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**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY - A NEW  
FORM OF THE POLITICAL  
ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETY**

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## Lecture one

Marxist-Leninist theory is a powerful means of transforming the world, a powerful ideological weapon for destroying the old, exploitative system and creating a new, socialist one. Marxism-Leninism provides a correct, scientifically substantiated answer to all the fundamental questions raised by historical development, and indicates the ways, forms and methods of their solution.

“Marxism,” points out Comrade Stalin, “is the science of the laws of the development of nature and society, the science of the revolution of the oppressed and exploited masses, the science of the victory of socialism in all countries, the science of building a communist society.”<sup>1</sup>

Marxism-Leninism is fundamentally a creative and constructive science. As social relations develop, so does Marxism-Leninism develop and improve, it is enriched with new experience, new formulas and conclusions.

Helplessly smashing the revisionists who called for the rejection of Marxism, V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin repeatedly emphasized the need for the creative application of Marxism to solve

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<sup>1</sup> J. V. Stalin. *Marxism and questions of linguistics*. pp. 54-55, Gospolizdat. 1952

specific problems of the labor movement, and persistently fought against dogmatism in theory, and against stereotypes in politics.

“We,” wrote V. I. Lenin, “do not at all look at the theory of Marx as something complete and inviolable; we are convinced, on the contrary, that it laid only the cornerstones of science, which the socialists *must* move further in all directions if they do not want to lag behind life. We think that the *independent* development of Marx's theory is especially necessary for Russian socialists, because this theory provides only *general* guidelines that apply *in particular* to England differently from France, to France differently than to Germany, to Germany differently than to Russia.”<sup>2</sup>

Marxism-Leninism teaches that in order to determine the policy of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party, it is necessary, guided by the general principles of the theory of the laws of social development, to proceed from a concrete historical situation, to take into account the alignment of class forces, and to know precisely the real conditions of the struggle.

A brilliant example of scientific consideration of a specific situation is the brilliant speech of Comrade Stalin at the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which is of great international importance. Comrade Stalin showed that at the present time, when the bourgeoisie has become even more reactionary, has stopped playing at liberalism, has thrown overboard the banner of bourgeois-democratic freedoms and the banner of national independence, the important task of raising these banners, defending democratic freedoms, national independence and to move forward the cause of liberation of people.

These brilliant theses of Stalin testify to the continuous expansion of the responsibilities of the working class in solving general democratic problems, which was already clearly reflected in the period of the anti-fascist struggle.

The brilliant ideas of Stalin, formulated by him at the 19th Congress of the CPSU, are a further development of the Marxist-Leninist thesis about the wealth and variety of forms of transition from capitalism to socialism. “Marx,” wrote Lenin, “did not tie his - and the future leaders’ of the socialist revolution - hands about the forms, methods, process of the coup, perfectly understanding what mass of new problems would arise when the whole situation would change in the course of the revolution, how *often* and *strongly* it will change in the course of the revolution..”<sup>3</sup>

The change in the historical situation as a result of creating of a mighty socialist state, in connection with the victory of the Soviet Union over the Nazi invaders and the further exacerbation of the general crisis of capitalism, raised a number of questions of the politics and tactics of the communist parties in a new way.

The creative application of Marxism, consistent observance of the principle of Lenin and Stalin of a concrete historical approach to solving the revolutionary tasks of the working class allowed the communist and workers' parties of the countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, China, Korea to find the most effective ways to achieve victory in the given conditions, use new

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<sup>2</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 4, pp. 191-192, 4th Ed.

<sup>3</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 27, p. 310

methods of uniting the people masses, and discover new forms of political organization of society.

In modern conditions, the new state form of revolutionary power is the regime of people's democracy.

The emergence and development of people's democracy must be considered concretely historically, because, as the experience of the people's democracies in Europe and Asia teaches, people's democracy has stages of its development, and its class content changes depending on the stage.

The first stage is the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, in the course of which the people's democracy emerges as an organ of revolutionary power, representing in its class content something like the dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry with the leading role of the working class. The new people's power at this stage is directed with its spearhead against imperialist oppression, against fascism, as well as against the supporters of imperialism and fascism within the country - big, monopoly capital and landowners.

The second stage is the stage of the socialist revolution when the dictatorship of the working class is established and develops its activity.

In Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia, the people's democratic system has passed a long path of historical development and is currently a state form of the dictatorship of the working class.

In China, Korea, Vietnam, the people's democracy regimes do not yet fulfill the functions of the dictatorship of the working class.

The experience of the People's Democracies of Europe and Asia once again confirms the brilliant Lenin-Stalin theses on the diversity of forms and rates of development of the revolution in different countries, on the wealth and variety of forms of transitions from capitalism to socialism.

### **Historical preconditions for the emergence of people's democracy**

To understand the problems of people's democracy, it is extremely important to clarify the question of its origin. The ideologists and hirelings of the Anglo-American imperialists persistently spread false versions of the origins of people's democracy. On the other hand, they argue that the people's democracy was victorious as a result of foreign intervention. At the same time, the Tito clique, which was sold to the American imperialists, fulfilling the will of its masters, trumpeted the "originality" of people's democracy, shouted that the emergence of people's democracy had nothing to do with the world-historic victories of the Soviet Union over fascism.

These false versions seem outwardly contradictory. However, in reality, their class essence is the same. Both of them serve the interests of the imperialists, both are fabricated by the worst enemies of socialism, both are deceitful from beginning to end and reactionary in content.

A correct, scientifically grounded answer to the question of the origin, development and specificity of people's democracy can only be given if guided by the Marxist-Leninist teaching.

The emergence of people's democracy as a new form of the political organization of society, its victory is a natural result of the development of world history in the era of the triumph of socialism and the collapse of capitalism. People's democracy appeared and could triumph under very definite objective conditions.

People's democracy was born and triumphed in an atmosphere of further aggravation of the general crisis of capitalism, a continuous increase in the decay of the entire capitalist economic system and a steady weakening of the position of capitalism, in an atmosphere of increasing unevenness of the economic and political development of capitalist countries and the maximum aggravation of all contradictions of imperialism, in conditions of a radical change in the correlation of class forces in the international arena in favor of socialism against capitalism, the steady strengthening of the socialist system, the growth of the forces, authority and might of the Soviet Union.

This historical situation is characterized by the rapid growth of the influence of the communist parties in the struggle against fascism and reaction, the growth of the revolutionary activity of the working class and the political maturity of the masses in the capitalist countries, an unprecedented upsurge of the national liberation movement in colonial and dependent countries under the hegemony of the proletariat. The people's democracy won in the course of the powerful anti-fascist movement of the working people under the leadership of the working class and its revolutionary vanguard - the communist parties.

The decisive role in the emergence of people's democracy as a new form of revolutionary power, and in its victory, it was played by the Soviet Union. Emphasizing the decisive role of the Soviet Union in the triumph of people's democracy, one should categorically reject the slanderous allegations of the reactionaries about the Soviet Union's interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The government of the USSR did not impose and does not impose its political structure or its way of life on anyone. It does not export revolution.

The decisive role of the USSR in the victory of people's democracy is inherent in the very laws of social development at the present stage, and logically inevitably follows from the alignment of forces in the world arena at the present time.

What is the decisive importance of the Soviet Union in the emergence of people's democracy?

First, the Great October Socialist Revolution split the world into two systems, it inflicted a mortal wound on capitalism from which it is no longer able to recover. The October Revolution marks the beginning of the world socialist revolution - it ushered in the era of the collapse of capitalism, and the era of the celebration of socialism.

The October Revolution, Comrade Stalin points out, "created that powerful and open **center** of the world revolutionary movement, which it had **never experienced before** and

around which it can now rally, organizing a **united revolutionary front of the proletarians and oppressed peoples of all countries against imperialism.**"<sup>4</sup>

Second, the steady development and consolidation of the socialist system that began after the Great October Socialist Revolution shook the foundations of imperialism even more. At the same time, imperialist contradictions were continuously aggravated, and the processes of decay and degradation of the capitalist system intensified. The victory of socialism in the USSR, which meant the deepening of the world socialist revolution and the strengthening of the stronghold of the world revolutionary movement, caused a further intensification of the general crisis of capitalism, struck a new blow to the entire system of capitalism, and weakened it even more.

Third, the Soviet Union delivered a new and even more powerful blow to the entire system of imperialism during the Second World War. Having destroyed the German, Italian, and Japanese fascist invaders, the USSR brought out three large imperialist predators from among the great powers, thereby weakening the entire system of imperialism as a whole. In the course of the Second World War, such links of imperialism as France and England were also significantly weakened.

On the whole, the world system of imperialism emerged from the Second World War immeasurably weaker than it entered it, and the socialist system, despite the fact that the USSR bore the brunt of the struggle against fascism, emerged from this war much more powerful than it entered it.

In other words, as a result of the great victories of the Soviet Union, the balance of forces in the international arena was constantly changing in favor of socialism against capitalism, which intensified the maturation of objective and subjective prerequisites for a new break in the chain of imperialism.

Having defeated the German and Japanese aggressors, the Soviet Union freed up huge revolutionary forces crushed by the invaders, clearing the way for a progressive solution of pressing social, economic, political and other issues, for the victory of the working class and all working people over the black forces of reaction. This led to a revolutionary situation in a number of European and Asian countries after the defeat of Hitler's Germany and imperialist Japan by the Soviet Union. The political crisis has reached an extreme degree of aggravation. The popular masses of these countries, having gone through the harsh school of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist liberation struggle under the leadership of the working class, did not want to live in the old way. The positions of the reactionary classes were undermined and weakened: the reactionaries could not rule in the old way. A new round of revolutions and the people's liberation movement of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries began; the struggle for the establishment of people's democracy unfolded.

Thus, the emergence of people's democracy as a new state form of revolutionary power, its victory in the countries of Europe and Asia was prepared by the Great October Socialist Revolution, the great successes of the Soviet people on the front of socialist construction, the

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<sup>4</sup> J. V. Stalin. *Concerning Questions of Leninism*. p. 179, Ed. 11

heroic feat of the Soviet people who defeated the fascist invaders and liberated the peoples of Europe from the Nazi yoke and the peoples of Asia from Japanese imperialist aggression.

It is known, however, that in a number of countries where internal conditions favored the victory of the people's democracy, the latter did not win. For example, in Greece, France, Italy, Belgium and some other countries, the internal situation allowed the working people to end the rule of reaction and establish popular democracy, but the intervention of the American-British imperialists enabled the bourgeoisie to preserve its rule.

The situation was completely different in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, in different conditions the peoples of China fought for freedom and independence, for democracy.

With its greatest victories, the Soviet Union not only created the possibility of establishing people's democracy in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, China, Korea, but also helped the working people of these countries realize the possibility of victory.

This help was friendly, disinterested, multifaceted. It consisted in the following:

First, the Soviet Army directly liberated the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe from fascist slavery. Pursuing and crushing the retreating enemy, the Soviet armed forces entered the territory of these countries, bringing them true freedom. But the Soviet Army not only liberated these countries from foreign oppression and ensured their national freedom, it also became a force representing an immeasurably higher, truly progressive social system - the socialist one. The Soviet Army did not interfere in the internal affairs of these countries, but with its presence it exerted a powerful revolutionary influence on the development of events, strengthened the revolutionary energy of the masses, and accelerated historical processes.

Second, the Soviet Union thwarted the Anglo-American intervention in the countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, planned by Churchill and the American General Base in alliance with the Tito clique. It is known that the Anglo-American imperialists sought to land troops in Albania, Bulgaria, persistently sought to break through to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, and appear there before the Red Army. It is quite clear that if Anglo-American troops entered these countries, the ruling circles of the United States and Britain would do their utmost to prevent the victory of the people's democracy. The Soviet Union saved the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe from a new intervention, from a new imperialist oppression, and thereby rendered tremendous assistance to the working people of Central and South-Eastern Europe in establishing a new, revolutionary power - people's democracy.

Thus, the USSR not only did not interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, but protected these countries from Anglo-American intervention.

