

GEGEN DIE STRÖMUNG



Organ für den Aufbau der Revolutionären Kommunistischen Partei Deutschlands

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May Day: International day of struggle of the proletariat for communism

The destruction of capitalism: the "property question"

When Marx and Engels wrote the "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in 1848, at an early stage in the development of capitalism, this was essentially the communist program of struggle for the proletariat of all countries. At that time, the proletariat did not yet have a wealth of fighting experience. But even in this programmatic document, Marx and Engels analyzed and showed that all talk of "social change", social justice", etc. is useless, becomes or is already a fraud if the central importance of the "question of property" with all its consequences is ignored, covered up and ridiculed.

And today?

Without question, the situation today has changed qualitatively in many respects: Imperialism has expanded capitalism across the entire globe. Gigantic state apparatuses and bureaucracies have emerged in almost every country. The all-round preparations for war with enormously growing military apparatus have reached an unprecedented level. Local armed conflicts of all kinds have been on the agenda for decades. And the battle between the imperialist murderer states is no longer about billions, it is about trillions. It's about huge deposits of raw materials, the takeover of entire capitalist states by other capitalist states. In addition, an unprecedented mercenary system has emerged. Large parts of Africa are in the stranglehold of various mercenary troops. North Korean mercenaries are fighting against Ukraine. Mercenary groups paid for by Iran, Qatar and other states such as Hamas, Hezbollah etc. are trying to destroy the state of Israel. A worldwide counter-revolutionary anti-Jewish international is emerging. A plethora of small fascist groups accompany

increasingly openly reactionary governments, etc.

The situation in Germany?

Here, too, emancipatory or even anti-capitalist, revolutionary movements have largely dissolved. German imperialism is expanding German militarism and officially wants to possess atomic bombs. And German revanchism is striving to permanently install ever larger troop contingents, especially in Eastern Europe, under the guise of "aid". The "fatherland alliance" of the CDU, SPD and Greens, with the AFD - still - in the background, dominates public opinion. Domestic exploitation is intensifying. Deportation orgies and German nationalist agitation accompany the whole thing. Seen in this light, German imperialism is on the rise!

So there are more than enough current political tasks to fight against this overall development. Nevertheless, in a certain sense, thinking in the long term, it is, as in 1848, about fundamentals and basic questions, about capitalism. Beyond the necessary day-to-day politics, it is becoming increasingly important to recall basic communist

"Proletarian revolutions constantly criticize themselves. themselves." (Marx)

"Proletarian revolutions, on the contrary, [like those of the nineteenth century,] constantly criticize themselves, continually interrupt themselves in their own course, return to what they seem to have accomplished in order to begin it anew, mock grayly and profoundly the half-measures, weaknesses and wretchedness of their first attempts, They seem only to cast down their opponent so that he may suck new strength from the earth and rise up again more gigantically against them, always shrinking back anew from the indeterminate monstrosity of their own purposes, until the situation is created which makes any reversal impossible, and the circumstances themselves call: Hie Rhodus, hie salta! Here is the rose, here dance!" (Karl Marx: The Eighth Tenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, 1848, Marx-Engels-Werke Vol. 8, S. 118)

positions to return to them, to study and propagate scientific communism and to organize communistically.

The "property question" and the goal of destroying capitalism

The "Manifesto of the Communist Party" states that the first step of the proletarian revolution is

"is the elevation of the proletariat to the ruling class, the struggle for democracy.

The proletariat will use its political rule to gradually wrest all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the state, i.e. the proletariat organized as the ruling class, and to increase the mass of the forces of production as quickly as possible.

This can, of course, at first only happen by means of despotic interventions in the right of property and in the bourgeois relations of production." (Marx/Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party, Marx Engels Werke Vol. 4, S. 481)

The real goal, as Marx and Engels write, is and remains to solve the "property question".

Theoretical weapons in the struggle for the destruction of capitalism: Study the "Manifesto of the Communist Party" by Marx and Engels and "Das Kapital" by Karl Marx!

To fundamentally destroy the power of capitalism, even in its present form - that requires, without ifs and buts, expropriating the capitalists, eliminating private ownership of the means of production, thus eliminating the exploitation of the industrial proletariat and large sections of the working masses, thus preventing labor power from being bought and sold as a commodity.

Marx: No solution to the "property question" without violent revolution

The idea that this expropriation would be accepted peacefully or by vote in some parliament by the owners of the means of production, by the ruling class, is completely alien to life, a fundamentally false idea. The ruling class has a military, police, courts, a reactionary administration, a reactionary state apparatus. This will destroy every revolutionary movement by force and with all terror - if it succeeds.

