

# CACC

## NEWSLETTER

May 1997

### WHAT IS DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM? **WHAT IS DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM? PART III**

#### PART III

#### THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ATTACK THE USA

#### ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM IN RUSSIA

#### RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TIME BOMB

The Communist philosophy, known as Dialectical Materialism, can be likened to the theology of a church.

The Australian equivalent of Mikhail Gorbachev is Eric Aarons. He served as Secretary of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) for many years. He has now repudiated Communism, and his book, *What's Left?*, was published in 1993. In the introduction he writes:

"A political party is a bit like a church, and so it was with the Communist Party of Australia. Though now defunct, our Party had a distinctive world outlook embodied in a set of beliefs, doctrines and theories. As with Communist Parties throughout the world, the CPA felt that it was the agent of forces independent of and greater than itself—in its case, the forces of history. Like churches, communist parties protected, moulded, informed, inspired and sometimes coerced or punished their members. . . Communist parties were motivated by strongly held values and theories that sometimes became transformed into theologies. They had their own schisms and breakaway sects based on particular interpretations of the founding texts." (Pages IX and X)

### **Faith**

Dialectical Materialism is based upon faith. Two major articles of this faith are:

1. "There is nothing in the world except matter in motion." Hence the name "Materialism."
2. "Progress is inherent in being."

### **Materialism**

Communist theology is not agnostic; it is atheistic. It affirms categorically that God does not exist. Lenin insisted that atheism is an essential element of Marxism; of the theory and practice of Scientific Socialism.

Communist Atheism, however, does not prevent Communists from recognizing that existing religions are social forces to be harnessed and exploited.

### **Inevitable Progress**

Whence did the Communists derive the conviction that "being is progressive?" Aaron's explains it thus:

"The theory of evolution, which some thinkers linked with a theory of inevitable upward development, had also become widely accepted. All this coupled with Marx's humanistic values, influenced him in his investigations of society. He sought, and thought he had found, the law of motion of capitalist society which, 'with the inexorability of a law of nature' would give rise to higher forms of society, socialism, then communism." (Page 243)

The hideous history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with its two world wars, innumerable smaller wars, the holocaust, genocide, classicide, racism and corruption, exposes the absurdity of this delusion.

### **The Deification of History**

The Communists personified and deified history. They assume it has a will and a moral directive. Mikhail Gorbachev still clings to this personification of history as his answer to the question asked by Clark Bowers reveals:

"Mr Gorbachev, you made it quite clear in you book *Perestroika* that your solution for the

problems of the USSR was not to abandon the Marxist-Leninist course but rather to adapt it to modern times, and interpret it more accurately. Do you still, generally believe that the way for the world to perfect human nature is by eliminating the corrupting influence of the capitalist economic environment, or do you now disagree with what you wrote in *Perestroika*?"

Mikhail Gorbachev: "My general beliefs have not changed. Yet, in the past, the way in which those beliefs have been interpreted, applied to diverse cultures and forced along by man, instead of History, has been awful." (Page 463 *Beating the Unbeatable Foe*)

History is no longer a record of the activity of nature and humanity; it is a personality with a will and a moral code.

The ex-communist, Eric Aarons, debunks the doctrine that history is determined by impersonal forces when he writes:

"Had the famous Long March of the Chinese communists from southern China to the northwest failed, the course of history is likely to have been substantially different. With Mao Tse-tung as leader, they escaped imminent annihilation to set up a base in Shanhsi, from which they advanced to nationwide victory. On many occasions they could have fallen and no 'law' of history, economics, politics or anything else would have saved them. Yet, whatever one feels about the actual outcome, the success of the Long March and the accompanying consolidation of Mao's position had profound consequences—as would its failure have had. It is possible, though unconvincing to the point of absurdity, to assert that historical law would nevertheless have resulted in a later, equivalent triumph." (Page 247)

### **The Negation of the Negation**

Like most religions, Dialectical Materialism has an esoteric vocabulary in which the meaning of each term is known to a chosen few. Some of these words are—Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis, Negation, Contradiction, Progress, and, of course, Dialectical.

### **Negation**

Let us return to the analogy of the nail being driven into a block of wood as we consider the meaning of the term "negation." It does not mean cancellation or elimination, but transformation.

The hammer is brought down upon the head of the nail with considerable force. The wood "negates" the blow, but, in the process the nail moves forward slightly.

The resultant synthesis leads to the withdrawal of the hammer. At the appropriate moment the withdrawal is "negated" and transformed into the downward thrust. Again the hammer is negated, but, in the process, the position of the nail is advanced somewhat from where it was as a result of the previous negation. Thus, we have "The Negation of the Negation."

Progress proceeds by a series of "Negations of the Negation."

Mikhail Gorbachev, in his recently published *Memoirs*, describes Perestroika as a "Negation of the Negation." He writes:

". . . perestroika was both a result of our preceding development and a sort of 'negation of negation' phase, where we were beginning to free ourselves of what had become brakes to further progress. Thanks to the political and economic reforms, Socialism was being freed of distortions, returned to its sources and at the same time was reaching new and historic frontiers of renewal." *Memoirs*, page 250.

