



**COMMUNIST PARTY
OF SWEDEN**

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**Contribution of the Communist Party of Sweden
To the 2025 Internationalist Event hosted by the KKE
to mark the 108th anniversary of the October Revolution:
“Timely messages of the October Revolution in our contemporary
struggle for socialism under conditions of imperialist war”**

Dear comrades,

On behalf of the Communist Party of Sweden, I would like to thank the Communist Party of Greece for arranging this important and timely meeting, and also for their gracious hospitality.

The impact of the Great October Revolution cannot be overstated, as no other event has ever advanced as greatly the positions of the world's working people. 108 years on, the Great October Revolution, and the Bolshevik Party's role in bringing it about, continues to light the path for those committed to the struggle for socialism, with a wealth of lessons to be drawn from its success.

The October Revolution proved beyond doubt that the workers could take the power into their own hands and build a socialist worker state. Not only that, but it took the Soviet Union a mere 40 years to transition from a country where only a minority was literate, to becoming the first space power. This despite emerging from the destruction of the First World War, suffering through foreign interventions in the civil war that followed, and being invaded by the Nazi war machine in World War II. The great sacrifices and courage of the Soviet people in the struggle to fight off the fascist beast will never be forgotten. Nor the fact that the socialist Soviet Union was instrumental in the victory over fascism 80 years ago.



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After the war the mere existence of the Soviet Union was an important factor in improving the conditions of the working class in Sweden. The great power in the east, and the fact that it was living proof that there exists a real alternative to capitalism, loomed large over any meeting between labor and capital. This not only strengthened organized labor in their collective bargaining, but must also be seen as one factor in the construction of the Swedish welfare system.

The October Revolution is rich in lessons about what the working class is capable of once it has taken power. It is equally rich in lessons about the struggle before the revolutionary victory. The Bolsheviks' position during the First World War remains of great relevance today. Faced with the imperialist slaughter of 1914–1918, the Bolsheviks refused the path chosen by so many other parties of the Second International, who sided with the national capital of their native countries, seeing those as somehow better than their competitors in the imperialist system. Lenin instead characterized the war as unquestionably “a predatory imperialist war” on Russia’s part, given the capitalist nature of the government. Lenin furthermore emphasized that the task of the revolutionary proletariat was to turn the imperialist war into a civil war, to redirect the mass dissatisfaction caused by military defeat, hunger, and repression against the Russian bourgeois state itself.

In this context it is worth pointing out that the development of Russian capitalism was lagging far behind that of the great powers. Had the Bolsheviks taken a chauvinistic stance instead of a revolutionary one, like so many of the parties of the Second International, they wouldn’t have broken the imperialist chain, as they indeed did do, but rather strengthened it at its weakest link. This is highly relevant at a time when many parties in the communist movement regard imperialism not as a system, but rather as something that each individual country reaches at a certain stage of development, whereby a country goes from being capitalist to being imperialist. Most rarely are objective criteria presented in support of this view, which thus must remain scientifically dubious - because, to take one example, at what point in the process of concentration and centralization of capital does a capitalist country transition to imperialism?



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This view of imperialism opens up the door to considering capitalist countries not only as “progressive”, but even as “anti-imperialistic”, positioning them as what one might term a “lesser evil” in what is in fact an inter-imperialist struggle. This leads to support for certain national bourgeoisies against others and consequently choosing sides in imperialist conflicts. In effect this means leaving class struggle and revolution by the wayside, and instead presenting the working class with the illusion that their interests can be represented by the government of capital, as long as it’s the correct government, or at least a government in opposition to some greater evil. This view of imperialism and the states within its system can in the end be nothing less than an abandonment of revolutionary struggle.

The revolutionary struggle and victory of the Bolsheviks continue to inspire us, but let it also be a reminder that the revolution requires the organization of the communist party to that specific end. The application of revolutionary theory must permeate the party at all times; a revolutionary stance and organization that have been lost can not be brought back at the snap of a finger when the situation happens to become ripe for revolution. The party must work towards creating a revolutionary situation, strengthening and organizing the working class, imbuing it with class consciousness, and struggle for the construction of parallel power structures. Any temporary abandonment of the principles of revolutionary struggle risks becoming permanent.

With this in mind we honor the Bolshevik Party and the workers, peasants and soldiers who took on the role of revolutionaries in Russia 108 years ago. We honor the indispensable contribution of Lenin to the Great October Revolution, his leadership and theoretical work, which still guide our struggle more than a century after his death.