

Studying the Principal Contradiction

Note: While studying Mao's 'On Principal Contradiction', we draw the attention of the comrades to the following factors.

IN the 3rd paragraph, comrade Mao clearly says that 'in capitalist society, the two forces in production, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, form the principal contradiction'.

This remains the principal contradiction throughout the period for socialist revolution in the capitalist countries. This will change only when any capitalist country is invaded by another imperialist country-into imperialism versus nation.

He has also said that the contradiction between bourgeois democracy and bourgeois fascism is a secondary contradiction which is 'influenced by this principal contradiction'.

Mao wrote this article 'On Contradiction', (the section 'On Principal Contradiction' is a part of it) in 1937, August, just when the European Communist Parties were fighting to build the anti-fascist front. It was in 1935 that Dimitrov's report gave the call for anti-fascist united front. The splitters and their associates and even some sincere comrades claim that Dimitrov's report treated the contradiction between fascism and bourgeois democracy as the principal contradiction, even though there is not a single reference to it in the whole of Dimitrov's report. Let us remember, the CPC was also a party to Dimitrov's report and the resolution on it. It is in 1937, two years after the appearance of Dimitrov's report that comrade Mao is treating the contradiction between the proletariat and the capitalists as the principal contradiction and that the contradiction between bourgeois democracy and bourgeois fascism as the secondary contradiction. This only proves the utter falsity of the position of the splitters and their associates that the contradiction between fascism and bourgeois democracy is the principal contradiction.

While studying the changes in principal contradiction in China look at the following factors.

He has noted the change of principal contradiction during the three periods—One, the period when Chinese society was a feudal society when the principal contradiction was between feudalism and the broad masses of the people. This changed, when imperialism invaded, into imperialism vs. nation. Second, during the period of semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, the principal contradiction was between the alliance of imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism and feudalism and the broad masses of people. This changed with Japanese invasion, into nation versus Japanese imperialism.

This is a complete refutation of the theory that the contradiction between bourgeois fascism and bourgeois democracy can be the principal contradiction.

Mao speaks of three definite periods when the principal contradiction changed in China—feudal society, semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, and the last period when imperialism with the help of its allies is almost in complete control. The PCC's understanding of our principal contradiction being between the alliance of imperialism, bureaucratic monopoly capitalism and feudalism on one hand and the broad masses of the people on the other is based on the teachings of comrade Mao. (22-5-1980)

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