

# An effort in 1980 to discuss The "Fundamentals of communist production and distribution"

## Introduction

This thesis appeared in October 1983 in *Comsopolis* in an effort to stimulate debate in the revolutionary milieu at a point just received little attention: the relationship between the political and the economic difficulties of the transitional period.

- The "Resolution on the state in the transition period (ICC) addresses the political problems. This text can be found on the ICC website <http://en.internationalism.org/node/2733>
- "The Marxist solution ' (Spartacusbond) presents in extreme brief "Fundamentals of communist production and distribution". See <http://www.left-dis.nl/uk/>
- Following "Theses" ... "were written in 1980 in an effort discuss the economic problems within the framework of the resolution above.

## Thesis on "Basic principles of communist production and distribution"

1. The main problem of the period of transition from capitalism to communism, is a political one, that of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The 'resolution on the state in the period of transition', adopted by the third congress of the ICC, offers at the same time the general framework for the economic problems of the period of transition.
2. Communist society is not a matter of simple change of labels (money = labour time, wages = labour time money, etc.), as proposed by Proudhonism. The economic measures proposed in 'Basic Principles' make it possible for the proletariat to be conscious about the temporal survival of scarcity, unequal distribution, classes and therefore of a state of the period of transition, and to adopt a consequent position to maintain the proletarian dictatorship over the state as the only possibility to make disappear actually 'these birth-marks of capitalist society'.
3. The management of production and distribution is a political task of the proletariat after its destruction of the bourgeois state. This doesn't mean that it bases its political power on an economic power, as was true for the victorious bourgeois revolution. It is the other way round: the political power of the proletariat (i.e. its capacity to realize the communist perspective with the force of conviction and of class-violence) is the base for the transformation by the working class of a production and distribution that shows all features of scarcity and that therefore still is an 'economy' in the original significance of the word.
4. The individual working hour as standard for distribution, is no characteristic of 'social equality' (part of bourgeois ideology) and is neither a characteristic of communist society, because in the latter 'everybody will give according to his capacities and everybody will take according to his needs!' and not 'wages according to work'. The survival of the use of the working hour as standard for distribution, is an indication for the existence of scarcity. Scarcity means necessarily unequal

distribution\*), that permanently will have to be corrected by conversion factors for several categories of profession and even classes. The negotiations on these conversions are one of the crystallization points at which the state of the transitional-period will develop. The proletariat can never identify itself with these negotiations, neither with its results, whatever they might be. The proletariat identifies itself with the movement that transcends scarcity and with it unequal distribution and negotiations between the non-exploiting classes. In the movement to communism, class society and the state die.

5. To adopt the socially measured labour hour as accounting unity for production, means the liberation of the social productive forces from the capitalist relations of production. Leaving the principle of profit, makes possible the use of means of production that are not profitable for capital. At the same time an evaluation of efficiency remains possible. Efficiency changes from standard for the degree of exploitation of labourforce into standard for socially useful expenditure of the socially agreed labour-time. For the first time since the triumph of capitalism, production will directly be aimed at the satisfaction of human needs.

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\*) This point has been criticized as "dividing the working class." However, if after the revolution the level of production is extremely low - caused by the destruction by capital, it may be necessary to have a different share in the consumption within the working class to prevent that workers who have to work hard would have insufficient foods available.