

the bourgeois-democratic boundaries of the Russian revolution, but we can vastly extend these boundaries, and within these boundaries we can and must fight for the interests of the proletariat, for its immediate needs and for conditions that will make it possible to prepare its forces for the future complete victory.» (V.I. Lenin, *Selected Works*, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1975, p.454).

The strategy and tactics of the communist movement formulated by Lenin, concerning the possibility and need for working class leadership in the bourgeois revolution, are no longer mere theoretical hypotheses. Rather they have been confirmed by many experiences in many countries, despite differences in the social and economic development and political conditions. The October Revolution led by the Bolsheviks is a classical model of the possibility of the working class and its communist party taking the leadership of the bourgeois revolution, after the bourgeoisie became incapable, in the conditions of imperialism, to lead this revolution to its final end. Moreover, the popular democratic revolutions that occurred in a number of East European countries were national liberation movements hostile to fascism. These revolutions, which were led by the working class and its parties, were also democratic, since their tasks were hostile to the pre-capitalist relations of production and the remnants of the Middle Ages. While implementing the necessary transformations in the bourgeois democratic framework more deeply and decisively, these revolutions began the transition to socialist transformation under the leadership of the working class.

The national democratic revolutions led by the working class in Asian countries (such as China, North Korea, Vietnam and later in Cambodia and Laos) against colonialism, imperialism and the feudal relations of production, took a course of economic and social development that prevented the growth of capitalist relations of production. Thus, they embarked on socialist development by creating the material and spiritual conditions, and the forces of production needed to

establish and advance socialist relations of production. For this reason, the potential of the working class for leading the national democratic revolution is not a mere theoretical hypothesis. On the contrary, it became a reality, a practical formula that finds different applications in many countries.

The revolutionary essence of the strategy and tactics of the democratic revolution has nothing in common with trends that aim to separate mechanically between the democratic and the socialist revolution.

The socioeconomic conditions that led to the impotence of the ruling Arab bourgeoisie in the national democratic revolution

Due to the weakness of the economic and social development in the Arab countries, and consequently of the working class, the national bourgeoisie assumed the leading role in the Arab national liberation movement. In the meantime, the working class participated in this movement to varying degrees. The bourgeoisie established their own states in most of the Arab countries, whereas the Zionist-imperialist invasion of Palestine placed tremendous obstacles in the path of the Palestinian liberation movement's endeavours to achieve national democratic revolution and an independent national state. The establishment of the aggressive, racist state of 'Israel' created a direct threat to the Arab national liberation movement and its national states in Syria and Egypt. Moreover, it became a factor in wearing down their material and human potentials and hindering their independent economic and social development.

Nonetheless, the petit and middle bourgeoisie that assumed the leadership of the national democratic revolution in some Arab countries, was able to throw off the political, economic and military fetters of colonialism and achieve a certain level of economic and social development. This included building national industry, implementing agrarian reform to varying degrees, and nationalizing some of the productive sector and foreign trade, thus establishing a public sector and improving the level of the working class and all the working people. These measures remained in the framework of capitalist development.

The socioeconomic changes that occurred in these Arab countries were enacted in an atmosphere of revoking democratic liberties. The regimes deliberately neglected the role of the popular masses, especially the working class. As a result, tremendous changes occurred in the social structure of these countries. These changes allowed for the rapid growth of bureaucratic, parasitic bourgeois strata, not to mention the traditional big bourgeoisie. This in turn hindered natural growth and prevented the achievement of the tasks of the national democratic revolution for which the Arab people had struggled, and which the bourgeoisie eventually renounced.

The socioeconomic policy of the ruling Arab bourgeoisie

Yemeni fighters, the spark of the revolution

