

Lenin and youth

Ernesto Agelis/Mitrofanis Patsouras (EEK – Greece)

121 years ago, Lenin, in September 1903, wrote the text “The Tasks of Revolutionary Youth”, a point of reference for revolutionary youth also today. In this text, the great bolshevik leader, responding to a related article that had been published, points out that the task of the young revolutionaries is to acquire a Marxist consciousness, by joining, training and fighting through the lines of the political body of Marxism, the Marxist Party of the working class, mentioning also the way to achieve this goal within the context of the ideological, political and organizational work of the leadership of the proletariat under formation at that time.

For Lenin, this Marxist political consciousness and revolutionary struggle of the youth, could not be acquired with ultimatums, moral preaching, appeals and bureaucratic trickery, suffocating the necessary independent political life and action of the youth, or submitting to their spontaneous instinct, as was the case with Stalinism, but in a living, non-dogmatic and ever-developing -collectively organized and disciplined way. And although in the youth all the contradictions of the bourgeois society are expressed, as they reflected with a relative peculiarity or even amorphously way, Lenin’s **criterion** for the work in the most politically advanced but disorganized and uneducated strata of the youth, is also in this case political, with the Bolshevik sense of the term, that is, on the basis of the rule of uncompromising organized struggle for the emancipation of the labor movement from bourgeois ideology and any bourgeois influence. In short, Lenin does not give organizational

recipes and formulas, supposed to be suitable for every situation, but he analyzes in a Marxist way the relationship between the party and the youth in the ongoing historical political conditions, from the viewpoint of the needs of the revolutionary action that derive from them. Precisely because of this methodology, Lenin's approach is as relevant as ever today.

Lenin, recognizing the revolutionary potential of the rapidly growing student movement, in the years preceding the revolution of 1905, fought against the obscuration of the main task of its conscious part, which was the consolidation and development of Marxist education and mobilization at the forefront of the class struggle of the proletariat and its vanguard. Having established with his work "What is to be Done?" the primacy of such an approach, that means the adoption and development of uncompromising Marxist theoretical-political work and its constant testing in the independent work of the proletarian Party among the masses, Lenin was able to face with greater flexibility in his polemic, the confusion that was shown in the youth movement, by the devotees of ideological compromise, making a brilliant enlightening contribution, regarding the inextricable link that has in it, the politics and sociology under the guidance of materialist dialectic. The essence of Lenin's polemic is that the differentiation of distinct political groups in the student movement reflects the differentiation of political forces in society, which ultimately represent different class interests. And this class determination of party differentiation in society and therefore in the student world, Lenin explains, is carried out only by political struggle, sometimes by long persistent struggle and in other situations in a stormy way in conditions in of a political crisis. The task of Marxists in the student youth, Lenin concludes, is to seek the most conscious and consistent separation of politically heterogeneous groups.

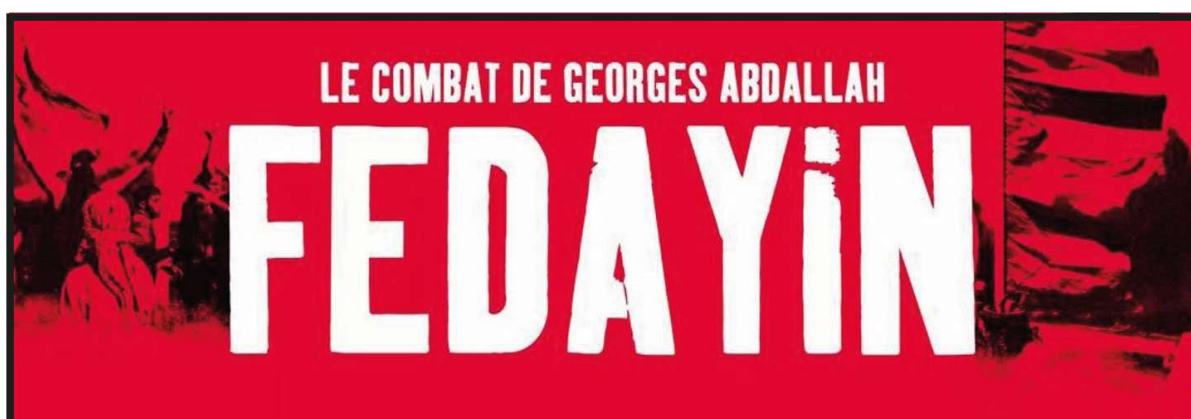
This kind of approach expresses, with the ideological acumen of Lenin, the necessity of the revolutionary intransigence of the Party, in the service of the proletariat and its historical interests. The importance that Lenin attached to this struggle for political separation within the lines of the labor movement, with the education of the revolutionaries in Marxism and with all the Party's methods of action based on the Marxist tradition, proved to be crucial throughout the long course after 1905, leading to the victorious seizure of power in 1917. The relentless ideological struggle of Lenin and the Bolsheviks, against all forms of bourgeois ideology among the proletarian youth, maintaining and dialectically superseding the conquests of earlier Bolshevism, acquired after the victory of October, a completely new, qualitatively higher level in the decisions on the tasks of the communist youth taken by the Third International, in its 3rd and 4th congresses.

