



Political Education Series

THE SOVIET SOCIALIST STATE



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BRIEF SUMMARY

1. WHAT IS THE SOVIET STATE?

The Soviet State Is a New Type of State

After overthrowing the rule of the landlords and capitalists in October 1917, the Russian proletariat destroyed the old bourgeois-landlord state and built a new type of state such as had not existed in history before, viz., the Soviet Socialist State of Workers and Peasants.

Lenin and Stalin, the organizers and leaders of the Soviet state, teach that the working people cannot build socialist society unless they smash the old bourgeois state machine and build up a Soviet state.

What is the state, and how did it arise? The state arose as a result of the division of society into antagonistic classes for the purpose of curbing the exploited majority in the interests of the exploiting minority. The state is the political organization of the ruling class, which uses it for the purpose of suppressing the resistance of its class enemies; it is an organization for the maintenance of the rule of one class over other classes. To achieve this, the state possesses such instruments of power as an army, the courts, a police force, etc.

Three types of exploiters' states are known in history, viz., the slaveowner state, the feudal state, and the bourgeois state. The slaveowner state kept the slave class in subjection for the benefit of the ruling, slaveowning class. The feudal state served to maintain the rule of the feudal landlords over their serfs. The bourgeois state is the organization by means of which the bourgeoisie keep the proletariat and all other working people in subjection.

To deceive the working people and to conceal the fact that their state is an exploiters' state, the bourgeoisie camouflage their dictatorship by means of elected parliamentary institutions and claim that it is democracy, i.e., government by the people. But there is no government by the people in bourgeois states, nor can there be. The actual rulers in all these bourgeois states are the big capitalist corporations-the trusts, big joint-stock companies, etc. In Great Britain where there is a king, in the United States where there is no king, and in Spain where fascism openly rules, all power is in the hands of the capitalists. V.I. Lenin said: "The forms of bourgeois states are extremely varied, but their essence is the same: all these states, whatever their form, in the final analysis are inevitably the *dictatorship of the bourgeoisie*."*

The Soviet socialist state differs fundamentally from all preceding states. All the states that have existed hitherto have been instruments in the hands of the exploiting classes for the oppression of the exploited classes. The Soviet socialist state is an instrument for the emancipation of the working people from exploitation and oppression. All the states that have existed hitherto have been the instruments of the unrestricted power (dictatorship of a handful of oppressors over the toiling majority in society. The Soviet socialist state is the instrument of the rule of the working people, i.e., of the overwhelming majority in society.

The object of the states that have existed hitherto has been to maintain and strengthen the system of exploitation and oppression. The object of the

* V.I. Lenin, *The State and Revolution*, Moscow 1951, p.58

Soviet socialist state is to eliminate all possibility of exploitation of man by man, to build a society in which there will be no classes and, therefore, no need for coercion of any kind.

The Soviet socialist state is needed for the purpose of completely destroying the exploiting capitalist system and of building the new, socialist society and protecting it from its enemies. The working class, the most advanced class in society, is the leader of all the working people. Its mission is to lead all the other working people into the struggle to abolish capitalism. The victory of Socialism cannot be achieved unless the struggle for it is led by the working class and its Party. The leading and directing force in the Soviet socialist state is the Communist Party.

After overthrowing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, the Russian proletariat, backed by the toiling peasants, for the first time in history, established the dictatorship of the proletariat. V.I. Lenin taught that, translated into simple language, the scientific term "dictatorship of the proletariat" means that "... only a definite class, namely, the urban workers and the factory, industrial workers in general, is able to lead the whole mass of the toilers and exploited in the struggle for the overthrow of the yoke of capital, in the process of this overthrow, in the struggle to maintain and consolidate the victory, in the work of creating the new, socialist social system, in the whole struggle for the complete abolition of classes. "*"

The Tasks of the Proletarian Dictatorship

When establishing the proletarian dictatorship, the working class of our country was aware that far from ceasing, the class struggle would become more acute after the rule of the exploiting classes was overthrown and would assume new forms. The deposed exploiting classes fiercely resist the establishment of the new order in the endeavour to recover their power and restore the bourgeois-landlord system. When the capitalists are overthrown in any country, the capitalists fight the victorious workers and peasants, and in this they are supported by the international bourgeoisie.

The task of the Soviet socialist state is to crush the resistance of the deposed exploiting classes at home, to safeguard the country from attack by foreign imperialists, to rally all the working people around the working class and to lead them into the struggle to build the new, socialist society.

J.V. Stalin said: "The revolution can vanquish the bourgeoisie, can overthrow its power, without the dictatorship of the proletariat. But the revolution will be unable to crush the resistance of the bourgeoisie, to maintain its victory and to push forward to the final victory of Socialism unless, at a certain stage in its development, it creates a special organ in the form of the dictatorship of the proletariat as its principal mainstay."*

Comrade Stalin points out that the proletarian dictatorship has three main tasks:

1. to break the resistance of the landlords and capitalists who have been overthrown and expropriated by the revolution, to liquidate every attempt on their part to restore the power of capital;

* V. I. Lenin, *Selected Works*, Two-Volume ed., Vol. II. Part 2, Moscow 1951, p. 223.

* J. Stalin, *The Foundations of Leninism*, Moscow 1950, p. 60.

2. to organize construction in such a way as to rally all the labouring people around the proletariat and to carry on this work along the lines of preparing for the liquidation, the abolition of classes;
3. to arm the revolution, to organize the army of the revolution to protect the Land or Soviets from outside enemies.

The working class, led by the Communist Party, carries out these tasks in close alliance with the broad masses of the toiling peasants. The proletarian dictatorship is the form of the alliance between the working class and the masses of the toiling peasants under the leadership of the working class. The alliance of the working class and the peasantry is the principal foundation of the Soviet state. That is why Lenin and Stalin so strongly urged the necessity of guarding the alliance of the workers and peasants like the apple of our eye, and of strengthening this alliance.

The Development of the Soviet Socialist State

In 1939, in his report to the Eighteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U. (B.), Comrade Stalin stated that since the October Revolution our socialist state had gone through two chief phases of development.

The first phase was the period from the October Revolution to the liquidation of the exploiting classes. The principal tasks of the Soviet state during this period were to suppress the resistance of the overthrown classes, to organize the defence of the country against the attack of the interventionists, to restore industry and agriculture, and to prepare the conditions for the elimination of the capitalist elements.

The second phase was the period from the elimination of the capitalist elements in town and country to the complete victory of the socialist economic system and the adoption of the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R. The principal tasks of the Soviet state during this period were to establish the socialist economic system all over the country and to eliminate the last remnants of the capitalist elements, to bring about the cultural revolution, and to form a thoroughly modern army for the defence of the country.

