

THE FIGHTING WORKER

Vol. 6, No. 20 Whole No. 86

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1941

Labor Donated

Price: 1 Cent

Imperialists War For World Domination

The American - Japanese war is only a part of the **total war**, but it is a key to understanding the whole war. Among the Goliaths of world imperialism, Japan is but a pygmy. The main struggle is between the giant impoverished Reich, towering and wealthy United States, and the dying British Empire, as to who shall dominate the earth. But for specific reasons American troops have come into conflict with Japanese troops before fighting German (or British) troops.

What is the background of the present war?

CAPITALISM IN JAPAN

Japan is a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific, smaller than the state of California, but housing a population of about 75 millions, more than half of the United States. As the last nation to achieve its capitalist revolution, Japan today is a strange mixture of semi-feudal landlord relations, monarchical political forms, and a powerful military machine, all resting on the basis of a highly developed capitalist industry and a financial oligarchy that has a tight monopoly control over the economic life of the nation.

It is a contrast of up-to-date textile factories, a modern shipping fleet, and thousands of "factories" employing less than 10 persons each. Giant banks and monopolies have not eliminated, and in fact are closely connected with the most backward handicraft, mercantile and other early capitalist forms, and with a primitive agricultural system.

LACK VITAL RESOURCES

Despite intensive cultivation of agriculture and fishing, and the aid of her colonies, Korea and Formosa, Japan is unable to take

care of all her food needs. The diet of the Japanese people is so inadequate that beriberi and other deficiency diseases are apallingly widespread.

A 72 hour work week prevails for workers in Japan. 688,000 business men were arrested in 2 years for bootlegging, selling food and clothing illegally. Workers are allowed 4 matches a day, 13 ounces of sugar a month. There is a shortage of rice, butter, and other necessities. Materials are scarce.

Her large factories and industrial machine can look to Japan and Korea combined for only about 20% of their total needs in raw materials. Japan produces only 10% of its own oil requirements, about 3 and 1/2 million barrels a year out of a normal 36 million barrels used. She imported the rest from the ABCD powers America, Britain, China, and the

Lenin on the War

We quote below some of the views of Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution, written during the last world war. Lenin dealt exhaustively with the problem of the working class struggles in relation to the war, and his conclusions became the guide for the Russian Revolution in 1917. His books and pamphlets are on sale in many thousands of copies throughout the country, and are in the public libraries. Although written over a generation ago, they still deserve the time and

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Dutch Indies), mainly from the U. S. and Indies. She must import about 40% of the copper she uses, 90% of the lead, 60 to 70% of zinc, tin, and aluminum, all the nickel, 88% of iron ore, 50% of scrap, 30% of pig iron, and so on.

However, it is obvious that in all of these Japan has been building up a special reserve. Her petroleum stocks, for example, are estimated at 50 to 75 million barrels in reserve, perhaps more.

ANARCHY OF CAPITALISM

It is one of the ironies of capitalist anarchy that the United States helped to build up Japan from the very beginning, that today Japan will be using U. S. made materials for the war. It is one of the contradictions of capitalism that such aid in developing a country becomes a factor for war.

Capitalist contradictions abound in the Far East. Japan, the strongest power in Asia, is the poorest from the point of view of natural resources, while its impoverished neighbors of the east, China, Malaya, Burma, the Dutch Indies, and others comprise some of the wealthiest sources of raw materials on earth.

From the economic point of view, a joint combination of Japanese industry and Far Eastern natural resources, organized to produce for the **use-needs** of the people would make for an infinitely higher standard of living for all of Asia. But under capitalism such a solution for the problem of the Pacific is impossible.

The anarchy of capitalism is such that Japanese economy is fairly bursting with the need for investment of surplus capital — wrung, in the last analysis, from

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War For World Domination

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the hides of the Japanese worker — and of gaining access to new markets, and yet, with those markets and spheres of investment so near, Japan is unable to accomplish the task

The reason is not hard to find.

THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE

Across the Pacific, 6000 miles away, is another imperialist nation, the United States, wealthiest nation on earth. The U. S. is deficient in only 3 or 4 of the most important natural resources—tin, rubber, and a few others. It has more than enough oil, coal, wheat and other foodstuffs, iron, wood pulp, nickel (in nearby controlled Canada) to take care of her needs.

But consumed with the same capitalist contradictions as Japan and other imperialist powers — the curse of overproduction of capital—she must either expand to domination of the economy of the whole world, or perish.

Where Japan's needs could be for some time satisfied with controlling the markets of Asia, America must control the markets and sources of investments of the whole globe, or its factories, mines, mills, and banks will have to shut down because of overproduction and the anarchistic inability of world capitalism to utilize that production. What to do with a gold hoard of 20 billion dollars, with an industrial machine that could produce two and a half times its present large output—that is Uncle Sam's problem.

THE STAKE

What is more natural, than for Uncle Sam to turn eyes to the richest untapped area in the world — Asia, Siberia and India included? The Far East alone (outside of India, Siberia, and the Near East) produces 71% of the world's tin, 65% of the world's chrome, 100% of the total manila fiber, 95% of quinine, 90 to 93% of the world rubber. And these figures leave totally out of account the fabulously rich areas of

Siberia and India.

The conflict in Asia, therefore, is a conflict for the control of that continent, for the giant rubber, tin and oil resources of Malaya and the East Indies, for the rich coal, iron, tungsten deposits, and above all, for the new areas for investing over-abundant capital.

The slogan of "Asia for the Asiatics" has been the formula under which Japan has sought to gain and keep Asia for herself. American Imperialism countered with its slogan—"the open door"—as the pretext to drive into the Asiatic sphere and extend its foothold and interests.

THE INNER-CAPITALIST STRUGGLE

But not only the United States and Japan have their eyes on Asia. Actually, all the powers view Asia as the prize booty of the present war. Unfortunately for some of them, however, they are not able to act to seize this booty at the present moment. France has been beaten and is out of the war temporarily. Italy is too small and weak. Germany and Britain are still in the preliminary stages of the war — fighting to determine who shall dominate the European continent as the prelude to the real "Drang nach Osten"—march to the East, to Eastern Asia and India.

Britain is one of the greatest imperial powers on earth, but hers is a dying empire. To protect it she is forced to rely on "aid" from her greatest rival for world markets, American imperialism. But this aid is the means by which

America continues to undermine Britain. Faced with a military challenge directly by Germany, and economic and financial battles from America, Britain has chosen what is temporarily the "lesser evil", alliance with Uncle Sam.

Out of this alliance Uncle Sam has gained bases in Latin America, in the Far East and even in the Near East and Britain herself. The dollar is insinuating itself so deeply into the British Empire that whole sections of the empire, like Australia and New Zealand (yesterday Canada and tomorrow India) are becoming more and more part of the American, rather than the British Empire.

JAPAN'S ROLE

For many years before the war broke out, Japan (as well as Germany in Europe) was able to take advantage of this conflict between the two titans of world imperialism. Japan's bold blow is an indication that this stage is passed. But Japan feels too weak to fight without allies.

Germany uses Japan very much as America uses Britain. Unable as yet to drive for the Far Eastern markets herself, German imperialism hopes to play the Nippon Empire against the United States, exhausting both, making it simpler for Germany, if she reaches the next stage of the battle, to scoop up the booty.

If that stage comes, Germany will turn on her erstwhile "ally". Japan, of course, hopes to be so deeply entrenched that it can withstand an exhausted Germany.

THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union under Stalinism stands in a mixed relationship to the imperialist struggle. In a typical imperialist war, the involvement of the warped workers state introduces a revolutionary element. But the war is imperialist, the revolutionary element relates only to the Soviet Union.

It would be vain to hope that
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The Fighting Worker

Central Organ of the
**REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS
LEAGUE, U. S.**

(Affiliated to the Provisional
**INTERNATIONAL CONTACT
COMMISSION**

For a New Communist (4th
International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published weekly by

DEMOS PRESS

Office

708 N. Clark St.
Chicago, Ill.

Lenin's Views on War

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study of every class conscious worker.

