

On the Three Worlds And The International Situation

Turmoil, conflict, crisis on many fronts mark the world situation today. Behind all this lies the deepening crisis of the imperialist system, the growing threat of war between the U.S. and USSR, and the developing revolutionary struggles of the world's peoples. The forms of struggle that break out on this basis are many and complicated. In 1974 the Arab countries and others in OPEC united with real success in using oil as a weapon against imperialist policies. Today various governments of the underdeveloped countries continue to press in the United Nations and in meetings like the recent so-called "North-South Conference" for many demands less advantageous to the imperialists, including for a "New International Economic Order."

Meanwhile there are new developments in the relations among imperialist countries. On the one hand the military alliances of NATO, headed by the U.S., and the Warsaw Pact, headed by the USSR, are strengthening as a part of imperialist war preparations. On the other, contradictions sharpen between the lesser partners within each alliance and the two superpowers that command them.

For example, during Jimmy Carter's recent trip to Europe for the summit of Western leaders, behind all the smiles and fine general proclamations, there was increasing conflict between the U.S. and Western Europe and Japan over such basic economic questions as trade and protectionism. Not long before, at last year's Berlin Conference of European revisionist parties the New Czars of the Soviet Union tried to play the role of orchestra conductor, waving the baton to harmonize the revisionist chords around the Soviet tune. But the tune soured as the various parties fought each other like crabs in a basket—each scrambling to advance their own bourgeois interests.

Complicated struggles like these underline dramatically the fact that although the fundamental conflict characterizing our era is the conflict between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, many other important contradictions arise in relation to this and become very sharp. It also underlines that while revolution is waged country by country, this does not happen independently, but in the context of worldwide developments. This is all the more true in a country like ours, an imperialist superpower whose reactionary tentacles reach around the world.

Worldwide United Front

In this situation the Chinese Communist Party has put forward the basic analysis that a worldwide united front should be built against imperialism, aimed particularly at the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR. And more recently, as one aspect of this general line, the CCP has put forward the analysis that the world's countries are today divided into three groups or "worlds." The First World is the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and USSR. The Second World is made up of the lesser capitalist and imperialist countries (including the revisionist countries other than the USSR), particularly the European countries and Japan. These countries are themselves part of, but not the heart of, the target of the worldwide united front against imperialism but, at the same time, they have contradictions with the superpowers. The Third World is made up of the underdeveloped countries that have been victimized by colonialism and neo-colonialism, a group making up a large majority of the world's countries and peoples. This analysis, particularly the latter or three worlds aspect has been the subject of important discussion recently both in the U.S. and worldwide.

The Three Worlds Analysis

This three worlds analysis gives, in our view, a correct appraisal of the general role that *countries*, or groupings of countries, are playing today on the world scale. As such it is one important part of the more general worldwide united front line. It is part of making use of all contradictions and for isolating to the extreme the two superpowers, who are to the same degree and the same extent the main enemies of the world's peoples. Of course there can be no absolute categories, and within each of these "worlds" there are contradictory forces and tendencies, but the existence of these broad groupings is rooted in the class nature of the countries involved and the development and laws of the imperialist system, as well as its general features today.

Especially in the context of growing superpower contention leading towards war, it is certainly true that in the final analysis the people of these countries cannot achieve real freedom from the grip of the imperialist superpowers, let alone domestic exploiters, without revolutionary struggle and the final achievement of the

rule of the proletariat. But short of that even the exploiting class governments of the Third World and even of the Second World, do in different ways *resist* superpower domination, and, especially in the case of Third World countries, there is a trend of uniting to strengthen this resistance—and such resistance is an important characteristic of the struggle on a world scale today.

The three worlds analysis, as part of the general line of the united front against imperialism aimed particularly against the two superpowers, contributes to the revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples against every imperialist and reactionary ruling class, because the two superpowers it targets and seeks to isolate are the two most powerful and main kingpins of the world imperialist system. Anything that weakens them weakens the entire imperialist system and brings the revolutionary victory of the people of all countries that much closer.

