PREFACE

MARXISM-LENINISM AND MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT

Marxism-Leninism synthesizes the historical experience of the international proletariat and the oppressed peoples over the last 130 years. It is the science and the ideology of the proletariat, the most revolutionary class in present-day society. In 1848 Marx and Engels wrote the Manifesto of the Communist Party, a key work of scientific socialism. Since that time, Marxism-Leninism has been the guide for the revolutionary movement, and has proven that the principles it is based on are correct. The Russian and Chinese revolutions and 130 years of struggle all show that only Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought can light the way forward to socialism and communism.

What is class struggle? What is the nature of the state? What are the characteristics of a true communist party? What is the origin of imperialism? How can we do away with the oppression of women and national oppression? How can we become communists? Marxism-Leninism answers all these questions and many more. The aim of this study guide is to give basic answers to these questions for those who are just beginning to study communism.

Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought has always developed through the struggle against revisionism, which is the attempt made by the bourgeoisie’s agents to pervert communist theory, to deform the basic principles of Marxism and have the workers’ movement follow passively behind the capitalist class.

Modern revisionism, led by the Soviet Union, is today the main danger for the communist movement. The modern revisionists are trying to convert Marxism-Leninism into a cover for Soviet social-imperialism’s dreams of world domination, using theses like, “party of the whole people”, “state of the whole people”, “peaceful transition”, “limited sovereignty”, and “the natural ally of struggling peoples”.

The necessity of unmasking and destroying these falsifiers of Marxism and enemies of the proletariat and the peoples of the world, makes it even more important to carefully study communist theory. This is one of the purposes of this guide.

Study groups will not necessarily make use of the whole guide, and they can study certain chapters on their own or in another context. However, on the whole the guide should be studied collectively, in groups which have been set up for this purpose.

The texts cited in this manual were written by the world’s greatest communists, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao, who showed themselves to be the best educators and leaders of the working class and the oppressed peoples. Their works are invaluable contributions to the international revolutionary movement. The principles they formulated are universally applicable to the concrete conditions of the revolution in every country.

Karl Marx (1818-1883) and his close associate and comrade, Friedrich Engels (1820-1895), were the founders of communism. The credit for having uncovered the “secret” of capitalist profit in the capitalists’ exploitation of the workers goes to Marx. He studied all the laws of capitalist development and arrived at the scientific conclusion that the fall of capitalism is inevitable, and that this corrupt system of exploitation of man by man must necessarily be replaced by the communist system, where classes no longer exist and where all exploitation and oppression in the world is done away with once and for all. He showed that this will
take place when the working class seizes power through socialist revolution and advances towards the final goal, communist society. Thus the scientific theory of socialism is called Marxism, after the great scientific and militant revolutionary.

Marx and Engels took an active part in the 1848 revolutionary movements, when all of Europe was shaken by the masses' struggles to overthrow absolute monarchy. Later they created the International Workingmen's Association* to organize and coordinate the revolutionary workers' movement in various countries. Their works, including the Manifesto of the Communist Party; Capital; Socialism: Utopian and Scientific; Dialectics of Nature, and others, laid the basis of scientific socialism.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924) was the great leader of the Russian Revolution, the world's first socialist revolution. Marx and Engels had studied capitalism in its competitive stage, before whole sectors of the economy became dominated by one or a few monopolies. Lenin studied monopoly capitalism, and formulated the laws determining the development of imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism, as well as the theory of proletarian revolution in the era of imperialism. Lenin fought the opportunists of the Second International*, made up of social-democratic parties, and after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, founded the Third International*, made up of communist parties, in order to help lead and develop the world-wide revolution. It was Lenin who developed the theory and practice of the communist party as the vanguard and general staff of the working class.

Because of his analysis of imperialism, proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, Lenin's name is added to that of Marx, and thus scientific socialism is known as Marxism-Leninism.

