

# Trotsky Sees Closer Hitler-Stalin Ties

1. On the thirteenth of September there were communications from Paris announcing that all Soviet ships sailing to England were given orders from Moscow to return to Soviet harbors. What does it mean? Factual severance of commercial relations with England? Moscow could apply this measure only upon Berlin's demand. What could this demand be based upon? Evidently upon secret articles in the German-Soviet pact. We cannot find any other explanation. Perhaps the international friends of Stalin and Hitler (friends of our friends are our friends) can furnish us another one?

2. On the thirteenth of September the official Soviet press agency, TASS, openly and bluntly accused Poland of violating the Soviet border with her military planes. Even the friends of Stalin and Hitler could scarcely maintain that Poland prepares to conquer the USSR at this time. The matter evidently concerns those cases when Polish planes in order to save themselves from the Germans approach the Soviet border. What interest does the Kremlin have in raising an international uproar about these incidents? An attempt to prove its loyalty to Hitler? Undoubtedly. But possibly something more. It is possible that the Kremlin, at Hitler's request, has begun to seek and publish pretexts for a closer and more open cooperation with Hitler.

One thing is clear beforehand: if the Kremlin, developing the present policy, shows itself driven into hostile actions against Poland, the international friends of the Kremlin (and by the same fact the enemies of the peoples of the USSR) would discover in it Stalin's new service to peace and democracy.

Leon TROTSKY

Coyoacan, D.F., Sept. 14, 1939

P.S. These lines were already written when the evening papers announced that Pravda of September 14th accuses Poland of oppressing the Ukrainians, White Russians, and Jews. The accusations by themselves are true. But isn't it astounding that Pravda remembered them precisely now when Poland is drenched with blood under the blows of the German army! To what end are the accusations of Pravda striving? Toward two ends at the same time: 1) to justify Hitler's attack on Poland; and 2) to prepare a more active cooperation of the Kremlin on Hitler's side.

L.T.

## Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

Late last Friday night the Berlin radio issued the first announcement of the news that Russia and Japan had settled on a "truce" to terminate eight years of undeclared warfare on the Siberian and Mongolian frontiers. This was confirmed on Saturday in Moscow and early Sunday morning Soviet troops crossed the Polish border and marched to meet the oncoming hordes at some new, still unsettled boundary in eastern Poland. Simultaneously the Japanese High Command announced a new major offensive in West China, the first in nearly a year, and began moving fresh troops south from the Soviet and Mongolian borders for a new attempt to crush Chinese resistance.

The pattern of events sketches in shadows behind the Stalin-Hitler pact is thus coming swiftly now to light. Many profess to see the forthcoming creation of a Rome-Berlin-Moscow-Tokyo axis. But Stalin has only one real axis and that is the preservation of himself and his clique of usurpers who hold the Russian masses in bondage. To those who understand this he is not nor ever has been an "enigma"—a thing of mystery whose secret no man can discover.

Stalin is not moving into Poland to "liberate" the Ukrainians and White Russians oppressed by Polish landlords. His claim to such a purpose is the vilest hypocrisy matched only by those of his pact partner, Hitler. Nor is he moving because of any unquenchable urge to expand the frontiers of Russia. He has had almost more than even he could handle in securing his primacy within the broad boundaries he already rules. No, Stalin is taking the Ukraine because he

does not dare let Hitler have it, and does not dare let it remain "independent" unless he, and not Hitler, dominates it with his army, his secret police, his whole bloody apparatus of repression.

It was on this understanding that he left Poland to Hitler's tender mercies. Because Hitler was able to move with such blinding speed, Stalin was drawn in even more swiftly than he expected to be. That is why his deal with Japan is still a tentative one and presumably that is also why he had to move with such caution that he did not even inform Earl Browder of his intentions. For Browder has been trying to make the Stalin-Hitler deal palatable to the American imperialists by insisting, with much verbal perspiration, that it left Japan hopelessly isolated. But now Stalin has flashed the green light to Japan in China, just as he touched off the go-ahead signal for Hitler in Poland. What his peace-loving and peace protesting efforts are going to mean to Rumania, Latvia, Estonia, and Finland, even Browder won't dare guess now!

