

The Struggle Against Fascism— The Chief Instigator of War

By I. Amter

The world stands on the brink of war. Japan threatens the U. S. S. R. by making absurd provocative demands of the Outer Mongolian Government, an independent republic. These demands amount to the right to maintain military and espionage agents in Outer Mongolia. The Japanese government has taken into its virtual employ Chiang Kai-shek, who has surrendered to the "persuasion" of Japanese imperialism, which has given him the sole job of crushing the Chinese Red Army. This will be Chiang Kai-shek's end.

On the west, with the support of England, Germany is rearming. Bringing up her army to modern efficiency, building a navy which will be equal to that of England's in the Baltic, procuring the support of Finland for establishing both naval and air bases close to the Soviet Union, the Hitler Nazi government is proceeding on the basis that war is sure, and that only time will determine its beginning.

Italy threatens Ethiopia. More than that, she already has mobilized 350,000 men in Africa. Italy has broken off negotiations with Ethiopia, and the League of Nations will keep its hands off. France backs Italy, out of opposition to the support given Germany by England. The League of Nations will not act—and possibly even before these lines are published, Italian action on a broad scale may be taken in Ethiopia.

European Set-Up

Alignments are taking place very rapidly in Europe. Poland lines up with Japan and Germany. Yugoslavia extends a friendly hand to Italy. France and Czechoslovakia have signed mutual defense pacts with the Soviet Union.

In the meantime, all the imperialist powers are arming for war. Two billion dollars was spent last year by the U. S. government for war. This year, \$600,000,000 was appropriated directly out of the war budget, with \$750,000,000 for C. C. C. tens of millions for barracks, harbors, roads, etc. England, Japan, Germany, France, Italy—every country is piling up war material for the war that is coming with lightning speed.

But the war is not so easy for the imperialist governments. When Italy ordered the troops to the front, demonstrations and revolts took place. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters protested against the boys being shipped across the Mediterranean to die in

the desert. Soldiers deserted; mutinies occurred. Mussolini tells us, in utter contrast to these outbursts, that Italy stands "as one man" behind him. This is sheerest nonsense.

The crisis continues in all countries. The International Labor Office has announced that unemployment on a world scale, as far as reports reach the Labor Office, did not decline during the past year. It reports 20,000,000 still unemployed. This figure is based upon the false statistics submitted by the capitalist governments.

(How they are faked in the United States may give one a picture of what is done also by other governments.) In spite of "recovery" reported in all countries—some more, some less—millions of workers and their families continue to go hungry. The capitalist governments do not meet the situation by increased relief and unemployment insurance, but by cutting benefits. Labor camps, concentration camps, youth slave camps—this is the international capitalist solution for unemployment.

Drives against wages, for increased speed-up, jacking up of the cost of living; drives to break down all labor safeguards—this characterizes the situation in every capitalist country.

The New Deal Flops

The "New Deal," hope of the capitalists and the labor fakers of all countries, has failed—not because it was annulled by the U. S. Supreme Court, but because it did not give the workers and farmers a single one of the benefits for which it allegedly was launched. On the contrary, it served the big capitalists up to a certain point. Now it has become a hindrance to their plans of exploitation and had to be thrown into the lumber room.

The "New Deal" served to inflate the hopes of the capitalists and Social-democratic leaders of other countries. Lloyd George intended to present his type of the "New Deal." Now he has to shelve it. The French and Dutch capitalists saw in it a splendid method of bolstering up capitalism. The great hope is dashed!

William Green still cherishes love for the N. R. A. and spoke fondly of it at the convention of the International Longshoremen's Association. Socialist leaders of the type of Waldman, Oneal and Cahan still want a "better and stronger N. R. A." N. R. A. was shattered on its own contradictions and now new methods must be found.

Italian fascism cannot meet the costs of an Ethiopian war, cannot solve even a single one of its internal problems, except by greater robbery of the masses. German Nazism can only solve its problems by sharper exploitation of the workers and peasants. France is in the midst of a crisis that deepens every day. The United States can answer the questions of the crisis only by increasing unemployment, cutting wages, slashing relief.

Fascist Danger

This cannot be done in the capitalist countries without resort to the wildest demagoguery and the most vicious terror. "Democracy" is being put into the discard—even in the "most democratic" countries. In France, the fascists openly threaten a coup d'etat. They wish to overthrow the present regime and establish a fascist dictatorship. In Czechoslovakia and Poland, exceptional laws of the most rigorous

character are being passed. In Belgium and Holland, the attacks on the militant workers are increasing. The Danish representative at the League of Nations, supposedly speaking for the three Scandinavian "social-democratic" governments, supported Hitler. In the United States, the adoption of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, with its provisions for recognizing company unions and for compulsory arbitration—which is a practical outlawry of strikes; the gag bill against the Communists before Congress; the criminal syndicalism laws and bills in at least 18 states; the vicious drives of the outspoken fascists—Hearst, MacFadden, Coughlin, Long, with the assistance of the Jewish Daily Forward and fascist and pro-fascist sheets; the activities of Hitler and of Mussolini agents in this country and of Japanese agents among the Negroes; the open organization of vigilante organizations with the support and recognition of the government—and above all the concerted drive against the Soviet Union to destroy the government that the workers and peasants have built up in 18 years of struggle and to annihilate the system of Socialism which rears its head proudly as the achievement of the workers in the midst of capitalist chaos—this characterizes the growing drive against the toiling population.

