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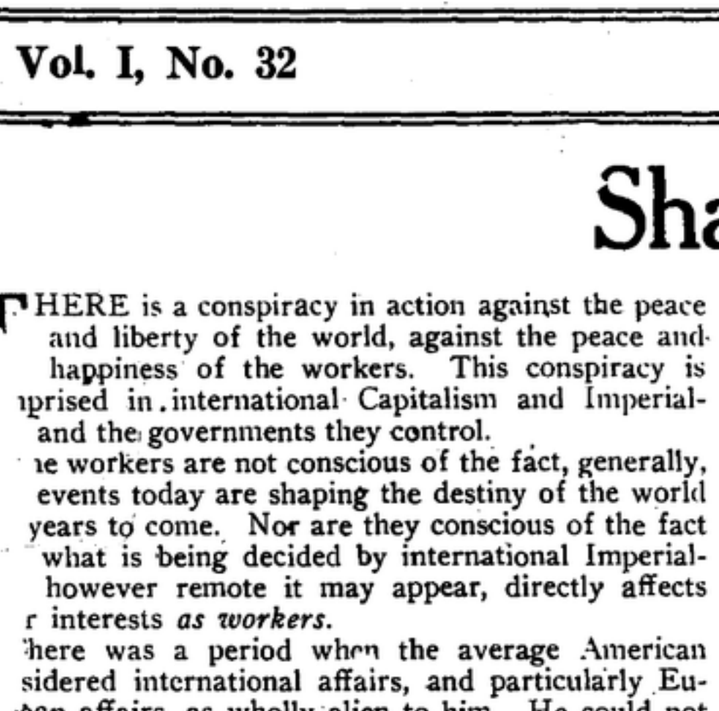
Shall They Put it Over?

THERE is a conspiracy in action against the peace and liberty of the world, against the peace and happiness of the workers. This conspiracy is ıprised in international Capitalism and Imperial- and the governments they control.

ıe workers are not conscious of the fact, generally, events today are shaping the destiny of the world years to come. Nor are they conscious of the fact what is being decided by international Imperial- however remote it may appear, directly affects r interests *as workers*.

here was a period when the average American sidered international affairs, and particularly Eu- ean affairs, as wholly alien to him. He could not lerstand how they affected the interests of Ame- n citizens, of the workers. The "splendid isol- " of the United States developed complacency; cans gloried in the fact of enormous strength lf-sufficiency. Why bother about Europe? years ago conditions determined that no nation any longer be sufficient unto itself. Modern



La Lega delle Nazioni sulle basi malferme del capitalismo

From "L'Avanti"

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS HAS ITS BASIS IN CAPITALISM

Capitalism, with its enormous concentration of industry, with its iron necessity of securing new markets for surplus products and surplus capital, with its struggle for undeveloped territory,—ended the isolation of nations. It is characteristic of Imperialism, the projects of which are universal, to drag within its scope all nations and all peoples, willy-nilly. The United States, with its giant development of industry, was being drawn into the maelstrom of international politics, of world Imperialism,—a process of which the vast majority of our people were unaware. Developments are largely determined, not by the conscious will of peoples, but by the iron necessity of economic development.

The clash of Imperialism provoked the European war. The issue in this war was world power—which Imperialism should dominate the development of the world economically and financially. This war, apparently of no concern to America, drew our country into its sweep, because in a struggle for world power the United States could not afford neutrality. The American workers were conscripted, mobilized, and shipped to Europe. In this new epoch, all nations are concerned in the struggle of Imperialism.

The war was considered as a means of realizing a new world, a new civilization. But the war is now over. Instead of peace and happiness—more misery and oppression; instead of democracy—more reaction.

That is the new world that has come out of the war!

Soldiers who are demobilized can't get jobs. Or they get jobs where they meet the abominable conditions of old. Capitalism has secured enormous profits, has become richer and mightier; but the workers must meet the old conditions and the old struggles. The working class has secured nothing out of the war except death and misery, while our Capitalism has secured virtual world power.

That is the new world! Capitalism, out of the war, is snatching new life and new power. It is organizing itself to maintain the exploitation and oppression of the workers. It is trying to continue its domination of the world, to make reaction and oppression supreme.