This analysis is also a weapon against superpower propaganda and the efforts of each superpower to strengthen alliances or blocs of countries under its control as a part of the sharpening contention between them that is leading toward war. From Jimmy Carter and Andy Young to Leonid Brezhnev and Fidel Castro, the imperialists and their point men spread promises and lies of "common interests" between each superpower and its victims. In pursuing plunder, they speak of common economic interests and, offering local collaborators a bit of the spoils, they say the only way to develop economically is to tie onto their superpower coattails. Militarily they try to round up and consolidate junior partners and gather cannon fodder, as they speak of common military interests in opposing the aggression of the other superpower.

The U.S. imperialists carry out this dirty work under the smokescreen of dividing the world between the "communist world" and the "free world" and their role as "leader" of the latter. The Soviets, newer and less exposed as imperialists, speak loudly of a world split between imperialist reaction and a "socialist camp," with them at the head of the latter, of course. They present themselves as the "natural ally" of all those struggling against imperialism, as they scheme to replace U.S. imperialism as chief overlord in every corner of the world.

The three worlds analysis is a blow at both of these self-serving superpower world views and their efforts to tighten up countries under their gangster-style protection. It hits particularly hard at the revisionist line, which is less exposed internationally than the older lies of the U.S. It lays bare that while there are certainly socialist countries, there has been no socialist camp as such since the Soviet Union has degenerated into capitalism, and far from being a "natural ally" in-

the struggle against imperialism, the USSR has become one of the two greatest imperialist exploiters.

The program of building a worldwide united front aimed at the two superpowers is not a substitute for, nor in contradiction to, the revolutionary struggles of the workers and oppressed nations, but is a line for uniting and advancing the worldwide struggles of various kinds against the two superpowers. As such it is a part of the struggle for proletarian revolution throughout the world. The three worlds analysis, as an important part of this general line, basically in the realm of the role of states, also contributes to this same goal.

It is the duty of the international proletariat in the arena of international struggle to encourage, assist and support all forces, even bourgeois forces, in whatever resistance they put up to domination by both superpowers. This helps throw up obstacles to the formation of imperialist war blocs, delays the outbreak of war, and thus gives more time and more favorable conditions to develop the revolutionary struggle either before or during a world war. This is particularly true for the proletariat in power in the socialist countries where there is both the necessity and the ability to deal with and influence many bourgeois governments. But it is also true—though often in different ways—for the proletariat where it is still waging the revolutionary struggle for state power. Marxist-Leninist tactics include that in order to defeat a powerful enemy we must make use of cracks and crevices no matter how small in the enemies' ranks.

Of course, the need to take into account these broad outlines of world forces, centering on the role of countries—essential as it is—is not a substitute for Marxist-Leninist forces in each country carrying out further class analysis and basing themselves on analyzing the role of the class forces *within* each country. This is because, although the context for the revolutionary struggles is the world situation (of which the three worlds analysis reflects an important aspect), revolution is waged and won country by country and in today's world requires the leadership of the working class and its party in every country.

Countries and Classes

To fail to do this would be in fact to present the struggle of *countries* as the main force in the international struggle. It would be in essence to deny that countries are divided into classes and that bourgeois forces rule the non-socialist countries. This would be to deny the decisive role of the masses of people and reduce the working class to a subordinate role to the bourgeoisie, a tail wagged behind the bourgeois dog.

