

What the War Was About

If anyone in the United States or the Allied countries labored under the delusion that the issue involved in the late war was to "make the world safe for democracy" and annihilate autocracy before the combination of Allied money and Roumanian soldiers crushed the workers' republic of Hungary, no one but an idiot could possibly believe it now.

In fact, that spokesman of imperialist capitalism, Woodrow Wilson, who created the slogan, never uses it now, as he recognizes the fact that it has served its purpose and should now repose in peace in the graveyard of capitalist lies, along with those other cardinal lies of capitalism: "liberty, equality and fraternity." A whole historical cycle separates the "liberty, equality and fraternity" of the French bourgeois revolutionists from the "making the world safe for democracy" of capitalist imperialism. There is also a vast difference between the theoretical spokesmen of the rising capitalist class and the present day apologists of imperialism. The French revolutionists devoutly believed the advent of their system of government would establish harmonious relations among all the people of the earth, but the slogan of the latter stage of capitalism was used by spokesmen of the ruling class who were well aware of the fact that it was a lie. That slogan was twisted to serve every sordid purpose of capitalism during the war. Every despotic act of the United States government was cloaked with that phrase, and those who had the courage to protest were brazenly informed that the curtailment of liberties within the confines of this nation was necessary for a short time only in order that we might more easily crush Kaiserism; those rebels who declared that Kaiserism was being introduced into the United States in a more vicious form than it ever existed in Germany were denounced as enemies of democracy and sent to prison for long terms.

While the ruling class of this nation was successfully waging an imperialistic war for the extension of its sphere of influence in foreign nations and while it was more firmly forging the fetters that bind the American workers to wage-slavery, the subtle phrase-mongers coined another slogan especially for the slaves; that slogan was "Freedom for All, Forever." If the slave would not get enthusiastic over the words "make the world safe for democracy" he would certainly fall for the proposition of "Freedom for All, Forever." So mouthing the silly slogans coined by the hirelings of the master class the American slave patiently endured every inroad made upon his alleged liberties, until what little freedom of thought, speech or action he once enjoyed was taken from him. If the United States government really desired freedom of peoples, democracy, self-determination of nations, etc., its armies would not now be in Russia and American bankers would not be financing counter-revolutionary movements such as the Kolchak movement against Soviet Russia, and the Roumanian movement against Hungary.

In Russia the workers have controlled their own government since Nov. 7, 1917, and last March the Karolyi bourgeois government which came into power in

Hungary after the downfall of the House of Hapsburg resigned in favor of the workers. Karolyi, by no means in sympathy with the revolutionary proletariat, was compelled to admit the workers were the only ones who could rule Hungary. Although belonging to the ruling class Karolyi had sufficient intelligence to recognize the fact that only the proletariat of the world is capable of ruling at this stage of industrial development. The workers government responded to the opportunity and immediately proceeded to the organization of a soviet government. For the first time in history the workers of Hungary conducted the affairs of the nation for themselves. Every worker had a personal interest in the government and in the industrial and agricultural life of the nation. The capitalist class was being rapidly dispossessed and industry was being reorganized upon an efficient basis, closely patterned after the Russian soviet system.

The fact that Hungarian workers had taken the same course as the Russian workers was sufficient incentive for the heroic Allied governments to immediately conspire against the self-determination and the liberty of the workers of Hungary, as they conspired against the liberties of the workers of Russia. But Hungary was not so fortunately situated as is Russia, so after a five months' struggle against the intrigues and armed invasion of the Allies, Soviet Hungary succumbed. Today the workers' republic of Hungary lies bleeding at the feet of the Allied imperialists, and while the gravest charges the Allies could ever bring against the Hungarian Soviet government was the execution of a few traitors and counter-revolutionists who had conspired against the republic and against the lives of individuals prominent in that government, the same element of the Allies that protested against what they were pleased to call the savagery of the Soviets is slaughtering hundreds of people daily. After destroying the workers' government, the Roumanian army, supplied with gold and arms and ammunition by the Allies proceeds to execute everyone, man woman or child, who is suspected of sympathizing with the revolutionary workers. The atrocities being perpetrated against the defeated workers in Hungary again proves that the ruling class sinks into unrestrained savagery when it gains the upper hand in a movement against the workers. The history of the Paris Commune, and of the White Guard crimes in Finland is being repeated in Hungary at this moment.

After crushing the workers' republic in Hungary beneath the iron heel of Allied militarism, these butchers set Arch-

duke Joseph, of the House of Hapsburg, on the throne. Had there been within the confines of the United States, one short year ago, a person who would have dared insinuate that today the Allies would be assisting the House of Hapsburg rule Austria he would have been sentenced to at least a hundred years in jail for violation of the espionage act. The entire history of the house of Hapsburg is a history of infamy, and of oppression and degradation of the unfortunate subjects of that House. The House of Hapsburgs' has ruled continuously in some part of Europe since the year 1273. Time and again the male line has become extinct because of the degenerate lives of these rulers. The lineage would be saved by a daughter marrying into another family, thus infusing new blood into the offspring. The degeneracy and infirmities of Francis Joseph II, who ruled Austria-Hungary at the time the world war broke out was well known. The origin of the Hapsburg family certainly had nothing to do with its subsequent activities, but it may be of interest to note that it derived its name from the Castle of Hapsburg, or Habichtsburg, (hawks' castle) on the banks of the Aar, in the Swiss Canton of Aargon, said to have been built about the year 1027.

It is thus that the Allies make the world safe for democracy, by destroying the workers republic of Hungary and placing upon the imperial throne a Hapsburg; a scion of that foul, leprous, blood-streaked, embodiment of nameless diseases, the House Hapsburg, to rule the people.

Ammunition made by American workers was used against the workers republic and if the ruling class of this country had deemed it necessary American workers, would have been ordered to assist in the assassination of the hopes of the Hungarian people, even as American workers are doing in Russia at this hour.

So, at last, it becomes plain to all what we fought for. The slogan "freedom for all, forever" meant nothing but freedom of American and Allied imperialists to exploit the world. In order to do this successfully they form alliances with the imperial house they formerly denounced as enemies of civilization. At that time we Communists pointed out to the best of our ability that there is absolutely no difference between the monarchy of Kaiser Bill and the democracy of Woodrow Wilson as long as capitalism continues.

We declared then and we declare today that the quarrel between two different groups of the ruling classes of the world is of no concern to the worker, and that the only fight worth the shedding of a single drop of working class blood is the struggle of the workers of the world against the capitalist class of the world.

The Allies may gloat over their ill-gotten victory, but out of the ruins and sweep the house hatched in a buzzard's up from the ashes of the workers republic will arise another revolution that will nest from power and in unison with the class conscious proletariat and under the banner of the Third International join again the ranks of the world revolution in order that throughout the world capitalism may be annihilated.

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