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Kazimierz Czapiński’s Position against the Communist System in the Soviet Union (from the Bolshevik Revolution to 1939)

Based on the assumptions of democratic socialism, Kazimierz Czapiński expressed the view that the new socio-economic system can only occur after the era of advanced capitalism, and by the decisions of the majority of citizens having political awareness, education and high moral standards. For these reasons, he emphasized from the very beginning the contradiction between social democracy and the theory and practice of the Bolshevik dictatorship. He claimed that Lenin was driven by a mixture of fanaticism and the desire to gain and maintain power at any cost. In his numerous publications, he condemned Soviet communism as based on an extensive system of terror, militarism, imperialism, bureaucracy, censorship and ideological orthodoxy, etc. In the 1930s, he classified communism as a totalitarian system, i.e., a one-party system that destroys human dignity and promotes a uniform worldview. In his opinion, the Great Terror unleashed by Stalin in 1936-1938 was a crime resulting from the pursuit by the dictator to strengthen his power. He described the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact as Stalin’s betrayal and an act of cynicism.

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