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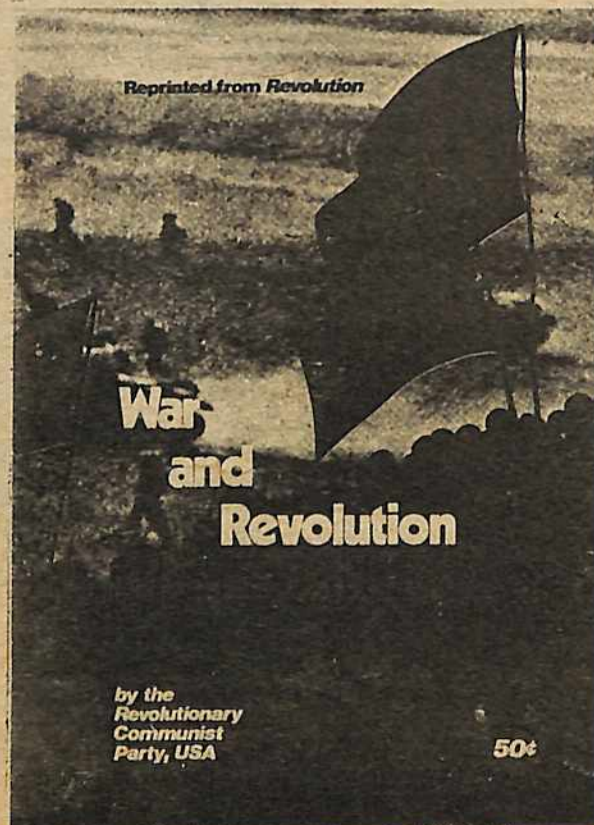
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In today's world this means the working class in all countries must actively build and give leadership to the struggle against superpower domination. It means even supporting certain moves of reactionary governments that objectively oppose or weaken the superpowers, while opposing moves that aid or strengthen one or the other—or both—of the superpowers. But this does not and must not *replace* its struggle against its own ruling class.

As the *Programme* of the RCP says, "The working class of all countries faces the task of building the broadest united front, on a world scale, aimed at the ruling classes of these two superpowers, while at the same time uniting all who can be united within each country to continue the battle for socialist revolution. The working class and its Party has to learn how to correctly combine these tasks, so that it neither narrows the international united front nor loses sight of the goal of socialism." (p. 72)

In light of this, it is important to examine more deeply the class forces at work within these groups of countries.

Third World

The countries of the Third World, predominately Asia, Africa and Latin America, are those countries that have been victims of colonial or neocolonial plunder by imperialist powers, and where, because of this, the goal of the struggle is first to unite all patriotic classes under the leadership of the working class to achieve national liberation and "new democracy," bringing down feudal and imperialist oppression—and then, as the second stage, move on to socialist revolution. These countries have been ravished and held back by the imperialists who have held them in chains as a source of cheap raw materials and labor and a giant source of profit. But more than this, these countries have been the scene of powerful, and often armed, struggle against imperialism.

Since World War 2, these nations have been the storm center of the world revolution and the struggles of the peoples in these areas have been the main force striking at the imperialist system. This has given powerful support and impetus to the struggles of the workers and other progressive forces inside the imperialist countries themselves. The powerful victories of the Vietnamese and the Indochinese peoples profoundly changed the world, greatly weakening U.S. imperialism which had been the king of the imperialist heap since World War 2.

In addition to these popular revolutionary struggles, particularly with the relative decline of U.S. imperialism and the rise of Soviet social imperialism contending through the world with the U.S., many governments of Third World countries, even reactionary governments, have to one degree or other taken advantage of this situation to push for more independence. Such actions, while not striking the same powerful blows as mass revolutionary movements, have further weakened the imperialists.

Concessions won by raw materials producers' associations, particularly in oil, have hit at the imperialists' "scissors policy" through which they rip off superprofits by buying raw materials cheap from the underdeveloped countries, and selling them manufactured goods at a high price. And the broad demand raised by many of these countries for what they call a "new economic order" to change all this should also be supported. While there can be no genuine new economic order in the world until imperialism is overthrown by proletarian revolution, the struggles conducted under this signboard hit at reactionary imperialist policies, win concessions and can help further isolate the imperialists.

As long as imperialism exists, such gains will tend to

be reversed: And recently, aided by the reactionary class nature and capitulation of many Third World governments, the imperialists have succeeded, for example, in cutting into many of the earlier gains in the pricing structure. Some sections of the imperialists, like the oil companies, have even tried to take advantage of Third World struggles to strengthen their own position—by raising their own prices at the same time. But even for these imperialists this simply amounts to trying to make the best of a bad situation, and overall these moves by Third World governments have weakened the imperialists, affecting their trade balances and in other ways.

