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Anti-Moscow Pact Shows War Peril

Coming Conflict Will Take Place Not to Defend 'Democracy' But to Protect the Imperialist Plunder of Big World Powers

The past week witnessed two deeply significant and interrelated events which command the closest attention of every worker: the conclusion of the "Anti-Communist" Pact between Fascist Italy, Germany and Japan, and the virtual recognition granted the Spanish Fascist government by "democratic" England.

These two developments in international affairs are most revealing for anyone who really wants to understand the true character of the new world war in preparation, so that he may be able to clarify his attitude towards it.

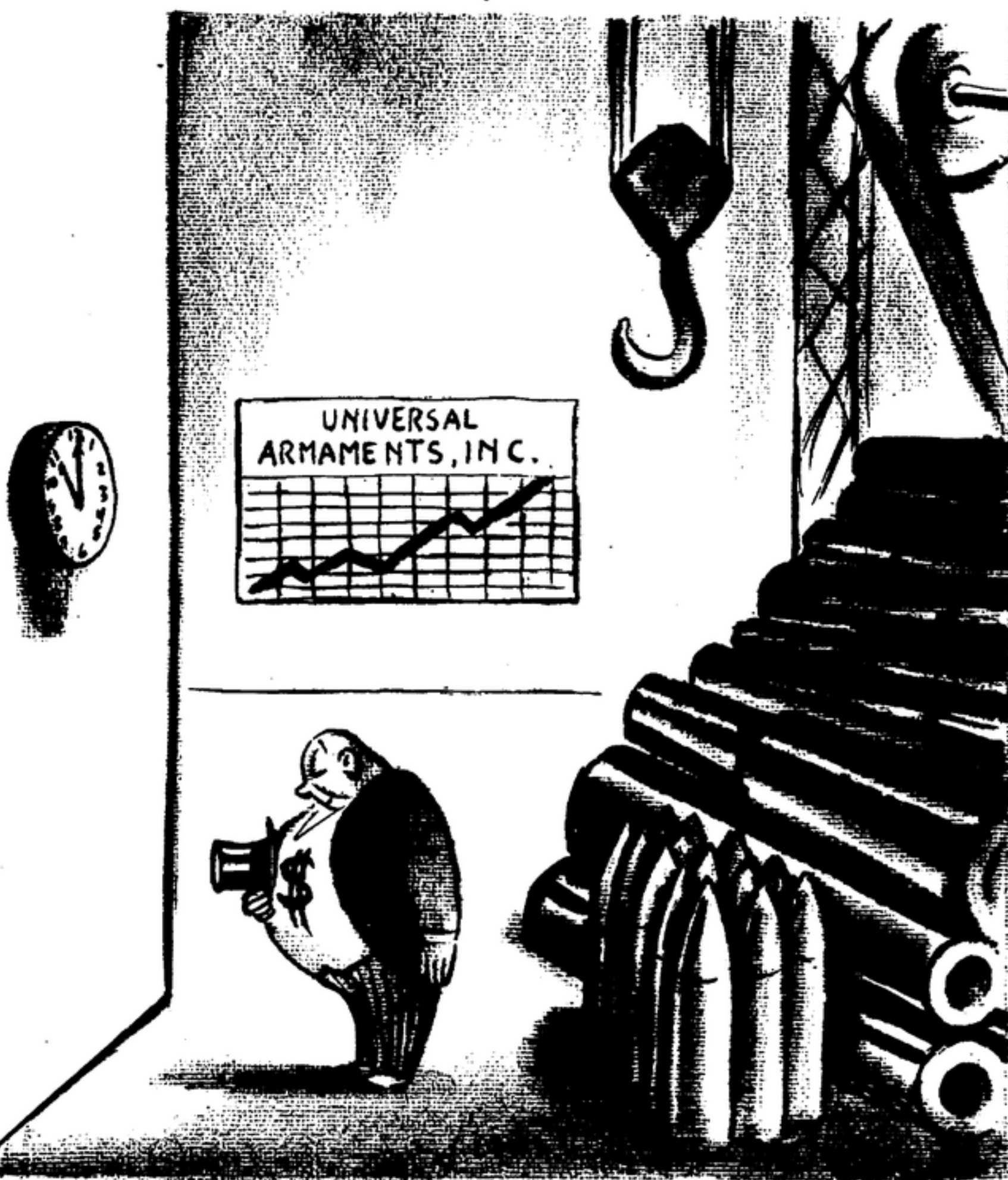
On paper, the "Pact Against Communism" does not seem to be a particularly war-like document. It declares that the signatories—Italy, German and Japan—obligate themselves "to keep each other informed concerning the activities of the Comintern and to confer on necessary measures of defense to carry out such measures of cooperation".

