

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF TODAY'S WAR

Keeping up with the news these days involves two bits of important mental discipline. First of all it is necessary to sift through the censorship and read between the lines to get a picture of truth. Secondly one must be able to judge from the vast number of events occurring what is a mountain and what is a molehill. There are so many important things happening that people have a tendency to disparage everything that doesn't make the headlines daily.

We deal below with some of the significant events of this part of World War II. As time goes on we will find that hidden in some of these conflicts are the important seeds of the future.

## THE SOVIET UNION

First of all the Soviet Union. Stalinist Russia has undertaken a program inside the Balkans and in Poland that emphasizes the present state of affairs within Russia. The decision to maintain capitalist property relations in conquered Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland, and western Poland, is undoubtedly aggravating the class struggle inside all Europe and the Soviet Union itself..

**As pointed out in the last issue of INTERNATIONAL NEWS, the bourgeois elements (GPU agents, plant managers, writers, Party members, and others of the favored few) must now demand capitalist outlets for their savings. To give such concessions will only make matters worse as far as the proletariat of Russia is concerned.**

The Soviet worker has now sacrificed and bled for four long years; he firmly believed in all this period that he was fighting against Fascism and for a better Socialist world. Instead of an increased standard of living or at least instead of a more equitable distribution of the paucity of supplies he has found the bureaucrats of Stalin living off the fat of the land, while the rest made the real sacrifices. If now the bourgeois elements within Russia are to be permitted to exploit foreign workers in Rumania, and possibly even in the Soviet Union itself, this will serve to thoroughly disillusion the Soviet masses.

Stalinism knows that the vast intricate system of planned economy within the (degenerated) Workers State is its real base; that once private property becomes re-established, Stalinism too will be smashed. This dilemma is now causing conflicting reactions within the Soviet Union. On the one hand Stalinism MUST make concessions to the reactionary elements within the Soviet Union (see previous articles in INTERNATIONAL NEWS on this subject). On the other hand it must attempt to use part of the working class as a counter-weight to the greedy and all-seeking capitalist elements.

Thus we learn, for instance, that Stalin demands that German war prisoners be used to rebuild western Russia. Will they be "leased out" to private entrepreneurs - as in American chain gangs? Undoubtedly Stalin is toying with the idea... And in the face of all this the "Young Communists" (Stalinists) are demanding that more attention be paid to orthodox Marxism, insisting that it be taught more avidly in the schools. Isn't this a clear warning to the bourgeois forces inside the Soviet Union: be good or we'll sick the wolf on you?

These gyrations of Stalinism will become more marked as time goes by. The Stalinist regime fulfils to the utmost the famous thesis of Engels of a "regime which seemingly rests above classes", which invokes measures against all classes, but whose roots lie in the prevailing mode of production.

#### TURKEY AND GREECE

Since the invasion of France, the importance of Turkey from a world strategical point of view seems to have been completely neglected in the press. But for one of the coming phases of the war the role of Turkey becomes all important. It is not accidental that Stalin is putting great pressure on the Turkish government to enter the Russian sphere of influence.

Turkey owns what can be the most important military prize in Europe - for this coming phase of the war - the Dardanelles. The Allies have proven how effective a combined naval and land operation can be. They seem to have mastered the technique of timing and preparation. It now appears perfectly possible for an armada of ships and troops to leave New York and Baltimore, and land a week or so later in Greece.

In the past three years, Stalinism - playing its hopeless game of manouevring with the imperialists, instead of appealing to Russia's only ally, the proletariat - has been trying to build up a military fort for itself. It has taken parts of Northern Finland, in the hopes of closing the Arctic for invasion of Russian soil. The conquest of the Baltic countries and bases in Southern Finland is designed to make the Baltic Sea a safe Soviet sea. On land, Stalin has - he hopes - fortified the Soviet Union proper by taking over Rumania, Bulgaria, the Baltic states, most of Poland; and in the near future Yugoslavia, Hungary and possibly Austria.

But Southern Europe is another matter entirely. Give the Anglo-American allies bases in Italy, Greece, and the Aegean and Dodecanese Islands; put Turkey safely in their column, and there is a two-way dagger pointed at the under-belly of the Soviet Union.