Support All Moves Against Imperialism

These are all reasons that even such limited moves against imperialism should be supported. It is to lend such support to all these struggles that China has made a point of stating that she is a developing socialist country belonging to the Third World. This does not mean that the basic distinction between China and countries ruled by exploiting classes should be blurred. China is socialist and this is qualitatively different from the great majority of these Third World countries. But China does share with them the same recent legacy of being colonized and thus does face the common problem of overcoming enforced backwardness. China's revolutionary path, first establishing independence and new democracy and then in a second stage moving on to socialism, stands as a model for the peoples of these countries, that only such a revolutionary process, led by the proletariat, can lead to fundamental changes and victories against imperialism.

The workers of the imperialist countries must also support all resistance from the Third World to imperialist domination. Most fundamentally this means giving support to the revolutionary struggles of the workers and peasants there against imperialism and local reactionaries. But even governments of the Third World which are completely reactionary in relation to their own people and which are dependent on imperialism also have contradictions to one degree or another with imperialism, exactly because they are dependent. These are like contradictions between big dogs and little dogs, each fighting for a bigger share of exploitation of the people. Though such forces cannot and will not fight for complete and fundamental independence from imperialism, to the extent their contradictions with big imperialist powers weaken these powers, they must be supported.

Building such support, while exposing the class basis for the actions of such governments, is especially important for the working class in the United States, where, for example, the government is constantly spreading poison about "rich and greedy Arabs" causing crisis and every sort of economic problem, so as to shift the blame away from themselves and whip up public support for new attacks on peoples and countries all over the world.

But for the U.S. proletariat to support, for instance, the Shah of Iran to the extent that, as a member of OPEC, Iran struggles against imperialist plunder, does not mean putting such support above support for the revolutionary struggles of the Iranian people to defeat imperialism and overthrow the Shah. It certainly does not mean extending support to U.S. arms shipments to the Shah. And it most definitely does not mean that the masses of Iranian people should stop their struggle to overthrow the Shah and smash the domination of Iran by the U.S. imperialists, the ultimate masters behind the Shah; nor does it mean that the U.S. working class can lessen in any way its support of the Iranian people in this struggle.

Conflicts between bourgeois Third World governments and the imperialists, though significant, do not change the fact that these governments cannot and will not fight for complete independence from imperialism, and that the backbone of the struggle for national independence is the workers and peasants of those countries. Resolving the contradictions between the

imperialists and these countries can only mean a new democratic revolution led by the working class in solid alliance with the peasants. In such a struggle, other classes, including professionals and even small factory owners and other bourgeois elements (the national bourgeoisie) can and must be united with against the imperialist enemy.

Working Class Must Lead

Even when the national bourgeoisie, not the working class, has leadership of the independence struggle, "the proletariat unites with them insofar as they continue to oppose imperialism. But only the working class and its Party can lead the struggle forward to thoroughly defeat imperialism, achieve socialism and eliminate all exploitation." (*Programme* of the RCP, p. 74)

This truth was underscored by the tragic events in Indonesia of 1965. The Communist Party of Indonesia has summed up in a self-criticism the grave error of tailing behind the national bourgeoisie, led by Sukarno, and not struggling for leadership or preparing the masses politically or militarily to wage the revolutionary struggle for liberation. As a result, the Party and the masses were unprepared when a reactionary coup took place and hundreds of thousands of revolutionary masses were butchered. This lesson definitely remains true today.

