

Facts and Figures

Disastrous Consequences of Capitalist Restoration in the Soviet Union

AFTER usurping power in the Party and state, the Soviet revisionist renegade clique has brought about an all-round restoration of capitalism, turning the first socialist state in the world into a social-imperialist country and the socialist economy into capitalist economy and state monopoly capitalist economy.

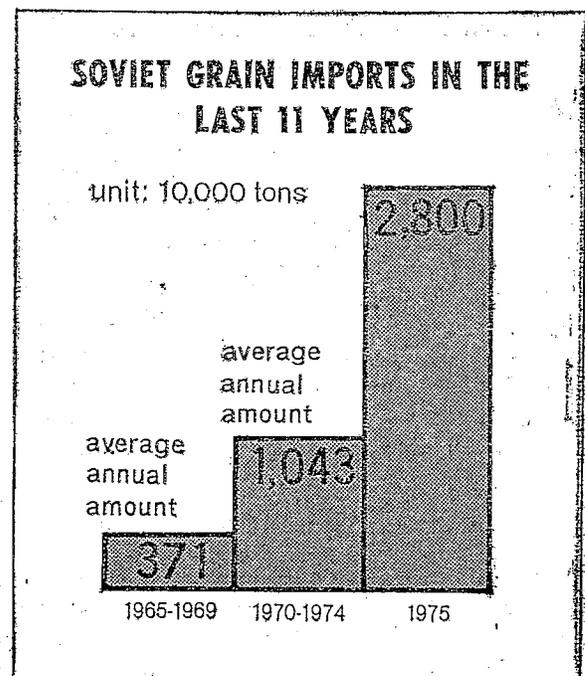
The clique's perverse actions have ruined the social productive forces with disastrous consequences: decline in agricultural production, decrease in livestock, inflation, heavy debts and growing poverty of the working people. Following are some relevant facts and figures.

1. Grain Production in a Mess

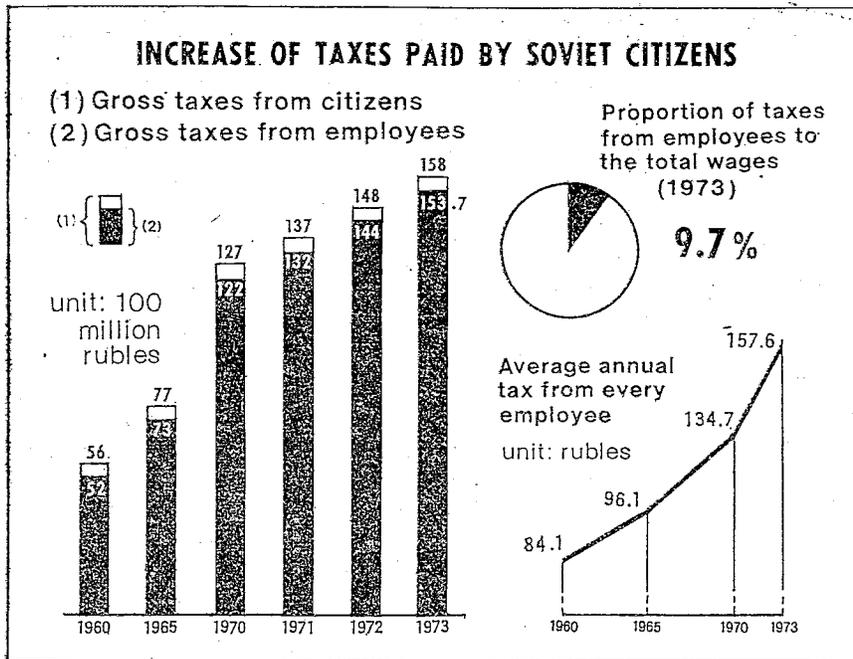
In the 11 years since Brezhnev came to power in 1964, agricultural production in the Soviet Union showed a decrease in seven years, four of which saw an annual drop of over 20 million tons. Last year, which witnessed the lowest yield in the last decade and the biggest drop in the last two decades, was even more disastrous. Total grain output was 80 million tons short of the planned target, or 30 million tons less than in 1972, a year of serious crop failure. The per-capita grain output in 1975 was even lower than in 1913 in the tsarist era.

2. Animal Husbandry in a Sorry Plight

Animal husbandry is in a wretched plight due to acute fodder shortage resulting from crop failure. In the



decade from 1965 to 1974, the number of pigs each year was on the average about 9.8 million less than in 1963. The number of milch cows and sheep did not show any increase; there was even a big decrease in some years. Total output of major animal products including meat,



milk and wool in the first four years of the 9th five-year plan and the average annual output failed to meet the planned targets. In 1974 more than 500,000 tons of meat were bought in foreign markets. The mass slaughter of animals due to acute shortage of fodder last year resulted in a sharp decrease in their number.

