

## Inaugural Issue Editorial

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The year 2024 finds the nations and peoples of the world more tightly interconnected than ever. We are collectively aghast at the horrors rained on Gaza. We wonder, with international tensions mounting and multiplying on so many fronts, whether we are in a Third World War. We are transfixed by mounting global temperatures that a world at war can only fail to address. This close interconnection seems to lead us farther away from the eternal peace that both ancients and moderns dreamt of. Do we despair? Not for a moment. Rejecting the utopian thinking that leads to despair, armed with dialectical, historical, and materialist, in short, Marxist, understanding, we face up to the existing reality and probe its contradictions. These contradictions, and our understanding of them, make us confident that we can undertake the urgent revolutionary social transformation through our collective efforts and achieve that just and peaceful, in short socialist, world. To advance this world historic effort, we proudly announce this new journal, *World Marxist Review*.

*World Marxist Review* will develop and elaborate Marxist theories to keep pace with real-world changes and apply them to the revolutionary transformation of the human condition on a world scale. From the end of the first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *World Marxist Review* will become and remain part of the great social struggles that lay the foundation for human emancipation.

In doing this, we are conscious of carrying on a mighty legacy. Being the exploitative and chaotic, unjust and anarchic social system that it is, imperialist capitalism has always faced resistance, in its homelands and, as it spread its tentacles world-wide, far beyond. The Haitian Revolution, the great Indian revolt of 1857, the Paris Commune, the Yihetuan movement (Boxer Rebellion), the list is long. Such resistance reached a major peak when, more than a hundred years ago, the Russian October Revolution led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin created the world's first socialist country and founded a new international Marxist movement to spread the practice of building socialism around the world, including in the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

*World Marxist Review* is being launched on the centenary of Lenin's death and is committed to carrying on the precious practical and theoretical legacies he left us. The legacy of his revolutionary practice insisted, against the reformism and Eurocentrism that crept into the Second International, that the struggle for socialism had to include anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggles for national liberation. His theoretical legacy extended Marxist theorizing to the new stages that capitalism and imperialism had reached and reckoned that they had put the world on the eve of worldwide socialist transformation.

How prescient Lenin and his fellow Marxists were was clear when the following decades witnessed socialism spreading to new countries while the capitalist countries became mired in their imperialist wars, the Great Depression and fascism. Indeed, only the maturation of the forces of resistance to capitalism, imperialism and fascism that Lenin had so ably led saved the world. During this period, the Soviet Union became a major industrial and military force and China emerged as a major anti-imperialist force. Without their decisive contribution fighting alongside the Allies, German, Italian and Japanese fascism could not have been defeated.

These struggles reached a second major culmination in 1949, when Chinese Marxists led by Mao Zedong founded the People's Republic of China, marking a new era in the development of world socialism as the influential US socialist magazine *Monthly Review*, launched the same year, recognized in its founding issue. In its first ever "Review of the Month", amid the escalating Cold War, the world-historical significance of the 1949 Chinese revolution, of China's forthcoming socialist construction and of its implications for the socialist transformation of humanity took center stage.

The struggle for socialism was never going to be easy or linear and, another four decades later, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, it faced its first major setbacks. The socialist states of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were overthrown by an alliance of antagonistic domestic and foreign forces. China, however, had already turned decisively towards introducing a socialist market economy in 1978. While an antagonistic alliance of domestic and foreign forces also sought to shunt China onto an anti-socialist path, China has kept the beacon of world socialism alight.

Little suspecting how brightly it would come to blaze in the coming decades, the triumphalism of the capitalist West in the early 1990s knew no bounds. Not only its monopoly capitalist press, but even its increasingly privatized mainstream scholarship proclaimed 'the end of history', with combination of capitalism and liberal democracy constituting its terminus. The only task that now remained was their 'globalization'.

However, within the decade, history returned with a vengeance. The 1999 anti-WTO protests on the streets of Seattle highlighted problems with the post-Cold

War imposition of neoliberal capitalist imperialism on the world spearheaded by neoliberal international institutions. Since it was launched in the 1970s/1980s, neoliberalism had not only failed to revive capitalist economies, but also reoriented them away from production and towards financialization and ever rising inequality. No wonder that, from its start, the neoliberal capitalist order has been marked by a rising crescendo of multiplying crises in all realms, from the financial and economic, through ecological and political, to diplomatic and military.

As these crises mount, as capitalism's contradictions mature and threaten both people and the planet, the struggle for socialism becomes ever more urgent. As we seek to advance that struggle, we must bear in mind what the past century has demonstrated: that a world ruled by imperialist capitalism can never be peacefully united. As Marx and Engels' 1848 *Communist Manifesto* showed, capitalism made human history a world history for the first time but did so in a brutal and chaotic fashion. As this brutality and chaos scale new heights on the threshold of the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we insist that the true unity of the world's people and peoples can only be achieved under socialism. The inherent contradictions of capitalism on a world scale constantly create and re-create the conditions for a socialist transformation of human civilization. With conscious theoretical analysis and revolutionary practice, we must base ourselves on these conditions and set the world on the path to socialism.

In this context, we launch *World Marxist Review* as a venue for academics and activists driven by truly revolutionary spirit and inspired by Marxist-oriented transformation of global human conditions in all walks of life and in all disciplines the world over. *World Marxist Review* will disseminate and discuss ideas in a frank and open fashion aiming to advance the mastery, innovation and application of Marxism in service of the emancipation of the world working class and humanity.

We invite submissions of manuscripts focusing on themes including but not limited to the following:

- Clarification of the authentic spirit of Marxism in its classical texts and in its revolutionary practices through research on the classical works, on the development of Marxism by Marxists in various countries and on theoretical contributions and practices of communist and working-class parties in various countries;
- Innovation and application of the working theories of Marxism in the context of changes in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries;
- Connection of Marxist principles to those of other intellectual traditions, whether of the ancient Axial Age or the modern bourgeois epoch that are critical of oppression and exploitation of all sorts, including those arising in the age of capitalism and imperialism;

- Elucidation of the historical-materialist laws of motion governing the evolution of human society as manifested concretely in the histories of various countries and civilizations;
- Analysis of major current affairs from the Marxist perspective that covers changes in the existing global capitalist system in one or more of its aspects—social or ecological, cultural or economic, legal or ideational, political or technical, domestic or foreign etc. and reveals the connections between current affairs and the innate contradictions of the workings of capitalism;
- Dialectical reflection on past experiences and lessons of Marxist parties and social movements drawing out their implications for the improvement of revolutionary practices in the future;
- Exploration of the conditions of socialist construction in China and other socialist countries, with their implications for the internationalist project of human emancipation;
- Examination of developments in key parts of the world, including but not limited to China, Russia, the US, European Union, Japan, BRICS countries, as well as their interactions with one another, with implications for the preservation of and challenge to the existing global imperialist capitalist order;
- Treatment of issues facing the international communist movement and world socialist development; and
- Assessment of the prospects of socialist transformation in developing countries and in advanced capitalist regions and their mutual influences.

In summary, the themes covered by this journal are broad and significant.

In launching *World Marxist Review*, we hope to become part of the intellectual forces fostering the humanity's ongoing struggles for emancipation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century following the truly revolutionary spirit of Marxism.

Marxists of the world, Unite! Let us work together to develop and dedicate our wisdom and power to the Marxist, socialist and communist cause!