

**THE NEGRO AND THE WORLD**

It is most unfortunate that the Negro—the race with the greatest amount of workers—knows least about things as they are in the world of today. The world of today, more than at any other period, is confronted with an economic issue based on the most scientific premise that history has ever recorded. The scientific economic principle or premise referred to, is that of Socialism, a system presented to the world by Karl Marx and Frederic Engels for the solution of what has proved for centuries, to be a wanton injustice to the intellectual, technical, and manual workers of the world.

Although Marx and Engels, like those who are truly interested in the economic betterment of the worker today, were persecuted; and although it took many decades before their labor bore fruit, the fruit is now ripe and is now disseminating its juice of socialism with the most fragrant aroma in every part of the world where workers are found. Unfortunately, however, the Negro working masses, intellectual, technical and manual, are less familiar with the facts than another group of workers.

The teaching of Marx and Engels has changed the world into a battle ground of two social ideals—collective action of the masses for the preservation of their mutual interest, against the machination of the capitalist class with its consequent pernicious effect on the masses. This, in other words, means collective action of all working peoples, without regard for race, color or nationality, against the exploits of capitalism. The Negro, therefore, wherever he finds himself, should endeavor to acquaint himself with the cause of the working man. He should remember that his race is predominantly a race of workers, and that in addition to that he is not a worker by volition but because of force of circumstance.

Up to recently, the greatest problem confronting the Negro was that of color. But that is not the same today. The color issue is fast becoming unimportant. Under the influence of Communism and Socialism, which are fast becoming the generally accepted doctrines of all working peoples, color, race, and nationality, are taking a position of non-recognition. In the new order of things, this has got to be so because of the scientifically discovered fact by the world's greatest economic and social students that, opposition to the Negro because of his color can only serve to defeat the cause of the white working man.

One of the reasons for the traditional failures of the Negro is his inability to make, and use allies for his cause among other peoples. The case of Abyssinia as against the case of Spain is an outstanding proof. Because Abyssinia was pre-occupied with religion it was impossible for her to have made a forecast of future probabilities. She was so completely absorbed in theology that philosophy and science had no place within her borders. Not only was she unmindful but she was ignorant of the trend of modern politics. She thought humility and prayer would have been enough to protect her against any and all adversities and only realized the contrary when the inevitable came. But it was too late. She hadn't enough time to make friends and allies among the only people who could help her. It is probable that her leaders did not really know to what category of the world's classes the Abyssinians belong. The Negus Selassie, was and may still be laboring under the illusion of his personal aristocracy, not remembering that a chain can be no stronger than its weakest link; not remembering that a man is no higher than the class to which he belongs. So when the time came that Abyssinia needed help her leaders resorted to the most gigantic organization of bluffs and arch swindlers, whom they placed all confidence, with the hope that they would be saved. They realized the uselessness and folly, however, at a price that we all regret, but it was too late for her and too late for the only people who could do something for her—the proletariat of the world—the organized workers of the world—the Communists and Socialists—to have organized themselves to help her.

The cause of the Negro can not be fought uni-laterally. The success of the cause of the Negro—the cause of equity, freedom, and justice—can only be achieved through united action with others sympathetic with the welfare of the class of world's society of which the Negro, in the vast majority, is really a part. The present Negro leaders do not know this and consequently are, at their best, only retarding the possibility and progress of a solution of the problem. Any Negro who thinks or who endeavors to make the Negro believe that the Negro's cause can be successfully fought without co-operation with others so that in turn we may have their co-operation, is nothing but a stupid ass with criminal tendencies.

There has never been a time when there has been as great an opportunity for the Negro throughout the world to take a stand against oppression, injustice and discrimination as there is today. The working classes of all the other races have realized, and by scientific analysis, that race, national, religious, and color prejudices are all designs by capitalism to make the workers stupid and exploitable in the interest of capital. The world's leaders of working class people under the banners of Socialism and Communism have all taken up the cudgels against these evils because they have realized that to encourage them any longer is to defeat the cause of all workers. Therefore, it is for the Negro to familiarize himself with what these two new doctrines mean, what they are fighting for, and what they are actually doing. It is not enough for us to sit by and take the opinion of a few timid men, posing as leaders, who are too much afraid of the economic threat that are always being hurled by capitalists about suspending the munificent privileges now being enjoyed by Negroes. These men have not been manly enough to investigate for their own benefit much less the benefit of those whom they pretend to be representing. They have no profound knowledge of politics, civics nor sociology. Consequently they know nothing about the gigantic class struggle of the world's workers against the greatest malady that society has suffered from—capitalism. They know nothing about Socialism or Communism except what their bosses, the agents of capitalism, tell them about them. So even if we have to be brutal, we must challenge the activities of the

**THE FACTS OF THE SPANISH PROBLEM AFTER SIX MONTHS OF WAR**

By PIETRO NENNI, Delegate of the L. S. I. with the International Brigades.

From the Madrid Front, Feb. 1937.—After six months of civil war the essential facts of the Spanish problem are still the same. That is to say, the political and social future of Spain is completely bound up with the result of the war. Nevertheless, a new and important element has just arrived in the foreground—the struggle for the independence of Spain.

In his speech at Valencia Señor Azana, the President of the Republic—emerging from a long silence—emphasised this character of the war with force and energy. "A war of invasion," he called it, "a direct attack upon the independence of Spain." Before the President of the Republic the Labor Parties here—especially the Socialists, Communists and the Unified Youth organization—had already emphasised the anti-national character of Franco's adventure. Today everybody here is convinced that the war involves not only the political and social regime in Spain but also the existence of the country as an independent nation.

