

CHINA'S RISING TIDE OF COLOR

By C. V. BRIGGS (former editor Crusader Magazine).

Can the Negro be altogether unconcerned about events in China, when the issue in China is the same issue facing the Negro in his homeland, Africa, and in the New World: the issue of the "divine right" of the white robber imperialist nations to rob and spoil subjugation, and dominate the darker peoples of the world?

Negro Endangered.

There is the grave danger of the Negro becoming confused as to the real issue in China. For months now the white daily press, with the exception of labor papers like *The DAILY WORKER* (New York), have been busy attacking China and camouflaging the motives of the robber posers who are seeking an opportunity to intervene in the present struggle between the victorious Cantonese (Nationalist) armies, sweeping northward, and the discredited Chinese militarists, like Chang-so-lin and Wu Pei Fu, one the tool of Japan, the other the instrument of England.

Smoke Screen of Bolshevism.

The literary prostitutes who edit the average American newspapers, in their anxiety to serve the interests of the capitalist gang upon whose advertising and credit support the success of their papers depend, have shown their readiness to go to any length to malign and discredit the Chinese Nationalists, even raising the old familiar bogey of Bolshevism against the Cantonese, offering as proof of Chinese bolshevism the simple fact that Soviet Russia, unlike the imperialist powers, has consistently

recognized the right of the Chinese to rule and possess their own country, refusing to participate in the arms embargo by which the imperialist powers hoped to disarm the Chinese and make them powerless and ready for the plucking.

Forced Opium on China.

The record of the imperialist powers in China has been one of brutal and wanton aggression. Imperialist England, leading exponent of the amazing policy of European eminent domain, made the Yangtze Valley a special "sphere of interest" since 1877. In 1842 she seized the island of Honkong after a three-year war fought by the Chinese to keep opium out of their country and by the British to inflict that deadly drug upon the Chinese masses.

Later she forced a weak Chinese government to give indefinite leases on 400 square miles of mainland near Hongkong and the seaport of Weihaiwei. In 1913, when Tibet, then a part of China staged a British stimulated revolt, England forbade China to suppress the rebellion. In addition, as the result of a second war with China, the British have possession of several strategic areas varying in size in the center of cities of Shanghai, Amoy, Hankow, Kiuking, Chinkiang, Newchang and Tientsin.

These concessions fly the British flag, are policed by British troops and ruled by British law. They constitute a convenient refuge for Chinese criminals. And, in order further to cripple China, the imperialist powers have control of the Chinese tariff and

customs. They claim extraterritoriality for Chinese tariff and customs. They claim extraterritoriality for their nationals, that is the right of Englishmen, Americans, etc., to violate Chinese laws and customs with impunity and to be tried in their own courts, under their own laws.

Russia and Germany Neutral.

Only Germany and Soviet Russia do not claim extraterritoriality or hold concessions in China. Germany, as a result of the world war, having been forced to surrender her concessions and extraordinary status, and Soviet Russia having voluntarily relinquished those claims as the result of the overthrow of capitalism in Russia and the creation of a workers' state.

Fight Imperialism.

It is against this system of imperialist exploitation of the Chinese masses, that the Chinese Nationalist government is fighting. It is because the Canton government represents the interests and aspirations of the downtrodden Chinese masses and has declared its determination to fight until the imperialist system, in which the Chinese people have been slaves of the capitalists, is destroyed, that masses have rallied to its support.

Negro Attitude.

In the face of this consideration, what is to be the attitude of the Negro masses in the United States? What the attitude of the Negro press? Is it to be one of continued apathy and unconcern towards one of the greatest social manifestations in the world of color—a struggle replete with significance for the Negro masses and the oppressed and exploited of all the earth? Is the Negro to continue indifferent to this tremendous phase of the universal liberation struggle?