Comrade Stalin said that these changes caused corresponding changes in the functions of our socialist state. In the second phase of the Soviet state's development, the function of military suppression within the country ceased, died away, for exploitation had been abolished, there were no more exploiters left, and so there was no one to suppress. In place of this function of suppression the state acquired the function of protecting socialist property from thieves and pilferers of the property of the people. The function of armed defence of the country from attack by imperialists fully remained. Hence, the Armed Forces of the socialist state have been retained; and so also have the punitive organs and intelligence service which are indispensable for detection and punishment of the spies, wreckers and assassins sent into our country by bourgeois states. The functions of economic organization and cultural education by the state organs also remained and was developed to the full.

The main task of our state within the country is peaceful economic organization and cultural education. As for our Armed Forces, punitive organs and intelligence service, their edge is no longer turned within the country but without, against external enemies. When the peaceful, constructive labours of

our people were interrupted by the sudden attack of fascist Germany, the Party and the Soviet government rallied all the forces of the people to repulse the enemy and achieved complete victory over him.

The results achieved in the period of peaceful construction and the victory achieved in the Great Patriotic War, demonstrated to the whole world the superiority of the Soviet socialist state to any capitalist state and revealed how closely the Soviet system is bound up with the people, how devoted our people are to the Soviet system of government, which is government by the people in the true sense of the term.

After achieving victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Soviet state, guided by the Party of Lenin and Stalin, developed extensive activity in rehabilitating and further developing our national economy. The Soviet Government devotes constant attention to the promotion of science and culture and to the improvement of the welfare of the working people.

The Soviet state emerged from the war stronger than it was before and is now vigilantly guarding the interests of our country, it is staunchly and consistently combating the instigators of a new war and fighting for lasting democratic peace among the nations. It is ensuring the gradual transition of the Land of Soviets from Socialism to Communism.

2. SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS THE MOST DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies Are the Political Foundation of the U.S.S.R.

What is the new state organization with the aid of which the working class suppresses the resistance of the bourgeoisie and ensures the victory of Socialism? The answer is the Soviets. The Soviets are the political form of the proletarian dictatorship.

A few days after Soviet government was inaugurated, V.I. Lenin wrote: "Comrades, working people! Remember, *you yourselves* are now governing the state.... *Your* Soviets are now organs of state power, organs with full competence to decide all questions."^{*}

The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. states: "The political foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, which grew and became strong as a result of the overthrow of the power of the landlords and capitalists and the conquest of the dictatorship of the proletariat." The Soviets are organizations that have the most pronounced mass character and unite the workers, peasants and intellectuals of all the nationalities in our country.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies exercise full state power in every Soviet Socialist Republic and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a whole. The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. states: "All power in the U.S.S.R.

^{*} V.I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th Russ. ed., Vol. 26, p. 266. 12

belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies."

The Soviets are organs of government that stand closer to and are more intimate with the people than any other kind of organs of government. Concerning them Lenin wrote: "It is a power that is open to all, that does everything in the sight of the masses, that is accessible to the masses, that springs directly from the masses; it is the direct organ of the masses and of their will."*

Proudly, Soviet citizens say:

"In our country, we are the state!"

The Soviet system has roused millions of working people to political consciousness. All affairs in all spheres of state and economic activity are now administered by those who come from the people. The revolutionary energy and creative initiative of the masses of the people are an inexhaustible source of the strength and might of the Soviet state.

The Soviet government enjoys the complete confidence and love of the masses of the people. Innumerable threads bind the Soviets with all the people. The Soviet people have elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., to the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics and to the local Soviets 1,500,000 deputies: workers, peasants and intellectuals.

The Soviets unite the working people of different nationalities and races. They serve as a means for uniting the working people of all the nations in the U.S.S.R. The collaboration and friendship among these nations is a mighty source of strength of the Soviet multinational state.

Soviet government is truly government by the people; it is the most democratic and most authoritative form of government in the world. It enables all the working people in our country to take an active part in the administration of the state. It operates entirely for the benefit of the people.

In bourgeois countries the situation is different. There, power belongs to the capitalists, not to the working people. The capitalists determine who are to be in the government, who are to go into parliament, what state officials, from police officials to the president, are to be appointed or dismissed. The bourgeoisie try to make the working people believe that they are at liberty to elect any parliament they please and determine the composition of the government, but this is a falsehood from beginning to end.

In the United States, the entire political life of the country is controlled by a small group of capitalist monopolists and big bankers, headed by the Rockefeller, du Pont, Morgan, and similar families. The Morgan family alone controls a fortune of 30-35,000 million dollars. Big capitalists, bankers and stockbrokers occupy the most important posts in the state and get laws passed in the interest of the banks and monopolies and against the interests of the working people.

Comrade Stalin says: "Who does not know that there is not a single capitalist 'power' in which the Cabinet can be formed in opposition to the will of the big financial magnates? It is sufficient to exert financial pressure to cause Cabinet Ministers to fall from their posts as if they were stunned. This is real control exercised by the banks over the governments in spite of the alleged

* V.I. Lenin, Collected Works, 3rd Russ. ed., Vol. XXV. p. 440.

control by parliament.”*

The Great Rights of the Soviet Citizen

The Soviet form of government ensures for all the citizens of our country rights such as the working people in capitalist countries do not and cannot possess. These rights are guaranteed by the Fundamental Law of our country, the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

In contrast to the constitutions of bourgeois states, the Soviet Constitution not only proclaims the rights of citizens, but actually guarantees them. That is why, as Comrade Stalin says, the democracy of the Soviet Constitution is not “ordinary” democracy in general, but socialist democracy.

The Soviet state grants all the citizens of the U.S.S.R. the right to work and guarantees this right. This means that every citizen has the right to guaranteed employment and payment for his work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is a great gain for the Soviet people, a gain of which the working people in all capitalist countries can only dream. In these countries there is no right to work, nor can there be. In the capitalist world there are always armies of unemployed. The capitalists can discharge workers any time they please. The laws of bourgeois states do not grant the workers any right to work. Capitalist society is based on the right of rich parasites to live on the labour of others, and this right is protected by the Constitution and laws of the bourgeois states.

In our country, however, every man and woman is assured of work, because the national economy of the Soviet Union is conducted according to plan and is continuously growing, because there can be no economic crises in our country. The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. states: “The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.”

