

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Imperialists Prepare For Spring Crisis Spread of War, Threatens Worst Mass Slaughter and Epidemics In History

Spring has come again and "in the name of humanity," the imperialists are about to release the biggest wave of man-made murder mankind has ever encountered.

A little reflection will bring to light the main outlines of the coming war strategy.

The offensive in the war remains with the Axis powers. Despite the setback to Germany on the eastern front, the Soviet offensive did not reach the proportions that the democratic propagandists claimed it would. Hitler has been able to retreat in good order, and prepare for a counter-offensive. Here and there the so-called winter line of the German imperialists has been breached, and the Red army has marched dozens of miles to the rear. But in the main, the line stands intact and the Nazi army is ready for new onslaughts.

### AXIS STRATEGY

The main Axis strategy, apparent even to the most casual observer, is to contact the Japanese imperialists at the point of the Indian ocean. Here it will either join hands in India itself or by conveying ships across the Indian ocean, it will be able — if their strategy works out — to exchange supplies and materials across the Indian ocean.

The Germans have three variants open to carry out their part of this bargain:

(1) They can push directly into the Russian Caucasus through Rostov and towards Baku, eventually moving into Afghanistan and India.

(2) They can smash into the Mediterranean, by-pass Turkey and launch an offensive from

Crete directly into Syria, Iran, and then into India. As an auxiliary of this move they would no doubt make an attempt to gain control of both Gibraltar and Suez.

(3) They can drive through Turkey direct.

More than likely two or more of these variants will be used by German imperialism at the same time. The Japanese, for their part, may consolidate their foothold in Austral-Asia and move deeper into Burma and India. Such a step would out-flank the Chinese, hold the Allies at bay in Australia, and drive in the general direction of contact with Germany.

The Allies, for their part, must continue generally in the coming period on the defensive. This does not mean however, that they will not take the offensive in certain given sectors.

For the "United Nations," the Soviet Union today is the pivot of their strategy, the bulwark standing in between the two main Axis powers. To counter the drive in the Middle East a number of variants lie open for the Allied imperialists:

(1) They can make a desperate defensive stand in the line run-

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## New Deal Paves Way For Fascism

### FIGHT FASCISM BY FIGHTING CAPITALISM!

In a speech to the CIO special conference in Washington on March 23rd, Donald Nelson, Production Chief, warned that unless labor submitted completely to the war program "rigid government controls (will) be set up — **controls which we might find it difficult to remove after the war**".

This threat has a deep significance!

The Nazi repressions in Germany did not come about in one grand play. The seeds of German fascism were sown in the decree rules of Von Schleicher and Von Papen, and even during the "liberal" Bruening regime.

The Fascist regime in Italy did not come complete out of the blue

either. In fact up until 1925 when Mussolini murdered the socialist Matteotti, there even existed a strong socialist legal opposition within Italy.

Mr. Nelson's threat means that unless the working class forfeits most of its hard won rights now, capitalism will have no recourse but to continue this change over from bourgeois democracy to open dictatorship. But the working class can not give up its rights, today or tomorrow. The standard of living is being lowered at a hell-bent speed. The class will inevitably fight back. And Mr. Nelson's class no doubt will pave the way for the American Hitler, just as Von Papen paved it for the German tyrant.

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# Prepare For Spring Offensive

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ning from Syria up to Leningrad. This would be hazardous and least likely to succeed. The shipping requirements needed for such a defensive move are much greater than the Allies can now hope to muster. With each American ship making a trip lasting for a fourth of a year or more, it considerably reduces the offensive power that can be concentrated in the Near East.

(2) A diversionist move can be begun by a large scale offensive in Europe, in any of the conquered nations that the Intelligence Division reports favorable, and where military operations can be started. Such an offensive would be more fruitful, than the purely defensive measures of trying to hold the enemy off in the Middle East.

As a component part of all this strategy, the Allies will very likely try to recoup some of the losses in the Far East and of course will put up a desperate stand to protect the flower of the British Empire, India. England considers the New East as a key to the next phase of the war.

