

# The Angelic Capitalists and the Atrocious Bolsheviki

By E. Freidberg

*This article is written by a young man, yet in his teens, who has been completely blind since his early childhood.*

FOR the past year or so we have been incessantly hearing of the horrible and unheard of atrocities committed by the Bolsheviki of Russia. The people who go under this name are known in America as fanatical revolutionaries, mad with the lust for destruction. They are said to be a menace to civilization and all the age-long institutions of liberty and justice (if such institutions can be said to exist). They have the reputation of wanting to replace the rule of law and order by a reign of terror and chaos. All these sinister stories and erroneous rumors have clouded the minds of the American people as to the real tendencies and aims of the Bolsheviki.

I shall endeavor, through a comparison, to show how really "atrocious" the Bolsheviki are and how wonderfully "angelic" their bitterest opponents, the capitalists, are—the capitalists of all countries, whether Asiatic, European, or American.

Let me ask, who started the European war? Most Americans will answer, the Germans started it. It is true that the Kaiser and his gang meant to gain by plunging Europe into the bloodiest conflict history had ever seen; but were there not some on the opposite side who meant to either gain by the war, or to hold what they had already gained by the same methods?

It is admitted by all authorities that behind the pretext of the murder of the Archduke of Austria and his wife there was the fundamental cause of commercial and territorial gain and acquisition for Germany. The Germans wanted to build the Berlin to Bagdad railroad, in order that they might have access to the markets of the East. In order to do this the Central Powers had to control the Balkans. By allying themselves with Turkey the Germans could still better compete with the English for the markets of the East. They could also, by controlling Constantinople, threaten English commerce on the Mediterranean. Here the interests of England and Germany clashed.

A third party now comes upon the scene. This is Russia. She has always had interests in the Balkans, and she wanted to get possession of Constantinople so that she might have an outlet to the sea in that quarter of the globe. Here, in Constantinople and the Balkans, Russian and German interests were at variance.

Germany wanted to extend her colonial possessions, and, as there was no more land which was unclaimed, she consequently coveted the colonies of other powers. Germany also desired to control the ports of Belgium and Holland, in order to extend her commerce in the West, and to build a larger navy in order to protect that commerce. England opposed this policy because she feared that the Germans would outstrip her Western commerce. Here again German and English interests clashed.

Two other factors enter into the make-up of the cause of the war. Italy has always claimed the Austrian ports of Fiume, Trieste and Pola on the Adriatic, France, ever since the Franco-Prussian war has been watching for an opportunity to regain Alsace-Lorraine.

Briefly outlined, these are some of the causes, which started the great world war. Each of the above mentioned nations, having opposing interests, strained themselves to prepare for the conflict which they knew to be inevitable. France extended the period of service in her army, and thus built up a standing army of four million men. England enlarged her navy. Germany enlarged her navy, and trained her army to the highest point of efficiency. Russia too built up a colossal army. This all resulted in the great crash of 1914.

Let us now take a look into the real facts and see who really caused all this pandemonium in Europe. Did the majority of the German people want to commit suicide? Let us examine the matter more closely. Let us find if the people of any of the belligerent countries deliberately wanted to bring about, for a period of four long years, the wholesale slaughter of men and the wholesale starvation of women and children.

Was it the German people who wanted to extend German trade at the cost of others? No; it was the German manufacturers and merchants, who desired to enlarge their trade and thus fill their pockets, and

also to give the German manufacturers a chance to export their products. Was it the German people who wanted the Balkans? What good would the people of Germany have derived from the Balkan states, if Germany did own them? What good would the Berlin to Bagdad railway have done the German working man? Did he desire to secure the markets of the East? No; it was only another scheme through which capital might be centralized in the hands of a few. It was only another means of exploiting the people, not only of their own country but also of other countries. Was it the German people who wanted the ports of Belgium and Holland? No; it was the capitalists again, who wished to better their facilities for making money at the expense of the Belgian, Dutch, and German people.

Was it the Russian people who wanted the Balkans and Constantinople? No. They have positively shown that they did not. Russia declared that she had to protect her little cousin, niece, nephew, or whatever she called Serbia. It seems that the Russian nobility and Czarists had a warmer spot in their hearts for Constantinople than for the fortunes of their "dear little Serbia." This is proved by the fact that the Russian armies instead of trying to protect Serbia, commenced to fight their way through the Caucasus region, hoping in this way to reach the shores of the Bosphorous. When this plan of attack failed, she tried to get to Constantinople by way of Rumania; and little Serbia was left out in the cold to shift for herself. There was a great deal of talk about the kinship and lovable relations between the Serbians and the Russians. This was perfectly true; but this fact was used by the men whose selfish interests were involved in possessing the Balkans and Constantinople. They used the best ideals and highest aspirations of the Russian people for furthering their own sinister and diabolical schemes. They made the people of the allied countries and of Russia believe that they were going into the war to fight Germany and Austria in order to save their little neighbor Serbia.