A large armada of ships could go through the Dardanelles and come up attacking Baku and other parts of the Caucasus; and by land

the Allies could march in from the Near East (particularly if they can get Stalin to agree to evacuate those parts of Persia which he now controls.).

For the Soviet Union the whole situation is fraught with danger. Stalinism is trying desperately today - just as it did during the Stalin-Hitler pact against Hitler - to forge a ring of iron around itself which will make it impregnable from an attack by its present so-called Allies. If individual Stalinists throughout the world are naive enough to believe such an attack is impossible, Stalinism itself knows full well that it not only is not impossible but is most probable.

The Allies are playing a double, but cagey game. They will utilize Stalinism to the very last moment of its usability to help put down Proletarian Revolution in Europe and Asia. At the same time, however, they will and are preparing counter-revolutionary elements inside and outside the Soviet Union to overthrow present property relations and to establish a SAFE Russian ally. At the moment when Stalinism can no longer deliver the proletariat to the Allied counter-revolutionists, and at the moment when its base within the Soviet Union dwindles to the point where a political revolution within Russia is imminent and there is the danger of Russia again assuming an internationalist role - at that moment the Allies will intervene, attack. The sugared words of the Wall Street and Downing St. governments for their Russian allies are mere eyewash.

In this vast scheme of things to come, Turkey and Greece play an important role. Control of them gives enormous strategical advantages, even though control in itself (particularly for Stalinism) can not be decisive..

#### SPAIN AGAIN

Spanish capitalism has been able to keep out of the military phase of the war. One would assume, therefore, that the Franco regime should be stronger than ever right now, that it had five lush years to rebuild its economy and consolidate its base with the masses. But that is very far from the truth - unfortunately for the Falangists. The Spanish workers FOUGHT Franco - unlike the German workers who went down without a battle in 1933. The spirit of revolt and struggle still simmers beneath the surface. Underground organization there is effective and the spirit of class solidarity could not possibly have been obliterated.

As the masses begin to stir in surrounding areas it will bring the underground forces of the working class out in the open again. The uprisings in Paris and in Southern France undoubtedly had their repercussions WITHIN SPAIN TOO. The press hints at such things. In the near future it is entirely possible that the Franco regime will be overthrown, depending to a large extent on what happens in France.

We, of the International Contact Commission, are confident and hopeful that the comrades of the Left Wing of the P.O.U.M. who worked with us during the Spanish Revolution will emerge from the underground a well-tempered and powerful Marxian force that can and will give guidance to the Spanish Proletarian Revolution.

#### THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE "ALLIES"

Recently the London press carried a series of articles calling upon Uncle Sam to drop the pose of non-imperialism and to assume an open role of imperialism. To many this may sound a little illogical. But it has deeper implications. American Imperialism parades under a banner of "freedom for small nations" and "free and unimpeded trade". The London capitalist know full well the meaning of this "freedom"; they understand it for what it is - a formula for conquering world markets by the strongest economic power on earth. If all quota restrictions and tariffs were lifted Uncle Sam's economic might would soon dominate the whole universe.

The British bourgeoisie are thus saying: Look here, Wall Street. We've had enough of your pious phrases. Under the cloak of those phrases you're attempting to play a lone hand in controlling the markets of the earth. In fact you're using the formula of "Freedom" and "self-determination" to freeze us, the British, out of markets which we already control. We demand that you, the American capitalists, shed this hypocrisy and come out openly with us for dividing the spoils of conquest. We're perfectly willing to give you a lion's share - in fact we have no choice; but we resent your attempt to take the whole booty.

This is, however, only one of the aspects of the conflict going on in the imperialists' ranks. The closer they come to military victory the more will these conflicts increase. American papers are now beginning to shout bloody murder for an "American policy in the Balkans" and an "American policy in Europe". They are demanding, in other words, that the U.S. take a bigger share of control in this area.

The British are demanding greater recognition in Asia. Mr. Churchill says that the British are going to send substantial forces to help in the conquest of Japan. This can only mean that Downing Street is fearful lest the American colossus grab all the lucrative markets of Asia and freeze its "ally" out almost completely.

It must be noted that this struggle goes on especially in those territories which have been "liberated" (so-called). For instance, the British press howled recently when they learned that American businessmen had been permitted into Paris while the British "allies" were kept at home, merely longing for the loot. Similar

occurrences were noted in Italy and the Near East - sometimes it is the Americans who howl; sometimes it is the British. But these howls are becoming more persistent.

