Placard 2.3A

ДА ЗДРАВСТВУЮТ РАВНОПРАВНЫЕ ЖЕНЩИНЫ СССР!

Women's Issues

Much has changed since Tsarist times, when men exploited women as private property and husbands could, according to law, beat their wives "privately and politely." The 1936 Soviet Constitution, for example, ensured women's rights to vote, to work, to attain an education, and to be given equal legal status with men. These socialist rights represented important improvements over capitalist, second-class treatment of women!

Under Stalin's leadership, the Communist party recognized that women had essential roles in creating a socialist society, as workers and as mothers. Unlike the pre-revolutionary times, socialist women dressed in modern clothes, worked in factories, attended schools, and earned important jobs in the government. In capitalist nations such as the United States, women only recently achieved the right to vote and still don't earn the same amount of money as men. Yet, the Soviet Communist party always treated women as equals to men!

КАЖДЫЙ, КТО ЧЕСТЕН, ВСТАНЬ С НАМИ ВМЕСТЕ!

Minority Rights

Many ethnic groups with different languages and cultures—such as Poles, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Tatars, and Turks—sought independence during the Tsarist era. During this time, ethnic groups were forced to speak Russian, practice Orthodox Christianity, and support the Russian government.

In the spirit of socialist equality, the Great October Revolution of 1917 reversed the racist policies of the tsar! Communists allowed ethnic groups, who had been oppressed under the tsars, to proclaim their independence. For example, the great 1936 Constitution promised over 100 different ethnic minorities living in the Soviet Union complete freedom to exercise their language and culture! The Communist party respected all cultural traditions, even though cultural differences were disappearing and being replaced by the new unity of the working class. Workers, party officials, and soldiers of all nationalities worked side by side in a spirit of classless comradeship and ethnic harmony. This sense of socialist solidarity made possible the great successes of the Stalin era!

Placard 2.3C

Housing

With the boundless determination only a socialist country could produce, the Soviet Union constructed modern houses for all workers so that no citizen lived without a home! In stark contrast, the United States government allowed many of its sick, elderly, and jobless citizens to go homeless.

Magnitogorsk, located in the Ural Mountains, was an example of the new industrial cities built during Stalin's era. There, skilled workers lived in a district called the New Town. According to one worker, housing consisted of "some fifty large apartment houses, three, four, and five stories high, containing between seventy-five and two hundred rooms each. The houses were brick and stone stuccoed and painted various colors, which looked very cheerful against the white background of snow in the winter. Between the rows of houses ran wide streets, with sidewalks, along which many trees had been planted. All houses were equipped with electricity, central heating, and running water." Cities such as this represented the heroic efforts of Stalin to modernize the Soviet Union!

БЕЗГРАМОТНЫЕ

ГРАМОТНЫЕ

Arts

Artists in the Soviet Union played their part in both the worker's revolution and the building of the socialist state. Lenin felt that the gap between artist and worker, a product of the capitalist system, had to be bridged through the control and guidance of the Communist party. The party guided writers, painters, sculptors, composers, playwrights, architects—artists from all fields—so that their art reflected the worker's point of view. Artists no longer created works to make a selfish profit but rather to help spread the ideas of the socialist revolution. This communist style of art glorified the heroes, victories, and ideas of the Communist party.

Stalin wanted to train artists of all kinds in socialist ideas so that their work would be sure to reach the working class. Stalin wanted artists to cast common, working class people—such as peasants, factory managers, soldiers from the Soviet civil war and others—as heroes in their books, films, operas, and other works. Many artists left their bourgeois (middle class, capitalist) past and adapted their work to the aims of the Communist party leadership.

КРЕСТ и ТРАКТОР

Religion

The 1936 Soviet Constitution promised freedom of religious expression for all faiths in the Soviet Union. Due to the success of the new socialist state, however, most citizens began to see different religions as representing the old Tsarist Russia. In traditional Russian society, the Russian Orthodox Church had held a position of great authority and influence. The Communist party uncovered the truths about priests; they misled Russian peasants and tricked the working class into accepting a lower role in society. Furthermore, religious organizations did not need the vast land holdings and wealth they had amassed during the Tsarist era to conduct spiritual affairs. After the 1917 Revolution, the government seized all church property and seminaries so that the land and wealth could be used by the working class to build the model worker's society.

