

Clashes in Far East and Mediterranean Make New World War Danger Imminent

Stalinist Bureaucracy is Tied To Imperialist Apron-Strings

By Herman Stern

Like the bursting of an enormous swollen balloon, the next war, more devastating and horrible than has been witnessed in all human history, will explode from the present international crisis. "It is no longer a question of, will it come—but where and how soon." This estimate of recent developments in Europe and the Far East made by the New York Times, contains a remarkably clear summary of the current war danger.

The stage for a World War is being carefully set in the East. Japan's invasion of China, for decades a great sore spot on the frame of world capitalism will not be resolved around conference tables but in a military collision of Japanese with British and American Imperialism.

Those billions of dollars painfully extracted from the blood of the toiling masses and furnished the war industries were not invested for nought. Soon the long-stored guns and bullets will again be handed to millions of workers. To the old tune of "peace, freedom and democracy" we will once more be invited to surrender limbs and lives to fill higher the pockets of the class exploiters.

Capitalist War Inevitable

War is a natural, unavoidable and ever-present threat in bourgeois society. The struggle of the more powerful nations among themselves for colonial investment markets rages unceasingly.

In general this struggle proceeds "peacefully" thru tariff and currency manipulations, often reinforced by military means. When it becomes necessary seriously to engage a competitor, with an army and navy, the old struggle only assumes a new form. Nothing has changed. All classes retain their economic and political identity. "War is a continuation of politics by other means." The meaning of war is given in this simple explanation.

No ruling class burdened with the responsibility of mobilizing an entire population to protect its interests, enjoys or desires war. History testifies that war is an extremely risky undertaking. Capitalism tries desperately to avoid it. The Paris Commune, both Russian Revolutions and innumerable others were directly produced by wars. The historians for capitalism have kept the ruling class closely familiar with the possibilities of new proletarian revolutions arising from the coming war. This is probably the strongest single factor that has postponed war thus far. Nevertheless, against its will and despite this grave possibility, war is imposed upon capitalism and it has no alternative but to risk it.

The Two Camps

The world is at present divided into two camps of nations. There is Britain, France and the U. S. who were especially successful in 1914-18. On the other side, there is Germany, completely relieved of its colonies by Britain and France, and Italy and Japan who, like Germany, have comparatively nothing. For the "have-not" nations to prosper they must

either be allotted colonial concessions by British and France or take these concessions by use of the military. Japan demands an immediate share of colonies and advances into China. Italy took Ethiopia. Germany has spoken quite openly of its designs in Soviet territory. The colony-possessing powers refuse and can not afford to tolerate any further encroachments upon its property by the "have-nots". Thus, the inevitability of a new war.

It is an over-simplification to say that the war policy of Japan in China is directed by an irresponsible clique which fails to realize the full consequence of its actions. The movement of Japanese troops in China is not an adventure. It occurs, not merely while England and at its tail, France, are pre-occupied with protecting their interests in the Mediterranean, "door to the British Empire," but undoubtedly with the consent and direct support of Germany and Italy.

It is easily seen that the strategy of the Berlin-Nanking combination was to engage their common foe simultaneously, on two fronts. At the same time that Mussolini and Hitler, apparently unchallenged, tossed chestnuts for concessions in Spain and as the Stalin regime revealed vast internal difficulties, Japan delivered a swift thrust in China. This action, of a prepared Japanese army, navy and air force, impelled by Japan's urgent requirement of a broad colonial exploitation field, was inevitable. Japan executed her plan after long deliberations choosing what appeared to be the most propitious moment. Says William Philip Simms, foreign editor of the World-Telegram, "Japan is out to make China a Japanese dependency. Success will mean that the open door is to be closed, locked and barred against the U. S., Great Britain and the rest of the world."

Japan vs. England

Japan's desire in China are well known in England. To show that she is not asleep and in anticipation of such emergencies England has appropriated no less than 7,500,000,000 dollars for war preparations. The traditional British policy of balancing the scales in Europe has been speedily abandoned. More than talk was needed. The concentration of close to 100 battleships in the Mediterranean indicates that Britain is preparing for the very worst. An approximate figure of one Billion dollars of investments in China does not tell the whole story of its stakes in the Far East. The maintenance of its colonial prestige, which in the last years has steadily dwindled, is of first importance.

The British "balance of power" policy facilitated the re-arming of Germany to be used as a force against threatening France and Russia. In 1931, Japan supported by the balance process against the U. S. in China, annexed Manchuria. Italy, aided in its

re-armaments by Great Britain, invaded Ethiopia. The League of Nations stood idly by.

What confronts Britain to-day is a solid bloc of Germany, Japan and Italy. London is attempting to break this bloc at its weakest point—Italy. The exact closeness of war is in large measure dependent upon the preparedness of Britain and its ability to conciliate Mussolini. With Japan, however, a settlement of basic differences is precluded.

Persistent reports of a new French foreign policy away from the Soviet Union and closer to Britain are considerably strengthened by the French agreement with Britain to give the Soviet Navy a back seat in the Black Sea for piracy duty. France goes where England leads. Nothing can erase the traitorous record of the French communists who in practicing diplomacy with capitalism became its most reliable deputy against the workers.