Butchery, murder of working class leaders in fascist Germany; wholesale slaughter of militant fighters in Cuba, Spain, Kuomintang China, Japan, Bulgaria, Philippines—the murder and crippling of fighting workers on the picket line and in demonstrations in the United States—all characterize the terror of the capitalist class of the growing revolutionary movement—the movement that looks for its inspiration not to the white father in Washington but to the glorious Workers' and Peasants' Revolution in the Soviet Union.

German Communists Active

Fascism grows—but so does also the fighting working class movement! Ernst Thaelmann, leader of the German working class would long have been dead, had not the German workers supported by the militant workers of all countries under the leadership of the Communist Party prevented it. Matthias Rakosi, Hungarian Revolutionist, would long ago have been hanged had not the workers all over the world prevented it. Terracini, Gramsci and the thousands of Italian Communists and militants would long ago have been killed, had the workers not saved their lives. Tom Mooney would be in his grave had the workers not prevented it.

France would long ago have introduced a fascist dictatorship if the capitalists did not face the fighting united front of Communists and Socialists, now strengthened by the petty-bourgeois radical socialists. It is this united front of ALL workers, fighting, demonstrating, that pushes forward against fascism, not only to retain whatever democratic rights the workers have procured—not out of the kindness of heart of the capitalists but through generations of struggle—but also to take State power into the workers' hands. Taking it into their own hands, in league with the poor farmers, the impoverished lower middle class, the oppressed national minorities (Negro people in the United States), in order to save the whole world from more oppression, more hunger,

more misery, more imperialist slaughter!

War is on in China. War threatens against the Soviet Union, against Ethiopia. War will involve the whole world. This war will annihilate as no other war has done—a war that will destroy tens of millions of soldiers' lives, workers, farmers, their children—a war that will destroy wealth that the workers have built through decades of suffering! War—for what? In order that capitalism may continue to exploit, rob and plunder!

War and Fascism

Fascism is the main instigator of war, because fascism reveals in all brutality the weakness of the capitalist dictatorship. Is fascism a real danger in the United States, the "greatest of all democracies?" Whoever answers no is aiding the fascists. Hearst says no. MacFadden says no; Green, Woll and Co. say no; Algernon Lee, Socialist, says no; Admiral Stirling says no. Whoever says yes not only states his position, but must also fight against it! Of what avail is it, therefore, that Norman Thomas and the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party says yes, but do nothing to help mobilize the masses of workers in the shops, unions, unemployed organizations, veterans' posts, the toiling farmers, the youth, intellectuals, the Negroes and women to fight in solid ranks against fascism and war? Of what avail is it to issue flaming resolutions and proclamations while the federal and state governments adopt laws to suppress all workers' rights?

Edward Filene, the great democrat and "New Dealer," declared at the meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce of London on July 10 that "fascism is a real danger. Business cannot remain as it is. It must organize some kind of a business (!) government or submit to some government which will govern business in view of its failure to govern itself. We might soon reach a stage which would frighten business men and they might turn to a dictatorship for refuge." This is the expression of fascism which is rapidly growing in the United States.

Build the United Front

Shall we wait longer, till the dungeons and jails are filled with more militant workers? Shall we wait till our rights are all destroyed? Shall we wait for this "business government"—a fascist dictatorship—to smash us?

Build the united front against war and fascism and for our rights. This is our message, our call to the workers. Build it to fight for our rights in the United States, for the rights of our brothers and sisters in all capitalist and colonial countries. Demand through struggle that Thaelmann, Terracini, Rakosi, Gramsci and the tens of thousands of anti-fascist prisoners be released at once. Fight against fascism, the chief instigator of war. Down with the mass-murder Nazi regime! Defeat Hitler fascism—spearhead in the attack on the Soviet Union! Demand the release of Tom Mooney, J. B. McNamara, Charles Krumboltz, Herndon, the Scottsboro boys and the hundreds of militant workers in the jails of the United States! Drive the Hitler, Mussolini and Japanese agents out of the U. S. A.!

Make August 1st the beginning of a broad, inclusive united front against capitalism and all its agents, against war and fascism, for a free America, for a workers and farmers government!