The Anglo-American antagonism expresses itself in a hundred different ways. One of the lingering sore spots, which will probably end in some form of bloodshed, is the question of Argentina. America and Britain are at deep loggerheads, with each one supporting different puppets in this wealthy South American country. At the moment the British - by virtue of a coup d'etat - are "in" and the Wall Street crowd is "out". But when Mr. Roosevelt warns the Argentine government that they aren't toeing the mark, he is in reality telling them that they're too deeply mixed up with London. Incidentally the London Stock Market reflects this relationship, since Argentine stocks are now skyhigh in London, but deep down in New York.

The isolationist press in the United States puts up a strong agitation for America to play a lone hand and to grab all the spoils of victory. While the administration denies such ambitions, there can be little doubt that the role of American Imperialism in the coming period - shorn of the hypocrisy of diplomatic words - will be just that and only that. The U.S., with its vast productive capacity - as we pointed out years ago - must conquer the whole world in order to exist. In the final analysis that will include a vicious struggle, economic, political, and eventually military against the present "ally", Great Britain, for the unhampered privilege of exploiting the British Empire.

#### CHINA

Newspapers are very shy today on news about China. The reason is not hard to find. The U.S.A. faces a dilemma since Wall Street actually controls the Chinese government. Conditions in that Asiatic holocaust have been exceptionally bad. The most important sections of China are under the hegemony of Wang-Chin-Wei and the Japanese government. Wall Street controlled China is in a very bad way. Inflation runs to more than 5,000%. Starvation and death is rampant. China needs supplies; she needs industry to cope with war production; and she needs finances. But these things are not forthcoming very readily. A number of attempts have been made to prop up the Chinese dollar, and very likely without U.S. subsidy the Chinese currency would have just disappeared. But beyond this, American policy seems to be quite a blundering one. Exceptionally little supplies have been flown in - one Chinese politician claims it is less in four years time than is consumed by one American division in a week. And above and beyond that the American colossus has done nothing to ameliorate the desperate conditions of the Chinese masses.

What is happening today, therefore, is some general disaffection within Chiang-Kai-Shek's China. The base of the government is disappearing. Even his sister-in-law and nephew (wife and son of the founder of the Chinese Republic, Sun Yat Sen) have condemned Chiang as a Fascist. Under pressure Chiang was forced to call together the advisory parliament - which has no powers. And for the first time he promised to pay heed to that advice. Under pressure too it seems likely that "peace" will be made with the Stalinists and that at least two Stalinists will be invited into the government.

Conditions must be very bad if America is willing to make such a concession. For years now, Wall Street has manipulated the Chinese government so as to keep the influence of Moscow completely out of the picture. The fact that these gentlemen are now being used to pour demagoguery on the Chinese Revolution and to undermine it, is an indication that such a Revolution is clearly on the order of the day again.

America stands to lose greatly if it can not solve its dilemma. It needs a left-cover in China, but it is unwilling to permit any other power to get a toehold in the Chinese regime. If chaos should develop in China and the Americans be unable to utilize it as a base of operations against Japan, or if Japan should be able to provoke an uprising against Chiang, or if - the worst variant for Wall Street - a genuine proletarian revolution should occur (led, incidentally by the city proletariat in Shanghai and elsewhere) - if such things occur it may force the U.S. into a negotiated peace with Japan. The Nipponese have undoubtedly made preparations for retreating from their own homeland, if necessary, and continuing the fight on Chinese and Manchurian soil. Unquestionably they are building up Chinese economy to support their war effort; and it seems fairly certain they are doing a better job of it than the Chiang-Kai-Shek regime is doing.

China is a festering sore for all imperialists, but for American imperialism in particular. On the one hand it promises to become the diadem of the American empire. On the other hand it is threatening to kick over all the traces and become the focal point once again for the Proletarian Revolution in Asia.

#### REFORMISM AND MARXISM

As class relations in ravaged Europe become more attenuated, we can expect that the bourgeoisie will fall back more and more on the social reformists (Stalinists and Socialists) to pull their chestnuts out of the fire. The governments of almost all the countries of Europe today under Allied control have one of both of these brands of social reformism in their ranks.

