

The Intervention of the Syrian Communist Party

The Importance and Relevance of the Lessons of the Great October Socialist Revolution

The ideals of the Great October Socialist Revolution live in our hearts, and we will continue to struggle for the achievement of their goals: to establish a society of social justice, a society of human freedom, and to build a new world of brotherhood among peoples.

It is the greatest political, social, and economic event of the 20th century. Indeed, the event that the greatest thinkers and reformers throughout the long history of humanity had desired and fought for.

Lenin said: "With the victory of the October Revolution, the historical moment has arrived when theory becomes practice, is corrected by practice, and tested by implementation."

The practical application that took place after Lenin's premature death, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of the Bolsheviks, and led by Joseph Stalin – that fighter with a brilliant mind, hardworking hands, and the simple uniform of a soldier – demonstrated the immense possibilities of socialist society under moral, steady, courageous, and creative leadership.

We do not limit ourselves to aspects related to the development of the productive forces, although we appreciate their fundamental importance, but we consider the social content that accompanies this development.

The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution resulted in the construction of a society of social justice based on the social ownership of the means of production across one-sixth of the earth. This society abolished the exploitation of man by man and effectively implemented the principle of brotherhood among peoples. This is a great lesson, which clearly demonstrates that human happiness can only be achieved through the social ownership of the means of production. To achieve this ownership, the strength of the working masses is necessary—the strength of the working class allied with the small business owners, meaning through the imposition of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Yes, we draw benefit from revolutionary experiences and apply general principles, but this does not mean that we must imitate everything verbatim. As Marx said, "We must struggle not to recreate the past, but to build the future."

Therefore, we adhere to general principles within the framework of existing objective conditions and emerging changes. In his scientific work of 1992, titled *On the Counterrevolution in the Soviet Union*, comrade Ammar Baghdash, General

Secretary of the Syrian Communist Party, reached conclusions that remain relevant today:

1. A monistic worldview means that the modern world is an integrated whole, and no entity develops without being affected by another. The deep definition of the character of our era is: The era of imperialism and socialist revolution, meaning that there are two opposing systems interacting in conflict. This conflict will end only with the elimination of the reactionary system economically, socially, politically, and ideologically, or (and this is possible in our nuclear age) with the elimination of both systems together.

Socialism has undoubtedly influenced capitalism. The eight-hour working day, social security, and significant improvements in health and social services overall in the imperialist countries, as well as the expansion of bourgeois-democratic freedoms, are all consequences of the influence of socialism on capitalism. Capitalism protects itself from socialist influence by making these concessions on the one hand, and by strictly imposing its dictatorship—often cloaked in a democratic mantle—on the other. However, when necessary, it reveals its brutal and bare face.

Likewise, capitalism has affected socialism, as we have seen recently.

To protect itself from imperialist influence, socialism must implement the dictatorship of the proletariat to achieve the full worldwide victory of the socialist revolution. As long as labor has not triumphed over capital on a global scale, humanity will remain in the transitional phase toward a higher formation. This transitional phase can only be the dictatorship of the proletariat, as Marx discovered and demonstrated in his critique of the Gotha Program.

2. The development of democracy by the vanguard forces is a continuous task in society. As Engels points out: the extent of the development of democracy must be directly proportional to the development of the productive forces and the level of civilization of the individuals who will exercise it. At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of a class understanding of democracy as a form of the exercise of class rule. Pure democracy does not exist in reality, and those who follow these bourgeois, liberal, and petty-bourgeois illusions lose their class compass and eventually surrender their positions to the bourgeoisie.

The former socialist countries, when they raised the slogan of “pure democracy,” lost the democracy of the workers and peasants and lost their fundamental rights, ultimately replacing them with the democracy of capital, meaning its dictatorship.

Nature and society abhor the notion of a vacuum. When socialism is abolished, capital takes its place. However, we must not forget that the opposite also applies, as the Great October Socialist Revolution demonstrated.

3. We must not be influenced by the slogans put forward by the class enemy and treat them as indisputable truths, limiting our work to how to apply them in a way that minimizes harm to the lives of the masses. This is exactly what happened with the category of the “market economy,” with everything it ultimately entails from the dominance of capitalist relations of production.

Instead of rejecting and countering this category foreign to socialism—much more so the fundamental danger for the socialist system—the majority of theorists in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union desperately aligned themselves with this category, in an attempt to justify it and find ways to adapt it to the socialist system—in other words, they tried to reconcile fire with water.

4. Events have demonstrated the critical importance and danger of the media as a fundamental component in shaping public opinion. The global mass media in general are subject to dominant Zionist influence, and to win public opinion it is necessary to combat the imperialist-Zionist media in a constant, serious, innovative, and continually evolving manner.
5. Events have proven the Leninist conception of centrism as even more dangerous than open right opportunism. For the centrist may speak in terms similar to those of a principled communist, but this rhetoric masks his full adherence to right-wing policies. A person must be judged by actions, not by words, however revolutionary they may be.
6. Events have also demonstrated once again that party organization is not a field for compromise. The placement of right-wing and centrist elements in leadership positions, even crucial ones, within the party under the pretext of “taming and winning them over,” essentially paralyses the capabilities of the party and transforms it into a club of chatter and empty rhetoric, instead of being a united vanguard of will and action. This situation opens wide the door for those in leadership positions to betray the party in critical moments, leading to partial or complete paralysis of the party. In other words, the coexistence of principled cadres with right-wing, centrist, and opportunist elements in a party renders that party unable to fulfil its required guiding, pioneering, and militant duties in critical moments.

One of the fundamental lessons of the world revolutionary legacy, which has not lost its value but rather increased in importance, is the principle of proletarian internationalism.

Proletarian internationalism signifies the global unity of the working class in its struggle for the abolition of capitalist slavery and the building of socialism and subsequently communism, for the national independence of peoples, and for democracy.

As Lenin pointed out: “Capitalism is a global force, and to defeat it, there must be a global union of workers, a global brotherhood of workers.”

Therefore, proletarian internationalism is not merely an expression of goodwill, but a reflection of an objective necessity. The economic basis from which proletarian internationalism arises is the social character of production and the global nature of the productive forces that accompany capitalist development.

The necessity of the international unity of the working class is clearly demonstrated under imperialist conditions, where monopolies form global reactionary alliances linked to one another by various agreements and create military coalitions that turn against revolutionary and national-liberation movements. Indeed, it can be said that modern imperialism constitutes a general threat to all peoples and to the very survival of humanity.

Consequently, the new conditions not only underscore the need for increased international solidarity and coordination among Marxist-Leninist parties, but also indicate the need to create a broad world anti-imperialist front.

The Great October Socialist Revolution clearly demonstrated that a new society can be built on the principles of social justice, a society fundamentally incompatible with the exploitation of man by man and of one people by another.

It proved that there is another path besides that of exploitation and plunder, that there is another society besides the one governed by the law of the jungle, and that ultimately, only the truth will prevail. As long as capitalism continues to generate, every day and every hour, its own gravedigger—the working class—its course toward its death is inevitable, however winding. What will accelerate this course is the existence of communist parties guided by Marxism-Leninism, the scientific guide for the working class and all working people.

What is inscribed on the statue of Marx and Engels in East Berlin, in indelible ink, says much: “Next time will be better.”

The Education Office of the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party