**Book International: The Value and History of the First International or the International Workingmen's Association**

**Prof. Chen Huocan, Senior expert on world history**

**This part below is taken from the book of the author written in 2019**

The First International, or the International Workingmen's Association, was an international workers' union founded in 1864. Its purpose was to unite the forces of the working class of all countries in a united political and economic struggle against the capitalist exploiters and their social system. It fought against war and the remnants of the dying feudal system. It also fought for the abolition of black slavery in the United States, for independence for Poland and Ireland, for workers' suffrage, and for social legislation. It also constantly carried out revolutionary education for the masses. [6][1]

Because the name of the organization was too long, therefore the first word "International" is usually used. After the establishment of the Second International, it was called the "First International". Karl Marx was one of the founders of the First International and its de facto leader. [7][3][8] In the development direction of the First International, Engels provided the most direct material and spiritual support, as well as extensive knowledge and rigorous scientific theoretical guidance. Engels effectively refuted various erroneous thoughts, consolidated the guiding role of Marxism, and made important contributions to the international communist movement. [9]

The First International was born in the context of the renewed upsurge of the European workers' movement and democratic movement in the late 1850s and early 1860s. After the Revolution of 1848, European capitalism developed rapidly in a relatively calm atmosphere, a capitalist world market was formed, and the connections between capitalist countries became increasingly international. At the same time, the oppression suffered by working people all over the world was increasing, and the resistance struggle of the proletariat and the oppressed people was constantly intensifying. The practice of the struggle against oppression and exploitation made the proletariat of various countries realize that they had common interests and common enemies, and that previous scattered struggles often led them to the same defeat. The proletariat must unite on an international scale and use the international solidarity of the proletariat to counter the international unity of the bourgeoisie. This internationalist consciousness promoted the birth of the International Workingmen's Association. [10]

In 1871, the French branch of the First International participated in the Paris Commune movement, but with the failure of the Paris Commune, the organization gradually weakened and officially declared its dissolution on July 15, 1876. [11]

**Development History**

On September 28, 1864, more than 2,000 workers from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and other countries gathered at St. Martin's Church in London to support the Polish uprising. The conference decided to establish an international workers' organization named the International Workingmen's Association (English name: International Workingmen's Association), historically also known as the First International. [1]

Based on the proposal of the British and French workers' representatives, the congress decided to establish an international workers' association and elected a provisional committee of 21 members (the committee was called the Central Committee from October 18, 1864 and was renamed the General Committee in the summer of 1866). The International Workingmen's Association was established. [12] On November 1, 1864, the Association’s Programmatic Document Drafting Committee approved the two programmatic documents drafted by Marx: the “Inaugural Declaration” and the “Common Rules and Regulations”. [13]

The first meeting elected 50 members and a special committee of 9 people to draft the charter. Marx represented German workers at the meeting and joined the special committee. He drafted the "Manifesto of the International Workingmen's Association" and the "Provisional Charter of the Association", which were revised at the London Conference in September 1871 and became the "Common Charter of the International Workingmen's Association". The charter clarified the purpose of the proletarian movement: to overthrow capitalism and establish a working-class regime; it declared the basic principle of the workers' movement: "The liberation of the working class should be fought for by the working class itself." [12] In 1876, the First International officially declared its dissolution at a representative conference held in Philadelphia, USA. [11]

**Internal struggles**

From its establishment to its dissolution, the First International experienced two internal struggles. Under the leadership of Marx, it resolutely fought against erroneous trends such as British trade unionism, French Proudhonism, and Bakuninism, thus expanding the influence of scientific socialism. During this period, the proletarian parties in European countries were basically able to act on the Marxist standpoint. [1]

