

**THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE RISE OF FASCISM
1929 - 1939**

100: State exploitation of labor power on behalf of bourgeoisie vs. working class control of means of production

New Deal programs designed to employ unemployed workers and build capitalist infrastructure:
e.g. Tennessee Valley Authority, Civilian Conservation Corps.

Also present at this time was build up of war materials

300: Development of productive forces vs. impoverishment of the working class

400: Fascism as form of capitalist state vs. proletarian democracy

In Germany, rise and consolidation of fascist state at the behest of the German bourgeoisie, in order to control and contain workers and to undo the progress of the working class from the 1918 revolution

500: Germany: State repression of the working class vs. proletarian revolution

U.S.A.: State co-optation of the working class vs. proletarian revolution

In Germany, the fascist state under Hitler suppressed the working class movement, rescinded the wage and hour laws, and made worker's organizations (including the Communist Party) illegal

In the US, the New Deal sought to co-opt the worker's movement through providing state based labor (NRA, etc.), prevented the workers movement from ever getting to the point of seeking political power

**600: Germany: Nazi Party vs. the working class movement
U.S.A.: Republican vs. Democratic Parties**

In Germany, the only real opposition to the Nazi Party was the left, in particular the Communist Party. The Social Democratic parties had long since betrayed the working class movement and ended up supporting fascism

In the US, the working class movement never seriously contended for state power. The two bourgeois parties, while having the same goal of preserving capitalism, only disagreed on tactics. The Republicans sought to use state power only to crush the working class movement,

The Democrats, while using the police and to crush any serious threats, dominantly sought to co-opt the working class movement through various programs. The Roosevelt administration sought laws which assisted labor union organizing, after the militant sit-down strikes paralyzed industry. The Roosevelt administration also sought to "let off the steam" through programs providing employment, which also moved working class youth out of the cities.

700: Germany: Fascism as tool of capitalists to maintain power vs. proletarian revolution

U.S.A.: Capitalist reformism vs. proletarian revolution

In Germany, the capitalist class embraced fascism due to the severe economic crisis, discarding the social democrats in the process. Fascism is nothing more than imperialism at its most brutal and naked stage of development

In the US, the capitalist class maintained power through reformism. While suppressing the working class movement through force if need be, the US imperialists used reformist programs which bought off working class leadership in the trade/industrial union movements.

800: Working class self-help vs. state cooptation

The working class, in the early years of the depression, established its own programs. These include CPUSA programs such as TUEL, TUAC, tenant organizations, etc. Many of these programs provided valuable relief and class organization. The Roosevelt administration initiated programs which co-opted many working class programs. In addition, by giving the labor union movement legal status, the more militant CPUSA union leadership was rooted out by leadership more compliant to the capitalist class.

900: Non-development of indigenous revolutionary theory in US vs. capitalist ideology

While the CPUSA provided leadership, and did provide progressive leadership in issues affecting US Blacks, it focussed its organizational strength in the white working class and on trade union issues. As a result, when the union movement was co-opted, the CPUSA had no base for the political struggle for state power. Until the rise of the Black Liberation Movement, there has not been a consistent application of Marxist-Leninist theory to the concrete conditions of the US. As a result, capitalist

ideology dominated in this period and the working class never seriously vied for political power.

000: Capitalist crisis of overproduction/empoverishment of the working class vs. socialist planned economy X

USA: Increasing concentration of wealth during the 1920's, ram-pant speculation in the stock market, continued farm crisis led to 1929 stock market crash in US Resultant depression based on over production and impoverished working class.

→ Germany