

Shall We Be Fooled Now As In 1917?

President Roosevelt's war machine is hurtling the United States down greased rails into the bloody abyss of a new world war. Each day sees the people driven closer to impalement upon the bayonets of whatever "foe" Roosevelt decides they must fight to make the "world safe for democracy."

Once again let us review what the last World War to make the world safe for capitalist profits cost us:

In Human Lives

Of the 65,000,000 enrolled in the military forces, there were:

Known dead	10,000,000
"Missing"	4,000,000
Seriously wounded	6,500,000
Otherwise wounded	14,000,000

Total casualties at the front 34,500,000

"One out of every five men called or dragged to the colors was shot to death, blown to bits by high explosives, stabbed fatally with bayonet or trench knife, suffocated with poison gas, or fell victim to gangrene or epidemic disease.

"One out of every ten staggered home seriously injured, a large number maimed for life—blind, deaf, with face shot away, shattered by shell shock, often starkly insane, or with legs or arms—or both—gone.

"Of the more fortunate, an approximate average of one in five suffered injuries serious enough to require hospital attention.

"To the 14,000,000 soldiers dead now add 28,000,000—for by the latest estimate, at least that number of civilians perished before their time as a direct result of the war. Women and children, the aged and infirm, for the most part—millions upon millions of innocent non-combatants, of all ages, of all races, of both sexes, in almost all countries of the world.

"Cut down by pestilence or famine, cold or exposure, fire or poison gas, shot or shell or bombs from the air, as they fled in panic here and there, abandoning their homes and all they held dear, to escape being trampled on or crushed to death between the contending armies. How many civilians IN ADDITION suffered shocks and injuries disabling them for life as a direct consequence of the war will never be known and cannot even be estimated"

— (George Willison, "Why Wars Are Declared," p. 25)

In Goods and Dollars

The World War cost in round figures \$40,000,000,000. The United States' contribution to the cost of the World War, even according to so reactionary an authority as President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, MIGHT HAVE GIVEN "each and every family in the United States a \$5,000 house—on a five-acre \$500 plot of ground—with \$1,000 in addition to furnish it comfortably and attractively."

"However delicate a definition is framed for 'profiteering,'" concedes the Federal Trade Commission, "these packers (Armour, Swift, Morris, Wilson, and Cudahy) have preyed upon the people unconscionably." In 1916 and 1917, the profits of these firms shot up to 400 per cent, although their sales increased only 150 per cent. The same was true of other foods the workers had to buy.

The United States Steel Corporation showed profits that were typical of all the big corporations in the last war, skyrocketing from \$77,075,000 in 1912 to \$478,204,000 in 1917!

But for the workers, the war brought only lowered purchasing power—from 20 to 30 per cent less than in the 'nineties and from 10 to 20 per cent less than in 1915. The workers paid for the war as is shown by the following table of the per capita debt increase in the principal countries due to the World War—and these debts are always paid out of the worker's pocket!

	1913	1920	Increase
U. S. A.	\$ 11	\$ 225	2025%
Britain	76	850	1090%
France	160	1150	719%
Germany	18	800	4444%
Italy	83	365	440%

Unemployed And Youth To Be Cannon Fodder

By BILL MORGAN

When the Generals and the bosses sit down together to lay plans for another war to save "democracy" and prepare to protect the financial interests of America's "60 Families" in Europe or South America or the Far East, they immediately take stock of the available cannon-fodder.

Without large numbers of men and boys who will bear the brunt of the fighting, to receive the bayonets through their stomachs and fill their lungs with poison gas, a war could not be successful.

And the 15,000,000 unemployed workers and youth of America have not been overlooked—in fact they are already the very first consideration in the plans to throw this country into another world slaughter. The Generals and the bosses have had their eyes on this large section of the working class and the blueprints have not only been drawn but put into effect.

Plans All Ready

Conscription of the unemployed and youth when war breaks out will be only a matter of pushing one of the various little buttons on the desk of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy—the President of the United States—none other than Franklin ("I Hate War!") Roosevelt.