Although the sharp contention between the two superpowers has been one of the factors allowing bourgeois governments in the Third World more room to increase their independence, it also exerts tremendous pressures on these countries. The imperialists capitalize on the economic backwardness they themselves have imposed on these countries, and offer the bait of aid with strings attached, saying that only through such "aid" and not through self-reliance can these countries achieve relatively rapid economic development. And the bourgeoisies of these countries tend to be vulnerable to such bait, because while some may oppose imperialism, they are not strong enough to stand up to the imperialists themselves while they fear and are not able to fully mobilize the masses of people in their country. And, of course, they themselves are exploiters, and even in strengthening their own hand against the superpowers they strengthen exploiting class rule—this is why support for their actions can only be given insofar as the main aspect of them is to weaken the imperialists. As the final goal, their rule must be replaced by the rule of the working class and they must, as a class, be eliminated.

The superpowers often practice military subversion and blackmail against these countries and then, gangster style, offer up their "protection" as salvation from the other superpower's military power—and bourgeois forces in these countries, due to their nature, are vulnerable to this. Such tricks on the part of both superpowers stand out sharply today in southern Africa.

These kinds of pressures will become sharper all the time as superpower contention sharpens toward war. Each superpower will struggle all the more desperately to grab complete control for itself of strategic resources, such as oil, and strategic locations near shipping lanes, etc.—again southern Africa is a sharp case in point.

Under such heavy pressure, the class forces in these countries will tend even more sharply to split into two. Landlords and sections of the bourgeoisie will tend to cave in to pressure and line up with one superpower or another. The proletariat and masses of peasants, with correct leadership from a Marxist-Leninist party representing the working class, will resolutely oppose imperialism and must rally others to their banner. The situation may be complicated by the fact that one wing of the big bourgeoisie and landlords that is fronting for one group of imperialists may for a period, under certain circumstances, objectively be on the same side as the revolutionary forces—opposed to the country's main imperialist enemy at the time. Such was the case in China when Chiang Kai-shek, a lackey of U.S. imperialism, was at least partly fighting Japan.

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ese imperialism, which was the Chinese people's main oppressor for a certain stage in the struggle. But history has shown that such unity is very transitory and unstable and that the interests of such hatchmen of imperialists and those of the masses in the Third World are fundamentally opposed.

In this complex and changing situation in the Third World it is important in the U.S. to arm the workers with a clear understanding of the class basis of events, while aiming the spearhead of struggle at imperialism and, in our country particularly, at the U.S. rulers. It is crucial to carry out the policy spelled out in our Party's *Programme*: "The working class, while supporting the resistance of the governments to imperialist, especially superpower, domination, gives its fundamental support to the masses of people and assists in every way possible their struggle to win complete independence from imperialism and overthrow all exploiters. Against the imperialists, especially the two superpowers, the proletariat supports even the exploiting class governments in the Third World who resist them. Against these governments, the proletariat supports the revolutionary struggle of the people, and in so doing gives the greatest support to the fight against imperialism." (p. 76)

Second World

Fundamentally different from the Third World countries are the countries of the Second World which are *capitalist and imperialist* countries. As pointed out earlier, the ruling classes of these countries are part of, though not the heart of, the target of the worldwide united front against imperialism.

But because they are *lesser* capitalist and imperialist powers, particularly militarily, than the U.S. and the USSR, these countries are to varying degrees bullied and dominated by the superpowers. Since World War 2, Western Europe and Japan have been dominated by the U.S. The U.S. dollar became the international monetary standard and U.S. companies set up shop and grabbed huge shares of the market in these countries. U.S. economic domination was towering, accounting for 70% of total Western production in the period just following World War 2. But especially with the long and draining defeat of the U.S. in Indochina, changes began to take place. European and Japanese imperialists took advantage of the U.S. decline to assert themselves and show some economic independence. By 1970 U.S. production only amounted to 49% of the Western total.

At the same time, the Soviets capitalized on the U.S. defeats to step in. As one measure of this, Soviet trade with Western Europe doubled in the years 1973-75, a rate of increase higher than that of the U.S. Politically the Soviets make use of revisionist parties in these countries, and they have moved dramatically to strengthen their military forces in the Warsaw Pact.

