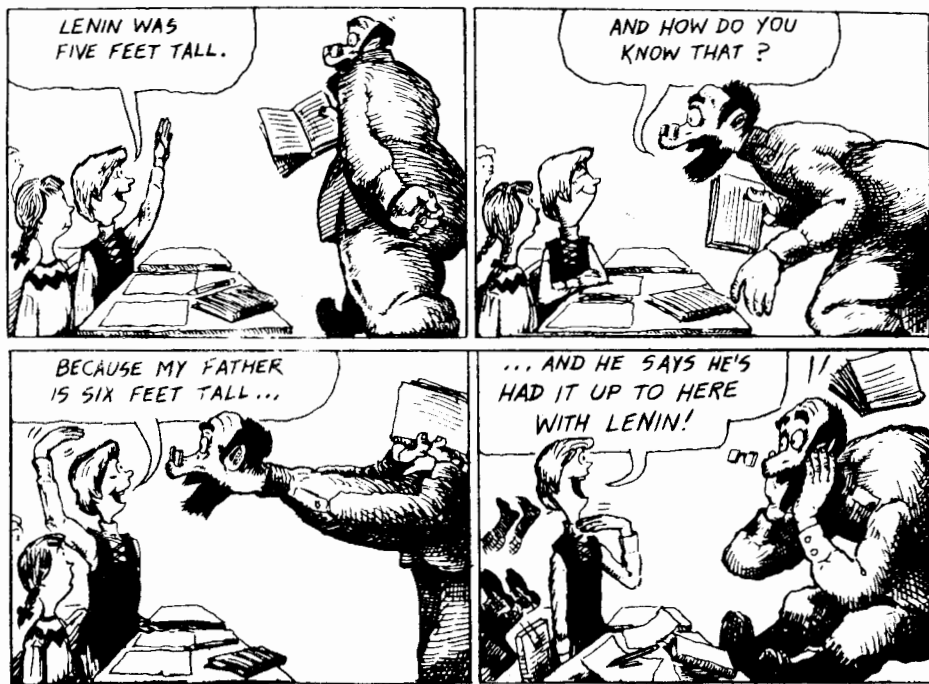




Poland:

'Socialist Paradise'



This cartoon is an example of current Polish political humor—90% of which is aimed against the Russians and perhaps another 10% against Polish subservience to the Soviets.

Poland, the cradle of many struggles against the Socialist autocracy, is now under the grip of Socialist militarism, which has dashed the last hopes of any reform. The aim of Solidarity to build an independent trade union as a vehicle through which authentic workers' demands can be expressed has been frustrated by the military coup. Those who have hoped to see a new Socialist outlook, a Socialism with a human face, have been left with their illusions.

Socialism with a human face, a Marxist intellectual concept, has no relationship to the pragmatic world, which is the world of the bourgeoisie, of state, private and multi-national capitalism. Thus Socialism, to use the Marxist phraseology, has a degenerate

appearance in this world because it operates within the bourgeois framework: the state, army police, prisons, class divisions, one party system (some states have a few parties), hierarchies, privileges, one trade union, appendage of the state, to smooth the exploitation of the workers and so on to infinity.

Solidarity, with its history, struggle and its suppression, has only confirmed the validity of the Anarchist critique of State Socialism.

No Socialism can be built by the capturing of power, or by an avantgardist party. This kind of Socialism is but a window-dressing for exploitation, strong state centralism, totalitarianism and bureaucratisation of human

activities. It survives thanks to state terrorism: secret police, prisons, gallows and labour camps. Paradoxically it is opposed by the workers, the peasants and by a large segment of the population reduced to abject poverty. The Polish case is to the point. The vanguard, the Party, the apparatchiks are always there, Socialism never is and the workers continue to be exploited as usual. To this state of affairs an IWW adage, with some alteration, may suit: the Communist vanguard are the drones, the greedy parasites; the workers are the bees that supply the honey but are fed on crumbs. Perhaps this is the Marxist syndrome"... we must not forget that for all