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# Views on the Double Attack on Russia.

by Eugene V. Debs

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*NOTE:— All Socialists will be interested in the accompanying statement by Eugene V. Debs on the double attack on Russia by the Germans in the West and the Japs in the East. Debs does not spare the German majority Socialists, neither does he mince words in discussing the position assumed by the entente allies toward the Russian Bolsheviki. He says:*

The Revolution in Russia is now in its most critical stages. The near future will determine whether or not the Bolsheviki can maintain their supremacy. They represent the peasants, the workers, and the soldiers — the great bulk of the population. Their demand is the land to the peasants who till it and the tools to the workers who use them. This means real democracy, for which the Russian people alone are fighting in the present war.

Col. William B. Thompson, the American multimillionaire recently returned from Russia, has contributed a million dollars to the Bolsheviki and has openly declared that they stand alone in the fight for genuine democracy.

Prof. Edward A. Ross, eminent sociologist and psychologist of the University of Wisconsin, who has spent several months in Russia, has said the same of the Bolsheviki, to which he has added, "When I left this country, I was convinced America was a great democracy; but now I am sure America is a capitalist republic."

President Wilson, to his eternal credit, attempted to pave the way to the recognition of the Bolsheviki and back them up in their struggle to crown their revolution with victory. But alas! He stood alone in that position and not word of recognition from the belligerent powers of either side was vouchsafed to the Russian people in the hour of their supreme trial.

## **Ignore Bolsheviki Plea for Peace.**

The invitation extended to the people of all nations by the Bolsheviki to have their representatives meet in conference to arrange the terms of a democratic and permanent peace, was ignored by them all except imperialistic Germany, which took prompt advantage of the opportunity to further its own malevolent designs. The Bolsheviki, thus ignored and deserted, treated with contempt and left to its fate, presents a melancholy spectacle to the world. And now, to crush its last hopes, the military hordes of Germany are pouring across the borders to complete their work of treachery and betrayal. This invasion and conquest, in spite of treaty stipulations submitted to by a helpless people, constitutes one of the crimes of history.

But this is not all, nor is imperialistic Germany alone in seeking to crush the Bolsheviki and rob the Russian people of the fruit of their revolution. We now see Japan, one of the allied powers, preparing to swoop down upon and take possession of Siberia upon the pretext that large stores of munitions and provisions along the line of the Siberian railway may fall into the hands of the Bolsheviki, the representatives and the only representatives of real democracy in Russia. In other words, Germany, on the part of the central powers, and Japan, on the part of the allies, are cooperating harmoniously — deadly enemies

though they pretend to be — to destroy the Russian revolution and force the Russian people back into bondage.

It is a thousand pities from my point of view that the allies failed to lend a hand to the Bolsheviki in the hour of their crucial need and when the fruit of their revolution could have been saved to them, and I think this will be the verdict of history. Instead of this, however, all the nations of earth, allies as well as the central powers, have sought either openly or covertly to discredit, defeat, and destroy the Bolsheviki and prevent the rise of the Russian people. The reason for this is obvious enough. If the Russian people could at one stroke rid themselves of their landlords, their capitalists, their exploiters, and their profiteers of all description, the people of all the other countries would speedily follow their example.

### **Blames German Socialists.**

As for the German invasion, my hope is that the Russian people will resist it by all means in their power and that they will not rest until they have driven these ruthless barbarians from their

borders. The shame of this invasion is not so much that of the kaiser and the junkers as it is the majority socialists. In standing for this crime, they cap the climax of their betrayal and disgrace of the socialist movement. In standing for this, the majority socialists of Germany prove finally that they will stand for anything except socialism and democracy.

The Austrian socialists have threatened to rise in revolt and have compelled their emperor to renounce any part in or responsibility for the invasion. But the German majority socialists are so thoroughly Prussianized, so completely subjected to the iron will of their military despots, that all they know is to obey orders, even to the extent of becoming the rankest of kaiserites, being uses as willing hirelings to stamp out the aspirations of other people to be free.

Thus do we see the meaning of militarism in all its naked horror. And the lesson the Bolsheviki are now being taught by the Prussian hoards may well be taken to heart by the people of all the nations, America included, that is, to beware of the insidious, degrading, body enslaving, and soul destroying curse of militarism!

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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