

They have built up a real freedom of the press for the million-masses of the working population. The Soviet workers are proud that they have been the first to free the press from capitalist domination and devote it exclusively to the struggle against the enemies of the working class.

16. Have Foreign-Born Workers the Same Rights as Soviet Workers in the Soviet Union?

The disfranchised in the Soviet Union are former employers of labor, landlords, bankers, military officers in the czar's army, the former police, and those sentenced to long prison terms and for counter-revolutionary activities.

Foreign-born workers enjoy the same rights as Soviet workers. They, together with all workers in their factory, participate in the elections to the soviets. Their wives, who do not work, vote in the neighborhood of residence. Foreign-born workers become citizens if they wish to, immediately after they secure employment.²⁵

All national minorities in the Soviet Union receive very tangible assistance from the Soviet government in the development of their cultural, economic and social life. Their press, schools and all other institutions are conducted in their own language. There is no segregation in the Soviet Union. Color or creed is no obstacle for participation in any field of activity. There are no barriers to inter-racial marriages. The greatest struggle is conducted against any manifestation of white chauvinism or anti-Semitism.²⁶

17. Are There Churches in the Soviet Union?

There are churches in the Soviet Union, but the workers' state does not subsidize them.

In the Russia of the czars, the church was closely connected with the police and acted as a spy agency against all progressive and revolutionary movements. The distribution of official posts and revenue was shared in by the higher clergy. The church was financed by the State. The schools were ideologically dominated

by the church. Religion was the great spiritual oppressor of the vast masses. Religious deception of the working population was practiced on a large scale. There was no freedom in religious matters. In official documents everyone was obliged to attach some religion to his name. Religion preached the most reactionary ideas, as, for instance, defense of feudal exploitation by the landlords and by all other exploiters.

Under the Soviet government, economic slavery, the real source of spiritual oppression and religious deception, has been abolished. All ties of the church to the state have been severed. Complete freedom in regard to the individual's religion has been established. There is no discrimination whatever in the rights of citizens on religious grounds.

The Soviet government carries on educational activities exposing the fallacies of religious teachings. The ikons which were used before the October Revolution to extract the earnings of the workers (these were operated from behind by a mechanical device which made the saint in the picture shed tears), were taken out of the churches and placed in museums, where the workers may examine them.

The church building is not converted into an educational institution unless 80 per cent of the citizens living in the neighborhood of the given church vote in favor of such a proposition. However, on the initiative of the workers, many church buildings have been converted into day nurseries, workers' clubs, libraries, etc.

Economic necessity, fear of losing the support of the already small congregation, keeps many of the clergy from openly attacking the Soviet government in the churches. But secret organizations of the clergy in common with the kulaks were unearthed by the workers' state and the leaders were tried by a workers' court. These organizations had connections with the enemies of the Soviet government abroad. Their purpose was to try in every way to undermine the influence of the Soviet government among the working peasants and workers, by sabotage and wrecking of the agricultural and industrial life of the Soviet