Radically posing the question of property also means thinking further about how these necessary expropriations can be achieved. The counter-revolution has long since posed the question of armed revolutionary struggle.

Marx and Engels were absolutely clear that a "violent revolution" was necessary and that the process of destroying capitalism required "despotic interventions". These are interventions that can never be carried out with the "old" reactionary state apparatus with its entrenched anti-democratic structures. Conquering and using "political power", as Marx and Engels demanded, means building a new socialist state apparatus of one's own on the ruins of the old state apparatus that was smashed in the revolution.

Only the proletarian class, the class most radically interested in the destruction of capitalism, can do this.

"All previous movements were movements of minorities or in the interests of minorities. The proletarian movement is the independent movement of the immense majority in the interest of the immense majority. The proletariat, the lowest stratum of present society, cannot rise up, cannot rise up, without the whole superstructure of the strata that form official society being blown up." (MW 4, P. 472/473)

In supporting every "revolutionary movement against the existing social and political conditions"

the Communist Party emphasizes, as Marx and Engels put it,

"the question of property, whatever more or less developed form it may have assumed, as the fundamental question of the movement." (MW 4, P. 493)

"By tracing the most general phases of the development of the proletariat, we followed the more or less hidden civil war within the existing society up to the point where it breaks out into an open revolution and the proletariat establishes its rule through the violent overthrow of the bourgeoisie." (MW 4, P. 473)

The conclusion of the "Manifesto of the Communist Party" also became known worldwide. It begins by declaring that the Communist Party disdains "to conceal its views and intentions." The Communist Party declares

"openly that its purposes can only be achieved through the violent overthrow of all previous social order. Let the ruling classes tremble before a communist revolution." (MW 4, P. 493)

The proletariat, Marx and Engels continue, has nothing to lose in it but its chains, but "a world to gain." And so the "Manifesto of the Communist Party" ends with the call to the proletariat of all countries to "unite!" (MW 4, P. 493)

The "double breaking" of the communist revolution

A new socialist state as a transition to the complete destruction of capitalism can only be established, maintained and strengthened if the industrial proletariat, which is most radically interested in the destruction of capitalism and has the best organizational possibilities for firm union, organizes democratic freedoms for the great majority of the population at the head of the broadest possible alliance of the mass of other working people.

Only a democratic, socialist state apparatus is strong enough to carry out the expropriation of capital and crush all counter-revolutionary efforts. Democracy for all? No, there will be no democratic rights for capital and the counter-revolution; they will be violently and dictatorially persecuted and crushed. This is what the concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat", which Marx and Engels derived from the experiences of class struggles, implies.

a bureaucratic dictatorship of a new class that uses this power to exploit the proletariat again as the state owner of the means of production by means of the counter-revolutionarily transformed power.

The **economic** question of despotic intervention in property relations, the expropriation of capital, inevitably leads to these political questions, which need to be clarified precisely and which are only briefly touched on here.

But there is another factor that needs to be clarified. **The ideology of the ruling class.** This is deeply rooted, diverse and widespread and is one of the main factors in preventing or reversing a socialist revolution. Marx and Engels already saw this very clearly in the "Manifesto of the Communist Party". It states:

"The communist revolution is the most radical breaking with the traditional property relations; no wonder that in its course of development the most radical break is made with the traditional ideas. (MW 4, P. 481)

Without the struggle against capitalist ideology with all its reactionary variants, there can be no real progress in the **political** struggle either.

Unavoidable theoretical tasks

It is therefore not only on this first May that major theoretical tasks are on the agenda:

The dissemination and explanation of the basic positions of scientific communism must go hand in hand with a self-critical examination of the entire history of the proletarian liberation movement from 1848 to the present day, in order to really learn from the mistakes of the communist movement in particular and to really evaluate the important positive experiences.

In addition, there is the enormous task of analyzing and understanding today's reality in greater depth, of looking clearly beyond the German tel- eld to assess the growth of the international industrial proletariat. From a communist point of view, this requires tackling the enormous task of exposing the falsification of reality together with all truly communist forces in all countries, using communist views and methods, developing correct assessments in order to oppose all imperialist, all reactionary, all German nationalist, all pseudo-progressive forces in terms of content and organization through political struggle and political enlightenment.

Today, that means fighting "against the current"!