CHARACTER OF THE WAR

"The present war is of an imperialist character. This war is the outcome of the conditions of an epoch when capitalism has reached the highest stage of its development; when the greatest significance is attached not only to the export of commodities, but also to the export of capital; when the combination of production units in cartels (trusts) and the internationalization of economic life, has assumed considerable dimensions; when colonial politics, have brought about an almost total apportionment of the globe among the colonial powers (i. e., imperialist powers controlling colonies — Editor); when the productive forces of world capitalism have long ago outgrown the limited boundaries of national and state divisions; when objective conditions for the realization of Socialism have perfectly ripened".

"PRACTICAL QUESTIONS"

"There is only one practical question: the victory or defeat of our own country, wrote Kautsky, the servant of the opportunists, in unison with Guesde, Plekhanov and co. This is true: yes, if we were to

forget Socialism and the class struggle, this would be true. But if we do not forget Socialism, it is untrue!

"There is another practical question: whether we should perish in a war between slaveholders, ourselves blind and helpless slaves, or whether we should perish for the attempts of fraternization' between the workers, with the aim of casting off slavery!"

"Only a bourgeois who believes that the war started by the governments will necessarily end as a war between governments, and who wishes it to be so, finds 'ridiculous' or 'absurd' the idea

of the Socialists

of all the belligerent countries should express their wish that ALL 'their' governments be defeated.

On the contrary, such expression would coincide with the hidden thoughts of every class-conscious worker.

and would be along the line of our activity which tends to turn the imperialist war into a civil war"

"IN THIS ALONE LIES SALVATION"

"If perish we must, let us perish in the struggle for our own cause, for the cause of the workers, for the socialist revolution, and not for the interests of the capitalist, land owners, and Tsars — this is what every class conscious worker sees and feels. Revolutionary Social Democratic (Marxist) work may be difficult at present, but it is possible. It progresses in the whole world, and in this alone lies salvation.

"Long live the world brotherhood of the workers!"

— Lenin, Collected Works, (Socialism and War, Collapse of the 2nd International, Appeal on the War, etc.)

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

For Democratic Rights — For the Right to Organize, Strike and Picket

For Production for Use Under Workers Control

For Workers Rule — The only way to end war!

Fight Fascism by Fighting Capitalism!

Our Main Enemy Is At Home — Our Own Boss Class

For a Workers' Council Government in the U. S.!

FOR A NEW COMMUNIST (4th) INTERNATIONAL!

Long Live the Proletarian Revolution!

Notice

We call attention to our readers that the Demos Press which has its new address at 708 North Clark has no connection with the Social Science Institute of the same address.

The item on Chicago relief replaces certain parts of Lenin's material which our printer informed us he could not set up.

We have used our own type to present Lenin's thought

CHICAGO RELIEFERS' BLOOD ASKED

What is happening to Chicago's relief population, now that "prosperity" is here again?

One choice little item that comes to our attention involves the utilization of relief clients for the war. All relief clients are given, along with their relief checks, a note telling them how they can "earn" real folding money if they want to.

Blood banks are being established in a number of Chicago hospitals under the auspices of of American Red "Double" Cross. Any relief client can get \$5.00 for the sale of a pint of blood to these blood banks, of course, deducted

from the relief check.

The generosity of these people is amazing, especially when you consider that the regular standard price for professional blood donors is at least \$25.00...

Old age assistance is at a critical level. Despite the enormous increase in the cost of living, aid for the aged amounts to 35c a day for those who live alone. If you have someone to stay with, you get 32c a day!

These old men and women are now out on the streets fighting for an increase in their relief budget. They need the help of every worker in their struggle.

the war and the working-class

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Stalinism will keep the Soviet Union out of this new phase of the war. The pressure is too great for the Stalinist policy which makes of the Soviet Union a tool in the hands of one or another of the imperialist powers, today the United States.

