

PROLETARIAN NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

A JOURNAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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Science and the Materialist Conception of History

Following the end of World War Two a new force emerged, the cold war, with new contestants and objectives. It overshadowed the old capitalist rivalry for profits, control over world markets and resources. Now the contest was between two rival social systems, capitalism versus socialism, with the United States and Soviet Union at the lead.

This war took on devious forms, economic, political and military. The present form is that of science and technology. It is characteristic of the class struggle that no phase of human endeavor is exempt. Every social field, material and spiritual, is affected.

The spark that signalled off this new form of battle was the Soviet Sputnik. By being the first nation to launch a space satellite, the Soviet Union has, in effect, made a bid for world leadership in science and technology. This was an invitation to battle. The capitalists know full well its immediate and ultimate effects. Its immediate meaning is linked up with the matter of intercontinental missiles, which obviously the Soviet Union has already mastered, thus upsetting the whole military position and plant of the capitalist powers. Of even greater portent is the matter of technology which is closely linked to science and without which this scientific achievement could not have been possible. Technological progress is patently making rapid strides in the Soviet Union which in due time may raise its productivity to match and even outstrip the U.S.

It is this fear of ultimately being beat to the economic punch that causes a hair-raising prospect among the capitalists. Once this is done (that is the economic goal, and there is strong indication that it could) the jig for capitalism is up. That does not mean the capitalists, tho dismayed, are willing to take it lying down. They are rising to the challenge, planning a counter offensive. They will sooner or later come up with a satellite of their own. Plans are already being drawn up for that, as well as revisions in educational curriculum. A new attitude and emphasis upon science is being rushed. Politicians,

educators and scientists are seriously engaged on how best to meet the problem. To what extent they will succeed and whether they have the inherent force and power remains to be seen. Money and will are not quite enough.

Over a hundred years ago, Karl Marx formulated his celebrated materialist conception of history in which he advanced the proposition that class struggles are the motive power in history; and that technology and its changes, that is the economic forces, not individuals or their ideas, are the determining basis in social evolution. From

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AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

"Flop Heard Around the World"

As the old year was approaching its end, the United States made its first attempt (on Dec. 6) to launch an outer-space satellite which resulted in dismal failure. It was a complete let-down in view of the fact that the missile launching was well advertised in advance, that it would be successful, and the first of a series of launchings in answer to the Russian Sputnik's No. 1 and 2.

The failure was such a bitter disappointment that it was echoed by the American press generally, as e.g., the Chicago Sun Times which headlined it the next day as follows: "VANGUARD FLOPS—So Does Our Propaganda."

HOME SCENE

Unemployment

The new year commences with the grim prospect that unemployment now mounting, will snowball to over 5 million by the following month, February. That is not a pleasant greeting of a happy and prosperous New Year to the worker and his family who may fall into the army of unemployed.

That business is slipping is no longer a question. It has dropped noticeably during the past 6 months. That joblessness is rising is a hard fact. Unemployment jumped 680,000 from October to November of 1957, reaching 3,188,000. That is 500,000 more than a year ago for the month of November and the highest figure for that month in eight years. December, January and most likely February are expected to register increases to the already rising roll of joblessness. The question is, will business pick up in the Spring, returning some of the unemployed to jobs? That is the big question.

We are being told that the present letdown in business is similar to the periods of 1953-54 and 1948-49 recession. Those recessions were short and the hope today is that the present one will follow a similar pattern.

But there are signs that the present decline in business may be more serious with less chance for quick recovery. During the 1953-54 and 1948-49 slowdowns, the housing and auto businesses, the mainstays of the post-war boom economy, were thriving, actually

rising, despite the general letdown in other areas of the economy. But today housing construction is definitely down and the auto industry is not too encouraged. More than those two prosperous businesses, the 1948-49 recession was licked by the Korean War in 1950. The recovery from the 1953-54 recession was hastened by business spending heavily on automation.

Now that automated factories are more prevalent, the job-destroying effects of automation will make itself felt upon the American workers. In previous economic storms, the workers found shelter in a variety of jobs. Today, many of those jobs have been eliminated by automatic machines. Automation is sure to multiply the number of unemployed as never before.