The role of these traitors can only be to continue to sell the proletariat down the river - lock, stock and barrel; to continue to bolster the dying hulk of capitalism. Within the framework of the working class movements this represents today the main danger. No doubt very soon we will witness new attempts to re-build the Second International, of demands for unity between the Stalinists and Socialists in a "new" International. Such unity is a division of the ranks of the proletariat; it is a straitjacketed forged to keep the working class quiescent and exploited.

The reformists can and will do this for their masters: - their demagogy and lying promises will help greatly to demoralize the working class, to gain time for the bourgeoisie to reorganize the Fascist hooligan squads. That the workers understand this instinctively is indicated by the fact that thousands of French guerrilla forces are refusing to hand over their guns to the De Gaulle government or become part of his regular army. Even after so-called "liberation", guerrillas all over Europe are hanging on to their guns, hiding them if necessary from their "liberators". They are sick of words and sick of capitalism and its wars.

The lies of social reformism must be exposed now. The need of the hour is not a new Capitalist government with so-called labor ministers, but SOVIETS, WORKERS MILITIA, INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION, AND ABOVE ALL A NEW REVOLUTIONARY MARXIAN PARTY.

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# WAR, DAUGHTER OF IMPERIALISM

"The Germans are a criminal people."

"Germany is a nation of beasts."

"Germany lives only to make war. Crush her. Deindustrialize her, reduce her to a mere spot on the map of Europe and there will be no more wars."

Such hysterical nonsense we now hear issuing from the jumbled brains of not a few people who speak in the name of "permanent peace" in this country, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union.

Such puerile concepts anent Germany and the neurotic notions which are flowing from them in a frenzied stream are but the bad fruit of that widely propagandized falsehood: "Germany alone is responsible for the two World Wars."

Students of the historical development of modern-day power politics and the struggles for power waged by the leading capitalist nations during the past three-quarters of a century know that there is no historical truth in such a charge. Undoubtedly, those who coined and put into circulation this misleading accusation, - not without intention to deceive the popular mind - are not ignorant of the fact that present day imperialist wars could not be possible were there no nations that enslave and exploit other peoples and their resources; and that it is the rivalries between such nations for the spoils of imperialism that breed the wars of this epoch.

## WHO CAME FIRST IN QUEST OF EMPIRE?

In point of time, decades before Germany rose to challenge them for a share of the imperialist world outside Europe, the British, French, Dutch and other empire builders had conquered for themselves vast territories embracing hundreds of millions of people.

During most of the 19th century Britain was supreme among world powers; in industry, in commerce and in finance. In Empire she grew from 5,000,000 square miles in 1800 to more than 11,000,000 in 1914 and in population from 20,000,000 to 400,000,000 in the same period. She possessed the largest navy and the necessary coaling stations throughout the world. Thus Britain not only ruled the waves but much of the world as well.

Furthermore, her naval supremacy locked other major powers in the European continent and her intervention in continental affairs was almost always decisive. Elsewhere in the world her imperial power was the corner-stone of existing arrangements. In short, all roads over land and sea once stemmed from London.

This superior world position of Great Britain was challenged near the close of the 19th century. The first challenge to British supremacy came when the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway (1891-1903) brought Russia into the Far East as a major competitor for Empire. A year later, the Franco-Russian Military Pact challenged British dominance of the Mediterranean link between the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, while in 1907, Germany's decision to build a first-class navy cast ominous shadows over Britain's rule of the Atlantic waters around Europe. To check these new rivals, Britain sought new alliances. In Asia, she forged a pact with Japan in 1902. In Europe Italy was baited away from the Triple Alliance, and France was appeased in 1904 as was Russia in 1907. By virtue of these understandings Britain was freed to concentrate her own strength in the Empire, leaving the rest of the world to her new imperial associates.

These powers in alliance defeated Germany in the first World War. That Britain knew that it was a war alliance that she had forged in the period between 1902 and 1907, no one doubts today. For a decade following the first World War, Britain enjoyed a period of calm, but in the era that followed, it was clear that her difficulties had been increased rather than diminished. Instead of Germany as her main world competitor for markets John Bull now faced the might of American Imperialism, which came out of the first World War as the most powerful nation on earth. Two of her former allies, Japan and Italy, went over to those who wished to rearrange the imperialistic world. Her connection with France - whose Empire had in the meantime become an adjunct of British imperialism - remained close, but even in this, there was constant disagreement over such questions as the proper treatment of defeated Germany, the surest way to security and disarmament, etc.

