

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Soviet Union Holds Key To War Moves

The Soviet Union holds the key to the next step in the world imperialist war. While American and Japanese Imperialism engage each other in armed battle in the Asiatic Pacific waters, and British and German Imperialism battle in Northern Africa, the Soviet Union's disposition of its armed, diplomatic and political weight becomes the target of the eyes of the world.

In Europe, for the first time since 1933, Hitler is suffering a major set back. From Leningrad in the north to the Sea of Azov in the south, his forces on the whole thousand mile front are being hurled backwards. It is no wonder that Hitler is reported to be advised by his doctor to take a "rest cure."

### WONT STAY BEATEN

The "invincible" forces of Nazi Germany, which overran the Baltic area, the Low Countries, France, and the Balkan area, now meet a force they cannot understand: it does not "recognize international law" (shades of Hitler's promises!), it refuses to stay "beaten."

The terrible power of an aroused, armed working-class (even though only partially), factory workers and peasants, carries on war together with the regular Red Army forces, and even without them.

The bitter weather is doubtless a serious element in the defeats now suffered by the German army, with tank and machine parts cracking, fuel freezing, and parts replacements obtainable only from great distances behind the lines, which requires time.

### COLD NOT THE ONLY FACTOR

But it is not the decisive factor, as can be seen by the German's fate in Rostov, at the eastern end

of southern Ukraine, where the weather is comparatively warmer than in the Moscow - Leningrad area of the north. There the combined might of an aroused populace and the Red Army forces re-captured Rostov from the Nazi army.

The Stalinist Government and the army leadership, unfortunately, seem to be overestimating the  
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## \$200 Per Boo

An appetizer for the war hysteria that is being built up is the case of the worker, a welder by trade and Republican in politics, who booed Roosevelt's picture when it flashed onto the screen in a Chicago news-reel theatre last week.

He was set upon by 7 super-patriots and given a good beating. Then a U. S. marshall sitting near-by arrested him for "disorderly conduct."

The case came up in court Monday, Dec. 15, the 150th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. The sentence: "\$200 per boo."

## PEARL HARBOR

After 8 days censorship, Navy Secretary Knox finally revealed some of the details of the Pearl Harbor affair. It is not our task or intention to discuss the how and why of the reasons for both the army and navy being caught napping. But Roosevelt's appointment of a five man board of army and navy officials headed by Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberts does call for comment.

The first attempt of the Administration to hush up the matter proved impossible as the news of the scope of the scandal seeped through the censorship. Plans for congressional investigation were launched.

The administration announcement of an investigation succeeded in bringing a suspension of these plans, which threatened too much publicity.

It is obvious from the way the board was selected, after consultation with Secretary Knox, Admiral Stark, Secretary Stimson, and Gen. Marshall, that its whole inclination will lie in the direction of placing the blame somewhere below cabinet members and the top ranking army and navy officials. A whitewash is in the making.

Far more valuable and revealing  
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## Waller Wins New Reprieve

A new stay of execution has been granted Odell Waller, Virginia sharecropper, to March 20, 1942. Further legal action has been taken by Thomas H. Stone, senior defense counsel, who has deposited a petition for habeas corpus with the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, and will formally file the petition on January 12.

It will probably be acted on soon after. If the petition is granted, the case will be remanded to Pittsylvania County for a new trial. Otherwise, the case will be taken to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The new stay is another victory in the fight for Odell Waller's freedom. Most important, it presents a new opportunity to organ-  
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# Whose War Is It ?

Japan's sudden attack on Pearl Harbor, despite the heavy military losses it meant for the American ruling class, nevertheless succeeded in destroying at one blow the entire isolationist capitalist argument. Isolationist vied with isolationist in proclaiming full support to the war: Wheeler, Lindbergh, Hoover, General Wood, Senator Nye, etc., etc.

Thus was confirmed the statement in the **Fighting Worker** of August 13, 1941:

**"Wheeler and his tribe deserve the highest awards of Wall Street. As self appointed leaders of the American masses' opposition to the war drive, they have served as lightning rods to divert this opposition from real expression. They have corrupted the healthy working class sentiment against the war; and have made of this sentiment a tool in the inter-capitalist fights for position and profit."**

The "conversion" of the isolationists plays beautifully into the hands of the war jingoes. If even Wheeler and Lindbergh and the Chicago Tribune support the war, it must be justified, and you, the worker, should support it. So runs the propaganda.