Some union leaders looking ahead, aware of the implications of automation, are beginning to talk about a 30-hour work week and other share-the-work schemes. The capitalists, too, perhaps more so, are cognizant of the meaning of automation and are not asleep. The exposure of corruption in some unions by the Senate Rackets Committee may set the stage for the enactment of anti-labor legislation. Restricting labor may have been the intent right along, by the capitalists, thru the Senate Rackets Committee. Anti-labor legislation would be a mighty fine legal weapon for capital, especially during troubled times. The union movement as a whole may have fallen

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It showed pictures under the caption of "Flop Heard Around the World" with such comment as "Much-publicized attempt launching of satellite-carrying missile begins with eruption of fire and smoke from base of launching towers at Cape Canaveral, Fla." and concluded it with these words: "Free world's hopes—of equaling Russians' moon-launching — explode in livid ball of flame over Florida missile test center."

The cause of the failure was a matter of conjecture, but "lack of thrust" was generally agreed upon as the main cause. The Satellite itself was a very small and light object, around the size of a grapefruit, approximately 6 inches in diameter, and weighing less than four pounds. Thus the American attempt at satellite-launching was a very modest one as compared to Russia's first successful launching of Sputnik No. 1 weighing approximately 184 pounds. But compared to Russia's second launching with a live dog in it, Sputnik No. 2 (on Nov. 3rd, a satellite weighing over a half-ton, that is, 1,120 pounds) the American "sputternik" satellite was a molecule indeed—and it never even got off the ground!

It was a big blow to the pride and ego of the ruling class of the land of "know-how," of "great accomplishments," this American "flopnik." The press, which was much responsible for pampering or catering to that ruling class conceit, now had to go in reverse, to the extent of ridiculing it. For example, the Chicago Sun Times, shortly after, had a cartoon depicting Uncle Sam holding in one hand a spherical object, entitled "Vanguard Bungle" emitting smoke, and his other hand over his nose, while at the bottom of the cartoon was the caption: "Rotten Eggnik."

Democratic leader of the Senate, L. B. Johnson also voiced his criticism, Dec. 6, as follows: "I shrink a little inside of me whenever the U.S. announces a great event and it blows up in our faces. I guess you all know what happened this morning with our much advertised, belatedly, and poorly, satellite. . . . What happened this morning is one of the best publicized—and most humiliating—failures in our history."

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AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

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Repercussions of the "vanguard bungle" were felt in Great Britain also to such an extent that they were set to music, a biting calypso song with guitar accompaniment broadcast on the BBC television program, to wit:

"Oh, from America comes the significant thought,

"Their own little Sputnik won't go off.

"They've been pressing the button for a month or more,

"But they can't get the blighter off the floor."

As for the Russians, it was said that they were very restrained in their behavior, they simply quoted the American press comments about the "vanguard flop." And, we may add, as for the class-conscious workers throughout the rest of the world, they are still laughing, and that, of course, you know, is a very good way to begin a New Year.

Bulganin Haunts the NATO

Eisenhower, Dulles, Wall Street & Company found it difficult to get one hundred per cent support from their NATO "partners" for the missile-nuclear bases program against the Soviet Union. It was very evident that the Bulganin letters offering "peaceful coexistence" (coupled with a warning to the West European nations, including Britain, that they face destruction, in the event the U.S. precipitates a world war) have had its effect. The European nations, especially Norway, Denmark and West Germany, urged that the Soviet peace proposals be taken more seriously with a view to further negotiations and not merely dismissed, a la Dulles, as "propaganda."

On Dec. 19, a press report in the Chicago Sun Times by Marguerite Higgins revealed that the 15 NATO nations had accepted in "principle" the stationing of missiles and atomic warheads in Europe. But, she adds: "By agreeing to the principle that missiles shall be put at NATO's disposal, members of the alliance do not necessarily commit themselves to accepting them for their own countries."