Third, in the course of the war against Nazi Germany, the Soviet Army defeated its allies - the armed forces of the Romanian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian fascist reaction. The working class of these countries would need enormous strength and energy to defeat the armed forces of the local fascists, but this task was simultaneously solved by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Army drove out the Nazi troops and destroyed the Nazi apparatus of violence in Poland and Czechoslovakia, at the same time with its presence prevented the reaction of these countries from creating and deploying any serious armed forces of counterrevolution, although, for example, in Poland such attempts, and moreover, very energetic, took place.

The worst enemies of the Polish people, with the support and assistance of the Anglo-American imperialists, created a fascist guard in the rear of the Germans and with their approval, the Zbrojne People's Forces, formed the Army of the Krai (AK), which were preparing to fight against the Soviet armed forces, against Polish democracy. The entry of the Soviet Army into Poland dispelled the insidious designs of the Polish reactionaries. The AK and the Zbrojne People's Forces gangs, trying to fight against the Soviet Army, were dispersed, and the remnants, engaged in political banditry, were liquidated by the Polish democratic government.

In other words, in the countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, due to an extremely rare coincidence of circumstances and an unusual, completely original development of historical events, a very favorable environment has developed for the emergence of countries of people's democracies. Having defeated the fascist invaders, the heroic Soviet Army helped to free the peoples of these countries from their enslavement by fascism, and prevented the local reactionary forces and the Anglo-American imperialists from unleashing a civil war. All this ultimately greatly facilitated the victory of people's democracy in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Fourth, the USSR provided the European countries of people's democracies with tremendous moral, political support and economic assistance.

Immediately after their birth, the young people's democratic regimes were subjected to fierce attacks from the international imperialist forces. The ruling circles of the United States and Britain pursued a policy of blackmail, intimidation and slander in relation to the countries of people's democracies, exerted political and economic pressure on them. Using a variety of means, they tried to interfere in the internal affairs of these countries, by all means sought to restore anti-popular, reactionary regimes.

The USSR, guarding the independence of peoples, using its enormous international authority, helped the countries of people's democracies to repel the attacks of the imperialist forces, paralyzed the attempts of the ruling circles of the United States and Britain to interfere in the internal affairs of these countries, helped them defend their freedom and independence, and strengthen their international position. The economic assistance of the USSR was of great importance for the strengthening and development of people's democracy. Despite the exceptionally great economic difficulties within the USSR caused by the war, the Soviet government in the very first time after the formation of the people's democracies helped them with raw materials for industry, food for the population, etc.

Finally, the greatest significance of the Soviet Union for the victory of people's democracy and its successful development lies in the fact that it has rendered and continues to render the working people countries of people's democracies tremendous assistance with its richest experience in social transformations, experience in the struggle against landlords and

capitalists, and experience in the struggle to build socialism. In all their practical activities, the Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies are guided by the experience of the CPSU, which allows them to correctly determine their policy and find the most effective and expedient forms of struggle and movement. The experience of the CPSU is a guiding star for the communist parties of all countries of the world in the struggle for democracy, for socialism.

All these facts, revealing the decisive role of the Soviet Union in the origin of people's democracy, leave no stone unturned from the reactionary, bourgeois-nationalist arguments of the Tito clique about the “originality” of the appearance and development of people's democracy, and at the same time categorically refute the fraudulent statements of Anglo-American slanderers and the intervention of the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Soviet Union created favorable conditions for the victory of people's democracy and helped to establish it. However, the emergence of popular power must be viewed as a result of the activity of internal forces, as a result of the revolutionary struggle of the masses under the leadership of the working class.

### **Anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolutions in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe**

The establishment of people's democracy is a natural development and completion of the heroic and selfless struggle of the working class and all working people against foreign fascist, imperialist oppression and accomplices of foreign imperialists within countries in the person of financial and industrial magnates and landowners. People's democracy was established by the working people of a given country, led by the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party.

To understand the essence and historical place of the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist struggle of the popular masses of the countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, it is necessary to bear in mind new, specific historical phenomena which was generated by the intensification of the process of decay of the capitalist mode of production, further exacerbation of the general crisis of capitalism.

V. I. Lenin defines imperialism as the last, decaying stage of capitalism.

“Capitalism has become reactionary from progressive, it has developed the productive forces to such an extent that mankind will either have to go over to socialism, or for years and even decades go through the armed struggle of the “great” powers for the artificial preservation of capitalism by means of columns, monopolies, privileges and national oppression of all kinds.”<sup>5</sup>

Lenin showed that, politically, imperialism is a turn from democracy to political reaction. The era of industrial capitalism, writes V. I. Lenin corresponds to democracy, the era of monopoly capitalism corresponds to political reaction.

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<sup>5</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 21, p. 273

The most striking indicator of the rottenness and degradation of capitalism, the extreme stage of political reaction in the era of imperialism, is fascism. As you know, fascism is an open, bloody, terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic elements of finance capital.

Fascism aims to save the decayed imperialist system from destruction, to prevent the emancipation of the masses from economic and political oppression, from exploitation. In particular, the German fascists tried to achieve this by establishing the dominance of German imperialism over the whole world. They dreamed of establishing their dominance for millennia. It was a monstrous in its design but clearly a hopeless attempt to block the path of human progress, to stop the inexorable course of history, its natural movement, its progressive development. In the history of human society, fascism acts as a carrier of social regression, as a force directed against the progressive development of human society.

The domination of fascism in the history of those countries which were defeated and enslaved by it, meant regression in all areas of public life - political, social, and national.

In the political sphere, the regression consisted in the fact that fascism destroyed even those miserable democratic rights and freedoms that the masses had won under the conditions of bourgeois democracy. The fascist regime is a regime of open arbitrariness and violence, complete lack of rights of the masses.

Describing the essence of the fascist regime in Germany, J.V. Stalin said: "In fact, the Hitler regime is a copy of the reactionary regime that existed in Russia under tsarism..."

**The Hitlerite party is the party of the enemies of democratic freedoms, the party of medieval reaction and the Black Hundred pogroms."**<sup>6</sup>

In the social sphere, the domination of fascism meant the restoration of feudal-serf and even slave-owning forms of exploitation. The German fascists tried to introduce serfdom in many occupied countries, created German landlord farms, placing the peasants of the occupied country at their disposal. At the same time, the Nazis made extensive use of slave labor, turning the workers of the countries they had captured into slaves. According to various sources, between 8 and 12 million slaves worked in Nazi Germany. Thus, Nazi Germany was the largest slave market, the largest slave state in the history of mankind.

The introduction of serfdom and slavery cannot be regarded as an accidental phenomenon in the policy of Hitlerism. The leaders of the Nazi gang directly stated that without the creation of a certain form of modern serfdom or even slavery, it would be impossible to achieve world domination. Thus, the introduction of serfdom and slavery is an integral part of fascist social policy.

The ideologists of fascism, trying to find some "justification" for the reactionary policy of Hitlerism, falsely and cynically asserted that everything is done in the interests of the working people. This vile maneuver was completely exposed by J. V. Stalin:

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<sup>6</sup> J. V. Stalin. *About the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union*; p. 28, Gospolitizdat, 1952

“Only deceivers,” wrote Comrade Stalin, “can assert that the German fascists, who established slave labor in plants and factories and restored serfdom in the villages of Germany and conquered countries, are the defenders of the working peasants.”<sup>7</sup>

The dominance of fascism meant a regression in the field of national relations. The Nazis enslaved the peoples of most European countries, and enslavement was either in the nature of direct occupation (Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc.), or it was carried out under the flag of a military “union” (as in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, etc.). After the conquest of Europe, the Nazis dreamed of enslaving the peoples of the whole world. They set themselves the goal of destroying all nations, preserving one nation - the German as a race of masters. Finally, the Nazis planned the physical extermination of entire peoples and began to implement their misanthropic plans. Therefore, the peoples of a number of countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe faced not only the question – to be free or fall into enslavement, but also the question – to exist on earth or be burned in the furnaces of Majdanek and Tremblinka.

“The German invaders,” says Comrade Stalin, “enslaved the peoples of the European continent from France to the Soviet Baltic states, from Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland and Soviet Belarus to the Balkans and Soviet Ukraine, deprived them of elementary democratic freedoms, deprived them of the right to decide their own destiny, they took away their bread, meat, raw materials, turned them into their slaves, crucified the Poles, Czechs, Serbs on the cross...”<sup>8</sup>

The historical situation that developed as a result of Hitler's aggression, to a certain extent, resembles the situation that V. I. Lenin spoke about back in 1916.

In 1916, V. I. Lenin wrote: “That this imperialist war, 1914-1916, will turn into a national one, is highly unbelievable, because the class that represents *forward development* is the proletariat, which objectively seeks to turn it into a civil war against the bourgeoisie, and also because the strengths of the two coalitions do not differ very significantly and international finance capital has created a reactionary bourgeoisie everywhere. But such a transformation cannot be declared *impossible*: if the proletariat of *Europe* were rendered impotent for 20 years; if this war *ended* in victories like the Napoleonic ones and in the enslavement of a number of viable nation-states; if non-European imperialism (Japanese and American in the first place) also held out for 20 years without going over to socialism, for example, due to the Japanese-American war, then a great national war in Europe would be possible. This would be the development of Europe *back* a few decades. It's incredible. But this is not impossible, for it is undialectical, unscientific, theoretically incorrect to imagine world history moving smoothly and accurately forward, without sometimes gigantic leaps back.”<sup>9</sup>

The working class of the enslaved countries faced completely new, unique tasks that were not on the order of the day a few years ago and appeared as a result of the fact that the history of these countries, in connection with the victory of fascism, took a step back in its development.

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<sup>7</sup> *ibid*, p. 51

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*, p. 31

<sup>9</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 22, pp. 295-296

In all countries enslaved by the Nazis and under the threat of enslavement, including those where previously the questions of the socialist reorganization of society were in the queue, general democratic tasks came to the fore: anti-imperialist, anti-fascist, national liberation, which were intertwined with the remaining not yet solved anti-feudal tasks. During the period of fascist aggression, the intensification of the reactionary nature of the bourgeoisie was clearly manifested. The bourgeoisie that was in power stopped being liberal and flirting with the people, threw overboard the banner of democratic freedoms and national independence, and passed into the service of the Nazi invaders. The working class of Europe had first of all to expel the German fascist invaders, to destroy the local fascist forces, to restore democratic rights and freedoms *on a new basis*, to eliminate all the consequences that fascism had brought with it.

The attack of fascist Germany on the Soviet Union increased the threat to the progressive development of mankind, for now it was not only about the fate of the peoples of Europe, but also about the fate of the country of socialism - the stronghold of the world proletarian revolution, i.e. about the fate of the progressive development of all mankind.

Fascism has become the main obstacle on the path of historical development, and without destroying fascism, mankind could not move forward.

Therefore, the task of defeating fascism was of paramount importance at that period, decisive for the working class of all countries, and it demanded its immediate solution on the part of the driving forces of history.

The struggle against fascism determined the direction of the main blow, the alignment of class forces both on the world stage and within individual capitalist countries; it determined the policy and tactics of the communist parties, the forms and methods of their struggle.

*All forces to defeat fascism* - such was the slogan of the working class in all countries.

“Our war for the freedom of our Fatherland,” said J.V. Stalin, “will merge with the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their independence, for democratic freedoms. This will be a united front of peoples standing for freedom, against enslavement and the threat of enslavement from the fascist Hitler's armies.”<sup>10</sup>

Such was the content of the antifascist struggle.

In the colonies and semi-colonies, the struggle against fascism had its own specifics, its own characteristics. And before the fascist aggression, foreign imperialists ruled there, who found themselves a social support in the face of the comprador bourgeoisie and the feudal landlord nobility. That is why the working people of these countries were faced with acute anti-imperialist tasks, which were closely intertwined with anti-feudal ones. The aggression of Hitlerite Germany and especially of imperialist Japan intensified the anti-imperialist character of the struggle of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries.

Thus, during the years of the Second World War, the task of defeating fascism was the main, fundamental, strategic task of the entire international working-class movement, including the main task of the working class of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe.

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<sup>10</sup> J. V. Stalin. *About the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union*; p. 16

It is known that the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe differed significantly from each other in terms of the level of socio-economic and political development, the degree of maturity and organization of the working class, and so on.