The Sheppard-May Bill and similar bills which have been designed by the Generals to speed up the preparations for war and to facilitate the quick mobilization of millions of workers into the army, are already being used despite the fact that Congress has not yet voted on the bills.

W.P.A. Militarized

The entire relief and W.P.A. administration is now in the hands of the Army. In Washington Colonel Harrington has under him a staff of Captains and Majors. In New York the boss is Colonel Somervell and he, too, has filled the sub-offices and bureaus with fellow officers. Reserve officers

and acting officers from every military center are being utilized to make the W.P.A. and the home-relief bureaus the conscription offices for the coming war.

Finger-printing of W.P.A. workers and the unemployed proceeds at a rapid pace despite the many protests and complaints. These workers are being put into the same category as criminals. Never before in history have honest, ordinary citizens been subjected to the degrading and humiliating practice of finger-printing.

Recruiting Bureaus

In every relief bureau and on every W.P.A. project there are now or soon will be, posters advertising the "wonderful life in the Army." Officers are being sent to projects to give five minute talks on "Why American Boys Should Join the Colors." Stressing the three meals a day, the overcoats and shoes, the security of life in

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Trotsky Interviewed by the London Daily Herald

Only Labor Can Stop War

Sybil Vincent, correspondent for the London Daily Herald, submitted a series of questions to Leon Trotsky on the development of the war crisis. Below we print comrade Trotsky's answers.

Is a world war inevitable? If so, will it mean the end of the capitalist system?

Yes, a world war is inevitable, if a revolution does not forestall it. The inevitability of the war flows, first, from the incurable crisis of the capitalist system; secondly, from the fact that the present partition of our planet, that is to say above all, of the colonies, no longer corresponds to the economic specific weight of

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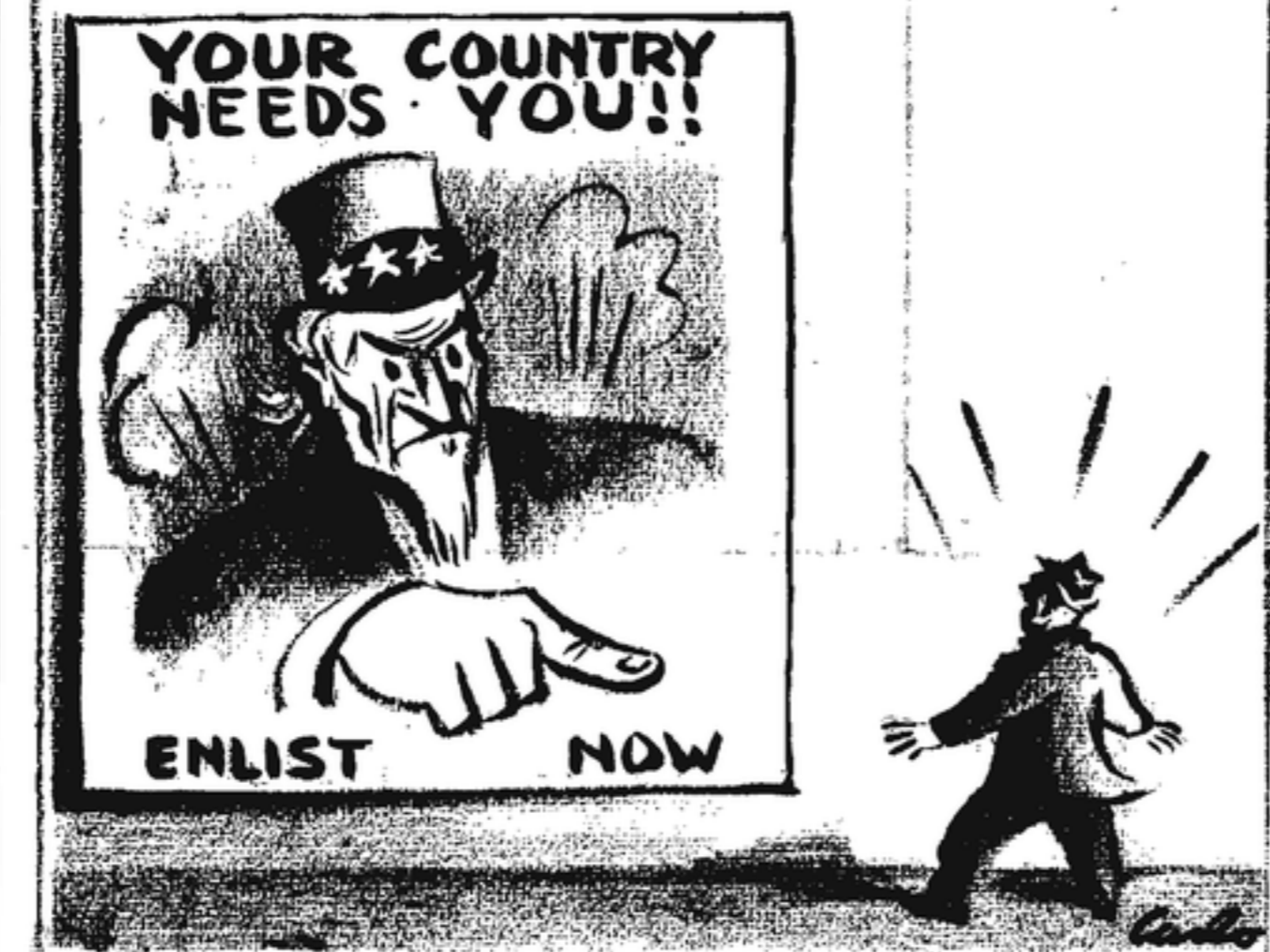
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NOT A CENT, NOT A MAN FOR BOSS WAR!



