

On Strikes

Questions for Guided Study and Curricula

I. Historical Context and Background

1. What was the historical context of Lenin's article On Strikes?
2. Why was the question of strikes significant in Russia at the time?
3. What were some competing interpretations of the significance of strikes in the Russian Social-Democratic movement?

II. Political Economy

1. How does Lenin connect strikes to the relations of production under capitalism?
2. Why does Lenin say the individual worker is absolutely powerless in the face of the capitalist?
3. What are the circumstances in which the capitalists will deliberately incite strikes?

III. Strikes and Class Struggle

1. How do strikes affect the development of class consciousness among the workers?
2. Why does Lenin call strikes a "school of war," but not a war in itself?
3. Why are strikes alone insufficient for the revolutionary class struggle?

IV. Ideological Questions

1. How does Lenin's commentary on strikes relate to the necessity of revolutionary violence?
2. How does Lenin relate strikes to the class character of the state?
3. How does Lenin relate strikes to the necessity of the revolutionary party of the proletariat?

V. Strategy and Tactics

1. What role do strikes play in the broader political struggle of the working class?
2. List and explain the criteria for a successful strike that Lenin puts forward.
3. How do the legal conditions of the union struggle specific to each country affect strike tactics?

VI. Theoretical Analysis

1. Analyze Lenin's description of the successive stages in the development of working class consciousness.
2. Explain Lenin's critique of the theory that a general political strike is a sufficient condition for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

VII. Practical Implementation

1. What should be the goal of revolutionaries and progressives when leading or participating in a strike?
2. How should one analyze conditions to produce class-conscious propaganda and agitational material in relation to strikes?
3. How can strikes be used to raise class consciousness among the workers?

VIII. Historical Significance

1. How does this document relate to the broader two-line struggle during the process of constituting the Communist Party in Russia?
2. What role did strikes play in the Russian revolutions of 1905 and 1917?
3. How did this document influence the Comintern's theses on strike strategy?