The Soviet state grants all citizens the right to rest and leisure. This right is guaranteed by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven and six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where conditions of work are particularly arduous. In addition to weekly rest days and established holidays, factory and office workers receive annual vacations with full pay. The working people have at their disposal rest homes, sanatoria, Palaces of Culture, recreation clubs, theatres, cinemas, libraries, reading rooms, parks and stadiums.

This is not and cannot be the case in bourgeois countries. The bourgeoisie are, not concerned about the workers getting a rest, or about improving their conditions of labour; they are concerned only about squeezing the utmost profit out of the workers’ labour.

The Soviet state grants its citizens the right to maintenance in old age, sickness, or disablement. It provides factory and office workers with free social insurance, and pays allowances and pensions in case of sickness or disablement. The state provides all citizens with free medical service. A wide

* J Stalin, Collected Works, Russ. ed., Vol. 10, pp. 100-101

network of health resorts are at the disposal of the working people. Kolhozniks receive maintenance in old age, sickness or disablement from their kolkhozes, in conformity with the Rules of the Agricultural Artel.

In bourgeois states the situation is entirely different. There, the workers must cure their sicknesses at their own expenses out of their meagre earnings. They have no free medical service, or rest homes and sanatoria.

A doctor who has lived in the United States for many years and who recently returned to Soviet Armenia relates the following: "There is no such thing as a state medical service anywhere in America, not to speak of the state where I lived. There, if a poor man falls sick he suffers great privation. In the town where I lived a stay in hospital costs as much as ten dollars a day, which is more than a poor man can afford. Even in emergency cases, medical treatment has to be paid for. Supposing a man slips in the street and breaks his leg. If he is taken to a hospital he has to pay for the time he is kept there. If he has no money his goods are distrained and sold by auction; if he is in receipt of a pension, that is distrained; if he is in work, deductions are made from his wages, and so forth. In one way or another, the hospital will get its dollars, and what becomes of the sufferer, nobody cares."

In capitalist countries, if a man is disabled he is at once discharged from work and it is no body's business to care for him. When old age comes, the man is put outside the factory gates; and in capitalist society old age comes early. It is common to see notices on factory gates in America stating: "Man over 40 need not apply." Peasants and poor farmers in capitalist countries live in constant fear for the morrow. In case of crop failure, sickness, or loss of cattle, the farm is ruined. No assistance can be obtained anywhere. In the capitalist states millions of peasants are ruined.

The Soviet state grants all its citizens the right to education. This right is guaranteed by the existence of a wide network of schools, technical schools and colleges, where instruction is given in the native languages. In our country we have free universal, compulsory seven-year education. The majority of students at universities and colleges receive state stipends. Industrial training is also free. In trade schools, factory apprenticeship schools, railway schools, special trade schools and military schools, not only is instruction free, but the pupils receive full maintenance free of charge, and those who live away from home are also provided with lodgings. Only in the three highest grades of secondary schools and in higher educational establishments is a small fee charged, but the main cost of instruction in these classes and higher educational establishments is borne by the Soviet state.

In bourgeois states it is mostly the children of the rich who receive education. In the United States several million children get no schooling at all. Among the adult population of the United States, 3,000,000 have never been to school, and 10,000,000 have received so little education that they are almost illiterate. The bourgeoisie in all countries are of the opinion that the people do not need education. The German fascists howled: "Education is poison for the people!"

In the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the Soviet Constitution grants all the citizens of the U.S.S.R.: a) freedom of speech; b) freedom of the press; c) freedom of assembly; d) freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These rights of Soviet citizens are guaranteed by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, newspapers, publishing houses, radio stations, public buildings and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

The Soviet state creates all possibility for the development of the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people. The Soviet Constitution guarantees all the citizens of the U.S.S.R. the right to unite in public organizations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, and cultural, technical and scientific societies. The most active and politically-conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). The Soviet state guarantees the citizens of the U.S.S.R. inviolability of the person, inviolability of their homes, and privacy of correspondence.

Women in the Soviet Union are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, governmental, cultural, political and other public activity.

In capitalist countries the status of women is inferior to that of men. They find it harder to obtain employment, education and high skill. When performing the same work as men they get less pay. In England, the pay of women is 50 to 65 per cent less than that of men in the same trade. In the United States, in manufacturing industry, women earn scarcely 60 per cent of what men earn.

In capitalist countries women's access to political and cultural activity is hindered. In no bourgeois state is there complete equality between women and men. The conditions of women are particularly hard in Eastern capitalist countries and in colonies, where even today women are sold as slaves.

In the Soviet Union this mean restriction of the rights and interests of women has been done away with. Women have equal rights with men in the matter of work, pay, vacations, social insurance and education. The state protects the interests of mothers and children, pays allowances to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers and grants expectant mothers maternity leave with full pay. In our country there is an extensive network of maternity homes, crèches and kindergartens.

Thanks to the care of the Party and the state, Soviet women have equal opportunities with men to display their abilities in all spheres of social life. Soviet women take an active part in the administration of the Soviet state and are active builders of communist society.

All citizens of the U.S.S.R., irrespective of their nationality or race, have equal rights in all spheres of economic, governmental, cultural and social-political life. The Stalin Constitution lays it down that any restriction of the rights of, or the establishment of any privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

The situation is different in capitalist countries. There, some nationalities enjoy privileges and rights, while other nationalities are restricted in every way. In capitalist countries race and national hatred is openly preached. The peoples of colonial and dependent countries are particularly oppressed. A small group of imperialist powers enslaves the majority of the population of the globe.

The Fundamental Duties of Soviet Citizens

In capitalist countries all the rights are enjoyed by the bourgeoisie, but all the duties are imposed upon the working people. The workers and peasants toil and moil, and the capitalists and landlords have the right to enjoy the fruits of their labour. It is not surprising, therefore, that the working people in capitalist countries try to evade the duties imposed upon them by the bourgeois exploiters' state, which passes laws alien to their interests.

Soviet citizens adopt an entirely different attitude towards their duties to the state. Under Soviet government the working people themselves determine the laws and they themselves obey them. Every duty imposed on the Soviet citizen serves his own vital interests. It is in the interest of all Soviet citizens to strengthen the Soviet socialist system and to pass from Socialism to Communism. To achieve this, every Soviet citizen must honestly perform all the duties imposed upon him by the Soviet Constitution.

What are the duties of the Soviet citizen?

First of all, strictly to abide by the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. and to observe the Soviet laws. The Stalin Constitution of the U.S.S.R. gives legal sanction to the new socialist order in our country.

