

LNSS

(65)

1) THE BACKGROUND

(A)

THE SIZE OF CHINA. 500 m people. Provinces as big & populous as most countries - e.g. Szechuan over 46 m; Hunan 27 m. Several m. populated points, ranging from villages of few households to cities with 6 m.

GREAT NO. NATIONALITIES, often intermingled. Sinkiang Province, area 7 times Britain, has 13 nationalities in pop of 3 1/2 m. No real census ever taken.

DEMOCRACY. Colonial, semi-colonial & feudal country. In all history (except for brief attempt at limited Parl in 1911) China knew only 3 forms of Govt: 1) Early feudalism, with pyramid form of feudal rulers up to Emperor. 2) Feudal-bureaucratic State headed by autocratic Emperor. 3) Open military dictatorship of imp-back warlords, chief of whom, Chiang.

ANCIENT CULTURE. Silk paintgs 400 BC. Achievements in all fields of art.

MOSTLY AGRICULTURAL. Estimated rural pop over 470 m, most of which is small peasantry. China worlds largest grain-producing country - in 52 produced 163,750,000 tons grain. Has annual yield of 50 to 60 m tons rice, more than third world rice output. Third among wheat-producing countries; provides 1/2 worlds total output of sorghum & millet. Yet from 1721 to 1949, China had to import grain, often faced with acute food situations. Famines regular occurrence, even while surplus in some areas.

GREAT RIVERS, GREAT FLOODS. Yellow River, 90 m live in its huge valley; Yangtze serves area of 200 m; Pearl River, 60 m in valley. Chinese have brilliant history in water conservancy & irrigation. Built systems 3,000 & more yrs ago. Tukiangyen Dam in Szechuan, major irrigation project of ancient China, built 250 B.C., & is still in use. YET cursed by terrible floods. & for fully 100 yrs rivers were used to exploit & impoverish people. Under unequal treaties,imps obtained right of inland navigation. Used rivers to penetrate deep into hinterland, dump foreign goods, carry off raw materials, intervene in China's affairs. Imp gunboats used to suppress rev. movements

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2) BACKGROUND OF REVOLUTION

CHANGES NOT EASILY WON. Long history of rev. struggle, among peasants, workers. Militancy of Chinese wkg class due to 3 reasons: 1) subjected to ruthless oppression by foreign imp, domestic feudalism & cap. 2) highly concentrated - although industries underdeveloped, concentrated in large enterprise. 3) although ind. wkrs in minority, number of prol & sem-prol large; if poor peasants included, more than 1/2 of pop.

1912, REPUBLIC SET UP. Middle class successful in drivg out last of Emperors, as 1st step towards liftg China from feudal darkness. Sought to do what English middle class did in 17th century, French at end of 18th. But weak. Republic broke down before powerful ambitions of generals, landowners, Chinese & foreign business & bankg interests entrenched in Shanghai & elsewhere. Imp powers garnered profits.

1919 student demo that set off big political strikes & upheavels. Sun iat-sen, president who became 'father' of C. Rev looked for allies, found them in S.U.

1924 Kuomintang held 1st nat. congress, put forward 3 principles. But after death, 1927 Chiang rallied all who feared rev. began long fight against rev.

STRUGGLED & FAILED. Mao says Chin rev extremely ruthless, intricate & circuitous one. (One reason why wkg class were steeled. Rich experiences.) 1949 described process of winng victory in these terms: "Struggled & failed, struggled & failed again; with experiences accumulated through 109 years, through hundres of major & minor struggles, be they military or political, economic or cultural, bloody or non-bloody, before the basic success as that of today is won."

3) IS REV. ONE OF COMMUNISM?

SUPERFICIAL REPORTERS like to say not like Russian rev, not followg same path, Ch version of 'com' is not com at all.

Truth is that CHINESE REV IS PART OF WRLD REV.

"Such a revolution (the Chinese) deals unrelenting blows to imperialism, & therefore is not permitted by imp but opposed by it. However, it is permitted by Soc & supported by the Soc. State & the soc international proletariat."

"In this world all imp is our enemy; if China wants independence she can never attain it apart from the aid of the Soc state & the intern. proletariat. That is to say, she cannot attain it apart from the assistance of the S.U..."

"As the struggle between the soc. S.U. & the imp powers becomes further intensified, it is inevitable that China must stand either on one side or the other side. Is it possible not to incline to either side? No, this is an illusion. All the countries in the world will be swept into one or the other of these 2 camps, & from now on 'neutrality' in the world comes merely a deceptive term."

