

Message from the (N)CPC Central Committee to the CARC Party and participants of the September 29 Conference on Stalin in Milan

29 September 2024

Comrades,

The (New) Communist Party of Canada expresses its regrets at being unable to send a representative to the conference convened by the CARC Party, Resistenza Popolare Milan and the Associazione Stalin. We wish to convey our revolutionary greetings to the participants and hope the conference is fruitful for all participants.

At this moment, our party is energetically working to entrench itself in the Canadian working class and throughout the popular masses. As we carry out this work, we cannot help but realize the extent to which the monopoly bourgeoisie has succeeded in reversing the partial victories won by the proletariat throughout the previous wave of world proletarian revolution. The erasure and rewriting of our class's history is a major ideological component of this historic reversal, throughout the world but especially in our North American context.

Once-widespread knowledge of the heights attained by the communist movement in the last century has been undermined by relentless ideological assaults from our class enemies and their political pawns in the social-democratic movement. It is therefore crucial to underline and study this history and draw out its lessons for our ongoing battle against monopolistic capital. Under the leadership of Lenin, Stalin and the Third International, and later again under the political guidance of socialist China and the Chinese Communist Party's chairman Mao Zedong, a third of humanity emancipated itself from bourgeois rule and embarked on the path of socialist construction.

The revolutionary workers and peasants of the world, led by their communist parties, showed us the way by building the most socially advanced societies yet known to humanity. In defending themselves against imperialism and fascism, they defeated Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in open conflict. For the first time in history, the proletariat was able to intervene on the world stage as an independent actor.

Reclaiming this history and learning from it is absolutely necessary if we are to carry the new wave of proletarian revolution further than the previous one. Therefore, we are pleased to see our comrades across the Atlantic convene this conference and take up this task with seriousness and enthusiasm. The main themes chosen for this event, the USSR's victorious participation in the Second World War and the construction of socialism, are key elements taught to our movement both by comrade Stalin's written works and by his practical accomplishments.

As for us here in the (New) Communist Party of Canada, we also wish to underline comrade Stalin's important role as one of the main architects, alongside Lenin, of the Marxist-Leninist theory on the national question. The tools of analysis and struggle developed to transform Czarist Russia, a prison-house of nations, into the Soviet Union, have since been successfully adapted and employed throughout the world by revolutionaries facing comparable issues. For us, therefore, they are very important to our ability to articulate national liberation and socialist revolution and bring about in Canada a transformation of the same caliber.

With all that said, our most consequential comrade-leaders are also owed our critical scrutiny as well. As the first dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union was the first truly socialist country in world history, Stalin was at the helm of a never-before-tried mode of production and proletarian state that had to stabilize and secure its existence amid the terror and opposition of all the capitalist-imperialist powers of the world. It's truly epic and immensely humbling that the Soviet Union persevered and triumphed against the opposition it faced, and this historical experience remains an immense learning ground for communist revolutionaries today. But in addition to the positive lessons, we must also extract the negative lessons.

It is understandable that honest mistakes could and would be made under such novel historical conditions. One of these mistakes of Stalin's and the CPSU in the period of his leadership that proved to be fatal for the dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union was the failure to apprehend the counter-revolution that came in the wake of Stalin's death—that is, the failure to continue advancing class struggle under socialism. The Chinese revolution and Mao Zedong, on account of learning from the experience of Stalin and the Soviet Union, more consciously confronted and struggled against the bourgeois line in the party and were clear that a counter-revolutionary headquarters could seize control of the party. How precisely the world's first dictatorship of the proletariat was apprehended and taken over by revisionist counter-revolution under the leadership of Nikita Khrushchev and his accomplices in the CPSU after Stalin's death in 1953 is a subject of immense importance for those of us who uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat. We look forward to the proceedings of the conference to learn what comrades have to say about this and many of the other aspects, positive and negative, of Stalin's thought and leadership from which we must learn.

Leaving our remarks at that for now, we wish you all a successful conference.

Red Salute!

Central Committee of the (New) Communist Party of Canada