As a matter of fact, Wake, Midway, Guam, the Philippines, and Hawaii, are thousands of miles out in the Pacific, geographically a part of the Asiatic continent. Only the imperialist minded can think of these island possessions as part of the 48 states. No worker has investments there.

We can readily understand and support the struggles of the natives there against domination by Japanese imperialism; but in the same way we can understand and support their struggle for the right to determine their own destiny, against domination by **any imperialism**, including Wall St.

The isolationists capitulated on even their own arguments. Not even they had tried to contend that these **islands** would not be attacked. But their denunciations of the war-mongers was not a real

opposition to the imperialist war; inflation, etc.

they opposed the undeclared war on Germany, but favored it on Japan. Furthermore, their fight on foreign policy (as well as internal policy: labor policy, extent of government control, etc.) in reality reflected the giant rivalries within the ruling class for supremacy.

## SKIN DEEP

For this reason the newly heralded "national unity" is only skin deep. The conflict among the rulers of America for the dominant positions continues unabated. On-

## Lenin On Imperialism

There can be no other conceivable basis, under capitalism, for the partitioning of spheres of influence, of interest, of colonies, etc., than a calculation of the **strength** of the participants, their general economic, financial, military strength, etc. And strength among them is constantly varying, for there cannot be under capitalism, an **equal** development of different undertakings, trusts, branches of industry or countries... When the alignment of forces are modified, where, **under capitalism**, can the solution of contradictions be found if not in the resort to force?

— Lenin, "Imperialism, the Last Stage of Capitalism" (1916).

ly its forms have changed. The struggle has been pushed underground. It will break out in new and unexpected ways: in disputes **within** the administration, in hidden battles over financial and economic policy, etc.

In some cases it is already taking shape in the guise of criticisms of the inefficiency and laxness of the administration's war effort, (which should not be confused with working class criticism), and attempts to make use for their own ends of the resentment of the masses against the rising prices, priorities unemployment, taxes,

Who are the rulers of America, the titans who determine its imperialist policy?

## AMERICA'S SIXTY FAMILIES

Such material as "Rulers of America" by Anna Rochester, "America's Sixty Families" by Ferdinand Lundberg, Gustavus Myers' "History of Great American Fortunes", "The Modern Corporation and Private Property" by Berle and Means, the voluminous material of the Temporary National Economic Committee, and many others, all serve to throw light on this question. We will refer here to Lundberg's work, not yet successfully challenged or refuted after 5 years.

**"The United States is owned and dominated today by a hierarchy of its 60 richest families, buttressed by no more than 90 families of lesser wealth. Outside this plutocratic circle there are perhaps 350 other families, less defined in development of wealth, but accounting for most of the incomes of one hundred thousand dollars or more that do not accrue to the members of the inner circle."**

A single family like the DuPonts has several hundred members by intermarriage, about a dozen of whom receive extraordinary revenues from General Motors, the U. S. Rubber Company, E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co.

## INTERMARRIAGE

21 Rockefellers in 1934 had a total **taxable** income of 359 million dollars. 5 Harknesses got out of the Standard Oil Co., 450 millions. 3 Mellons got the same amount out of the Aluminum Co., J. P. Morgan and Co. yielded 728 millions to 34 members of the Morgan inner circle.

Most of these families have inter-married, and control these unbelievable fortunes through family alliances which in almost all cases guide the banks and the banking partnerships, who in turn control the corporations.

Certain families operate to a  
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# Soviet Union Key To War Moves

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victory. While it is true that serious headway has been made in lifting the danger of immediate capture of Moscow and Leningrad, and of the strategic Caucasian oilfields to which Rostov was the western key, tremendous territory remains to be recaptured. The whole of Ukraine, for instance, is yet in Nazi hands.

