

International Socialist Forum

We come from various revolutionary socialist traditions, whose struggle for a communist leadership we see as the starting-point for future struggles. However, this does not mean we are satisfied with the theoretical framework within which that fight was conducted. The collapse of Stalinism as a dominant power in the world labour movement, opens the possibility of re-examining the whole of that framework, and that must be our most pressing task today.

The power of capital still oppresses and exploits the world. Its continued existence presents a still greater threat to the future of humanity. Its overthrow by the working class and its replacement with a communist, human way of living throughout the globe is more urgent than ever. Drawing on the history of revolutionary struggles, we must clarify its meaning in the light of the situation in the class struggle today.

Here are just a few of the questions whose answers are no longer as obvious we once imagined:

- a) What was the significance of the Russian revolution? Was it the start of the world socialist revolution? How should we understand the Chinese revolution of 1949?
- b) What is the relation between the revolt against imperialism in less-developed countries and the struggle for a socialist world?
- c) What form of political power does the working class require in its fight for socialism? Are the formulae "dictatorship of the proletariat" and "workers' state" adequate? What do they mean?
- d) In the light of the experience of the Third and Fourth Internationals, what kind of organisations are required by the working class? How are they related to the 'spontaneous' movement of the class?
- e) What is the relation between communism and trades unionism today?
- f) Is there something called "Marxist economics"? If it exists, what does it have to say today? If it does not, should it?
- g) What should revolutionaries think and do about eco-logical and environmental issues?
- h) What is the relation between communism and feminism?
- i) Is there a "Marxist philosophy"? If not, should there be?

These are some of the issues which must be clarified in the process of developing revolutionary leadership for the inter-national working class.