Furthermore, Britain's diplomatic troubles were accompanied by disquieting military developments, as well. The navies of the United States and Japan were growing with the result that after 1918, she was unable to maintain her supremacy. She had to concede parity to the United States and a high ratio to Japan; thus sea-power ceased to be confined to Europe where it had been so easily subjected to British pressure.

#### HITLER'S FRIENDS OUTSIDE GERMANY

Following the failure of the several powers who backed the counter-revolutionary Russian generals to put down the Russian revolution during the years of 1918 to 1920, and as it became more and more clear that the Soviet system was firmly rooted in the will of the workers, the Tories of England and the reactionaries and conservatives of France and Italy as well as the United States began a propaganda campaign designed to poison the world mind against the new Russia. For many years this continued in the

world press, and after 1933, to this world crescendo of anti-Soviet blasting was added the propoganda power of Hitler's Germany.

Moreover, Hitler's coming to power was welcomed not only by Germany's financial and industrial barons; for across the border in France, and in England, the conservative men of Empire and finance had also read Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and especially applauded the anti-Soviet threats contained therein. Hitler, they regarded as the potential man of the hour, the David, who if allowed to grow - within certain bounds - might one day slay the new Goliath - Soviet-Russia. This was the hope and prayer of many in places far away from Wilhelmstrasse; in Paris, in London, in Rome and in New York.

The British Tory leaders, particularly, openly encouraged Hitler's bellicose anti-Soviet policy and rearmament program in the hope that when ready he would attack and destroy the Soviets.

The infamous Munich betrayal mainly engineered by these men of Britain and their French accomplices, was particularly ominous for the Soviet Union: and after being rudely ignored and pushed aside by these sham appeasers at Munich, Stalin, at long last must have realized that his futile policy of seeking lasting security alliances with the French and British imperialists was only a grand illusion. For soon it became crystal clear even to the blind that Czechoslovakia and Poland had been ear-marked at Munich for absorption by Hitler's Germany on the road to Empire. The Russian-German pact which followed was the Soviet's answer to the intrigues of Munich, (and incidentally just as futile an answer as the former pacts with France and Britain). Thus the German war birds were turned to fly westward for a while, but not for long.

After the defeat of France and the low countries and the British debacle at Dunkirk, Hitler prepared to send his armies eastward against Russia to at last carry out what had been agreed to at Munich in 1938, while the Munich men of France and Britain crawled away to lick the wounds that their own intrigues had helped inflict upon them.

#### BLEED THEM WHITE

Thus war making men outside Germany (particularly in the U.S.) sought to provoke war between that country and Russia in the fond hope that in a war between them both would be bled white, thereby eliminating them to the satisfaction of the "contented" imperialisms which feared Germany, a revived competitor for Empire, and hated the Soviet Union as a workers system of economy and government. Why the war took the turns which drew most of the world into its flames is another chapter of the same sordid story of the competition and struggles between the imperialists and also serves to refute the baseless charge that Germany alone is responsible for the two World Wars.

We contend that there is a curse on all of them; all are equally guilty before the record. The historical development of the international capitalist competitive struggle for the spoils of Empire begot the only result possible, wars, between the competing nations. The peoples of the world are the victims thereof.

In conclusion, the problem of peace and security for the world is not one that the capitalist politicians can solve, they have no solution for the crisis from which world capitalism is at war to escape. From many years of economic stagnation it plunged into war: into the death struggle against its own disintegrating decay: nor can capitalism prolong its existence except by war between the various contending imperialist powers, and ultimately, against the emerging social forces which will rise to destroy it.

Having entered the winter time of its historic life in the endless upward march of human progress, capitalism has disintegrated into warring camps, each bent on destroying the other, thus revealing the end of its competence to further human progress and culture.