## U.S.S.R. IN KEY POSITION

Which side is victorious in the spring struggles depends of course, on many factors, military and class relations. It must not be taken for granted, however, that American imperialism will be smashed even if the German offensive is successful.

Let us assume, for sake of argument, that the Axis is able to establish an east-west line running from France to Tokyo. That would become the life line of the Axis imperialists. The immediate effect of this would be to isolate the Soviet Union from its main source of supply through the Indian Ocean, unless the United Nations can increase shipments through Murmansk. The Vladivostok route is a dangerous one at best, because it is so close to Japan. The Soviet Union would have no alternative under these

circumstances but to declare war immediately against Japan. The United States would then begin one of the biggest pincer movements in history against the east-west line of Germany. It would try to establish a north-south line, up from Australia and down from Alaska and Siberia, to cut the east-west line in two. The U. S. is now preparing for just such a pincer movement offensive against Japan, with MacArthur leading through Australia and a drive from Alaska and Russia.

## WAR SHARPENS CLASS RELATIONS

Prospects of the war going on for a long time, therefore, (barring colonial and proletarian revolutions) are great indeed. For the first time in history we may witness in this spring, warfare that literally encompasses the whole globe. The extension of the war to such a wide area, covering so many hundreds of millions of people, has an immediate effect on class relations the world over.

The coming period will witness the dislocation of the lives and economy of more than ever before. 450 million Chinese, 350 million Indians, 70 million Netherland East Indians, Malayans, Australians, Arabians, Europeans, African Negroes, Americans — the war is causing an overpowering disorganization of their lives. The effect will be translated into the most gigantic social movements the world has ever known. We must speak of the present period constantly in superlatives. The

## February, 1942, International News Contents:

War and Revolution: New Aspects of World Strategy.  
Cannon's statement on War

## PAMPHLETS

Whose War .....2c  
From Revolution to Reaction,  
a History of the 3rd International  
10c.

The Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union

biggest war drive in history, is giving birth to the biggest revolutionary consciousness in history. Only a social revolution can stop the imperialist war.

Another effect of the coming offensive will be a large scale epidemic—typhus, influenza, dysentery, etc. The spreading of the war to so great an area, particularly in the backward areas of Asia, where sanitation is negligible, may produce a plague which would make the Black Plague of the 1300's child's play in comparison. This danger, which the bourgeois press is careful not to deal with, is nevertheless a real threat to all humanity.

## ANARCHY OF PRODUCTION

Finally, the effect of the war expansion will be felt in the internal economy of the colonies themselves. As the imperialist armies go deeper into Africa, Asia, and Austral-Asia, the military machines must have at hand large assembly plants, auxiliary factories, etc. Against their own wishes the imperialists are building up the economies of the colonial nations. The effect of this after the war, should capitalism survive, would be to intensify capitalism's contradictions considerably more than at present. It would make competition between the imperialist powers and the colonial powers more sharp, and the market potentialities of imperialism more narrow. The result — a new imperialist war for the re-division of the earth, would come within a period even shorter (again assuming the capitalist structure survives) than the lapse that followed the first World War.

But this is not our view. History reveals that whichever way one turns over the military phenomena of the coming spring offensive, it will end up in the realm of class struggles. The Axis imperialists are beginning this offensive, the proletariat will conclude it by smashing all imperialism. Despite all the imperialists strategies, the day of reckoning comes ever closer.

DOWN WITH THE WAR AIMS  
OF THE BOURGEOISIE!

FOR A NEW COMMUNIST (4th)  
INTERNATIONAL!

## The Fighting Worker

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## THE WAR DEAL AND FASCISM

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Profits in 1941 were at an **all-time** high, over 7 billion dollars. In one year American capitalism earned more than in all the first World War. Yet fully 34% of American families lived on less than \$19 a week. According to Leon Henderson, price administrator, wage increases have been completely wiped out by the increase in the cost of living — an increase of 30% in less than a year on certain basic foods. Yet the War Labor Board is rejecting most requests for raises and Mr. Henderson is demanding that all "wages and profits be frozen at their present levels."

