

development are from slavery to feudalism to capitalism to socialism.

Actually, the stages of social development are the various forms of manual productive energy (i.e., the bow and arrow, animal husbandry, agriculture, manufacturing) to mechanical energy to electronic energy. Feudalism or capitalism may have been the forms that these stages took, but under certain conditions the form was socialism.

What happened in the period of transformation from feudalism to capitalism? Localized manual labor provided the economic base for feudalism. Its political and social structure was a reflection of the subsistence economy that manual labor produced. The slow introduction of manufacturing meant the introduction of new tools and a new division of labor. These new productive forces led to surplus which created trade. Trade created the towns. The struggle between town and country (the bourgeoisie and the feudalists) for political power expressed the contradiction between the developing productive forces and the property relations that contained them.

It has been proven possible to skip political forms but not economic stages. Politics are in the category of

the subjective. Marx and Engels raise the question in the Preface to the Russian edition of the *Communist Manifesto* (1882) whether Russia could move from primitive communism to communism and thus skip several political stages.

Capitalism can be skipped as a form, but the content industrialization cannot. The historic task of industrialization was carried out under a bourgeois dictatorship in France and under a proletarian dictatorship in the Soviet Union. In Ethiopia capitalism was skipped; Mongolia's social structure went from pre-feudal to socialism. But every society has gone through manufacture and industry.

Could there have been a proletarian seizure of power during the struggle for reconstruction after the Civil War in the United States? The impulse was there and conditions were somewhat similar and more favorable than in Russia in 1917. There was talk of "putting the bottom rail on the top." There was no organization to do it. We didn't have a Lenin nor a Bolshevik party.

We should make a clear distinction between this epoch of revolution that Marx spoke of and the seizure of power by revolutionary communists during a political crisis.

The Soviet revolution occurred at