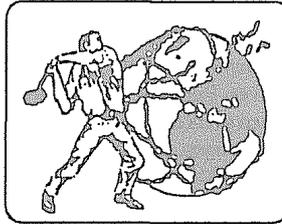


WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!
WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES, UNITE!

GEGEN DIE STROMUNG



Organ for the Building of the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany

October 1990

“National narrow-mindedness is everywhere repellent, but in Germany it is positively odious...”

(Marx/Engels “The German Ideology”, 1846, tome 3, pg. 497)

October 3, 1990: Is the annexation of the GDR and West Berlin complete?

The last word has not yet been spoken!

The West German bourgeoisie in triumph: October 3, 1990 is intended to put the seal on the complete legal and political annexation of the GDR and West Berlin. The final stroke is intended to be drawn under the “Post-War Era”.

West German imperialists are celebrating, since all the consequences of World War II which resulted from the unconditional surrender of Germany to the powers of the “Anti-Hitler Coalition”, are now finally intended to be undone.

The results of the so-called “2 + 4 Discussions” seem to prove them right. These four states have “forgotten and forgiven” everything. But the peoples of the world know and remember:

A new chapter in the blood-stained history of (West)German imperialism has begun.

Karl Marx's Call Is More Current Than Ever:

Fight the German Conditions!

“Fight the German conditions! Absolutely! They are *beneath the dignity of history*, they are *below all criticism*, but they remain the object of criticism, just as the criminal beneath the level of humanity remains the object of the *executioner*. In the fight against them critique in no passion of the head, it is the head of passion. It is no anatomical scalpel, it is a weapon. Its object is its *enemy*, whom it wishes not to refute, but to *destroy*.”

It is a question of not allowing the Germans even a single moment of self-deception and resignation. One must make the real pressure more pressing by adding to it the awareness of this pressure, make the shame more shamefully by making it public. One must portray every sphere of German society as *the shameful stain* of German society, one must compel these petrified conditions to dance by playing them your own melodies!”

(Karl Marx, “Critique of the Hegelian Philosophy of Law. Introduction.”, 1844, Works of Marx-Engels, Vol.1, pg.380/381, German edition)



SPOTLIGHT ON THE "GERMAN CONDITION" 1990: INCREASING NATIONALISM AND RACISM

■ the German Condition 1990, that means: desecration of Jewish cemeteries within just a few weeks of each other in Hechingen, Ihringen, Kusterdingen, Tübingen, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstadt and Hannover. Gravestones were overturned and destroyed, swastikas and other Nazi symbols were scribbled. In 1990 in the state of Baden-Württemberg alone, twelve Jewish cemeteries and memorials were desecrated.

■ the German Condition 1990, that means a sharpening of "Foreigner Laws", with drastic reduction of entry and residence permits, the later arrival of children and a wide-ranging prohibition on political activity.

■ the German Condition 1990, that means arson attacks on political asylum-seeker housing facilities and residence halls for foreigners, and assaults and murderous attacks by fascist skinheads on youths of foreign nationality.

■ the German Condition 1990, that means racist jokes and hate slogans in newspapers and in the regular hangouts, Nazi computer games in schoolyards with demands for the "gassing of Jews and Turks". State's attorney Ritter in Bavaria, responsible for "Foreign Resident Affairs and Political Asylum Procedures" remains unpunished when he maliciously agitates against "an approaching human flood" of "asylants", which he compares with a swarm of locusts, who "leave a desert behind them everywhere they go."

■ the German Condition 1990, that means the accommodation of "asylants" in inhuman barracks, in tents, in housing-containers and fenced in "collection camps"; that means the reduction or denial of medical treatment for illness. Social services in Bavaria are cut back because foreigners have no need "for participation in cultural life or relationships to their environment."

■ the German Condition 1990, that means large-scale raids against Roma and Sinti peoples, as in Cologne in April, when 1,200 police assaulted 150 Roma and, in a seven-hour action, searched their quarters and confiscated personal belongings as supposed "stolen property".

■ the German Condition 1990, that means daily deportation of political asylum applicants, as in the state of Baden-Württemberg alone: 882 asylum applicants in the first eight months of the year. Federal Border Troops were increasingly deployed in other countries (as in Nigeria, Ghana and Sudan) in order to prevent the arrival and application of political asylum seekers in the first place.

■ the German Condition 1990, that means a pogrom atmosphere, as in Lebach, where local politicians organized rallies of the local populace against a "Gypsy Camp", as it was deprecatingly called. Business persons in the area closed their stores to Roma as a protest and hung signs with the inscription "Retailers against Gypsy Camps".

Even these few selected examples give an idea of the shocking level that national-chauvinistic and racist incursions have already reached. Propagandists of West German imperialism spray their chauvinistic poison everywhere they can, in order to construct a supposed unity of interest between workers and their actual exploiters, both united against the "alienation" caused by foreigners. This chauvinism, arrogance towards other peoples, is a poison which makes any revolutionary development impossible!