The solution of the world problem of peace and security lies only in the potential power of the working peoples of all nations to rise and put an end to the rule of the imperialist marauders, whose system of international piracy has caused the world to be drowned in the blood of the peoples.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION  
STANDS FOR  
PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION  
AGAINST  
IMPERIALIST WAR

**PSYCHOLOGY AND CAPITALISM**

The so-called science of Psychology is assuming new importance in the present war-torn world. There is an emphasis on this subject which far exceeds that of pre-war days. With millions of young people uprooted and shunted off to battlefields in far-away lands, with hundreds of thousands of them developing "mental" maladies, we are being told by the bourgeois thinkers that:

1. Psychology has now advanced to the point where it can and is "curing" most of the victims of war shock, and
2. Mankind has attained the stage of learning and progress where individuals will now be trained to love and respect peace, to lose their belligerency, and thus assure a peaceful world from now on in.

To the average liberal, immersed in the "great man" theory of history, all this makes sense. Eliminate beasts like Hitler and you can establish a utopian liberal world, free of conflict, free of wars. Society must work on the INDIVIDUAL. Therapeutic methods must be applied to bring the individual around to a more healthy attitude to society. It is only the knots and distortions in the human mind which account for the ills of mankind - other things are only secondary. The liberal is taking refuge in the "science" of psychology, particularly in Freudianism.

There is no gainsaying the fact that Sigmund Freud has made some important contributions to the culture of humanity. Prior to Freud, psychology was mostly a part of the subject of philosophy. Philosophers, from Socrates onward, speculated on the peculiarities of the human mind, without doing a bit of experimental work on the subject, without any scientific observation whatsoever. They fitted their theory of the mind in with their favorite theory of the cosmos.

Freud brushed aside many of these phantasies of philosophy. He started with no pre-conceived philosophical notions. He set about to prove his points in a cold scientific manner. Freud has thus helped take psychology out of the realm of metaphysics and has - in some measure - prepared it for its emergence as a full-fledged science in the society of the future. Freud, and others too incidentally, has shown that human behaviour is dynamic, rather than mechanical. He has uncovered some of the important contradictions in that behaviour - for instance between the conscious and subconscious and unconscious. He has shown the ambivalent character of many of the old bourgeois demi-gods, such as "courage", "honor", "fearlessness", "honesty", "love". He has torn the mask from the old shibboleth that "man is a rational animal" and has correctly shown that man is governed not only by his conscious rationalizations but by his emotions and subconscious strivings as well. He has presented human behaviour as a fluid affair, with the past weighing on the present

and future. In indicating that behaviour is dynamic and is a UNITY OF OPPOSITES, Freud has utilized (without admitting it, incidentally) the dialectical method. Furthermore, in showing the evolutionary developments of psychosis and the revolutionary changes at certain stages in that development, he has given further proof to the general theses of dialectical materialism, although in over-estimating the role of the individual in opposition to society he places the whole thing on a wrong axis.

Freud pre-occupied himself with the individual. He did not and could not understand the relationship of the individual to society. He uncovered PART of the truth relative to human behaviour, and it is precisely the fact that his writings are based on half-truths which makes Freudianism such a menace to human progress when it is blown-up into a "world outlook", or a "political philosophy".

For instance, take the famous oedipus and electra complexes that Freudians constantly talk about. No one can deny the importance in a child's life of his attachments (or lack of them) to his parents. No one can deny the importance of the first few years of a child's life in shaping his future behaviour. But does that exhaust the subject? Aren't the very parental admonitions and methods the results of something deeper, something more widespread, more basic? The very type of family we live under - the monogamous family - is the result of the type of economy (and the social structure based on it) under which we live. Little girls, under capitalism are prepared from their earliest moments to play a different role from that of little boys. All children are taught certain basic beliefs - god, country, honor, honesty, etc. These fraudulent concepts are thrust upon children simply because the parents were brought up on them, simply because by and large parents too are the products of their social environment and the ideas and culture of their time. These ideas in turn are directly attributable to the prevalent mode of production or to the ideological carry-overs of former modes of production.

Basically therefore the "mental disturbances" that Freudians are constantly talking about, are attributable not to the individual, but are the result of social relationships. So long as those social relationships prevail such psychoses will also prevail.