"The world today is in a new era of rev. & wars, a new era when cap is definitely in decline & socialism is def. flourishing. Under such conditions is it not sheer raving as it were to desire to establish in China a cap. society under bourgeois dictatorship after first success in fighting imp and feudalism?"

never conceal our political stand. It is definite & beyond any doubt that our future or max. programme is to make China advance into the realm of Soc & Com. We have upheld these two objectives (struggle for the present new bourgeois-demo rev & for the future prol-soc rev) despite the emity, libel, slander & ridicule that are born out of the sheer ignorance & meanness of the enemies of Com. As to well-intentioned skeptics, we shall not attack them, but explain to them with good intent & much patience. All this is clear & definite. There is nothing ambiguous about it.

And finally: "The victory of the Chin peoples rev is the victory of Marxism-Leninism in a large country of nearly 500 m people. This is another great rev since the Great October Soc Rev. It is another type of great rev., occurring in a country oppressed by imp, since the Oct. Soc. Rev."

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4) THE TRANSITIONAL STAGE - HOW IT WORKS IN THE ECONOMY OF NEW CHINA.

DESCRIBED AS NEW HISTORICAL PERIOD - period of gradual transition to Soc. Slow process. Aim to bring about Soc industrialisation of country & soc transformation by the state of its agriculture, handicraft prod., private industry & commerce.

FIVE SECTORS IN CHINA'S ECONOMY: 1) State-owned economy 2) Co-operative economy 3) Individual economy of peasants & handicraftsmen 4) Private cap economy & 5) State-Cap economy. State-owned sector plays leadg role, ensures development, & is main basis for gradual transition. Consists of enterprises owned by State. Law provides that all enterprises relating to economic life of country & exercising a dominant influence over the peoples' livelihood shall be under unified operation of state & directly managed by state organs concerned. This sector is Soc in nature inasmuch as state-owned enterprises belong to peoples' state & are thus common property of entire body of people (compare with nat. in Britain.)

- labour-power no longer plays role of a commodity, wkrs no longer exploited
- operated not for profit but to expand production to satisfy peoples' needs
- production & distribution of output not determined by spontaneous influence of market, but controlled by unified state planning.

2) Coop economy is of semi-soc nature, receives preferential treatment, serves as bridge between state-owned & privately owned economy.

3) Individual economy so far as numbers of people involved is concerned, represents very big relative strength. State encourages & assists handicraftsmen in voluntary development of coop enterprises (peasants - more later)

4) Private industry & commerce, state policy is to utilise their positive activities & restrict their negative activities; & gradually lead them on selective basis to state-cap, so that they can pass over to soc when conditions are ready.

FIVE YEAR PLAN. In 4 years from 49, nat economy rehabilitated, & in 53 embarked on 1st 5-yr plan

4a. POLITICAL BASIS

Durg this transitional period, new dem based on peoples' united front: "The Chinese Peoples' Democratic Dictatorship is the state power of the people's democratic united front which is composed of the Chinese wkg class, peasantry, petty bourgeoisie, national bourgeoisie & other patriotic demo elements, based on the alliance of wkrs & peasants & led by the wkg class."

How do national bourgeoisie participate in peoples' State? Many reps of Chin bourg. on many occasns, took part in struggles against imp. feud & big cap.

Durg transition various forms private ownership of means of prod will be transformed either into collective or state ownership

4b. AGRICULTURE

LAND REFORM HAS PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN CHINA'S TRANSFORMATION.

Feudal landlords. Taxes, poverty. LR most important single change. 1st step towards liftg Chin people out of age-long sufferg, opp, poverty, ignorance.

NOT COLLECTIVISATION: Aim was 1) to wipe out feudal exploitation  
2) to develop agricultural production

BY: relying on poor peasants & farm labourers (70%)  
uniting with middle peasants (20%)  
neutralising rich peasants.

Rich peasants retained land. Landlords given same share as peasants.

LAND REFORM FIERCE CLASS STRUGGLE. 300,000 teams each yr went to organise it.

Each village carried out own land reform programme, as part of lesson in democracy, to learn to stand on own political feet. End to landlord exploitation meant landlords political power reduced.

But mere decree does not end ingrained feudal subservience, give peasants confidence, teach them how to run village, solve political problems, or put their feet on path of learning how to control state.

Peasants Unions, land reform cadres, 'speaking bitterness' meetgs (when peasants for 1st time gained courage & confidence to express public opinions) were all immense lessons in democracy. In few months new men & women born, new elected village & district councils really were peoples own chosen gvts - those who had won esteem in land reform.

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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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