



In This Issue

With this issue, the *Theoretical Review* ceases publication. We owe it to our readers to explain this decision.

When we began publishing the journal in October 1977, the *TR* was one theoretical expression of the crisis in the US Marxist-Leninist movement inaugurated by the debate over the Angolan liberation struggle, dissatisfaction with Chinese foreign policy, and the failure of the many self-proclaimed "new communist parties." This crisis gave rise to a significant renovating sentiment within the M-L movement, a sentiment which had ambitions of becoming a political tendency. True, this sentiment was tentative, ill-defined and largely unfocused. It is equally true that the forces who were animated by this sentiment were united, not around a positive program, but rather by what they sought to oppose: a rigid approach to Marxism (dogmatism), the bankrupt policies of the Communist Party, USA (revisionism), a self-serving narrow organizational orientation (sectarianism), and unrealistic revolutionary politics (ultra-leftism).

Today, no one can seriously claim that this sentiment continues to animate any significant segment of the M-L movement. More importantly, the failure of these renovating currents to transform the M-L movement has meant that the movement itself has largely ceased to exist and the independent left and community forces who once looked to it for leadership have long since been alienated by its clumsy and ineffective efforts to grope toward an exit from the closed world of its own past. The *Theoretical Review* was a part of the M-L movement, an expression of its renovating sentiment. To continue its publication in the present form in the absence of both a base within the movement and indeed, the movement itself, would be to accept one of two unacceptable solutions.

Either the journal would continue to function without any connection to an on-going political process—like many academic publications—or we could presume that it could and should create a new movement around itself, as if a political movement could be created around a theoretical journal. Having rejected both of these options, we felt it was necessary for us to step back, sum-up the lessons of the five years of the *Theoretical*

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Review, and then seek to relocate ourselves politically where the theoretical lessons we have drawn over the years could find effective political expression and a potential base of support.

Our initial summation of the theoretical lessons which the Editorial Board has drawn is contained in "Antonio Gramsci and the Recasting of Marxist Strategy," printed in this last issue. As this sum-up makes clear, the application of our current perspective requires a fundamental change in theoretical orientation and a shift of political terrain, as well as a new approach to the US left. We can no longer confine ourselves to the increasingly narrow left ghetto with its contending M-L sects and the fruitless efforts to create a new "improved" sect of our own.

The necessity for this reorientation raised a whole series of questions for which we do not have ready answers. Our resolve is to participate with others—socialists and communists—in the on-going process of political clarification and organizational reorientation which the broad left is now undergoing. Given the historical character of the *TR*, its role and location, it is our feeling that stepping back until we have clarified some of these basic questions, at least for ourselves, required us to cease publishing the journal. We hope that some day, with a much broader base and perspective, a journal like the *Theoretical Review* can be reborn to contribute in its own way to a socialist America.

In the meantime the Editorial Board and its contacts will obviously continue to be active. We urge all readers, particularly those who share with us the political perspective contained in this last issue, to keep in touch, continue providing us with their materials, and to exchange ideas and experiences. To all those who have supported us over the years, we owe a great debt. Thanks.