It may be true that West German imperialists have to a great extent overcome the consequences of the historic defeat of World War II. When the peoples of the world were victorious over Nazi Germany 45 years ago, German imperialism, revanchism and militarism were to be eradicated forever. But they live and grow! West German imperialism has long since become again one of the strongest imperialist great powers, a deadly enemy of the peoples of the world. By swallowing

up the GDR, its power and dangerousness grows - and even more the risk of war which comes from it.

Today it stands as victor in world history, as the power which succeeded step by step in becoming ever stronger and stronger!

In spite of all that: the last word has not yet been spoken.

1. The swallowing whole of the GDR and West Berlin is not yet "digested".

Reality isn't by far as rosy and problem-free as the West German imperialists would have us believe. Firstly, the problems are becoming larger, not smaller. And neither is the complete annexation of the GDR and West Berlin already "successfully completed", "accomplished", or even "historic fact", as some pseudo-leftists, trotting behind West German imperialism, over-enthusiastically claim, in order to brush aside as illusory any struggle against the annexation from the word go and to deprecate it. They attempt to be even swifter than their imperialist masters.

On the contrary, the problems are just now beginning to become visible in their entire scope:

"For the next thousand years..."

As spoken by Helmut Kohl:

"And I hope for the next thousand years there'll never be a situation where one has to talk about such questions as the division of our Fatherland." (taz, 8/7/90)

A 1,000-year Germany is ever more openly boasted and threatened. Revealing for the success of the chauvinistic media campaign is that, in spite of the very apparent historic parallels which the Chancellor of West German imperialism uninhibitedly places before the world press, there are no noticeable protests in West Germany.

Rising unemployment, the increasing impoverishment of wide portions of the working population of the GDR and the thereby ever growing pressure on the working population of West Germany (especially West Berlin) will lead to outrage and protest actions and possibly to larger conflicts with the West German imperialistic state apparatus and its colonially-managed GDR underlings. Additionally, West German imperialism will be

met by a world-wide resistance of the people. Beyond that, West German imperialists will come into conflict with the interests of their imperialistic competitors.

Many female and male workers in the GDR, who, for different reasons, were initially for the "Currency Union" and "German Unification", say in the meantime that they didn't want it that way. West German imperialists can count on forces gathering in the GDR which go further and recognize, to put it simply, that it "wasn't a good idea at all"; that the possibility of an autonomous revolutionary development in the GDR in the direction of a true socialism was completely lost through the slogan "unified Germany", which led to the annexation onto West German imperialism. The horrifying haste of the takeover of the GDR does indeed have more reasons than just the old "Blitzkrieg" tactic of demoralizing people by overrunning them. This accelerated speed, with all its accompanying side-effects, is also an indication that West German imperialism fears, not incorrectly, that considerable resistance could still occur.

The instable, confused, to some extent civil war-like situation within the social-imperialist Soviet Union, the possible fall of Gorbachov, as well as the fact that several hundred thousand Soviet soldiers, many with their families, will be stationed in the GDR until 1994, all form an inflammatory mixture whose explosive force can't really be estimated.

In short: there won't be any clear situation for years to come. All of that is good reason to not simply swallow the "facts" created by West German imperialism.

Every progressive movement worthy of the name can be recognized in that it rejects "Unification" with West German imperialism without any ifs, ands or buts; they even lead the struggle against this unification. This movement will propagate and carry out the struggle for an autonomous development of the GDR - as a result of militant struggles in the GDR against the State apparatus of West German imperialism and its GDR subdepartments - by using all those questions, (and they haven't all already been clarified) without falling into the recent SED/PDS mould.

2. West German Imperialism is a giant with feet of clay!

The last word in the long view of things has not been spoken. The "blitzkrieg"-like successes of West German imperialism, its growing strength, expansion and arrogance are one side of the story.

The other side is the fact that West German imperialism in all its presumed "Power and Glory" is only a giant with feet of clay. For, as a result of increasing exploitation and oppression, the

worsening of living conditions of the working population and regularly appearing crises of the West German imperialism, the class struggles of the male and female workers will unavoidably sharpen and lead to an accumulation of the elements for an internal explosion. This development will be supported by the peoples of the world, enslaved and exploited by West German imperialism, who increasingly defend themselves against it and who will declare war against it. And finally, the shift of the international "balance of power" will lead to a furious war between the

imperialistic great powers over their spheres of influence and to a new division of the world through imperialistic wars. This signifies a weakening of West German imperialism which will ease the struggle against it by the proletariat in alliance with the enslaved peoples of West German imperialism.

It's especially necessary today, in view of the growth of power and the successes of West German imperialism, to become conscious of and to propagate this.

3. Declare war on West German imperialism!

In the struggle against Nazi Fascism, J. W. Stalin determined that which is still characteristic today for the German state apparatus and for the "nature of the Germans":

"Germans are punctual and precise in their operations, if the situation allows them to meet the requirements of their regulations. That is their strength. But Germans are helpless as soon as the situation becomes complicated and 'does not correspond' to this or that paragraph of the regulations, but rather requires an independent decision which isn't provided for in the regulations."