The attempt to freeze wages, (even to lower it by eliminating the 40 hour week) no doubt is marked for quick action. But the attempt to "freeze profits" is just a joke. The crooked capitalist accountants take care of that very easily.

### BOSSES HIDE PROFITS

For instance, in 1941, U.S. Steel, most powerful American corporation "earned" 116 million dollars — supposedly. But it put away 25 million additional dollars (not counted as profits, but just as reserves) "for those expenses which because of the high rate of operations, must be deferred until a future time, as well as for contingencies arising from the shift to a peacetime basis at the end of the war." In addition 60 millions was set aside for "increased depreciation." Add to that the increased bonuses given big shots of U. S. Steel and it is doubtful if the company is even reporting one-half of its income.

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## In Peace and War:

# Profits Must Go On!

You and I are supposed to be nationalists, patriots. But Standard Oil! That's another story.

Senator Truman charged on March 26th that Standard Oil had an agreement with Germany's large Chemical Trust, I. G. whereby Germany is given exclusive rights to the use of a synthetic rubber that is better than natural rubber. By the terms of the agreement Standard Oil must withhold this patent process from the American government, even if the U. S. enters the war. Furthermore, the agreement, renewed in October 1939 (ten years after it was originally made) states that the parties will adhere to it "whether the United States subsequently enters the war or not".

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

Naturally Standard Oil is to collect royalties — which the I. G. is storing away for her somewhere — and the American company is to pay royalties on gasoline patents to the German company. Senator Truman calls this treason! He's "wrong". It's just "doing business".

In the last war a French general was removed because he ordered his troop to fire on a big German factory in which French capitalists had large interests. In the present war France sold coal and iron to Germany via Luxemburg (he little "autonomous" country in central Europe) even while they were fighting each other. America is still selling vast stores of materials to Spain, much of which no doubt is reshipped to Germany. And the big capitalists armed Japan for years and years.

Now comes this story. More than likely it wouldn't have reached the light of day, if it were not for the antagonism between the capitalists themselves. It is noteworthy that while Senator Truman calls this act "treason", the assistant attorney-general, Arnold, merely calls it a "business arrangement" and partly whitewashes Standard Oil. The exposure is only the result of the Rockefeller-Morgan fight.

Is this "treason" just a small incident? Obviously not. Standard Oil is the biggest oil company in the world. Its empire is larger than that of 95% of the powers on earth. It is one of the vital spots of the giant Rockefeller fortune, and is linked with the fortunes of the biggest bank in the world, Chase National bank. It is part of a controlled empire of TWENTY-THREE BILLION DOLLARS, according to Lundberg, or somewhere between 15% and 25% of all American industrial wealth.

To speak of "treason" on the part of Standard Oil, is just saying that all the capitalists are "internationalists" in the sense that come what may, they will use the war to get richer and richer and richer and ever more powerful. The story of bribes, get-rich-quick orders, gigantic bonuses and the biggest profits in history in war industry, now are only part of the story.

### CAPITALIST "INTERNATIONALISM" VS. WORKERS INTERNATIONALISM

You and I, of the working class, are supposed to do the sacrificing, supposed to give up the 40 hour week, work free on Sundays, speed up production, buy "defense bonds", and be the cannon-fodder for the imperialist war. But we will be shot down by the tanks and Nazi soldiers on the trucks made possible by the "business" of Standard Oil and all the others, STILL doing business with Hitler.

The working class can take a good example from our capitalist masters: we have no quarrel with the German proletariat. We expect **them** to take care of **their own** interest. To the working class in the Axis powers, we must continue to extend the hand of proletarian internationalism. Against the Standard Oil "cartel" with I. G., we must build a giant "cartel" of a world unified proletariat, a new Communist (4th) International.