**Struggle Against Proudhonism**

The Proudhonists opposed the participation of the working class in political struggle and openly defended the private property system. From the very beginning, the International, which aimed at the complete liberation of the working class, put the struggle against the Proudhonists at the top of its ideological struggle. [14] The main issue of the struggle was whether the working class should participate in the political struggle and whether the private ownership system should be eliminated. Despite the opposition of the Proudhonists, the First London Conference passed a resolution that Poland’s democratic independence must be restored, emphasizing the necessity of the working class’s participation in the political struggle, thus winning the first round of the struggle against Proudhonism. [14]

The Geneva Congress adopted resolutions on issues such as the eight-hour workday, protection of women and children’s labor, universal technical education, cooperatives, trade unions, and the abolition of the standing army, in accordance with the spirit of the “Instructions of the Provisional Central Committee to the Delegates on Certain Questions” drafted by Marx. These resolutions dealt a heavy blow to the Proudhonists. [14]

The resolution on the trade union issue adopted by the congress was of special significance. It called for the close integration of the proletariat's economic struggle and political struggle, thus opposing not only the French Proudhonists and German Lassalleans who denied the trade union organization, but also the British trade unionists who exaggerated the significance of economic struggle. The Lausanne Congress once again affirmed the necessity of the working class to carry out political struggle, emphasizing that the social liberation of the working class and their political liberation are inseparable, and that the struggle for political freedom is an indispensable and primary measure. After the Geneva Congress and the Lausanne Congress, the Proudhonists began to split. [15]

**Against Bakuninism**

The struggle revolved around the question of how to eliminate private property, and involved whether the proletariat should establish its own independent political party and establish proletarian political rule in order to eliminate the capitalist exploitation system.[16] After the Basel Congress, Bakunin slandered and attacked the General Council. In his "Confidential Notice", Marx exposed and criticized Bakunin's conspiracy and slanderous remarks. In order to summarize the lessons of the Paris Commune and counter the attack of the Bakuninists, the General Council held a conference in London in September 1871.

The entire work of the conference was centered on opposing sectarianism and anarchism. The resolutions adopted by the conference to establish independent proletarian parties in various countries and the resolution requiring groups participating in the International to abandon sectarian organizations not only marked the victory of Marxism over Bakuninism, but also pointed out the direction for the future development of the workers' movement in various countries. After the London Conference, the Bakuninists held a separatist conference in Sonvilliers, Switzerland, attacking and negating the resolutions of the London Conference, calling for the abolition of the General Council and the implementation of complete autonomy, which was actually the complete abolition of the political organization of the proletariat. In the notice "The So-called Split in the International" drafted for the General Council, Marx and Engels exposed Bakunin's conspiracy and criticized Bakunin's anarchist views. [15][17][18][19][20]

After the Basel Congress passed a resolution to implement public ownership of land, Bakunin demanded that the abolition of inheritance rights be used as a means to eliminate private ownership and the starting point of social revolution, attempting to impose his anarchist proposition of "social liquidation" or the immediate abolition of all political states on the International. In his "Report on the Right of Inheritance" drafted for the General Council, Marx criticized Bakunin's proposition, pointing out that he was wrong in theory and reactionary in practice. [16]

**Struggle Against British Trade Unionism**

In order to expand the international organization and curb the influence of the British trade unions on the workers' movement, Marx and Engels decided to absorb the British trade unions into the First International and criticize and struggle against them. Because if they were not criticized on issues of principle, they would lead the workers to the path of trade unionism and the First International would degenerate. Only by criticizing and struggling against British trade unionism could scientific socialism be instilled into the workers' movement, leading the British working class to the correct revolutionary path and promoting the development of the international workers' movement. [21]

**Marx understood that the British trade unionists had no proletarian organizational ideas.** So at the meeting of the General Council on November 8, 1834, Marx proposed that "no one can be a member of this committee if he does not attend the meeting." Since these trade unionists joined the International only to enjoy the rights and publications but did not want to fulfil their obligations, at the meeting of the General Council on November 29, Marx proposed and unanimously passed the following resolution: "As a member of the International, no one who has not paid his previous subscription can be elected to the Central Committee." [21]

