Since Lenin Died

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Transcribed & marked up by Einde O’Callaghan for the Encyclopaedia of Trotskyism On-Line (ETOL).

Since Lenin Died
by Max Eastman

The fact that this book earned the concentrated scorn of the latter-day Comintern leadership, should immediately interest all Communists suffering under the deluge of “anti-Trotskyist” verbiage distributed in recent years under the guise of Leninism. Aspirants to leadership, in all English-speaking countries, from Rothstein to Browder, finding the thorny path of fight against capitalism not so promising, have turned with enthusiasm to slinging mud at the Russian Opposition and its leader, comrade Trotsky. But the authority of these slanderers of the revolution is shortlived. This book is one of the nails in their political coffin.

Coming fresh from the Thirteenth Party Congress of the Russian Party (May 1924) and the hysterical campaign leading up to Trotsky’s resignation as president of the Revolutionary Military Soviet in January 1925, Max Eastman was the first to publish the authentic documents of the controversy in English. He was in Russia during the whole development of the fight, witnessed the consolidation of the shady opponents of Leninism under the crafty leadership of the “Triumvirate”. The book is valuable to us now because in it are published the original documents, theses, letters and press articles of the period. These documents have already been supplemented, amplified and a thousand times verified in the writings of comrade Trotsky and other leaders of the Russian Opposition. Also by the shamefaced confessions of Zinoviev, Kamenev, etc. when they were no longer of use to Stalin.
Eastman will be remembered for unswerving courage and determination in the face of the solid mass of howling bureaucrats, to speak the truth and prove it. He has the honor of being one of the first to be expelled from the American Party for supporting the Russian Opposition. He certainly was the first to bring the documents and platform of the Russian Opposition out of the “illegality” imposed by Stalin and into the light of day.

Price: Cloth, $1; paper, 50 cents. Order through the Militant
Lenin died on January 21, 1924 after being unable to recover from an assassination attempt a few years earlier. Shortly after that, despite heavy protests from his wife, the 53-year-old’s body was mummified and placed on public display in a mausoleum in the heart of Moscow. The Bolshevik leader’s corpse has remained there for years, but since the fall of Soviet Union in 1991 calls for it to be removed and laid to rest are heard every time another important date related to the Communist icon approaches. Lenin as already pointed out in one of the answers had a pragmatic approach towards attaining Communism. The failure of War communism and its destructive effect on the Russian economy during the Civil War made Lenin realize that the transition from Feudalism to Socialism has to go through an intermediate stage of Capitalism. All the history ever since 1924 would have been completely different.

Since then, dead Lenin has been through a lot, including an evacuation to the city of Tyumen (2,100 km east of Moscow) during WWII and several attempts to destroy his body. But the guy is still in good shape, especially for someone who died 94 years ago. Scientists from a special laboratory still look after him. The same thing happened to North Korea’s Kim Il-sung (died in 1994) and Kim Jong-il (died in 2011). Even though the USSR collapsed in 1991, Russian scientists helped the North Koreans.