

One Year Later

This year marked the 65th Anniversary of the victory over fascism which progressives celebrated throughout the world by revisiting the history of the Second World War as well as the glorious role played by the Soviet Union in destroying the 'invincible' Nazi war machine. But there has been a sustained campaign in the West for the past few years to re-write the history of the Second World War, aimed primarily at fostering the myth that communism is merely a form of fascism. For this purpose hack historians are being pressed into service to manipulate history and deny the soviet communists their legitimate place in anti-fascist resistance. Strange it may seem official communists in India, and particularly, in Bengal are determined to prove the rightist allegation that they are no less ruthless than fascists. They are working overtime to prove that their brand of communism is truly a form of fascism. Maybe, they are social-fascists but there is hardly any qualitative difference between social fascism and fascism. Fascism means war and, social fascism is also war on people. 'Communists' in this hapless country now openly resort to fascism as the only means of keeping the exploited and oppressed masses in check.

Since the deployment of joint forces on June 18 last year a total of 432 people were killed in junglemahal. Of them 314 were killed in west Midnapore alone, including 148 killed in Jnaneswari Express mishap. Also during this period 698 people, mostly innocent civilians, were arrested on false charges of possessing illegal arms and explosives. And to celebrate their first anniversary in junglemahal, almost coinciding with the 65th anniversary of the victory over fascism, joint forces, much to the delight of the ruling marxists, killed eight maoist suspects, including three women—all aged below 20—at Duli under Ranjha forest in Salbani where Jindals would set up a huge steel plant. The so-called maoists killed by the joint forces, were newly recruited by the CPI (Maoist), having very little training in guerilla warfare. So it seems. Or they were ordinary civilians with passive sympathy to the maoist cause, as claimed by the people's committee against police atrocities.

Despite the massive presence of paramilitary and state police forces peace is unlikely to return to junglemahal of Bengal and Jharkhand. So long as there is deprivation and sense of hopelessness among people, protest movement, violent or otherwise, is bound to crop up. The people of junglemahal can see themselves what is happening there. For them it is a war of survival. In yester years revisionism was synonym for mellowed and peaceful political exercise with communist tag. It's no more. Today's revisionists are armed to the teeth. And in a way armed revolution is fighting armed counter-revolution in the junglemahal. When fascists celebrate the victory over fascism it is really an irony of history. And history will decide what kind of victory they are celebrating today in junglemahal.

Not that the rain and snow stopped the Nazi troops at Moscow. More than a million strong elite Nazi force was crushed by the iron will and courage of the Soviet peasants in uniform. They fought like tigers, and they fought to defend their liberty and dignity. The anti-communist brigade, including the official marxists in India, is doing by every possible means to desecrate people's initiative and their resolve to resist the fascist onslaught. Many would like to write the obituary on the CPM-led left front regime in junglemahal. Maybe there are grains of truth in it. But they actually began to dig their own grave when they sent their specially raised fascist hoodlums along with police to Nandigram in 2007

to brutalise popular mass movement and applaud their vandalism. A mini-Indonesia cannot be ruled out in the present Indian context and in the long run even official communists despite their pro-corporate lobbying may not be spared because communism is already a dirty word in Europe and elsewhere.

For one thing the maoists have not yet answered a lot of ideological questions that have been dogging the naxalite movement in general since the early seventies. Violence is not the only issue that deserves attention because non-violent movements for greater democratic space and economic justice are suppressed with equal brutality and ferocity. In a number of third world countries, the powers that be seem to have decided to live, somewhat permanently with liberated pockets controlled by various insurgent outfits, not all of them are Maoism-inspired. The Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar—everywhere there are liberated zones. And yet total liberation from statusquo-ism seems not in sight. Yesterday it was the question of massline—or lack of it. And today it is the same question of how to evolve a massline that could unite the broadest possible sections of the society, not for some adhoc remedial measures. Without popular slogans with lasting impact, it is next to impossible to get masses turned into a material force. In other words without a mass oriented material force any kind of radical programme is not going to succeed, notwithstanding a correct military line. □□□