



The objective basis for the split in the socialist camp lies in external pressure from imperialism; the internal struggle reflects that pressure in varying degrees and forms. This memorable photo from the U.S. war in Viet Nam is a reminder of how far the imperialists have gone in trying to destroy the socialist countries.

Why is it necessary to go into such detail to demonstrate the severe pressures exerted by the imperialists against the socialist countries? Is this not generally understood among all genuine socialists and communists?

No, not entirely. The differences in the socialist camp are regarded on the whole as stemming purely from internal causes.

Our view, on the contrary, holds that the objective basis for the split and struggle among the socialist countries lies in the external pressure from imperialism and that the internal struggle reflects that pressure in varying degrees and in different forms.

INTERNAL LEGACY FROM EARLIER SYSTEMS

This is not to say that all of the contradictions and antagonisms of both a social and political character are due altogether to the external pressure of imperialism. No. There is also a legacy left over by the previous social order. There are problems left over from both feudalism and capitalism which have been left unsolved.

Both in China and earlier in the USSR, as well as in Viet Nam, Korea, and other countries, the new socialist regimes have not only to solve socialist tasks but tasks that have not been solved by the previous ruling classes.

In a country like France, by contrast, the bourgeois revolution of 1789-1793 cut feudalism root and branch. It left for the proletariat the principal task of overthrowing the bourgeoisie.

However, the new underdeveloped socialist countries, which include China, Viet Nam, Korea, and earlier included the USSR, have the two-fold task of combatting bourgeois institutions as well as the more intractable older habits, customs, and institutions left as the legacy of the earlier social order. To this of course must be added the tendency of imperialism (to the extent that it finds an avenue for influence in these countries) to strengthen political reaction left over from the past as against the progressive tendencies emerging to reorganize society on a socialist basis.

In the period immediately following the death of Stalin an ideological dispute was slowly emerging which took definite but somewhat concealed form with the so-called secret Khrushchev Report at the 20th Congress. From then on it came more and more into the open, although there were brief periods of accommodation and general political agreement.