In order to ensure the purity of the First International, Marx pointed out that it was necessary to prevent trade unionists from bringing bourgeois politicians into the International. He proposed and unanimously passed at the regular meeting on January 24, 1865 that "the election of new members should be carried out in the absence of candidates. Candidates must be members of the International, and there should be no honorary members in the International."[21] Because Marx adhered to the correct organizational principles of the First International, Marx ensured the consolidation and development of the First International and the victory of Marxism over British trade unionism.[21]

**Declaration (Inaugural Address)**

The Inaugural Address of the International Workingmen's Association and the Provisional Statutes of the Association embody the Marxist idea of ​​the united front of the working class. When the First International was established, the conditions of development of various groups of the working class in different countries were extremely different, and their theoretical viewpoints reflecting the actual movement were very different. In order to bring various non-proletarian, pre-Marxist socialisms into the same orbit and unite the entire militant working class of Europe and the United States into a great army, Marx combined firmness in principle with flexibility in strategy, and adopted a method of "firmness in substance and moderation in form" to draft a program that "will not exclude the British trade unionists, the Proudhonists in France, Belgium, Italy and Spain, and the Lassalleans in Germany" and "will satisfy all parties." [22]

One factor of success that the workers possess is their numbers; but numbers can be decisive only when the masses are organized and guided by knowledge. Past experience has shown that neglect of the fraternal solidarity that should exist between the workers of different countries, neglect of the fraternal solidarity that should encourage them to stand firmly side by side in the struggle for liberation, will punish them - their scattered efforts will suffer a common defeat. This realization led the workers of various countries who met in a public meeting at St. Martin's Church on September 28, 1864, to create the International Association. [13] Another belief inspired the conference participants.[13]

How can the emancipation of the working class, which demands the brotherly co-operation of the working class, accomplish this great task while there is a foreign policy which exploits national prejudices in pursuit of criminal ends, and sheds the blood and wastes the people's treasure in predatory wars? It was not the wisdom of the ruling classes, but the heroic resistance of the English working class to their criminal madness, that saved Western Europe from the risk of a disgraceful crusade to perpetuate and extend slavery across the Atlantic. While the upper classes of Europe watched with shameless applause, feigned sympathy, or idiotic indifference how Russia was overrunning the mountain fortresses of the Caucasus and slaying heroic Poland, this massive and unopposed aggression by this barbarous power, whose head was in St. Petersburg and whose arms were in the cabinets of Europe, pointed out to the working class its duty to penetrate the secrets of international politics, to monitor the diplomatic activities of its own governments, to resist them if necessary by all means at its disposal, to unite and expose them when it was impossible to prevent them, and to strive to make the simple rules of morality and justice, which ought to govern the relations of private persons, the supreme rules in the relations of nations. —Excerpt from the Inaugural Address of the International Working Men’s Association[13]

**Program**

The program of International stated the purpose of the proletarian movement: to overthrow capitalism and establish a working-class regime; it declares the basic principles of the workers’ movement, that the liberation of the working class should be fought for by the working class itself. The program stipulates that all workers’ groups are allowed to participate, provided that they pursue a common goal, namely the protection, development and complete liberation of the working class. [23]

Marx placed his hopes on the spiritual development of the working class, hoping that in the future, through the exchange of ideas and discussions among workers of various factions, a common theoretical program would be formed. Marx tried to make the International a tool to gradually dissolve and absorb smaller factions other than anarchists, hoping that workers from various countries would gradually accept scientific socialism and abandon various sectarian doctrines through concerted action and exchange of experience in the struggle against the enemy. History has proven that Marx's policy was correct. [24][25][26]

Before the First International was founded, Marx and Engels had already drawn up a revolutionary program for the working class. This program remains to this day, in almost all countries, the basic guidelines for the struggle of workers to defend themselves under capitalism and socialism. Marx instructed that the party, as the representative of the broadest class interests of the proletariat, should play the leading role in the class struggle. Marx also developed the closest working relationship between the industrial and political forces in the workers' movement. In view of the long and arduous struggle against the non-political anarchists and opportunists, a continuous struggle was needed to lay the foundation for the establishment of these basic principles. The anarchists did not want political parties at all; the opportunists demanded that the trade unions adopt a "neutral" attitude towards political action and parties. [27]