The reluctance of the European members of the NATO to support fully Wall Street's missile-nuclear war program is attributed mainly to the fact that the Soviet Union is far ahead of the U.S., especially with two missile-thrown Sputniks in outer space.

Even inside the United States this has had an effect on quite a number of influential capitalists, like John S. Knight, publisher of the Chicago Daily News, who headed his editorial of Dec. 14 with this admonition: "We Must Live With Reds, Or The World Is Doomed." He advises "another reappraisal" and talks with the Soviet Union. He grimly put it, as follows:

"The Sputnik era has forced us into the grim realization that we no longer enjoy military supremacy."

He further concluded that "Like it or not, we may as well recognize that Russia and the communist countries are here to stay . . . that they are greater in area, resources and population. Either we learn to live with them or the world faces destruction."

It all boils down to the question of "to be or not to be" but no one knows whether Wall Street will take Knight's advice, and his last warning that "Time is running out."

Al Wysocki

HOME SCENE

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in a trap in cooperating as much as they have with that instrument of capital, the Senate Rackets Committee.

Since 1946 when the Employment Act was made into law, guaranteeing "full employment," the workers have been told that they don't have to worry about getting work. Also, since then, we've been assured of "built-in stabilizers" in the economy. But those guarantees and assurances haven't stopped one capitalist from laying off workers when business fell down and he couldn't make a profit on their labor. The government may give some unemployed jobs on public works but it has its limits. Reforms are all it has to offer but no cure of a permanent nature.

Unemployment is "built-in" in the capitalist system. Under capitalism, the means of production are privately owned and operated to make profits for their capitalist owners. When business is booming and profits are rolling into the coffers of the capitalists, they hire all they need. When business is on the decline, they lay off all they don't

have use for. And the only time, jobs were to be had for the asking was during the war, its preparation and its aftermath: reconstruction periods. Other than that, capitalism has been in a general decline and in a state of economic crisis. Capitalist production tends to overtake the demand for its goods. Surpluses or inventories pile up, production is then curtailed and workers are laid off. That is the "built-in" problem in the system. Social or collective production and individual appropriation is the contradiction that makes for unemployment. For the capitalists, this contradictory system, means wealth, power and a good life. For the worker it spells tragedy—insecurity and poverty.

The solution lies in resolving this contradiction thru collective, social ownership of the means of production, and social appropriation of all that is produced. Of course, this could only be brought about by complete abolition of the capitalist system thru working class political action of the immense majority.

L. B.

Science and the Materialist Conception of History

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this standpoint the entire social organization, the form of the family, the political form and structure, the religious ideas and setup, ethics, etc. all more or less reflect and correspond to the technological base. Given a major change in the latter it sooner or later forces changes in the superstructural forms. Systems inevitably suffer revolutionary change when their social relations or setup have been outmoded or made obsolete by changes in the economic base or production forces.

The fate of feudalism was thusly sealed when the growth of industry and commerce militated against its narrow social bounds, with its serf-labor, guild system, restriction of the Church, etc. The rising industrial and merchant class, the modern capitalists won the contest, established the then new social order, capitalism.

The struggles of the classes, between the bourgeoisie and feudal nobility were political (as all class struggles are) tho, for reasons of the power of the Church and its organic connection with the state, it took on, in instances, a religious form. The capitalists had to fight on every front, ideological as well as material. All feudal ideas, its superstitions and abstractions, had to be fought down. Commodity production, trade and world exploration required facts, not blind faith. There was a rebirth and growth of learning and science. The natural sciences, physics, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, came out with one great discovery after another. Capitalism flourished as a result. Science was its ally, tho not completely.

In the struggle between capital and the nobility, the bourgeoisie had to enlist the support of the common people, the peasants and workers who bore the brunt of the fighting. The slogans were liberty, justice and social equality which in the course of the revolution the workers tried to turn into a concrete reality to their own ends. The proletariat or workers always formed the most militant and left wing of the united front. This the capitalists immediately recognized for its danger, and suppressed it thru terror, as in the great French Revolution.

