

# Marxism's Opportunistic Interpretation of the National Question

by Norman Berdichevsky (August 2015)

In his only authentic and original contribution to Marxist theory, Stalin wrote an essay in 1913 that won the praise of Lenin and made Stalin into an internationally known figure in the worldwide Marxist movement. Entitled "The National Question and Social Democracy," Stalin attacked Austrian Socialist leader Otto Bauer, the proponent of "cultural autonomy" on a regional level for individuals of whatever ethnic background to choose and maintain their own sense of national identity as long as workers would realize that their class interests took precedence over ethnic origin or religion. Instead, Stalin argued that nations were an objective reality and [more>>>](#)