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# WAR COMMENTARY

## C O N T E N T S

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War Resistance

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 250 million to 450 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

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The Daily Telegraph, in a recent editorial on the German Press referred to "one of the most curious diseases that afflict mankind." The name given to it is "aerophagy" or the "habit of air swallowing". This disease, however, is not prevalent only in Germany. Since the creation of a Capitalist controlled Press this dangerous ailment has infected humanity. And in times of stress - such as the present situation - the 'hot air' which the public is expected to swallow increases a hundredfold. This 'hot air' assumes many forms. In some cases it is used to inspire confidence and a feeling of superiority (stories of revolts in Germany and enthusiasm in England, exaggerating successes against U-boats and minimising the important losses suffered by the Navy and Merchant Fleet...etc.). In other cases it aims at convincing the public that the aims of the allies are noble and just ('fighting for Freedom'; 'fighting for the future of civilization', 'fighting for the independence of small States' etc.. being careful not to mention anything about the freedom of the native peoples of the Empire).

But, with time, as this hot air increases in volume, it decreases in density - and consistency. Then come to the surface the contradictions, the baseless information, political censorship, and vivid imaginations. WAR COMMENTARY provides a documentary of these mistatements and contradictions. But, more than that, it analyses them. By so doing, we hope to present to our readers factual proof of the true aims of the belligerents.

Our opposition to the war is not - as in the case of the Communist Party - only recent and dictated by higher authorities. Our opposition is based on the firm belief that the present struggle is one between rival Imperialisms and for the protection of vested interests. The workers in every country, belonging to the oppressed class have nothing in common with these interests and the political aspirations of the ruling class. Their immediate struggle is their emancipation. Their front line is the workshop and factory, not the Maginot Line where they will just rot and die, whilst their masters at home pile up their ill-gotten gains. And the first step towards achieving their freedom is to THINK. WAR COMMENTARY is our modest effort to free them from that dangerous disease, "aerophagy", which succeeds so successfully in preventing men and women from thinking.

It will be a sad day for the politicians when the workers really begin to think for themselves!

" WAR COMMENTARY "

NON ANGLI SED ANGELI.

"The Angels in the past have always been our allies"  
- Viscount Castlerosse

\* \* \* \* \*

Come, list to my story, all polished up new,  
Of Angels who fought for the Red, White and Blue  
'Twas told by a Viscount, and Viscounts can't lie,  
Ritoorel -i-oorel-i-oorel-i-i.

\* \* \*

The Angels were there in the Hundred Years' War,  
They ravaged half France and then wanted some more,  
They burnt Joan of Arc one fine day on the spree  
Ritoorel -i-oorel-i-oorel-i-ee.

\* \* \*

The Angels turned pirates with Hawkins and Drake  
And then became Roundheads with Cromwell and Blake,  
They always were right, like the Vicar of Bray,  
Ritoorel-i-oorel-i-oorel-i-ay.

\* \* \*

They roasted the Irish with Puritan zeal,  
And Scots up at Glencoe got stuck on their steel,  
They looted the Indians, laying them low,  
Ritoorel-i-oorel-i-oorel-i-o.

\* \* \*

Their foemen the French, by a pleasant surprise,  
Became by conversion the Angels' allies,  
The Turk was a 'Gent' - but you never quite knew,  
Ritoorel-i-oorel-i-oorel-i-yew.

\* \* \*

By strange misadventure the Angels got beat,  
When at Washington's hands they all suffered defeat,  
They fought to force drugs on the Heathen Chinese  
Ritoorel-i-oorel-i-oorel-i-ee

\* \* \*

The Angels at Mons and Amritsar were there,  
As readers of Castlerosse well are aware,  
And when he grows wings you will see him there too,  
Ritoorel-i-oorel-i-oorel-i-oo.

REG. REYNOLDS.

WHAT THE POLISH WORKERS WERE FIGHTING TO DEFEND.

"In one subterranean chapel (in a Polish mine) beside a rock-  
"salt altar pious miners pray before and after work. They  
"are paid 1s.8d. a day. On piece-work some receive as much  
"as 4s. or 4s.4d." - Hannen Swaffer in the "DAILY HERALD"  
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# WAR RESISTANCE

THROUGHOUT the belligerent countries there are those who would rush to defend their own chains without even waiting to be conscripted (at the beginning of the war, at least!). Still there is today little enthusiasm but conscripted workers go off like lambs to the slaughter.