**Guiding Ideology**

The First International was guided by Marxism. The Declaration and the Common Statutes drafted by Marx were both based on scientific socialism.[28]

**Central Authority**

The highest authority of the association is the General Assembly of the Association. When the Congress is not in session, the General Council elected by the Congress implements the resolutions of the Congress and supervises that each country strictly abides by the basic principles of the International. The General Council has a chairman (abolished in 1867), a general secretary and a correspondence secretary. There is a core organization within the General Council, the Standing Committee, also known as the Sub-Committee, which is composed of the chairman, the general secretary and the correspondence secretaries of each country. The central committees of each country were called federal committees, which were divided into branches, sections or groups. In each country, the International relies on existing workers' organizations, political parties, trade unions, workers' educational associations, mutual aid societies, cooperatives and newly established branches. [29]

**Organizational Principles**

The organizational principle of the association was democratic centralism. All levels of the association must abide by the association's program, charter and resolutions of the congress. Under this premise, each national or local federation enjoys extensive rights and freedom of action. In order to ensure the unity of the program and fight for common interests, the general committee and the joint committee are given the necessary full powers. [30]

Each section or federation of sections had to submit a detailed report on its work and development to the General Council two months before the Congress, and the General Council will prepare a general report to the Congress based on these reports.[31] The members of the association's leadership body are elected. The General Committee implements collective leadership, and any proposal must be approved by a majority of members before it can take effect. In order to ensure that the General Committee becomes an effective working group, Marx proposed that no one can become an honorary member of the association; any member of the association who fails to attend the Central Committee meetings and participate in its work cannot be elected as a member of the Central Committee; a member of the Central Committee who fails to attend meetings four times without reason will be removed from the committee. [31]

**Leadership**

Marx's official position in the International was a member of the General Council and the German Correspondent Secretary. In 1871, he was elected as the Provisional Correspondent Secretary for the Netherlands and in October he was elected as the Russian Correspondent Secretary. In fact, he led all the work of the General Council of the Association and was the real leader of the International and the "soul" of each General Council. Almost all the documents published by the General Council were written by Marx. [32]

Engels was elected as a member of the General Council on October 4, 1870. In January 1871, he served as acting Spanish correspondent (formally elected in November), in April he served as Belgian correspondent, and in August he became Italian correspondent. He also specifically prepared, participated in and led the 1871 London Conference and the 1872 Hague Congress. Marx was assisted in his work by G. Odger, Chairman of the International General Council, and WR Kremer, JG Eccarius, Sorge and others who served as International General Secretaries. [33][34]′

**Main Activities**

The purpose of the association was to unite the proletariat of the world to fight against oppression. After the establishment of the association, the General Committee placed the struggle against the enemy at the top priority. Under the leadership of Marx, the General Committee united the advanced elements of the proletariat around itself and led the working masses of various countries to resolutely fight against the bourgeoisie and oppressors. [36] After the establishment of the First International, it organized workers from various countries to carry out movements, and workers' movements in various European countries rose and fell. For example, the British tailors' strike in 1866, the French bronze workers' strike in 1867, and the construction workers' strike in Geneva, Switzerland in 1868. [37]

Marx said: **Wherever, in what form and under what conditions the class struggle manifests itself, it is natural that the members of our association will always stand in the forefront. The association supported the strike struggles of workers in various countries, supported the liberation movements of oppressed nations, defended the Paris Commune (March to May 1871) and rescued members of the Paris Commune, etc., highlighting the proletarian nature and internationalist essence of the International. By leading the struggle of the Western European international proletariat against the capitalist system and other reactionary systems, the association won the status of the "seventh power" in Europe**. [38][39]

