THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IS THE OVERTURE TO THE SYMPHONY OF REVOLUTION

Whenever I travel to protests on a coach, I always seek out new people and ask them how they see change taking place. After hearing their version of change I always ask how they view the role of revolutionary theory in the process, as most omit this. They tend to be puzzled by the question.

I then use an analogy. I ask them to consider being a passenger on a jetliner. Then the captain's voice comes over the speakers. Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not know how to fly this plane, but I am reading the manual and as soon as I know how to taxi the plane, we will be heading for the runway. By the time we reach the runway I should know how to take-off. I then ask them what their reaction would be to these announcements. Predictably they answer they would head for the nearest emergency exit.

I then say, would you trust a party with little or no theory on how to change society. One that does not understand capitalism and therefore cannot offer an alternative to it or provide a guide to action. In other words, a party which cannot fly. They then tend to make the connection.

Revolutionary theory, its development and its importance is not recognised enough. In the context of a communist revolution this is fatal. Unlike capitalism which matured in the womb of feudalism emerging with its production relations sufficiently formed, communist relations of production cannot emerge within the womb of capitalism. Thus, whereas the capitalist class's purpose for being was already moulded by the emerging production relations, with their consciousness developing from **within** production, the knowledge and potential of a communist society must be brought to workers from **without**.

That is the point of revolutionary theory applied to material conditions, foremost of which is the reality that most of society today comprises workers who have an objective interest in change even if the subjective conditions for it have yet to catch up to the objective conditions. Theory cannot be backdated; it must begin with a fundamental understanding of contemporary capitalism with its mature contradictions. This involves demonstrating why capitalism tends to periodic crisis which end in wars using the contemporary example of the current US/China hegemonic struggle. How the forces and relations of production it unleashes collide with special reference to AI. Why capitalism's relationship with nature is toxic and increasingly polluted etc., etc.

In today's ideological climate that necessarily includes providing an understanding as to why the economy in the Soviet Union failed collapsing that society. The capitalist class portray the USSR as the only alternative to capitalism. They present the fate of the USSR as a lesson as to what happens when society abandons the market. The defeats of the organised working class in the 1980s and 1990s at the hand of Reagan and Thatcher was not merely a test of strength, it went deeper, it was an ideological defeat. Workers were demoralised because they were led to believe that actual socialism had failed and that capitalism was now unassailable.

This is why this site has been dedicated to a number of imperatives. First to develop Marx's methodologies to obtain a deeper insight into the workings of capitalism. This has included, inter-alia, providing the formula to distil the turnover of capital from the System of National Accounts, providing the formula for circulating capital using turnovers, and finally providing a more accurate rate of profit based on fixed and circulating capital. Armed with turnover everyone of the three vital formulas Marx provided now become useable, because turnover allows us to estimate variable capital for the first time; or s/**v** (the rate of surplus value) c/**v** (the composition of capital) and s/(c+**v**) the rate of profit.

In addition, this site has explained how profit drives investment. It explains Marx's profound, but cryptic observation found in Volume 3 of Das Kapital, as misunderstood as it is ignored. "*And if capital formation were to fall exclusively into the hands of a few existing big capitals, for whom the mass of profits outweighs the rate, the animating fire of production would be totally extinguished. It would die out."* (Page 368, Volume 3, Das Kapital Penguin edition) And yet, correctly interpreting this remark was the key to understanding why the profit motive in a market economy is productive while being counter-productive in a non-market economy as found in the USSR. The labour theory of value is part of the labour theory of everything, because the ticking heart of production is labour time. In the USSR it became the labour theory of waste.

Why is the rate, rather than the mass, crucial? The answer lies in the following contradiction market economies must overcome. Every unit of production consumes a fraction of the labour time of society. This labour time is divided into its paid and unpaid parts. When a capitalist firm invests in a labour-saving technique of production shedding workers, it follows that the firms fraction of the labour time of society reduces. All things being equal so too should the unpaid part.

Thus, the investment should be accompanied by falling profits. But the opposite happens, profits rise. Having reduced its costs and undercut the competition, the capitalist firm can colonise some of the profits of their competitors. What they lose in profit from their workers they more than gain in profits from the rest of their industry. As I write for worker intellectuals not academics, I try to provide aids to understand difficult to grasp hidden processes such as this one which can be viewed in my pamphlet in the form of a series of graphs. It is this unequal exchange favouring the investing firm, executed through the medium of money, resulting in additional profits, which makes capitalism dynamic by economising on labour time, the measure of all economic progress.

Now we can return to Marx's observation of what happens when the mass outweighs the rate causing the fire to go out. What Marx is saying is this, that when there are a few or even a single capitalist firm, exchange between firm's withers making unequal exchange near impossible. Under this condition, without the benefit of unequal exchange, all investments result in a fall in the mass of profits because this is now tied to their falling share of the labour time of society. There is no longer the transfer of profit from one capital to another which makes investment in labour saving techniques worthwhile. Investment or the fire in the capitalist boiler is thereby extinguished.

