

# Labor and The Second World War

By J. R. Johnson

II

## The Rise of the Socialist Movement

Each imperialism had to contend not only with rival imperialisms abroad, but with an even more deadly enemy the organized workers at home.

Monopoly capitalism increased the concentration of great masses of workers into large units of industry, which facilitated their organization into powerful unions. The concentration of wealth at one end of society and the resulting poverty and unemployment at the other, the restriction of production to serve the profits of the few rather than the needs of the many, the worldwide competition between great monopolies controlling the economic life of whole nations, the burden of armaments in preparation for the war that loomed—these and other connected causes sharpened the inevitable crises of capitalist production and intensified the insecurity and dissatisfaction of the masses.

Militant labor movements, both industrial and political, embracing millions of workers in each country, menaced the imperialists throughout Western Europe. These movements marched under the banner of socialism, the substitution of public for private ownership. The imperialists could pacify a portion of these workers by paying high wages and creating a labor aristocracy, which functioned as a check on the millions of workers below. This bribery, however, required still greater profits, more new sources of raw materials, more new markets, still wider fields for investment. But new ones were not to be had. It was necessary therefore more intensively to exploit the old. But this intensive exploitation of the colonies brought new dangers. The industrialization of India and China by exported capital had created there a working class that now began to revolt against the increasingly inhuman conditions imposed upon them by their imperialist masters. Trapped between the competition of their rivals abroad and the pressure of the socialist movements at home, menaced by the growth of the labor movement in the colonies, the imperialists could see no way out but a red revision of the colonies, industrial centers, and "spheres of influence." They fought it out between 1914 and 1918, at the cost of ten million dead on the battlefield, twenty-five million wounded, and suffering and destruction beyond human calculation. That was their first great war for "democracy."

## The Way Out

As early as October, 1914, a profound student of politics, un deceived by all the propaganda, wrote as follows: "The European war, which the governments and the bourgeois parties of all countries have been preparing for decades, has broken out. The growth of armaments, the extreme sharpening of the struggle for markets in the epoch of the latest, the imperialist, stage in the development of capitalism in the foremost countries, and the dynamic interests of the most backward East European monarchies were inevitably bound to bring about, and have brought about, the present war. To seize land and to conquer foreign nations, to ruin a competing nation and to pillage her wealth, to divert the attention of the toiling masses from the internal political crises of Russia, Germany, England and other countries, to disunite the workers and fool them with nationalism, to exterminate their vanguard in order to weaken the revolutionary movement of the proletariat—such is the only real content, the significance and the meaning of the present war."

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## Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

More than two million men are immobilized along a muddy western front that will soon be winter-bound. Except for an isolated air raid and the occasional deadly swish of a torpedo through the open sea, the war has not yet begun. The French sacrificed thousands of men to advance into German soil at the outset, merely to give the appearance of doing something to help the beleaguered Poles. At the first sign of German counter-pressure they fell back, at the price of an undisclosed number of lives and the status quo ante. Sept. 3 has been re-established.

"Peace offensives" have had their hour and between London, Paris and Berlin the air is filled with reciprocal imprecations and threats that somehow continue their persistent failure to materialize. Is it because on both sides of this so-far-sham battle eyes are fixed on Moscow? Is it not, certainly, because no one is sure, even now, who is friend and who is foe?

Moscow is most assuredly the principal actor in this strange spectacle and strangest of all, nobody seems to be sure just what role it is playing! Scan one day's news: Russia makes new demands on Finland which send the latter's negotiators back to Helsinki. Russia turns the City of Flint over to Germany. Russia tells Britain it will not recognize the blockade. Russia sends a big trade delegation to Berlin and announces it will furnish Hitler with a million tons of grain. Russia even gets a ginger little approving pat from Chamberlain about its invasion of Poland. Russia sends aid to China—for cash and goods on the line—and denounces "agents of Washington"

for trying to cast discord into the tentative. Moscow-Tokyo. harmony!

And most important of all: it is from Russia that the next war move in southeastern Europe is now generally expected. In Berlin they are looking for it and Berlin has the inside track right now. Shrewd observers recognize that despite the new pact of the Allies with Turkey, Rumania is likely to get the same kind of "support" that Poland got. Apparently the general sense is that if Stalin wants Bessarabia he can probably have it without undue difficulty.

From Hitler, certainly, the Kremlin dictator is certainly getting every encouragement to move. Hitler is proceeding, apparently, on the theory that it will be comparatively easy to recapture ground lost to Stalin if Stalin can be brought to over-reach himself.

From the Allies he can at the same time count upon a certain degree of forbearance because he knows they are not going to take any steps which would more or less irrevocably line up Russia as an ally at Germany's side in actual hostilities. Not until they give up all hope of bringing about a German-Russian clash will the Allies risk extending the war front to the southeast and, of necessity, to the Mediterranean as well.

It is over this diplomatic no-man's land that Stalin is flying like a trapeze artist, high, wide, and handsome. But he can't just keep swinging, especially with foe-friends and friend-foes sawing away at the ropes on both sides.

And the one thing Stalin most seriously lacks is a safety net.

