



The Foundations of Leninism

Joseph Stalin

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"Los fundamentos del leninismo: el tema es vasto. Para agotarlo, haria falta un libro entero. Mas aun: haria falta toda una serie de libros. Por eso es natural que mis conferencias no puedan ser consideradas como una exposicion completa del leninismo. Seran tan solo, en el mejor de los casos, un resumen sucinto de los fundamentos del leninismo. No obstante, estimo util hacer este resumen, a fin de ofrecer algunos puntos fundamentales de partida, necesarios para estudiar con fruto el leninismo.

Exponer los fundamentos del leninismo no es aun exponer los fundamentos de la concepcion del mundo de Lenin. La concepcion del mundo de Lenin y los fundamentos del leninismo no son, por su volumen, una y la misma cosa. Lenin es marxista, y la base de su concepcion del mundo es, naturalmente, el marxismo. Pero de esto no se desprende, en modo alguno, que la exposicion del leninismo deba comenzar por la de los fundamentos del marxismo. Exponer el leninismo es exponer lo que hay de peculiar y de nuevo en las obras de Lenin, lo aportado por Lenin al tesoro general del marxismo y lo que esta asociado a su nombre de modo natural. Solo en este sentido hablare en mis conferencias de los fundamentos del leninismo."

--- Josef Stalin

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Hasib says

Originally presented as a series of lectures in 1924, *The Foundations of Leninism* is a capitulation of the main theoretical principles of Leninism. Written by Premier of the Soviet Union Iosif Stalin shortly after the death of Lenin, this document possesses the undercurrents of a nascent state after an arduous civil war. Many themes are present here as one would expect, such as fear of losing all progress acquired thus far, hope for a modern, industrialized nation, and sustenance and maturation of a novel socialist state.

In addressing these themes, Marshal Stalin extrapolates from the established theses of Marx and confers with them the primary ideological principles of Lenin. From here, a guiding approach to the Bolshevik direction is addressed. For this, Stalin explains, the employment of socialism in the new state requires an organizational body that importantly does not represent but unites the exploited into a union of the ruling class, a union of local and central power, the soviet. Its power, Stalin elaborates, resides in its ability to destroy oppression, its ability to collaborate between the laborers of the various nationalities of the state, and its ability to unite the masses into a single state union; this soviet power is the expression of the majority of the populace over the minority, the dictatorship of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie.

Since the main thesis of this document is the contributions of Lenin to the body of Marxism, one could view *The Foundations of Leninism* as one of the first attempts to dictate on Marxist-Leninist ideology. Marshal Stalin's articulation of the subject was integral at the time due to its implementation in governance of the new Soviet state. This would prove crucial as the Soviet Union ascended to superpower status, defeating fascism in Europe and establishing itself as the first and the largest communist world power.

Marie says

Georgia

"Imperialism brings the working class to revolution.

"Imperialism is the most barefaced exploitation and the most inhuman oppression of hundreds of millions of people inhabiting vast colonies and dependent countries."

"Individual countries and individual national economies have ceased to be self-sufficient units, have become links in a single chain called world economy."

Jana says

A short, accessible & concise overview of Marxism-Leninism. I would really recommend reading this before reading - maybe not Marx but definitely Lenin.

Yogy TheBear says

I read a lot of Lenin, so did Stalin. This book having constant quotations from books of Lenin, my criticism of this one is the same and I will not bother to repet myself for Stalin.

Yet is must be noticed that the leninism presented here is Stalin s interpretation of Lenin, witch was later called marxism leninism. Also his interpretation was used to provide the philosophical cornerstone for soviet future policy.

People who say that Stalin betrayed the revolution and the good principles of Lenin need to read more Lenin and Stalin and they will see that Stalin, despite not having originality, was a true leninist in all of what he did.

Michael A. says

A concise, easy-to-read and understand introduction to the principles of Leninism. However, no discussion of dialectical materialism whatsoever - it seems Stalin saves this for a separate article (and to be fair this seems to be a transcription of an introductory lecture course). Still, disappointing considering the centrality of it to Leninist thinking. I would recommend this as an alright secondary source to Lenin's theory - if the name scares you just pretend Bernie Sanders or Leon Trotsky wrote it.

Kaan says

Herkesin anlayabilece?i bir dille, sade anlatma çabas?n? seviyorum Stalin'in.

Karlo Mikhail says

a clear exposition of the foundations of Leninism. a must read!

Will says

Joseph Stalin, among other obvious defects, was a really, really shitty writer. Also, this edition was printed in Beijing, and I *strongly* suspect that they translated the Russian into Chinese and then had somebody else translate the Chinese into English, because their wording is just embarrassing. The book begins, "The foundations of Leninism is a big subject." And it just goes downhill from there. Interesting grammar, Stalin.

Yasmine Nouredine says

precise,direct,and essential!

Danny says

Compared to Mao's "Quotations," this was much easier and more helpful to read in a ~linear way, and like the latter this will doubtless be a good reference to take off the shelf on occasion. Translation was extremely clunky in the first and final chapters, but I didn't have a problem with it other than that. Found the chapter on "The Party" extremely helpful and well presented, and certainly much better than Mao on the subject. Pg. 68-70 in the chapter on "The National Question" also a highlight.

Corbitt says

I feel the rating system is almost inappropriate for this title. It is more an interesting historical document and a physical record of hypocrisy than it is a "book" in any traditional sense. Essentially, this is a basic explanation of an ideology that would be used to suit the purposes of the author, one of history's greatest monsters. Being that it is a farce by Stalin, he does a very good job of explaining the basics of Leninism and how they build upon aspects of Marxism or adapt it to the way life was in Russia during that time frame. However, even if you have only a rudimentary knowledge of Russia under Stalin, you will see that a lot of the basic points and tentpoles of this ideology were nothing but lipservice and propaganda to indoctrinate others to stay in line. As he got into the more revolutionary connected principles and talk of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" you begin to see the murky waters that could easily cover up horrors in the name of the greater good.

One should read this if you are interested in the personalities of the Cold War or Soviet Russia, if you wonder how so many people could follow such a monststrous man as was Stalin or if you have a particular interest in great hypocrisy.

Kichi says

Such clear advocacy from such an evil and tormented mind.

Grace says

honestly the best intro to m-l i've ever come across. essential reading

Lance Carrico says

One of the greatest books of all-time. Long live comrade Stalin!

Joe Iosbaker says

In pedagogy, Stalin is superior to Lenin, as Engels was superior to Marx. For the introduction of Leninism to new comrades, this book is perfect.