It was this observation which clued me into what had happened in the USSR when the Stalinist Bureaucracy introduced the profit motive to fire up their economy. But USSR was not a market economy, it was a command (planned) economy. Here the labour of the individual became part of the labour of society immediately by being planned, instead of indirectly, through being exchanged (sold) in the market first. As a result, it led to the opposite of what was intended. To maximise their profits enterprises could not exploit each other, they could only increase their profits by increasing their share of the labour time of society. Thus, costs went up, waste went up, inefficiency went up, instead of the economisation of labour time we had the duplication of labour time.

The result was the abandonment of the profit motive within 2 decades and with it the last real attempt to rescue the economy. Western capitalist professors shook their heads bemused by this irrationality. But the opposite was the case, it was rational, if enterprise managers reduced the labour time in their plants, their rouble share of the economy would decline, making it harder to pay state taxes and fill their wage fund.

Incidentally, we find the same phenomena in the West where cost-plus contracts are abused by contractors. Contractors inflate their costs to boost their profit margins at the expense of the taxpayer.

I use this example to underscore the importance of treating Marxism as an applied science, not simply a theoretical science. In this case I applied an observation Marx had made over fifty years before the first five-year plan in the USSR to the USSR itself. In doing so I deepened both our understanding of how capitalism works, and probably more importantly, how the USSR failed, events affecting many generations and countless millions of workers.

This site was set up with only one mission in mind by recognising that; unless workers conquer capitalism intellectually, they will be defeated over and over again by the arguments of the capitalist class. It is this ideological defeat not merely the physical defeat, which is decisive, decisive because if workers are defeated intellectually first, they will not be positioned to engage the capitalist class and their state physically.

This means understanding capitalism better than the capitalists and their apologists ever can. It means explaining the collapse of the USSR. And above all providing an understanding about how a communist society works, not as an abstract set of ideas, but founded on a synthesis of the lessons learnt from analysing capitalism and the USSR.

The present-day ideological struggle must not be underestimated. We always pose the question, is there a final crisis which will end capitalism. We are close to answering that question. Capitalism faces four primary crises, each adding to the other, making the sum greater than the parts, a sum presenting the greatest challenge to capitalism in its history. They are, the climate crisis, AI tearing the social fabric of society, the hegemonic struggle between the US and China provoked by the US, and finally, the growing impoverishment of successive generations of workers. All these crises now go by the name polycrisis which recognises their inter-connectiveness.

I have provided a route map to the theoretical breakthroughs and accomplishments found on the site. It can be found here. Below is a summary. I believe each one is essential to defending Marx's methodologies, explaining the capitalist economy and defending communism.

1. Solving the conundrum between embodied and reproduced values by showing how market values reflect the shift in the weight of production as new production displaces the older techniques of production.
2. The turnover formula.
3. The formula for circulating capital.
4. Distinguishing the degree of exploitation from the rate of surplus value by including turnover in the latter.
5. Demonstrating that it is only the rate of surplus value which correlates to the amount of profit produced.
6. Converting the rate of return into the rate of profit by including circulating capital.
7. Demonstrating that it is the deceleration in turnover which converts the relative fall in the rate of profit into the absolute fall at the end of the business cycle heralding recession.
8. By adding investment in circulating capital to fixed capital it can be shown that it is changes to investment, not changes to personal consumption, which causes demand to collapse.
9. Confirming that it is profit which drives investment and not the other way round.
10. Resolving the 'transformation problem' by splitting the stream of surplus value into two streams and providing a triple solution, without which the origin of price in value cannot be defended.
11. Proving that it is the success of capitalism which causes its crises in the form of the progressive increase in the productivity of labour, and hence if success breeds failure, that system needs to be replaced by an economy were raising the productivity of labour no longer breeds crises.

12. That the profit motive speeded up the collapse of the Soviet Union.
13. That prices in the USSR were fictitious designed for administrative ends, namely, to regulate the degree of exploitation of soviet workers and to finance the state budget.
14. That planning is impossible without accurate pricing and costing.
15. That in the absence of accurate cost accounting, waste becomes endemic and ultimately ruinous.
16. Instead of falling prices rewarding the collective effort as found in a true communist society, prices in the USSR actually rose breaking the bond between effort and reward.
17. That collective ownership only becomes real when we blend differing productivities through the price mechanism. That rewarding productivity on the income side through higher 'wages' leads to sectional behaviours which undermine the social good as happened in the USSR (Stakhanovism).
18. Revealing the true nature of planning by distinguishing planning around the common or social fund to meet collective need, and planning around individual wants.
19. That planning must be led from the consumption side in the form of consumer led planning.
20. That planners no longer decide **what** to produce but only **how** to produce.
21. Understanding how the expanding social fund becomes the escalator connecting the lower and higher forms of communism because as and when the social fund consumes the majority of production, production for need will dominate.

At that point production will no longer divide humanity ushering in the dawn of true human history.

These 21 points comprise much of the achievements of this website. I believe they answer many of the criticisms levelled at Marxism by the capitalists and their professors. They are our intellectual bullets designed to slay the arguments of our exploiters and oppressors without which the revolution cannot proceed.

Brian Green, 20th July 2026.