Albania, for example, was an enslaved, agrarian, backward country. Its industry was in its infancy, the working class was only in its infancy, feudal remnants and even remnants of tribal life were still great. All peasants owned only 56 percent of the land area, the rest of the land was in the hands of the beks, the landlord state and the church. The landless peasants were forced to rent land from the beks and pay rent for up to three-quarters of the harvest. Czechoslovakia was one of the industrial and agricultural countries. There was a large working class in the country. However, there were serious feudal vestiges in its economy, the issue was acute: 1 percent of large farms owned 43.4 percent of the total land area, while 70.9 percent of farms owned only 15.5 percent of the land area. Before the fascist aggression, the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie exercised its dictatorship in the form of bourgeois democracy.

Poland, Hungary, Romania were countries with an average development of capitalism, with a large volume of still unresolved tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution. Bulgaria stood somewhat apart. In Bulgaria, industry was poorly developed, agrarian relations dominated the economy, but the class of landlords did not actually exist, the remnants of feudalism survived only to a small extent, and therefore the volume of unresolved anti-feudal tasks was small.

All these differences left a definite imprint on the development of events in these countries and determined their originality. But as a result of Hitler's aggression during the years of the Second World War, all these countries, without exception, *directly* faced general democratic, national liberation, anti-imperialist tasks, which were in harmony with the volume of anti-feudal tasks that this or that country had.

The struggle against the Nazi invaders, for national independence, merged inseparably with the struggle against local fascists, against traitors and collaborators represented by the monopoly bourgeoisie and landlords.

In all the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, the German fascists found their social support in the form of the monopoly bourgeoisie and landlords, who went over to the side of the Nazis and became a tool in the hands of the German imperialists in the suppression and enslavement of their own people. The German fascists were the bearers of not only national oppression, but also social regression, and local traitors were faithful servants of foreign aggressors. Therefore, the struggle against foreign invaders was closely intertwined with the democratic struggle against the local fascists and their social base. It was impossible to solve the problems of national liberation, it was impossible to win democracy without inflicting a decisive blow on the monopolists and landlords inside the country. All this testifies to the close intertwining of anti-imperialist tasks with the tasks of fighting against "our" fascists, against the financial and industrial magnates and landowners inside the country.

Based on the foregoing, one indisputable conclusion suggests itself: during the period of the anti-fascist struggle, the working class of all the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, except for the countries, did not *directly* put forward and did not solve socialist tasks,

did not achieve the political defeat of *the entire* bourgeois class and *the immediate* establishment of its dictatorship. During this period, all the energy, all the forces of the working people of all countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe were directed to solving general democratic tasks: the defeat of fascism, the achievement of national independence and democratic freedoms, the destruction of slavery and serfdom introduced by the fascists, the elimination of all other consequences of fascist domination, and also the destruction of the remnants of feudalism left over from the past historical development.

It follows from this that anti-feudal tasks occupied a very serious place at this stage of the revolution. However, the content and nature of the struggle, the alignment of class forces, were determined by the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal tasks taken together. A small number of anti-feudal tasks did not dismiss and could not dismiss the general democratic character of the struggle in the period of the defeat of fascism. In relation to this period, with full justification, Lenin's words, spoken about the democratic revolution in Russia, can be applied:

“Leading the whole people and especially the peasantry - for complete freedom, for a consistent democratic revolution, for a republic!”<sup>11</sup>

The anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution must ultimately be classified as a bourgeois-democratic revolution, but at the same time it is broader than the ordinary bourgeois-democratic revolution.

What the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution has in common with the bourgeois-democratic revolution is that it does not go beyond the framework of a general democratic revolution, does not set as its immediate goal the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the establishment of the dictatorship of the working class, the abolition of capitalism and the transition to socialism; like the bourgeois-democratic revolution, it includes the elimination of the remnants of feudalism as its most important task.

But the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution has its own characteristics, its own distinctive features.

While the ordinary bourgeois-democratic revolution is directed only against the remnants of feudalism in economics and politics, the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution, with its sharp edge, was directed primarily against fascism, had a pronounced anti-imperialist character, and only the solution of anti-imperialist tasks made it possible to eliminate the remnants of feudalism.

The fundamental task of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution - the defeat of fascism - required a decisive struggle against one of the most reactionary sections of the bourgeoisie - against the big financial and industrial magnates, who were trying to turn the wheel of history back, destroy democracy, establish feudal and slave labor. Although against the monopoly bourgeoisie in the given historical conditions it did not go beyond the framework of a general democratic revolution, this struggle naturally left its mark on the entire course of the development of the revolution, since the foundations of capitalism were inevitably shaken in the course of general democratic revolutionary transformations.

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<sup>11</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 9, p. 94

In the modern era, when imperialism, seeking allies for itself in the struggle against democracy and socialism, is closely intertwined with feudalism and uses the latter as its social support, it is impossible to do away with feudalism without destroying the anti-imperialist yoke. The time for ordinary bourgeois-democratic revolutions directed only against feudalism has passed. Now any general democratic revolution is possible only as anti-feudal and anti-imperialist at the same time.

The peculiarity of the above-mentioned tasks of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution determined the specific alignment of class forces.

Firstly, the leader of the anti-fascist struggle could and indeed was the working class, since no other class was capable of inciting the masses of the people to defeat fascism.

The middle bourgeoisie of the enslaved countries, although it was interested in driving out foreign invaders, was unable to unite the masses of the people, to rouse them to the struggle. Only the working class and its vanguard - the Communist Party - were able to cope with the tasks of the anti-fascist struggle. Indeed, only the working class was the initiator, the most consistent and steadfast fighter against fascism. At the head of the working class were the communist parties, which led the entire anti-fascist movement. The Communists raised high the banner of democratic freedoms and the banner of national independence and courageously carried them forward. The heroic struggle of the communists against fascism, their selfless devotion to the people and selflessness further raised the authority of the communist party, strengthened and reinforced their leading role.

The leading role of the communist and workers' parties took shape historically in the course of a long and intense struggle for national freedom and democracy, for a new, truly happy life. It was won in battles with the German and local fascists, with the landlords and the reactionary bourgeoisie. It is the result of the testing by the masses of the people of the policies of the various parties.

The masses of the people, having gone through the harsh school of the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist liberation struggle, did not want to entrust their fate to the reactionary parties, whose authority among the masses was sharply undermined by their national betrayal and collaboration with the fascist enslavers. The popular masses entrusted their fate to the working class, to the communist parties, which was a historical pattern.

The Communist parties were the only parties capable of rousing the masses of the people in the struggle against fascism and leading this struggle. In the course of the anti-fascist struggle, the masses of the people became convinced by the harsh experience of life that the Communists are genuine, sincere, disinterested defenders of the people's interests. This was one of the most important factors that prepared the way for the victory of people's democracy.

“The growth of the influence of the Communists,” Comrade Stalin teaches, “cannot be considered an accident. It is a completely natural phenomenon. The influence of the Communists has grown because in the difficult years of the domination of fascism in Europe, the Communists turned out to be reliable, courageous, selfless fighters against the fascist regime, for the freedom of peoples. Millions of ‘ordinary people’, having tested the communists in the fire of struggle

and resistance to fascism, decided that the communists fully deserve the trust of the people. Thus grew the influence of the communists in Europe. Such is the law of historical development.”<sup>12</sup>

Second, the working class created a mighty anti-fascist coalition, roused the broadest masses of the people to fight against fascism.

Under the leadership of the working class, the following took part in the struggle against the fascists: the peasantry, the intelligentsia, the petty bourgeoisie of the city, and the anti-fascist circles of the middle bourgeoisie.

The organizational expression of the unity of the anti-fascist democratic forces was the mass socio-political organizations created in the course of the struggle - the Fatherland Front in Bulgaria, the National Front of Czechs and Slovaks in Czechoslovakia, the Democratic Bloc in Poland, etc.

During the period of the anti-fascist struggle, a strong militant alliance of the working class and the peasantry was formed, which continuously expanded and strengthened. In this alliance, the working class played a leading role, which determined the further development of events.

Third, a split occurred among the exploiting class during the period of the anti-fascist struggle. One part of it - financial and industrial magnates and landowners - went over to the side of the German fascists, was a tool in the hands of the fascists to suppress their own people. The other part, namely the anti-fascist circles of the middle bourgeoisie, was interested in expelling the Nazi invaders and winning national independence. Therefore, the middle bourgeoisie took a more or less active part in the struggle against the Nazi bandits. In all countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, the middle bourgeoisie was part of the anti-fascist coalition and was represented in the bloc of democratic parties.

Defining their relations with the middle bourgeoisie, the working class and its vanguard - the communist party - were guided by the well-known instructions of V. I. Lenin on tactical issues.

V. I. Lenin wrote: “It is possible to defeat a more powerful enemy only with the greatest exertion of forces and with the obligatory, most thorough, caring, cautious, skillful use of any, even the slightest, “crack” between enemies, any opposition of interests between the bourgeoisie of different countries, between different groups or types of the bourgeoisie within individual countries, as well as any, even the slightest, possibility of obtaining a mass ally, even if temporary, shaky, fragile, unreliable, and conditional. Anyone who has not understood this has not understood a grain of Marxism and scientific, modern, socialism *in general*.”<sup>13</sup>

Guided by these instructions, the working class of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe set itself the goal of attracting the middle bourgeoisie to fight against fascism, to prevent it from going over to the camp of Hitlerism, although the working class, of course, understood that the bourgeoisie was an unreliable, temporary, conditional ally. Nevertheless,

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<sup>12</sup> J. V. Stalin. Interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Mr. Churchill's speech on March 13, 1946, p. 12. *Gospolitizdat*. 1946

<sup>13</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 31, p.52

enlisting anti-fascist circles of the bourgeoisie in the struggle against fascism weakened the enemy and strengthened the forces of the anti-fascist camp.

Such was the internal alignment of class forces at the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, such were its driving forces.

Under the leadership of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist and Workers' Parties, a powerful anti-fascist movement developed in all countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe.

The Polish Workers' Party, which arose in January 1942, set before the Polish people the task of actively fighting against the Nazis, the task of armed resistance to the invaders, and led this struggle. The armed forces of the Polish democracy began to spring up inside Poland and on the territory of the USSR. At the turn of 1943-1944, the Craiova Rada of the Peoples (KRN) emerged - an underground parliament of the Polish people. The KRN set itself the goal of leading the armed struggle and all other forms of self-defense of the Polish people, ensuring their democratic freedoms and national independence, and ensuring the reorganization of the future Poland on a democratic basis.

In September 1941, the Communist Party of Romania called on the Romanian people, all patriots, to the national liberation struggle against the Nazi yoke, to overthrow the Antonescu regime, to end the war against the USSR and to include Romania in the struggle of the freedom-loving peoples against fascism.

In July 1942, the illegal radio station "Hristo Botev" published a program of the Fatherland Front, which called on the Bulgarian people to solve the following tasks: break the alliance with Nazi Germany, expel the Nazi troops, overthrow the fascist regime in the country and create a people's democratic government. Under the banner of this program, under the leadership of the Communist Party, an active armed struggle against the Nazis unfolded in Bulgaria, culminating in a victorious uprising on September 9, 1944.

The peoples of Czechoslovakia, who did not want to put up with Hitler's oppression, selflessly fought against the Nazi invaders.

In Slovakia, the highest stage of this struggle was the armed uprising in the autumn of 1944; in the Czech Republic, the May uprising of 1945.

The Albanian people bravely fought against foreign enslavers. The people of Hungary actively fought against fascism.

The struggle of the working class and all the working people of Europe against fascism, for national independence and democratic freedoms, was an inseparable component of the international anti-fascist movement headed by the Soviet Union.

The working class and all the working people of the enslaved countries waged a heroic struggle against fascism. But they could not solve this problem only on their own, without the help of the USSR. This task was solved by the joint efforts of the Soviet Union, the working class and all the working people of the enslaved countries of Europe, with the decisive role of the Soviet Union, which was the main driving force of the anti-fascist struggle throughout the world,

the main driving force of that revolutionary transformational process that is associated with the defeat of fascism.

Thus, as a result of the great successes of the Soviet people in the struggle against the German-Italian and Japanese aggressors and the powerful anti-fascist movement of the working people, people's democracy was born. It is the result of an armed clash between the world democratic forces, headed by the Soviet Union, and the international forces of reaction, which at that time were led by Nazi Germany.