Since the attainment of Socialism is foreordained, a negation cannot be a defeat. It can only be a retreat.

### **Psychological Benefits**

The Benefits which the Communists receive from their faith in Dialectical Materialism are largely psychological. They include:

Enhanced self-esteem: Whatever the material circumstances may be, a Communist believes himself or

herself to be a member of an intellectual elite which is historically ordained to ultimately rule and remake mankind. As Joseph Stalin said in his speech on the death of Lenin, "We Communists are people of a special stuff, we are made from a special mold."

Deliverance from Despair: They do not experience the emotions of despair that accompany defeat. Each apparent defeat is merely a retreat. Victory lies ahead.

Moral Flexibility: They are free to practice all the techniques of hypocrisy, while feeling righteous and serene. Reversals of loyalty and betrayals of friends are not manifestations of hypocrisy, but evidence of devotion to a higher good.

## **THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ATTACK THE USA**

Guided by the conviction that "attack is the best form of defense," the Chinese Communists have launched a vicious, malicious, and slanderous attack upon the human rights record of the USA in their magazine, *Beijing Review*, March 17-23, 1997.

The logic used in the attack reminds me of a game we used to play as children. It went like this:

Question—Where did your grandfather die?

Answer—in bed.

Question—Where did your grandmother die?

Answer—in bed.

Question—Where did your uncle die?

Answer—in bed.

Response—"I am not going to bed anymore. It's too dangerous."

The article also reminds me of two sayings:

"Figures can't lie, but liars can figure."

"A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies." (Tennyson)

The article attacks America under the following headings:

Constitutional Protection Below International Standards;

Moneybag Democracy;

A Land of Terror;

Poverty, Hunger, and the Homeless;

Deep-Rooted Racial Discrimination;

The Deplorable State of Women and Children;

Human Rights Violations Against Other Nations.

Space does not permit a detailed rebuttal to each charge. Here are a few examples.

**Attacking the Constitution**: The following statement is made:

"While the right to equality is generally stipulated as a basic content and principle of human rights in the constitutions of various countries, the US Constitution adopted in 1787 and its amendment, the Bill of Rights, adopted in 1789, do not contain provisions concerning the right to equality. The word "equality" is not even found." (Page 12)

This statement in the Declaration of Independence is ignored:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

### **Moneybag Democracy**:

Under the heading "Moneybag Democracy," the Chinese Communists repeatedly stress:

"Political democracy in the United States has always been a game of the rich. . .

"American politics has increasingly become the politics of buying power through money. Political campaign expenses in the United States are funded mainly through donations from a few large financial groups or wealthy people. According to statistics, 70 percent of campaign donations come from big corporate donors. In the 1996 elections, both Democrats and the Republicans raised huge amounts of money by auctioning opportunities to win the president or congressmen. . .

"At a fund-raising party of the Democratic National Committee, those who donated US \$100,000 got dinner with the president and vice-president. Fund-raising parties of the Republican National Committee were just the same; those who donated US \$250,000 could personally present their view before some Senate or House committees and attend a luncheon with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole." (Page 14)

The hypocrisy of the Chinese Communists is revealed by their recent attempts to buy favors from the US authorities by illegally contributing large sums to the Democratic and Republican committees and leaders. Their conduct illustrates the tactic of the thief who tries to escape by calling "stop thief."

An uninformed reader of this article must conclude that the United States is a hell on earth. How then can we account for the indisputable fact that the United States is a magnet which attracts million of the poor of the earth to its shores. "Actions speak louder than words."

### **ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM IN RUSSIA**

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), and President of the Soviet Union (USSR), has written his Memoirs. They have been published in English by Doubleday.

He describes his ill-fated attempt to diminish the deadly consequences of alcohol and alcoholism in Russia, under the caption,

### **THE ANTI-ALCOHOL CAMPAIGN: A NOBLE CAUSE, A SAD END**

Here are selected statements:

"It is no secret that drunkenness has been a scourge in Russia since the Middle Ages. . .

"Alcoholism became an acute social problem that was shamefully hushed up for years. Drunkards were declared to be 'morally depraved,' while Soviet propaganda asserted that in a socialist society there were no objective factors that could give rise to this phenomenon.

"Meanwhile, the situation had become catastrophic. There were a million registered alcoholics alone. According to the Institute of Sociology of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the annual loss to the economy from drunkenness was an estimated 80 to 100 billion rubles. Life-expectancy was down, and the health of present and future generations was being undermined. . . The example of the leaders, who paid lavish tribute to the 'green snake' of alcohol, also has a bad effect.

### **Let's Have Fun**

"Society grew indifferent to drunkenness—it even became the subject of good-natured humor. The detention of drunks for fifteen days, their periods in drunk 'tanks,' and time spent sweeping the streets became popular story lines for jokes."

