

was defeated in the June war. Within this context the tools of Marxist analysis were employed. It was pointed out that the petty bourgeois regimes which had an interest in eliminating the big landlords and capitalists, have no interest in governing the country democratically, because democracy would endanger the new privileges they have acquired. Furthermore, these privileges render the petty bourgeois regimes incapable of carrying the fight against Israel to its ultimate end.

The basis of the above logic assumes that the military regimes in the Arab countries genuinely represent the interests of the petty bourgeois class. But the history of these regimes does not support this assumption. On the contrary, there is reason to believe that these regimes work against the interests of a large segment of the lower middle class. The analysis does not ignore this fact completely for in other places it drops this assumption and states that the military regimes represent the "mentality" of the petty bourgeoisie. The shift to Marxism is relatively new, and it is hard to judge its full impact now. However, two points are in order:

1. The shift is useful in the sense that it had done away with the old dogma. Developing a habit of free enquiry is a good thing in its own right. However, the danger of substituting one dogma for another cannot be completely disregarded.

2. The great shift from nationalism to Marxism within a short period might look very odd for an outsider. However, a closer look at the violent conditions prevailing in the