MAKING THE KILL

It is not surprising that Japan struck the first blow in the military sense, even though no one could foresee the exact form of the blow. It is possible that had the U. S. agreed to Japanese proposals, the war would not have come at this time. Japan hoped to postpone the final reckoning until she was stronger and had settled the internal problem and the "China incident". To that end she wanted a U. S. recognition of her conquests, permitting her a respite to catch breath and re-organize her bases.

But the American imperialists refused any such idea. They proposed conditions spelling suicide for Japanese imperialism. The issue was forced.

ECONOMIC WAR ON JAPAN

The aid given to China and the Dutch East Indies was part of U.S. policy. Through the RFC, Uncle Sam has brought 190 million dollars of rubber from the Dutch East Indies and has given much lend lease money to bolster its military machine against Japan. American loans to China amounted to 230 millions to continue the war that began in 1936-37, a war which engages over a million Japanese soldiers and exhausts a gigantic share of the Nipponese national income.

Against Japan itself America has taken one belligerent measure after another. When Manchuria was seized in the early thirties Uncle Sam proposed sanctions against Japan, but could not get the support of Britain. But starting with June 11, 1938, Uncle Sam has been putting the economic squeeze to Japan. First came a "moral" embargo, then in Dec.,

1939, a real embargo, later the "favored nation" trade treaty was abrogated, then a licensing system curtailed shipment of almost anything to Japan and finally came the boycott and sanctions imposed by the ABCD powers.

JAPAN COUNTER-ATTACKS

Japan has tried to counter these measures of the American dollar by establishing the "Yen bloc" with Korea, Manchukuo, and the conquered parts of China (and recently with French Indo-China). The "Yen bloc" is an attempt to make the whole area self-sufficient through a long range planning system of investment, trade, and political domination. But Japanese economy has been unable to withstand the shock of the world war. According to most authorities the national income has steadily fallen since the China war, despite giant expenditures for war. Living standards are sub-normal. Worse, from the viewpoint of Japanese imperialists, labor productivity has decreased due to malnutrition, shortage of materials, etc. In 1939, in the coal mines for example, it had fallen 20% below 1936 levels, because of lack of food, clothing and tools.

WAR AND REVOLUTION

The war therefore was inevitable. Proletarian and colonial revolts alone could have prevented it. But the defeat of the Chinese masses in 1926-27 (just as the European defeats in Germany and Spain) crushed the spirit of the masses, destroyed their organizations and made them a prey for imperialist propaganda. The defeats strengthened the imperialists in Europe and Asia, and paved the way for the present war.

The socialist and stalinist traitors whose policies helped bring on these defeats will now go further to an open all out support of the war. They will dress it up as progressive and defensive. They will speak of the colonial masses who appeal to American imperialism for liberation from the Japan-

ese yoke. The Stalinists will unhesitatingly support it as a "democratic" war, a "just" war, even if they have to stand on their heads to prove it. By their policy they will expose the Soviet Union to a war against Japan as well, and open up bases for the U. S. **within the Soviet Union.**

CHINA

The spread of the war from Europe and the Near East to the Pacific and the Far East affects such formerly relatively isolated wars as China against Japan. The Chinese struggle is now a direct part of the total war with all the countries lined up on one or the other side. To support the Chinese war against Japan now means to support American and British forces against Japan and Germany and Italy.

The war itself, as it develops, will ripen the objective conditions for proletarian and colonial revolutions in all the countries involved. The exhausted masses, both in the advanced and colonial countries, will be driven into a struggle against the war. In defense of their needs, their interests, their very lives they will be forced to set up their own workers and farmers councils, and their own Workers Council Government. Along that line lies the only hope for a real solution to their problems.

Against the Imperialist War, for the Class Struggle and the defense of the needs of the working class.

For Immediate, Complete Independence for the Colonies and Protectorates of U. S. Imperialism!

For a Federation of Far Eastern Soviet Republics.

Defend the Soviet Union by extending the Russian Revolution.

For international workers solidarity.

For a Revolutionary Marxist Party in the U. S.!

Dec. 10, 1941