Masses Die While Rich Grow Richer

While, week by week, both Houses of Congress vote billion upon billion for the war machine, Franklin D. Roosevelt, as chief among the American warmongers, has called upon the people of the United States to celebrate on April 6th the twenty-second anniversary of the entry of this country into the first World War.

Roosevelt, political blood-brother of Woodrow Wilson, borrowing and re-touching Wilson's own shameless slogans and hypocrisies, has good reason to link himself with that fateful day in 1917. Now, in 1939, Roosevelt is well launched in rushing his preparations for his own April 6th.

SAFE FOR "DEMOCRACY"

The War of 1914-1918 was to make the world safe for democracy. Out of that War issued the gangsters' pact of Versailles, which carved up the world to the taste of the victorious brigands. Hundreds of millions of men throughout Africa, Asia and South America have for twenty years felt on their backs the whip of the democracy which that War made safe; the democracy of Britain in India and South Africa, the democracy of Belgium in the Congo, the democracy of the United States in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines and throughout Latin America.

The War of 1914-1918 was to overthrow tyranny and autocracy for all time. In that War, however, were planted the seeds which have flowered into Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, into the military overlords of Japan and the Balkans and Poland, into the world-spread of a despotism unparalleled in all history.

WAR BROUGHT TYRANNY

The War of 1914-1918 was to bring universal disarmament, perpetual peace among nations, the settlement of all disputes by rational consultation and agreement. There has not been a year since 1914 that wars and armed conflicts have not been fought.

The War of 1914-1918 was to give us freedom. Never has the world witnessed oppression comparable to what followed: the lynched Wobblies and the victims of Palmer's red raids, the aliens deported, the strikes smashed, the workers' meetings dispersed by tear gas and machine guns, the executed nationalists of China, India, Arabia, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Indo-China, the millions of bruised creatures in the concentration camps of Germany, Italy, France, Spain, hunger and insecurity everywhere.

WHY U. S. ENTERED

The story of April 6, 1917 has been spread wide upon the records of Senate investigating committees, but Roosevelt will not remind you to look again at those records.