To this end, it forms a camouflaged League of Nations which is simply an instrument to maintain the power of the strongest imperialistic nations. This League is based upon Capitalism, to promote the profits and supremacy of Capitalism. Under its shield, colonial peoples are being subjected to new slavery and oppression; under its shield, the world is being territorially and financially divided among the great powers, —England, France, Italy, Japan and the United States. The Imperialism of these nations is ascendant. The slavery of colonial peoples is necessary to them, and this slavery is made more intense.

This is a threat to the peace and liberty of the world, a direct threat to our own workers' peace and liberty.

The European workers didn't bother much in the past about their governments enslaving colonial peoples. It seemed far away, and not concerning them directly; but out of the competition to secure control of colonial peoples came the war, in which the European workers paid an enormous price for their blind policy on international affairs. Imperialism is directed against the proletariat, and unless the proletariat overthrows Imperialism, the workers will ultimately pay the price in death and agony.

The Peace Conference at Paris, by its imperialistic policy, is preparing new wars. That is inevitable. Capitalism cannot exist without wars; and in these wars it is the proletariat that pays the price.

But the workers apparently are not interested. They do not concern themselves with these problems. They do not realize that their own destiny as workers is intimately connected with the great conspiracy in Paris against the peace and liberty of the world.

But this conspiracy is equally in action at home. Unemployment is on the increase; violence is used against strikes and Socialists; the government of the capitalists is preparing to impose a reign of terror upon workers who are conscious of their class and who engage in the struggle against Capitalism. Reaction is ascendant, and will become more brutal in the measure that the American proletariat does not protest and act.

We were promised a new world out of the war. But that new world is coming only in those nations where the proletariat has acted for the overthrow of Capitalism and Imperialism, where the workers have crushed the power of capital and organized their own government,—the Soviet Republics of Russia and Hungary. Everywhere else the "new world" is the old world of oppressive Capitalism, made much worse by new means of of oppression and exploitation. There is no hope for the workers unless they consciously engage in the struggle for Socialism.

This struggle for Socialism means a struggle of the workers to secure control of their own destiny, to organize the world for the workers. It means a struggle for workers' control of industry,—for a new social system in which the workers will control their own jobs, in which industry will be managed for the happiness of the workers and not for the profits of the employers. It means a new government of the organized workers, and of the workers alone.

Workers' control of industry, exercised by means of their own organizations in the shops and the industrial vote, is the basis of the new social system proposed by Socialism. Not the state, not politicians and bureaucrats, but the workers themselves shall manage industry for the workers—for peace and liberty and happiness.

Capitalism is breaking down. Capitalist parliamentary government is breaking down. But Capitalism tries to maintain its supremacy. And this means

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THIS IS HOW WE SETTLE QUESTIONS OF NATURAL FRONTIERS

that the proletariat must suffer, that the proletariat must be crushed,—unless it acts for Socialism.

That is the great conspiracy. It is the purpose of Capitalism to maintain its power, come what may; and to carry out this purpose, it is dividing the world territorially and financially, enslaving colonial peoples, adopting measures to crush the workers.

Life will not be worth living if this great conspiracy proves successful. Life will be a nightmare of misery and oppression, of new wars and threats of war, if Capitalism maintains itself in power. The proletariat must act against Capitalism. The proletariat must realize its class position, must organize to crush Capitalism. The accomplishment of the overthrow of Capitalism alone can assure the peace and liberty of the world. The coming of Socialism alone can assure bread and work and happiness to the workers.

All the world problems are, after all, simply problems of industry. The complex problems at Paris, the sinister purposes of Imperialism, can be disposed of in a very simple way: by the workers using their industrial power to overthrow Capitalism, organize workers' control of industry, to realize the industrial democracy of communist Socialism.

The workers possess the power. They must use the power. Capitalism must not put it over. The proletariat must rally to the cause and the struggle of international communist Socialism.

THE RETURN FROM THE WAR *From "L'Avanti"*

("L'Avanti" is the Central Organ of the Socialist Party of Italy)