Based on the foregoing, it is possible to quite definitely answer the question of how people's democracy was born: peacefully or in the course of armed struggle?

As was proved above, people's democracy won as a result of the defeat of fascism, in the course of a bloody, fierce battle between the forces of democracy, led by the USSR, and the forces of reaction. This means that the thesis about the peaceful origin of people's democracy is incorrect and bourgeois-nationalist in content, since it proceeds from an analysis of only internal events in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, ignores the common front of the international anti-fascist struggle, ignores the greatest revolutionary significance of the struggle of the Soviet Union against fascist reaction.

In the course of the anti-fascist struggle, the democratic forces were being consolidated, the political army of the revolution was being formed and tempered, and the alliance between the working class and the peasantry was being strengthened.

Using the favorable situation resulting from the defeat of Nazi Germany by the Soviet armed forces, the working class of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, rallying the peasantry, intelligentsia and petty bourgeoisie of the city around itself, carried out a revolutionary coup, removed the fascist forces from power, destroyed the reactionary regime and established a new, democratic system—people's democracy.

In Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, people's democracy was established at the moment of the defeat of fascism.

In Romania and Hungary people's democracy was established somewhat later as a result of the subsequent struggle of the working class. “With the liberation of the country,” said Rákosi, General Secretary of the Hungarian Working People's Party, “the power of the big landowners and capitalists was overthrown. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the working class, the peasantry, and also that part of the bourgeoisie that was against German imperialism and agreed to cooperate with us in the elimination of feudal remnants, came to power.”<sup>14</sup>

The establishment of people's democracy marks a major revolutionary upheaval, the transfer of power from the hands of the reaction to the hands of the people, headed by the working class. As G. Dimitrov pointed out in relation to Bulgaria: “Power was wrested from the hands of the capitalist bourgeoisie, the exploiting monarcho-fascist minority, and passed into the hands of the vast majority of the people, with the most active and leading role of the working class.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> “For lasting peace, for people's democracy!” dated June 15, 1948.

<sup>15</sup> “For lasting peace, for people's democracy!” dated April 1, 1948.

The establishment of people's democracy meant the solution of the question of power in the sense that the big bourgeoisie and landowners were overthrown, the middle bourgeoisie was pushed aside from leadership, and people's power was established, *headed by the working class*, which played a leading and guiding role in the system of people's democracy from the moment it was established.

However, this was not yet a *complete* solution to the question of power. In the first period, in none of the European people's democracies, the middle bourgeoisie had yet been politically defeated, the question of winning the majority of the population had not yet been completely resolved, the working class had not yet secured a majority in the government and legislative bodies. Along with the working class and the peasantry, the middle bourgeoisie was allowed to govern the country, which existed as an independent, organized political force, had its own parties, its own press, its representatives in the government, in legislative bodies, and in the state apparatus.

What explains the admission of certain groups of the bourgeoisie to participation in the government of the country? Why was not the entire bourgeoisie immediately removed from power completely?

This is explained, firstly, by the fact that after the defeat of fascism, the working class of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe had to solve the problems of the bourgeois-democratic revolution to one extent or another.

This is explained, secondly, by the fact that, after the defeat of the fascists, the bourgeoisie succeeded in retaining certain political positions in deceptively leading a more or less significant part of the population. The bourgeoisie managed to maintain certain political positions because:

- a) it very cleverly used the fact of its participation in the anti-fascist struggle for class purposes, everywhere demagogically advertised itself as a defender of the people's interests;
- b) it managed to maintain its influence on part of the population as a result of the treacherous policy of the right-wing Social Democrats, who defended bourgeois interests under the guise of socialist demagogy, and also because of the insufficient political consciousness of certain sections of the working people who first entered political life;
- c) the bourgeoisie relied on the support of the Anglo-American imperialists, who used any pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of the people's democracies and thereby intensified the vacillation of the unstable sections of the population;
- d) it had serious positions in the national economy.

As a result of all these factors, the middle bourgeoisie still represented at that period a serious social force that could not be ignored and which could not be immediately, at once destroyed without complicating the development of the revolution.

Immediately after the defeat of fascism, the most expedient policy towards the middle bourgeoisie was the policy of its neutralization.

In order to neutralize the middle bourgeoisie, the communist parties considered it possible and necessary to guarantee by law, within certain limits, private ownership of the means

of production, freedom of private enterprise, and also allowed the bourgeoisie to participate in solving state issues. This policy was necessary during the period of anti-feudal measures; it prevented the formation of a single bloc of reaction from the middle bourgeoisie to the landowners and was an important transitional step towards the subsequent policy of isolating the bourgeoisie and then crushing it.

The class content of the victorious people's democracy was determined by the stage of development of the revolution, the content of the tasks to be solved, and the alignment of class forces. At the first stage, general democratic tasks were solved - it was an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution.

Considering the question of the nature of power in countries that are underdeveloped capitalistically, Comrade Stalin pointed out as early as 1928:

“In addition to the capitalist developed countries, where the victory of the revolution will immediately lead to proletarian dictatorship, there are still countries that are underdeveloped capitalistically, with feudal vestiges, with a special agrarian question of an anti-feudal type (Poland, Romania, etc.), where the petty bourgeoisie, especially the peasantry will certainly say its weighty word in the event of a revolutionary explosion, and where the victory of the revolution, in order to lead to the proletarian dictatorship, may and certainly will require some intermediate steps in the form of, say, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry”.<sup>16</sup>

These instructions of Comrade Stalin acquired special significance for people's democratic revolutions.

Guided by the above indication of Comrade Stalin, considering that the revolution in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe at the first stage did not solve socialist problems, but was directed against foreign and local fascists, against the landowners, and bearing in mind the alignment of class forces, one can quite definitely assert that in all the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe the regime of people's democracy in the first period was something like the dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry. The dictatorship of the working class and peasantry in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe has its own specific, individual features in comparison with the revolutionary-democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry, which V. I. Lenin spoke about the period of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia. Dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry in the people's democracies:

a) appeared in an environment of a fundamental change in the balance of forces on the world stage in favor of socialism, against capitalism, in the presence of the great Soviet Union;

b) born in the course of the anti-fascist struggle and directed with its tip against imperialism;

c) the revolutionary government had a broad social and political support within the country in the form of an anti-fascist coalition. In this anti-fascist bloc of various classes and social groups, *the leading role of the working class was decisive from the very beginning, and in the course of the further development of the revolution it steadily increased.*

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<sup>16</sup> J.V. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 11, p. 155

Because of this, people's democracy was determined from the moment of its birth as the revolutionary power of the entire people, headed by the working class.

Such are the characteristic features of the dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry established in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe at the first stage of the revolution.

In the course of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, the working class of Central and South-Eastern Europe achieved above all the solution of anti-imperialist tasks. With the help of the USSR, the fascist German invaders were expelled and national freedom won, the internal fascist forces were defeated, and the monopoly bourgeoisie was overthrown. The working people have won broad, unprecedented and impossible democratic rights and freedoms under the conditions of bourgeois democracy. The political activity of the masses grew steadily. In all countries, various parties of working people and public mass organizations were created. In all areas, people's democracy, from its very first steps, has indisputably far outgrown the framework of bourgeois democracy.

After the defeat of fascism and the establishment of people's democracy before the working class of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, the center of gravity of all work was shifted to the elimination of the remnants of feudalism in the economy and politics, i.e., to the completion of proper bourgeois-democratic tasks.

When analyzing anti-feudal revolutionary measures, one should take into account the difference between agrarian countries with a large amount of anti-feudal tasks (Romania, Albania, etc.) and relatively industrially developed countries (Czechoslovakia), which also had remnants of feudalism. This left an imprint on the development of historical events, but their essence was the same in all countries. In Bulgaria, in fact, there was no anti-feudal question, but there were remnants of feudalism in the economy and politics, and the agrarian question existed. A greater or lesser amount of anti-feudal tasks was directly related to the pace of the outgrowth of the revolution, determined the timing of the transition to a new stage, therefore, for example, in Bulgaria the process of outgrowth of the general democratic revolution began somewhat earlier than in other countries. But this does not change the general democratic character of the first stage of the people's democratic revolution. Moreover, the solution of the agrarian question in modern conditions includes not only the liquidation of the class of landowners, but also the protection of peasant farms from ruin by the monopolies. On the whole, this means the assertion of peasant ownership of the land.

The working class attached great importance to the land reform. The agrarian question was a very acute, burning issue of political life, because the further fate of the revolution depended on its solution. The peasants experienced incredible land hunger and were subjected to merciless exploitation by the landlords who owned the land. The peasants demanded land; getting land was their age-old dream.

In Poland, for example, 87.1% of farms owned 31.8% of the land area, and 0.9% of large farms owned 47.3% of the land; in Romania, 94.5% of farms owned 63.7% of the land area, and

0.3% of farms owned 17.7% of the land; in Hungary, 93.8% of farms owned 32% of the land area, and 0.4% of farms owned 42.8% of the land, etc.

The working class, true to its role as defender of the people's interests, called on the peasantry to fight resolutely against the landlords, to divide up the landlords' land. The reactionaries put up fierce resistance to the land reform. A tense class struggle unfolded around the land reform. The landowners and their allies from the camp of the bourgeoisie, with the support of the American-British imperialists, tried with all their might to frustrate the land reform, prevented the adoption of revolutionary decrees, fought against the division of the landlords' land and the transfer of land to those who cultivate it, spread counter-revolutionary rumors, threatened the peasants with revenge, attacked around the corner on activists, on members of commissions for the implementation of land reform, on peasants who received land. But in the end, the resistance of the landowners was broken, and the landlords' land was transferred to the peasants.

The implementation of land reform in the people's democracies has some peculiarities. In fighting for the implementation of the agrarian reform, the communist and workers' parties of the people's democracies were guided by the Leninist-Stalinist propositions on the need for a differentiated, concrete, historical approach to the question of the principles for resolving the land question.

V. I. Lenin teaches that in countries where capitalist relations have deeply taken root in agriculture, the peasantry, imbued with the instinct of private ownership, will not immediately digest the slogan of the nationalization of all the land.

“Those comrades are wrong,” J. V. Stalin pointed out, “who think that the more capitalistically developed a country is, the easier it is to carry out the nationalization of **all** the land there. On the contrary, the more capitalistically developed the country is, the more difficult it is to carry out the nationalization of **all** the land, because the stronger the traditions of private ownership of land there, and the more difficult it is, therefore, to fight these traditions”.<sup>17</sup>

Taking into account the concrete specifics of agrarian relations, the existing balance of class forces and the tasks of the further development of the revolution, the communist and workers' parties of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe put forward the slogan: “The land belongs to those who cultivate it.” In accordance with this principle, the land was confiscated from the landowners and divided among the peasants, who acquired it on very favorable terms as private property.

In all countries, a maximum was established, that is, the maximum amount of land that each private household could own. In Poland the maximum was set at 50 ha, and in the western lands at 100 ha; in Romania and Czechoslovakia - 50 hectares; in Hungary, about 30 hectares, etc. The landed estates were confiscated almost everywhere free of charge; from the large peasants, the surplus against the maximum was redeemed for a fee.

The land taken away from the landlords and redeemed from the large peasants was transferred to the needy peasants for a small payment with an installment plan of 15 to 20 years.

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<sup>17</sup> J.V. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 11, p. 149

Families of partisans, families of those killed in the war against the German fascists received land free of charge. The land was transferred to the peasants for private ownership, but its disposal was placed in a strict framework: the sale of land, pledge, donation and leasing it were either prohibited or limited. Some part of the land was nationalized and remained with the state for the organization of experimental state estates.

In total, the peasants of the European countries of people's democracy received more than 15 million hectares of land.

The enormous social and political significance of the agrarian reform lies in the fact that it:

- a) liquidated landowner ownership of land and approved peasant ownership;
- b) destroyed the class of landlords, one of the foundations of fascist reaction, put an end to the remnants of feudalism and the remnants of semi-serf exploitation forever;
- c) provided the peasants with land, which led to the middle farming of the countryside, to an increase in the material level of the working peasantry, and significantly limited kulak exploitation in the countryside;
- d) cleared the way for a new stage in the development of the productive forces of agriculture;
- e) further strengthened the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and increased the leading role of the working class in this alliance.