Placard 2.3F

ЗАБОТА О ЛЮДЯХ-ЗАКОН СОВЕТСКОЙ ЖИЗНИ!

Health Issues

Free health care for all Soviet citizens was one of the great triumphs of the 1917 Revolution! Before the revolution, Russia's few doctors worked mainly in larger urban centers, and medical knowledge and practice was grossly outdated. The revolutionary leaders reversed this situation by educating doctors in modern techniques and by building clinics throughout the rural regions of the Soviet Union. Stalin furthered this policy by building clinics and hospitals in new industrial cities and at centers accessible to collective farms. The United States provided outstanding health care, but only for the wealthy citizens who could afford it. The Soviet government provided free health care for all workers, peasants, soldiers, government officials, and their families.

The Communist Party

The 1936 Soviet Constitution proclaimed that the Communist party was the "vanguard [leader of the movement] of the working people in their struggle to build a communist society and the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both government and nongovernment." Due to the guidance of the Communist party, the glorious revolution of the proletariat (working class) had, in 19 long and difficult years, succeeded in creating a classless society in the Soviet Union. Stalin declared in the Constitution that only two fraternal (brotherly) classes remained in the Soviet Union, the working class and the collective farm peasantry. These two classes were equal in all ways in Soviet society.

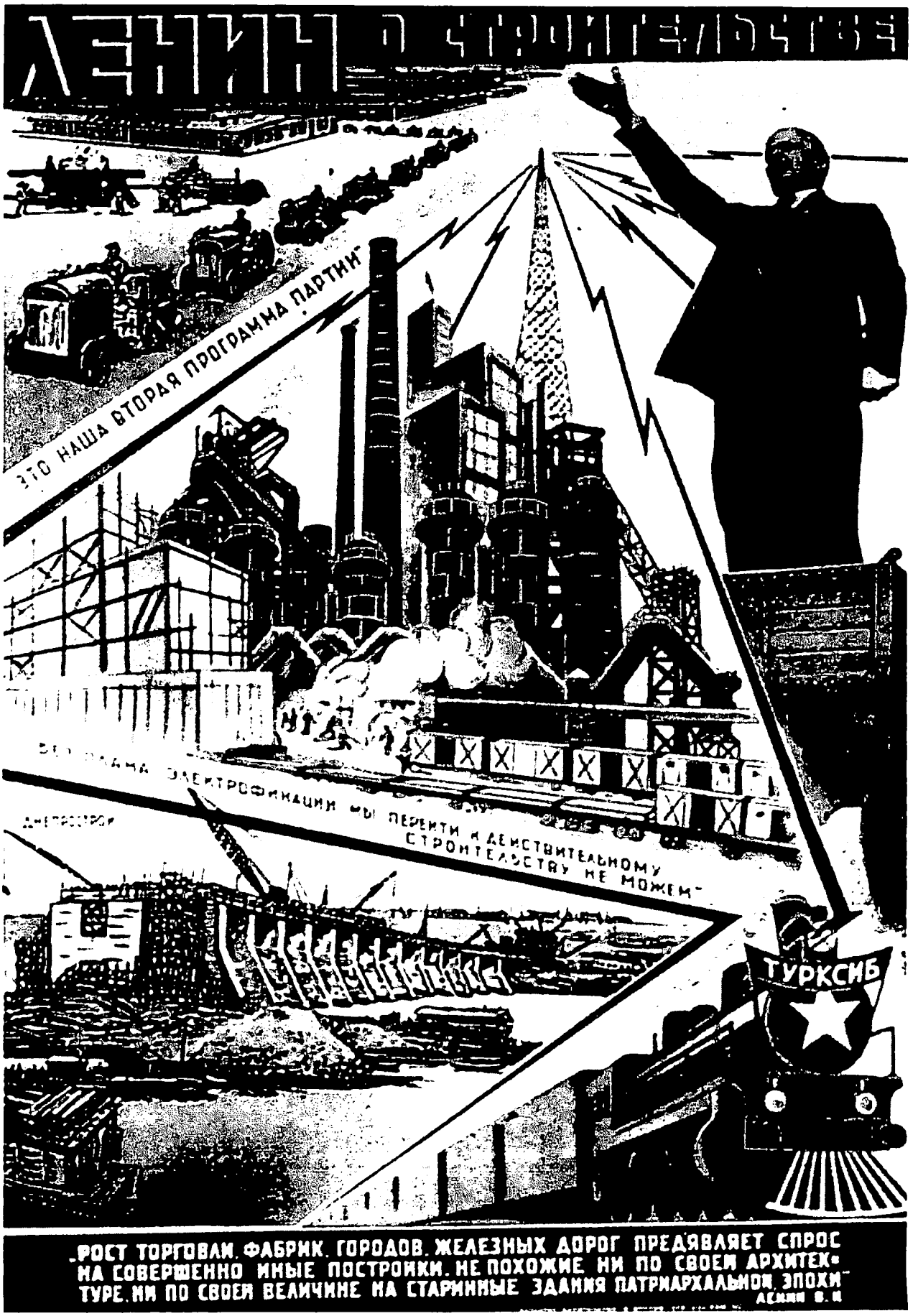
No one group, including the party leaders, enjoyed special privileges in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, all citizens of the Soviet Union shared the same rights as stated in the 1936 Constitution: the right to freedom of speech, of assembly, and of the press; freedom of religion; inviolability (security from being mistreated) of the person, the home, and the privacy of correspondence. The Communist party made sure that Soviet citizens found nothing to disagree with or complain about. All shared equally in work and the products of the nation's labor.

