

# THE 1948 ELECTIONS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE\*

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE ALL-DECISIVE ISSUE in the national elections is that of peace or war. The world is shocked at the grave tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Reactionaries blame all this on the Soviet Union. But it is absurd to assert that that Socialist, war-ravaged country wants war. The real culprits are the economic royalists in this country who have long exploited labor. They are trying to extend their domination over the world, even at the cost of a frightful war. The fate of the world depends upon the American people grasping this basic fact of world politics.

The Trumans, Dulleses, Hoovers, Marshalls, Vandenberges and other men of the trusts who are running our government could readily secure a democratic agreement with the U.S.S.R., as Roosevelt did. But they don't want it. They are fighting for Wall Street's world control.

Their steady rejection of peace was dramatized afresh by their cynical refusal to negotiate with the Soviets on the basis of the Smith-Molotov and Stalin-Wallace correspondence.

They want world tension and crisis, so that they can increase their fabulous profits and frighten the American people into accepting the militarization and fascist regime that they find necessary for the aggressive war they are preparing.

But let these warmongers beware! The American people will have a last word on this matter—one that will wreck the war plans of Wall Street.

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In placing full responsibility upon Wall Street for the war danger, we Communists are acting in the highest interest of the American people. It would be a crime to be silent while Big Business, in its lust for profit and power, leads our nation to slaughter.

The expansionist drive of American imperialism not only threatens an eventual war disaster to the American nation; it is already bringing upon our people many evils. Thus, a decisive factor in the soaring cost of living is the Government's squandering of 25 billions per year in building up a war economy in the United States and Europe. The people are already paying through the

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nose for Wall Street's insane imperialistic adventures.

The bipartisan war policy is also breeding fascism in the United States. Every democratic citizen is alarmed at the growth of anti-Negroism and anti-Semitism, the loyalty oath for Government employees, the Taft-Hartley Law, the Mundt police state bill, the deportation of progressive workers, the drive to outlaw the Communist Party, and the outrageous activities of the House Un-American Committee. Hitler needed fascism for his program of world conquest and so does Wall Street.

And these assaults upon American living standards and civil liberties, which have already reached alarming proportions, would become catastrophic if the warmakers should succeed in launching their projected anti-Soviet war. As the more intelligent capitalist-minded military experts and political commentators are warning us, such a war would be a long drawn out, hopeless struggle costing hundreds of millions of lives, which could not be won by the United States.

The American people must not allow the tycoons of Wall Street to inflict this tragedy upon us and the world.

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Hard-boiled American big businessmen believe that if they can break down Russian resistance their path to world mastery will be easy. Hence their bipartisan get-tough-with-Russia policy. But their atom-bomb threats

and their Truman Doctrine of active, armed intervention in the life of various countries—France, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Israel, China and Indonesia—are not succeeding. The peoples who defeated Hitler refuse to put on the yoke of Wall Street.

So Big Business is trying to buttress its failing atom-bomb diplomacy and Truman Doctrine with the Marshall Plan. By squandering tens of billions of dollars, Wall Street seeks to establish American economic control over Europe, re-arm that continent, especially Germany, and combine the capitalist countries into an active military alliance against the Soviet Union.

But the Marshall Plan, which has split the world into two hostile camps, is also not securing American world domination. True, the United States has tightened its control over the shaky capitalist countries of Western Europe and Latin America, but it has not succeeded in cowering the Soviet Union, nor in crushing the great democratic movements in Europe and the vast liberation struggles in the colonial world. Nor will it succeed.

American imperialism cannot intimidate the peoples of the world, nor can it buy them with the Marshall Plan.

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In growing desperation the Wall Street monopolists are now preparing for war against the U.S.S.R. They

hope to secure by military action the world domination which they could not get through diplomatic, financial and political pressures. This is the meaning of the Government's present great war budget, its feverish expansion of the armed forces, its air bases all over the world, its peacetime draft law, its cultivation of fascist groupings here and abroad, and its truculent foreign policies. The American people had better wake up before the Wall Street jingoes plunge our country into the nameless horrors of a third world war.

