

tion, and by their being forced out of agricultural production to a great degree.

## II

The contradictions between the desolate condition of the mass of the peasantry, the capitalist development of agriculture, and the domination exercised by the big landlords over the land, the basic means of agricultural production, was the fundamental cause of the 1905 revolution, and was also one of the basic underlying factors in the revolutionary outbreak of 1917. Having crushed the 1905 revolution by means of the punitive expeditions of the czarist troops, by executions and death sentences, the czarist government was at the same time compelled, by means of the so-called "Stolypin laws," to stimulate the development of agriculture along commercial and capitalistic lines at a heightened tempo. But these attempts could not create sufficiently favorable conditions for the liquidation of the conflict of interests between the landlords and the peasantry, inasmuch as the power and the profits remained in the hands of the ruling, land-owning class. As a matter of fact, the contradictions were actually aggravated by the Stolypin reforms, despite the fact that the czarist government attempted to base itself on certain groups in the villages by affording these groups the possibility of expanding their holdings through the plundering of the common land. In spite of the decisive measures taken in this direction, the outbreak of the revolution, hastened by the war, led to the overthrow of the czarist regime and to the overthrow of the capitalist class, which had attempted to seize the power after the March revolution.