Undeviating observance of the Stalin Constitution is an essential condition for promoting the prosperity and might of our country, and the welfare of her citizens. The Soviet laws express the will of the working people. They contain everything the representatives of the working people deem it necessary to carry out in the interests of the whole of Soviet society. Violation of the Soviet laws is inimical to the interests of Soviet socialist society.

One of the most important duties of the Soviet citizen is to maintain labour discipline. The more efficiently the workers and kolkhozniks perform their work the wealthier will our state, our society, be, and the higher will be the living standards of the workers and kolkhozniks themselves. Violation of labour discipline disturbs the normal operation of our factories and kolkhozes. It is the duty of every Soviet citizen to maintain labour discipline, to work honestly and conscientiously for the good of our country.

It is the duty of the Soviet citizen, and in his vital interest, to safeguard, fortify and increase public, socialist property, which is the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, the source of the wealth and might of our country, and the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people. It is their duty to be vigilant and to help the authorities to protect socialist property, to prevent the misappropriations of the people's wealth, to resolutely combat mismanagement and careless handling of public property.

It is the duty of the citizens of the U.S.S.R. honestly to perform their public duties and respect the rules of socialist intercourse. Honestly to perform public duties means being conscious of one's obligations to socialist society, doing all that is necessary and useful for strengthening socialist society, for the benefit of our Soviet Motherland. The Soviet citizen regards the public interest as having priority over individual interest and resolutely combats everything that may be inimical to socialist society. Soviet society demands that its members should render one another mutual, fraternal assistance, should strengthen friendship among the peoples, treat women as equal members of society, care

for children and the aged, respect human dignity, and be honest and truthful.

It is the sacred duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to defend our Socialist Motherland. The Soviet state has built up its Armed Forces, which are vigilantly guarding our country. Service in these forces is the honourable duty of the Soviet citizen. The Soviet Armed Forces are organized on the basis of the universal military service law. All male Soviet citizens, irrespective of nationality, race, religion, education, social origin and position must serve a term in the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet state demands of all Soviet citizens that they should stand up for the interests of the Soviet state no matter what the circumstances, or at what cost. Treason to our Motherland, violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state and espionage is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.

The Soviet Electoral System

Soviet democracy is clearly demonstrated by the electoral system in the U.S.S.R. All legislative and administrative bodies, from the village Soviets to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., are elected by the people on the basis of universal, equal, direct suffrage and secret ballot.

Universal suffrage means that all U.S.S.R. citizens of both sexes, irrespective of race or nationality, religion, or education, irrespective of whether they live permanently in one place or change their domicile, irrespective of their class origin or property status, have electoral rights. People serving in the Armed Forces have the same electoral rights as civilians. The right to vote in the election of deputies to legislative and administrative bodies is enjoyed by citizens of the U.S.S.R. of both sexes who have reached the age of eighteen. Every Soviet citizen who has reached the age of 23 is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Every Soviet citizen who has reached the age of 21 is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics. Every citizen who has reached the age of 18 is eligible for election to local Soviets.

Thus, the entire adult population of the U.S.S.R. have the right to take part in the election of the legislative and administrative bodies. The only exceptions, and quite natural ones, are the insane, and persons deprived of electoral rights by court of law (for the period indicated in the sentence).

Equal suffrage means that all citizens take part in elections on an equal footing: nobody enjoys any exceptional rights or privileges. Each citizen has one vote.

Direct suffrage means that citizens elect the deputies to all legislative and administrative bodies, from village and city Soviets up to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., not through electors, but by voting for the candidates direct, and every citizen has the right to vote in the election of all the legislative and administrative bodies.

Secret ballot means that nobody must know for which candidate the voter casts his vote. Votes are cast in secluded booths which nobody but the voter can enter. This system ensures complete freedom of voting.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and

societies, such as Communist Party organizations, trade unions of factory workers and office employees, cooperative organizations, youth, organizations and cultural societies. Candidates are nominated at general meetings of factory and office workers at factories and offices, by general meetings of peasants in kolkhozes, villages and volosts, by general meetings of sovkhos employees at the sovkhos, and, in the case of people serving in the Armed Forces, by meetings of the given units.

Thus, candidates are nominated by the people, and the people, through their representatives, take part in the organization and supervision of elections. For this purpose election committees are set up, consisting of representatives of public organizations.

In capitalist countries the situation is different. The constitutions and electoral laws in these countries are so drafted that many citizens are either completely deprived of electoral rights, or are greatly restricted in these rights. There are innumerable ways by which working people are prevented from taking part in elections and by which the election of candidates who will serve the bourgeoisie is ensured.

In some countries, and in some of the states in the United States, there is a poll tax, payment of which is a condition for exercising the right to vote. Many workers and peasants cannot afford to pay this tax and are therefore unable to vote. In such states only the well to do can take part in elections. Naturally, they vote for bourgeois candidates.

To have the right to vote for candidates for the Swedish Upper Chamber, citizens must possess property to the value of no less than 50,000 kronor, and must have possessed such property for at least three years. A similar property qualification is in force in many states in the United States. A certain American public figure, ridiculing this system, wrote: "Take a man who owns an ass worth sixty dollars. Today he goes to the poll with his ass and is allowed to cast his vote. Next day his ass dies. At the next election the man goes to the poll without his ass, but he is not allowed to vote. Tell me, now, who is the voter, the man or the ass?"

In the United States there is also a residential qualification: a man must have lived in the given state for a definite period, a year and in some cases longer. As a result of this, millions of agricultural and building workers, and also unemployed, who travel from place to place, are deprived of electoral rights.

In the election of bourgeois parliaments race and national restrictions are imposed. In the United States only 10 out of every 100 Negroes are entered in the voters' lists, and only one out of a hundred votes. In the British empire, the inhabitants of the colonies have no right to vote in the election of the British parliament. In many capitalist countries, women have no right to vote.

As a rule, young people are not allowed to take part in the election of bourgeois parliaments. In Sweden, the age qualification is 23; in Denmark and Holland it is 25. In the United States, only those who have reached the age of 30 are eligible for election to the Senate.

Many working people are not allowed to vote because they are not sufficiently educated (the so-called literacy test). In a number of states in the United States people who have not had a secondary education must pass an examination in English and in knowledge of the Constitution before they are

entered in the voters' list. In 1942, in seven Southern states, 10,890,000 persons were deprived of the vote, some for failing to pass the literacy test and others for failing to pay the poll tax.