What the hoodwinked Russian soldier really fought for was the better facilities for the Russian capitalist to exploit the Russian and Balkan people. Both German and Russian capitalists coveted Constantinople and the Balkans. The difference was, that the Germans started the fight, because they thought that by so doing they could get ahead of the Russians.

Now, the English merchant and manufacturer step in to protect their interests. Then comes the French capitalist, who desires to make money out of the rich mines of Alsace-Lorraine. Does it make much difference to the workers in those mines whether they are owned by Germany or France. He will be exploited and kept on insufficient wages in either case. One may possibly be better than the other, but the worker certainly did not wish to enter upon a career of bloodshed and murder to make a change from a French to a German task master.

Lastly was it the Italian people who wanted the Austrian ports on the Adriatic? No; here again we have the capitalists—manufacturer and merchant—who wanted to extend their facilities for making money at the expense of their people.

To back up the merchant and manufacturer come the bankers and brokers, who know that the governments must borrow money to carry on the war, and that they will get good interest. Then those people, who have their money invested in industries which are suited for war were ready and eager to make their fortunes, or rather to multiply their fortunes. Read "the truth about the Bethlehem steel" and the record of the Krupp manufacturers in Germany. Then the noble, high-minded, high-browed statesman, diplomat, politician, demagogue does as the man with the money tells him to do, for upon pleasing this man depends his notoriety, honorable position, etc.

Any just and clear-minded reader will see that it was not through the will of the people of any of the conflicting countries that this most infamous crime of

history was committed. On all sides,—whether German or English, whether Austrian or Russian, whether French or Turkish,—the opposing interests were those of capital; and, in most cases, the people were not even given a chance to say what they thought of the proposition of plunging Europe into the bloodiest, blackest and most malicious war of history.

Did these "resolute," "steady-minded," and "well-bred" men who started the war fight it out amongst themselves, since it was all for their interests? No; they had to stay at home, sitting around on soft cushions, they used their "weapons," which they had been training for many years. They sent out millions of men—rank upon rank of them to murder each other. Had these men any quarrel with each other? No; but, led on by press and by orators, hirelings of capital, they believed that they were fighting for the good of humanity and for the glory of their country. The men who commit such crimes as the European war for their own interests and sinister aims make a plaything of national patriotism.

The allied capitalists have attained their aims, but what is the workman's share of the spoils? The common man, no matter on which side he may be, will have to pay in sweat and taxes that which his fathers were either forced or tricked into destroying. The poor man's share in the spoils of war will be devastated homes and heaped up taxes, which will produce untold misery and poverty. It is asked, why should there be misery and poverty, when there is such a splendid opportunity for employment? Oh yes, there will be work enough and more than enough; but first the people must support thousands of crippled, blinded, insane, feeble-minded men, products of the war. Then, secondly, the governments of the different belligerent countries have borrowed millions and billions of dollars, which, although used to advance the interests of the capitalists, the laborer will have to pay to the capitalist because he is the man who holds the government bonds, in most cases; though in America and France some of the bonds are held by the rank and file of the people.

The war was caused for and resulted in the extension of the facilities of the rich to become richer and the poor to become poorer. Was it fought for Democracy, Humanity, or Liberty? It was caused by and fought for commercialism and the interest of capital.

Now let us turn our thoughts to the Bolsheviki atrocities. The Russians were oppressed, and had been oppressed for the past four centuries. They saw their chance in 1917, and revolted, first against the Czarist regime, which meant the political and industrial subjugation of the people; then they revolted against the Kerensky government, which meant a somewhat modified form of the Czar's regime. In the European war about ten million men were killed or wounded, and we do not know and cannot conceive of the starvation and suffering of the women and children in the belligerent countries. In the first place this was only a struggle between nations, where most of the soldiers who fought on either side, knew very little of the grievances which they thought themselves to be setting aright. Secondly, it was fomented by a few and carried on for their interests. The Bolsheviki in their efforts to gain control in Russia and to maintain that control have caused the death of about twenty thousand people. They have starved none. The starvation in Russia has been brought about by the Allied blockade of the Russian ports. In the first place the Bolsheviki struggle is a great international struggle. In the second place, every Russian worker knows what he is fighting for. The Bolsheviki are in truth very atrocious. They have put to death in the most brutal manner, twenty thousand people. The capitalist is in truth very angelic. He has put softly to sleep, with cannon and machine gun, ten million men. They have very amiably, and in a very angelic manner, starved out whole nations of children and women. Judge the truth, oh reader.

If these capitalists, Czars, Kaisers, Kings, junkers find it necessary and even very convenient to murder millions of men, if these high-minded, liberal, and deep-thinking statesmen, politicians, and diplomats find it impossible to negotiate and make a peaceful settlement of the dispute, how can they expect the Bolsheviki to do any better—the Bolsheviki, whom they have always looked upon as ignorant, uneducated, vodka-saturated, and vicious Russian peasants?