There still remain others who are not fooled by the old slogans of "saving Democracy" or "defending the Fatherland" and who are unmoved by frenzied and repeated appeals to patriotism, national honour or other fake ideals. For these the question is, not how best to serve their Government, but how best they can serve their class, and humanity itself.

The Anarchists believe, of course, that there is one way in which war, capitalism, fascism, and imperialism can be utterly vanquished, and that is by a libertarian revolution -- for only by the overthrow of ALL governments will freedom and a lasting peace be established.

DIRECT ACTION, and, in this case, industrial direct action, is the supreme need. By a social stay-in general strike, the workers can oust their bosses, and make a revolution. All industrial action which leads to strike action, fights against a capitalist system and war.

The Anarchists, as anti-militarists, call on the workers now in soldiers' uniform to fraternise and ask them to cast aside nationalist-built false frontiers, and to unite internationally against the common enemy: Bossdom.

The workers at home must fight against rising prices, higher rent and profiteering, as well as turn these demands into an organised resistance to the Governments of the world. Soldiers have like aims in their own spheres.

What of the individual facing forced military service? He has a choice before him of either conscientious objection or "wooden horse of Troy" tactics within the armed forces. Let him resist going into the Army if possible; in some cases it will mean exemption and the possibility of active propaganda work outside unhampered by the military machine - at least, as considered with the man inside the Services. In other cases, it may mean imprisonment, and his defiance of the authority of the State.

We do not see the moral value of accepting "non-combatant" alternatives: either in or out. If accepted, it is tantamount to joining, and here the only question is: Is it possible to bore from within? Some workers will be in a position to do this: in the combatant service also, and more particularly. As the war progresses, more, the very

shock-troops of the States' armed force, will come over to a revolutionary movement outside, which, after all, is fighting to save them, no less than the home workers, from death at the hands of fellow-workers abroad, who were also fooled by their Government. Can the States put down revolutions then, when their own conscripted defenders go back to solidarity with their class?

Remember: after there has been war for a few years the morale of the people will go against it. And afterward there must come a revolutionary situation: owing, not only to such disillusion, but also through the possible independence or loss of the colonies, and the bad economic situation of the new post-war years. It remains to be seen

whether this revolutionary situation will develop into a real social revolution. The forces of pseudo-revolutionism may be strong enough to seize the opportunity of appealing to the masses and seizing the chance of power, and either saving the situation for the capitalist class (as did the Labourites in Britain, in 1919-24, or the Social Democrats in Germany at the same time) or for a new set of masters (as did the Communist Party in Russia and the Fascisti in Italy).

No more of those experiences! Out of a strong resistance to the bosses during war can we be strong enough to utilise the revolutionary situation for the social revolution, for us, the workers, ourselves. Through industrial action to an anarcho-syndicalist industrial unionism: through the objection to the State in wartime

to full-time objection to the State, and to the negation of the State, and for the fullest freedom. Revolution: not war.  
liberty - not capitalism!

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#### TRADES-UNIONS AND BRITAIN'S WAR RESPONSIBILITIES.

At the Southport Labour Conference this year, Mr. Ernest Bevin Secretary of the General Transport Workers' Union - one of the big bosses of the Unions said that: "we must ascertain what are the contributory factors to the present world situation, and it will be found that POSSIBLY THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR IS THIS COUNTRY AND NOT GERMANY, FOR ONE OF THE MOST POTENT CAUSES OF WORLD DISORDER HAS BEEN OUR DOMINANT FINANCIAL POLICY".

This statement compares strangely with the present attitude of the Trades-Unions towards the war. Workers' rights have been handed over to the Government, and will be won back with difficulty later on. Again, the workers are made to fight for a cause which is not theirs.

# WAR AND THE WORKERS

AT EVERY STAGE of Capitalism's development the workers have found it necessary to combine to defend their wages and have their working conditions. This is necessary at any time: the need is tenfold in wartime.

The price of food and other commodities rises rapidly and rents, in spite of "restrictions", soar: so the worker is faced by a reduction in real wages.

This is the moment chosen by the trade union bureaucrats to effect a Judas bargain with the employers. A truce to the struggle for wages, the sacrifice of every trade union gain of eighty years, the flooding of skilled jobs by cheap, unskilled labour, not only on munition but also on civil work: these are the patriotic "sacrifices" of the trade union leadership.

Led by Mr. J. C. Little of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the leadership of the unions hands over the membership to a Fascist industrial system, the Fascism of Chamberlain, as German trade union bureaucrats by cowardice betrayed the unions to Hitler.

Trade unionists find themselves shackled by the organisations they built and paid for - shackled, not in a war against the Fascist system, but in a ruling-class quarrel in which British trade unionists are asked to butcher their German fellow-workers.