3. Hike in Retail Prices of Major Foodstuffs in The Soviet State Market

unit: rubles

Items	Unit	State Retail Prices	
		December 1959	July 1974
flour	kilogramme	0.31	0.46
pork	"	1.60	1.90
beef	"	1.50	2.00
milk	"	0.22	0.30
cabbage	"	0.10	0.20
tomato	"	0.40	2.50

4. Exorbitant Taxes and Miscellaneous Levies

To maintain a huge military expenditure and make up for its enormous financial deficits, the Soviet revisionist renegade clique has bled the working people white with heavy taxes and miscellaneous levies. The amount of taxes has kept increasing. According to figures released by the Soviet revisionists themselves, the average tax for every employee in 1960 was 84.1 rubles; it jumped to 157.6 rubles in 1973, an increase of 87.4 per cent. The taxes paid by the citizens in 1973 accounted for 9.7 per cent of the total amount of wages

they earned, as shown in the chart on this page.

5. Heavy Internal and External Debts

The Soviet Union has become one of the biggest debtor countries in the world today.

Internal debts: According to incomplete statistics, by the end of 1974 the Soviet Government had owed the Soviet citizens a debt of 34,400 million rubles or 45,400 million U.S. dollars.

External debts: According to incomplete statistics, from 1958 to 1969 the Soviet Government secured loans from Western countries to the tune of 2,400 million U.S. dollars. Since the beginning of 1970s, it has been "escalating" its efforts in seeking loans from the West, while the sums it borrowed have kept increasing. Statistics show that between 1970 and 1975, it received about 18,200 million U.S. dollars in loans from the West.

6. The Reality of Unemployment Cannot Be Covered Up

The Soviet revisionist renegade clique has always been trying its utmost to cover up the stark reality that the Soviet working people have been reduced to wage-labourers.

But what is false will sooner or later be exposed.

The *Sovietskaya Rossiya* and other Soviet newspapers and periodicals have reported that since 1969 the so-called "employment bureau for residents" has been set up in many places in the Soviet Union. These bureaux, whose function is to find jobs for those not engaged in social production, are found in all the capitals of the autonomous republics and the capitals of practically all the territories and regions, capitals with a population of 100,000 people or more. In the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic alone, there are such bureaux in 116 cities. Since their establishment, the Soviet press has revealed, these bureaux have been kept very busy, and in some places, the waiting rooms are often swarmed with an endless stream of people. In the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and Kazakhstan, jobs applicants totalled several million from 1969 to 1974. The Soviet authorities, however, quibble that it is not unemployment but "mobility of cadres."

What the Soviet authorities mean by "mobility of cadres" is in fact the migration of jobless workers and other labouring people to find new employers to sell their labour power. There are a considerable number of such "mobile" labourers every year in the Soviet Union today. The Soviet revisionists have admitted that "they make up 20 per cent of the workers in industrial enterprises and 30 per cent in the building industry." Reckoned by above-mentioned rate of "mobility," the number of floating labourers in industrial branches alone has been about six million each year since 1970. According to the Soviet revisionists' doctored estimates, these people have to wait on the average for about 28 days or longer in order to find new jobs. The *Sotsialisticheski Trud* has disclosed that of the 207,000 people in the Kazakh Republic who went to the "employment bureau" in 1973 to apply for jobs, more than one-fourth was jobless for several months or over a year. These floating labourers neither belonged to any organization nor had any work to do for such a long time. Isn't this unemployment?

Next, let's look into the reasons for this "mobility" of workers. Unemployment in the capitalist world is caused mainly by the capitalists' insatiate desire for profits and massive layoffs. This is also the case in the

Soviet Union today. In order to secure the greatest possible amount of surplus-value, the bureaucrat-monopoly capitalist class in the Soviet Union has adopted the notorious "Shchekino System" to lay off large numbers of workers. It is reported that 1,300 workers and staff members were dismissed by the Shchekino Chemical Complex from 1967 to 1973. With the Soviet revisionists actively publicizing the system, many factories and mines have followed suit. By July 1, 1973, 70,000 workers and staff members in 292 enterprises in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic alone had been discharged. What is more, the heads of various enterprises in the Soviet Union have used various pretexts to dismiss the old and the weak, pregnant women and mothers with unweaned babies. In particular, those who refuse to be pushed around often get the sack. As a result of all this, the number of dismissed workers has increased considerably. In the Armenian Republic, one-fourth of the workers in industrial enterprises was fired in 1974, and another 12.3 per cent in the first half of 1975. The ranks of industrial reserves have thus been swollen with the influx of the dismissed into the contingent of floating labourers. Isn't it clear what the truth about the so-called "mobility of cadres" is?