
THE HIGH - HANDEDNESS OF BEIJING MAY SOMEDAY BE
NEUTRALIZED

The Ongoing Soviet Transformation Could
Revise the Whole of Soviet History

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The Solid Political Foundation of President Gorbachev

The historical tide surging in Soviet society is indeed amazing. Since this current has increasingly gathered momentum there seems to be no stopping it now that it has begun to flow in one direction. It has been commonly believed that, as the Soviet Union is a superstate unlike flexible Eastern bloc nations, she might not be able to proceed further with Perestroika for the time being. On February 7, 1990, however, the General Assembly of the Enlarged Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, having engaged in a heated,

insiders' debate, adopted, by a comfortable majority, a proposal for political reform. This could pave the way for a multi-party system which includes a president as the head of state. This new platform of the Soviet Communist Party might include the abolition of Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution*.

Thus, the Soviets have begun to end the revolutionary regime under the Communist Party's dictatorship and tread a path toward the future de-Communization/de-Socialization of Russia for the first time in seventy-two years since the October Revolution in 1917.

Perestroika and Glasnost have exposed the contents of Pandora's box by bringing out into the open the contradictions and racial prejudice inherent in Soviet society. Worse still, the Soviet economy, the health of which is so indispensable for national survival, is not improving. It may safely be said that to rectify this situation which is becoming worse by the hour should be immediately addressed by President Gorbachev.

This does not mean, however, that President Gorbachev's political leadership is weakening. As I have often stated, his political foundation is very solid. It must also be seen that Gorbachev's leadership is being further consolidated because there

seems to be no capable man who could possibly succeed him. The conservatives, headed by the Politburo member Yegor Ligachev, lack political power strong enough to threaten Gorbachev's leadership. Although the radical reformists, led by the people's deputy Boris Yeltsin, are enjoying the popularity of the general public, they are politically premature. For some time observers at home and abroad have been promoting the theory that Gorbachev was in a crisis, but I look at this from a different angle. And I was able to verify the validity of my observations when I had a meeting with Soviet VIPs concerning this matter during my visit to the Soviet Union in November, 1989. It seems to me that every kind of criticism and dissatisfaction is being leveled against Gorbachev because his leadership is extremely stable.

Properly Speaking, Gorbachev Could Be a Betrayer

The state of Gorbachev's leadership came to light at the latest Central Committee's General Assembly. In my opinion, however, ever since the political turmoil in Eastern Europe last fall, President Gorbachev, who gave tacit consent to this development at that time, realized that the Soviet Union would eventually have to become "Eastern Europeanized" which would mean a switch over to political pluralism.

In this respect, Gorbachev triggered the softening of the Eastern bloc. From a different point of view he could be labeled a betrayer of Marxism/Leninism, a true revisionist. But, at the same time, he has become a historically significant figure because of his painful awareness that, unless the Soviet system is demolished with boldness and vigor, he could not render the label "betrayer" meaningless. Otherwise, the Soviets could have no bright future before them.

If the Soviet Union proceeds with democratization along with the Eastern bloc nations, this will bring into clear relief the obstinate Chinese Communists who flatly reject such reform.

In spite of the lifting of the martial law in early January of this year, Beijing has begun to practice an even harsher reign of terror, exercising more strict control over the people using the Red Army and the police. On the other hand, freedom-seeking students and private citizens in China have gone underground and are still ever active. When the news reporting the tragic execution of Mr. Ceausescue and his wife of Romania (which had been China's best ally) came over the Voice of America (VOA) and NHK's shortwave broadcasting, these Chinese freedom fighters on campuses throughout China shouted for joy and set off firecrackers.

The Contradictory Stand of the Japanese Government

As we have seen, China is now challenging the historical tide. However, there is no question but that Beijing's high-handed attitude may eventually collapse from within.

If Japan gives her approval of Gorbachev's reform in Soviet society and applauds the democratization of the Eastern bloc, she cannot possibly, at the same time, approve of Beijing's retrogressive attitude. Nevertheless, while supporting the democratization process of Eastern Europe, the Japanese government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are showing sympathy toward Beijing. I must say these two attitudes are extremely self-contradictory. Even worse, unaware that this is a contradiction, the Japanese opposition parties have arbitrarily used the Eastern European problem and the massacre at Tianamen Square in Beijing in their recent campaign of the Lower House election. In this respect, I must say that the Japanese people's wisdom and intelligence is being challenged for its validity.