

# Butchery and Robbery in 'Self-Defense'

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

Japan's predatory and murderous war on China is brazenly justified as a noble act of imperialist "self-defense" against the growing Soviet System in the pamphlet "Presenting Japan's Side of the Case," just published by the Japanese Association in China and being privately distributed among business men in this country.

The pamphlet presents the seizure of Manchuria, the bestial butchery of tens of thousands of revolutionary Chinese workers in Manchuria and at Shanghai as an act of "self-defense," a "war to save civilization," a "war to destroy the threat of Bolshevism" to capitalist "civilization." For, have not the Chinese masses impudently challenged the right of the imperialist plunderers to rob, oppress and murder them? Must not this challenge be met with new blood baths? Are not the Chinese masses turning to the Chinese masses, turning to the new world system of working class and national emancipation, of revolutionary dictatorship against the imperialist enemy? Is not the Soviet System growing at the expense of the dying capitalist system? Are not the Soviet districts in China growing daily more powerful? And is not the "infection" spreading not only over all China but over all Asia and to Africa as well, as the frightfully op-

pressed colonial masses learn from the example of the Soviet Union of the new non-capitalist road of development? And is not, therefore, all the loot of imperialism threatened? And must not imperialism make war on the Soviet system in "self-defense"?

Already here we see raised sham slogans of "war in self-defense," "war to save civilization," for the planned armed intervention of world imperialism against successful, flourishing Socialist construction in the Soviet Union.

"The menace of Russia is drawing closer to Japan and unless she moves and moves quicker to protect herself, neither the League, the World Court, the Kellogg Pact, the Four or the Nine Power Treaties can ward off the inevitable clash. For, make no mistake about this, Russia is at war with all the world. The war was begun through the Five-Year Plan and the economic attack . . ." (Page 38.)

The pamphlet sees a great "menace in Manchuria." Not the menace of Japanese bayonets and bombing planes against a peaceful population, but the menace of growing mass revolts against starvation and misery imposed by imperialist exploitation and backed up by imperialist armed force.

"Another year of decline in demand and low prices for the soya bean, will open the way for Soviet domination in North Manchuria. The stage is set there for another calamity." (Page 2.)

"The pressure of the Slav is slowly converting the outlying provinces of China into Soviet republics. The Mongols have asserted their right to self-determination. . . ." (Page 6.)

Therefore the sympathies of the Manchurian masses for the Soviet system must be drowned in blood. Manchuria must be saved for capitalist exploitation.

"Manchuria will be saved from the Soviet, opened to foreign capital and development and created into a strong buffer state between Japan and the Soviet or between the Soviet and North China." (Page 9.)

"The Manchurian problem will be settled on the field of battle. China will lose Manchuria." (Page 9.)

"Japan sees the handwriting on the wall and her military leaders have appealed to the right of self-defense."

Moreover, Japanese imperialism points to the crimes of the other imperialists as sufficient justification for its own robbery and plunder.

"What is just and good for Great Britain in India, in Egypt and Mesopotamia; for France in Algeria and Morocco; for Italy in the Mediterranean and for the United States in the Caribbean, must also be just and good for Japan in Manchuria. And with much greater reason." (Page 39.)

Thus openly are stated the robber aims and counter revolutionary purpose of the Japanese attack on China, of the increasing Japanese war provocations on the Siberian frontiers of the Soviet Union. And even while the imperialist plans to dismember China and make war against the Soviet Union are boldly stated, the writers of the pamphlet continue the effort to deceive the masses as to the true role of the League of Nations and the various pacts and treaties created under the protectorate of the League as direct means for camouflaging war preparations, directed especially against the Soviet Union.