

Ercoli Writes On Civil War

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*Gives a Profound Analysis
of the Struggle of
Spanish People*

By Alberto Moreau

ERCOLI'S profound analysis of the Spanish Revolution renders an immeasurable service not only to the heroic people of Spain but to all progressive people who are menaced by fascist barbarism, whether directly or indirectly. For the contents of this excellently written pamphlet helps tremendously toward an essential understanding of the character of the Spanish Revolution and the class forces in struggle in Spain, thus facilitating our task of rallying a mighty mass support for Spanish democracy in the United States.

Ercoli tells us in the most convincing manner that the struggle of the Spanish people bears definitely the character of a national revolutionary war. This reveals a deep and correct understanding of the present historic stage of the Spanish Revolution for the obvious reason that the Nazi and Italian fascist aggressions menace the national integrity of the Spanish people, and this menace is particularly acute for the Catalonians, Basques and Galicians who have been nationally oppressed and are now determined to throw in their lot with the forces of the people as the best guarantees of securing their national freedom through the victory of the People's Front.

The people of Spain are in the process of solving the bourgeois democratic revolution. "The workers, peasants, intellectuals and lower middle class people, and even certain groups of the bourgeoisie, have taken their stand in defense of freedom and the republic," says Ercoli. It is primarily a struggle against the remnants of feudalism which hinder the further development of the country, enslave the people and condemn them to a backward economic, social and cultural life.

This task is being carried out in a new way. In the fire of the war against fascism, the people organized a people's army. They confiscated the property of the landlords and the capitalists who sided with counter-revolution, all this is proceeding in the midst of armed struggle.



A FURTHER SPECIAL characteristic of the Spanish Revolution is the forging of working class hegemony. For the first time in Spanish history, great contingents of anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist workers are learning, in the fire of civil war, the great Marxist-Leninist teaching of breaking away from disastrous "neutrality" to the political struggles of the proletariat, and from opposition to the People's Front Government. Much of the weakness revealed since the outbreak of the counter-revolution is to be ascribed to the harmful preaching of "collectivization," "abolition of money" and "organized indiscipline" which weakened the solidarity and unity of the Peoples Front.

The analysis of the condition of the Spanish peasantry and their position in the present struggle, is another valuable contribution made by Ercoli. The entry of the peasants into active struggle and with it the unfolding of the agrarian revolution—is inevitable. That this revolutionary ally of the proletariat is moving in this direction is shown by the guerrilla warfare being carried on by the peasants in Galicia.

Ercoli's pamphlet helps us to understand the historical significance of the Spanish Revolution. In my opinion, the Spanish Revolution should be studied and read together with Gannes-Repard's book "Revolt in Spain," as the latter supplies a great deal of valuable material dealing with the historical background of the present heroic struggle of the Spanish people.

("The Spanish Revolution," by M. Ercoli, Workers' Library Publishers, 5 cents.)

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