The experience of the last war is repeated, but now the Iscariots are more brazen.

The war presents the workers with a glorious opportunity of securing increased wages, but, at a time when fabulous, undreamed of sums are being made by the employers, the workers are called on to sacrifice their already very low standard of living.

The workers MUST organise, but, as in the war of 1914-1918 the trade unions are in the hands of the enemy. That war experience can, however, show us the way out.

Then it was necessary for the workers to improvise a new form of organisation: the factory committee. Starting on Clydeside, and spreading to the Tyne, Sheffield, Coventry and wherever munition making and engineering were carried on, the movement swept on. It carried out successful lightning strikes and won wage increases, and brought a new sense of solidarity and independence to the workers. It defied for four years Lloyd George, Churchill, the Government, the renegade "labour" leaders and the profiteering munition lords.

It generally faded out a few years after the war, for at the close of that period the militant shop-stewards allowed the movement to become part of the official trade union machinery, but several post-war attempts at such spontaneous organisation have been generally successful, particularly in the aircraft industry and with the Southampton engineers in 1924.

How are such committees to be formed? In each factory, mill, pit, running - shed, and garage, we must call mass meetings of ALL workers in that undertaking - irrespective of age, sex or craft: there must be no division.

Trade unionism does not unite the workers - it divides them. It sets the craftsman who uses woodworking tools against the man who uses metalworking tools. While most unions inscribe on their banners "100% trade unionism" they bar from membership 50 % of the population - womenfolk!

We must assemble all crafts; all workers, "skilled" or "unskilled", men or women; clerks and storekeepers with the rest and youth, youth so often the most active and daring in the workshop and the least noticed in the union branch room.

Such meetings must elect factory committees of unpaid delegates from the jobs: the workshop committees to be linked together in each locality in workers' councils: the district workers committees to be welded to a National Council of Factory Committees.

This would give us a living organisation capable of expressing every need of the worker through his place of employment. A means of winning wage advances so necessary in times of rapidly-rising prices, and a sure means of combatting that wave of bullying, intimidation and threats of military shanghai-ing which now sweeps over us, as whenever war is declared.

But no success can come to such a movement unless we thoroughly discredit the treacherous union leaders who support the war. At the end of the war, when the workers are bitterly disillusioned by the slaughter, the labour leaders will coolly tell how they have always opposed war.

The factory committees must not become part of the bureaucrats' machine. They will cry "disunity" - those men who divide the workers into a thousand unions - but the old unions with their mediaeval divisions and craft notions now must give way to the unionism of the twentieth century --- revolutionary industrial unionism: anarcho-syndicalism !

Such syndicalism can not only combat imperialist wars -- but by being organised in industry, on the job, can take over that industry and run it by the workers for the workers. It can be the framework of the new society: FREE SOCIALISM.

ETHEL MANNIN.

# TO THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND

Already it seems as though the children have been gone an age doesn't it? But when you read this, it is probably only a few weeks. What is it going to be like when it's a matter of a few months? And you know that the Government is making arrangements for a three years war. Are you going to be parted from your children all that time? Unless you want to risk their lives in all the horrors of air-raids, you have no help for it - unless all you mothers join together to bring pressure to bear on the Government to STOP THE WAR!

Presently your men-folk will be gone too, husbands, sons, brothers, sweethearts, to risk horrible deaths and mutilation, and to bring mutilation and death to other women's men, as dear to them as yours to you, and to help in smashing up their homes - as yours will be smashed up.

## WHAT'S IT ALL FOR ?

You are asked to part with your children, your men, and possibly your home - what for? Because 'Hitler must be stopped', the papers tell you. But do you really believe all the papers tell you and all you hear over the air? Do you really believe this Government cares about Hitler trampling small nations under-foot? We didn't fight to save Czechoslovakia, did we? But Poland is different, because millions of pounds of British capital are invested in Poland. Not your money, but you are asked to part with your children and sacrifice your husbands and sons, and risk your homes and all that you hold dear, to protect that money, those business interests. ISN'T YOUR CHILD, YOUR HUSBAND, YOUR HOME, WORTH MORE THAN £ STERLING ?

Don't forget that the last great war was to be the war to end war. It didn't end war, did it? It was to crush German militarism and make the world safe for democracy. But it did neither. How much democracy is there in the world to-day? As for German militarism it is stronger to-day than ever. If we succeed in smashing Germany now by this war in another twenty years time she will rise to strength once more and it will all have to be fought all over again, by our children's children. War never solves anything, never has and never will.