**Conference Information List[40]**

1864 St Martin's Church Inaugural Meeting, St. Martin's Church, London, Britain

1866 Geneva Congress Geneva Switzerland

1867 Lausanne Congress, Lausanne, Switzerland

1868 Brussels Congress, Brussels, Belgium

1869 Basel Congress, Basel, Switzerland

1871 London Conference, London, Britain

1872 The Hague Congress, Hague, Netherland

1873 Geneva Congress, Geneva, Switzerland

1876 Philadelphia Convention, Philadelphia, USA

**Historical role** **of the International**

The International promoted the development of the workers' movement in Europe and America, and raised the ideological level and organizational level of the proletariat. It widely and deeply propagated Marxism, prepared for Marxism to gain a dominant position in the workers' movement, and laid the foundation for the establishment of independent proletarian parties in various countries. Under the new historical conditions formed after the Paris Commune, the direct task facing the workers' movement was to establish mass socialist workers' parties on the basis of various nation-states. Marx and Engels considered that under the new historical situation, the organizational form of the International had become outdated and its continued existence would become a shackle on the workers' movement. They had to let the International as an organizational form retreat to the background and transition to a new organizational form. The International officially announced its dissolution at a conference held in Philadelphia, USA in 1876. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin pointed out that the First International had completed its historical mission, and what followed was an era of incomparable growth of the workers' movement in various countries around the world, an era of widespread development of the workers' movement, and an era of the establishment of mass socialist workers' parties in various nation-states. [10]

Historical significance

1. Birth

The First International brought together and united the organized ranks of workers from European and American countries to fight for the common goal of "protecting, developing and completely liberating the working class". The emergence of the First International realized the unity of workers on an international scale for the first time, thus internationalizing the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. During its activities, the First International not only attracted most of the workers and advanced revolutionary intellectuals in Europe, the United States and some Latin American countries to its side, but also spread the ideas of the International to other continents. [10][28]

(II) **Diplomacy and International Prestige**

The primary task of the First International proletarian party international alliance was to widely support the strike movement of the working class in various European countries. It can be found that the most prominent feature of the First International's struggle from the Geneva Conference to the Basel Conference was that the heavier, more extensive and more frantic the bourgeoisie's blows against the workers became, the more consistent, united and unstoppable the resistance of the entire working class became. The successive outbreaks of workers' strikes in many European countries were not only a test of the organized power of workers, but also reflected the strong foreign relations capabilities of the First International parties. [28][10]

Marx proposed that the First International had a special function, which was to counter the capitalists' usual conspiracy of using foreign workers as tools to deal with their own workers during strikes and lockouts. In order to carry out an effective counterattack, the First International not only made supporting the workers' strike movement a major agenda at each of its conferences, but also continuously sent representatives to conduct field investigations and raise funds among the workers of various countries, and called on people to support the workers' just struggle against the tyranny of capital. During this period, the First International's practice of supporting workers' strikes in various countries allowed "the ruling forces of the old world to learn the power of the young and unprecedented great forces", enriched the content of the socialist parties' foreign exchanges, and enhanced their international prestige and influence. [28][10]

During their leadership of the First International, Marx and Engels always supported the national liberation struggles of various countries and the political movements of workers for democratic rights, and regarded supporting national independence and liberation as an important task of the International. They believed that if "the independence and unity of each nation were not restored, there would be neither the international unity of the proletariat nor the harmonious and conscious cooperation of all nations to achieve common goals." The First International was originally the product of British workers' support for the Polish people's uprising against the oppression of Tsarist Russia. Therefore, from the perspective of workers and from the standpoint of internationalism, the First International called on the working class of all countries in the world to support the Polish people's liberation movement and the Irish people's anti-British patriotic movement. It can be said that the victory of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie is the signal for the liberation of all oppressed nations. [28][10]