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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## ROOSEVELT USES TO PROMOTE U. S. WAR PLANS

## 'FLINT' SEIZURE S. WAR PLANS

### Fascist Rag Attacks 4th International



## TROTSKY'S GANGSTERS INVADE NEW YORK CITY

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### PURGE OF COMMUNISTS HITS STALINISTS, NOT FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

NEW YORK—Following the Nazi-Soviet impotency of Poland, the Third (Communist) International in the United States is crumbling into dust like a chimney exposed to sunlight. But no less a menace to America is the triumphant invasion of New York City by forces of the Fourth International under Leon Trotsky.

Last week, John L. Lewis, who, for the last four years has not dared to lift his voice against the Reds, suddenly closed the C.I.O. governing council of such Communist labor racketeers as Harry Bridges and John Roop. Meanwhile, the American Labor Party, formerly benevolently tolerated by the Roosevelt White House, began a drive to oust every "Stalinist" trade official.

But the anti-Communist purge now sweeping this country will not benefit the Communist Party or its lackey, the American Labor Party. The men who brought about the advertised expulsion of the Reds from the American Labor Party were David Dubinsky and Alex Ross, both New York labor leaders and disciples of China-baiting Karl Marx.

Friend of their former Communist domination, the C.I.O. and A.L.P. have in no way changed their fundamental position. The C.I.O. is still bent on the down-down strike at the Chrysler Corporation plant. The A.L.P. still supports the official representation to get America into the European war—unless the Party's secret reaction in favor of Hitler proves stronger.

Above is a facsimile of Fr. Coughlin's fascist gutter rag, Social Justice. The big scare about the Fourth International taking over New York has a basis in fact for the future if not for the present—when the workers of New York take command over their own lives and destiny in a socialist society.

We are proud to be the butt of attack of this fascist fiend who is enemy No. 1 of American workers. Revolutionary workers, under Socialist Workers Party leadership, have given Coughlin's raneats of Christian Mobilizers cause enough for worry in the past six months. We promise to duplicate our performances in double doses in the future. The stuck pig, Coughlin, has only begun to squeal.

As for the rest of the trash, it hardly deserves even contemptuous comment. We are loath to accept credit for the purge of Stalinists from the American Labor Party. Alex Ross and David Dubinsky, whom Coughlin's vile scribbles make the target for an anti-semantic attack, will be the first to deny the charge of "Trotskyism." They are the trade union agents of Anglo-French imperialism. But Coughlin cannot discredit the trade unions either by anti-Semitism or by reference to their pro-war position.

The Fourth International is an anti-war party which will save the trade unions from the war mongers—and from Coughlin.

## Mexican Police Arrest Man Who Tried to Enter Trotsky's Home

### Danger of Attempt at Assassination Makes Additional Precautionary Measures for The Defense of Trotsky Necessary

MEXICO CITY—Precautionary measures to protect Leon Trotsky against assassins were increased this week, after a suspicious character attempted, with a fake story, to make his way in to see Trotsky. The suspect, Manuel Fernandez Barrechea, was arrested by the Mexican police, who announce they are continuing the investigation.

On Oct. 20 Barrechea presented himself at Trotsky's home in Coyocacan, describing himself to Trotsky's secretary as a Spanish refugee, an aviator in Spain and a member of the Communist party there. He wanted to see Trotsky, but gave no particular reason. The secretary asked him for his address, in order to inform him when he could see Trotsky. He gave his address as the Hotel Moderno.

The next day someone telephoned the Trotsky household, said he was the Spanish general, Jose Miaja, and urged that Bar-

## CHRYSLER CO. SEEKS TO BALK AGREEMENT

DETROIT, Oct. 27—The Chrysler Corporation continues to throw every obstacle in the way of an agreement with the UAW-CIO. Its chiselling tactics are designed to emasculate the basic union demands for the union shop, joint union-management regulation of production schedules and the reinstatement of over one hundred workers fired for failing to keep up with the speeded production.

The stubborn attitude of the corporation, which contrasts so sharply with the excessive conciliation of union officials, is now responsible for throwing 50,000 men out of work in the Chrysler plants and an additional 100,000

## Boss Press Wails Loud About Incident; War Propaganda Gets Spurt

The Roosevelt administration's war drive was accelerated notably this week, when the American government made demands on the Hitler-Stalin camp, in the City of Flint incident, which it has carefully refrained from making in similar cases where the Anglo-French camp is involved.

Roosevelt's "neutrality" speech on Thursday, denouncing as "one of the worst fakes in current history" the warnings sounded in and out of Congress on the danger of American participation in the war, was exposed as the real fake, when at his bidding the State Department peremptorily demanded that the German and Soviet governments surrender the City of Flint.

Seizure and detention of a score of American vessels by British and French warships, and the confiscation of the cargoes carried by two or more of them — it is known now that the phosphate cargoes of the American freighters and Saccarappa have been confiscated by the British — not only were not protested by the State Department, but the very facts about the seizures did not become known until last Wednesday.