In the first of these resolutions, imbued with the Bolshevik spirit, the Communist International defines as the basic task of the Communist Parties, the support of the work of the Communist youths, which were organized at the level of the Communist Youth International, which was founded about six months after the Communist International, in November 1919, by young leaders who had broken away from Social Democracy. The main task set by the Communist International to the newly created Communist Youth International was the complete political subordination of the Communist Youth organizations to their newly formed Party, while at the same

time maintaining that organizational independence that their work requires among the masses of working youth. So the second world congress of the Communist Youth International which began in April 1921 in Jena, continued in Berlin and ended in July in Moscow, took this decision. It is important to point out here that at the 4th Congress of the Communist International, its last congress as a fighting international revolutionary organization of the proletariat, the danger arising from the split that capital was organizing between the generations of the working class, with the youth, because of unemployment, to attempt to turn into a “battering ram” against older workers, was emphasized. The Congress sounds the alarm against the imposition of such a division on the working class. Also, in the relevant decision of the 4th Congress, it is even proposed to create associations for the children of the workers, with the responsibility for their education by the Communist youth. The rise of Stalinism destroyed all this work, turning the Communist Youth International into a degenerate instrument of class cooperation for the survival of the bureaucracy to eventually dissolve it too, like the Third International, also in 1943.

The struggle for the penetration and consolidation of the revolutionary party within the proletarian youth, which in the immortal words of Karl Liebknecht, is the flame of the proletarian revolution, is today more actual than ever, in this age of advanced rot of decadent capitalism; Trotsky warned in “Defense of Marxism” the world crisis and decline of capitalism offers great possibilities but also brings terrible dangers. The legacy of Lenin and Bolshevism, is a guide in the struggle for the revolutionary internationalist youth of the Party of the working class and the New International, which for the EEK-Trotskyists, is the Fourth International. This tradition, an integral part of the tradition of the oppressed, lives on in the international and internationalist struggle of the Rakovsky Center, for the crushing of imperialism, its capitalist governments and international institutions, with workers’ power and the opening of the way to universal communism, through the world socialist revolution.

Youth of EEK 1/2024



The documentary film “Fedayin: George Abdallah’s Combat” by Vacarme(s) Films collective has been projected in more than 20 countries and translated into several languages. Now, it’s available on Youtube.

The documentary, originally in French, is available with English, Arabic, Farsi, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, German and Turkish subtitles (Turkish subtitles were translated by militants of the Friends of Palestine against Imperialism and Zionism).

The documentary follows the life and struggle of George Abdallah, Lebanese communist revolutionary and a supporter of Palestinian cause jailed in France for 39 years. As a revolutionary who dedicated his life since his youth to the liberation of Palestine, he fought the Zionist occupiers alongside the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) during the invasion of Lebanon by Zionist Israel. He was convicted in France, with the accusation of being one of the founders of the armed organization Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, that fought the Zionist invasion of Lebanon not only in Lebanon but also in the imperialist countries supporting the invasion, including France.

He became eligible for release in 1999 and the Lebanese government officially asked for his release and deportation to Lebanon, yet he is still being held in prison by French imperialism.

Available free on Youtube:



@collectifvacarmesfilms4009