The "War on Piracy"

The war against "piracy" is the latest British product to veil its intentions in the Mediterranean. From the Daily Worker comes the following transmission of a statement by the Italian government. "The Italian Government is convinced that Great Britain believes in Franco's success too." "The British attitude perhaps should be held responsible for the boldness with which the Italian Navy, camouflaged as Spanish Nationalists, has undertaken the blockade and patrol of Spanish shores." If Britain aids Franco, as she does, and if Italy is the "pirate", as is not denied, unless we accept the explanation that Italy wishes war with Britain, why should we believe that Mussolini indiscriminately fires upon British ships as well as others? The anti-piracy campaign does not explain the tension in the Mediterranean and Britain's hasty dispatch of battleships there. The truth is that Britain fears Italy's game and only explains in the term "piracy" the possibility of Italy's going further than Spain into British territory. It is significant that of all the reported British damages by Franco none of her ships was sunk or badly damaged.

The participation of the Soviet Union in all shams perpetrated by England to deceive the world draws her deeper into the orbit of imperialist British politics. Having lost all trace of its independent position, Stalinist diplomacy and language can hardly be distinguished from bourgeois. In its attempts to convince U. S. British and French Imperialism that it is dependable, Stalinism, in this Soviet Union into the role of street cleaner for Gr. Britain. The Red Army and Navy once the pride of the International working class and protector of the October Revolution was last month commissioned by Stalin to initiate the offensive against Italy for Britain.

It is permissible and necessary that the Soviet Union safeguards its ships going to Spain, even to the point of fighting the attacker. But for this encounter, support of the international labor movement is indispensable.

Such a course of aid to the international struggle for socialism was always considered as adventurist by Stalinism. The argument given was that the participation of the Soviet Union in the affairs of working class struggles outside of its boundaries would involve the Soviet

Akron A. F. of L. Charter Lifted

By Blake Lear

AKRON, Ohio.—The charter of the Akron central labor union was lifted early last week by action of H. A. Bradley, agent of William Green.

It was immediately handed over to the small group of unions composing the building trades council, labor racketeers of long standing.

A wave of protest surged through A. F. of L. ranks here immediately, the federation of teachers being first to take official action, with a unanimous protest at the high-handed action. The union has written its International demanding that the whole matter be brought on the floor of the Denver convention, and it has protested to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. itself.

Further action will be taken tonight, as fifty or more A. F. of L. locals meet to map out the campaign of strategy against the anti-working action of the A. F. of L. leadership.

Union in a war. One need only recall the vile names that were heaped upon the revolutionists when prior to Hitler's advent, they considered the advisability of Soviet intervention in Germany to guarantee the victory of the German revolution.

The Pro-Fascist Pretense

The Daily Worker, perhaps a bit disillusioned with the non-intervention committee, declared before the convocation of the Piracy Commission, "just now the British Tories are busy making the coming Geneva parley against piracy a pro-fascist pretense similar to what they did with the non-intervention committee."

But by the time the "pro-fascist pretense" met, with the Soviet Union seated warmly in the center, the line underwent a complete change. Litvinov delivered a tirade against piracy. The Soviet and C. I. press devoted columns and columns to prove to Great Britain and France that piracy was a challenge to their decent, self-respecting merchants and that severe "peace" measures are demanded. Further — the Soviet Union volunteers to take the first step on its own. If Britain refuses to understand how best to protect its imperialist rights—the Red Army will begin this dangerous work for it. The Red Army organ Red Star, declared that if the conference of Mediterranean powers fails to stop the pirates "the Soviet government will find the necessary means for calling the sea pirates to their responsibilities and forcing them to fulfill legal demands". A headline in the World-Telegram said "Force advised by Red Army if talk fails". Does the Red Star state that the Soviet Union contemplates action against the pirates because the pirates threaten the Spanish workers? Oh no! This might mean that Britain and France would refuse to use the U.S.S.R. any longer. Instead it repeats that "the high seas must be made safe for merchant shipping." Gullible people may feel that this constitutes the defense of the Soviet Union.

Five of the nine officers of the Executive Board of the Central Labor Union, including Wilmer Tate, militant president; Art Klatt, secretary, and member of the truck drivers; and Chalmers Stewart, chairman of the board of trustees, and president of the federation of teachers, were expelled when the central labor union was "reorganized."

In a blistering condemnation issued by them they exposed the rank dictatorship of the Bradley crew, listed example after example of his violation of trade union democracy, and promised a determined fight against the group which has now succeeded in causing a three-way split in Akron labor ranks.

Dullea Gets 1511 Votes for Mayor

Despite a hastily organized campaign and confronting the active sabotage of the Clarityites, the Socialist Party of Cleveland, led by the Left Wing, emerged from the primaries of last week with the support of 1,511 workers solidly behind it. During the last campaign conducted by a united party and spending far more time and money, Robert Dullea, left wing candidate, received only 500 votes more.

The Cleveland comrades have demonstrated that the ears of the working class are decidedly receptive to the program and efforts of revolutionary socialism.

It is significant that Carl Winters, belated candidate of the Communist Party, received 2,237 votes, only 700 more than Comrade Dullea. This is the first time since the Old Guard split that the CP has not trebled the votes of the Socialists. In ten city out of thirty-three in the city Comrade Dullea received more votes than Winters. In the important automobile workers districts, the 26th and 32nd wards, the vote for revolutionary socialism exceeded that of the Stalinists.

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