

substantially diminish their interest not merely in rehabilitating the ruling classes of war-torn Europe but in promoting all kinds of diplomatic as well as political penetrations of Eastern Europe with a view to curtailing the possibilities of the socialist countries there establishing a harmonious relationship with the Soviet Union and among themselves while building a socialist order.

With the triumph of the Chinese Revolution, it became imperative for U.S. finance capital in particular to exert the most acute pressure on the socialist countries, from Poland in the Western part of the socialist camp to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea in northeast Asia. There was no let-up in the ruthless campaign unleashed by the Pentagon, State Department, and the Truman administration. Aside from the domestic aspects of the rise of McCarthyism, its foreign policy aspect was an unbridled campaign to move militarily against both China and the USSR.

The revelation was recently made that even before the rise of McCarthy, none other than Churchill recommended the use of the atom bomb during the Berlin Crisis in 1948. This more than any single incident vividly demonstrates the terrifying pressure used against the socialist countries in order to bend them to the will of imperialism.

The period of the 1950s included a number of wars launched by imperialism, the two most important ones against socialist countries—one against Korea and the other against Viet Nam. There wasn't even an interval of two years for China to consolidate the victory of the Chinese Revolution before the PRC was obliged to commit a good part of its army in defense of Korea and its own borders.

In spite of the fact that French imperialism was defeated by the Vietnamese at Dien Bien Phu, and U.S. imperialism had been forced to a stalemate over Korea earlier, imperialism by no means diminished its worldwide counter-revolutionary efforts directed against all the socialist countries. The pressure against them has been constant, unrelenting, and unrelenting.

It has been of a military interventionist character, as we have seen in Viet Nam and Korea, in addition to the economic, diplomatic, and political pressure exerted against all the socialist countries. This has forced them all to divert an ever-larger portion of their gross national product for military defense. It has forced the Soviet Union

to become if not the equal, at least a near equal to the U.S. in military strength, a role which has been imposed upon them by imperialism.

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE AROSE IN RESPONSE TO IMPERIALIST PRESSURE

Thus if we are to ask ourselves what is the basic objective cause of the struggle in the socialist camp, and more particularly what is the cause of the struggle between China and the USSR, we must first of all look to the merciless pressures exerted by imperialism.

As a matter of fact, is it not true that the ideological struggle between the USSR and China has from the very beginning been over what approach to take to imperialism? That in sum and substance has been the axis on which the polemics have developed. There would never have been a question of a soft line or a hard line in relation to imperialism if imperialism had no longer existed after the Second World War and the victory of the Chinese Revolution.

Even in the case of Yugoslavia's virtual defection, at least in part, to imperialism, one must look to the exigencies of the Balkan situation as seen from the vantage point of U.S.-British piratical policy in the Mediterranean. One must not forget that a genuine revolutionary struggle for the liberation of Greece had been going on for several years and that Yugoslavia was the target of imperialism for aiding and assisting the Greek revolutionary liberation struggle. Yugoslavia was a channel for aid from all the socialist countries to Greece.

Without for the moment evaluating the character of the Soviet Union's policy in relation to Yugoslavia, the fundamental objective problem lay in the fact that Yugoslavia was in the front line of the struggle, in alliance with all the socialist countries. Because of its relation to the Greek revolutionary struggle, the significance of the Mediterranean, and also its potential revolutionary attraction to the Italian proletariat, Yugoslavia was targeted for the most intense and unrelenting imperialist pressure. Coming at a time of growing friction between Yugoslavia and the USSR over policy in the Balkans and in Eastern Europe, this contributed heavily if not mainly to what may be called the basic objective reason for Yugoslavia's ultimate defection from the socialist camp.