The inter-imperialist contradiction and Ukraine

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Introduction

There has been a fierce war after the Russian Army invaded an independent and sovereign state, Ukraine, on February 24, 2022. The main cities, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol, have been devastated. There are reports of large-scale military, civilian and physical damages to both sides. Not only military structures and also public structures like schools, hospitals, and theater halls have been targets of Russian missiles. It is estimated that around 10 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries as refugees.

At first glance, Russia's military invasion of Ukraine is unjust. There is no dispute about this. However, unilateral opposition to Russia without understanding the root cause of the Russian invasion of Ukraine cannot reach the depth of the problem and so leads to a subjective conclusion. On the surface, the current war is between Russia and Ukraine, but its crux is rather different. Without understanding the role of US imperialism, one cannot reach a correct conclusion on this war. In essence, it is the result of the conflict between Russian and US imperialism. This article will focus on this topic.

Founding of the Soviet Union

To understand the relationship that exists between Russia, Ukraine, and the United States, one needs to go back to the second decade of the 20th century. Following the success of the Russian October Socialist Revolution in 1917, proletarian revolutions advanced in several countries in Eastern Europe and Asia bordering Russia. One of them was Ukraine. The working-class people, led by the Communist Party of Ukraine, established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in Ukraine. In the meantime, Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic was established in Belarus as well. On December 30, 1922, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Transcaucasian Republics founded the Soviet Union. Later on, many other nations which were parts of the Russian empire joined it. In total, there were 15 nations in the Soviet Union, which comprised Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Latvia, Moldova, Estonia, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Georgia. It was a voluntary unification of nations with the right to secede, a practical manifestation of the right of nations to self-determination.

The Second World War

With the advance of socialism in the Soviet Union and the severe economic crisis that emerged in the capitalist countries in the 1930s, the contradiction between the socialist and capitalist countries, on the one hand, and between the various imperialist countries, on the other, escalated. In that situation, fascist rulers such as Mussolini and Hitler launched military attacks in Europe and Africa aimed at destroying Socialist Russia and establishing fascist rule the world over. In the meantime, Japan also was carrying out military offenses to expand its empire in China and other East Asian countries. The United States, which was not initially involved in the war, was drawn into it after Japan carried out a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. In that situation, Russia, Britain, and the United States formed an anti-fascist united front and the war later turned into World War II. Italian, German and Japanese fascists got defeated in the war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. Stalin's role was vital in the context of World War II.

After the fascists got defeated in World War II, not only did the Soviet Union defend itself but it also expanded its influence globally. It resulted in the establishment of socialism in about a dozen countries in Eastern Europe. Japan's defeat in World War II helped bring the victory of the Chinese New Democratic Revolution closer. The wave of the national liberation movement spread the world over, the colonies became independent, and the era of direct colonialism came to an end. It was a significant achievement for the communist revolutionaries. Consequently, the communists became offensive and the capitalists turned defensive.

Cold war period

Scared of the Russian victory in World War II and the attraction towards socialism the world over, the imperialists rushed to Washington aimed at forming an international military alliance to contain Russia. Accordingly, on April 4, 1949, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Belgium, France, Norway, Italy, Netherlands, Denmark, Luxembourg, Iceland, and Portugal founded a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Later, Turkey and Greece joined the alliance in 1952, West Germany in 1955, and Spain in 1982. The process of joining NATO continues even to this day.

After Stalin died in 1953, Khrushchev attained the highest post of the communist party leadership. He hurled insults at Stalin in the name of personality-cult. It was based on his ill-intention of defending his revisionist line by personally defaming a proletarian leader among the working-class people. On May 14, 1955, the Soviet Union and seven other Eastern European countries formed another military alliance named Warsaw Treaty Organization or Warsaw Pact to counter NATO. This military alliance was made up of Albania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. Thus, after 1955, two military alliances came into existence in the world. In this process, Soviet Socialism eventually turned into Soviet social imperialism. There had been no direct war between these two military alliances to expand their hegemony, but many regional wars took place with their instigation, sponsorship, and participation. However, many countries of the world did not join in either of these two military pacts but formed a Non-Aligned Movement. The military rivalry between the two alliances is known as the Cold War.

