

THE TENETS OF MARXISM-LENINISM

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Although the ideology espoused by the CPSU is officially known as *Marxism-Leninism*, the tenets of the ideology, as interpreted by the Soviets, are actually based upon the contributions of five historic figures.

GEORG HEGEL (1770-1831)

1. The universe is constantly undergoing a process of change whereby a concept (*thesis*) is negated or opposed by its opposite (*antithesis*). This conflict, in turn, produces a higher concept (*synthesis*).

2. Analysis of phenomena based upon this thesis-antithesis-synthesis process is known as the dialectical method.

KARL MARX (1818-1883)

3. The universe is solely material and devoid of Deity.

4. The laws of *dialectical materialism* explain the process of conflict and change (based upon the Hegelian dialectic) as it applies to physical objects or matter.

5. The laws of *historical materialism* explain the process of conflict and change (based upon the Hegelian dialectic) as it applies to the evolution of human societies. These laws can be summed up as follows:

A. Clashes between economic forces, or *classes*, are inevitable and occur whenever a *division of labor* exists between those who own the *means of production* and those who do not.

B. In this evolutionary process, the lower class triumphs over the ruling class as it grows in power to the point where it can wrest the means of production away from the ruling class. Whenever this occurs, a new social order supplants the old. (*Thesis* vs. *antithesis* produces *synthesis*.)

C. Human society goes through the following six stages:

Pre-Industrial

- *communalism* (hunter-gatherers vs. farmers)
- *slavery* (citizens vs. slaves)
- *feudalism* (landlords vs. serfs)

Industrial

- *capitalism* (*bourgeoisie* vs. *proletariat*)
- *socialism* (classless society—means of production held by the state)
- *communism* (classless, stateless society—means of production held in common ownership)

D. The true value of a product should be determined by the amount of labor that went into making it (Marx's Labor Theory of Value).

E. The difference between this labor value of a product and the wage the capitalist pays the worker to make it (which is less) is *surplus labor value* (Marx's *Theory of Surplus Labor Value*).

F. In capitalist societies, the bourgeoisie (which owns the means of production) immorally exploits the proletariat by accumulating this surplus labor value.

G. This process of *exploitation* plants the seeds that will ultimately destroy the capitalist system.

VLADIMIR I. LENIN (1870-1924)

6. Since the proletariat is often slow to act, the *party* must be its vanguard.

7. The party must be a tightly-centralized, conspiratorial organization comprised of dedicated, professional revolutionaries.

8. The purpose of the party is

A. To mobilize rank-and-file peasants, workers, and soldiers.

JOSEPH STALIN (1879-1953)

B. To relay information from the grass-roots level to the party leadership.

9. All party business must be conducted in accordance with the principle of *democratic centralism*, i.e., once a decision is made by the party leadership, the *cadres* carry it out without further dissent or debate.

10. The proletariat doesn't necessarily have to wait for the proper economic conditions (i.e. full industrialization) before seizing the state bureaucracy and the means of production.

11. Once the state bureaucracy and the means of production are seized, the party rules on behalf of the majority as a *dictatorship of the proletariat*.

12. Wars fought by capitalist states are unjust and imperialistic. Wars fought to defend or advance the cause of socialism are just and anti-imperialistic.

13. Systemic conflicts between capitalist and socialist states are inevitable. Ultimately, socialism will triumph.

LEON TROTSKY (1879-1940)

14. States with strong communal societies may be able to skip the *bourgeois democracy* stage of development and proceed directly to socialism.

15. *World revolution* is a must. Socialist states should vigorously support socialist revolutions in other states, for the ultimate survival of the USSR may depend upon the success of socialism internationally. (This is a point with which Stalin fundamentally disagreed.)

16. *Socialism in one country*. The party must continue to build socialism inside Russia regardless of how successful socialist revolutions are internationally. All resources are needed for this central task.

17. The rapid industrialization of the Soviet economy and the building of a powerful defense establishment must remain the top priorities.

18. The main threat to world peace is the continued *capitalist encirclement* of *Mother Russia* and its socialist allies by the *capitalist camp*.

19. Agriculture must be *collectivized*.

20. All property must be owned by the state.

21. The economy must be centrally controlled by the state and based upon *five-year planning cycles*.

22. Output must be determined by the state and not by demand.

23. The state must retain all profits (surplus value). These profits shall be reinvested as the state sees fit.

24. The party *apparatus* must supervise the state ministries and committees as a shadow government.

25. The party leadership is infallible.

26. The state will *wither away* only after the centralized economy has achieved for the Soviet people an unprecedented level of abundance.