Certain people have been disturbed to see the national side of the war in Spain emphasised with so much force and insistence, and have protested against what they regard as a scandal and a patriotic deviation of the Revolution and the civil war which, according to them, threatens to disappear in a "union sacrée." All this is nothing but puerility, verbiage or provocation. The present events in Spain confirm that for the great masses of the population of the country, for

the great mass of the people, there is only one means of defending the country and that is by fighting against the capitalists, landowners, clericals, Fascists and reactionaries of their country. It is possible that this or that politician harbors the idea of diverting Spain from the revolution and social emancipation by concentrating all efforts against the national enemy. But this national enemy is not a metaphysical or abstract entity; alongside Hitler and Mussolini there are Spaniards; behind Franco there are classes, clearly—defined interests, clearly incarnated in one political party or another, or in one or other of the social categories. If the Spanish People's Front has spread in proportion as Fascist intervention from abroad endangered the existence of an independent Spain, then at the same time, and for the same reasons, the criminal character of the Fascist adventure has been strongly emphasised in the eyes of the masses, with the consequences that the gulf which separates popular Spain from monarchist, clerical and Fascist Spain, has become widened. This has happened in such a way that it may be said, as during the early days of the war, that popular Spain has conducted its democratic revolution and its social revolution side by side, both bound up with the result of the war of independence.

What has been difficult to explain, what certain sections of public opinion have not yet properly understood at the present moment, is the subordinating of the democratic and social revolution to the war. Hence a certain political dilettantism more fertile in the elaboration of plans for a future so-

ciety than determined to do anything to win the war and to produce the necessary conditions for the society of the future. The Government has had to struggle against this political dilettantism, which has deep roots here in the exacerbated individualism, the regional and municipal particularism, the parochialism, and an extreme which sometimes—and even often—serves as a screen for Fascist provocation.

It may be said that the real progress of popular Spain as against Republican Spain is measured more by what is actually done to unify and organize the army and the economic system than by one military episode or another on this or that front.

Today the issue is clear and practically all the cards are on the table.

What does popular Spain need in order to win? It should rigorously apply the policy of which the Government has traced the guiding lines: unify the army, liquidate the columns which obey separate disciplines, plan production, strengthen discipline from the top of the military and civilian scale to the bottom and restore everywhere the spirit of responsibility and authority.

This depends upon Spain, its Government and its people. This popular Spain, its Government and its people are doing, surmounting all the difficulties one by one and overcoming one by one the resistances inside the country.

But popular Spain needs something else as well. If it only had to deal with Franco, the "regueter" and the "phalangists," if it only had to deal with reactionary Spain, it would already be tasting the fruits of victory and the delights of peace. But it has to deal with international Fascism, with Mussolini and Hitler. It must be defended against international Fascism and protect against the foreign troops which the Fascist dictators send into Spanish territory to serve, not Spanish interests but Mussolini's and Hitler's policy of encircling France, propping the Soviet Union, undermining the democratic regimes and proceeding, in the direction of war.

This does not depend upon Spain alone; it depends upon the European democracies and upon Labor and Socialist Europe. If the Spanish problem is examined from all sides the same conclusion is always reached, a conclusion which, for my part, already drew in these articles weeks and months ago.

Popular Spain owed it to popular Europe to confront the Fascist danger and to defend by force of arms its liberty, its independence, its present and its future. It did so and is doing so, at the cost of sacrifices of which the defence of Madrid in very difficult conditions is the highest and most dramatic expression.

Popular Europe owed it to popular Spain to mount guard on the Spanish frontier in order to prevent the international Fascist intervention. An attempt has been made to obtain this result by means which have revealed themselves inadequate. We have now entered upon a new and decisive phase. This time we must succeed, the more so in order to succeed it is only necessary to wish to do so, and to succeed would be for democratic Europe worse than a mistake, not a crime—it would be suicidal.

present type of Negro leadership which is doing nothing but blinding the eyes of the common Negro working man against facts as they are. Socialism and Communism are endeavoring to do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number. They are the only two doctrines that are endeavoring to improve the standard of the working people. Communism and Socialism are fighting (not begging) for the abolition of race prejudice, discrimination, and immigration barriers against all working people. These doctrines are seeking unlimited freedom for all peoples, and the Negro masses should refuse to continue to be fooled by a few parasitical Negro so-called leaders who neither have the courage nor understanding of politics and sociology to lead. All things in this world is a bargain, and the Negro will not get his share until he is able to bargain for it.

**WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE**

Of one thing the modern working class can boast; namely, the courage of its women.

To the emancipated worker, his womenfolk are not just slaves of the kitchen or fluffs of pretty nothingness. Women of the free working class are, like the class conscious worker himself, free of mind and spirit.

The wars of the Middle Ages gave us one Joan of Arc. But the class wars of the twentieth century have given us a myriad army of women fighters.

In Spain, these women have gone out into the trenches with their men. In Flint, Michigan, wives and mothers and sisters are out there fighting the thugs, the cops, and the military, side by side with their men.

More power to you, sisters! You are harbingers of a new world with equality of race, creed, color and sex.

**DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION**

The latest pronunciamento of Mr. Stanley Baldwin should convince even the most dubious that Britain's sympathy (that is, the British ruling class) is far closer to Fascist Germany than to working class Russia. This, despite the fact that Hitler has done nought but spat at Britain, and the Soviet Union has done everything possible to look respectable to the democratic capitalist powers.

So long as Russia is in the hands of the working class, the capitalist class of the world will give it nothing but undying hatred. And this includes "democratic" capitalists as well as anybody else.

The Soviet Union has but one friend—the international working class. The capitalists will embrace the Soviet Union only to choke it. Only the unleashing of the class struggle on all fronts can defend the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union will be able to look to Britain, France, and America as allies only when the workers are on the road to or in possession of power.

**HELP US FIGHT FASCISM  
BOYCOTT GERMANY AND  
ITALIAN GOODS**