

# Imperialism Views Marx Social, Economic Theories Aired at Confab Speed up Western Thinking, Action

Is Russian imperialism caused by Soviet nationalism or by a plan to Communize the world, and is imperialism in general mainly economic or political?

These were the two main questions upon which a combined discussion of "Socialism and Communism" and "Russian Imperialism" in Saturday's conference converged.

Major part of the disagreement was prompted by an assertion by E. C. Robbins, instructor in economics and speaker on the second topic, that "have-not" nations may attempt to conquer "have" nations in order to benefit by the superior standard of living, but "have" nations have no incentive to conquer nations with lower standards of living.

## "Haves" and "Have-nots"

Some members of the discussion session countered that the imperialism of Japan—called a "have" nation—over the Dutch East Indies was partly responsible for World War II, and the imperialism of such nations as the United States, England and Germany over nations with lower standards of living was also a cause of that war.

Others reported that Japan was a "have" nation compared to the Dutch colonies, and supported the thesis that imperialism is chiefly caused by the desire for expansion by "have" nations.

At this point C. P. Schleicher, professor of political science, who

was to give the main address of the conference following this session, expressed his disagreement with the apparent tenor of the discussion—asserting that imperialism was not economic, but part of the stress between political entities and figures.

## Possible Distinctions Noted

First part of the discussion was mainly concerned with the distinction between communism and socialism, with M. D. Wattles, assistant professor of economics, speaking on the subject.

Wattles pointed out the bases upon which a distinction can be made—a correlation between services received from the state with amount paid in under socialism while there is no relation under communism; individualistic freedom under socialism while not under communism; or income distribution according to need under communism and according to production under socialism.

Also mentioned was the distinction between communism, the economic system; and Communism, the international party.

## US-Russian Differences Rise up From Fact Two Are Super-powers

By Bill Gurney

Difficulties of US-Russian relations stem mainly from the fact that these nations are the two super-powers in the present bi-polar world. The conflict of ideologies also has a role, although it is sometimes hard to measure.

Charles P. Schleicher, professor of political science, expressed these views in a lecture given Saturday at the International Relations club conference on Communism, at the Student Union in the afternoon session.

Schleicher said that the greatest danger in thinking about US-Russian relations is over-simplification. People tend to think that the whole trouble lies in the fact that Russia is communistic, and that communism alone is the enemy.

## View Neglects History

"To take this view", Schleicher stated, "is to neglect all the lessons of history and all the (factors which make up) foreign policy."

However, Schleicher cautioned against the acceptance of the extreme opposite view that rejects entirely the role of ideology as a force in foreign policy.

He cited Hans J. Morgenthau of the University of Chicago as one of the leading proponents of the latter view. According to Morgenthau, explained Schleicher, the conflict grows out of Russian imperialism in which Communist ideology merely furnishes a handy tool for imperialistic aims.

Schleicher stated that he felt Morgenthau underestimated the role of Communist ideology although his view is a healthy antidote to the opposite extreme.

Schleicher's own analysis of the situation began with the statement, quoted earlier, concerning the US and Russia as dominant powers in a bi-polar world.

Following from this was the conclusion that regardless of the conflicting ideologies the two super-powers would be, at least potential enemies.

## Other Communist Roles Seen

Schleicher cited several roles which Communist ideology plays in international relations.

They are:

The communist movement outside of Russia is a valuable tool of Russian foreign policy, although the communists comprising the movement may not realize this.

Communist ideology has powerful appeal to many who are non-communists, especially in colonial and recently liberated areas. These people tend to identify the western nations, with whom they have had experience, with imperialism and capitalism.

They look to Communism, which they know little about, as an improvement. The Russians use such arguments as the human sacrifices often necessary for backward countries to develop their economies on their own, advance communism as an easy alternative. Also, they promise racial and social equality.

## Effects Foreign Policy

The belief that the problem is communism influences US foreign policy somewhat in the following ways:

It makes Americans fearful of change, which they identify with revolutionary communism. Also it discourages attempts to halt communism, because of its supposedly fanatic, unreasoning nature.