Agrarian Success

During Josef Stalin's brilliant leadership of the Communist party, the Soviet government controlled most private property so that all workers, not just private individuals, could benefit from agriculture. Before the Revolution of 1917, much of land was owned and farmed by wealthy peasants, called *kulaks*. Kulaks hoarded food, paid lower-class peasants meager wages, and were unwilling to sacrifice for the greater good of the socialist revolution! They opposed the socialist policies of the Soviet government, especially collectivization.

Stalin's policy of collectivization in the late 1920s created large communities in which peasants owned and farmed the collected land together, sharing the profits of their labor. The state aided farmers by supplying them with machinery, repairs, seeds, tools, and training in new farming techniques. By 1937 the state controlled almost all land in the Soviet Union.

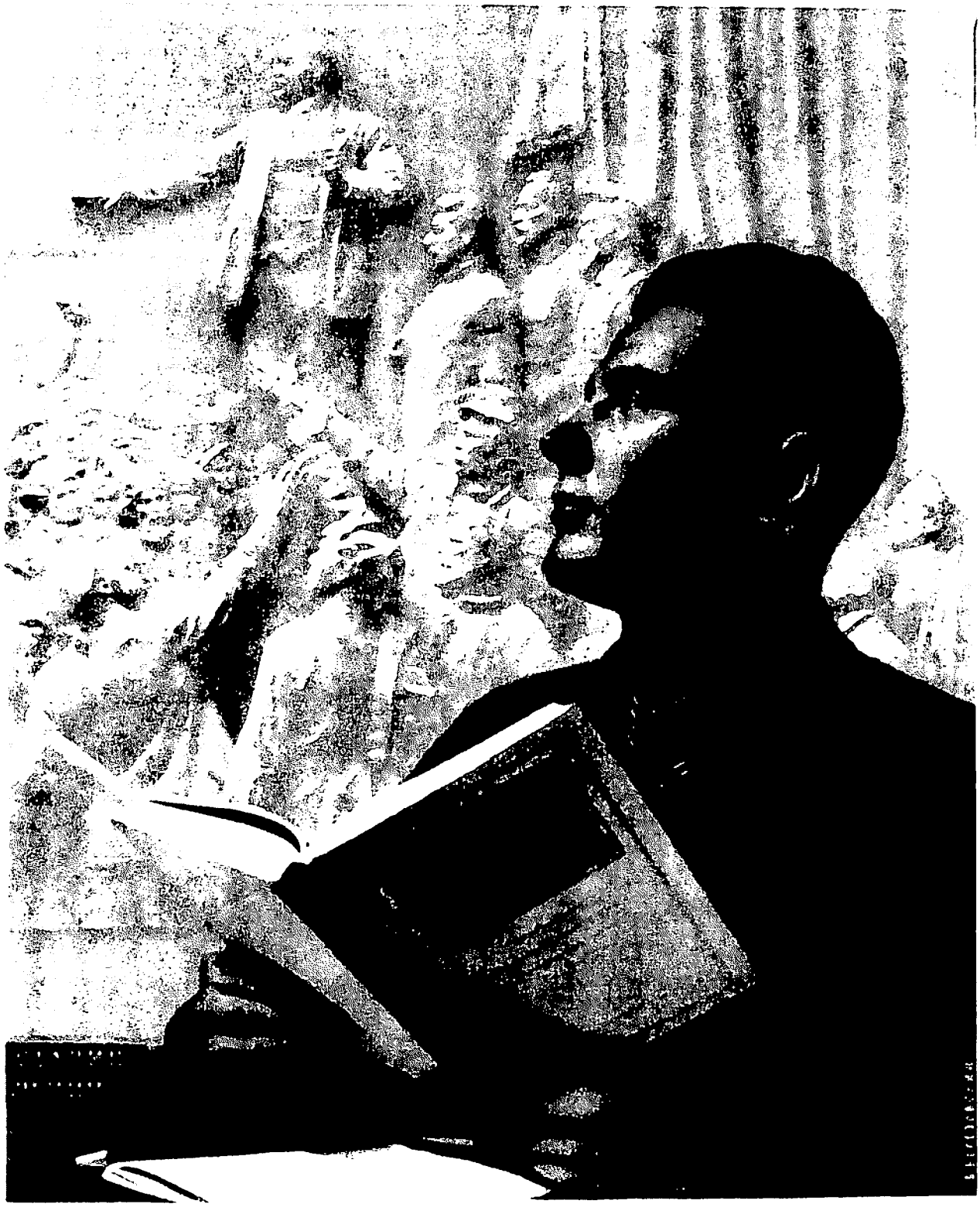
Collectivization ensured better yields because collective farms were more efficient and productive. Grain production had increased from 73.3 million tons in 1928 to 95.6 million tons in 1940. Production of sugar had nearly doubled, and the Soviet Union was selling wheat on the international market.



Industrialization

During the Tsarist era, Russia remained far behind western Europe in every industrial category. Russian factories, workers, communications, and transportation were vastly inferior to the West. In 1931 Josef Stalin, our great socialist leader, announced, "We are fifty or one hundred years behind the advanced [industrialized] countries. We must make good the distance [make up the difference] in ten years...or we will be crushed." Stalin's plan to industrialize and catch up with the West was drawn up in a series of brilliant five-year plans. These plans set quotas (target figures) for all areas of Soviet industry: iron, coal, steel, oil, electricity, defense, and consumer goods.

