

EASTERN EUROPE:

AT THE CROSSROADS

While we celebrate the developing struggles in Eastern Europe, let's also keep in mind a few points:

- 1) The destruction of Stalinism is only a first step. Whether the new societies and economic systems that arise will be merely a reproduction of Western capitalism or a new kind of free, worker self-managed society will depend on the outcome of struggles which are only beginning.
- 2) Only working people organized in their own interests, allied with students, intellectuals, farmers, ecologists, feminists and other like-minded groups, can achieve truly free societies in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. Self-proclaimed leaders and aspiring rulers, like Walesa and co. in Poland, can only derail these movements into new forms of class rule.
- 3) Nationalism, ethnic and religious prejudice in Eastern Europe, as anywhere else, can only serve to weaken the struggles for freedom and put new masters in power. If the decline of Russian imperialism (which is hardly dead yet) is replaced merely by a group of little warring states, ready to be swallowed up by Western imperialism, then who has gained?
- 4) Any revolution that stops half-way, and leaves the basic structure of the old bureaucratic state in place, is as good as dead. If this were to happen in Eastern Europe, or if a new state bureaucracy were simply to replace the old one, it would be a tragedy parallel only to the tragedy of the Russian Revolution of 1917, when the Bolsheviks seized power away from the popular struggle and imposed their own dictatorship.

Now we don't mean to dampen anyone's enthusiasm for the movements going on in Eastern Europe today. But if these are societies at the crossroads, we must recognize both the possibilities and the risks. Knowing what we want means also knowing what we don't want.

For us in the Workers Solidarity Alliance, real freedom means a society without bosses, bureaucrats or rulers of any type. It means a society without classes or a state, without standing armies or false ideologies. Only a self-governed movement of working people, based on direct democracy and a fighting spirit, organized across political boundaries, can achieve this. If you agree, or just want to talk more about it, get in touch.



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W.S.A. is the U.S. section of the
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