The speedy conquest of Poland and its partition by Germany and Russia naturally places the whole of southeastern Europe at the mercy of the Berlin-Moscow axis. Rumania must now either yield or be crushed and similarly partitioned. Bulgaria, like a yapping little jackal, is waiting to get back the territory of Dobruja, given to Rumania after the last war, and will readily accede to all that Hitler demands. Turkey is immobilized, and its foreign minister has been summoned to Moscow to sign a new pact that takes into full account the new conditions. Mussolini is still bargaining with Britain and France and Yugoslavia waits to learn its fate from his lips.

If Mussolini finally falls on the Allied side of the fence a war front may after all take form in southeastern Europe. But if he hesitates very much longer—and he is likely to—that cherished hope of the Anglo-French combine will fade entirely and there will be nothing left but to concentrate on the western front. If it turns out this way, Belgium and the Netherlands and perhaps even the Scandinavian states cannot hope to remain neutral very long.

### JUDAS GOAT

"The unemployed on this Labor Day reaffirm our faith in democracy and our will to peace. We have not much to offer in material resources at this critical hour in history. We have and do offer our strength and courage and devotion to our nation."  
—David Lasser, president of the Workers Alliance, in a Labor Day manifesto. (Daily Worker, Sept. 5, 1939)

Three-Times-a-Week

# Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International

VOL. III, No. 72

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1939

187

3c a Copy

## REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS UNITE BEHIND F.D.R. FOR WAR SESSION

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR

## Russia Marches Into Poland

### Balkans Now at Hitler Mercy--Japanese In New China Offensive

From all indications the first secret clause in the Stalin-Hitler pact provided for handing Poland over to the Nazi wolves with a slice reserved for Russian occupation.

This is now attested to by the fact of the Soviet invasion of Poland that began without warning at dawn on Sunday, Sept. 17.

A few hours earlier Stalin had paved the way for his intervention in Poland by signing a "truce" with Japan. This truce is still limited and tentative, but as soon as Stalin's soldiers started marching, the Japanese understood they were free to crush China if they can, without further hindrance from Russia. They promptly announced the opening of a new offensive west of Hankow, the first in nearly 12 months. Renewal of Japanese pressure on British, French, and American holdings in the Orient will be an inevitable corollary.

### WALL STREET ENGINEERS PRICE RISE

Shachtman and Paine Pledge Fight on War Profiteering

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 18.—The steep rise in the prices of household commodities was denounced today by Max Shachtman and George Lyman Paine, candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in the New York Councilmanic election, as deliberately engineered by the Wall Street war-mongers. Since the second World War broke out in Europe, prices of all staple commodities such as sugar, flour, and other household goods has shot up to new heights.

**Artificial Rise**  
"This is an artificial jacking-up of prices," declared the Socialist Workers Party candidates in an official statement released to the press today. "Wall Street is attempting to cash in at the very opening of war. This is preliminary profiteering, a token of Wall Street's plans to reap stupendous profits from the blood-soaked battlefields of the new World War."  
"The stocks of leading steel, chemical, and other war industries took a tremendous leap forward as the moneyed interests of the United States lined up thirstily for their share of the slaughter. They recall the

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page 3)

### You Can Aid the Fight Against War by Signing Nominating Petitions for SWP Candidates

All citizens resident in New York who sympathize with the campaign of the Socialist Workers Party to place a candidate in the Bronx and one in Manhattan on the ballot for the Councilmanic Elections are asked to sign a nominating petition immediately.