To stop the war drive of Wall Street imperialism is the major task of the world's democratic forces. In this the American people bear the heaviest responsibility. Especially is this true of the labor movement. Those trade union leaders who are supporting the Marshall Plan and the aggressive foreign policy of American imperialism are violating the most sacred interests of the working class and the American people, both at home and abroad.

As for the Democratic and Republican Parties, they are both dominated by Wall Street, their candidates and platforms were dictated by Big Business, and both are committed to American imperialism's policy of world conquest.

A vote for either Truman or Dewey means a vote for eventual fascism and war.

The new Progressive Party offers the opportunity for the forces fight-

ing for peace and against inflation and fascism, to organize and express their strength. Its national ticket, Wallace and Taylor, will rally hosts of workers, Negroes, farmers, veterans, women, youth, intellectuals and other patriotic Americans who are determined that our people shall not be butchered for the profit and glory of Wall Street.

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The new party is shattering the deadly two-party system which for generations has politically paralyzed the working class.

The worth of the new party is proved by the ferocity with which the warmongers and Red-baiters are attacking it. They are brazen liars who charge that the Communist Party is trying to dominate the new party or to claim the credit for its formation. The Progressive Party is the result of 100 years of struggle by the progressive forces for a great mass party of the people. It was created by millions of workers and other toilers, disillusioned by the two old parties and in bitter need for a mass political weapon against the warmongers.

The Progressive Party is in no sense a Communist Party. While supporting its program of people's demands, we Communists have many points of difference with it and we do not hesitate to express them. The most important of these points of difference is that while many leaders

in the Progressive Party believe that the badly crippled world capitalist system can be saved and transformed into "progressive capitalism," we Marxist-Leninists do not. Capitalism historically is on its way off the world stage.

The central meaning of the times in which we live is that the capitalist system is hopelessly breaking down. The world's peoples are on the march to socialism, and all the gold and bayonets of Wall Street cannot stop them.

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In these crucial days all the defenders of world peace and the people's living standards and civil liberties must stand together, regardless of differences on long-range social objectives. It is either such a broad peace unity or surrender to the warmongers. And the people of America and the world will never surrender.

The present wholesale arrest of Communists is an attack upon the broad peace movement, especially the new party. The bipartisan Government wants to silence the strong clear peace voice of the Communists. It wants to outlaw our Party so that it may then terrorize every progressive movement, so that it may proceed more rapidly to fascism and war, as Hitler did in Germany.

The defense of the rights of the Communists is the fight to maintain world peace, to keep our country out of the deadly swamp of fascism. The people defeated the infamous Mundt

Bill. They will also smash this attempt to shatter the Bill of Rights by outlawing the Communist Party.

The world awaits anxiously the outcome of our national elections. For the fate of humanity will be at stake. The peace forces have the power to deal the bipartisan warmongers a smashing blow, if they will but unite and vote together. This election must be a great victory for peace and democracy.

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Let me say in conclusion that the 14th National Convention of the Communist Party meets in full realization of the critical situation of the world as a result of the drive of American imperialism for world domination. It knows that the forces of world democracy are far stronger than any possible combination of world reaction that Wall Street can organize and that they will fight resolutely against the fascism and war that Wall Street is coldbloodedly planning.

And above all, our Party knows that if American imperialism, despite the resistance of the peace forces, should succeed in launching a new world war, this crime would seal the doom of world capitalism. For the outraged peace-loving masses would then put an end to the obsolete capitalist system and speed on faster than ever to their inevitable goal of socialism.

This election will mark a great turning point for our country and

the world. We must not allow ourselves to be blinded by jingoistic slogans, nor permit ourselves to be intimidated by the threats of the reactionaries.

All those who are for peace and democracy and against inflation must boldly stand up and be counted. And

in order to vote intelligently, the great fact they must understand is that the ruthless bipartisan expansionist policy of American imperialism, by threatening the peace of the world, deeply violates the most profound national interests of the American people.