
Interview: Aleksandr Zinoviev

Gorbachov like Stalin manipulates the West

The dissident Russian mathematician Aleksandr Zinoviev was expelled from the U.S.S.R. in 1979. Our correspondent Fior-ella Operto encountered him in Rome in June 1989:

EIR: You recently stated that Gorbachov is creating a Stalinist “super apparat” for control.

Zinoviev: The Soviet Union is suffering through a very deep crisis, and in order to deal with it two conditions are necessary, the first internal and the second external.

The reason for the internal crisis derives from the fact that the power apparatus is losing control over society, and the super-apparatus of the system has lost control of the ordinary power system; the regime wants to restore order in the country, and above all in the power system. And like it or not, the country finds itself today with no way out—it is forced to create a Stalinist super power system. I maintain that Gorbachov understands this perfectly, and has taken steps in that direction. This tendency is disguised with an apparent Westernization of Soviet society. This disguise is necessary because the U.S.S.R. must comply with the second condition I mentioned, the external one, Western aid. The U.S.S.R. not only wants to come out of the crisis, but wants to come out finding itself at the same level as the Western European countries. Above all it wants to rearm its army, and at the level of the best Western technology. The U.S.S.R. with its internal forces is not capable of providing these needs. As a result, Gorbachov conducts an extremely sophisticated foreign policy; he has made himself a reputation of “peace-lover” or “liberator,” but in reality he is rearming the army and reaffirming his own power. In this respect, Western policy in support of Gorbachov is not only a stupid but a criminal policy.

EIR: How do you judge the nationalities problem after the Chinese massacre at Tiananmen Square? How do you judge the explosion in the U.S.S.R. of intense racism, of movements such as the Pamyat society? Is racism one of the cards played by the regime to suffocate the revolts?

Zinoviev: Not everything that happens in the U.S.S.R. is under the control of the authorities. For example, there are nationalist movements, there is a very strong tendency toward the disintegration of the empire. But one should not have big illusions in this regard. The Soviet ruling group appears very experienced and astute, capable of using every

circumstance in their own interest—catastrophes, misfortunes, everything is used that way. They have enough strength and means to circumscribe these nationalist movements within their borders. In particular, they are capable of taking decisive initiatives: For example, they could opt to grant autonomy to the Baltic Republics, and could then use these republics as “Trojan Horses” against the West, and meanwhile stir up extremely negative feeling-reactions from the rest of the population. For example, the attitude of the population of the Russian Republic toward the nationalist movements is very negative. The population thinks that Baltic Republics only want to grab privileges for themselves. Naturally those in power manipulate these moods.

As to Pamyat, like other movements, it arose partially outside the control of the authorities, but it could not have imposed itself without the consensus of the authorities and the population, and it must be said that Pamyat represents the feelings of a significant part of the Russian population. In my opinion Pamyat is a highly negative phenomenon, which discredits nationalisms in the U.S.S.R. and at the same time takes people’s attention away from more important problems.

There is a parallel between Pamyat and the situation before the 1905 Revolution, when similar movements were repressed by the police, precisely to create disorders and manipulable situations. Yet I believe that Pamyat has no big prospects, because it contains directions that are irksome even for those in power; for example it is an anti-Semitic movement, which arouses negative reactions at the international level, and it is a movement which is very critical toward the Gorbachov group. The support of the authorities cannot go beyond a certain point.

EIR: What is your judgment on the failure of Gorbachov’s trip to China?

Zinoviev: Gorbachov went to China as a provocateur, he would have liked to conquer as much popularity in China as he obtained in Europe. He thought he would succeed in intervening with the demagogy of *perestroika* and that he would get an enthusiastic hearing. You saw the results. In my opinion he contributed to aggravating the repressive attitude of the Chinese authorities against the students.

EIR: How do you judge the attitude of the U.S.S.R.’s leadership toward freedom of religion?

Zinoviev: It is a widely held opinion in the West that the U.S.S.R. is going through a period of religious freedom, of religious revival. This is an absurd opinion. There is nothing but the Russian Orthodox Church, which is an imitation of a church, whose religion is an imitation of religion. The Russian Orthodox Church is a branch of the offices of the Communist Party, and it serves the regime even better than the ideological apparatus, and naturally the regime uses it with great success.