The growth of science and materialism (and science is, basically, materialistic) in the early stages was accompanied by a simultaneous reversion to idealism and religion. This is a contradictory condition which arose from the class conditions of society. Capital needs science and materialism in its economic production where exactness, analysis and objectivity is essential to its profit making and calculating; on the other hand, it has need of religion for the frustrated and

hopeless workers, gives them something intangible to hope for in the hereafter. It needs idealism generally for the same reason, to keep them mentally confused, in a state of non-realism as to the origin of poverty and riches, and other social problems afflicting humanity. But not only are the workers caught in this confused state of mind, the capitalists, their ideologists and even the scientists are not free from it.

We therefore see educated men and women, scientific and matter-of-fact in their specialized field talk all sort of nonsense about things generally. Moreover because they are not consistently materialistic in their general outlook, in their theory, or philosophy of thinking, they are limited even in their specialized field as well.

In this present race between capitalist and socialist science which has just begun we feel confident in asserting that in the long haul capitalist science will fall behind along with the system it represents. It represents a dying order which is disintegrating from internal contradictions or conflicting forces. Its science equally suffers from those contradictions.

Natural science cannot be absolutely severed from social science, no more than the lack of scientists and teachers can be understood without looking into their meager pay envelope. Scientists, teachers don't live in a vacuum, but in a given social environment.

With Marxian materialism, on the other hand, social and natural science are considered under the heading of science in general with natural law governing both aspects. There is no natural law in one field and supernatural in the other. Philosophy, the method of thinking is as important in one as in the other. The questions of mind and matter, whether phenomenon are relative or absolute, the interrelation of phenomena, the relation between the known and unknown or the limits of knowledge, these are questions not alone for social science but for natural science, too.

Now it is obvious that capitalist science which is philosophically still dubious about the objectivity of matter; which still harbors thoughts (at least on Sundays) about an outside creative force; which still thinks in absolute metaphysical terms; which has doubts about whether man can know everything; which fears to go too far lest they encroach upon a field reserved for the creator; under these circumstances that science is somewhat hampered.

By the same token socialist science is philosophically faced to go as far as it wished, with no holds barred. The world is here with all its interrelated phenom-

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Capitalism's Inherent Crises

It is now quite obvious that capitalism is heading for a serious crisis, or, more accurately, a series of crises. Whether such crises will bring on "the final conflict" we would not make so bold as to predict. However, the workers of the western world, the vast majority in such countries as Britain and America, sooner or later, will be forced to take matters into their own hands, or endure the privation and suffering which capitalism has in store for them.

The vast preparations for "all-out war," with its promise of total destruction, should convey to the consciousness of the vast majority of people that drifting toward "the brink," without an effort to stem the tide which threatens to engulf mankind, is a policy almost equivalent to self-destruction, to collective suicide.

The so-called statesmen of capitalism are certainly aware of the danger, but they are utterly bankrupt when it comes to finding a solution. That is why they alternate between pleading and threatening, while the problem remains and, if anything, becomes more menacing.

The military-minded element in the nation can only yell for more armaments. "It is a sound investment," they say, "because it insures peace." That ancient delusion was trotted out before both World Wars, but to no avail. Armaments never have prevented the coming of war. They may delay it, and, under certain conditions, actually hasten it.

The peace elements within the community, —church leaders, small business people, and such—especially those who feel the pinch of taxation, favor curtailment of armaments, and peace negotiations. However, neither the pacifists nor militarists can prevent a clash of forces, if the economic pressure of business rivalry is strong enough.

Hoping for peace but preparing for war is as old as capitalism. This contradictory position is the outcome of the inherent contradictions within capitalism. International business competition is the cause of modern wars. And, so long as the struggle for the world market, and spheres of economic investment remains, so long will the war danger be with us. Both World Wars were brought on by this capitalist imperialist rivalry. This rivalry is as strong as ever. However, there is a new retarding factor, namely, fear of the workers world, fear of the U.S.S.R. and the nations allied with it. Much of the world has already been lost to capitalism. The fear of losing the rest makes the imperialist shudder and is driving them to desperation.