(Stalin, "Commands of the Supreme Comman-

der, 2/23/43", Werke Volume 14, pg. 306, German edition)

Let's make certain that West German imperialism finds itself in a situation in which it's servants are no longer aided by the "regulations"!

Our task is not only to confuse the time-table and regulations of West German imperialism as much as possible, but also to declare war on it, in small things as in large, in order to destroy it and to defend the ideas of socialism, the socialistic revolution, the dictatorship of the proletariat and communism, and to aid them to victory.

SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany) / PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism):

- Betrayers of Socialism for decades!
- Surrenderers to West German Imperialism!
- Fawning Reformers!

That which existed in the GDR over the last 30 years was no Socialism, but rather capitalism wrapped in socialistic phrases. The decisive responsibility for the betrayal of socialism, for the abandoning of the path in the direction of a true socialism after the model of the Soviet Union's Lenin and Stalin, is borne by the SED/PDS. It was this party finally, which in a cowardly manner, rendered the GDR "ready for delivery" to West German imperialism. It has recently attempted - equipped with the German "forgetfulness" for their criminal deeds - to present itself as "left", that is to say, a fawning reformist alternative to West German imperialistic parties. And their special danger lies precisely here:

There are signs that these revisionists, experienced in lying and fraud, find hide-outs in various "left" projects and continue their work of the "transformation of communism". Warnings against this can't be energetic enough: Revisionism is not in any form dead or bankrupt, it's just changing its form and face! Its fundamental forgery of the ideas of communism, the socialistic revolution, its ideas of the supposed "parliamentary path" to socialism, of "peaceful co-existence" with the exploiter class as a basic principle - all that's still the central target of the ideological struggle which Marxist-Leninists have to confront offensively.

Historical Causes of the German Condition

"We've shared the restoration of modern peoples, without having shared their revolution."
(Karl Marx, "Critique of the Hegelian Philosophy of Law. Introduction", 1844, Works of Marx-Engels, Vol. 1, pg. 379, German edition)

The West German revolutionary worker's movement must know, if it declares war against West German imperialism, which historical developments have contributed to the particularities of the "West German" Condition today.

Restorations, bloody counter-revolutions instead of victorious revolutions - that is in fact a characteristic difference from the history of other peoples, an unfortunately deeply-rooted trait of German history up to the present.

Even the Revolutionary Peasants' War of 1525 against feudalism - "the most radical fact in German history", as Engels noted - ended not in victory, but in overwhelming defeat and bloody massacres of the rebellious peasants. "Beaten, we moved on home, our grandchildren'll have to do better", sang the fleeing peasants.

But these words remained the slogan of many further generations. The Civil Revolution of 1848 also ended in defeat. The November Revolution of 1918 drowned in the blood of the workers. The growing revolutionary workers' movement was largely shattered by German imperialism in the form of the Nazi-Fascism of 1933 in the years thereafter. The victory of the peoples against Nazi-Fascism within Germany could not be accomplished by a fighting alliance of a revolutionary workers movement in an uprising against the Nazi executioners. The German monopoly-bourgeoi-

sie exerted an influence to a degree unknown in history till then, the era of the Nazi-Fascist genocidal crimes. An appeal of the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in June, 1945 stated the Co-Responsibility of the German People:

"All the more consciousness and shame must burn in every German citizen, for the German people carry a significant portion of shared guilt and co-responsibility for the war and its consequences."

The disintegration of the Anti-Hitler Coalition through the breaking of all agreements with the then-socialistic Soviet Union on the part of the American, English and French imperialists in alliance with the remnants of defeated German imperialism, the sabotage of the Peace Treaty, the militant anti-communism of the time - those are the reasons, formed in the context of Nazi aggression, for the division of Germany and the founding of two German states, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

West German imperialism developed again to an aggressive, sword-rattling, imperialistic large power, and the GDR also decayed over 30 years to a revisionist-capitalistic state, till it threw itself into the arms of West German imperialists.

The contracts and treaties of the past, the Potsdam Agreement, in which the justified conditions of the victorious powers over Nazi Germany were codified, or even the drafts for a Peace Treaty as a whole thus cannot serve today as a basis for political solutions for problems which arose as a consequence of the Second World War. They are however, important weapons in the struggle for historical truth, and many particular points in these documents impressively underline the comprehensive tasks of our struggle today on many fronts against West German imperialism, revanchism, and militarism (the recognition of the Oder-

Neiss Border, the recognition of Austrian autonomy, the recognition of the resettling of German populations from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union and the recognition of reparation payments, etc.)

West German imperialism is no newly arisen imperialism. In its core it's the same imperialism which set off the First World War; the same imperialism which in the Second World War executed the most despicable crime in world history until now in its industrially organized genocide. In its core, it's the same imperialism which has already twice proved it is capable, in a relatively brief time, of recuperating from economic, political and military defeats. In its core, it's the same imperialism that, even in the most predatory actions, could count on support from large portions of the populace because, among other reasons, a radical break of the working masses with the ruling classes in Germany was never accomplished.

This fact has moulded its militarism and revanchism, German militarism and German revanchism.



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Fotomontage von John Wasmuth

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