

https://groups.io/g/marxmail/topic/grover_furr_the_inquisitor_s/115788803?page=3[Home](#) Marxmail / [Topics](#)

Date ▼

[Grover Furr, the inquisitor's apprentice](#)[John Edmundson](#) ▼

Oct 24



As I recall, Louis' ban on the Stalin - Trotsky debate on this list was the result of his experience on other lists. He had seen discussion groups that were intended to bring together Marxists from diverse traditions (ie Stalinists, Maoists, Trots, non-Leninists, libertarian Marxists etc) to discuss the issues of concern to us today degenerate into feuding over Stalin - Trotsky. He wanted to avoid that. Since Louis' death, the list has continued and Stalin - Trotsky has not come to dominate. I would be happy to remain as is, without that heavy-handed ban, but would ask that list members keep things in proportion. Both Stalin and Trotsky have been dead for most of a century and the exact issues that confronted the Bosheviks at the death of Lenin will not be recreated. They will be different because the world moved on. I personally don't think Trotsky was a Nazi spy, but even if he was, that has no bearing on whether Socialism in One Country is a better option than a Transitional Program. How to progress from one country to a world of socialism is, and will continue to be, an issue (Cuba is pretty lonely right now and some people argue it's a fake socialist country). Why not focus on the actual ideas Stalin or Trotsky employed or advocated for and consider whether or not they are right for now. Or simply look at the problems we face today and formulate new ideas through struggle and engagement. And avoid terms like Trotskyite or Tankie unless to describe yourself. :~)

Comradely,
John

[Show quoted text](#)

--

"All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."
Sarah Moore Grimke, abolitionist (1792-1873)

👍 2 People liked this



Charles ▾

Oct 24



John Edmundson wrote:

Why not focus on the actual ideas Stalin or Trotsky employed or advocated for and consider whether or not they are right for now. Or simply look at the problems we face today

Okay. (Sorry, this is a direct quote, so an unwelcome word is there):

Today some Trotskyites still dwell on cursing Stalin, while others prefer to move on. This is a secondary thing. The Trotskyites' central doctrine of world revolution remains an accurate reflection of their political activity: leftish but not in the least oriented to achieving socialism. Trotskyites argue fiercely about trade unions, presidential elections, a third party in the U.S., and how to relate to social democrats. But they almost never tie issues to the problems and practice of socialist revolution – the central work of communists.

–from <https://newworker.us/theory-history/trotskys-comintern-conspiracy-the-case-of-osip-pyatnitsky/>



John Edmundson ▾

Oct 24



Yes, a direct quote from you :~)

I've met a lot of Trots in my life and not a single one was "not in the least oriented to achieving socialism". Yes, a lot of them argue about unions etc but I know Stalinists who do the same. Some in both factions are cultish and quite frankly, nuts. But every serious communist I've known, Staliniist or Trotskyist, was serious about wanting to build a communist revolution.

Comradely,
John

Show quoted text

--

"All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

Sarah Moore Grimke, abolitionist (1792-1873)



David Walters ▼

Oct 25



MODERATOR's NOTE: 1. all discussion of Furr, et all, comes to end for now. We can revisit it later. 2. Charles (or anyone) will be BANNED or moderated if he continues even once using the pejorative and thoroughly antiquated term "Trotskyite".

David

👍 1 Person liked this



Mark Baugher ▾

Oct 26



On Oct 25, 2025, at 08:26, David Walters via groups.io <david.walters66@...> wrote:

MODERATOR's NOTE: 1. all discussion of Furr, et al, comes to end for now. We can revisit it later. 2. Charles (or anyone) will be BANNED or moderated if he continues even once using the pejorative and thoroughly antiquated term "Trotskyite".

Now that the thread has been pronounced dead, all that's left is the eulogy.

Louis had a policy that we are free to ignore or apply, of course. But the policy was related to the mission of the list, which is emblazoned on our websites, "**The Marxism list is a worldwide moderated forum for activists and scholars in the Marxist tradition** who favor a non-sectarian and non-dogmatic approach. It puts a premium on independent thought and rigorous but civil debate. While it is a high-volume list, it has a very good "signal to noise" ratio."

Louis' intent was to keep the noise down. Name calling and heated debates that are irrelevant to the list's stated "non-sectarian and non-dogmatic approach" are noise. Sometimes it's hard to formulate a anti-noise policy that is exact enough without encroaching on free speech, or end up as moderator-enforced censorship, consciously or unconsciously, or seem to favor one sect or dogma over another.

I haven't bothered to check the archive to see who wrote this, but the replacement policy that I liked best is this: MarxMail will not accept any evidence gained from torture, under duress, or from a promise of better living conditions while in prison for political crimes.

Mark



Charles ▾

Oct 26



On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 01:48 PM, Mark Baugher wrote:

... not accept any evidence gained from torture, under duress, or from a promise of better living conditions while in prison for political crimes.

You realize that tough questioning (duress) and deals are routine tools of detectives and prosecutors everywhere. Juries weigh this evidence plus whatever other evidence is presented to them – and they convict or acquit. The suggested Marxmail policy is actively pro-criminal.



Mark Baugher ▾

Oct 26



On Oct 26, 2025, at 11:39, Charles via groups.io <charles1848@...> wrote:

You realize that tough questioning (duress) and deals are routine tools of detectives and prosecutors everywhere. Juries weigh this evidence plus whatever other evidence is presented to them – and they convict or acquit. The suggested Marxmail policy is actively pro-criminal.

You're citing capitalist justice for the oppressed masses and noting that it is practiced "everywhere" - meaning everywhere in the capitalist world. That bar is too low for marxmail.

Mark



Charles ▾

Oct 26 

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 04:33 PM, Mark Baugher wrote:

That bar is too low for marxmail.

I guess the centuries-long English tradition of jury trials is just capitalist oppression to you.

Crime will not disappear for many years after a socialist revolution. Criminals are, of course, as devious and amoral as they need to be to avoid getting caught. Socialist law enforcement can be very different from capitalist law enforcement, but it still won't be pretty. Instead, you want detectives and prosecutors to treat likely suspects with white gloves.



John A Imani ▾

Oct 26 

Comrades,

To ,me, there are two kinds of crime: those against property and those acted against people, Sure sometimes there are those instances that shade from one to the other and back but the ones primarily against property will find me on the side cheering them on. In these cases I am decidedly 'pro-criminal'. 'Robin Hood' would have found me as one among his 'merry men'.

However. The man who beats his wife. The parents who mistreat their children. The priest using his 'religiosity' to abuse the child. The teacher who, bases his expectations upon the child's race, creed or nationality. All. Those are the criminals that find, and ought find, no empathy. And must needs find the righteous enmity of all who should and, especially,those who do decry these, the real criminals.

JAI



Anthony Boynton ▾

Oct 26



This thread is at an end.

Show quoted text



41 - 50 of 50