The elections themselves take place differently in the U.S.S.R. and in the capitalist countries. Elections of Soviets of Working People's Deputies take place in our country in an atmosphere of tremendous political enthusiasm. They develop into demonstrations of the moral and political unity of Soviet society, of the solid support the Soviet people give the Communist Party and the Soviet Government; they develop into a nation-wide festival. During the election of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in March 1950, of the 111,000,000 voters, nearly all (99.98 per cent) went to the poll. The candidates jointly nominated by the Communists and non-Party people received 99.7 per cent of the total vote.

In no bourgeois country has there ever been such a huge poll in the election of legislative and administrative bodies, such unanimity as is displayed by the citizens of the U.S.S.R. During the parliamentary elections in Great Britain in 1945, only 75 per cent of the voters went to the poll. During the Congressional elections in the United States in 1948, less than half of the voters went to the poll. In capitalist countries, elections take place in an atmosphere of fierce class conflict, and the exploiting classes exercise pressure upon the voters.

To win a majority the bourgeois parties resort to every means in their power. They spend enormous sums of money on the election campaign. To get their servants elected the capitalists extensively resort to bribery, make the most lavish promises and even resort to intimidation and violence. Often, candidates of bourgeois parties obtain majorities by resorting to all sorts of shady tricks. For example, in Kansas City, in the United States, the district for which Truman, who subsequently became President, was elected, groups of fictitious voters drove in motor trucks from ward to ward and voted.

Sometimes, in spite of the furious opposition of the exploiters, the working people succeed in securing the election of their representatives—Communists—to bourgeois parliaments. The Communists utilize the floor of parliament for the purpose of exposing the bourgeois governments and the capitalist system, of defending the interests of the working people, and of rallying the working people against their oppressors.

An important manifestation of Soviet democracy is that deputies elected to Soviets are obliged to carry out the mandates of their constituents and to report to them on their work. Voters have the right to recall deputies who have failed to justify the confidence of the people and to eject others in their place. The deputy is the servant of the people.

In bourgeois countries voters have not this right. Once a candidate has been elected he cannot be recalled even if he has lost the confidence of his electors. Bourgeois deputies are not obliged to report to their constituents. As soon as they are elected they forget their election promises and in parliament obey the will of the bourgeoisie.

This comparison between the electoral systems in the U.S.S.R. and in capitalist countries clearly shows that the Soviet electoral system is the most democratic in the world. In no other country have citizens such electoral rights and such means of actually exercising them as are enjoyed by the citizens of

the Soviet Union.

Bourgeois Democracy Is Democracy for the Rich

The bourgeois newspapers and radio loudly proclaim that democracy flourishes in the capitalist countries; but the facts of life prove day after day that this is a lie.

The bourgeoisie asserts that freedom of the press exists in the capitalist countries. But how can there be freedom of the press when the printing plants, the paper factories, the newspapers and magazines and the publishing houses, belong to the capitalists? What freedom of the press can the working people enjoy when millions are needed to start a newspaper? No capitalist will allow articles or news that he considers undesirable to be published in his newspaper.

In the United States, as in all capitalist countries, the publication of newspapers is concentrated in the hands of a few big capitalist companies. They employ whole gangs of hired hacks. For the sake of money these venal journalists write the most outrageous lies about the Soviet Union, and about the revolutionary working-class movement. John Swinton, the editor of an American newspaper, once said that journalists have to distort the truth, to lie, to embellish, to slander and betray their people and their country for thirty pieces of silver.

Concerning bourgeois freedom of the press, Lenin said: "... *actually* it is *freedom for the rich* to buy and bribe the press, *freedom for the rich* to dope the people with the drug of bourgeois newspaper lies..."*

To achieve genuine freedom of the press for the working people, it is first of all necessary to make it impossible for capitalists to hire writers, to buy publishing houses and to bribe newspapers; and to do this, the political and economic rule of the bourgeoisie must be abolished.

Bourgeois constitutions proclaim the right of freedom of assembly for all citizens. But this too is freedom only for the rich who own the best public and private meeting halls, who have the time to go to meetings, and have their meetings protected by the state authorities. The masses, the overwhelming majority of the working people, have neither meeting halls, nor time, nor protection. On the contrary, meetings of working people are broken up by the police and by gangs hired by the bourgeoisie.

To be able to win genuine freedom of the press and genuine democracy for the working people, "it is necessary," as Lenin said, "first of all to take away from the exploiters all the public and luxurious private halls, it is necessary first of all to give the working people leisure, their freedom of assembly must be protected by the armed workers and not by young aristocrats and capitalist officers with browbeaten soldiers."**

Freedom in bourgeois countries is freedom for the rich to make profit out of the labour of the workers and peasants and freedom for the working people to starve. Comrade Stalin has said: "Real liberty can exist only where exploitation has been abolished, where there is no oppression of some by others, where there is no unemployment and poverty, where a man is not

* V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th Russ ed., Vol. 28, p. 348.

** Ibid, p.438

haunted by the fear of being tomorrow deprived of work, of home and of bread. Only in such a society is real, and not paper, personal and every other liberty possible.”*

The bourgeois hirelings assert that equality exists in the bourgeois countries. But what kind of equality can there be between the capitalists and workers, between landlords and peasants, between the well-fed and the hungry; when the former have wealth and political weight in society and the latter have neither one nor the other, when the former are exploiters and the latter are exploited?

The laws of bourgeois-democratic states ostensibly allow the working people to unite, for example, in trade unions. But the active trade unionists who stand up for the workers’ rights are discharged from work, are prosecuted, and so forth. When the workers go on strike against cruel exploitation, the bourgeois governments send armed forces against them who use tear gas, machine guns, armoured cars and even tanks.

The capitalist governments do all in their power to strangle the liberation movements of the workers and peasants. The bourgeoisie regard the very idea that the common people can govern themselves as an encroachment on their rights. The bourgeois governments hound and persecute the Communists, i.e., those who are fighting for the emancipation of the working people. The capitalists hire assassins to kill Communists. In July 1948, a foul attempt was made on the life of Comrade Palmira Togliatti, the leader of the working class and of all the working people in Italy, and on Comrade Tokuda, the leader of the Communist Party of Japan. In August 1950, fascist hirelings of the American imperialists, foully murdered Comrade Julian Liao, faithful son of the Belgian working class and Chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium.

Particularly infamous is the hounding and persecution of Communists and of all progressive people in the United States, where the bourgeoisie boast of their democracy. The United States government brought false charges against the leaders of the American Communist Party, put them on trial and sentenced ten of them to five and one to three years imprisonment. In May 1950, the reactionary United States authorities sent Eugene Dennis, the General Secretary of the American Communist Party, to the New York penitentiary in violation of judicial procedure. Scores of advanced representatives of the American democratic intelligentsia have also been thrown into prison.