The workers of the Soviet Union voted overwhelmingly to undertake Stalin's bold program for modernization. Some members of Soviet society attempted to undermine the success of the five-year plans. Since they were being paid by foreign capitalist governments, they were rooted out and punished for their traitorous acts. Many government officials returned to their bourgeois roots and unsuccessfully attempted to derail Stalin's economic goals. These former party leaders confessed their crimes, and once they were removed from power, Soviet industry advanced forward. By 1940 production of steel, coal, oil, and electricity had more than tripled since 1928.



ИЗУЧАЙТЕ ВЕЛИКИЙ ПУТЬ
ПАРТИИ ЛЕНИНА-СТАЛИНА!

Education

Before the great socialist revolution in Russia, only Russian nobles and the clergy learned to read and write. Thus, in 1917, only 28 percent of Russian subjects were literate (able to read and write), and only 12 percent of peasants were literate. After the Great October Revolution, the Communist party created a plan to bring education to all socialist citizens, including peasants. By 1926, 72 percent of men and 43 percent of women were literate, and over 35 percent of the peasants learned to read and write.

Stalin launched a massive literacy campaign in 1932. Many workers were taught at night schools in their factories, and collective farms usually included school houses. By 1941, 85 percent of Soviet citizens were literate. Stalin's education plan also led to the development of elementary schools, high schools, and colleges in every urban center. In 1910, during the tsarist regime, only 40,000 wealthy nobles and capitalists attended college. In 1955, after Stalin's education campaign, more than 1.5 million people, many of them former peasants, were enrolled in higher education.