Even if some movements ultimately failed, they still had a powerful impact on the reactionary rule of the bourgeoisie and promoted the process of the working class's struggle for democratic rights. Take the Paris Commune as an example. Although the Paris Commune only existed for 72 days, the Commune Revolution promoted the working class of various countries in the world at that time to unite in the spirit of internationalism and form a combat organization of the First International proletarian party international alliance aimed at liberating labor and eliminating national disputes. "In this sense, it not only shaped and gathered the practical power of the branches of the First International and the international alliance of proletarian parties in various countries, but also cultivated the life value and spiritual quality of socialist parties in foreign exchanges with the civilization integration of proletarian internationalism. [28][10]

**(III) Organizational System**

The First International’s Declaration of Incorporation and Common Statutes, as well as the supplementation and development of the International’s programmatic principles and organizational principles by its congresses and conferences, gave the international workers’ movement a program based on scientific socialism and a constitution based on proletarian democracy with collective leadership and minority obeying the majority as its main content. It strived to adhere to principles without imposing them on others, thus further promoting the transformation of the workers’ movement from spontaneous struggle to conscious struggle and promoting the combination of scientific socialism with the practice of the workers’ movement. At the same time, it also cultivated a group of proletarian revolutionaries, thus laying the foundation for the proletariat of various countries to establish independent political parties within the scope of national states. [28][10]

Take the Common Statutes as an example. The Common Statutes of the First International gave the working class and its political organizations the legal right to independence. First, it stipulates the organizational independence of the members of the International. Its members can "fully preserve their original organizations while forming a permanent alliance of close cooperation with each other." Secondly, it clarifies the ideological independence of the members of the First International. On the premise of not violating the general direction of the association's socialist history and documents, the First International "allows each branch to be responsible for its own program" and "allows each branch to have its own theoretical views on the actual movement." Finally, it clarifies the independence of the members of the First International in action. The First International "has a special organizational structure that gives each national or local federation full freedom of action." It does not stipulate the specific form of the workers' political movement in various countries, nor does it require that the international union be exactly the same in all details. [28][10]

The Constitution "recognizes the natural rights of political parties and clarifies them through articles" in a legal procedure, thus forming the legitimate rights of socialist parties to engage in foreign relations. It fundamentally reveals the basic connotation of the rights and obligations of socialist parties to engage in foreign relations. The widespread establishment of socialist parties and workers' parties in Europe and the United States in the late period of the First International, as well as the upsurge of international joint actions of proletarian parties, are the practical results of the workers' parties of various countries fully mastering their rights of independence and autonomy. [28][10] The existence of these systems laid a solid ideological and theoretical foundation for the development of the communist movement on an international scale.[28][10]

**(IV) Strategy and Tactics**

The revolutionary program of the First International took "firm in substance, moderate in form" as its main strategy. When drafting and formulating the program and constitution of the First International, Marx, based on the complexity of the working-class movement in Europe at that time and the members of the First International, believed that the purpose of the First International was to unite the European and American working classes into a large army. The First International must have a program that the working class of other countries would support. Therefore, the formulation of the program must adopt the strategy of "firm in substance, moderate in form". [28][10]

The First International adhered to the strategy of "unity and sincere criticism" when dealing with the relationship between the members of the proletariat within it. The main body of the First International Proletarian Party International Union was mainly composed of individual socialists, socialist schools, trade union organizations and proletarian parties. As different practical forms of the workers' movement, although their theoretical viewpoints and practical strategies differed, these subjects more or less expressed the common desire of the working class to pursue liberation. Therefore, when facing differences, the First International always adhered to the strategy of "unity and sincere criticism" and proposed that "each member of the International Association should receive brotherly help from the workers who join the Association when moving from one country to another." At the same time, the proletariat of various countries did not reject mutual criticism. They believed that without criticism, it would be impossible for the socialist history and documents of different countries to be understood, and therefore there would be no talk of unity. [28][10]

It can be said that every development of the First International’s international party-based alliance and the practice of socialist parties’ foreign relations, no matter where it was, was always achieved in “unity and criticism together”. In dealing with the relationship between the First International and the groups that sought sectarian interests, it adopted the policy of “tit-for-tat, open exposure, resolute struggle, and thorough attack”.