In the United States there is a commission for the investigation of “anti-American activities” and also a commission to test the loyalty of state employees. It is enough for a state employee to have expressed dissatisfaction with reactionaries and warmongers, to have spoken in defence of democracy and peace, or to have expressed sympathy with the Soviet Union, to be dismissed at once without investigation, proclaimed an “agent of a foreign government,” to be persecuted and thrown into prison. In England the government is persecuting Communists and dismissing them from the civil service. In the British colonies Communists are arrested wholesale.

Meanwhile, bourgeois democracy allows the fascists full freedom to preach their pernicious views, to murder progressive leaders of the working-class movement, and to pave the way for the establishment of the fascist regime. The American and English capitalists support the fascist cutthroats in the

**Interview Between J. Stalin and Roy Howard*. March 1, 1936, Moscow 1936, pp.12-13

United States and in England. They patronize fascist Spain and have set up and support fascist regime in Greece, Yugoslavia, and other countries. They are resuscitating German and Japanese imperialism. Bourgeois democracy is paving the way for fascism.

Such is the nature of American, British and every other kind of bourgeois democracy. This is what freedom actually looks like in bourgeois countries.

Lenin wrote: "... the most democratic bourgeois republic is nothing more than a machine for the suppression of the working class by the bourgeois, of the masses of the working people by a handful of capitalists"* "... in the most democratic republics there is actually a reign of terror and bourgeois dictatorship, which manifest themselves openly every time it seems to the exploiters that the power of capital is shaking."**

Genuine democracy is possible only where there are no exploiters and where power belongs to the working people.

Through the mouth of one of the heroes of his novel *Mother*, Maxim Gorky said: "Russia will be the brightest democracy on earth." This dream of the great proletarian writer has come true. Our Soviet socialist country is the most democratic country in the world.

* V.I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, 4th Russ. Ed., Vol 28, p.436

** Ibid, p.439

3. THE ORGANS OF STATE POWER AND OF STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE U.S.S.R.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The Land of Soviets is administered by the best representatives of the people, elected by the working people. They are Soviet citizens, Party and non-Party, who have won the confidence of the working people by their state and public activities, by their devoted efforts in factory and field, by their achievements in science, technology and culture, and by their heroism in the struggle against the enemies of our Soviet Motherland.

The highest organ of state power in the U.S.S.R. is the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. In March 1900, 1,316 deputies were elected to this body. Of these, workers constitute 32 per cent, peasants 20 per cent, office workers and intellectuals 48 per cent. Among them are 280 women. A large group consists of members of the Armed Forces.

The composition of elected bodies in bourgeois-landlord countries is quite different. Of the 439 deputies in the tsarist Duma in 1912, 67 were peasants (mostly kulaks) and 11 were workers and artisans. All the rest were either landlords, capitalists, tsarist officials, bourgeois intellectuals or priests. The only genuine representatives of the working people in the Duma were five working men Bolsheviks, and these the tsarist government exiled to Siberia.

In the U.S.S.R., legislative power is exercised exclusively by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. This means that it alone has the right to pass laws in the Land of Soviets. In capitalist countries laws are passed by bodies in which power is exercised by the bourgeoisie. In those countries, the laws express the will of the ruling exploiting classes and are directed against the people. Soviet laws express the will of the working people. In the Land of Soviets, for the first time in history, the laws are not opposed to the people, but serve the people. The Soviet socialist state represents, expresses and protects the interests of the entire people.

The interests of the Soviet socialist state and the interests of the working people are one and indivisible. That is why observance of the laws of the Soviet state is an absolute condition for strengthening the Soviet state, for strengthening and developing the socialist system, and hence, is in the interest of Soviet citizens.

The Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. consists of two chambers. One is called the Soviet of the Union, the other is called the Soviet of Nationalities.

The question arises: why does the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. consist of two chambers and not of one? The answer is the following:

The fundamental interests of all citizens of the Soviet Union, irrespective of nationality or race, are the same and common to them all. All Soviet people are vitally interested in strengthening the economic and defence power of the Soviet Union, in steadily raising the material welfare and cultural standards of the working people, and in establishing lasting democratic peace among all

countries.

The common interests of all citizens, irrespective of their nationality, are represented in the highest organ of state power in the U.S.S.R. by the deputies in the Soviet of the Union. The Soviet of the Union is elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R., voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population.

But the Soviet Union is a multinational state. Our country is inhabited by about sixty nations, national groups and nationalities. In addition to interests common to all the citizens of the U.S.S.R., the citizens of the different nationalities have special interests arising from their specific national characteristics, such as language, economy, culture, mode of life, etc.

The special interests of each of the numerous peoples are represented in the highest organ of state power of the U.S.S.R. by the deputies in the Soviet of Nationalities. The Soviet of Nationalities is elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R., voting by Union and Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions, and National Areas. All the Union Republics elect an equal number of deputies irrespective of the number of inhabitants of the respective Republics. Such also is the principle of election of the deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities from the Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions and National Areas.

Bourgeois parliaments also have two chambers, called the Upper and Lower Chamber, or the House of Lords and House of Commons, Senate and House of Representatives, etc. But there is nothing in common between the Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the chambers of bourgeois parliaments.

In capitalist countries both chambers are organs of bourgeois power. The Upper Chamber enjoys special privileges not possessed by the Lower, and it is particularly difficult for the masses of the people to gain representation in it. In England, for example, the House of Lords consists of the higher nobility: princes, dukes, earls and barons, and also archbishops and bishops. They are not elected, but appointed by the king for life, and many of the seats are hereditary. All the bills passed by the House of Commons must also pass the House of Lords before they become law, and the latter has power to reject them. These Upper Chambers are the strongholds of the reactionary bourgeoisie.

Nothing like this can happen in the Soviet Union. In the U.S.S.R., both chambers represent the interests of the working people; both are elected on the basis of universal, equal, direct suffrage and secret ballot. The two Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. have equal powers.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. conducts its work during its periodical sessions. The everyday current work of administering the country is conducted by other higher organs of state, primarily by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., which is elected at a joint sitting of the two Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. It consists of a President, sixteen Vice-Presidents (in conformity with the number of Union Republics), a Secretary, and fifteen members.

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. now

in office is Deputy N. M. Shvernik.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is the highest permanently acting organ of state power in the Soviet Union; it is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and is accountable to it. It convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., appoints new elections of the Supreme Soviet, issues decrees, awards Orders and Medals and confers titles of honour of the U.S.S.R., appoints the high command of the Armed Forces, proclaims a state of war in the event of a military attack upon the U.S.S.R. or when it is necessary to fulfil international treaty obligations concerning mutual defence against aggression, orders general or partial mobilization, ratifies treaties of the U.S.S.R. with foreign states, appoints plenipotentiary representatives to foreign states, and so forth.