Here and there Freudians may ameliorate the conditions of some of their patients, may effect a so-called cure. BUT THE NEUROSES AND PSYCHOSES OF MODERN INDIVIDUALS ARE CAUSED BY SOCIAL CONDITIONS: THE BEHAVIOUR OF INDIVIDUALS IS ONLY A REFLECTION OF THOSE SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

So long as we have capitalism, or any other form of exploitation of man by man, the individual will be maladjusted in one degree or another. The individual under capitalism is given goals to strive for which are either impossible of achievement in the form prescribed or hollow victories when achieved. From childhood on we are

supposed to aspire to be "great men", to "make something of ourselves". The individual, rather than society, is stressed. The church and the state give us norms of behaviour relative to sex, to "honesty", etc., which we are supposed to live up to. Under capitalism these norms are in conflict with our emotions and predispositions. We are afraid to deviate from these norms because we feel the stigma of society directed at us if we do. For instance, the Negro who marries a white, or the Negro who merely strays out of his district; the worker who never advanced beyond the factory instead of having become a lawyer; the woman who leaves her husband even after love and respect have vanished - these people can feel the stigma of society on their heads. All of us feel that stigma - if not for our actions, than at least for our thoughts. There are thousands of things we DARE not confide in anyone else. In self-protection we each develop some form of "vencer". If the oppressiveness of the system becomes intolerable we protect ourselves further by developing neuroses or psychoses. But the whole process begins with the mores, ideas, and culture of the present capitalist system. The very existence, for instance, of so many psychoses due to sex is only the result of the narrow attitude of society as a whole to this subject, an attitude that is absolutely necessary if capitalism is to maintain its monogamous family.

From his overemphasis of the individual Freud has come to some very reactionary conclusions, whenever he attempted to make a world system of his ideas. In some letters to Einstein many years ago, Freud developed the thesis that wars were inevitable and could not be eliminated until mankind had developed a new kind of RATIONAL AND PEACEFUL individual, like Einstein and himself. Freud completely decries the economic and political bases of wars and the elimination of them, for him the whole answer lies in the individual - an individual who evidently lives in a colorless vacuum.

The modern Freudians are doing and saying the same things. Isn't it strange that not a single prominent Freudian has stated that the first and second world war, and the system that bred those wars, are really far more important in the understanding of neuroses, than the simple study of the individual? There is no denying that weaknesses in childhood upbringing, shocks, abnormal lines, etc., make the individual prey to neurosis. But those weaknesses are only a reflection of social weaknesses - the class struggle; and only the further existence of the system with its hypocrisies and repressions adds the match to light up those neuroses. The conflicts in the minds of the modern human being are occasioned by capitalism. Let us take some of the social "evils" (so-called) of our times - jazz, gangsters, loosening of sex restrictions. Wasn't it the war which caused these things? If you remove the bar to murder, you are also inviting the individual to remove the taboos against free sexual expression. The present war, like our previous depression, increased enormously the amount of prostitution, particularly amongst girls in their teen and early twenties. No

amount of psychoanalytical juggling of facts can deny the root of these social phenomena. The same can be said for the increase in gangsterism (both legal and extra-legal) since the first world war. The root of these ills does not lie in "bad" individuals, but in a decadent social system.

Individuals in the Revolutionary movement also suffer from the general repressiveness of capitalism, even though they understand its evils. And here we have the most sensitive individuals, who have suffered most keenly the restrictions and hypocrisies of the capitalist system. And no matter how keenly they understand the basic causes of neuroses and capitalist decay, this generation will overcome only to a small extent the maladjustments imposed upon them by the capitalist system.

Until and unless psychology - and particularly the psychoanalytical school, which seems to have made the greatest progress toward a dialectical psychology, although it is yet far from attaining it - until that psychology understands this fundamental lesson it can make no progress. It is quite understandable why the Freudians shy away from drawing the social implications from their work. Like all other so-called social "scientists" they fear to offend the powers that be. But psychology, like other elements of social science, will be able to take steps forward only after the present social regime is replaced by the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

And the real cure of individuals mentally deranged or "maladjusted" by this war, will come not from the "problems of the mind" by individual psychiatrists or psychoanalysts, but by giving them a perspective for the future, by opening up new vistas and opportunities for them - in short by replacing the repressive system of production for profit and its wars and unemployment, by a system of production for use. Here and there the "mind doctors" will effect an amelioration, a so-called "cure". They will bring a boy back from intense psychosis to "normalcy". But will it really be a cure? Won't this individual, like thousands of others, continue to suffer from a hundred and one maladjustments? Will psychology be able to rebind the millions of broken lives, dis-adjusted marital relationships? Will it be able to eliminate the crime wave that is coming, or the bitterness and disillusionment and the resulting anti-social actions of thousands of people who have been lied to by the war mongers?

