

*Eddie M. G. ...*

# NEW HORIZON

**NLC SEARCH FOR NEW LEADERSHIP**

**Nigeria's Marxist Monthly**

VOL. 8 No. 6 AUGUST 1988 N3.00



## Petroleum Subsidy

*10/91*

# Price Hike Again?

*'After destabilising the NLC, proscribing the NANS and the ASUU and intimidating the students, IBB is now set to further increase the price of petrol'*

*65/3/2997*

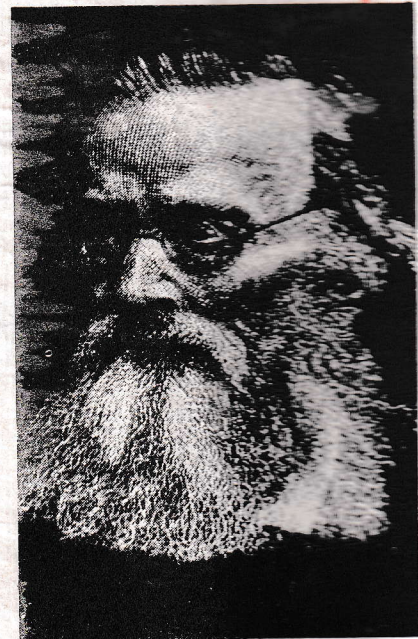
## World Marxist Review

PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM

Literature

# Animal (Riot) Farm

**Did GEORGE ORWELL  
plagiarise this  
Russian author ?**



Nikolai Kostomarov.

Recent research has turned up an intriguing literary puzzle involving George Orwell's "Animal Farm" and the work of a brilliant but obscure Russian historian named Nikolai Kostomarov.

Orwell's well-known allegory, written in 1945, has always been regarded as having a highly original storyline.

It appears, however, that at least 60 years before him, Kostomarov (1817-1885) had used the same story in his essay "Skotsky Bunt" (The Animal Riot).

All this came to light when a Lithuanian magazine published Orwell's book - a noticeable first, as it had never been read in the Soviet Union before.

And Kostomarov's essay, published only once, has long since been forgotten.

Could George Orwell possibly have been familiar with the work of the Russian historian? It's doubtful that we'll be able to find the answer to this question today. But the two works are extraordinarily similar in both form and content.

This is how they compare.

**The Animal Riot** (probably written in 1879-80).

There is revolutionary ferment among the animals on a farm in the Ukraine. Bull, the elder at the animal farm, gives a fiery speech. He speaks about the injustice of the power of weak but cunning Man over the animals, and calls for an uprising.

The idea of a mutiny and the subsequent building of a just society inspires all the animals and calls them to arms. The animals storm the manor house and are victorious.

The pigs enjoy the first fruits of victory as they wreck havoc in the flower garden. Without Man's guidance though the animals are unable to even ensure that there will be enough food for them to eat. Little by little they move back into their stalls. The rebellion gradually peters out, and Man is back in power.

**Animal Farm** (written in 1945)

An old boar named Major at an English farm convinces the rest of the animals that life is hard under Man's rule. His message? **Rebellion!**

A revolt soon flares up after yet another round of cruelty by the farmhands.

It is led by two pigs, the ideological successors to Major, who had died shortly before. Man is overthrown. Soon, however, the revolutionary regime established to uphold justice deteriorates into a totalitarian regime resembling some of the more odious dictatorships of the early 20th century.

It almost seems that Orwell has anglicized Kostomarov's text and written a sequel to it that was prompted by actual events of the 1930s and 1940s.

Some of the ideas and turns of speech of Bull from **The Animal Riot** and Major from **Animal Farm** curiously coincide, which becomes obvious in the following excerpts:

### KOSTOMAROV'S BULL

"Brother bulls, sisters and cow-wives. Esteemed beasts worthy of a better destiny than the one which inexplicably befell you and made you a slave of tyrant Man! For long, far too long to be remembered by any beast, you have been drinking from the tub of misery and are unable to drink down to the bottom! (...)

"(...) Oh, brother bulls and sister cows. For a long time we have been young, immature! But different times are upon us now! We have matured, grown up, become wiser! The hour has come to cast off vile slavery and take revenge for all our ancestors tormented by work, starved and fed repulsive feed, who collapsed dead under whips and heavy carts, who were killed at slaughterhouses and torn to pieces by our tormentors. Rally with

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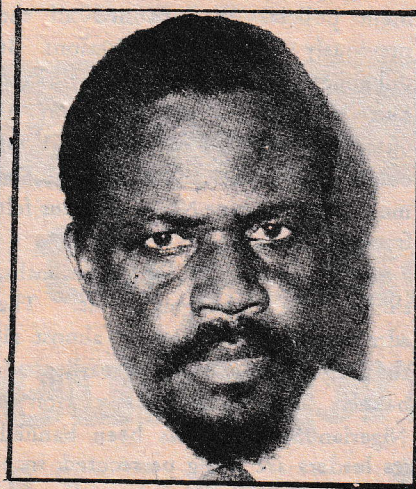
## PETROLEUM SUBSIDY CRISIS THE LAST STRAW

"By the time the price increase hits the 92 kobo per litre mark as demanded by the IMF, all the poor of this country would have been dead." — Osunde — page 5



## THE 3RD NLC

"From Obasanjo in 1978 to Shehu Shagari to Buhari and now Babangida, the NLC leadership has had to fight and fight in defence of the interests of the working class." — page 8



## PERESTROIKA UPDATE

"Comrade J.C., our man in Moscow says: 'Glasnost makes a great breakthrough at the 19th CPSU Conference in Moscow.'" — page 20



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