

NYTW Lenin's Teachings

To the Editor:

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Louis Fischer, in his letter of Nov. 17, cited Lenin's writings condemning imperialism and subjugation of other nationalities as a moral judgment on the Soviet military occupation of Czechoslovakia and the slow strangulation of that country's aspirations for enlarged freedom. However, it is perhaps worth remembering that the Lenin cited by Mr. Fischer was an obscure revolutionary exile.

Lenin in power was the first to violate his own professed belief in national self-determination. In such non-Russian areas of the former Russian empire as Poland, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, the Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaidjan, non-Russian separatist governments were set up.

Lenin did not peacefully concede freedom or honest plebiscites to any of these peoples. They all had to fight against the Red Army and subversion instigated from the Soviet Union, some, for the time being, successfully (Poland, Finland and the Baltic Republics), others unsuccessfully (the Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaidjan and other small nationalities).

If the seizure of Czechoslovakia was contrary to the principles of Lenin the revolutionary, it was all too reminiscent of the practice of Lenin the dictator.

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Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 19, 1968
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