As the First International grew stronger, the separatist conspiracy activities of Proudhonism, trade unionism, Bakuninism and their sectarian groups emerged, causing “the International to experience a crisis that it had never experienced since its founding”. Marx and Engels believed that "there is only one way to deal with all these conspiracies and intrigues, but it is a destructive way, that is, to expose them completely. These conspiracies and intrigues must be thoroughly exposed and deprived of any power." Guided by this principle, the Marxists of the First International waged a fierce struggle with the above-mentioned separatist forces over the national liberation struggle, the leadership of the First International, and the path and goals of the liberation of the working class. They refuted the reformist ideas, bourgeois positions and chauvinist errors of the sectarian groups, clarified the great significance of the proletarian revolution and the proletarian dictatorship to the cause of proletarian liberation, crushed the separatist forces and their plots, and maintained the unity of the international workers' movement and the international alliance of proletarian parties to the greatest extent possible, creating a good precedent for handling relations between countries in the international workers' movement. [28][10]

**(V) Principles of international peace and justice against Colonialism**

In its struggle against the colonial plunder of backward countries and regions by developed capitalist countries, the First International Union of Proletarian Parties always adhered to the theoretical view that "eliminating military rule is a necessary prerequisite for the common liberation of the European proletariat" and vigorously advocated the principles of international peace and justice. It made great contributions to promoting national liberation struggles and colonial independence movements, and fundamentally endowed socialist parties with the basic value orientation of peace and justice in their foreign relations. [28]

The First International held several conferences to clarify its attitude of opposing imperialist wars and upholding international peace. In September 1866, the Geneva Congress advocated the elimination of Russia's reactionary influence in Europe through the exercise of national self-determination. In September 1867, the Lausanne Congress discussed and passed the resolution "The Attitude of the Proletariat to War", which clarified the fundamental attitude of the First International to war. In 1868, the Brussels Congress clarified the position that the working class should take in the event of a war. In 1870, after the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, the First International successively issued the "First Declaration of the General Council of the International Workingmen's Association on the Franco-Prussian War" and the "Second Declaration of the General Council of the International Workingmen's Association on the Franco-Prussian War", which made it clear that the war was provoked by the ruling classes of France and Prussia, with the purpose of competing for European hegemony and strangling the domestic revolutionary movement. These two declarations pointed out that the proletariat must distinguish the nature of war, support just wars, oppose hegemonism and colonial plunder, and issued the slogan "The unity of the working class of the world will eventually eradicate all wars." [28]

The above-mentioned revolutionary struggles enriched the practical materials for the socialist parties’ foreign relations, demonstrated the tremendous power of the First International’s international alliance of proletarian parties, enhanced the prestige of the socialist parties among the working masses of various countries, and rapidly increased the international influence of the socialist parties’ foreign relations. [28]

Notes:

[1] Red May: Review of the Split and Integration of International Workers' Organizations in Europe. Chinese National History. [2023-08-16].

[2] Saul K. Padover. Introduction: Marx's Role in the First International in Karl Marx, The Karl Marx Library, Volume 3: On the First International. Saul K. Padover, ed. and trans.. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1971: 14.

[3] Scientific socialism became the main ideology of the workers' movement. CPP CC Shandong Provincial Committee. [2023-08-23].

[4] Wang Juefei. European History Dictionary, Volume 1. Shanghai Dictionary Publishing House, December 2007: 741.

[5] Tian Ziwu. Marx's Status and Role in the First International[J]. Journal of Sichuan Normal University: Social Sciences Edition, 1983, (1): 6. DOI:CNKI:SUN:SCSF.0.1983-01-004.

[6] The First International, the Trade Unions and the Paris Commune (1864-1876). // William Foster. Outline of the History of the World Trade Union Movement. 1956: 21-32.