The U.S. has not gone to sleep in the face of this situation and, especially since the Indochina defeats, has turned more to Europe, concentrating still more investment there and moving to tighten up the NATO military alliance under its domination. The U.S. controls or penetrates entire economic sectors—one third of oil refining, 25% of the auto market, 70% of electronics and computers.

Today Europe, with its vast productive forces, is the focus for the contention between the U.S. and

USSR. In this situation, to the extent that these Second World countries resist superpower contention for domination, they aid the worldwide struggle. Such resistance weakens the superpowers' hold, weakens alliances and thus helps delay the outbreak of war, and creates more unstable political and economic conditions, which are favorable to the growth of revolutionary struggle.

Of course the class basis of the conflict between the Second World countries and the superpowers is nothing but competing drives for profits, competition for exploitation of the workers of the imperialist countries, and competition in sucking the wealth from the countries of the Third World. While aspects of this conflict assist the worldwide struggle under today's conditions, it is clear that these Second World imperialists must also be fought by the peoples of the world, and only socialist revolution in these countries can resolve the contradictions between these capitalists and all those they exploit and oppress.

Not a Fight for Independence

For these Second World imperialist countries the struggle for national independence is not a stage in the struggle as it is in the colonial or semi-colonial countries of the Third World. But an aspect of what characterizes these countries as part of the Second World is the possibility, in the course of a world war, that some or even all of them could be militarily occupied by one or another superpower. Should this occur, clearly the main target of the revolutionary struggle would shift from what it is today—the monopoly capitalists of the country—to the new imperialist ruling class holding power in each country. But even this would not mean, as in the underdeveloped countries, that an entire stage, analogous to "new democracy," would have to be passed through before advancing to socialist revolution. And more than this, it would be dead wrong today in these countries to take the possibility of military occupation to mean that it is *only through the fight for independence* that the proletariat will be able to advance to socialism.

Such a line would in fact be letting the Second World imperialists off the hook. It would mean communists abandoning the goal of winning the workers in these countries—and specifically winning them away from the revisionist parties which hold considerable sway in the working class in a number of these countries—on the basis of their *class* interests and instead relying on or competing with the bourgeoisie of these countries to "win" the workers on the basis of "national interest." This is a sure road to revisionism and to defeat.

Lenin put it clearly that in the imperialist countries national ideology is a tool "now being utilized in a totally different and imperialist epoch by the sophists of the bourgeoisie, and by the traitors to socialism who are following in their wake, so as to split the workers, and divert them from their class aims and from the revolutionary struggle against the bourgeoisie." (Lenin, "Conference of the R.S.D.L.P. Groups Abroad," *Collected Works*, Vol. 21, p. 160)

And while not organizing under the national flag in these countries, still less can communists support imperialist military alliances, specifically NATO in the West European countries or the Warsaw Pact in Eastern Europe in the name of "preserving national independence." The existence of NATO, and the strengthening under U.S. domination it is undergoing today, is clear testimony to the fact that, while these West European countries do, to an extent, have contradictions with the superpowers, "they do not oppose both superpowers, but are basically in the camp of U.S. imperialism (although it is not inconceivable that some

could try to switch their eggs to Moscow's basket if they thought it opportune, just as Italy changed sides in the middle of World War 1)." ("War and Revolution" pamphlet, p. 31, and *Revolution*, August 15, 1976)

In the course of a war between the U.S. and USSR it is very unlikely that any significant number of lesser imperialist countries would fail to line up in one or another superpower war bloc. This underscores the reactionary nature of these imperialist countries, and the fact that the main task of the proletariat of these countries is to overthrow their own bourgeoisies. And for the U.S. proletariat, while we support the Second World countries in their conflicts with the superpowers, our fundamental internationalist duty is to support the workers of these countries in their revolutionary struggle aimed today mainly at their own ruling classes.

