

STATE POWER AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION



An issue of paramount importance being decided by the Chinese Cultural Revolution is who will hold state power—the revolutionary proletariat and working peasants who want to build a socialist society, or the bourgeois rightists who want to take the capitalist road.

In the period of bourgeois ascendancy the working people use many forms and methods in their struggle against the ruling class. In the course of this struggle the workers develop political class consciousness and a revolutionary party to lead them in the revolution to overthrow the rule of the exploiters and establish workers power—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

However, the political defeat of the bourgeoisie and establishment of proletarian state power does not herald the end of the revolutionary struggle; it is but a new and higher stage of that struggle with the working masses now having the advantage of possessing state power to use as a weapon to suppress the former exploiters. The workers are now the holders of state power instead of being the victims of it.

Accession of the working people to the position of authority in the state, marks the commencement of the period of transition from capitalism to socialism. But it does NOT signify the end of capitalists and capitalist ideology. That these still exist throughout the transition period is a fact that has been well known to Marxists for a long time. Marx, Engels and Lenin all wrote at length on this theme. The Critique of the Gotha Program by Marx and Lenin's State and Revolution are well known classics on this question.

That contending classes and class struggle still exists in the transition period has therefore, never been a matter in contention among Marxists. During this entire period the defeated capitalists exert every effort to undermine the proletarian state, overthrow it and take back power in their own hands. For this purpose the capitalists use every available weapon—sabotage, terror, the customs, habits and culture carried over from capitalist society. The working masses must use their state power to suppress these elements, prevent a return to capitalism and continue on toward the socialist objective.

The entire period of transition is marked with fierce class conflict during which the revolutionary forces suffer occasional setbacks and reversals, but the general trend,

given adherence to the correct line, "to rebel is justified", and properly utilizing the state power for the suppression of the class enemy, will be consistently toward the victory of socialism and the revolutionaries will, in the end, prove to be most powerful.

What we face, in fact, is a whole historical era of class struggle aimed at total destruction of the former ruling class and elimination of the last remnants of capitalist ideology and culture. Idealists and petty bourgeois democrats who masquerade as "socialists" abhor and fear struggle and avoid it like the plague. Instead of aligning themselves on the side of the proletariat in the struggle they propose mediation and concoct schemes for the reconciliation of the contending classes, thus actually aiding the capitalist element by weakening the workers will to struggle. It is of such stuff that the concept "the peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism is made" and serves only capitalist class interests aiding them in their struggle for power by disarming the working people.

Some pseudo revolutionaries have a mistaken idea that the theory of "peaceful transition" applies only to the struggle FOR power and not to the period AFTER seizure of state power, or else they stress only that particular aspect which concerns the dispute over parliamentary versus revolutionary struggle. But this pernicious theory is of vital importance in the transition period when the proletariat already hold state power. Indeed, in some respects, this theory is more dangerous AFTER the seizure of power than before.

In a society based on exploitation the working people are compelled to struggle even for limited reforms or just to defend gains already made, thus practical experience will force on them the recognition that there are antagonistic classes in society. But where state power has already been wrested from the bourgeoisie there is constant danger of the people being lulled into a state of false security and falling easy prey to capitalist propaganda presented as schemes for improved conditions for the "whole people", government by the "whole people" (class reconciliation) and "goulash socialism" a la Khrushchov. It is therefore necessary for the working people, students, the intelligentsia to be ever alert and in a constant state of rebellion against every appearance of sectional privilege that provides those who are taking the capitalist road

with a political, economic and ideological base of operations.

On the role of the peoples army in the struggle?

The armed forces are part of the state apparatus and, naturally serve the interests of the dominant class. In the capitalist state the army serves the capitalist class and revolutionaries oppose it, not in the sense of abstract opposition to armed forces as such but as a weapon of the capitalist class for suppression of the working masses.

In the proletarian state the army is likewise a part of the state apparatus and serves proletarian interests, now the dominant force in society. The army is of the people and is one with the people, serving and defending the interests of ITS OWN CLASS—the working class. The Communists support the creation of such an army and defend not only its right but its DUTY to protect and defend the vital interests of the working masses NOT AGAINST, OR EVEN FOR THEM, BUT IN CO-OPERATION WITH THEM. Those who identify the role of the army in a proletarian state with that of an army in the

capitalist state and condemn the peoples army for intervening on the side of the revolutionary people are either fools, traitors or both.

Learning the lessons from their own rich experience in revolutionary struggle; forewarned by the disastrous consequences of revisionist betrayal in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; and armed with the all-important theoretical contribution with which Chairman Mao Tse-tung has enriched Marxist-Leninist science in the era of proletarian state power and the transition from capitalism to socialism, the revolutionary masses in China have risen in rebellion against those in authority who are taking the capitalist road and trying to overthrow the proletarian state. The working people are unquestionably justified in their rebellion against those who try to usurp state power and use it to advance the capitalist cause. Under the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung the working masses will undoubtedly be triumphant. Proletarian state power will win over the puny attempts of the bourgeois elements to seize control.

**PEOPLE
OF CHINA
SUPPORT
THE
GREAT
PROLETARIAN
CULTURAL
REVOLUTION**