[7] Commemorating 107 Centenary of the Founding of the First International. Chinese Stamp Catalogue. [2023-08-23].

[8] The pinyin of the First International, the synonyms and antonyms of the First International, what does the First International mean. Hanbang Dictionary. [2023-08-23].

[9] Engels' important contributions during the First International period. Baijiahao (China Social Sciences Network). [2023-08-20].

[10] New Theory on the Historical Contributions of the First, Second and Third Internationals. People's Forum. [2023-08-18].

[11] Jiang Qi. Dictionary of the History of the International Communist Movement. Jilin People's Publishing House, 1988: 655. 7206002242.

[12] Catalogue of Volume 16 of the Complete Works of Marx and Engels. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-18].

[13] The Complete Works of Marx and Engels, Volume 16. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-18].

[14] Wang Shuibo. A brilliant document that theoretically eradicates Proudhonism: A preliminary study of the Draft of a Critique of Political Economy (1857-1858)[J]. Social Science Front, 1984, (1): 7. DOI:CNKI:SUN:SHZX.0.1984-01-010.

[15] Chapter 2: The Years of Struggle and Victory. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-16].

[16] The struggle of Marxism against Proudhonism and Bakuninism during the First International Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the First International[J]. Historical Monthly, 1964, (10): 3-5.

[17] Chapter 3: The heyday. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-16].

[18] Chapter 14: The Decline of the International. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-16].

[19] First International. Tongyue Think Tank. [2023-08-16].

[20] History of the International Communist Movement: Marx and Engels’ Struggle against Opportunism during the First International. Torrent. [2023-08-16].

[21] Zhou Renfang. Marx and Engels' struggle against British trade unionism in the First International. Journal of Inner Mongolia University, 1980-6-29

[22] The Communist Manifesto. Party and Government Office of University of Science and Technology of China. [2023-08-10].

[23] Programme of Action of the Communist International. // Jeanne DeGrasse. Documents of the Communist International, Volume I. Beijing: World Knowledge Publishing House, 1963: Catalogue.

[24] Interpretation of the Communist Manifesto 4 Preface to the 1888 English Edition. Annotation of the Communist Manifesto. [2023-08-16].

[25] Why did Marx not complete the final draft of Capital? Guangming.net. [2023-08-16].

[26] "Philosophers only explain the world, the problem is to change the world.". Communist Youth League Central Committee Baijiahao. [2023-08-16].

[27] Chapter 7 The First International and Karl Marx (1864-1876). // William Foster. Outline of the History of the World Trade Union Movement. 1956: 21-32.

[28] Yang Xiuwen and Wang Shaoxing. . The historical origins of the First International and the foreign relations of socialist parties. . Scientific Socialism (No. 3), 2023: 138-140. .

[29] "World History" 066 First International. Unified History Classroom. [2023-08-14].

[30] Title. Baidu Education. [2023-08-16].

[31] Common Statutes of the International Workingmen's Association. Chinese Marxist Library. [2023-08-24].

[32] Marx and the First International. High School Education Publishing Network. [2023-08-14].

[33] Firmly adhere to the correct political direction. Mao Zedong Thought Banner Network. [2023-08-24].

[34] First International.zwbk2009. [2023-08-24].

[35] International Workingmen's Association (First International).spartacus-educational. [2023-08-10].

[36] Title. Baidu Education. [2023-08-14].

[37] Wei Jianhua, Marx, Engels. Collected Works of Marx and Engels (3) [M]. 2009: Works from 1864 to 1883.

[38] Marx: Introduction to The Civil War in France. Zhujiang College of Tianjin University of Finance and Economics. [2023-08-23].

[39] Chen Jingtang. Modern Chinese History for Hong Kong People (Volume 1). 2020-4-1: 499.

[40] Yeck. History of the First International. Sanlian Bookstore, 1964: Catalogue.

The article comes from the Internet. If there is any infringement, please contact us to delete it.