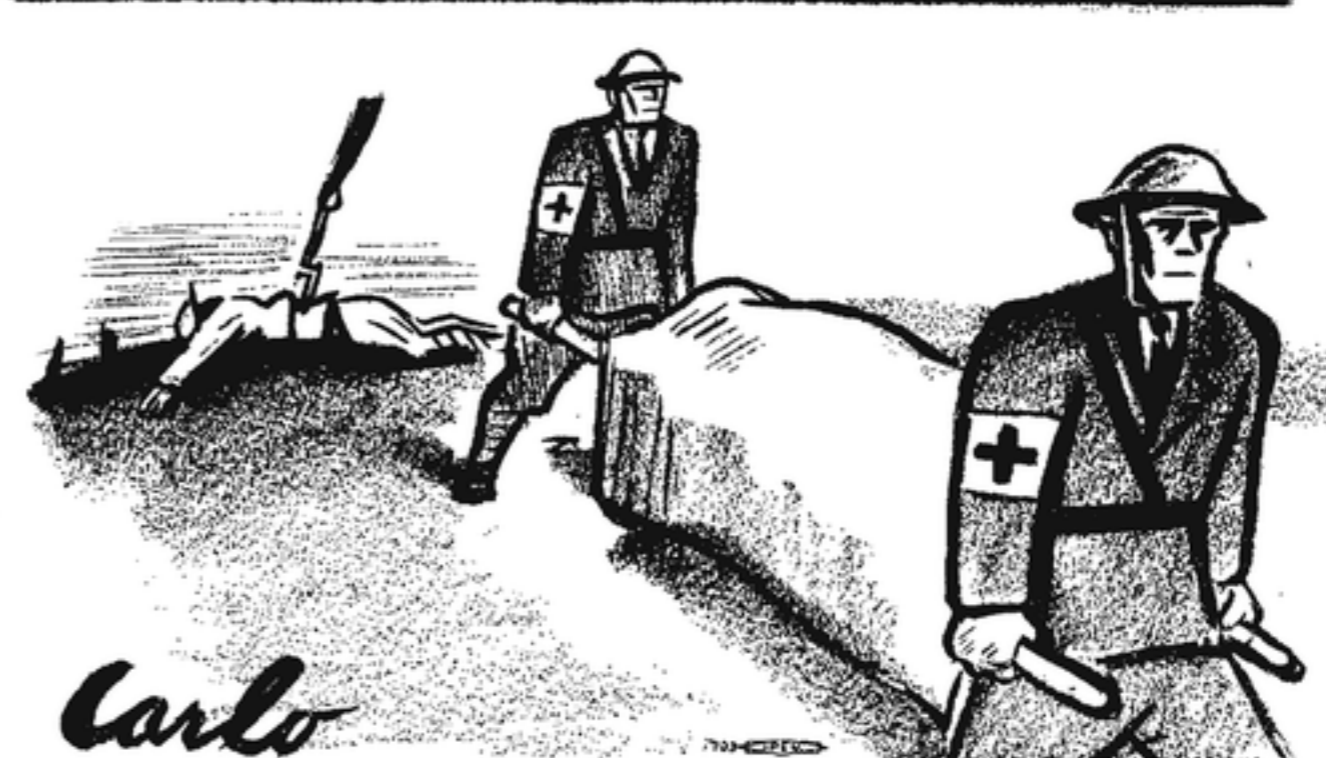
Drop in at headquarters, 116 University Place, N.Y.C., or at the headquarters of the nearest branch to place your name on a petition. If you have friends who are registered voters too and who will sign the petition, bring them with you or give us their names and we will have a canvasser call upon them.

The circulation of a petition for signatures among your shopmates, if you are in a position to do so, will give the campaign a big boost.

Absolutely no obligation is entailed in signing. Without any commitment on your part, by signing a petition, you give the only anti-war party in the United States a chance to fight against the second world war from the vantage point of the ballot.

We need your help now as never before in placing our anti-war, anti-fascist candidates on the ballot for the coming election.

### Roosevelt's "Cash and Carry Policy"



### British Seamen Help U.S. Brothers Strike Ships In War Bonus Fight

Give Splendid Demonstration of International Solidarity as They Back American Fellow-Workers in Wage Demands

NEW YORK—The struggle of East Coast seamen to obtain extra compensation for shipping in war zones received a tremendous boost over the week end when 46 British sailors joined in the strike that has already tied up six ships.

This display of international solidarity was cheered by 200 American seamen who gathered around.

The British sailors had been hired by the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey to work on two oil tankers carrying oil to British ports. They had arrived Saturday on the Aquitania.

