

THE WOMAN QUESTION & THE NATIONAL QUESTION  
INTRODUCTION

THE BASIS FOR STUDYING THE NQ AND THE WQ (and the Peasant Q in Lenin's time) is historical materialism and dialectics.

Lenin's analysis of the Peasant Q was based on historical materialist analysis of Russian conditions; as Stalin describes it.

"Some think that the fundamental thing in Leninism is the Peasant Q, that the point of departure of Leninism is the question of the peasantry, of its role, its relative importance. This is absolutely wrong. The fundamental question of Leninism, its point of departure, is not the peasant question but the question of the dictatorship of the proletariat, of the conditions underwhich it can be achieved, of the conditions underwhich it can be consolidated." (Fof L, p.54)

Through our analysis of the WQ and the NQ we will apply and expose the method of historical and dialectical materialism, taking a lesson from Lenin and Stalin.

The question to be answered is: WHAT IS THE RISING SOCIAL FORCE THAT PUSHES FORWARD THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EXISTING CAPITALIST RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION?

The Black Liberation Movement. It has been the motor developing revolutionary thrust in the US in recent history. And as the Black struggle has moved to taking a working class stand, the next question comes up; WHO ARE THE CLASS ALLIES OF THE BLACK AND THIRD WORLD PROLETARIAT? -or- What is the rising force within the white working class?

Women.

These two questions are closely interconnected -- they are ideological questions, for they determine the unity of various forces in the coming class struggle.

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WHY IS IT TRUE \_\_\_ HOW CAN IT BE SAID \_\_\_ THAT BLACK AND THIRD WORLD WORKERS AND WHITE WORKING CLASS WOMEN ARE THE RISING FORCE?

It is an economic question.-

The fundamental contradiction in the capitalist world is between those who work together to produce all the wealth and those few who live off the private expropriation and accumulation of that wealth (product of labor).

The particular historical development of the class struggle in the US has created some segments of the working class that earn relatively better wages and have relatively better jobs than other segments of the working class.

Those who do the worst jobs for the lowest wages-- those who are the last hired and the first fired and most unemployed -- that is, those who are most exploited by the capitalist class are Black & Third World workers and Women workers. ~~They suffer both capitalist exploitation and the effects of white chauvinism and male chauvinism.~~ They suffer both capitalist exploitation and the effects of white chauvinism and male chauvinism.

They have the least to lose and the most to ~~gain~~ gain in overturning capitalism.

They are the rising forces.

It is a question of economic exploitation. And the exploitation is increased and maintained by the ideologies of white chauvinism and male chauvinism.

How and under what conditions have people risen to struggle against their oppression and exploitation? This presentation will look at some aspects of the historical development of those struggles as a basis for discussion, to deepen our understanding and solidarity. To further develop the class revolutionary struggle.

#### KEY CONCEPTS

1. Reacting to social oppression (phenomenon) can only lead to maintaining existing relations of production. Only by dealing with the primary contradiction of economic exploitation (essence) can we change the existing social order.

2. In order to push the struggle for the establishment of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, we must come to a proletarian class stand. People come to this class stand through the process of seeing the bourgeois order delegitimized.

3. Repression and cooptation begin when people get angry and organized.

DEFINITIONS

*EASY TO ABSTRACT*

Nation: a historically evolved, stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life, and psychological make-up manifested in a common culture. *AT ONE POINT IN BLACK (Stalin, Marxism & the National Question, p.14) HISTORY, THEY MET THE CRITERIA.*

State: an organ for the oppression of one class by another...the creation of "order" which legalizes and perpetuates this oppression by moderating the conflict between the classes. (Lenin, State & Revolution). The state has a monopoly on institutionalized legal violence which maintains the rule of the dominant class. A state can be the state over more than one nation (Russia, U.S.). Or, a nation might not have its own state (*Puerto Rico tax laws, laws against military are laid down in us congress*).

Two stages in the development of the National Question:

1. Rising Capitalism;;; before Imperialism. Development of nations is led by the bourgeoisie to consolidate and expand their national markets. Nationalist movements are part of the bourgeois/capitalist revolution against the Feudal system. Nations are formed and consolidated; class structure and economic life develop.

*NO NATION CAN BE FREE IF IT OPPRESSES OTHER NATIONS' (MARK)*

2. Imperialism. Capitalism has overflowed its national boundaries and become a worldwide system of economic domination. It comes as a result of economic crises which are unresolvable within the limits of one nation and the capitalists must take over the economic and political life of other less-developed nations. Thus the capitalists gain markets for surplus products, a place to invest surplus capital, cheap labor and cheap raw materials (in other words, super-profits which they can use to lessen the contradictions in their home country and stall off revolution.)

In stage 2, nations trying to develop come up against imperialist domination. Thus in the second stage, national-liberation movements against imperialist domination are part of the proletarian/socialist revolution (are progressive), even though they may temporarily be led by the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nation seeking to capture its own national market. But the bourgeoisie cannot carry the national liberation movement ~~thru~~ through to the end. The national bourgeoisie eventually makes a deal with the imperialist bourgeoisie (becomes reactionary), such as in nations in Africa and South America which gained "independence" under bourgeois leadership only to become neo-colonies instead of outright colonies; in other words, under more hidden forms of economic domination. Only the oppressed masses of the oppressed nations can carry the national liberation movement through to the end, and only those nations which have cut themselves loose from the capitalist/Imperialist system

tion movement through to the end, and only those nations which have cut themselves loose from the capitalist/Imperialist system and moved to socialist revolution have achieved any real independence.

Stage 2 is also the stage of the breaking up and dispersal of nations rather ~~like~~ than the ~~more~~ consolidation of nations as in stage 1.

DEFINITIONS

Nation: a historically evolved, stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life, and psychological make-up manifested in a common culture. (Stalin, Marx and the National Question, p. 14) (Note: they met the criteria)

State: an organ for the oppression of one class by another... the creation of "order" which legalizes and perpetuates this oppression by moderating the conflict between the classes. (Lenin, State & Revolution). The state has a monopoly on institutionalized legal violence which maintains the rule of the dominant class. A state can be the state over more than one nation (Russia, U.S.). Or a nation might not have its own state (India, etc.).

Two stages in the development of the National Question:

1. Being Capitalist: before imperialism. Development of nations is led by the bourgeoisie to consolidate and expand their national markets. Nationalist movements are part of this bourgeois/capitalist revolution against the feudal system. Nations are formed and consolidated; class structure and economic life develop.
2. Imperialism: Capitalism has overthrown its national boundaries and become a worldwide system of economic domination. This comes as a result of economic crises which are universally felt within the limits of one nation and the capitalists must take over the economic and political life of other less-developed nations. Thus the capitalists gain markets for surplus products, a place to invest surplus capital, a cheap labor and cheap raw materials. In other words, areas of profit which they can use to lessen the contradictions in their home country and a staff for revolution.

In stage 2, nations trying to develop come up against imperialist domination. Thus in the second stage, national-liberation movements against imperialist domination are part of the proletarian/socialist revolution (are progressive), even though they may temporarily be led by the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nation seeking to capture its own national market. But the bourgeoisie cannot carry the national liberation movement through to the end. The national bourgeoisie eventually makes an deal with the imperialist bourgeoisie (becomes reactionary) as in the case in Africa and South America which failed to achieve "independence" under bourgeois leadership only to become neo-colonies instead of outright colonies; in other words, under more hidden forms of economic domination. Only the oppressed masses of the oppressed nations can carry the national liberation movement through to the end, and only those nations which have cut themselves loose from the capitalist/imperialist system