## WAR IS NOT THE WAY TO STOP HITLER.

Only the people of Germany themselves can stop Hitler. It is their job. Not the job of the common people of this country. We have nothing to gain by this war, and everything to lose - including our lives. As for the Polish working people who are

being sacrificed in this struggle for power between Governments, they are the lowest paid white workers in the world. You have to go to the coloured workers before you find as low a standard of living.

### THIS IS NOT A PEOPLE'S WAR !

The papers lie when they tell you this is a people's war. When your husband is called up to fight to protect big business interests in Poland you will be expected to live on 17/- a week. That's how much of a people's war it is. In peace time you are probably lucky if your husband earns three pounds a week. World-wide mass-murder has to be organised in order to do away with unemployment. The Government says in effect, work in munitions factories making things to blow other women's husbands to smithereens and destroy other women's homes, and we'll give you barely enough to live on; go out and help murder other women's husbands and sons, and destroy their homes, and we'll give you a bob a day, and your wife all of seventeen shillings a week....That's your 'people's war'. But they don't tell you that in the papers; or over the air; and Mr. Chamberlain doesn't tell you that, any more than Hitler or the Polish Government tell their people what it's really all about, which is f.s.d.

There is only one people's war, and that is the war against the people who make wars, the people who ask you to die for their business interests, and in peace time give you and yours barely enough to live on.

### WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT ?

You can have nothing to do with any schemes that help to carry on the war; you can band together and demonstrate against the war - you can DEMAND YOUR CHILDREN BACK ! If they tell you it's not safe, tell them more shame to them; let them stop their war and their humbug about national honour; if the men won't think for themselves and take a stand against the whole dirty business -

LET THE VOICES OF THE WOMEN BE HEARD !



### THE ONLY WAY OF OPPOSING WAR ..

"In the event of war, I should refuse any service direct or indirect, and I should do all within my power to persuade my friends to do likewise, without taking into account the rights or wrongs involved in the origin of the struggle".

- EINSTEIN

# COMMUNIST PARTY POLITICS

## EXPOSED

"The Communist Party supports the war believing it to be a just war which should be supported by the whole working class

and all friends of democracy in Britain." Thus wrote Communist Party secretary Harry Pollitt in the pamphlet "HOW TO WIN THE WAR" published by the C.P.G.B. on September 14th. Since this pamphlet was published the Party line has been so modified that by October 7th they contradicted every word published in their pamphlet and declared in their manifesto of September 2nd. Several reasons have been given for this complete reversal of party policy, but however much they may satisfy the average C.P. member, the fact remains that the new line adopted by the party dates from when Russia entered the Imperialist war, in order to extend her frontiers and sphere of influence.

In their manifesto of October 7th, the Communist Party state that "owing to the rejection of a firm peace front with the Soviet Union, the British French and Polish Governments bear equal responsibility with German Fascism for the present war. The present war is not a defensive war but an unjust and Imperialist war in which Britain and Germany are fighting for Imperialist aims for colonies and for world domination". Now these would seem reasonable grounds for opposition to the war if only newly discovered, but the Communist Party knew weeks before that Chamberlain was not willing to join with Stalin to destroy "Nazism" and as to the aims of the belligerents, Mr. Pollitt was never in doubt. "The Communist Party has always stated that 'Britain, under its present rulers, would never do anything except for its own imperialist interests, and it has not changed this view. It is the same with France. But that does not alter

"the fact that British and French action at the present time can help the Polish people and in the long run preserve

"their independence and prevent them from being brought under Fascist rule". The logical conclusion then is that the controlling forces in Moscow have once more dictated terms to their organizations throughout the world. Pollitt has been 'sacrificed' for the sake of appearances, but what of those of the rank and file who have joined up, influenced no doubt by the pre-war policy of the Party at the outbreak of hostilities? They cannot come back, and further have the doubtful consolation of knowing that their party accuses them of fighting for "imperialist aims and colonies"!

### COMMUNIST PRESS & THE WAR.

August 25th after the signing of the Non-aggression pact the Daily Worker wrote that "the Soviet Union has not 'deserted' Poland. Poland, under British influence, has for months been refusing to allow the Soviet Union to come to its aid," the reason being that many suspected that once Russia got into Poland nobody would ever get her out. But the Daily Worker of August 29th reassures its readers in the following words: "...there is a world of difference between the Soviet Government claiming the right to send its troops into Poland to cooperate with the Polish army in the struggle against aggression and the Soviet Government claiming the right to 'occupy and take full control' of important provinces. How can anyone not completely 'dead to all logic' assert that the statement that the Soviet Union wanted to send troops into Poland is in any way a proof that it wanted to occupy and take full control of important Polish provinces. The British Government, for example, sent an army to France in 1914-

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"18. It did not occupy and take full 'control' of any French provinces". Events during the past three weeks have unfortunately exposed rather badly the Cayton street journalists sound "logic".

