

INT D 347

WOMEN AND SOCIALISM: USSR AND  
EASTERN EUROPE

An Outline

"Women and Socialism: USSR and Eastern Europe: is an interdisciplinary course designed to introduce the student to the women's question in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. At the same time, the course's objective is to explain the socialist theory as it relates to the women's question from the Utopian Socialists of the XIXth century to V.I. Lenin and his followers.

The following topics will be discussed:

- I. The origins of socialism; the Industrial Revolution; the French Revolution; the rise of the labour movement. The women question in Europe at the end of the XVIIIth and beginning of the XIXth century; the Napoleonic Code; the rise of the feminist movement.
- II. Utopian Socialists and the women question: Saint Simon and the Saint Simonians; Charles Fourier; Robert Owen; Pierre Joseph Proudhon; Flora Tristan.
- III. The growth of the labour movement in Western Europe; Marx and Engels and the emergence of "scientific socialism". The Revolutions of 1848; the emergence of the revolutionary movements in Russia; Chernyshevsky and the women question; women in the Russian revolutionary parties; Anarchism and the women question; German Social Democracy; August Bebel's ideas on women and socialism; Fabian socialism.
- IV. The life and work of prominent women socialists: Vera Zasulich; Rosa Luxemburg; Klara Zetkin; Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya; Alexandra Kollontai and others.
- V. The Revolutions of 1905 and 1917 in Russia. The changed position of women following the October Revolution: legal, economic, social, cultural.  
Lenin's, Trotsky's and Stalin's views on the women question. Women and the building of "socialism in one country" (The Stalin Era).
- VI. The changed situation of women in Eastern Europe following World War II; the social position of women and social mobility; education; women as the new proletariat; women and politics; women and culture; portrayal of women in literature; the women question and "socialist realism". Women and the movement of dissent in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

Conclusion -- Does socialism liberate women?