Communism has supplied morale and determination to the Russian people in their efforts to build power.

In regard to the view that spreading Communism as an ideology is a dominant goal in Russian foreign policy, Schleicher stated that Russian leaders are concerned with this to some extent, but that it is not of major importance.

## War Perhaps Not Outcome

If the latter conclusion is true to a degree, Schleicher believes that the situation is not hopelessly destined to result in war.

The political, social and economic theories of Karl Marx have speeded up Western thinking and action — but pretty much along lines of the West's own choosing.

That, in effect, was what three men told the opening session of the International Relations club-sponsored conference on Communism Saturday morning.

The speakers were P. L. Kleinsorge, professor of economics, M. J. Flach, visiting lecturer in political science, and Arlo Giles, graduate assistant in sociology.

## Kleinsorge Opens Lecture

Opening the three-part, hour-long lecture, Kleinsorge said that Marx's economic theories destroyed many concepts contemporary economists of his day "had been taught to believe."

But, he pointed out, instead of accepting Marx's explanations, the "tremendous effect" on these men was to develop new theories of wages, value and interest.

Marx, he said, had two principal theories, central in his interpretation of economics. They were:

## Two Principal Theories

1. The labor theory of value; that the value of a commodity is merely the amount of labor socially necessary which is congealed in the commodity; and

2. The theory of surplus value; that the labor power of the worker produces more than the actual wage paid to him and that the difference—the surplus value—is retained and is the incentive to the capitalist.

## Capitalism and Labor

Taking an example to illustrate the surplus value idea, Kleinsorge said in a particular case a worker might be able to live at subsistence level working 4 to 5 hours a day but, according to Marx, the capitalist would force him to work longer and the production of the extra hours would be the surplus.

"As an economic argument, practically all that we find in 'capitalism' depends on the proof of the labor theory of value," he

Saturday the International Relations club sponsored a full day conference on Communism. The affair was poorly attended but the discussion periods and talks were carried out. On this page are reported some of the talks given at the conference.

noted. And he got into difficulty (on his theory) because all human labor is not of equal caliber.

## "An Army of Unemployed"

Marx, he said, concluded that capitalism would eventually create "an army of unemployed" and revolution.

"His prophecies were not well-founded," he observed. "There hasn't been a mass uprising of workers," he said, because the solidarity of the working class which Marx saw "really doesn't exist."

## Four Categories of Influence

Flach, who discussed the political effects of Marxian Communism, said the Russian revolution, unlike the French, dictated the aims toward which man would develop designating the speed of the development.

He saw four "categories" of political influence;

1. Marxian Communism acting as a political accelerator, speeding up democratization in the west and bringing new light to bear on such ideas as "The Age of the Common Man," the welfare state and the elevation of the material standards of the mass of man;

2. Marxian Communism acting as a "Conscience for the West."

3. Marxian Communism acting as an "amplifier of the concept of democracy."

4. Marxian Communism acting in the sense of a "cautioner", pointing to the dangers of a swift revolution without due consideration given all factors.

## "A Clear Alternative"

"Communism and the Soviet Union have an impact by the mere fact that they represent a clear al-

ternate," he explained, pointing out however that in many respects the problem was one of a "conflict within democracy." Russian satellites, he noted, believe that they have democracy.

The Soviet line, he explained, goes that "if the government is in the hands of the largest group . . . then that is democracy. And political democracy . . . must be supplemented by economic and social democracy."

## Toleration Is Weakness

An interesting corollary to this, he noted, is the Soviet belief that "toleration is the highest mark of weakness."

Giles, noting the social implications of Marxism, Communism and the Soviet Union, stated that "whether we agree or disagree" with the Russian example, it has shown us "the absolute necessity of social justice." Much of the human race is still in "primary poverty," he explained.

## "Not a Science"

He also pointed out that "the role of ideas is secondary to economic and social realities."

Marxism itself, he said, "is not a science but a scientific method of achieving socialism."

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