Dissolution of Soviet Union

After Khrushchev's modern revisionism prevailed in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Eastern European communist parties also turned revisionists. "Communism" with the reactionary essence could not last long in those countries. As a result, the Berlin Wall fell on November 19, 1989. The Soviet Union was dissolved on December 25, 1991, during the tenure of Russian President Yeltsin. As a result, the Warsaw Pact automatically became inactive. Thus ended the Cold War. All of the former Soviet republics including Ukraine, which was part of the former Soviet Union, became independent. To this day, the imperialists have been hailing this whole process as the end of communist history and the failure of Marxism.

Expansion of NATO

Unified Germany joined NATO as the continuation of West Germany by reaching an agreement between the Soviet Union and NATO. Russian leaders, including Gorbachev, claim that it was agreed not to expand NATO to the then socialist countries and the former Soviet republics after Germany obtained its membership. But NATO members do not agree with it. Whatever it be, the US imperialist monopoly prevailed in the world after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In 1996, US President Bill Clinton made the incorporation of the Warsaw Pact members and former Soviet republics into NATO an important part of his foreign policy to encircle its rival Russia.

According to this foreign policy, the United States campaigned for the cultivation of its agents mainly in those countries, which were in the Warsaw pact. After three years of homework, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999. Central and Eastern European countries – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia – joined NATO in 2004. Likewise, Albania and Croatia joined NATO on April 1, 2009. The last countries to join NATO are Montenegro and North Macedonia. They joined NATO in 2017 and 2020, respectively. To date, altogether 30 countries have joined NATO. By 2022, US imperialism has adorned three more countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine, which are currently in the queue to join NATO. Thus, US imperialism has intensified its effort to prepare its puppets mainly in Eastern Europe to encircle its rival Russia through NATO. Among them is a comedian Volodymyr Zelensky – a United States puppet – who is prepared to implement US imperialist plan in Ukraine.

The crux of the Russia-Ukraine war

Based on the above historical facts, what can be clearly said is that the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine is the result of the inter-imperialist rivalry between Russian imperialism and US imperialism to control Ukraine. In this war, President Zelensky is acting as a US agent to hand over Ukraine's national independence and sovereignty to US imperialism. Although Ukraine's war may seem like a patriotic war fought by Ukrainian Army against invading Russia, in essence, it is a war between Russian and American imperialism. Zelensky is not a patriotic leader fighting for the independence of Ukraine, but a political commissar of US imperialism commanding the Ukrainian army. Even if Russian forces are withdrawn, in the given situation, Ukraine will not be an independent nation but a neo-colony of US imperialism.

Conclusion

In the event of a Russian military invasion of Ukraine, the support of Ukraine by NATO nations including the United States may seem reasonable to someone. But that is not correct. American atrocities cannot be forgiven while condemning Russian intervention. It is not true that Ukraine will be independent under US control but dependent under Russian control. Whether Russia or the US subjugates Ukraine, she will not be an independent nation in both situations. To conclude that this imperialism is good and that one is bad is entirely wrong. The United States prepared Zelensky to stand in their favor in the past, and now, it is instigating to lengthen the war by providing arms and military equipment to Ukraine. Zelensky has become a scapegoat in this bloody war. It is something that the patriots of Ukraine need to understand.

Before, the United States provoked Zelensky against its rival Russia. After Russia invaded Ukraine, the US and NATO started instigating the Ukrainian people to fight Russia. US imperialism and NATO have made Zelensky a scapegoat in this war. The rulers of all the oppressed nations need to understand that the condition of those puppets who kneel before one imperialist power to oppose another will be no different than that of President Zelensky. In this era of imperialism, no nation can defend its national independence without fighting the imperialist system as a whole. The patriots of all the oppressed nations, including those of Ukraine, must grasp this truth.