After the death of Lenin, Joseph Stalin (1879-1953) carried on his work. He defended Leninism against opportunists of all types, and developed it around the question of building socialism in one country and in other areas, such as the national question. For thirty years Stalin led the building of socialism in the USSR; during the Second World War, he stood at the head of the Soviet army and people, leading them to victory over Nazi aggression; he helped set up the socialist camp during the '40s and early '50s. Thus despite errors, his contribution was a positive one**: It was only after his death in 1953 that renegades like Khrushchev and Brezhnev were able to seize power in the Soviet party and state and restore capitalism in the USSR.

After the leadership of the Soviet party betrayed Marxism-Leninism in 1956, the banner of Marxism-Leninism was taken up by Mao Tsetung, who led the international communist movement's fight against modern revisionism. Mao Tsetung (1893-1976) distinguished himself as leader of

(Ed. note): The First International — the International Workingmen's Association (1864-1873) — was founded by Marx and Engels to unite revolutionary workers of different countries, to support strikes, to propagate Marxism and to found communist parties. It was dissolved after the failure of the Paris Commune. Engels himself participated in the founding of the Second International (in 1889), which brought together social-democratic (Marxist) parties of several European countries. But the Second International degenerated into an opportunist movement during the First World War (1914-1918). Most of the member parties supported their "own" imperialist bourgeoisie during the war. Lenin and the Bolsheviks therefore founded the Third International (1919-1943) in order to unite the real revolutionary forces, fight the revisionists and lead the new communist parties of all countries. The Third International was dissolved during the Second World War (1939-1945).

(Ed. note): See note page 16.

(Ed. note): Cf. pp. 127 to 129 of this guide. Mao Tsetung here explains why the Communist Party of China defends Stalin against the revisionists. As well, in On the Ten Great Relationships, Collected Works, Vol. V, Mao analyzes Stalin's contributions to Marxism-Leninism and concludes that, despite certain errors, for example in his evaluation of the Chinese revolution, Stalin must be considered a great Marxist.
the Chinese revolution, a revolution by 800 million men and women in the world's most populous country. His works like *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* synthesize the basic principles of Marxist philosophy and the materialist world view. In *On New Democracy* he explained the role of national liberation struggles in the world proletarian revolution and their transformation into socialist revolutions when led by a communist party. Lastly, he developed the theory of the continuation of the class struggle under socialism, showing that classes, class contradictions and class struggle continue to exist under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

These are but a few of the achievements of these great leaders and educators of the proletariat. On the basis of their contributions communist theory is called Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. That is why this study guide is made up solely of excerpts from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, even though millions of men and women have contributed to the international communist movement. Their works are the most clear, the most scientific, the most revolutionary; that is why we must study them first and foremost.

**THE CANADIAN COMMUNIST LEAGUE**

**(MARXIST-LENINIST)**

Today the League, founded in 1975, is the only organization in Canada that defends Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. It is taking up the revolutionary role and traditions of the "Communist" Party of Canada, which was once revolutionary, but degenerated into a revisionist party during the '50s. All other groups and organizations were either created with the express aim of disorganizing and destroying the communist movement in Canada, like the "CPCML", or degenerated into opportunist, revisionist and counter-revolutionary groups, like in Struggle. All of these opportunists claim to follow Marxism, but none of them apply it.

This has shown up in their practice; a sorry history of betrayal of principles and sabotage of working class struggles. Today all of them, whether they be Trotskyists or revisionists, in Struggle or the "CPCML", are united in their attacks on socialist China and Mao Tsetung Thought.

Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement. And without a communist party to lead it, the revolutionary movement cannot achieve socialism and the classless communist society. These are basic principles of Marxism-Leninism.

As the only organization defending the purity of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, only the League is capable of successfully waging the struggle to create the authentic communist party of the Canadian working class. For this reason we invite all conscious and determined workers and working people, both men and women, to read this study guide, to take part in League study groups, and to join the ranks of the League.

**STUDY GUIDE**

The study guide contains selections from the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, and is divided into 13 chapters organized around key themes like class struggle and proletarian revolution, political economy, the communist party, unions, imperialism and proletarian revolution, Marxist workstyle and others.

