

Contemporary **EAST**

MONTHLY
SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL JOURNAL
OF THE INSTITUTE
OF ASIAN PEOPLES AND
THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICA,
U.S.S.R. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY 1961

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FOR OUR READER

ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY

Is a new name of the monthly scientific, social and political journal of the Institute of Asian Peoples and the Institute of Africa of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, which from this March will replace the magazine *Contemporary East*.

The new name reflects more fully the subject matter covered by the only Soviet periodical devoted completely to the life and struggle of the Asian and African peoples, their present day.

ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY

WILL PUBLISH:

- articles by Soviet and foreign scientists dealing with the disintegration of the colonial system and the national liberation movement of the peoples of Asia and Africa;

- features on the upbuilding of communism in the Eastern republics of the Soviet Union and the building of socialism in the Asian People's Democracies;

- features, reviews, commentaries and essays by Soviet and foreign journalists on topical international issues;

- features about little-known countries and about the life, culture and customs of Asian and African peoples;

- fiction, photographs, drawings, plates;

- reviews and summaries of new books, documents.

In the coming issues **ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY** will carry:

- features about the situation in the Congo, Algeria, Laos, Turkey, Ethiopia, Nepal, Iraq and Indonesia;

- articles on the outlook for the emergence of new independent national democracies in Asia and Africa;

- articles on the problems facing the Communist, labour and trade union movements in Asia and Africa;

- articles on the part played by different classes in the national-liberation movement.

We shall also publish several chapters from a book by V. Minayev and M. Kazarina, *Intrigues of the Black Dragon (Behind the scenes of Japanese Espionage)*.

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Despite its rich natural resources, Nepal remains an agrarian country. Its occasional mills and factories can hardly be regarded as an industry in the modern sense of the word. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that the mills work at loss and are virtually on the verge of bankruptcy. The reason for this is that a large packet of their shares is in the hands of big foreign capitalists who are not interested in developing Nepal's industry and prefer to export their goods to the country.

That is why the sparse industrial proletariat of Nepal is directing its main efforts at preventing the mills from closing down and themselves from being thrown out of work. *Tulsi Lal Amatya*, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Nepal, describes the difficult conditions in which the workers of Nepal and their families live. Since the working class comprises only about 0.5 per cent of the population the Communist Party of Nepal relies also on the poor peasants, season-workers and minor office workers who make up 90 per cent of the population. The broad masses of the people are interested in a radical improvement of their conditions. But for this they will have to overcome many difficulties, and principal among them, disunity and low revolutionary consciousness. It is impossible to continue to pursue the old way of life — this idea is steadily maturing in the minds of the Nepalese working people.

Although proclaimed independent in 1957, *A. Kushnir* writes in his article, *Monopolists Wax Fat While Malaysians Starve*, the Federation of Malaya is cruelly exploited by foreign monopolies. British vested interests continue

to play a leading part in the economy. Foreign capital, mostly British, continues to control Malaya's economy. Foreign companies own 60 per cent of the rubber and most of the palm-tree and cocoanut plantations. European countries control 60 per cent of Malaya's mineral extraction, with three mining companies accounting for almost 45 per cent of the tin output.

The dominance of foreign capital undermines Malaya's sovereignty. The imperialist powers use her to pursue their own political aims.

The policy of the central government, which encourages the penetration of foreign monopolies into Malaya's economy, is being sharply criticised. The public demands economic independence which is the only guarantee of greater political independence.

"*Combat's*" *Worries*, by A. Kartsev, cites facts of American political and economic penetration into Tunisia. The American mission headed by Robert Murphy which played the part of the "well-wishing intermediary" in the 1958 Franco-Tunisian conflict, the economic mission headed by Strauss, and the delegation of the U. S. Economic Development Foundation are all mileposts of American penetration into Tunisia.

Behind the screen of "anti-colonialism," K. Tarkhov writes in his article *Drang nach Afrika*, West-German monopoly capital is stepping up its economic expansion in Africa in an attempt to lay hands on the continent's raw material reserves. Loans and credits for deliveries from West-Germany and non-equivalent trade are used for this purpose. West-German concerns have opened some one hundred affiliated branches in African countries. At the same time the Bonn government is aiding the French imperialists in their dirty war in Algeria and the Belgian colonialists in severing Katanga province from the Congo.

V. Rogov, in his feature, *Visiting Soviet Dungans*, writes of the life of the Dungans, a small people living in

Kirghizia and Kazakhstan. He discusses the celebrated Dungan poet Yasyr Shivaza, whose work reflects the new life of his people in Soviet times. V. Rogov also describes a Dungan collective farm visited by him. "A small people have found their big happiness," he writes in conclusion.

M. Yumin's article, *Virgin Soil Upturned*, deals with the politico-economic aspects of the virgin land development project in the Mongolian People's Republic as a new undertaking in the upbuilding of socialism in the country. The project is all the more remarkable as up till recently field husbandry was practically non-existent in Mongolia.

In recent years the cooperative movement among the nomad cattle-breeders, the expansion of industry and the growth of the urban population has given rise to the need for the development of field husbandry to supply the population with domestic grain and the livestock with forage. The Soviet Union has rendered Mongolia tremendous help in this undertaking. It granted credits for the purchase of 3,000 tractors, 1,000 harvester combines, 3,000 lorries and other farm machines and implements. The Soviet Union also sent more than 300 tractor and combine operators, master mechanics and other farm specialists to work at Mongolian state farms. In 1959—60, some 250,000 hectares of virgin land was ploughed up and sown, mainly with wheat. In 1959, Mongolia harvested some 1.3 million tons of grain, and in 1960, 2.1 million tons. The Soviet Union is helping Mongolia in the construction of flour mills to process this grain. Starting with 1962 Mongolia will completely meet its grain needs and will stop importing flour from abroad.

When I was leaving for Guinea, E. Fadeichev writes in his feature, *Misconceptions of a Western Journalist*, one such journalist remarked: "I can't understand what interests you in Guinea, with its anarchy, jungles and backward people." His conception of Guinea, however, was totally wrong. Fadeichev found there a young and developing nation whose people are working with tremendous enthusiasm. He describes the new schools and the drive against illiteracy. In Conakry the author met young

Soviet educators who had come to teach at the Technological College. Moscow University graduates, they spoke with enthusiasm of their work and their bright and eager students.

In his feature, *Fishermen of the Lower Congo*, Yuri Gavrilov, a Soviet journalist, describes the life of the people in that part of the Congo which, unlike Katanga, lacks mineral reserves. That is why the Belgians showed little interest in the region. All that the fisherman of the Lower Congo received from Western "civilization", from the time when the first Portuguese frigate cast anchor in the mouth of the great river almost five centuries ago, was the privilege to wear trattered trousers and shirts and to have French names. Poverty, illiteracy and undernourishment was the lot of the fisherman of that "model" colony.

This May will mark the birth centenary of *Rabindranath Tagore*, a great son of the Indian people. The article, *He Heard the Tread of Mankind*, by E. Chelyshev, a prominent Soviet Indologist and literary critic, contains an analysis of the world-historic importance of Tagore as a great humanist and fighter for the bright future of all people.

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