Nevertheless, the wide-scale retreat of the German army raises the question of what would happen if revolts behind the Nazi lines, and Red Army gains at the front should permit an offensive **into Germany itself**. Such a development would shake Stalinism to the core. It would raise the whole question of capitalist property relations in the heart of Europe. Stalinism would back down rather than face the joint imperialist threat that would develop.

## MEAGER "AID"

In the meantime, however, the British and American imperialists are perfectly willing to let the Soviet Union wear down German imperialism in Russia, while they send their forces to North Africa, Near East and Far Eastern points to fight off German and Japanese attacks on their colonial interests, and the growing danger of colonial revolution. They are also willing to let these steps be their answer to Stalinism's clamor for a western front, Hitler's "second front."

And they will continue to "aid" the S. U. — with the same wretched number of tanks, airplanes, etc., that they have been sending so far (despite the exaggerated pretences and unlimited promises of the Moscow conference, the billion-dollar "lease-lend" credits, etc.). Of course, they will explain that transportation difficulties, their own military needs, etc., etc., slow up the pace of shipment.

## U. S. WANTS BASES

American imperialism would like to see Stalin declare war on Japan so that the U. S. could go through the Soviet Union and get bases there (Vladivostok, etc.),

both for action against Japan now, and for a stronger position against Russia in the future. Neither Stalinism nor the Japanese capitalists are yet ready for the step, for opposite reasons. Where Japan hopes to clean up in Southern Asia and consolidate its hold before a Russo-Japanese war breaks. Stalin wants to avoid war with Japan at present so he can follow up the initial advantages against Hitler's forces.

The situation throws both Japan and the Soviet Union into contradiction with their promises to their "allies." Japan, a co-signer of the recently re-named and broadened "anti-comintern pact", in her own interests refuses to attack the USSR when Hitler would most wish it. And Stalinism, friend of the Anglo-American bloc, refuses to attack Japan when the U. S. could best use it.

## STALINISM AIDS CAPITALISTS

However, over and above the role that the USSR and Stalinism play in relation to the struggles among the imperialists, is the far more important question of their relation to the coming battles of the proletariat and colonial peoples **against** the imperialists. Were the Soviet Union under the control of Marxist internationalists, it could be today a decisive factor on a world scale to arouse the oppressed masses against the Nazi invasion of the Workers State, a

## PEARL HARBO?

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ing would be an investigation by the rank and file of the services involved. Such an investigation would go much further in establishing what was going on, and would be a step toward establishing a real workers democracy in the armed forces.

## A REAL INVESTIGATION

But why limit the investigation to Pearl Harbor? What we really need is an investigation of the secret diplomacy, the unpublished documents and deals that are the background of the Pearl Harbor attack.

against the imperialist slaughter, and for extension of the October Revolution throughout the world. With S.U. under Stalinist control, however, the exploiters' war is allowed to spread over wider and wider areas, and the unrest of the masses is oriented into national-chauvinist channels.

The support of the Roosevelt-Churchill 8 points by Stalin helps Wall Street and The City win the support of the American and British masses. Simultaneously it helps Hitler, Goebbels & Co. to restrain opposition of the German masses by pointing to the 8 points as a threat of a new and worse Versailles Treaty. The revolutionary edge of the struggles of the Balkan peoples, and even of the SOVIET MASSES, is blunted by shameful appeals to **Slavic nationalism**.

A revolutionary workingclass line demands mass fraternization, based on an appeal for a real Europe of peace, prosperity and fraternity of peoples, without German, English, American or other exploiters,— a SOCIALIST United States of Europe, part of a World Union of Workers Republics.

## NEED WORKING CLASS PROGRAM

Such a policy would immediately make the Soviet Union a revolutionary factor in world politics, not just a tail to the imperialists. But only Marxists, standing on a working class internationalist program can fight consistently for this perspective. The capitalists of the world "know their man" in their dealings with Stalinism; Wall Street can afford to let Litvinoff return again to Washington to be feted, dined and wined. The Soviet masses can lead the international proletariat in breaking thru the web of imperialist politics only by a decisive break with Stalinism.

Defend the Soviet Union by extending the Russian Revolution.