At the same time, a broad process of democratization of political life was taking place in the people's democracies, the legal and state institutions introduced by the fascists were being destroyed, and the remnants of feudalism and the remnants of fascism in politics were being eliminated.

After the defeat of fascism, the implementation of general democratic measures and the solution of anti-feudal tasks in some countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe took a little less than a year, in others - more than a year, although the remnants of feudalism were completely finished already during the period of the socialist revolution.

The defeat of fascism and the destruction of the consequences of its domination, the replacement of bourgeois democracy with people's democracy, the implementation of the main acts of the agrarian reform and a number of other general democratic measures marked the end of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal stage of the revolution, which made it possible to move on to a new stage - the stage of the socialist revolution. At the same time, the communist and workers' parties were guided by the Leninist-Stalinist theory of the socialist revolution, the well-known theoretical provisions of Leninism about the development of the bourgeois-democratic revolution into a socialist revolution.

Although, as already mentioned above, the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution did not directly go beyond the framework of a general democratic revolution, it would be fundamentally wrong to erect a wall between the general democratic revolution and the socialist revolution.

The anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, while striking at the monopoly bourgeoisie—which, under the given concrete conditions, was a general democratic measure—at the same time

weakened capitalism as a whole and thereby brought the stage of the socialist revolution closer and led directly to it. In the course of the anti-imperialist struggle, the political army of the future socialist revolution began to take shape, the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry was strengthened, and the leading role of the working class in this alliance was strengthened. And the hegemony of the working class is, as Comrade Stalin teaches, the germ of the dictatorship of the proletariat, its stage.

That is why the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist revolution harbored all the necessary elements for a direct development into a socialist revolution. That is why the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution is an integral part of the world revolutionary process directed against capitalism. Such is the dialectic of historical events at the present stage of the development of society.

## Lecture two

### **Anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolutions in the countries of the East**

The peoples of China, Korea, and Vietnam have traveled a long historical path of development in the struggle for national freedom and democracy; the experience of the historical development of these countries is rich and multifaceted. Each of these countries has its own specific conditions, its own characteristics. However, despite the specifics, all these countries have one thing in common that characterizes them at the present time. The People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, despite their great differences, are people's democracies in the first stage of its development. In all these countries, the regime of people's democracy is a revolutionary power that performs the functions of a dictatorship of the working class and peasantry.

The victory of people's democracy in these countries has been prepared by the entire course of historical development. It is the result of a change in the balance of forces on a world scale in favor of socialism against capitalism, the result of the heroic struggle of the popular masses of these countries, under the leadership of the working class, against external and internal imperialist reaction, against the feudal lords, for national freedom and democracy. What has been said above about the decisive role of the Soviet Union in the victory of people's democracy in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe has a direct and immediate bearing on the victory of people's democracy in the countries of Asia.

The Great October Socialist Revolution, which marked a radical turn in world history, ushering in the era of the triumph of socialism and the collapse of capitalism, exerted a gigantic influence on the development of the national liberation movement in the colonial and dependent countries, undermined the positions of imperialism in these countries, accelerated the pace of historical development of the colonies and semi-colonies, awakened to life hundreds of millions of people crushed by imperialist oppression.

“...The October Revolution,” Comrade Stalin teaches, “**opened** a new era, the era of **colonial** revolutions carried out in **the oppressed countries** of the world **in alliance with** the proletariat, **under the leadership** of the proletariat...”

The era of serene exploitation and oppression of the colonies and dependent countries has **passed**.

The era of liberation revolutions **has begun** in the colonies and dependent countries, the era of the awakening of the **proletariat** of these countries, the era of its **hegemony** in the revolution.”<sup>18</sup>

The great significance of the October Revolution for the destinies of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries consisted in the fact that it not only undermined the positions of imperialism, but also showed the peoples of the colonies and semi-colonies the correct path to win freedom and independence, the path of progress and prosperity.

“The gun salvos of the October Revolution,” says the leader of the Chinese people, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, “brought Marxism-Leninism to us. The October Revolution helped the progressive elements of the world and China to apply the proletarian worldview to determine the fate of the country and redefine their own problems. Follow the path of the Russians - that was the conclusion.”<sup>19</sup>

The same conclusion was drawn by the advanced people of all colonial and dependent countries, who began an active struggle for national freedom and independence.

The continuous strengthening of the Soviet Union, the bulwark of the world forces of democracy and socialism, and the shattering of the foundations of imperialism meant a further weakening of the positions of imperialism in the colonies, drew nearer the time for the liberation of the colonies and semi-colonies from imperialist oppression, and facilitated the establishment of a democratic system.

The great leaders of the international working-class movement, V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin, rendered enormous assistance to the working class of the colonies and semi-colonies and its vanguard, the communist parties, in the theoretical development of the basic political, strategic, and tactical questions of the struggle for national liberation, for a truly progressive path of development.

Of paramount importance for determining the policy, strategy and tactics of the communist parties of the colonies and semi-colonies is the Leninist-Stalinist teaching on the nature and driving forces of the revolution in the colonial and dependent countries in the era of imperialism, on the leading role of the working class in this revolution, on the need to take into account when solving problems of the revolution national-special.

Lenin and Stalin teach that the national liberation struggle in the era of imperialism can only be won under the leadership of the working class.

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<sup>18</sup> J.V. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 10, p. 243, 245

<sup>19</sup> Mao Tse-tung. *On the Dictatorship of People's Democracy*, pp. 5-6. Gospolitizdat. 1949.

This programmatic tenet of Leninism acquires special force for revolutions in the colonies and semi-colonies under present-day conditions, i.e., under conditions of a sharp aggravation of the crisis of the colonial system of imperialism.

At the same time, Lenin and Stalin theoretically substantiated the need for the working class to win over to its side broad sections of the people as a mass ally, and also to use all the forces available in the country, including the anti-imperialist national bourgeoisie, in the struggle against imperialism and the feudal aristocracy. "...Temporary blocs and agreements with the **bourgeoisie** in the colonial countries at a certain stage of the colonial revolution are not only permissible, but directly necessary,"<sup>20</sup> Comrade Stalin points out.

Guided by the Leninist-Stalinist teachings and taking advantage of the favorable situation of the weakening of imperialism created by the great victories of the Soviet Union, the Communist Parties of the colonies and semi-colonies set out to carry out the tasks of the democratic revolution.

During the Second World War, when fascist Germany enslaved almost all the countries of Europe and imperialist Japan occupied vast territories of Asia, the national-colonial oppression in the colonies and semi-colonies intensified. The Japanese imperialist predators sought to completely enslave China, to turn it into their colony. The capture by Japan of Vietnam, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and other countries meant the strengthening of colonial slavery, a sharp deterioration in the conditions for achieving national freedom. Therefore, during this period, the main task of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries was to participate in the struggle against the German fascist and Japanese imperialist invaders. The liquidation of the aggression of the German and Japanese imperialists was an indispensable condition for the achievement of national freedom and democracy.

The Soviet Union's defeat of the fascist German invaders and the Japanese imperialists opened up new prospects for the peoples of the colonies to win national freedom and independence, to establish a democratic order, since the victory of the Soviet people over the fascist German and Japanese imperialist aggressors further weakened imperialism and further expanded its position in the colonies and semi-colonies.

A revolutionary situation has arisen in many colonial and dependent countries. A new round of colonial revolutions has begun, a new round of the revolutionary liberation struggle of the masses of the people against the imperialist, colonial oppression.

The national liberation movement in the colonies and dependent countries after the Second World War has some peculiarities:

First, the movement is unfolding in the context of the strengthening of the camp of democracy and socialism and the steady weakening of the camp of imperialism. This further weakened the positions of the imperialists in the colonies and dependent countries.

Second, the leading role of the working class in the national liberation movement has been seriously strengthened. The hegemony of the working class makes the national liberation

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<sup>20</sup> J. V. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 10, p. 23

movement consistently revolutionary, a truly popular character, organization, purposefulness and solidarity.

Third, the national liberation movement at the present stage is the most massive. The most diverse social forces take part in it: the working class, the organizer and inspirer of the national liberation struggle, the peasantry, the petty bourgeoisie of the city, the intelligentsia, and the national bourgeoisie. In countries fighting for national freedom, coalitions of all democratic, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist forces are being formed.

Fourth, the main form of the national liberation struggle at the present stage in a number of colonial and dependent countries is armed struggle.

Fifth, the national liberation movement is carried out under the banner of the struggle for people's democracy.

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Great historical successes in the struggle for national independence and people's democracy have been achieved by *the great Chinese people*, relying on the mighty support of the Soviet people.

The Communist Party of China, armed with the all-conquering theory of Marxism-Leninism, roused the Chinese people to a selfless struggle against imperialist oppression, against the domestic servants of the American-British imperialists, the comprador bourgeoisie and feudal lords. This heroic revolutionary war, which lasted a quarter of a century, was crowned with a world-historic victory for the Chinese people.

As is well known, the Chiang Kai-shek clique systematically sold its country to various imperialists—American, British, Japanese. After the defeat of Japanese imperialism by the Soviet Union, Chiang Kai-shek completely went over to the service of the American imperialists. The US ruling circles provided the rotten Kuomintang regime with the broadest possible political, economic and military support. They sent Chiang Kai-shek military advisers, a huge amount of military equipment, and continuously supplied the Kuomintang army with ammunition. However, the presence of the mighty Soviet Union fettered the activity of the American invaders and prevented them from unleashing open intervention against the Chinese people.

“If,” wrote Mao Tse-tung, “the Soviet Union did not exist, if there were no victory in the anti-fascist World War II, if—which is especially important for us—Japanese imperialism had not been crushed, if countries had not appeared in Europe new democracy... then the pressure of the international reactionary forces would, of course, be much stronger than it is now. How could we win under such circumstances? Of course not. In the same way, it would be impossible to consolidate the victory after it has been achieved.”<sup>21</sup>

The Soviet Union provided the People's Republic of China with enormous moral, political and economic assistance.

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<sup>21</sup> Mao Tse-tung. *On the Dictatorship of People's Democracy*, p. 9.

Through its entire progressive policy, based on enormous economic power and great international prestige, the Soviet Union helped the Chinese people to establish and strengthen people's power.

The experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was invaluable for China. Using the experience of the CPSU, creatively applying the great teachings of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, the leader of the Chinese people, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, gave a profoundly scientific, theoretical substantiation of the policy, strategy and tactics of the Communist Party of China.

The Chinese revolution is anti-imperialist and anti-feudal in character. It is directed against foreign imperialist oppression, against Chinese feudalism and the Chinese big bureaucratic, comprador bourgeoisie, closely connected with foreign imperialists.

As J. V. Stalin pointed out, the Chinese revolution belongs to the type of bourgeois-democratic revolutions and at the same time it is a national liberation revolution, directed with its tip against foreign imperialists, an anti-imperialist revolution, merging with the revolutionary movement of the working class of the whole world against imperialism. It outgrows the framework of the ordinary bourgeois-democratic revolution due to its anti-imperialist orientation and due to the strengthening of the leading role of the working class.

In the course of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, the Chinese working class created a united front of democratic forces, including the working class, the peasantry, the urban petty bourgeoisie, the intelligentsia, and the national bourgeoisie. The organizing, leading and guiding force of the united front is the working class, headed by its vanguard, the Communist Party. The unshakable basis of the united front is the firm alliance of the working class and the peasantry.

Considering the Chinese revolution as a combination of two streams of revolutionary movement—against feudal survivals and against imperialism—comrade Stalin as early as 1926 brilliantly predicted the nature of the power that would be established as a result of the victory of this revolution.

“I think,” said J. V. Stalin, “that the future revolutionary power in China will in general resemble in its character the kind of power that we spoke about in 1905, that is, something like the democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry, with the difference, however, that it will be an anti-imperialist power par excellence.

It will be a transitional government to non-capitalist or, more precisely, to the socialist development of China.”<sup>22</sup>

The revolution in China is developing exactly as Comrade Stalin foresaw. The revolutionary power established in China as a result of the victory of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution, in its content is something like the dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry. The People's Republic of China is a state of people's democracy in the first stage of its development. People's democracy in China is not yet fulfilling the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat. At this stage, socialist tasks, *as immediate*, are not put forward and are not

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<sup>22</sup> J.V. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 8, pp. 365-366

solved. This is the business of the future. Comrade Mao Tse-tung points out that only after a prosperous national economy and culture has been established, China, in accordance with the will of the entire people, will begin to solve the tasks of building socialism.