## New York SWP Set For Whirlwind Finish To Election Campaign

Reiterating that the anti-war platform of the Socialist Workers Party in the present municipal elections most adequately corresponds to real needs and desires of the workers in New York, Max Shachtman and George Lyman Paine, Councilman candidates for the Bronx and Manhattan, prepared today for a whirlwind two-week wind-up to their respective election campaigns.

"We are confident," both candidates stated today, "that the workers of this city will rally to the Socialist Workers Party candidates in a manner that will surprise everyone. From our contact with the workers of the Bronx and Manhattan during this election campaign, we are prepared to say that our anti-war program is being received with the greatest interest and sympathy. In the same way that our Party answers the needs of the workers, in the same way the workers will respond to us on election day."

### Pennies Financed Campaign

Both candidates today filed their campaign financial statements with the Board of Elections. James Burnham, Treasurer of the Campaign Committee, commented:

"The financial cost of the campaign to elect Max Shachtman and George Lyman Paine to the City Council will show the lowest expenditures of any candidate in the field. From beginning to end, our campaign has been financed with the contributions and pennies of the workers themselves. Let the other candidates, who say they are 'independent', divulge the sources financing them. These 'independents' would have to admit that in no sense are they independent of the subsidies of the large capitalist interests."

Answering the questionnaire submitted by the Young Citizens Committee For a Progressive City Council, Shachtman and Paine gave their program for the vast army of youth:

"The youth of America, like the youth of the countries at war today, have nothing to gain from the present war. It is a war between two imperialist camps to re-divide the earth. No matter which side wins, totalitarian dictatorship will triumph, small nations will still be enslaved and 'peace' will be restored in the spirit of the robbers' Treaty of Versailles."

Calling upon the young people of this city to support the anti-war campaign of the Socialist Workers Party's candidates, Shachtman and Paine urged that, "Unless the youth of the nation is reconciled to becoming cannon-fodder in an imperialist war, it

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### NOTICE

There will be an important membership meeting of all New York SWP and YPSL members this Sunday, Oct. 29, at Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th St. Time: 2:30 p.m.

## Farrell Calls for Aid To Watson

NEW YORK, Oct. 26—James T. Farrell, the noted novelist, today added his voice to those who have spoken out in condemnation of the arrest of Frank Watson, Canadian militant, who was arrested and sentenced to one year's imprisonment for delivering an anti-war speech in Toronto. In an interview with the Socialist Appeal, Farrell said:

"I agree with the statement that democracy is the first casualty of war. The information on the Watson case which has been supplied me by the American Labor Aid is a clear-cut illustration of this. On this basis I support the appeal for funds to defend Watson. I hope others will realize that this is an important defense case and join me in adopting this position."

### Funds Vital

In doubling its efforts on behalf of Watson, the American Labor Aid which has organized a Watson Defense Fund, pointed to Farrell's reiteration of the old truth which is amply evidenced in the Watson case: democracy is the first casualty of war. Thus, in rallying to the defense of Watson, in itself the elementary duty of every anti-war worker, the A.L.A. made it plain that it was also fighting the entire issue of war-time suppression: today in Canada, which is already at war; tomorrow in the United States, when it goes to war.

Funds, said the committee, are urgently needed. The expenses involved in conducting the defense of Watson are extremely high. Every nickel, dime and dollar is of the utmost value. Contributions, however small or large should be rushed to the American Labor Aid, 125 West 33rd Street, New York City.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

After days of clamor about the German seizure of the City of Flint, Senator Clark and other congressmen finally were successful in getting the State Department to release a list of the American ships seized by the Anglo-French warships.

While the State Department felt no need to inform the American people that many of these ships were and are for weeks in Anglo-French hands, much less to protest their seizure, it didn't even wait to establish the facts before it demanded of the Soviet government immediate release of the City of Flint.

U. S. Fakes Excuse  
The ostensible justification for the State Department's demand on the Soviet government is, that in the Anglo-French cases the seizures conformed to international law, but that the City of Flint case did not conform to international law.

Under the Hague Convention of 1907, to which the United States government is a signatory, Article 21 provides that a prize ship may be brought into a neutral port "on account of unseaworthiness, stress of weather, or want of fuel or provisions", but that "it must leave as soon as the circumstances which justified its entry are at an end."

Soviet Followed Law  
Formally, at least, the Soviet government adhered to these provisions. The Germans brought the ship into Murmansk on a claim that is covered by the term "unseaworthiness", and it was in the port only a few days. Maybe the Germans were lying, and the Soviet government was helping them—they are scarcely above a little deceit! But the U. S. government could not possibly know this to be a fact. Before it had made any investigation to speak of, the State Department issued its demand on the Soviet government for the release of the ship, and similar representations to Berlin.

Press Openly Partisan  
The American press took it up, and day in day out wailed loud and long against the Hitler-Stalin camp. But when, under pressure, the State Department finally released its list of American ships seized by the Anglo-French camp, it caused scarcely a ripple in the press.

This incident is a warning sign to the American people that the whole apparatus of the American government is geared to dragging us into war on the side of the Anglo-French camp. If such a flimsy pretext as the City of Flint incident is utilized to such an extent, we can imagine what will happen when some real incidents occur, as they will inevitably occur in the course of a war.