**FOR A NEW COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE SOVIET UNION**

# Whose War Is It?

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considerable extent without the main private banking partnerships. The Mellons work directly through the big Pittsburgh commercial banks which they control. The DuPonts have a family holding company, the Christiana Corporation, which according to John J. Raskob, gives them the greatest industrial participation of any family in the country. The Rockefellers functioned through the National City bank, later the Equitable Trust, and in 1929 transferred to the Chase National, the largest commercial bank in the nation. Ford enters the money market through National City and Detroit banks.

## BANKING PARTNERSHIPS

In the main, however, the dominant families work through the private banking partnerships such as: J. P. Morgan and Co., Kuhn Loeb and Co., Brown Brothers Harriman and Co., Lehman Brothers, Dillon Reed and Co., Bonbright and Co. (Morgan), Lazar Freres, Hallgarten and Co., etc.

The Morgan firm and its affiliated commercial banks act for the Vanderbilts, Goulds, Drexels, Wideners, Berwinds, Phippses, Hills, Dukes, Ryans, McCormicks, DuPonts, Fields, etc. Principal Morgan banks are the Guaranty Trust Co. of N. Y., First National Bank of N. Y., Bankers Trust Co., and the NY Trust Co. These four Morgan banks together outweigh both National City and Chase National, in total assets, deposits and resources.

## WHAT THEY CONTROL

The Morgan power includes about 51 banks and 86 non-banking corporations, with combined assets of 43 billion dollars, plus another 3 billion of foreign assets. Perhaps another 34 billion is under their influence, totalling in 1932, in the depression years over 72 billion dollars, or more than one fourth the American corporate wealth.

About 36 nonbanking corporations with assets totalling about 26 billions have some direct con-

nection with the Rockefellers.

The Mellon group dominates about 35 banks and insurance companies and about 40 non-banking corporations, with total assets of over 4 billion.

Part of the Rockefeller family holds stock in the National City Bank, altho the principal Rockefeller allegiance is with Chase National. The Stillman's, Taylors, and Pynes are in National City Bank. A. P. Gianinni, California banker, is the leading stockholder.

The second largest stockholder of National City is J. P. Morgan and Co.

This bank has over 75 foreign branches, no other American bank had even five. National City consequently corralled importing and exporting business and became a powerful factor in national policy.

All the financially dominant families are held together in their banking allegiance by a share in some major type of enterprise or economic province. But their fingers stray into many other profitable fields. Morgan dominates steel, coal and railroads; the Rockefellers control oil through Chase National; Lehman Brothers are identified with huge retail merchandising enterprises, and are also the bankers for Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation; Mellon banks rest mainly on aluminum, with oil, steel, coal, and railroads of subsidiary interest.

## PROFITS ARE KEYNOTE

These brief notes serve to suggest some of major forces in American economic life, forces that in the last analysis determine the policy

## WALLER

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ize the forces who have expressed willingness to aid Waller, an opportunity to widen the campaign. With reaction growing on all sides, increased efforts to defend the Negro sharecropper against the Southern Bourbon rulers, is an effective way of fighting for the democratic right of all workers, Negro and white. The fight for Waller's freedom is a blow against reaction, one of whose strongest bases is the South, from which come the most violent race-hating, labor-baiting Governors, Congressmen and Senators.

Action is needed NOW to organize, unite and widen the sentiment in defense of Odell Waller. In Chicago, the Waller Defense Committee recently held an affair to raise funds. Shortly after, on Dec. 8, a meeting was held to publicize the case. Many leaflets and Waller defense bulletins, called "For the Defense", were issued to the public, at performances of the play "Native Son", and elsewhere. A meeting is being planned for the near future, at which it is hoped to have Attorney Stone present the case.

and course of action of the government in office. These titans that rule America are not concerned with questions about "democracy", workers rights, self determination, 14 points or 8 points. Such formulas are only a cover in the struggle of one group against another for a bigger share of the profits, for a deciding voice in determining the policies which affect profits.

The call for "national unity" is a plea to the workers and farmers to unite themselves with these industrial barons and financial overlords; that is, to subordinate their own proletarian needs and interests to the so-called "national" profit-making interests of the exploiters.

As in Japan and in Germany; so also in America, finance capital and imperialism dominate the country.

(To be continued)

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