The burden of armaments, by itself, will not bring capitalism to its knees, but it will be a contributing cause. France, already, is groaning under the load, and Britain is feeling the strain on its economic resources. Their adventure in Egypt, a year ago, cost Britain fully a billion dollars and France approximately half that sum, and the continual strain of the Algerian war has brought French imperialism to the breaking point. At this time (December 15th), the western imperialists are meeting at Paris to try bolster their broken ranks.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) —whose military set-up was organized under Eisenhower's direction — has, more or less, fallen apart. America, alone, is holding up its end of the load, and hoping that West Germany will be able to take over a larger share of the burden, so as to replace forces withdrawn by France and Britain. Thus, there is a serious crisis in west Europe, within NATO.

Capitalist "unity" cannot free itself from its own imperialist rivalry. The relentless economic war now going on, the battle of competition—which is in full swing within the circle of the "free enterprise" nations themselves—is dividing their ranks. Britain is feeling the weight of West Germany's competitive drive in the world market. Japan is capturing an increasing share of the world's textile trade. Even in shipbuilding — recognized as one of Britain's top industries—Japan took first place in 1956.

In addition to the strenuous struggle amongst the imperialists themselves, the Soviet Union has penetrated, with its modern products, into countries once exclusively supplied by the western imperialists. It has loaned money to certain nations and invested in their economy. It has supplied some of them with considerable quantities of modern armaments. Consequently, America—"the arsenal of democracy"—finds itself confronted competitively by the new democratic arsenal. The Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and other workers' nations, have been supplying countries in the Middle East and in Asia with a wide variety of armaments and industrial equipment. This development also has contributed to the general world crisis now building up to confront the western capitalist imperialists.

There is a limit to the capacity of western capitalism, and to the endurance of its all-too-patient wage-slaves, whose bended backs are now carrying a tremendous burden. "It is the last straw which breaks the camel's back," and the western working class camel has about reached the exploitable limit.

A new crisis is building up, with new problems crowding in upon top of the old ones. Strikes are breaking out in Britain and America and joblessness is on the increase. Inflation has reduced real-wages, whether planned that way or not, and the workers are resentful. The intensity of production, too, is so great that there is demand for fewer hours of toil. Hence, internal economic crises.

In eastern nations — India, Indonesia and others—the political drift is still left-wards. Those nations are transforming their economy, and, in so doing, they are looking less to the west for aid and more to Peoples China and the Soviet Union, and the countries of eastern Europe. Some of them have taken advantage of the competition between the two blocks of nations, and have taken assistance from both.

"Competitive coexistence" is not exactly new. It long has prevailed among the capitalist nations themselves. However, it now has a new implication, namely a competitive struggle between the allied working class nations, with their non-profit economy at home, and the capitalist nations with their profit motive economy.

The Soviet Union, Peoples' China and other working class nations have definitely become a force in the world market. Of course they also are a part of that market. Not only do they do business with each other, but their products now penetrate into those sections of the world market which the western imperialists have regarded as their exclusive field.

This competition, however, works both ways. West Germany, for instance, is taking an increasing share of business with Peoples' China, and other countries allied with the Soviet Union. Britain, Japan and other capi-

talist nations also operate within the economic sphere of the workers' nations.

As commodities exchange at their value, this international trade is to their mutual advantage, and that will prevail so long as business in general expands. If the world market shrinks, or the volume of products increase beyond its capacity to absorb them, the competitive struggle will become fierce, and, as the world market has its limitations, the crisis of overproduction will ultimately manifest itself.

The new economic system, where a non-productive exploiting class no longer exists, is certain to out-compete the capitalist nations, where a large portion of the produced wealth is appropriated by the ruling class. A terrific crisis could arise out of just that sort of situation. This is not dissociated from the armaments struggle. They go together.

While competitive armaments, and the war danger, may be the over-shadowing issue in the present crisis, its economic roots lie in the world battle for business, plus the now conscious conflict between the two economic systems, the profit and non-profit economy.