The revolutionary power established in China, the system of people's democracy, which in its content is the dictatorship of the working class and peasantry, is now completing the most important political and economic tasks of the anti-feudal, general democratic revolution, which will ensure the future transition to a socialist revolution, to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

First, the victory of people's democracy means the overthrow of the reactionary Kuomintang clique, which defended the interests of bureaucratic capital and landlords, the transfer of power into the hands of the majority of the population, led by the working class, and the creation of a system of people's democracy. The Chinese people have won the broadest democratic rights and freedoms, created their own parties, public, trade union, youth, women's and other democratic organizations. The Chinese reactionaries kept the people out of politics. At present, millions and millions of Chinese citizens are drawn to politics, actively participate in government, and confidently resolve important issues of the country's political and economic life.

The Chinese reactionaries, with the help and under the auspices of the American imperialists, dream of restoring their power. Chiang Kai-shek and the US ruling circles create counter-revolutionary bandit groups in China, supply them with weapons and money, and inspire the subversive activities of internal reactionary forces. At the same time, individual sections of the national bourgeoisie dream of corrupting the people's power from within, they strive to bribe and corrupt this or that employee of the state apparatus, the people's power with "candied shells".

The people's democratic state vigorously defends and expands the democratic gains of the people, strengthens people's democracy, increases the political activity of the people, attracting more and more forces to participate in the government of the country, strengthens the unity of all patriotic forces, and above all the forces of the working class and peasantry, uses the national bourgeoisie for the construction of a new China, while resolutely suppressing the attempts of its individual sections to hinder the solution of the tasks of the revolution. The people's democratic state ruthlessly suppresses the resistance of the overthrown reactionary classes, wages a vigorous struggle against counter-revolutionary bandit groups, against the espionage and sabotage activities of the Kuomintang and American agents.

Second, the People's Democratic State of China, which was born in the struggle against foreign imperialists and their accomplices at home, vigilantly guards national freedom and democratic gains from encroachment by American and other imperialists. To this end, the Chinese people's government is strengthening friendship with the USSR and all countries of the camp of democracy and socialism, consistently fighting for peace, strengthening the country's defense capability, resolutely rebuffing the attempts of the US imperialists to interfere in China's internal affairs. The Chinese volunteers, fulfilling the will of the people, defend the approaches to Chinese territory in Korea and help the fraternal Korean people in their heroic war against the American aggressors.

Third, the Chinese people's democratic state is carrying out major revolutionary social and economic transformations. The major social and economic revolutionary transformation of people's democracy in China is the agrarian reform aimed at eliminating feudalism and the class of landlords. In China, the agrarian revolution is developing widely, the process of abolishing landlord property and establishing peasant ownership of land is being completed.

As a result of the agrarian reform, which is carried out according to the principle: "The land belongs to the one who cultivates it," the economic basis for the existence of the landlord class is being destroyed. At present, agrarian reform has been carried out in the territory where 420 million people live in China. With the exception of areas inhabited by national minorities, land reform in mainland China will be completed in the winter of 1952 and in the spring of 1953.

Fourth, the people's democratic government confiscated the property of the foreign imperialists and the Chinese comprador bureaucratic bourgeoisie associated with the foreign imperialists, took over their factories, mills, banks and trade enterprises. As a result, the state sector of the economy emerged in China. At the same time, the people's democratic government is widely enlisting private capital in the restoration and development of the national economy.

The economic policy of the people's democratic government of China is aimed at ensuring that "all sectors of the public economy, under the leadership of the state economy sector, cooperate on the basis of the division of labor and each find its place in the interests of promoting the development of the entire social economy as a whole."<sup>23</sup>

Thus, the dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry in China is the revolutionary power of the people, headed by the working class, directed against imperialism, against bureaucratic capital, against the feudal landlords, which is currently solving general democratic tasks and preparing the conditions for the transition to a new stage of development - the stage of the dictatorship of the working class.

Although the Chinese revolution at the present time does not go beyond the framework of a general democratic upheaval, it, being predominantly anti-imperialist, thereby deals a blow to the capitalist system and further weakens this system.

The victory of the Chinese revolution means a powerful new breakthrough in the chain of imperialism, second in importance after the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia. As a result of this victory, China dropped out of the system of imperialism and moved into the camp of the countries of democracy and socialism. The successful solution of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal tasks ensures the *direct* and *immediate* growth of the general democratic revolution into a socialist revolution. All this suggests that the Chinese revolution is an integral part of the world revolutionary process aimed at the overthrow of capitalism and the victory of the new social order—socialism.

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<sup>23</sup> See the General Program of the People's Political Council of China, Article 26

As a result of the great victories of the Soviet people over Japanese imperialism, the *Korean* people embarked on the path of democracy, the path of progressive development.

The victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War brought the Korean people liberation from the Japanese imperialist oppression. The entry of the Soviet Army into the territory of North Korea created the opportunity for the Korean people to finally break with imperialism and achieve complete independence and real democracy.

The situation in North Korea was developing in direct opposition to the situation in South Korea, where American troops entered. The ruling circles of the United States turned South Korea into their de facto colony, established a reactionary regime there, headed by the puppet dictator Syngman Rhee.

In North Korea, the intervention of international reactionary forces was paralyzed by the presence of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the masses of the people, led by the working class, led by the Labor Party, began to carry out profound socio-economic transformations, which meant the implementation of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal tasks.

The popular masses, led by the working class, defeated the reactionary forces and established their rule. People's committees sprang up all over the country and took full control of state power. It was a revolutionary power that carried out the tasks of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry. Having established their power, the popular masses achieved broad democratic rights and freedoms. The era of people's democracy began in Korea.

Simultaneously with the solution of political tasks in the country, major changes were taking place in the socio-economic structure. First of all, it should be noted the implementation of the agrarian reform, which led to the abolition of land ownership, to the elimination of feudal vestiges, the class of landowners and approved peasant ownership of land. At the same time, measures were taken to destroy monopoly capital. For these purposes, the most important branches of industry, banks, transport, and means of communication were nationalized.

An important milestone in the development of Korea was the proclamation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1948.

The successful solution of the tasks of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution created the possibility for the further progressive development of the Republic of Korea. However, the attack of the American aggressors on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea interrupted its peaceful development. At present, with the help of Chinese volunteers, the Korean people are waging a heroic struggle against the armed imperialist forces, upholding national independence and great democratic gains.

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Among the countries of people's democracy is the Democratic Republic of *Vietnam*, which arose in 1945. The Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the working class, are persistently striving for the realization of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal tasks. At this period, when the French and American imperialists are trying to impose a colonial regime on the people of

Vietnam by force of arms, the center of gravity of the revolution has shifted above all to the complete solution of anti-imperialist tasks.

Although anti-feudal tasks are on the agenda of the struggle of the Vietnamese people, their complete solution is possible only after the expulsion of the French imperialists. In the field of agrarian relations, such measures are now being taken as the reduction of rent, the transfer to the poorest peasants, the families of the wounded and dead soldiers of those lands that belonged to the imperialists, traitors, the use of the lands of absent landowners, vacant lands, the redistribution of communal lands, etc. All these agricultural measures are temporary, they are of a transitional nature. The question of carrying out deeper anti-feudal measures is now on the agenda.

Such a policy allows the working class to expand the anti-imperialist front.

“The driving force of the Vietnamese revolution,” says the program of the Workers’ Party of Vietnam, “at present is the people, i.e., first of all, workers, peasants, the petty bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie, along with which come the patriotic progressive elements of the nobility and landowners.”

Thus, the correct policy of the Vietnamese Workers' Party ensured the consolidation of all the patriotic forces of the country under the leadership of the working class and made it possible to create a broad anti-imperialist front, which is achieving great success.

A significant part of the country has been liberated from foreign imperialist oppression. The forces of the French aggressors are concentrated on a small territory, mainly around coastal cities.

The regime of people's democracy has been established in the liberated territory, which is noted in the program document of the Labor Party. “By fighting for its liberation,” the program says, “by implementing democratic reforms in the economic, political, social and cultural fields, Vietnam has taken the path of people's democracy. Consequently, at present Vietnam is dominated by a people's democratic system, and in part of the country (we are talking about areas occupied by the imperialists, - *Arkady Sobolev*) - a colonial, semi-feudal system.”

In its content, the people's democracy regime in Vietnam performs the functions of a dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry, with the leading role of the working class, which ensures the further deepening of the revolution at the next stages of its development.

All these facts show that in China, Korea and Vietnam, despite the great difference in their development, despite the significant difference in the scope of the democratic reforms carried out, the tasks of the first stage of the revolution are still being solved, that the revolutionary people's power established in these countries, in its class content is something like the dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry.

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Among the countries of people's democracy in the East is the *Mongolian People's Republic*, which has gone through a long path of historical development.

The origin of people's democracy in the Mongolian People's Republic has its own characteristics, its own specifics. As you know, pre-revolutionary Mongolia was an extremely backward feudal country. There was no industry in Mongolia, there was no working class. The People's Revolution of 1921 was a peasant revolution supported by the help of the proletariat of Soviet Russia. This revolution was directed against imperialism and feudalism, and the liquidation of the class of feudal lords, due to the extreme backwardness of the country, took a considerable period of time.

With the many-sided assistance of the Soviet Union, the Mongolian people have achieved serious successes: feudalism has been eliminated, the foundations of industry have been laid, which means the creation of a young Mongolian working class, and the development of national culture has been advanced. The path traversed by the Mongolian People's Republic confirms the correctness of the Leninist-Stalinist foresight about the possibility of the transition of backward countries with the help of a socialist state from feudalism, bypassing the capitalist path of development, to socialism.

The first article of the constitution of the Mongolian People's Republic states: "The Mongolian People's Republic is an independent state of working arat-pastoralists, workers and intelligentsia, who destroyed the imperialist and feudal oppression, providing a non-capitalist path for the development of the country for the transition to socialism in the future."

### **The stage of the socialist revolution in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe**

The Leninist-Stalinist theory of the socialist revolution, the most important component of which is the theory of the development of the bourgeois-democratic revolution into the socialist revolution, teaches that the dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry is a state of the revolution, a process of development of the revolution. In its essence, this is a temporary revolutionary power. It has its past and its future. Its historical past, in the struggle against which it arises, is the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, its historical future is the dictatorship of the working class. The same must be said about the people's power established after the victory of the people's democratic revolution. This power, representing in its class content something like the dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry, marked a stage in the development of the revolution and such a correlation of class forces when the class of landowners was crushed, the big bourgeoisie was overthrown, but the bourgeoisie as a whole, as a class, had not yet been politically defeated and all the more so, it has not been finished off, and the question of power has not yet been finally resolved.

To finally resolve the question of power, it was necessary to ensure the transition from the dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry to the dictatorship of the working class. This transition meant an intensification of the struggle of the working class for the working peasantry, against the bourgeoisie, a further strengthening of the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, and a strengthening of the leading role of the working class in this alliance. Only in this way could it be possible to ensure the transition from the hegemony of

the working class in alliance with the peasantry, which is the embryo of the dictatorship of the proletariat, its stage, directly to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

As the strength, consciousness and organization of the working class grew, and its ties with the working peasantry strengthened, the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist revolution began to grow directly and immediately into a socialist revolution. This development was ensured by the hegemony of the working class, the leading and guiding role of the communist parties in the system of people's democracy, and the correct policy of these parties.

Determining the strategic line of development of the revolution, the communist and workers' parties of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe were guided by Lenin's well-known brilliant thesis on the development of a democratic revolution into a socialist revolution.

Lenin wrote that "...we will immediately begin to pass from the democratic revolution, and just to the extent of our strength, the strength of the class-conscious and organized proletariat, we will begin to pass to the socialist revolution. We stand for continuous revolution. We won't stop halfway."<sup>24</sup>

The development of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution into a socialist revolution meant a deepening of the revolution, an onset of solving new tasks, and a new regrouping of class forces.