The "independence of Poland" however continued to be the main theme of the Communist Press in this country even after the signing of the pact. Harry Pollitt in the C.P.'s pamphlet writes: "The Polish people have had no choice. War has been thrust upon them. They have had to fight to defend themselves from a foreign attack whose only purpose is to enslave them to Nazi Germany (p.4). "It (the C.P.) has always maintained the right of nations to fight for their independence and has urged that the working class of Gt. Britain should support every struggle of a people to maintain its independence." (p.4). "The Government of Britain must at once issue a solemn declaration that the aim of the anti-Hitler alliance is not only to restore the independence of Poland but also to restore the independence of democratic Austria and Czechoslovakia." (p.15). The Daily Worker of September 1st, expresses fears that Poland may be sacrificed to Hitler. But "Poland is not Czechoslovakia. No compromise can be concluded behind the backs of the Polish Government and they may not be ready to negotiate away substantial proportions of Polish territory."

September 5th in a grim editorial, the Communist mouthpiece writes in the following terms: "Now, as Hitler loses war upon the world, we see the real meaning of the Fascist propaganda of race hatred, of the campaign against the Jews, the pogroms. The people will fight to win this war against Hitler by every means in their power."

Meanwhile, in spite of the assurances of August 29th, Stalin showed

the Imperialist aims of his Government to the world, and his mouthpieces throughout the world had to completely modify their propaganda to suit their master. Thus on September 25th the Daily Worker begins by attacking the Polish Government. "The incompetent Polish Government was pried loose by defeat, leaving broken armies to struggle on around Warsaw, this collection of landlords, millionaires and brasshats disappeared into Rumania." This presumably explains Soviet intervention "It was left to the Red Army to SAVE AT LEAST A LARGE SECTION OF THE PEOPLE ON FORMER POLISH TERRITORY FROM THE NAZI ADVANCE." This territory was 'saved' in the following way according to the official Moscow communique of Sept. 23rd: "continuing their operations...the Red troops have wiped out contingents of polish soldiers N.W. of Grodno and Brest-Litovsk. Earlier news indicates that in mopping-up operations in the S.E. of Kovel, over 8000 Poles were made prisoner and 2000 horses and many military trains captured." The American Daily Worker of the 25th Sept. adds further information. "In the S.E. of Brest Litovsk, 10,000 polish soldiers and Officers have been disarmed and made prisoner. In the S.E. of Grubeshov, an infantry regiment and a mechanized brigade have been captured..." No Nazi prisoners were taken by the Red army in restoring the independence of Poland!

#### COMMUNIST PARTY OPPOSE THE WAR!

On September 14th Harry Pollitt wrote: "These fundamental principles of Liberty, peace and Socialism now at stake have determined the decision of the Communist party. To stand aside from this conflict, to contribute only revolutionary-sounding phrases whilst the fascist beasts ride roughshod over Europe, would be a betrayal of everything our forebears have fought to achieve in the course of long years of struggle against Capitalism." Yet, by the end of the month, the anti-war line had been adopted. One of the excuses was the suppression of the French Communist Party. This the Communists maintained, had

given a new significance to the aims of the allies, who were now no longer fighting to crush Nazism. This was not a good excuse because the French Government had indefinitely suspended the Communist newspapers L'HUMANITE and CE SOIR, before war broke out! It was clear to everyone - and openly stated in the Press - that it would be the fate of the Communist Party next.

By October 2nd the propaganda department of the C.P. had thought out a new 'explanation' for their bewildered followers. In less than a week after their invasion of Poland, the Russians had handed over the land to the peasants and had reduced the working day to eight hours! "What kind of Socialists" are those who do not draw a distinction between the vast social changes "and the entry of the Nazis into the rest of Poland, the dissolution of "the workers" Press and the passage of "the Polish people into the clutches of "the Gestapo." - asks the Daily Worker indignantly. No mention is made as to whether under Russian Imperialism a free workers press will exist in her new territory, or whether it will be 'bolshevized' and state controlled. As to the excuse for the invasion: "what Socialists are those who deny the "right of a Socialist state to extend the boundaries of Socialism (!!) and by strengthening its own power, to advance to playing a more powerful role in the diplomacy.", the argument is an apology for Imperialism. The Imperialists say

## C O M M U N I S T L E A D E R R E S I G N S .

The American SOCIALIST CALL (19-8-39) reports that: "José Chelela Aquilera, general secretary of the Cuban C.P. has resigned in protest to the traitorous acts to the working class foisted upon the Cuban Party by the Communist International".

that Britain has brought civilization to India and that without their intervention the country would be one vast slaughter-house in which Hindus would be murdering Moslems or Wazaristan tribes from the hills raping and looting in the villages. Moscow says, in the same way, that she is saving Poland from Nazi invasion by invading it herself!