How similar to the situation in the USA. Drunkenness is "funny." This has always perplexed me. Alcoholism is a disease that causes extensive suffering and death. Comedians do not often joke about cancer or AIDS. Why then should they joke about alcoholism?

### **The Economic Advantages**

"Perhaps the saddest thing was that although there was a severe shortage of consumer goods, the authorities could not think of any way to maintain monetary circulation other than by selling alcohol to make people drunk. This sounds crazy, but it is the pure truth. The gap between the enormous money supply and the wretched supply of goods was filled with alcohol, and the manufacture of cheap wine that people call 'bormotukha' increased steadily."

### **Family Victims**

"There was strong public pressure on Party and government agencies, which were receiving a flood of letters, mainly

from wives and mothers. These letters cited frightening example of family tragedies, industrial accidents and crime due to drunkenness. Writers and doctors put their complaints in the darkest terms. Nevertheless, we did not impose a 'prohibition.' It was not even considered. . .

### **The Plan**

"The plan was to reduce alcohol sales gradually (I emphasize—gradually), as it was replaced by other good in circulation and sources of budget revenue. . .What happened?

"As is often the case, the idea and its implementation were miles apart—I would say that we were both realistic and responsible during the discussion and decision-making, but when the time came to carry out our decision we began to do things helter-skelter and to allow excesses, and thus we ruined a useful and good initiative. . .

### **The Outcome**

". . .Alas, the anti-alcohol campaign became one more sad example of how faith in the omnipotence of command methods, extremism and administrative zeal can ruin a good idea. Soon drink shops and wine and vodka bottlers began to close, and in a few places even vineyards fell under the axe. Production of light wine was curtailed, which was certainly not our intention. Expensive brewing equipment bought in Czechoslovakia rusted and became useless. Home brewing became widespread. Sugar vanished from the shelves. Then cheap eau de Cologne vanished from the shelves—to be consumed in place of alcohol. The use of all kinds of 'substitutes' resulted in an increase in illnesses. Thus stretched the sinister chain."

### **Positive and Negative Results**

"It would be wrong to say that the anti-alcohol measures were absolutely useless or caused only bad feelings. There were decreases in accidents, fatalities, lost working time, hooliganism and divorces due to drunkenness and alcoholism. . . However, the negative consequences of the anti-alcohol campaign greatly exceeded its positive aspects. . .

". . .We were genuinely committed to getting rid of this scourge, but, frightened by the negative results of our campaign, we went to the other extreme and dropped it altogether. Today the floodgates are open for a spate of drunkenness and look at the sad state we are in now! How much more difficult it will be to escape from today's predicament!" (Memoirs by Mikhail Gorbachev, pages 219-222)

The poet, Kipling, wrote:

"The Colonel's lady and Rosy O'Grady are sisters under the skin."

When it comes to alcohol and alcoholism, the Americans and Russians are brothers and sisters in indulgence and tragedy.

## **RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TIME BOMB**

The following article was published in the March 17-30 edition of the Socialist Magazine, *In These Times*:

"Nuclear crisis in the heart of a giant metropolis sounds like science fiction, but experts warn it could happen at a crumbling, cash-starved Moscow research center that bristles with atomic reactors.

"The Kurchatov Institute, a formerly secret scientific enclave wedged between apartment blocks in northwestern Moscow, was the birthplace of the Soviet Union's atomic-weapons program and a key center of nuclear experimentation for almost half a century. But a dramatic financial crunch, combined with plummeting morale among Kurchatov's 7,000 chronically unpaid workers, has turned the Institute's seven functioning nuclear reactors and several tone of ill-protected radioactive waste, into an ecological time bomb.

"'We are on the horns of a particularly terrible dilemma,' says Andrei Gagarinsky, Kurchatov's director of public relations. 'We can no longer afford to safely operate our nuclear reactors, but we have no money to shut them down properly either.' . . .

"The Institute's sprawling grounds are littered with trash, rusting equipment and unfinished construction. Buildings that house atomic material are unguarded, and employees often don't show up for work. One research worker, who asked not to be named, says safety standards have sharply declined and that not even the most vital maintenance work is still being performed on Kurchatov's nuclear equipment. She says workers are often asked to take their contaminated suits home and wash

them there, because the Institute can no longer afford laundry service.

"'Nuclear reactors require round-the-clock supervision, but how do you ask people who haven't been paid for four months to stay up all night?' says Gagarinsky. . . And the institute recently disclosed that some 60,000 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste left over from the Stalin-era atomic-bomb project was buried in decaying concrete containers on its grounds.' . . .

"About 10 million people live in the Moscow area, within a 30-kilometer radius of the Kurchatov Institute.

"'In principle, it is downright dangerous to locate nuclear reactors and store large amounts of radioactive material inside a large city, even in the best of conditions,' says Edward Gismatullin, a nuclear expert with Greenpeace Russia. 'But these are far from good conditions. The system of control at the Kurchatov Institute is unraveling. Skilled staff are leaving in droves, and those who remain are very unhappy. Unless something radical is done, and quickly, it is a very bad accident waiting to happen.'"