The regime of people's democracy, established after the defeat of fascism, was called upon to defend the gains of the people and ensure the consistent democratization of all spheres of public life, which could only be achieved on the path to socialism. As early as 1917, V. I. Lenin said that now it is impossible to move forward without moving towards socialism. In modern historical conditions, this Leninist proposition acquires exceptional significance.

The bourgeoisie did not want to put up with the implemented political and socio-economic transformations.

With the support of the US and British imperialists, the bourgeoisie launched subversive activities against the people's power, sabotaged all its economic measures, prepared one counter-revolutionary conspiracy after another, and vigorously planted sabotage and wrecking groups. The bourgeoisie not only did not want to cooperate with the people in building a new life, it persistently sought to overthrow the regime of people's democracy. In order to defend the gains of the people, to strengthen and expand them, it was necessary to finally resolve the issue of power. To finally resolve the question of power meant completely breaking the resistance of the bourgeoisie, inflicting a political defeat on it, expelling it entirely from the government, parliament and all other links of the state apparatus, concentrating all state power in the hands of the working class.

Thus, in relation to the bourgeoisie, the tactics of the working class changed depending on the stage of the struggle. At the stage of the anti-fascist struggle, the working class opposed the big financial and industrial bourgeoisie as the social support of fascism, drawing the middle bourgeoisie into the anti-fascist movement.

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<sup>24</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 9, p. 213

During the period of the establishment of people's democracy, the working class, having pushed the bourgeoisie out of leadership in the system of people's power, is pursuing a policy of neutralizing the middle bourgeoisie, trying to use its presence in the bloc to successfully solve anti-feudal tasks.

But, as the experience of the struggle showed, the middle bourgeoisie strove to use its presence in the democratic bloc in order to slow down the development of the revolution and establish *its own* power.

As the revolution deepened, when it became clear that it was winning more and more masses of the people over to its side and that it was impossible to stop it, the bourgeois parties, in one form or another, abandoned the policy of the bloc and took up an openly hostile line towards people's democracy. At the same time, the bourgeoisie, using the most diverse forms of demagoguery, sought to win over the masses to its side.

During this period, the communist parties in all countries of people's democracy launched an intense struggle for the masses, since the tasks of the socialist revolution could be solved only by winning over the masses to their side, convincing them of the correctness of the policy of the Communist Party. Only on this basis could the bourgeoisie be isolated and finally defeated.

In the course of a long struggle, the working class in the people's democracies, led by the communist parties, exposed the bourgeoisie and showed that it is an enemy of the people's power, an opponent of agrarian reform and the nationalization of industry, that the political leaders of the bourgeoisie are direct agents of the foreign imperialists, spies and traitors. The exposure of the treacherous behavior of the bourgeoisie led to its political isolation and further rallying of the working peasantry around the working class.

Having wrested the masses deceived by the bourgeoisie from under the influence of the bourgeoisie, having strengthened the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, and having achieved the political isolation of the bourgeoisie, the working class, led by the communists, completed the political defeat of the bourgeoisie, concentrated in its hands all the *fullness* of state power, established its own dictatorship, i.e. solved the fundamental question of the socialist revolution.

The leading and guiding force in the struggle against the reactionary, anti-democratic policy of the bourgeoisie was the communists, who once again showed their boundless devotion to the people, their disinterestedness in defending their interests. The people rallied closely around the communist parties and, entrusting them with the administration of the country, confidently followed them.

The socialist revolution in the European countries of people's democracy proceeded under very favorable conditions; it took place in an atmosphere of a radical change in the balance of forces in favor of socialism versus capitalism, was based on the Soviet Union and had certain features, specific features.

First, this socialist revolution did not mean a coup d'état, but the completion of the revolution that had begun; it was not about overthrowing the existing government, but about

using this revolutionary power and finally finishing off the bourgeoisie, completely removing it from power and concentrating all power in the hands of the working class.

Second, the socialist revolution in the European countries of people's democracy was not a one-time act.

The political rout of the bourgeoisie was not carried out all at once, but by a series of successive blows; the bourgeoisie was removed from power, faction by faction, as the consciousness, solidarity, and organization of the working class and all working people grew. Thus, the socialist revolution in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe was a series of separate explosions, which as a whole constituted a socialist revolutionary explosion.

Thirdly, an important feature of the socialist revolution in the European countries of people's democracy is that it was carried out as a broad movement of the popular masses from below, supported from above by those links of the state apparatus that were in the hands of the working class.

Finally, fourth, due to all the above circumstances, the socialist revolution in the European countries of people's democracy was peaceful, in the sense of the absence of an armed uprising, in character.

The defeat of the bourgeoisie was carried out by the working class in the course of an intense class struggle using the most diverse forms and means of struggle: political demonstration, forcible seizure of state institutions, armed suppression of the military detachments of the bourgeoisie, undermining the economic power of the bourgeoisie. Among others, parliamentary forms of struggle were also used, but they were of a subordinate nature and were more a reflection of political shifts than a means of achieving them. An exceptionally important role in the cause of the revolutionary suppression of the bourgeoisie was played by those links in the state apparatus that were directly in the hands of the working class, above all, the organs of state security, as well as the lower organs of power.

Under the prevailing situation, given primarily the might of the USSR, the bourgeoisie did not dare to unleash a civil war, so the process of suppressing the resistance of the bourgeoisie was carried out by all political means, but mostly without armed struggle.

In the course of the socialist revolution, the remnants of the might of the bourgeoisie were destroyed step by step, the old bourgeois state apparatus was broken and a new, people's democratic state apparatus was created.

The most important measure of the socialist revolution was the nationalization of industry, banks, transport, and means of communication.

The nationalization of industry, banks and transport was aimed at: first, to eliminate the economic base of reaction and create the material basis of the people's democratic system and, second, to ensure the complete independence of the national economy from the American, British, French and other imperialists, who owned significant riches in countries where people's democracy has won.

As a result of the nationalization of industry, banks and transport, the positions of foreign capital in the people's democracies were eliminated, and the struggle for national independence was completed.

The nationalization of industry, banks and transport was of great political significance: it dealt a crushing blow to the positions of capitalism, liquidated all imperialist associations, and destroyed the dominance of the bourgeoisie in the economic field. All large and medium-sized industry passed into the hands of the state, became the property of the whole people, public property. At present, 93-95% of industry has been nationalized in the European People's Democracies. All banks, all means of communication, all mechanized transport, all natural sources of raw materials and energy have also been nationalized. Thus, the commanding heights in the economies of the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe are concentrated in the hands of the people, which was a huge victory for the working class, a decisive defeat for the bourgeoisie. This conquest of the working class found its legislative expression in the constitutions of the people's democracies.

A very important component of the struggle for a complete solution of the question of power was the rout of the bourgeois agents in the workers' movement. The bourgeoisie placed great hopes on the right-wing Social Democrats. It is quite clear that the split in the working-class movement, the presence of bourgeois agents in it, weakened the working class and diminished its leading role. The Communist Parties waged a long and stubborn struggle against the right-wing Social Democrats and subjected their ideological positions to a theoretical defeat. Attracting rank-and-file Social Democrats and left-wing leaders to their side, the communists achieved the liquidation of the split in the labor movement, created united parties of the working class on a granite Marxist-Leninist basis. In all European countries of people's democracy united, Marxist-Leninist parties of the working class have been created. The creation of united Marxist-Leninist parties strengthened the leading role of the working class and was an important stage in the struggle to expand and strengthen the dictatorship of the working class.

The implementation of the above political and socio-economic measures was the content of the socialist revolution, and only as a result of the solution of these tasks did the regime of people's democracy begin to fulfill the functions of the dictatorship of the working class.

In other words, one can speak of the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the people's democracies under the following conditions:

first, when the majority of the country's population unites around the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party, when the Communist Party surpasses all other parties put together in its influence;

second, when the bourgeoisie is defeated as an independent political force, and its representatives are expelled from the state apparatus;

third, when commanding positions in the state apparatus are directly concentrated in the hands of the working class;

fourth, when the commanding economic heights are concentrated in the hands of the people's democratic state;

fifth, when the split of the working class was eliminated and a single workers' party was created on a Marxist-Leninist basis.

Such conditions were created in all European countries of people's democracy not at once.

Thus, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the European countries of people's democracy is not a one-time act. This is a historical process that began in 1945 and ended at the end of 1947 and 1948 as a result of the development of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution into a socialist revolution.

The completion of the socialist revolution, the completion of the struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat, enabled the European people's democracies to begin the transition from capitalism to socialism.

### **People's democracy is a new state form of the dictatorship of the proletariat**

The classics of Marxism-Leninism proved that between capitalism and socialism lies a period of revolutionary transformation of one social system, the capitalist, into another, the socialist, and that the transitional state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat. Only through the dictatorship of the proletariat is it possible to destroy the capitalist system and build a socialist society.

The worst enemies of people's democracy are bourgeois nationalists of all stripes and right-wing opportunists who have infiltrated the communist parties, distorted the Leninist-Stalinist doctrine of a socialist state, tried to disrupt the building of socialism, shouted about the so-called "original path of development of the countries of people's democracy", denied the leading role of the worker class and communist parties, denied the need for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Creatively applying Marxism-Leninism, relying on the theoretical assistance of the CPSU, the communist and workers' parties of the European countries of people's democracy ideologically and organizationally defeated the bourgeois nationalists and right-wing opportunists and, in relation to specific conditions, proved that the dictatorship of the proletariat is also necessary for the countries of people's democracy.

Emphasizing the historical inevitability and necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the transitional period, the classics of Marxism-Leninism at the same time point to the possibility of a variety of state forms of proletarian power.

"The transition from capitalism to communism, of course, cannot but give an enormous abundance and variety of political forms, but the essence will inevitably be the same: the dictatorship of the *proletariat*."<sup>25</sup>

History knows several state forms of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The revolutionary creativity of the working class of our country created the Soviets, the highest, most perfect form of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The creation by the working

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<sup>25</sup> V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 25, p. 385

class of our Country of the Soviet form of the dictatorship of the proletariat is its great historical service to the international working-class movement, since the Soviets ensured the building of socialism in the USSR, showed the way to socialism for all mankind, greatly facilitated the movement towards socialism of all peoples of the world.

For a long time, the Soviets were the only possible form of the dictatorship of the proletariat, because in a situation where the chain of imperialism was breaking for the first time and only one country was building socialism, the dictatorship of the proletariat could exist and function successfully only in its highest form, the form of Soviets.

At the present time, when the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of Soviets has achieved tremendous success, when a powerful socialist state has been created, the possibility has arisen of the existence of the dictatorship of the proletariat in other state forms. Developing and enriching Lenin's teaching on the socialist state, Comrade Stalin established that even the system of people's democracy can and does carry out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The regime of people's democracy in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe successfully solves the problems of the dictatorship of the working class and, in accordance with this, the people's democratic state performs the functions of a socialist state in the first phase of its development.

The first function of people's democracies is internal. This function consists in crushing the resistance of the overthrown exploiting classes, which enjoy the active support of international imperialist reaction.

Clearly realizing that the regime of people's democracy has been consolidated and enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the population, and that, thanks to the decisive help and support of the USSR, open action against it is doomed to failure, the Anglo-American imperialists and the reactionary forces within the country launched extensive underground activities against people's democracy.

The enemies of people's power have set themselves the task of infiltrating disguised imperialist agents into leading positions in the communist parties and government bodies of the people's democracies in order to blow up the revolutionary power in these countries from within.

In Yugoslavia, the hired agents of imperialism, the old provocateurs, the intelligence agents, the Tito-Ranković clique, succeeded fraudulently, under the guise of devotion to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, to seize leadership in the Party and the state, to liquidate the gains of the people, to restore the power of fascist reaction, to bring the country into the camp of American English warmongers.

The process of penetration of imperialist agents, bourgeois-nationalist degenerates into leading positions with the aim of destroying people's democracy from within and restoring the capitalist order, also took place in other countries of people's democracy.

In Hungary, subversive activities in the party and the state were carried out by the traitor Rajk, who, having made his way to a responsible state post, on instructions from the intelligence agencies of the United States and Britain, under the direct leadership of the imperialist protege

Tito, was preparing a counter-revolutionary coup in the country. The same conspiracies were prepared by traitors to the people Traicho Kostov in Bulgaria, Koçi Xoxe in Albania, Slánský in Czechoslovakia. As a Trotskyist in disguise, an agent of American intelligence, Slánský created an anti-state conspiratorial center, undermined the people's democratic system, prepared a counter-revolutionary coup in order to restore capitalism and draw Czechoslovakia into the camp of imperialism.

