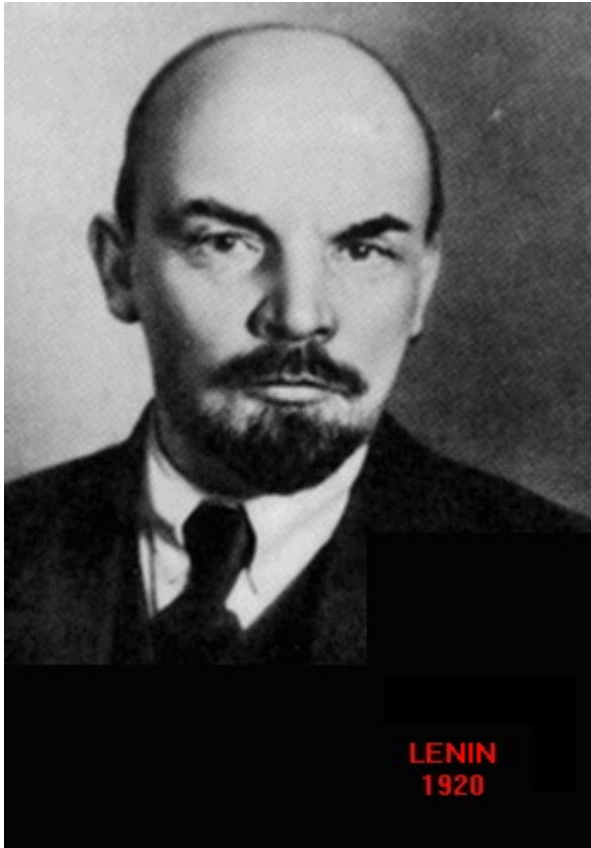


The Socialist Economic Alternatives III

(The Form of Socialism as a result of Revolution can it be Established?)



Now, in the early years of the 20th Century, after the failure of the 1905 revolution in Russia, The Social Democrats of the majority tendency – the Bolshevics, were in the political wilderness, but the best of their leaders nevertheless knew what they had to do.

Lenin set to work and wrote *Materialism and Empirio Criticism*, but this was NOT for polemical or agitational use. It was considered an essential, and indeed philosophical theoretical task to equip his Party comrades for the coming new revolution.

Such presence of mind did not, in fact, adequately equip his party, and it was not until he joined his colleagues back in Russia in the midst of the 1917 revolution and delivered his *April Theses* that he managed to get them pointing in the right direction so that they could decisively influence the outcome of this inevitably developing revolution.

As distinct from the majority of Social Democrat Parties worldwide, he knew that the theoretical basis for such interventions was, and always would be, *incomplete*, but nevertheless **absolutely crucial!**

You could not merely go to the shelf and bring down the appropriate volume. Marxism had to be developed constantly as **nothing** remains constant, and if you were not equipped to the absolute maximum level, you would be certain to get it wrong and therefore inevitably lead the Working Class to certain defeat.

In the very same way today, answering the questions about a Socialist Economic Alternative must be readdressed *once again*.

Since 1917 the Stalinist reaction and the Maoist diversions in China have changed the game, and even Capitalism has found new ways of continuing via what is now called globalisation, (the new colonialism) along with various other ways of continuing the essential concentration of Capital to fund ever more capitalist companies and organisations.

And, once more these imperative questions are not merely for agitational purposes.

They are questions of Theory – of how to interpret developing social Reality, not merely within stability, but in revolutionary crisis and transformation.

What is termed Marxism is today on its back.

It is worse than useless at understanding what is occurring worldwide, and this is proved by the activists' policies no matter to what tendency they belong.

With their current theoretical basis, they too will inevitably lead the necessary revolutions to guaranteed defeat.

It was not for nothing that Lenin used frequently to write pieces with titles such as “*What is to be Done?*” He was ever aware of the inadequacies, theoretically, of his colleagues, and even his Party, and he was in incessant struggle to get them to address and solve every question *as it arose*.

For the kind of Theory required is *never* retrospective.

What are needed are not ready-made answers to known questions, but the philosophical standpoint and theoretical methodology to be able to address ever-new questions as they arise.

Indeed, most of the questions were then, and are now, not yet on the agenda, and without an on-the-fly theoretical method, the policies will always be too little and too late to succeed.

For example, do the leaders of socialism actually know what an Emergence is?

I can answer that without hesitation – they do not!

