

The Stalinist International in Action!



# Vargas Coup Entrenches Hold of U.S. Imperialism

When considering semi-colonial Latin America, a clear understanding of politics is inconceivable unless it is analysed in the light of imperialist machinations. This is all the more true of the most backward of all the South American countries, Brazil, whose colonial nature can hardly be overlooked. Reposing upon a feudal economy, with coffee as its economic foundation, virtually the entire industrial life of the nation is monopolized between American and British imperialism.

The contradictions between these two imperialisms have been the main dynamic force behind Brazilian political happenings of the last decade. The two imperialist camps struggling for the upper hand have organized political cliques and parties. During this time, the pliant tool of American Dollar Diplomacy has been and still is Don Getulio Vargas. In 1930 he was nominated as presidential candidate by the feudal landlords of Rio Grande De Sul, Minas Geraes and Parahyba in connivance with Wall Street which controls the railroads, banks and electrical industries of those states. His opponent was Julio P. de Albuquerque of Sao Paulo, the hope of the British Lion which dominates the economic life of that state. With the government of President Washington Luis favoring the candidacy of de Albuquerque, Vargas and his Yankee masters, demagogically flirting with the masses, carried through a successful coup d'etat against Luis.

## Vargas' Past Record

Vargas has been in office for seven years and has consistently shown himself to be a loyal lackey of his Yankee overlords. In fact, it has been one of the most friendly periods in the history of Brazilian-American relations. As a crowning point of Vargas' servility, Brazil, at the Buenos Aires conference, openly and unmistakably aligned itself with Washington in the latter's efforts to attain economic hegemony of the Western Hemisphere.

A Washington dispatch to the New York Times of November 12, obviously after the reporter had consulted State Department officials, stated: "Furthermore, the records of the men in power in Brazil, would indicate that as long as they remain in office any move being sponsored contrary to the interests of the U. S. is inconceivable."

How explain the action of Vargas? Basically there are two reasons for the latest step of the Brazilian president. 1) The internal economic and political situation of the country; and 2) Sharpening of imperialist contradictions.

The seven years dictatorship which has brought Brazil to the brink of economic disaster, reducing millions of hunger-ridden masses to barbaric levels of existence and which has pitilessly crushed every national, anti-imperialist manifestation of the Brazilian people, finds itself today devoid of any social support whatsoever with new mass explosions imminent. Vargas had to act quickly to reconsolidate his precarious rule.

Secondly, a fair election being held, with the hatred and disgust of the masses directed against Vargas, British imperialism's candidate, Armando de Salles

Oliviera undoubtedly would be swept into office. The desire of the Vargas feudal clique for self-preservation and with it, the exigencies of American imperialist domination determined the action of Vargas.

The Daily Worker striving to prove to the American bourgeoisie the virtues of Russo-American accord, warned Wall Street editorially on November 12 that "Dictator Vargas in Rio de Janeiro has taken his orders directly from Hitler, Mussolini and the Konoye cabinet in Tokyo." We by no means wish to ignore the role of Germany in Brazilian politics. German imperialism, almost asphyxiated as a result of Versailles, has been turning frantically, during the last few years, toward Latin-America as a source for war materials and as an outlet for her industrial commodities, and has succeeded in obtaining mining concessions in some South American nations.

By means of government subsidies on exports, Germany in 1936 led the U. S. in exports to Brazil. The "Integralist" party overtly expresses its friendship for Nazi Germany. The large, influential German population of Brazil is overwhelmingly Nazi in its sympathies. However, at the present time, German economic and political influence isn't of great significance and the Integralist party is still far from being a decisive force in Brazilian political relationships and struggles.

The fact that Vargas has given free latitude to the "Integralists" in their activities does not prove that he is an agent of Germany, but stresses the point, that lacking any social support, he rests to some extent upon that fascist rabble in his efforts to perpetuate his rule.

As for Japan, we can add, that although Japanese trade with Latin-America has grown by leaps and bounds during the last few years, only the most naive political observer could maintain that Japan exercises at the present time, influence on Brazil. The same can be said for supposed Italian influence. The Daily Worker, trying to place the responsibility for the Vargas coup upon the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis and furthermore, by maintaining in that same editorial that Roosevelt's Latin-American policy is for "peace and Democracy" shamelessly attempts to dissimulate the fact that Vargas is the product of American imperialist manipulations.