No. Psychology at best has only a limited therapeutic value. Only the social revolution can liberate mankind from the ailments that modern psychology is so pre-occupied with. And only the social revolution will permit psychology to put itself right side up.

June 1944



# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

October 25, 1944 - Intense battles have been raging in Northern Spain between the so-called Spanish Republicans and the Franco Fascist regime. These guerrilla fighters testify to the seething ferment within Spain, and France, and to the tension throughout Europe.

That thousands of rank and file workers and farmers in the Spanish Maquis are avowed revolutionists who want to overthrow capitalism goes without saying. The present guerrilla fighters represent a distorted phase of the class struggle. The allies are wary and fearful of recognizing this force and their ultimate aim is to liquidate the guerrilla movements into the regular army. At the moment, however, the allies utilize this force for their own purposes. Like the movement in France, in Yugoslavia and elsewhere the control of these heroic elements lies in the hands of Anglo-American imperialism. A statement issued by the Spanish guerrillas hails the "liberation" of France by the Allies (it should read CONQUEST of France). The ideological leadership evidently emanates from London, where a Spanish Republican "supreme junta of national unity" is temporarily parked.

The Allied imperialists have a simple pattern for dealing with Proletarian Revolution in Europe. Their machine is composed of two component parts:

1- For every country overrun by Hitler they have a "government-in-exile", composed of solid anti-working class politicians who can be depended on to fight the Revolution. These "governments" are to be imposed (some already have been imposed) upon the people of their respective countries at the point of a British and American bayonet. Among such governments are the De Gaulle regime (so unpopular in North Africa) in France, the Pierlot regime in Belgium, King Peter's regime in Yugoslavia (now blessed by Tito), the Greek government, and others.

2- The armed forces. These forces consist of two parts. First the regular army units which aid Britain and America all over the world. And secondly, but far more important, the guerrilla forces. With the aid of the Socialists, but especially the Stalinists, the imperialists take advantage of the discontent of the masses to organize a military machine inside every country in Europe. In the first stages these machines (under reformist COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY leadership in all cases) give lip service to progressive measures such as seizing the landed estates, etc. As soon as the masses are safely tied in this ultimately REACTIONARY machine the imperialists can breathe easily.

What Allied imperialism is really doing is JUMPING THE GUN on the Proletarian Revolution. When the masses get into motion the imperialists already have an armed apparatus - with pretensions of liberalism - ready to mow them down. They have a force that has gotten to the head of the mass movement IN ORDER TO BEHEAD IT - very much like John L. Lewis organized the CIO in order to get at the head of the developing unionization drive to impose upon it a class-collaboration policy.

The Allies have a fairly similar strategy relative to Spain. They know, through their intelligence, that the Spanish proletariat is on the verge of a new Revolution. They are anxious to check that. They are also anxious to get some concessions from Franco, to have him break off all relations with Germany, to remove some pro-German elements from the government etc. They are now using the Spanish Maquis for this dual purpose - to keep control over the Revolution and to take some kinks out of the Franco regime.

The proletariat of Spain must not fall for this ruse. The thousands of sincere and militant revolutionists in the Maquis forces must remember the lessons of 1936-39: WE MUST HAVE NO TRUCK WITH BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY EITHER IN SPAIN OR ELSEWHERE. THE BOURGEOIS DEMOCRATS HAVE ONLY ONE PURPOSE: TO CONFUSE, DEMORALIZE AND UNDERMINE US AND MAKE US AN EASY PREY FOR THE FASCISTS.

ONLY THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM.

FOR A NEW MARXIAN PARTY IN SPAIN! FOR WORKERS COUNCILS AND INDEPENDENT CLASS ACTION AGAINST THE SPANISH FASCISTS AND THEIR ALLIES - THE CAPITALISTS OF ALL NATIONS!

FOR A SOVIET SPAIN!