And the proof is that the theoretical equipment handed down to us has not been adequately developed, otherwise large numbers of scientific imponderables, such as the real nature of the **Origin of Life on Earth** would have long ago been cracked, and not diverted by NASA (and others) into multiple dead-ends.

But, the extension of these methods into all areas stopped long ago.

Theory now is about activism, and never about the nature of Reality and how it develops and crashes.

How, indeed, the Phoenix can always arise from the destructive flames of chaotic collapse.

Where is the holist contribution to genetics, and to medicine?

And the current state of Physics is a travesty.



Christopher Caudwell

Yet, already, in the mid 1930's Christopher Caudwell had begun the task with his *Studies in a Dying Culture*, and particularly in his *The Crisis in Physics*. But within a year or two he was dead, having gone to Spain to fight Franco.

Now, we can bemoan the absence of the stature of a Lenin, a Trotsky or a Caudwell, but that is not the reason for the abject failure of the Left since the Second World War.

The reasons for this failure can be explained by three crucial things.

First, the total capitulation of the Social Democratic Parties worldwide to the capitalist system as unavoidable, and indeed necessary.

Second, The betrayal of the Stalinist reaction within the Communist Parties.

And **third**, by the control and lies of the ruling capitalist class in all those countries (the great majority) still totally embedded within the Capitalist System,

Too many betrayals by Social Democracy extinguished the vestiges of Socialism within such parties, and certainly also within the dreams of the ordinary Workers

And the possibilities made real by the success of the Russian Revolution, have similarly been dashed by the clearly evident repression of Stalinist regimes.

And, in spite of the returning soldiers hopes of a better world after the Second World War, which caused a Labour landslide and large scale Nationalisation of the major industries, the failure of the attempts of the ensuing Labour Government, has also extinguished that were supposed to grow into a Socialist Economy.

Even the **Co-operative Movement** was defeated by large scale and intensified exploitation of Third World Economies, and the Co-op's refusal to compete at the expense of their own colleagues working here and peasant classes abroad.

In spite of the usual series of depressions, when the absence of a real basis was glimpsed for all to see in the capitalist countries, some new means of creating the appearance of progress and increasing wealth was always found, and the decrepit system survived.

But, mostly those repeated survivals were down to the total unpreparedness of the socialist parties particularly in the area of ongoing theoretical advances.

The totally idealist **Copenhagen Interpretation of Quantum Theory** continues to dominate absolutely everywhere in Science in spite of its evident inadequacies, and Kantian pragmatisms.

Now the theoretical agenda for Marxists has two main fronts.

The most obvious, yet most neglected is surely the extension of Dialectical Materialism into the Sciences. In spite of the remarkable contributions of scientists such as Charles Darwin and Wegener, the necessary generalisation of the theories of Emergence into all spheres of science has simply NOT been undertaken. For almost 100 years the canker of Copenhagen has continued to disarm physical Science (and indeed Cosmology) and led to purely maths-inspired speculation on a colossal scale.

Cosmology is now a sad joke.

And in the clearest possible areas for such investigations such as in genetics and evolution, the expected revolution did not take place either.

Finally and crucially, the other clear area must be in the analysis and revelation of how Capitalism continues to exist. Where are the prophets revealing the present crisis (including the bank collapses and the Arab Spring), and the clarification of where these must lead if the gains across the Middle East are to be turned into Socialist Revolutions in a large number of countries.

Where is the Marxist analysis of the Moslem resurgence, and the correct unity between the Islamic masses and socialist working masses of the advanced countries?

“Now, all this may well be correct.”, I hear you say, “But what has it to do with clarifying a viable Socialist Economic Alternative to Capitalism?”

Well, the answer to that has to be, “Absolutely everything!”

For that is not a ready-made and finished definition.

In many ways, the really important forms do not yet, and cannot yet, exist! They will not be like the Nationalisations of the Social Democrats, nor the user owned institutions of the Co-operatives. And, what of the necessary availability of Capital, or more correctly, **Funding**, for almost all modern production systems?

Will we just take over the banks, as Labour did in the current Bank Crisis?

Will we print money, as the Bank of England and the European Central Bank have done, give it to the capitalist banks, and then expect them to oil the workings of a desperately ill credit-reliant system?

Of course we wont!

But, exactly what we must do is as yet unknown. And without the soundest philosophical standpoint, it is both impossible to construct as interim plans, and incapable of being modified on-the-fly in response to a major turnover of the whole economic system.

But, initially at least, we must demand clearly non-capitalist solutions, for our new World, and spell them out as far as we can, and in clear understandable and believable ways.

(1,465 words)