be rejected as breaking with our understanding of historical materialism. The transitional stage between capitalism and socialism is the proletarian revolution, which can only end by the reconstitution of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie or the constitution of the dictatorship of the proletariat.
3. Our Parties must wage a consistent struggle against all forms of opportunism. We must especially be on the lookout for those forces that claim to be Marxist-Leninists, while

promoting ideas that are at odds with its principles. The study of the history of the movement, especially of its degeneration around the Second World War and following it are necessary to formulate a critique of the mistakes made. At the same time we must uphold the achievements of the Soviet Union and other socialist states and reject the denials of their socialist character.

4. Our Parties must develop organic ties with the masses of the working people, especially with the working class which constitutes the most progressive class in history.
5. We must struggle for a scientific understanding of socialism-communism as a new mode of production in which commodity production is overcome and or increasingly being abolished, in which production-distribution is organized according to social need and which involves ever greater masses of working people, primarily workers, in the running of state affairs. This means that socialism-communism is incompatible with markets or the operation of the law of value.

Comrades,

The October Revolution is a guiding example for us. It cannot be a handbook whose lessons we mechanically apply to our current reality as life has changed in the last 108 years. Neither can we accept an uncritical reading of our own history. The main lessons of October, outlined above, however still maintain their validity. Our task is to prepare our parties and our class for the revolutionary struggles to come, so that the next time the capitalist system comes crashing down we can clearly illuminate the way forward.