Pact Is Imperialist Smoke-Screen

But the words of the Pact, which apparently do nothing more than create a clearing house for information, are merely a smoke-screen behind which more serious purposes are at work.

In the first place, the main purpose of the pact is not the cementing of a world Fascist alliance to combat the revolutionary activities of the Communist International. Neither Hitler, Mussolini nor the Mikado are complete idiots. They know as well as the next man that far from constituting a threat to capitalism, the present day Comintern is a zealous defender of the existing social order. They also know that the Stalinist International and its G.P.U. have been in the front line of the counter-revolution in Spain, crushing with an iron hand every attempt of the workers in Loyalist ter-

Armistice Day Pause, 1937



ritory to establish the rule of labor.

The real aims of the Pact are different from its ostensible aims. More precisely, each of the signatories to the Pact is pursuing specific and different interests, which are all equally reactionary to the core.

Japan achieved its main objective when it allied itself with Germany in the original "anti-Communist" Pact a year ago. The Japanese ruling class has never ceased yearning for the conquest of Siberia, with its

rich mineral resources. But it could not even think of separating Siberia from the powerful Soviet Union in a solitary duel with the latter. Its chances are vastly enhanced if it has an agreement with Germany to keep the Soviets occupied on the Western front while Japan attacks in the Far East.

Similarly with Germany. It has always been an integral part of the program of Hitlerism to conquer the big granary represented by the Ukraine, a part of the Soviet Union. The prospect of a

successful rape of the Ukraine is easier to visualize if the Soviets are simultaneously engaged in a war on two fronts separated by thousands of miles.

Italy Signs the Pact

The broadening of the scope of the Pact to include Italy introduces another element that has developed more fully since the original Pact was signed.

Italy is not directly interested in the conquest of Soviet territory. Nor is she directly interested at pres-

ent in territorial expansion in China. She is interested in more colonies. She is interested especially in gaining more ground in Africa. She is interested in becoming a decisive power in the Mediterranean Sea.

In the past few years, she has been hostile rather than friendly towards Germany. There is not only the standing dispute between the two countries over the German-inhabited Tyrol which Italy took from Austria as war spoils, but also the struggle between the two Fascist powers for hegemony over Austria and Balkan states.

More recently, however, these conflicts have yielded in importance to the new conjunction of imperialist interests between Germany and Italy.

Italy has come into direct conflict with England, first during the war against Ethiopia, which threatened British imperial interests in Northeastern Africa and along the route to India, and latterly, during the Civil War in Spain, when Italian support of Franco and the strengthening of the Italian base in the Mediterranean, increased the threat to the principal life-line of English world power.

At the same time, Germany, having grown more arrogant and powerful with the re-occupation of the Rhine, the restoration of a large army in defiance of the Versailles Treaty, and the enormous armaments program she has undertaken, is coming out openly for the restoration of her lost colonies, for support in her reactionary crusade against the Soviet Union, and for the extension of her influence in Central Europe.

Germany's Lost Colonies

With her defeat in the war, Germany was stripped of all her colonial possessions. Before the war these possessions covered 1,134,239 square miles, an area

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