#### Make Demands

When company busses arrived to take the men on board the ships a warm discussion on war compensation developed. Out of the 66 present, 46 decided not to sail. They are members of National Union of Seamen of the United Kingdom. They had been hired for \$37.50 a month.

Following conferences with officials of the National Maritime Union, the British seamen decided to ask for \$85 a month, a 50 per cent bonus and a 5,000 war risk insurance policy, which is more in line with American seamen demands.

This action was taken in face of deportation and other threats hurled at them by company and federal officials.

#### Hint Mutiny Charge

Meanwhile, a government move to terrorize the striking American seamen was announced with the calling of 12 strikers before the supervising inspector of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation. Charges of

(Continued on Page 4)

### IRISH SAILORS TIE UP SHIPS

Irish sailors tied up three ships in an effort to obtain war compensation and insurance, according to the Associated Press Sept. 18.

Employers had changed the flags of the ships from English to Irish because under the Irish registry, the sailors would not be eligible for war risk insurance.

### 'Leaders' Fail to Line Up Indian Masses for the War

Despite the heavy smoke screen of propaganda laid down by the British, the intense hostility of the Indian people to the war has been clearly revealed.

Mahatma Gandhi, faithful watchdog of British rule over the 375,000,000 people of India, has become the most ardent supporter of India's participation in the war. Along with him has gone the entire reactionary leadership of the Indian National Congress, including the so-called "socialist" Pandit Nehru.

#### Roy Joins War-Mongers

While it is still impossible to give concrete information about the reactions of the left-wing parties to Britain's war designs, nevertheless, it has already been revealed that the notori-

ous M. N. Roy—with whom the American Lovestonettes have been playing "friends and enemies" for many years—has joined the ranks of the war-supporters and has endorsed the participation of India in the war.

But these men—Gandhi, Nehru, Roy, etc.—do not represent the will of the Indian people any more than Hitler represents the will of the German workers. The determined mass opposition to the war has been clearly shown by the reports of the recent session of the Congress Working Committee (the leading executive committee of the Congress.)

At this meeting, a resolution was adopted appointing a committee to place two questions

(Continued on Page 2)

### War Deal Cracks Down on All Critics

F.D.R. Has Already Committed Nation to War Camp of Allies

Pushing ahead systematically in his drive to plunge the United States into the imperialist war now raging in Europe, President Roosevelt called together the leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties for a meeting on the eve of the special session of Congress which he has called for the purpose of repealing the standing arms embargo legislation.

Symbolic of the fact that the New Deal has become the War Deal, and that all pretense of struggle against the Economic Royalists and their spokesmen has been abandoned in the interests of a united front for a Wall Street War, was the invitation extended by Roosevelt to Alfred M. Landon, banner-bearer of the Republican Party in the last presidential election and agent of the big capitalist forces in this country, and Colonel Frank Knox, big-shot Republican boss in the Middle West and editor of the Chicago Daily News.

#### No Discussion

Roosevelt has made no secret of his desire to rush through Congress, with the minimum of discussion, the repeal of any legislation that might be interpreted as an obstacle in the way of a speedy entry into the war, and to adopt in its place a revised "neutrality" bill which will make possible the open participation of the United States on the side of one of the imperialist gangs in the war—the so-called "democratic" Allies.

#### Commits Nation

Meanwhile, even before Congress opens its session, Roosevelt continues to take steps, on his own hook, to commit the United States more and more deeply on the side of one of the belligerents. Although the U.S. is ostensible a neutral, Roosevelt has already pledged himself to the armed struggle against Germany in the event that the latter attacks Canada, although the two countries are formally at war.

In addition, on the day the special White House Conference of Republican and Democratic Party bosses was announced by the President, he sent a message to President Moscicki of Poland condemning the German bombings of that country, again in clear violation of a real position of neutrality. As is known, Roosevelt never opened his lips in condemnation of bombings, just as horrible and indefensible, that have been practised in the past by the imperial governments of France and England against the helpless natives of the colonial countries under their domination. The message to Moscicki is merely part of Roosevelt's carefully stage-managed preparations of the minds of the

(Continued on Page 3)