
Lenin

by John Keracher

Published in *The Proletarian* [Chicago], vol. 7, no. 2 (February 1924), pg. 8.

Nicolai Lenin was one of those great characters that historic conditions raised up. He was the greatest product of the Proletarian World Movement since Marx.

Just as Karl Marx was the greatest theoretician and philosopher of Proletarian Revolution, so Lenin was the greatest tactician of the actual living class struggle — the man of action.

His writings show beyond a doubt that as an interpreter of Marx and as an interpreter of social phenomena he stood out clearly ahead of all other Marxian thinkers. His scathing and unmerciful criticism of social patriotism and the leaders of the Second International portrayed him as the uncompromising opponent, not only of the capitalist order and its open defenders but all “socialist” apologizers and halfhearted defenders of the same.

Marxism with Lenin was not a dry formula. It was the intellectual equipment for the strategy of class warfare. Those who have taken the trouble to STUDY Lenin’s writings have it forcibly thrust home to them that he did not view the Revolution as a pitched battle, to be won or lost according to a prearranged plan, but as more or less protracted warfare in which defeats and victories, advances and retreats (militaristic and economic) were inevitable parts to be dealt with from the standpoint of actual existing conditions. He did not conceive of an abstract defense of the revolution. Fine phrases about liberty, justice, freedom of speech, and democracy were not his weapons. He knew that the Proletarian Revolution could only be defended by the armed Proletarian themselves — by a Red Army.

All things he viewed from a class standpoint. He realized that there were two concepts of Democracy — Bourgeois Democracy and Proletarian Democracy. The former he fought and the latter he upheld.

Lenin’s greatest work, which has left its stamp on the world movement, was his laying bare of the true character of the State.

Bourgeois writers say, “Lenin overthrew the Tsar,” “Lenin invented the Soviet State,” etc. What he actually did was to direct the Proletarian Revolution and function through the new state form that made its appearance, the historic function of which none understood as well as he.

A tireless fighter, an unyielding adherent to fundamental Marxian principles, a relentless enemy of World Imperialism, and a champion of all the down-trodden and exploited, Lenin is mourned by hundreds of millions of the world’s workers. It is questionable if any other man that ever lived made such a deep impress in world affairs, raised so much hatred from the money lords of Capitalism, and so much enthusiasm and hope in the breasts of the workers of all lands.

The death of Lenin is an immeasurable loss to the Russian Revolution and to the international movement of the working class. His passing should not be so much a cause for grief as his life and work should prove an example and source of inspiration to every true revolutionist.

Vladimir Ilich Ulianov (Nicolai Lenin) is not dead. He will live forever in the memory of the world’s toiling millions.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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