

DEMOCRACY AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE

1. The Social Contradiction of Democracy

It is generally agreed that the competition between the two social systems must determine mankind's future. Everyone now talks about the Communist "challenge". Indeed, it is fairly widely conceded that socialism is already winning ~~economically and scientifically~~ in the economic and scientific fields. Yet it is argued that in spite of this the capitalist world is to be preferred: that capitalism is the "Free World", the democratic world, whereas the cost of whatever undoubted successes there are in the socialist countries is the suppression of democracy and freedom.

The defence of the so-called free world has been the central ideological theme of the cold war, and its chief advocate is the United States State Department. But this is also the official standpoint of social democracy, the ideological justification for support of N.A.T.O. and the nuclear war strategy.

This central ideological theme of the cold war is not entirely new. It is the latest presentation of a world situation which has been developing since 1917. The Russian Revolution was a turning point in world history - a revolution in human society, the emergence of a new social system in the world.

This revolution won the battle of democracy against both Tsarist autocracy and the rule of landowners and capitalists, opening the way to a new social system serving the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people. It was this victory of