If the classless economy forces capitalism to cut prices to the bone, and taxation for armaments increases, the profiteers, in their desperation, may throw discretion to the wind and let loose an atomic war of destruction.

As the capitalist world shrinks, and the workers world expands, a stage will ultimately be reached where the balance of power will pass to the new non-profit economy. It is at this turning point that a life or death crisis would face capitalism. Under such circumstances, will the rich rulers of capitalism submit to historic inevitability, or will they seek to turn back the evolutionary tide?

While the answer to this question lies in the future, it is most unlikely that those rich exploiters, the multi-millionaires, will let this happen without letting loose the "dogs of war."

There is quite a number of rich American parasites, and some in high political places (not to mention those of Britain and other nations), who would sooner see the extermination of the human race than their loss of class status and privileges. They may be few in number, but they are a dangerous minority as they have tremendous power within the capitalist bloc of nations. It would be a wise move on the part of the workers of western capitalism, the immense majority of the population, to take immediate steps to prevent such an outcome.

For a long time, American public opinion has been built up to the effect that the Soviet Union is preparing to strike at America. This is given as a reason for the building of bases all around the U.S.S.R. American journalists are now asking, in view of Russia's known air strength, if it is wise to wait for "a Pearl Harbor?" We are of the opinion that the U.S.S.R. will not provide a "Pearl Harbor" because times is on the side of the new world, and for the old world of capitalism it is running out. It is high time that the American workers organized politically to take the nation into their own hands.

John Keracher

The Modern Sword of Damocles

"In this era of pushbutton war, one of the greatest hazards is how to keep some eager beaver from pushing the wrong button, thereby triggering the greatest war in history." * * * "Experts agree that half the planet could be destroyed before anybody discovered that it was all a mistake."

(From the "Iron Age," August 30th, 1956)

THUMBNAILS

WHAT'S COOKIN'. All this hulla-ba-loo about tightening our belts and going on a longer work-week in order to catch up to Russia has us a little worried. The big guns in Washington are reporting the population of these United States is solidly behind a program for more taxes and harder work in order to be first and best at everything including shooting the moon.

The thing that has us worried is who are all the anxious citizens backing up these suggestions? So far we haven't met a one and we are acquainted with a lot of them. If anyone asks you for your opinion on the subject you might tell them this little piece of news recently released, to wit: The General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. has accused the Army and Air Force of squandering weapons and money for the military foreign aid program. Comptroller-General, Joseph Campbell, sent a report to Congress in which GAO claimed U.S. objectives were unrealistic and financially unsound.

It seems this country has sent more arms than needed to some allies and not enough to others who could use them. Then too, the Allies haven't been pressured enough to carry their share of the load. As one might well guess, the report called for suggested changes and corrections of the situation, all of which will be duly investigated. (That is, unless higher taxes make it unnecessary to worry about such piddling sums—such as the \$24 billion for allied military aid appropriated since the end of World War II).

Like the fellow said when he cooked dinner while his wife was sick, "It's a mess, ain't it!"

GLOOMY FORECAST: 50 million American casualties or 40 billion dollars for bomb shelters is the recommendation of the Federal

Civil Defense Administration (FCDA). It was, of course, based on the assumption that a third world war would break out. This subversive suggestion that the whole U.S. population go underground was somewhat watered down by the fact the FCDA report contained a statement to the effect that the Russians were not interested in or desirous of a third world war. But just think what a great WPA project 40 billion dollars worth of bomb shelters would make, and the unemployed workers could dig holes without having to fill them in again. It's a grim prospect anyway you look at it under capitalism.

A SQUEAK AND A SQUAWK: The U.S. missiles and satellite program has been developing like an egg wabbling down a slightly inclined board, and of course it sometimes wobbles right off the side of the board and ends up in a big yolk. The reason we are aware of this is because of the reams and reams of wrong information regarding missiles development available to the reading and listening public. When you add up the announced mistakes, apologies, investigations, speculations and calculations, you have a lot of useless words that leave you just about where you were before you were aware of such things as missiles and satellites.

