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# **Break the Blockade of Russia!**

## **Declaration Issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party.**

**[CPA leaflet #2, distributed Nov. 1-9, 1919.]†**

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It is nearly one year since the armistice was signed. Peace! It was what an agonizing world yearned for. Peace! It sent a thrill through the world, a thrill of joy and promise.... No more dead. No more maimed. The mother could again clasp her son and the sweetheart her lover.

In all this joy at the coming of peace there was promise of finer things, of a new world, of international fraternity and a more human civilization.

Peace was granted Germany and Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria; but peace was not granted to Soviet Russia, where the workers are in control.

Why this war against the Russian people? They starved during the war; their dead and injured are more than of all the Allies put together. If the dead are the price of peace, then Russia paid the price in full.

But the "why" of war against Soviet Russia immediately was apparent. The diplomats of the Allies in the Peace Conference repudiated the ideals used during the war to make the people fight. The Peace Conference was not concerned with making the world safe for peace and democracy; it concerned itself with dividing the world economically, financially, and territorially among the Great Powers — France, England, Italy, Japan, and the United States. The Peace Conference divided

the spoils; it was a peace of plunder, an imperialistic adjustment of power, a dagger thrust at the heart of the peace and liberty of the world.

Soviet Russia was a menace to this peace of plunder and oppression. Soviet Russia has repudiated Imperialism; it has repudiated annexations and wars of plunder; it believes in liberty of the peoples. Soviet Russia, in crushing its own Capitalism, is an inspiration to the workers of the world to crush all Capitalism.

So the Peace Conference declared war against Soviet Russia.

When the workers and peasants of Hungary organized their own Communist Government, the Peace Conference declared war against Soviet Hungary; and today the workers and peasants of Hungary are being starved and butchered by the Romanian army, acting under the orders of the Peace Conference.

The military war against Soviet Russia proved a miserable failure. The Red Army, inspired by the ideal of Communist liberty for Russia and the world, has beaten back the counterrevolutionary forces.

But this war that Soviet Russia is compelled to wage in self-defense is a terrible agony. Instead of the factories producing shoes and clothes and agricultural machinery, they are forced to produce munitions. Instead of the men working in factory

†- Comintern archival records indicate that 250,000 copies of this leaflet were produced and that distribution took place from Nov. 1-9, 1919.

and mine, they are compelled to fight. Instead of the people's energy being used to build their new and finer civilization, they must use this energy for war against counterrevolution and aggression of the Allies.

But the worst feature of all is the blockade of Soviet Russia maintained by the Allies.

The Allies and the Peace Conference are deliberately starving the men, women, and children of Russia — starving them in a brutal purpose to restore Tsarism and maintain the workers of the world in slavery.

Food intended for Russia is rotting in the ports of Europe, but the Allies refuse to allow this food to enter Russia, while women and children die the terrible death of starvation.

#### **Why?**

Soviet Russia is a Communist Republic. A Communist Republic is a republic in which the power of the capitalists to sweat the workers is broken, where the workers control industry; a republic in which life is supreme and not profits. The Communist Republic of Russia is the promise of a new world and a finer culture, of life, liberty, and peace to all the peoples.

Capitalism maintains that the Communist Republic of Russia is a failure. On the contrary, Capitalism knows that the Communist Republic of Russia is a success; that is why international Capitalism wages war against the Communist Republic of Russia, starves it and tries to crush it. For if the Russian Communist Republic lives and flourishes, the workers of the world will say: why can't we have a Communist Republic of our own?

The war against Russia, the blockade of Russia, is an expression of the international class struggle between the workers and the capitalists. Force is used against the Russian workers, but force

is also used by these governments — British, French, Italian, Japanese, American — against their own workers. The war against Soviet Russia is a war against the workers of the world.

Let the workers determine: We must break the blockade of Soviet Russia!

In Italy, the workers have compelled the government to withdraw all troops from Russia, while the Italian sailors refuse to allow ships to sail that bring munitions to Kolchak & Co.

In Sweden the workers are organizing a blockade of the Allies as a means to break the blockade of Soviet Russia.

In Seattle American longshoremen refuse to transport munitions bound for Russia to slaughter their fellow workers.

The blockade against Soviet Russia must be broken! The workers alone can break it. Agitate against the blockade. Organize mass demonstrations against the blockade. Organize strikes against the blockade.

Workers, men and women! The struggle of the Russian workers is your struggle. If they are crushed, you will be crushed.

On November 7 it will be two years since the Russian workers conquered power. During two years, in spite of starvation, in spite of war and blockade — in blood and tears and agony — the Russian workers have held firm to their Communist ideals. They have shown the workers of the world the means to power. They are constructing a new civilization — the new civilization that you also will soon begin to construct. They call to the workers of the world for aid.

Workers, men and women! Come to the aid of your fellow workers! Break the blockade of Soviet Russia!

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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