## THE ANTI-WAR MANIFESTO OF THE C.P.

The official change-over takes place on October 7th. Pollitt gets the sack - just for appearance's sake - and the new manifesto issued, extracts from which, appeared at the beginning of this article.

Now the job for the Communist Party is to live down the past. Whereas in June 1939 they declared that "the Labour and democratic movement should decisively reject the pacifist propaganda which proposes the futile path of individual resistance to conscription", now they are anxious to publish any anti-war declarations by trade-union organizations and individuals!

Far from representing the working class in this country, and the oppressed generally, the Communist Party of Gt. Britain has once more given proof of its complete servility to Moscow and its Imperialist policy. In recent years it has abandoned any Socialist aims that it may have possessed in a desperate effort to build a mass movement. In the process it has been guilty of all kinds of concessions to its class enemies; of lying campaigns in its press to further its own ends, and a host of other crimes generally associated with reactionaries and their Press.

The Communist Party's opposition to the war - like that of Moseley's fascists - is not based on a conviction that the workers of the world have nothing to gain by war, but because of political opportunism which, it is hoped, the present article has exposed.

LIBERTARIAN

## "What are we Fighting For?"

"What are we fighting for?" To this question those enthusiastic "democrats" who venture an answer, say "Freedom" or "to crush Nazism and its aims at world domination" or, to quote the Editor of the TIMES (Oct. 10th) "to liberate Poland and to put an end, once for all, to the intolerable strain of living under the perpetual threat of Nazi aggression".

It is the aim of this article to show that the answer to the embarrassing question "What are we fighting for?" is not 'Freedom' or the "defence of Democracy" but the 'DEFENCE OF ONE SET OF INTERESTS AGAINST ANOTHER' or, more simply "A WAR BETWEEN RIVAL IMPERIALISMS".

### Anti-fascists and the War.

That many sincere anti-fascists believe in the "righteousness" of this war, quite independently of the propaganda served up by the Conservative and so called Radical Press, is not surprising. They say: "We, who have always shouted that Fascism must be crushed should, now that an opportunity presents itself, act in accordance with our principles". Their actions are, therefore, governed not by reason by their desire to prove to themselves and to others that they are consistent both in speech and in action.

There are others calling themselves Revolutionaries who believe that war creates a Revolution. The tragic consequences of the last war have apparently not taught them a lesson. To-day the "strategists" are in good company with the British Government which has been doing its utmost to convince the British people that there will be a revolution in Germany before long. They omit to add that in the event of a revolution in Germany they will crush it with the same ruthlessness that they propose to crush Nazism. Mr. Churchill, with his past experience, will see to that.

Finally, there is that vast mass of people with no opinions; who are fed exclusively by the poisoned pens of the Capitalist Press, and the noble words uttered by their political leaders through that most effective channel of propaganda, the B.B.C.

All these categories of "anti-fascists, referred to above, are either mistaken or misguided, for in no circumstance can this war be justified; in no circumstance can it bring peace.

### THE "DEFENCE OF FREEDOM".

On all sides attempts are being made to convince us that we are fighting to defend Freedom. The Government has, in fact, spent £44,000 (according to official estimates) to have England plastered with those posters "YOUR FREEDOM IS IN PERIL. DEFEND IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT". But was our "freedom threatened by Germany's invasion of Poland? The Government's answer, they say was their declaration of war on Germany. Yet the Government has not declared war on Russia, which has swallowed up half of Poland. On the contrary, Britain has signed an agreement to supply Russia with tin and rubber in exchange for timber. Poland was just an

excuse, as Czechoslovakia might have been, had England and France been ready. The ex-Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Duff Cooper, stated without even blushing with shame, that:

"it was not for Czecho-slovakia that we should have been fighting if we had gone to war... It was not for Serbia or Belgium that we fought in 1914, though it suited some people to say so...."