You can read there how the great industrialists and bankers, under the leadership of Morgan & Co., saw the War as a mighty chance for super-profits, and how they decided that the maximum of profit could be secured only if the United States itself entered the War at the decisive moment on the side of the Allies.

You can read how the government of

Wilson collaborated with them in building up the lying propaganda which swung the people into favor of their war. You will read how Wilson's ambassador acted as their agent in London, and demanded in a confidential communication, entry into the war to prevent their schemes from collapsing.

WHO PROFITED?

You can read how after April 6 the money raised for the war was pumped by the millions into the pockets of the owners of Dupont, U.S. Steel, Kennecott Copper, Bethlehem Steel and the rest. In case after case, hundreds of millions which the taxed public was told were designed for airplanes and cannon and shells never produced a single plane or gun or bullet but were siphoned off exclusively for the direct benefit of the Sixty Families and their corporations.

You can read how the first Red Cross subscription, raised from the pennies of the people to the accompaniment of tear-jerking posters and appeals to give comforts to "our poor boys," was used to stop the rising movement among the French soldiers against the war.

NEW WORLD WAR

That War, for the bosses, was the biggest, fattest, juiciest racket they had ever got their blood-stained fingers on: and they made the most of it.

And if you turn from those records to other archives now in Washington, you can get some notion of what Roosevelt's new war, the second World War, will be like. Study the Industrial Mobilization Bill and learn how life in the United States will be under the totalitarian military dictatorship which begins the day that war starts.

You can learn how war propaganda is handled, and how an espionage system embracing hundreds of thousands in every city and village will be organized. You can see how the press is coordinated into the war machine, how any word of doubt about the beauties of the war is transformed into treason.

You will discover how strikes and picketing are to be eliminated, hours increased beyond physical endurance and wages kept at the lowest limit; and how profits rise and rise again at the sweet beckoning of the war orders.

AMERICAN LIBERTY

You can learn how the draft will be arranged, how workers and farmers will be taken from their homes and wives and children and placed on the firing line to shoot and bomb and gas their fellow-workers across no-man's-land. And you will learn how the bankers and executives will not be on the firing line, but warmly seated in carpeted offices doing their heroic bit, planning how to kill more millions of men and how to squeeze the last drop of profit from the dead.

This will be the new war, Roosevelt's war, to make the world once again safe for democracy, his democracy. It is to this war that he, the servant of the same masters who were so well served by Woodrow Wilson, summons the people of the United States.

the imperialist states. Looking for an escape out of the mortal crisis, the parvenu states aspire, and cannot fail to aspire, to new partitioning of the world. Only children at the breast and professional "pacifists" to whom even the experience of the unfortunate League of Nations has taught nothing, can suppose that a more "equitable" repartition of the territorial surface can be realized around the green tables of democracy.

Effect of Spanish Defeat

If the Spanish revolution had been victorious, it would have given a powerful impulse to the revolutionary movement in France and in other countries of

Europe. In this case it would have been possible to hope confidently that the victorious socialist movement would forestall the imperialist war, making it useless and impossible. But the socialist proletariat of Spain was strangled by the coalition of Stalin-Azana-Caballero-Negrin-Garcia Oliver, even before it was definitely crushed by the bands of Franco.

The defeat of the Spanish revolution postponed a revolutionary perspective for the imperialist war. Only the blind can not see that!

Of course, the more energetically and the more audaciously the advanced workers will fight in all countries against militarism and imperialism now, in spite of the unfavorable conditions, the more quickly they will be able to stop

the war when it has started, the greater will be the hopes for the salvation of our civilization from destruction.

Yes, I do not doubt that the new world war will provoke with absolute inevitability the world revolution and the collapse of the capitalist system. The imperialist governments of all countries are doing all that is possible to accelerate this collapse. It is only necessary that the world proletariat be not again taken unaware by the great events.

The task that the Fourth International puts before itself, I note in passing, is precisely the revolutionary preparations of the vanguard. This is exactly why it names itself the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

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