The study guide is designed to fulfill an urgent need: 1) to have a short summary, based on the classics, of the basic principles of scientific socialism; 2) to make these selections easily available to workers and revolutionary intellectuals, and 3) to have a single study plan for all study groups.
The manual has been designed for collective study in the League's study groups. This is where sympathizers can ask their questions and discuss the principles. They can also benefit from leadership given by the League’s comrades and from the help of other sympathizers working in the same place. Study groups help sympathizers develop their revolutionary practice and apply theory to practice. This is necessary since Marxism is assimilated, not in a vacuum, but through the experience of class struggle.

The organization of the study guide and the functioning of study groups have been designed to take into account the needs of factory workers, men and women involved in community work, small-scale producers, revolutionary intellectuals, and all working people. But the League’s priority is given to the proletariat because it is the most revolutionary class in our society and the leading class in the fight for socialism.

This priority is reflected in the study guide; for example, in the inclusion of the chapters on the unions, and it is reflected in the study groups themselves, which advance at the pace of the worker-sympathizers.

The study guide also encourages readers to read the classics from which the excerpts were taken. A study guide of selections can never replace the integral texts in which the ideas are more fully developed, which explain the historical background of the ideas and denounce the opportunist conceptions that oppose them. Integral texts, providing a more systematic understanding of Marxist ideas, are indispensable for all sympathizers. For example, there is much more to Engels’ Socialism: Utopian and Scientific than the selection on political economy included in Chapter Two of the study guide. The book also contains the Marxist point of view on the theory of socialism and philosophy.

In studying the selections in the study guide, readers should try to grasp the essential points in the text. They should stay faithful to the spirit of the texts and bring out the principles they contain. It is wrong and anti-Marxist to read texts in a rigid mechanical way, not taking into account the time, place and the historical conditions in which the texts were written. Marxism is not a dead, stagnant dogma; it is a living theory based on practice and must be constantly enriched through practice. Marxism is the guide for our revolutionary practice.

Thus, Lenin was able to develop the Marxist analysis in order to take into account its development into the monopoly stage and its transformation into imperialism. And it was by basing himself on the practice of the socialist revolution in China, and on the negative experience of the restoration of capitalism in the USSR, that Mao successfully pushed forward the Leninist theory of proletarian revolution and formulated the theory of the continuation of class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Lastly, we must combine the study of the fundamental line of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought with the study of the League’s political line. The League’s political line is the application of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought to the concrete situation of the Canadian revolution. This application enabled the League to correctly identify the principal contradiction in Canada as well as the other main contradictions, analyse the present international situation in the light of the theory of three worlds, and define our tasks in relation to the struggle to bring about the Canadian revolution and to help the world revolution.

This explains why the League was able to play a major role in the October 14, 1976 general strike, the support campaign for the millworkers’ battle, the PAC tour and in other instances. It also explains why the League was able to es-
establish close ties with communist parties of the international communist movement, including those of China, Kampuchea, and others the world over.

The need to deepen our understanding of the theoretical basis of our political line should motivate us to study Marxism, and this study should in turn confirm the correctness of the political line.

We are publishing this handbook for all the above reasons. We hope everyone will use it in order to assimilate the principles it presents and put them into practice. We welcome criticisms and comments regarding the selection of texts and the overall organization of the study guide so that we can improve it to meet the needs of the masses.

The study of Marxism is not made easy in our society. The bourgeoisie goes out of its way to stop the dissemination of communist ideas and to discourage workers from taking them up. The revisionists work hard at removing the revolutionary nature of Marxism and slandering Mao Tsetung Thought. Nevertheless, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought belongs to us because it is the synthesis of the revolutionary experience gained by the working class and peoples throughout the world. Its study and application guides us in the class struggle and shows us the way towards socialism and communism. Nothing can stop those who are willing to fight from assimilating and putting it to work.

LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT!

JOIN THE LEAGUE, FORGE OUR PARTY!

SOCIALISM, OUR ONLY ROAD! COMMUNISM, OUR FINAL GOAL!