If further proof of the sinister role of the Allies is required one can point to the fact that in order to 'defend Freedom' they are doing everything in their power, to win over to their side countries like Spain and Italy; countries in which Freedom is anathema. Mussolini the man who recently declared that Liberty was a thing of the past, and Franco, whose Spain is one vast concentration camp (even the TIMES, Oct. 7th, declares that the "crowded prisons and camps tell of sorrow and misery. It is a dreadful problem".) As for Poland, the excuse for this war, independent observers have noted on many occasions that a Fascism of a most brutal nature existed in that country, and as to anti-semitic persecution, Streicher and his jew-baiters could have learned much from Polish technique.

Neither is the internal policy of the allies a very good advertisement for their avowed democratic traditions. From the Imperialist point of view, France is making good use of her coloured peoples to take the brunt of the fighting up to date. The NEWS CHRONICLE describes the way Senegalese troops were used to clear the Wandt forest of land mines and traps for the advancing French troops (by way of comparison, it should be noted that on a previous occasion sheep and cattle had been used for the same purpose. Presumably a Senegalese soldier's life is not worth more than that of a sheep). On another occasion the rescue of a French airman who had fallen in no man's land by an Algerian soldier. Thus one sees that in the 'front line of democracy' are coloured troops who, thanks to French Imperialism, know very little about Freedom, and who care even less to fight to defend that which they have never possessed. But, in spite of the fact that they are not living under Nazism, they have no choice!

#### INDIA, & BRITAIN'S WAR AIMS.

The other member of the 'democratic Axis', Britain, has already dragged the colonies into the war without even consulting them. India is a case in point. Apart from the messages of 'loyalty' from the princes who are supported by British Imperialism to further its own ends, no messages of loyalty have come from the Indian people. The manifesto of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was recently published, whilst not voicing the views of the revolutionary minority which advocates unconditional freedom for the Indian masses (as opposed to the moderate, bargaining attitude of the Working Committee) nevertheless, gives the point of view of an important section of Indian public opinion. The manifesto declares that:

"the Governments of Britain and France declare that they are fighting for Democracy and Freedom against aggression, but their past history is full of betrayals and proclaimed ideals. The last war meant secret treaties, Versailles and enlargements of empires....If the present war is for defending the status quo, imperialist possessions, colonies and vested interests, then India can have nothing to do with it...If Britain fights for democracy then she must necessarily end Imperialism and establish full democracy in India....The present crisis affects the future of humanity...India is the crux of the problem as she is the outstanding example of modern Imperialism...The true measure of democracy is the attempt to end imperialism and fascism alike." Our democratic rulers have answered India's moderate demands in such a way to shock even moderate opinion in this country.

As to Nazi methods and "Nazi concentration camps" which Hore Belisha, the war minister stated in a broadcast speech, we were fighting to crush. The Amritsar massacre in which it was officially stated that 379 Indians had been killed and 1,200 wounded by British troops under the command of General Dyer can compare 'favourably' with the worst Nazi purges. The destruction of whole Arab villages, the Palestine concentration camps, the shooting in cold blood of Jamaican workers, all these crimes are typical, not only of "Nazism" but of BRITISH and FRENCH IMPERIALISM too. In France, not even a frenchman is allowed to publicly discuss colonial questions. Meetings organised long before war broke out, in which these problems were to be exposed were banned by the police; authors of articles on this subject have been arrested and sentenced to as much as two years imprisonment.

So much for Freedom under democracy...So much for the real aims of the allies.

#### THE RISE OF FASCISM.

Apart from the moral support given to Fascism both in Italy and Germany by the rulers of this country in recent years, they have, with France and America, also 'democracies' been responsible for the rearmament of Germany by supplying them with the raw materials required for the manufacture of the implements of war, besides the credits required for their purchase. An article recently published in L'OEUVRE entitled "France's contribution to German rearmament" states that during 1938 the mines of Lorraine supplied a monthly average of 500,000 tons of iron ore for export to Germany. The correspondent suggested that possibly that iron may "come back to us in the form of shells and shrapnel". Bauxite (aluminium ore) was also supplied to Germany in ever increasing quantities. Exports of this mineral rose from 78,000 tons in 1935 to 87,500 in 1938. Canada which produces 102,000 of the world's total production of 113,000 tons of nickel, supplied Germany with 20,000 tons of the ore in 1937. When the question was raised in the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain

declared that he did not think it necessary to have conversations with the Canadian Government about it "for the time being".