Has Brazil turned fascist? A sober political analysis would bring an observer to the conclusion that what presents itself today in that country is just another form true, more naked of the personal, military dictatorship so common throughout Ibero-American history. The tyrant Gomez ruled Venezuela for 25 years no more democratically than Vargas will rule under the new constitution. A fascist movement is an upsurge of discontented petty-bourgeois masses and lumped proletarians directed in the interests of finance capital. Vargas hasn't any mass base at all, having long since alienated the sympathies of virtually the entire Brazilian nation. The new tyrant rests upon the precarious support of an army which will inevitably reflect the social antagonism which the very logic of his politics will not mitigate but only intensify.

Bernard Ross.

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## To The Aid of the Brazilian People

With the evident objective of facilitating the penetration of German and Italian fascist imperialism into this continent and of sapping the positions acquired by North American capitalism, Brazil on the night of November ninth officially became a totalitarian state. President Getulio Vargas disclaims having made a fascist coup d'etat. He has more reason for his denial than he himself thinks. The regime he has introduced is not fascism, but its colonial parody.

Fascism is the product of contradictions insoluble to imperialism, that is to say, capitalism in its final stage. The real beneficiary of fascism is finance-capital. The instrument of fascism is the petty bourgeoisie of the town and country, ruined by finance-capital, desperate, and falling into the trap of its exploiter.

Brazil, like all the Latin American countries, itself possesses no finance-capital, or almost none. It is foreign imperialism which dominates the economic life of the country and dictates its laws. The coup d'etat can only serve therefore to enslave the country more thoroughly to foreign capital.

Contrary to Europe, the petty bourgeoisie of the cities have never played an important economic role in Latin America. The peasant masses are not yet free from a semi-feudal servitude. They have no tradition of political struggle. They are not enlisted in the fascist party. The so-called "green shirts" represent a negligible quantity and it appears that Getulio Vargas has not even found it necessary to enlist them in the coup d'etat.

Because of the political misery of the petty bourgeoisie, it was the state apparatus and primarily the military apparatus, that is to say, the instrument of foreign imperialism, which became at the same time the instrument of the coup d'etat. Hence the totalitarian regime of Brazil has had since its origin a purely bureaucratic character. It is more like the dictatorship of a Primo de Rivera than that of a Hitler or of a Mussolini. Deprived of any social and political base in the masses of the country, established only in order to more

thoroughly subdue these masses and to stifle their social and political aspirations, the totalitarian regime of Vargas will prove more feeble than any other regime in the countries of Latin America. The sub-fascism of Vargas cannot act as anything but a docile instrument for the genuine imperialist fascism which created it. In other words, the totalitarian coup d'etat is not a step along the road from a semi-colonial position toward national liberation, but on the contrary, a step back from the semi-colonial position toward complete colonial enslavement.

For the Latin American proletariat, as for the working masses in general, facing this situation, it is a question above all of rejecting with contempt the diplomatic lie of non-intervention. Getulio Vargas is preparing for the most starved and the most aggressive imperialism a base from which it will be able to intervene in the internal life of all Latin America. For the workers it becomes then a question of defending themselves with the powerful arm of international solidarity. The duty of this solidarity falls primarily upon the workers of Latin America.

The Brazilian proletariat who number almost 11,000,000 workers in industry and agriculture have many times demonstrated their magnificent combative qualities. The totalitarian regime will be a severe school for them, but no one of long duration. This Brazilian dictatorship, the last to appear, will very likely be the first to fall.

In order to preserve Latin America from the colonial slavery which menaces it more and more, it is necessary to unite it. It is not the "national" bourgeoisies, these agencies of foreign imperialism, who will assure the success of this task. It is only the working masses who are capable of creating by their indomitable revolutionary struggle the United Socialist States of Latin America.

Workers of Mexico! Workers of Latin America! Workers of the entire world! We must tighten our ranks. We must explain to the general masses the real meaning of the Brazilian coup d'etat. We must help the Brazilian advance guard, materially and morally. We must assure the right of asylum for Brazilian political refugees. We must help them in the creation of a genuine nucleus for the future revolution.

The van-guard of the Mexican workers send their vibrant appeal for the solidarity of world labor and above all of the powerful working class of the United States which is called by history to become the leader of the oppressed people of this continent.

Down with world fascism and its miserable lieutenants in Latin America!

Down with foreign imperialism and its national agents!

Long live international socialism!  
Liga Comunista Internationlists (B.L.)  
Seccion Mexicana de la IV International.