From the experiences in this country one can develop a healthy respect for the Russian policy of announcing their advances as an accomplished fact and leaving the birth pains for the planners and developers who are going through them.

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH: The mad scramble to capture the hearts and minds of what Vice President Richard Nixon calls the "uncommitted third" of the world's people has caused Uncle Sam to stumble

over the feet of France, who is trying desperately to keep a toe hold in North Africa.

The U.S. decision to send arms to Tunisia over the bitter objection of France (who feels Tunisia is too close a friend of their troubled Algeria) was hailed by some to be a decisive turning point in Americas' foreign policy.

We often wonder where these experts get their point of view. There is certainly nothing new in the idea of a capitalist nation dumping an old "friend" any time

the situation demands it. France and the U.S. are bitter rivals for African markets and raw material and they will cut each others throat every chance they get to win the day. This type of policy is not only not new but a basic characteristic of the capitalist form of economy. The fact that the U.S. leadership is just waking up to the importance of the "uncommitted third" does not mean a new foreign policy but merely a change of direction. Look at the history of South America and it will tell you.

L.D.

Science and the Materialist Conception of History

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ena and in constant flux. The task of science is to keep gathering more knowledge about it all the time. And knowledge like the phenomena is an endless process.

The base for capitalist science is capital and its material interest. The base for socialist science is labor and its material interest. The latter forms a wider, freer base. Mystery is necessary to an exploiting system. It seeks to perpetuate it. The wide circulation of mystery books and plays are evidence of its necessity. The fathoming of mystery thru understanding is equally necessary to a socialist, free order.

In its efforts to catch up in science American capitalism will try everything thru inducements and attempts to popularization. To the extent that they do that they will hurt themselves. To encourage workers to think scientifically is dangerous. They may turn that scientific attitude to other social channels, commence asking questions why many things are as they

are, what is the cause of this, that, and other thing?

On the other hand the entire set of social values under capitalism, the emphasis upon monetary success, the aim to profit by another's labor, etc., does not lend itself to a serious attitude and respect for knowledge and science, does not lend itself to struggle and sacrifice for the community when each one attempts to make good for and by himself. Two obstacles that will inevitably curb capitalist science are, first, practical conditions and resistance resulting from the capitalist philosophy of life; second, the idealist philosophical thinking of the scientists themselves. These are the conditions that give advantage to socialist science: first a new revolutionary socialist philosophy of life, where the interest of the individual is organically connected up with the wellbeing of the community; second, the scientific philosophy of Marxian dialectical materialism.

R. Daniels

The Irreligious Wage-Worker

"The life led by the laborer in the great industries has removed him even more than the capitalist from the influences of the environment of nature which in the peasant keep up the belief in ghosts, in sorceries, in witchcraft and other superstitious ideas. . . ."

"The labor of the mechanical factory puts the wage-worker in touch with terrible natural forces unknown to the peasant, but instead of being mastered by them, he controls them. The gigantic mechanism of iron and steel which fills the factory, which makes him move like an automaton, which sometimes catches him, mutilates him, bruises him, does not engender in him a superstitious terror as the thunder does in the peasant, but leaves him unmoved, for he knows that the limbs of the mechanical monster were fashioned and mounted by his comrades, and that he has but to push a lever to set it in motion or stop it. The machine, in spite of its miraculous power and productiveness, has no

mystery for him.

"The laborer in the electric works, who has but to turn a crank on a dial to send miles of motive power to tramways or light to the lamps of a city, has but to say, like the God of Genesis, 'Let there be light,' and there is light. Never sorcery more fantastic was imagined, yet for him this sorcery is a simple and natural thing. He would be greatly surprised if one were to come and tell him that a certain God might if he chose stop the machines and extinguish the lights when the electricity had been turned on; he would reply that this anarchistic God would be simply a misplaced gearing or a broken wire, and that it would be easy for him to seek and to find this disturbing God. The practice of the modern workshop teaches the wage-worker scientific determinism, without his needing to pass through the theoretical study of the sciences."

(From "Social And Philosophical Studies" by Paul Lafargue)

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