Britain has also had her share in Germany's rearmament. As recently as August 22nd, the Daily Telegraph reports that "German agents are active in all parts of the country buying up huge quantities of scrap rubber, battery lead and scrap metal of all descriptions for export to Germany. Mr. Borovitch, managing director of Scrap Metal and Rubber Ltd, told the D.T. representative that 'it is safe to say that the greater proportion of our scrap exports go to Germany, particularly the scrap rubber.'" The same newspaper reported that large stocks of rubber had been bought up by German agents on the French market. It is significant that since the outbreak of war this country has been supplying Russia with large supplies of tin and rubber (Anglo-Russian trade agreement). It can be safely assumed that Germany is therefore still buying her rubber from this country via Russia! At the same time our Ministry of Economic Warfare is proudly publishing figures of minerals and other commodities captured from Germany since war broke out. If this country had pursued a policy of peace; no raw materials for war production would have ever reached Germany. But then, Capitalism is International!

These are the facts. The conclusions should be obvious to independent minds, however much apologists of the war may protest. There can only be one answer to that question "What are we fighting for": IMPERIALISM. And by participating in this struggle the workers of Britain and the Dominions and France are defending interests which are not theirs; interests which the revolutionary workers of the world have struggled to destroy for ever.

V.R.

(\*) The same newspaper states that during the first three weeks in August Germany bought in London 17,000 tons of rubber, 8000 tons of copper and 2,000 tons of nickel.

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#### QUARTER OF A MILLION POUNDS FOR 500 WAR BUREAUCRATS!

"The Timber Control Department employs 500 people at a total cost of £250,000 a year - that is not including payment for every modern convenience supplied in the hotel (commandeered) which houses them. The department is not in London; the timber trade on the other hand, largely is. This happy arrangement gives great scope for the

issue of lengthy schedules and questionnaires; and it has the result that there is no timber left over after the Army huts are built. Which brings us back to where we started and helps to explain why builders have lost their jobs and contractors all power of coherent speech....."

EVENING STANDARD (24/10/39)

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF "SPAIN & THE WORLD ORPHANS &  
REFUGEES FUND.

March 1937 - July 31st 1939

INCOME

1937. By Contributions 510-10-0  
1938. " " 330- 6-2  
1939. " " 211- 0-6  
(to 31/7.) " 1051-16-8

Solidarity for a comrade in  
in Spain 10. 0.0.  
ditto for an Italian  
comrade from Spain.... 8. 0.0  
Printing, Stationary etc. 5. 6.0  
Food, lodging, clothes  
for Spanish comrades now  
in London April 5th -  
July 31st..... 149.15.1

\*\*\*\*\*

EXPENDITURE

1937.  
5 contributions to  
"Durutti-Ascaso Colony  
at Llansa (as per  
receipts)..... 195.14. 4  
Printing, Stationary etc 6. 9. 9  
Xmas gifts to Spanish  
orphans..... 6.17. 1  
1938.  
Contribution to S/I/A. 25. 0. 0  
" contributions to the  
"SPAIN & THE WORLD Colony  
at Masnou..... 300. 7. 6  
Xmas gifts sent to above  
from Paris..... 5.13. 4  
Transport charges for  
sacks of clothing..... 1. 8. 6  
Sundries..... 5. 0  
1939  
Contribution to Marseilles  
Committee for Refugees 11. 6.11

CASH ON HAND 31st

JULY 1939..... 325.15.2  
1051.16.8

\*\*\*\*\*

The above accounts show a balance  
in hand of 325.15.2. Actually  
at the time of writing a further  
80.0.0 have been spent for the  
keep of the Spanish comrades  
in London and France.  
The above figures also show that  
99% of the money received has  
been used for the Spanish orphans  
and refugees, expenses amounting  
to 11.10.9 out of a total of  
1051.16.8  
The balance in hand will be  
judiciously spent, as we still  
are responsible for 10 Spanish  
comrades. Further balance sheets  
will be published at a later date.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF REVOLT! PUBLICATION  
1939

EXPENDITURE

To Printing Revolt!  
Nos.1 - 6 ..... 83. 0.0.  
Printing Blocks..... 5.11.1  
Postages for bundles  
and single copies....19.14.2  
108. 5.3  
Income from Sales,  
Press Fund and  
Subscriptions..... 96.18.3

DEFICIT 11. 7.0

\* \* \* \*

Any money which has been received by us for REVOLT! since  
this balance sheet was made up  
has been passed on to WAR  
COMMENTARY which has also made  
itself responsible for the  
deficit incurred by REVOLT!  
publication.  
Also, all subscribers to REVOLT!  
whose subscriptions had not  
fallen due when it ceased  
publication, will receive a  
copy of WAR COMMENTARY monthly.

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