

Battle of Ideologies in Kenya: the hidden face of capitalism

The Kenya Socialist . No. 2 (pp. 15-18),

<http://vitabooks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/08/The-Kenya-Socialist-Journal-No.-2-2020.pdf>

Study Notes

Key Points

General

1. Methodology for understanding history: events as acts of individuals or as a record of social struggles? Need to see struggle between capitalism and socialism, between different classes in society in everyday life, politics and everywhere else.
2. Understanding capitalism: uses stealth methods to prevent detection, hide its impact & creates TINA (There is No Alternative) mentality. How? Any examples?
3. But there is always Resistance - how & where? Manifestation underground/overground; ideological, political, social, cultural.

Kenya

1. Colonialism introduced capitalism in Kenya
2. Imperialism entrenched capitalism after independence by attacking forces that defeated colonialism:
 - Ideology, organisation & leadership of Mau Mau
 - Trade Union movement, its ideology, organisation & leaders
 - People's Forces: concentration camps, massacres, loot their land, drive them to poverty to reduce resistance; peasants have no land, workers had slavery-type work conditions
3. Class divisions sharpen: Identify classes and class struggles in everyday life
4. Yes forces for socialism present throughout: Mau Mau, KANU-A; DTM-MK, KPU, and among workers and organised groups.

Conclusion

1. There is always an ideological struggle between capitalism and socialism. Find its manifestation in everyday life. Look beyond surface news and events to identify forces for capitalism and forces for socialism. Document these.
2. Understand lives of small peasants, urban and rural workers.

3. Lessons of history: Need for correct ideology (socialism), correct organisation (worker-led), correct leadership (think Kimathi, Makhhan Singh...).
4. How? Study, investigate, document, organise, don't agonise. Be ACTIVE in resistance.
5. Look up: Resistance page at Vita Books: <http://vitabooks.co.uk/repression/>

PAMBANA
ORGAN OF THE DECEMBER TWELVE MOVEMENT

JULY 1983 No. 2

From the first issue of PAMBANA . . .

1. Firmly opposes the robbery of our national resources and wealth by imperialist interests, be they multinational corporations, banks or foreign governments. Kenyan wealth and labour must benefit Kenyans only.
2. Condemns in the strongest of terms the criminally corrupt and traitorous band of thieves who govern this country and who have allied themselves with US imperialism to keep us perpetually down.
3. Is totally opposed to the presence on Kenya soil of US and any other military bases.
4. Supports all genuine, democratic and liberation movements fighting for people's self-determination in and outside Kenya.

KENYA: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

EDITORIAL

PAMBANA STANDS FOR UNITY
When the first issue of PAMBANA came out in May 1982, the people of Kenya and all freedom-loving people of the world received it with great joy. It filled Kenyans with hope and great expectations. It made them see that it was possible to change the prevailing oppressive conditions and create a better life for all Kenyans. This is what they had always looked forward to—an organ which would unite the poor and the exploited against the Kenyan ruling class and their foreign masters. Such a unity is what PAMBANA stands for.

PAMBANA united the poor and all those who love freedom and democracy; it united the workers and peasants all over Kenya; it united all the patriots in the civil service, the police and the army; it united students, teachers, lawyers, journalists, doctors, nurses, secretaries, mechanics, shop assistants and office workers. They all hailed PAMBANA's call for a relentless struggle against imperialism.

KANU IN THE SERVICE OF EURO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
Here in Kenya, the oppression of people is systematically done on behalf of Euro-American imperialists by the KANU-led ruling class. The imperialists milk our September and October 1982), the ruling clique and their army used guns to instil fear amongst the people. Moi's soldiers raped our women; robbed Kenyan peasants and workers of their property; snatched clothes, shoes, watches and radios from people travelling in 'matatus'; went into people's homes and took anything they wanted from