In capitalist countries there is no organ of state power analogous to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. There, one man is the head of the state—a king, or a President. He is not accountable to parliament, he stands above parliament, has the power to veto any measure adopted by parliament, and even to dissolve parliament. In the Soviet Union, not one man, but a collective body is at the head of the state, viz., the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., which, as Comrade Stalin has expressed it, is the collective President of the U.S.S.R.

The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. The Ministries

The highest executive and administrative organ of the state power in the Soviet Union is the Government of the U.S.S.R., called the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

The Council of Ministers is set up by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. at a joint sitting of the two chambers. It is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. In the intervals between sessions, the government is responsible and accountable to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The Council of Ministers consists of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Vice-Chairmen, Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and Chairmen of the Committees of the Council of Ministers which have the rights of Ministries. The present Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. is J. V. Stalin.

The Council of Ministers issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation and verifies their execution. It coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries of the U.S.S.R., adopts measures to carry out the national-economic plan and the state budget and to strengthen the credit and monetary system. It adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state and for safeguarding the rights of citizens, and exercises general guidance in the sphere of relations with foreign states. It directs the general organization of the Armed Forces of the country.

The Ministries are bodies that direct the various branches of state administration and of the national economy. They are divided into All-Union Ministries, Union Republican Ministries, and Republican Ministries.

The All-Union Ministries deal with matters that concern the U.S.S.R. as a

whole. They direct branches of the national economy that are of all-Union importance and call for central administration covering the whole territory of the Soviet Union. According to the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., such branches are certain sections of heavy industry (ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machine building, coal, oil and other industries); the transport services, communications; foreign trade. Take, for example, the railways, which link up all the Republics and Regions in our country; obviously, they need an All-Union Ministry to direct them. The same applies to other major branches of the national economy.

Union-Republican Ministries cover the whole of the Soviet Union as well as each Union Republic, and direct those branches of the national economy and of state administration of all-Union importance which are best directed from the centre through corresponding Ministries in the Union Republic. Such branches are: the food, timber and other industries, agriculture, internal trade, etc.

The Union-Republican Ministries have charge of the Armed Forces, relations with foreign states, state security, state control, finance, public health, etc.

Republican Ministries are such as cover only individual Union Republics. They are in charge of branches of the national economy and of state administration of Republic importance. According to the Constitutions of the Union Republics these branches are: local industries, municipal government, automobile transport, education, social maintenance, etc. Republican Ministries are subordinate to the Councils of Ministers of their respective Union Republics. The Autonomous Republics also have Ministries.

The Local Organs of State Power and State Administration

Every Union Republic has been divided into administrative areas which are registered in the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. When this division was planned, the economic and cultural conditions and the mode of life of the inhabitants were taken into account. The aim was to make an administrative division that would facilitate the planned direction of the national economy, improve the guidance of the local Soviet authorities, bring the administrative centres closer to the population, and enlist the services of the largest possible number of working people for the task of administering the country.

The administrative divisions in the various Republics differ, depending on local conditions.

The chain of local Soviets of Working People's Deputies is built up in conformity with the administrative divisions, and contains the following links: 1) Territory Soviets; 2) Regional Soviets; 3) Soviets of Autonomous Regions; 4) Area Soviets; 5) District Soviets; 6) City Soviets; 7) Rural Soviets (in Stanitsas, Villages, Hamlets, Kishlaks, Auls).

The Regional and Territory Soviets direct the work of the Soviets in the lower administrative units. All rural Soviets are directly subordinated to the District Soviets. Area Soviets have been set up to direct the work of groups of District Soviets when special circumstances demand it.

The Party and the Government attach first-rate importance to the activities of the local Soviets. This is natural, for it is the local Soviets that carry out the laws and decisions of the central

organs of state and have direct dealings with the people.

The local Soviets, from Territory to Rural Soviets, enjoy wide powers in the administration of the state. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies control the activities of the administrative bodies subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, the observation of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens. They also draw up the local budgets.

The chief functions of the local Soviets are to direct local economic and cultural development and to ensure the satisfaction of the diverse and ever-growing requirements of the working people in town and country.

The Party and the Government are constantly taking measures to strengthen the Soviets and to enlist the services of the broadest possible masses of the working people in the work of the Soviets. Maintenance of the closest contact between the Soviets and the workers, peasants and the intelligentsia, and the assistance the working people render the Soviets in all their political, economic and cultural work are a guarantee that the local Soviets will work successfully.

The Soviet Courts and Procurator's Office

Important organs of the Soviet socialist state are the Soviet courts and the Procurator's Office. In capitalist countries the courts are used against the working people. In the old days in Russia the people used to say: "Courts of justice are halls of injustice." "When a rich man goes to court he has nothing to worry about, when a poor man goes to court his very life is in doubt."

In the Soviet socialist state the courts serve the interests of the people. The Soviet state, which means the Soviet people, must have courts in order to combat the enemies of the state—spies, saboteurs and traitors; to strengthen the new, Soviet system, to protect socialist property, to maintain the new, socialist discipline of the working people.

The Soviet court is also needed for settling disputes that affect the rights and interests of Soviet citizens, state offices and enterprises, kolkhozes and other public organizations.

Soviet laws do not provide for degrading penalties as is the case in capitalist countries. In England, for example, flogging is still practised. The conditions in Soviet penitentiaries are such as to enable the culprit to atone for his crime by honest labour and after the expiring of the sentence to resume his place among the other Soviet citizens. In all bourgeois countries (except a few small ones) capital punishment is in force. In the Soviet Union capital punishment in peacetime has been abolished; it may be employed in exceptional cases against convicted traitors, spies and saboteurs.

In the Soviet Union, all citizens irrespective of race or nationality, social origin, religion, property or professional position, have equal rights before the courts. The highest judicial organ in the U.S.S.R. is the Supreme Court, which is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. The Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republics.

People's judges are elected by the citizens of the districts for a term of three years on the basis of universal, direct, equal suffrage and secret ballot. All Soviet citizens who have the right to vote and have reached the age of 23

are eligible for election as judges. In 1948-1949, the election of people's judges took place all over the Soviet Union.

Soviet courts are independent and are subject only to the law. No Soviet organ of state, neither local nor central, has a right to dictate to a court how a given case is to be settled. In deciding cases, our courts must be guided only by the Soviet laws, which express the will of the people.