**Have the Will to Build a new Party and the Oppressed of the World will come to you —**

# new deal paves way for fascism

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The popular song of the first World War, "The Rich grow Richer and the Poor grow Poorer" was never more true. Not only that, but even the small capitalists, shopkeepers, consumers goods manufacturers and others are being forced out of business, while the government builds giant factories for DuPont, General Motors and others.

These are all symptoms. Bourgeois democracy is paving the way for fascism. The fable that at least Roosevelt is preferable to Hitler is just that — a miserable fable. Out of this war can come only an American form of Hitlerism, unless the working class checks that movement and checks it now.

In May 1938 we wrote in our theoretical organ "International News" that "the connection between bourgeois democracy and fascism, as two different forms of capitalist rule, is especially visible in the economic sphere where the pump-priming of Rooseveltian democracy blends into governmental control and ownership of industry and finances, and into fascism. On the social sphere, although less visible, the conscription bills, the arbitration measures, the forced mediation, the introduction of CCC camps, etc., are a chain of the same link of which fascism is made".

The signs of this so-called "blending" are today mounting like the proverbial snow ball that grew into an avalanche.

## FORCED LABOR

Individual rights are being stripped threadbare. One needs a birth certificate to get a job, and he must be fingerprinted in most war factories in order to work. One must carry his draft card around with him at all times, under penalty of arrest. It is illegal to move without notifying the draft board. And soon it will be illegal to quit one's job without permission of the government.

Mr. Hershey, selective service director has been demanding a forced manpower draft for a long

time, and although Mr. Roosevelt says that "plans are not yet ready for a systematic allocation to war industry under a manpower mobilization program" he hints that it will be ready by fall when there will be a "severe labor shortage." In simple English, all this means **FORCED LABOR** at **FORCED SCAB WAGES**.

Hitler, too, didn't create forced labor at once. It started with simple "soft" measures and it ended eventually in the slavery of millions under Nazi whips.

The steps toward fascism are visible in other spheres too. Government control of all production, priorities, allocation of loans, etc. In practice, this has meant the slow (sometimes rapid) ruination of the middle class. In the next year or two, thousands more of petty capitalists will be ruined.

Rationing has already begun in tires, gasoline, sugar. The rationing is based on the old Goering theory: "guns instead of butter". The end-result leads in the same direction: a totalitarian economy.

## LABOR MISREPRESENTATION

Under Mr. Nelson "labor-management" committees are being set up. Mr. Nelson by the way is an executive of a company, Sears-Roebuck, that is violently anti-labor. Fascist Italy also has its "labor-management" councils. Mr. Nelson's councils are not the same, but they are a big step in that direction; they are a trap for labor, a trap which it will be hard to get out of.

What is the practical effect of these "committees"? In those industries and factories where no Union exists now, the Companies

will merely set up their own "representation" plan, Company Unions, in other words. In those there are Unions, the "committees" are limited in their powers only to speeding up production — which means making more profits for the boss.

In order to gain the funds and manpower to push the present mass murder for markets and profits, the War Deal government must introduce all these militaristic and open dictatorial methods. How much more necessary will it be, however, to introduce fascism after the war is over and millions (at least 23) find themselves unemployed, when the debt of the government has risen to 150 to 250 BILLION dollars, when the whole world is in the throes of epidemics, devastation and chaos? Obviously, if open dictatorial methods are needed **now** to keep the system running, they will be needed a thousand times more tomorrow, even assuming that the U. S. wins the war.

## WORKERS DEMOCRACY OR FASCIST DICTATORSHIP?

The present bourgeois-democratic government is a transition government. It can not survive because the base of bourgeois democracy in American class relations is going. The ability of capitalism to grant the working class petty reforms in order to keep the class struggle down, is withering away with each day.

The showdown in this era everywhere, including the U. S., is between the fascist form of capitalism and Communism. To support the war, is to INVITE fascism. The road of liberation begins with the struggle against the imperialists and their war.

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