

THE PURPOSE OF THIS WEBSITE.

The question that beguiles revolutionaries is whether or not capitalism has a final insoluble crisis? This question is of course predicated by the fact that capitalism is a crisis ridden mode of production. This conclusion is not disputed. The capitalists themselves describe their system as lurching between boom and bust, though Gordon Brown, the British Chancellor at the time, arrogantly and foolishly declared that busts were a thing of the past.

The question is better posed in the following way, do successive crises require more severe counter-measures to restore economic growth. And here the answer is yes. The answer lies in the growth of the composition of capital as described by Marx. The progressive growth in the composition of capital describes the trend towards relatively more machines and relatively fewer workers. And this ratio grows the more capitalism develops. This preponderance of machinery means that the crisis of profitability requires an ever larger reduction or contraction in the mass of machinery, or more accurately, total means of production. This is either achieved by actual destruction of means of production and/or a diminution in any new additions to the means of production (a failure of investment). Furthermore because there are relatively fewer workers, these workers are forced to endure an exponential increase in their exploitation.

We can now pose the question in its concrete form. The more developed capitalism becomes, the deeper its economic crisis, the more severe its counter-measures. It is at this point that the question is no longer framed as one purely of economics. It now enters the realm of politics. Can society sustain the savagery of these counter-measures, or more precisely, will workers tolerate this escalated attack on their jobs, incomes and services? Clearly if there are no political consequences to these counter-measures, if the working class remains supine, then the capitalist may find the time and the space to restore their economy. This then describes the complexity of capitalist crises as both a political and economic phenomena.

However this analysis remains incomplete. All economic crises occur within a historical context and the current context is most unfavourable for capitalism. While it is clear capitalism is struggling to reproduce itself, it faces an additional three challenges. Each one, on its own would be severe, but added together and converging, they may prove fatal.

The first is global warming. At present humanity is the lucky recipient of a sun whose output is below the average. If the sun's output reverted to the mean, no one would be arguing about global warming because we would be using our energy to fan ourselves. Time is not on our side, and capitalism has proven itself to be pathetically, no ludicrously unable to reverse global warming.

The second is artificial intelligence. A recent EU study by Frey and Osborne predicts that over the next thirty years artificial intelligence will lead to unemployment rates exceeding 50%. It goes without saying, that it is impossible to maintain social stability when one in two people are unemployed.

The third is the rising international tensions between the declining super power and the ascending one. We refer of course to the looming conflict between the USA and China over the domination of the world economy. It is clear that the US Century is waning and that if history is a guide, any loss of economic hegemony has always resulted in war.

Capitalism is incontestably a gigantic economic system that has overcome many challenges and endured. Perhaps it will require an equally gigantic confluence of challenges to rob it of any legitimacy and to propel society into action. It may well be that it will take the combined failure of economy, a planetary challenge, mass unemployment and a fear of world war to finally tip the world into revolution. For that is what is required to revive the world economy, reverse global

warming, convert mass unemployment into a shorter working week and finally remove the threat of war and nuclear holocaust. Nothing short of the abolition of capitalism will suffice.

This is not speculation. The evidence is strongly presented. The only question is whether or not the international working class rises to this historical challenge. This cannot be predetermined. Should the working class fail, then society could be flung backwards not by years or even decades but by centuries. Never before has the alternative – “socialism or barbarism” - been posed more starkly and consequentially.

In entering this extreme political period we are faced with a dangerous disparity between the subjective and objective conditions. We need socialism more than ever and yet socialism is in disrepute, disgraced by the events in the USSR. As long as the USSR is upheld as an example of what happens when capitalism is abolished, the capitalists will continue to ridicule those who propose the socialist alternative to capitalism.

Like Marx before us, we recognise that the international working class must conquer capitalism intellectually first, before it can overthrow this mode of production. This was the purpose of Marx's later writings, particularly *Das Kapital*. He had to demonstrate that the contradictions that periodically drove capitalism into crisis, meant this inevitable mode of production was historically limited. Similarly today we have to analyse the USSR to discover what kind of economy it was, its contradictions and the reasons for its collapse.

That is why this website concentrates on analysing the USSR. We recognise that the memory of the USSR acts as a barrier to building a socialist movement. The USSR is used by the capitalists and their apologists to denounce those who would hoist the socialist banner, as being delusional.

By applying the method of inquiry developed by Marx we show that the USSR was neither capitalist nor socialist. We examine how the labour of the individual in the USSR became part of the labour of society in a manner that distinguished it from capitalism, and how the product of that labour became separated from individuals in a manner that distinguished it from socialism. As a result we are able to demonstrate how this exploitative socialised economy lost the advantageous of the profit motive without being able to adopt its replacement, an objective pricing mechanism that would have ensured efficiency and innovation.

We believe these insights to be major theoretical breakthroughs which answers the following troubling question; why the USSR could never put the economy into its economy and why it was doomed to implode. While serving as a riposte to the capitalist class, it also clears away the obstructive undergrowth impeding the renewal of our socialist movement. By showing that the USSR was neither capitalist nor socialist, the foundations for a renewed struggle for socialism are prepared. It forms part of the intellectual rearming of the working class which transforms it from being the victim of history to being the maker of history. It prepares workers for the tumultuous political storms that are upon us and on whose outcome, the fate of all we hold dear, for which we have sweated so hard, depends