The guardian of Soviet law is the Procurator's Office. Its function is to see that the Soviet laws are strictly observed by state departments, public officials and by the citizens of the U.S.S.R.

The Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R. is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Procurators of Republics, Territories and Regions, are appointed by the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R.

The chief function of the procurator is to see that the laws are properly and uniformly observed all over the country. Soviet law must be the same all over the Soviet Union. This is in the state and public interest, the interest of all working people, irrespective of the Republic or region they reside in.

To ensure the uniform observance of the law all over the Soviet Union Procurators must be independent of the local authorities. They are subordinate only to the higher Procurator's Office and are appointed by it.

In its work the Procurator's Office relies on the assistance of the Soviet public. Like the Soviet court, it is closely connected with the masses who regard it as the protector of their interests, the protector of the Soviet social and state system.

The Soviet Armed Forces

The Soviet state has its Armed Forces—land, naval and air. The Armed Forces of the U.S.S.R. protect the Soviet Union from attack by imperialists, protect the revolutionary gains of our people and the independence of our socialist state.

In the gigantic battles that were fought during the Civil War of 1918-1920 and during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, the Soviet Army successfully defended the freedom of the workers and peasants of our country from foreign and internal enemies, and today it is vigilantly guarding the peaceful labours and the socialist achievements of the Soviet people. Passing the test of stern battles and severe hardships with flying colours, it developed into a mighty fighting force that struck fear in the hearts of all oppressors and filled the hearts of all the oppressed with joy. The Soviet people supplied it with the most perfect and up-to-date equipment. In fierce battles and engagements the Soviet Armed Forces mastered the Stalin art of war and learned to strike the enemy unerring and crushing blows.

The Soviet Army's strength does not, however, lie only in its up-to-date equipment and its high skill in the art of war. The Soviet Army is a new type of army, differing radically from all armies in the world that have existed hitherto. Bourgeois armies serve the capitalists and landlords for the purpose of suppressing the working people at home; they are instruments for oppressing the workers and peasants and are the bulwark of capitalism. The Soviet Army is an instrument for maintaining the rule of the workers and peasants, an army for the liberation of the working people, a bulwark of Socialism.

Bourgeois armies are instruments for the oppression of nations. They are trained in the spirit of conquest and the subjugation of foreign nations. The Soviet Army stands for fraternity between the nations. in our country; it is an army that protects the freedom and independence of the nations in our country. It is permeated with the idea of friendship among nations and of protecting the freedom and independence of the Soviet Republics that form the Soviet Union.

Bourgeois armies are trained to hate other nations and other countries; they are trained to hate the workers and peasants of other countries. The Soviet Army is trained in the spirit of internationalism, it is trained to respect other nations, to love and respect the working people of all countries, to maintain and strengthen peace among countries.

It is these specific features of the Soviet Army that are the source of its strength and might. In capitalist countries the people fear the army; there is a barrier between the army and the people. In our country it is entirely different. As Comrade Stalin has said: "In our country, on the contrary, the people and the army constitute one whole, one family. Nowhere in the world do the people display such love and care for the army as they do in our country. In our country, the people love the army, respect it, and care for it."* This is why the Soviet Army has such a strong rear. The Soviet Army enjoys the immense support of the workers and peasants, of all the nationalities that inhabit our country. It enjoys the immense sympathy of the working people of all countries; it has innumerable friends in all countries in the world.

The capitalist states still persist in their attempts to hinder the building of Communism in our country. The Soviet people must be constantly on the alert, must strengthen the defence power of the Soviet Union, exert all efforts to strengthen our Armed Forces, and be always ready to repulse any enemy.

The Soviet Intelligence Service

The imperialists are not only preparing to make an armed attack upon the U.S.S.R. They smuggle into the Soviet Union spies and saboteurs in order by every means to sap its military-economic might. To achieve their base espionage purposes they try to recruit such unstable elements as they can find within our country.

The Soviet intelligence service and state security forces serve as the vigilant eyes of the Soviet state and its keen sword in the struggle against the imperialists. The Soviet intelligence service hunts out spies, saboteurs, wreckers and counterrevolutionaries and hands them over to the courts of justice.

The strength of the Soviet intelligence service lies in the high level of consciousness and vigilance of the citizens of the U.S.S.R. The Soviet people guard the interests of the socialist state and deem it their duty to help the intelligence service in its difficult and honourable task of safeguarding our Motherland from the designs of the imperialists.

The Soviet people must always be vigilant and strictly guard state secrets.

* J. Stalin, *Collected Works*, Russ. ed., Vol. 11, p. 23.

The Soviet state severely punishes those who deliberately or from carelessness reveal military and state secrets' to the enemy.

With the aid of the Soviet socialist state the working people of our country have succeeded in carrying out immense historic tasks: they have abolished capitalism in our country, have built socialist society, and have transformed the U.S.S.R. into a mighty, advanced power.

The Soviet state is the decisive instrument in the hands of the Communist Party and of the entire Soviet people for strengthening the socialist system and for the transition to Communism. That is why it is necessary to strengthen the Soviet socialist state to the utmost.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Soviet state arose as a result of the overthrow of the rule of the landlords and capitalists and the establishment of the rule of the working class.

Soviet rule is the political form of the proletarian dictatorship. Being the advanced class, the working class exercises state leadership of society.

The Soviet state is a new and higher type of state. The bourgeois state, of whatever form, represents the dictatorship, the unrestricted rule of the capitalists over the working class and over all working people.

The Soviet state was formed for the purpose of forcibly suppressing the deposed exploiting classes, of abolishing the exploitation of man by man, of building communist society and of protecting our Motherland from external enemies.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a socialist state of workers and peasants. The political foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the Soviets. They unite all the working people. They draw millions of people into the work of administering the state.

The Soviet socialist state is the most democratic state in the world. The citizens of the U.S.S.R. enjoy rights such as the working people in capitalist countries do not and cannot possess.

Bourgeois democracy is a means of deceiving the workers and peasants, of concealing the fact that the capitalist state is an exploiters' state. Bourgeois democracy paves the way for fascism.

The organs of Soviet state power, central and local, are built on a genuinely democratic basis and serve the people.

The Soviet socialist system and the interests of the people are guarded by the Soviet courts, by the Procurator's Office, by the Soviet Armed Forces, and by the Soviet intelligence service.

The Soviet state has been a most important instrument for abolishing capitalism and for building socialist society in the U.S.S.R. It is a most important instrument for strengthening the socialist system and for the gradual transition from Socialism to Communism.

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