

Contribution to Lenin 100 Conference

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First of all, let me salute you all. It is unbearable for me to know that we are now meeting without Alexander Vladimirovitch Buzgalin. Usually, he called himself a Marxist, but he was a Leninist at the same time, of course.

This year, 2024, is the centenary of the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. In fact, the entire century since the victory of the Great October of 1917 has passed under the sign of V. I. Lenin and Leninism and at the same time in a bitter struggle against them by the forces of global reaction. Very often, these commemorations are intended to awaken the memory of certain personalities of the past who, although they have left their mark on history, have long since lost their relevance to the present. Such a fate befell many famous heroes of that time; the Tsarist nobles, civil servants, Duma party leaders and even the entire cabinet of ministers of the Provisional Government of post-imperial Russia; many of V. I. Lenin's contemporaries, but not himself.

After the temporary retreat of the system of socialism around the world and the victory of the counter-revolutionary Black October 1993 in Russia itself, there was not a day that went by when all the reactionary offshoots, from clueless liberal-fundamentalists to outright neo-Nazis who joined them on the basis of anti-communism, did not try to overturn Lenin's ideological and political legacy and

even uproot any mention of him. From the toponymy of Russian localities to his historic burial in the heart of the Russian capital. Over the past thirty years, dozens of adventurers and political passers-by have made and continue to make dubious names for themselves in the ostentatious “fight” against the world-famous Lenin Mausoleum.

At the same time, the works of Lenin and Marx still rank first in the world among translated literature.

In Russia, in 1991, there were around 7,000 monuments to Lenin, today approximately 6,000 remain. The Russian people have not succumbed to the mad wave of decommunization that Yeltsin and Yeltsinists tried to initiate. Monuments have been preserved in almost every capital city of regions in the Russian Federation, with the exception of Grozny (in Grozny, Lenin [monument] was demolished in the early 1990s), in the vast majority of regional centers and in many small towns and townships. In Moscow, over 100 monuments have been preserved, in St. Petersburg, over 50 monuments to Lenin. In 2020, on the initiative of the OKP, United Communist Party of Russia, my party, a mobile detachment was created to combat decommunization. We succeeded in protecting several monuments to Lenin, Dzerzhinsky and other revolutionaries from demolition in several cities.

In recent years, several monuments to Lenin have been built thanks to the efforts of the left-wing public, thanks to communists, thanks to socialists, overcoming resistance from the authorities.

But it's not just a question of monument-related propaganda. In today's Russia, the authorities are doing everything they can to belittle Lenin's role, cover the mausoleum, distort the history of the Leninist struggle and denigrate it. We know that President Putin regularly repeats the absolutely false and anti-historical thesis that Lenin “planted a bomb under Russia”, thus transforming the creator into a destroyer, the uniter of land into an enemy of its integrity.

The undisputed record-holder certainly, more in terms of degradation and extinction, is the former Soviet Ukraine, formerly Soviet, which has distinguished itself in the field of total decommunization. But it would be naive to think that the latter is an exception to the rules. Everywhere the vector of social development follows the line of negation of Lenin and Leninism. The most reactionary forces gain the upper hand and the most backward forms of social relations triumph. As a result, even a quarter of a century after the violent suppression of the Soviet project, none, none, of the former republics of the USSR reached the level of development of 1991.

That's why, the more obvious the historical impasse in which humanity has found itself in the face of socialism's retreat becomes to contemporaries, the more the campaign to denigrate the luminous image of V. I. Lenin, a brilliant materialist scientist, an outstanding creative revolutionary, founder of a fundamentally new state of the majority in the form of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

As far as Russia itself is concerned, everything that's happening here today, the savage social stratification, the domination of the corrupt bureaucracy, the disregard for all democratic foundations, including federated principles, etc., is a direct consequence of the tragic apostasy. This is the result of the departure of our country

from Lenin's fundamental project and the dismantlement of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. All this is a direct consequence of the tragic apostasy: our country's departure from Lenin's fundamental project and the dismantlement of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. In fact, many of the most notorious "atomic bombs" or "mines" were laid at the foundation of today's Russian Federation. But not by V. I. Lenin and the Soviet project, but precisely by those who first transformed the largest republic of the USSR into a colonial appendage of the world of capitalist predators, and today, with the same foolish obstinacy, dream of a special salvific "third way." To keep the spoils and stay in the same campaign with those same predators, but only on an equal footing. However, such a path is a dead end and profoundly hostile to the interests of the vast majority, to the interests of labouring Russia, of working-class Russia.

In paying tribute to the memory of the immortal leader and teacher of all working-class humankind, we are convinced that the best monument to Lenin, both a hundred years ago and now, will be the work of communists to popularize Lenin's multifaceted scientific and practical heritage, which is still for us a proven ideological and political reference. Not a dogma, but an effective scientific method aimed at the revolutionary reorganization of reality. The construction of a new reality, of which Vladimir Ilyich Lenin himself providentially declared: "If the workers and peasants have learned, felt and seen that they are defending their Soviet power, the power of the workers, who are defending the cause whose victory for them and their children will enable them to enjoy all the advantages of culture, of all the creatures of human labor, that people will never be defeated."

With Lenin and Leninism, we shall triumph!
Thank you for your attention, dear comrades.

I returned from Cuba this morning,
On a square in Cuba, six million people white and black and
yellow and mestizo are planting a luminous seed, the seed of seeds
laughing and dancing
Can you paint the picture of happiness, Abidin?
But without taking the easy way
Not the picture of an angelic mother nursing her rosy-cheeked
baby
Nor of apples on top of a white cloth
Nor of a red fish darting through water bubbles in an aquarium
Can you paint the picture of happiness, Abidin?

Excerpt from Nazim Hikmet's poem, *Hay-Yellow*