Tool of Class Analysis

In this complicated world situation, to create clarity out of confusion, to advance its revolutionary interests, it is crucial for the proletariat to use the tool of class analysis, both on a world scale and within each country. This is precisely the method by which the Marxist-Leninists in each country can correctly combine their tasks in the broad world context with what is overall their main task—waging the revolutionary struggle in their own country, mobilizing and relying on the masses and carrying forward this fight through whatever necessary stages to the final goal of socialism and communism.

Can the proletariat internationally fail to take into account the three worlds analysis? No, it cannot. Can the proletariat see the three worlds analysis as a substitution for, rather than a part of, the general line of worldwide united front against imperialism? No, it cannot. It must work to build the international united front against imperialism, aimed now at the ruling classes of the two superpowers, to isolate and weaken the main international enemies to the greatest degree, throw obstacles in the path of superpower war alliances, and create the most favorable conditions for revolution, even in the event of war. Can the three worlds analysis decide and govern the revolutionary strategy in every country? No, it cannot. Such a strategy can only be arrived at and carried out country by country by using the method of concrete analysis—class analysis—of concrete conditions in each country, in the context of the international situation. And such a strategy cannot be developed by simply formulating an alignment of countries on a world scale, nor can the main enemy in any situation simply be determined by such a method.

In a complex world situation, Marxist-Leninists in every country, in short, must think. The Chinese put it well in "A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement." While this statement was made in a different context, in the course of a polemic against the Soviet revisionists, the method it advocates applies today. Winning revolutionary victory requires, as they put it, that "... a party that can use its brains to think for itself and acquire an accurate knowledge of the trends of the different classes in its own country through serious investigation and study, and knows how to apply the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism and integrate it with the concrete practice of its own country." (p. 56, FLP)

Using this method, the Marxist-Leninists in each country will be able to fully carry out their proletarian internationalist duties, including their greatest contribution to the worldwide struggle—leading the masses in their country in overthrowing their own exploiters and swelling the ranks of the worldwide march toward socialism and communism. ■

Rulings...

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ed this Ohio law, suing to collect his benefits.

The highest court in the land held that Ohio's law was constitutional and rejected the worker's suit, saying that although the unemployment insurance laws are supposed to protect workers "involuntarily unemployed," this does not mean that the state must give benefits to everybody who is! The law denying benefits, the court said, gives "rough justice" to struck bosses. Making the employer pay into the unemployment fund for the workers he laid off would be "penalizing" the company when it is "not at fault."

Like the New York decision, this ruling had a greater effect than just saving the big monopolies millions of dollars. It is an open attempt to pit worker against worker and isolate and weaken workers who go out on strike. The steel companies own many coal mines, the auto giants own key parts plants, and so on. The right of states to pass and enforce such "starve 'em into submission" laws has been affirmed at the precise time that rank and file contact and organization on an industry-wide level are starting to expand.

All these decisions are naturally cloaked in a bunch of rhetoric about "justice" and the government's "neu-

trality" between labor and "management." But if anyone is waiting for the courts to apply the same standards of "justice" and rule, say, that using cops, who are paid out of workers' taxes, to herd scabs across picket lines constitutes "unconstitutional government interference" and "penalizes" strikers, they're in for one hell of a long wait. The courts exist to dispense the "justice" of the capitalists they serve. The "free" in the "free collective bargaining" they talk about is like the "free" in "free enterprise." What it means is freedom for the bosses to pit the might of all the wealth they have stolen against handcuffed and divided workers, freedom for the workers to take whatever the boss offers or starve.

In short, the only right upheld by either decision is the right of the owning class to bleed the workers for its profits, as the courts' use of "fairness" to the employers as their key standard in both cases shows. These attacks stem directly from the crisis situation the ruling class finds itself in and although aimed specifically at employed workers, are closely tied to other recent attacks on the unemployment laws, like Carter's bill to cut benefits and force the unemployed to take any job offered, even if the wages are only a fraction of what they used to get or need. The new decisions are part and parcel of an overall attempt to force down the wages and living standards of the entire working class, divide the workers, and to prevent or crush resistance to such attacks; they must be understood and fought as such. ■

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