The ruling circles of the United States and Britain placed great hopes on their agents. The danger of these conspiracies was very great, since the traitors covered up their subversive activities with blatant and hypocritical preaching of the reconciliation of class interests and the extinction of the class struggle, and tried by all means to dull the vigilance of the Party and the working masses.

But the people's democratic state, armed with the experience of the class struggle in the USSR, guided by the Leninist-Stalinist propositions about the inevitability of increased resistance from the overthrown exploiting classes during the period of building socialism and the need for the strictest vigilance in relation to the overthrown classes, destroyed the plans of international and domestic reaction, exposed the criminal anti-people activities of the agents of the American-British imperialists, the Titoites, and the counter-revolutionary conspiracies were crushed one after another. The defeat of these counter-revolutionary anti-people groups was a serious blow to the plans of international and domestic reaction.

The American-British imperialists, using the fragments of the broken classes within the people's democracies, launched work to set up subversive, sabotage and wrecking organizations. In Poland, for example, in 1951 a major conspiracy was uncovered and neutralized, which, on the instructions of the American-British imperialists, was being prepared by a group of spies who had made their way to responsible positions in the army.

In Czechoslovakia, an American espionage center was uncovered, hiding under the sign of the Standard Electric trading company. Members of this organization were engaged in sabotage at the enterprises of the Czechoslovak industry and espionage. The purpose of the organization was to prepare the ground for the restoration of the capitalist order. A number of spy organizations in Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria were uncovered and neutralized. Wrecker organizations in various sectors of the national economy have been uncovered and rendered harmless in all the people's democracies. These wrecking organizations were closely connected and acted on the instructions of the American-British imperialists.

The leaders of the Catholic Church, inspired and inspired by the American imperialists through the Vatican, joined in the active struggle against the people's democratic system.

Former Polish Cardinal Hlond was closely associated with the traitors to Poland, liaising between spy groups in Poland and the Vatican. Many Polish priests took an active part in Mikołajczyk's gangs.

In Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty led active preparations for the overthrow of the people's democratic system. Mindszenty's successor, Archbishop Joseph Grey, also orchestrated

a conspiracy to overthrow the People's Republic. However, the plot was uncovered in a timely manner.

Standing up for and defending the gains of the people, the people's democratic state resolutely suppresses the attempts of the overthrown classes to seize power again, persistently exposes and liquidates all conspiracies, and severely punishes the criminals who raised their hands to the gains of the people. All this testifies to the fact that the regime of people's democracy is actively fulfilling the internal function of the socialist state in the first phase of its development.

The regime of people's democracy successfully solves the task of suppressing the resistance of the overthrown classes because it relies on the USSR, uses the experience of the struggle of the socialist state against the capitalist elements, the experience of liquidating the exploiting classes, is guided by Stalin's instructions on vigilance, on methods of combating enemies and double-dealers, with agents of the capitalist encirclement.

The second main function of the socialist state is to defend the country from attack from outside. This function is to create foreign policy conditions for the construction of socialism, to defend the country's independence from the encroachments of international imperialist reactionary forces. At the present time it is a question of defending the gains of the people from attack by the American-British imperialists.

The regime of people's democracy in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe performs the foreign policy function of a socialist state, actively fights for national freedom and against the aggressive policy of the American-British imperialists. In order to create foreign policy conditions for building socialism, the regime of people's democracy primarily strengthens friendship with the USSR, pursues a peaceful democratic foreign policy, strengthens the economic might of the country, and actively fights to strengthen the position of the camp of democracy and socialism throughout the world. An important factor in the struggle of the people's democracies for independence is the treaties they have concluded on friendship and mutual assistance with the USSR and among themselves.

But under the present conditions of the struggle for national independence, the question of repulsing the onslaught of the imperialists is different than in the period when the USSR was building socialism alone.

The main, decisive condition ensuring the independence of the people's democracies is the existence of a mighty Soviet Union. The USSR is the force that ultimately paralyzes the economic pressure of the imperialists on the countries of people's democracy, destroys the political and diplomatic intrigues of the ruling circles of the United States and Britain against the countries of people's democracy, and frustrates the military interventionist plans of international reaction.

The people's democracies have rallied closely around the great Soviet Union. Under the leadership of the USSR, a mighty camp of democracy and socialism was formed, opposing the reactionary, imperialist, aggressive camp.

The people's democratic state also fulfills the third function of the socialist state— economic and organizational, cultural and educational. As Comrade Stalin teaches, in the first phase of the development of a socialist state this function has not yet reached its full development. This also applies to the states of the European People's Democracies. However, thanks to the all-round and continuous assistance of the mighty Soviet state, the regime of people's democracy has the opportunity to develop economic-organizational and cultural-educational functions to a much greater extent than was possible for the Soviet state in the first phase of its development.

In its economic, organizational, cultural and educational work, the regime of people's democracy relies on the most diverse economic, scientific, technical and other assistance from the Soviet Union, uses its richest experience in socialist construction, its most advanced culture.

Thus, the regime of people's democracy successfully fulfills the functions of a socialist state in the first phase of its development and is the main instrument for building socialism.

The Soviet Union, by its wealth of experience in the struggle against class enemies, by its help in building socialism, by its defense of the countries of people's democracy from economic and political expansion by imperialist predators, greatly facilitates the regime of people's democracy in fulfilling all the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat—as a function of suppressing the overthrown exploiting classes. and the functions of economic and organizational, and the function of protecting the country from attack from outside.

In *essence*, the Soviets and people's democracy completely coincide: their *content is the dictatorship of the working class*. The difference lies only in the form of the political organization of society.

What are the characteristic features of the regime of people's democracy as a new state form of the dictatorship of the proletariat?

A very important characteristic feature of the political life of people's democracies is the presence in them, in addition to the Communist Party, of other political or socio-political organizations that express the interests of the working people and participate in the building of socialism.

In addition to the communist and workers' parties, there are parties or socio-political organizations in the people's democracies: in Poland there is a united peasant party, democratic strife, in Czechoslovakia there is a socialist party, a people's party, etc., in Bulgaria there is a BZNS, in Romania - the Farmers' Front, etc.

In all countries of people's democracy there are *mass people's political organizations of the People's Front type*: in Bulgaria - the Fatherland Front, in Romania - the Front of People's Democracies, in Hungary - the National Independence Front, in Poland - the National Front, in Czechoslovakia - the National Front, in Albania - the Democratic front.

People's Front organizations arose on the initiative of the Communist and Workers' Parties and carry out their activities under their leadership. The creation of a popular front was a vital necessity, since this organization made it possible to unite all democratic forces and use them very effectively in the struggle against fascism, for national freedom and independence.

At present, in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, popular front-type organizations unite all political parties, as well as public organizations (trade unions, women's, youth organizations, etc.), cover the vast majority of the population and are the political and organizational expression of the alliance between the working class and all other working classes and strata - the peasantry, artisans, intelligentsia - under the leadership of the working class to solve the problems of socialist construction.

The content of the activities of the Popular Front is determined by the leadership of the communist and workers' parties. The tasks of building socialism require the further strengthening of the unity of the working people, the strengthening of the Popular Front, and the still greater strengthening of the leading role of the Communist Parties in them.

The regime of people's democracy can fulfill the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat even if there are several parties or socio-political organizations, but on one indispensable condition, when the only leading and guiding force of the state is the Communist Party. Communist parties do not and cannot share leadership with anyone. Other democratic parties or socio-political organizations, as a result of long experience in the struggle, became convinced that only communist parties are capable of consistently implementing the principles of democracy, and they followed them, recognizing their leading and guiding role. That is why the Communist and Workers' Parties in the people's democracies exercise their undivided leadership even in the presence of other parties.

The government in the countries of people's democracy wore or still wears the line of coalition. It is formed from representatives of several parties or socio-political organizations.

But the coalition nature of the government does not mean that the working class shares its power with anyone. The working class does not and cannot share its power with anyone; it establishes and exercises its undivided dominance in political life.

However, being the spokesman and defender of the interests of the whole people, the working class enlists other working classes, in the person of their political and public representatives, to participate in the administration of the country and in the solution of state questions.

People's democracy is the real, unrestricted power of the people. It expresses and defends the interests of all working people, who constitute the vast majority of the population; it is truly people's power and it is formalized by constitutional, legislative means. "The people are the only source of all power in the state," reads the first article of the Czechoslovak constitution. "All power comes from the people and belongs to the people," says the Bulgarian constitution.

The state structure of the various people's democracies of Central and South-Eastern Europe varies depending on specific historical conditions, but the principles of state structure are basically the same.

The form of government in a number of countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe is the People's Democratic Republic. The highest legislative body of the European countries of people's democracy is the parliament, elected by all the people on the basis of universal, equal, direct suffrage by secret ballot. The highest organ of state power is the National Assembly in

Bulgaria and Albania, the State Assembly in Hungary, the Grand National Assembly in Romania, the National Assembly in Czechoslovakia, and the People's Sejm in Poland.

Executive power in the people's democracies is exercised by the government, which is accountable to parliament.

In the localities—in oblasts, uyezds, districts, volosts, etc.—there are local organs of power elected by the people, which in Bulgaria, Albania, and Romania are called people's councils, in Czechoslovakia, national committees, and in Poland, people's councils.

The social, class basis of people's democracy is the indestructible, lasting alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, formed in the fire of the anti-fascist struggle, strengthened in the battles against reaction at subsequent stages of political development. People's democracy realizes and puts into practice the highest principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat—the preservation and strengthening of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and the leadership of the working class in this alliance.

The leading and guiding force in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe is the communist and workers' parties, which ensures that the regime of people's democracy fulfills the functions of the dictatorship of the working class, the development of these countries along the road to socialism.

As already mentioned above, the leading role of the Communist and Workers' Parties took shape historically and was won in long, fierce battles for national freedom and democracy, against the German and local fascists, against the landlords and the reactionary bourgeoisie, against the Anglo-American imperialists and their Titoite agents, against the right social democrats and bourgeois nationalists.

After the victory over fascism, when the question of further prospects for historical development arose, only the communists showed the peoples the path to a new life without oppressors and enslavers, the path of true democracy. Therefore, the prestige of the communists among all the working people increased sharply, and the influence of the communist and workers' parties in all spheres of political life increased.

The communist and workers' parties ensured the defeat of the reactionary forces and the establishment of people's power; they were the initiators and organizers of the agrarian reform; under their leadership, the nationalization of industry, banks, and transport was carried out. The various bourgeois parties that existed in all the people's democracies went bankrupt. The people turned away from them, because they sought to establish a reactionary order, in every possible way hindered the development of the revolution. The leaders of these parties betrayed the people, went over to the service of the American-British imperialists, became spies and wreckers.

The Communist and Workers' Parties finally exposed the Right Social Democrats as disguised defenders of bourgeois interests, as agents of the American-British imperialists. With the support of the communist parties, the left elements from the social democratic parties broke with opportunism and went over to the positions of Marxism-Leninism. Right-wing Social Democrats were expelled from party organizations.

The ideological, political and organizational defeat of the right-wing Social Democrats was a serious victory for the communist parties, a victory for Marxism-Leninism over social democracy. As a result of this victory, the split of the labor movement was liquidated, united parties of the working class were created, which made the Leninist-Stalinist ideological and organizational principles the basis of their activity. The creation of united Marxist-Leninist parties further strengthened the prestige and influence of the communists, further enhanced their leading role in all public life, and was an important step forward in the political strengthening of the regime of people's democracy.

Under the leadership of the communist and workers' parties, the task of restoring the national economy was accomplished in an extremely short time and the building of a socialist society began.

The Communist and Workers' Parties are consistently pursuing a policy of proletarian internationalism and persistently strengthening and developing friendship with the great socialist state, the USSR.

Thus, the communist and workers' parties are the decisive force in ensuring that the regime of people's democracy fulfills the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat and successfully accomplishes the tasks of building socialism.

Translated in 2022 from Russian language by Polina G.