
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SOVIET POWER

BY EARL BROWDER

THIS twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of Soviet power is witness to the most profound change of the attitude of the people of the United States as a whole toward the U.S.S.R. and its great leaders. For the first time there is almost universal understanding of the Soviet Union as a stage in the rise of mankind to higher civilization. There is a high and rising evaluation of the Soviet Union as the most powerful friend and ally of the United States. And there is love for and gratitude toward the Soviet Union as the power which has so far saved this country and world democracy from destruction by the Axis aggressors.

Nothing in modern history has so profoundly stirred the American masses as the heroic defense of Stalingrad. Americans know their own fate is being decided in that battle. Americans are ashamed that the full force of our own country has not yet been thrown into the scale through the opening of the Western Front in Europe. For the great mass of Americans now understand full well that they can emerge from this war a free people only if they fight this war as a part of the United Nations, side by side with the Soviet Union, in full partnership, unitedly sharing its costs

and burdens in full as they will jointly share the fruits of victory.

There are still some reactionary cliques in America which cling to their old dreams of helping to destroy the Soviet Union and making partnership with Hitler in dividing up the world. They are not large in numbers, but they are powerful. They are the most bitter opponents of the Second Front and the advocates of a negotiated "peace" with Hitler. They still dominate much of the American newspaper world. They represent some of the most powerful industrial monopolists in America. Their influence holds back the immense potential power of the United States, and prevents it from being thrown into full action to smash Hitlerism now. But these native American fascists are rapidly losing their power over the nation, and have already lost their control over the minds of the people.

The American people and government are committed to alliance with the Soviet Union for this war and for the post-war period. American patriots will not tolerate in public life any expression that runs counter to this will of the people. This is being demonstrated more and more every day in a thousand different ways. The Soviet-American alliance has been confirmed in the hearts and minds of the Ameri-

can masses. On November 7 it will be the entire nation which celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the rise of the Soviet Union, including the official leadership of the United States as well as the masses of the people.

This does not mean that the United States has turned or is turning to socialism. Such an interpretation would be radically false. There is no intimation in the United States of a mass abandonment of its capitalist system of economy and society. There is the general belief that if the United States rises to its tasks in this war, and fulfills its responsibilities in the crushing of Hitlerism, that it will go into the post-war period as a capitalist nation.

But this also is no contradiction to a further fact, that the American people are beginning to understand that the socialist society of the Soviet Union is the source of its unparalleled achievements in the war which restored for the United Nations the perspective of victory. Socialism, even though not generally accepted for the United States, is no longer looked upon as something alien and hostile to the American way of life, which was the view which had long prevailed over the minds of the great majority of Americans.

On the twenty-fifth birthday of the Soviet Union the American working class and people are more and more raising their voices to demand an immediate offensive on the Western Front against Hitlerism. Wendell Willkie expresses, on this

issue, the sentiment of the American masses, who believe that President Roosevelt is fully committed to the same demand and are ready to strengthen his hand by all means, so that all restraining and hesitating influences can finally be brushed aside.

Americans want to fight. They want to fight in full coordination with the Red Army, which they respect and love. They want to fight now. They will never forgive those groups and individuals responsible for holding them back so long from the fight. Such is in truth the spirit of the great majority of Americans as we come to the historic date of November 7.

For the American people the date November 7 takes its place alongside our own July 4, as part of the same forward movement of the human race. Just as Americans have always affirmed the universal significance of our revolution of 1776 and of George Washington, so now we have come to recognize the universal validity of November 7, the Soviet revolution of 1917 and Joseph Stalin.

In the fires of the common war against Hitlerism, in the blood of the best sons of both countries given to a common cause, in the gathering of the peoples of the world into the United Nations, in the final winning of victory through joint struggle, this American-Soviet friendship and alliance will be so fully sealed that it will be a great fortress for the collective security and progress of all peoples in the post-war world.