
FOR THE MILITARY DESTRUCTION OF HITLERISM!

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THE American people, on pain of disaster, must fully realize that a Hitler victory over the Soviet Union and Great Britain would place in acute jeopardy the most fundamental national interests—the very national existence of the United States. They, therefore, should take all necessary steps, jointly with Great Britain, the U.S.S.R., China and other anti-fascist peoples, to repel the developing fascist world offensive and militarily to destroy Hitlerism, root and branch. This is the only means by which the United States can be effectively defended against the growing Hitler threat.

The history of Europe since the rise of Hitler shows beyond question that the U.S.S.R. has always been the great barrier holding back the flood of Nazi barbarism. It is modern civilization's main dike against Hitler's worse than medieval terrorism. This was true not only before the war, when the Soviet Union, with its support of Spain, China and Ethiopia, and its struggle for an international anti-fascist peace front, was the most solid obstacle to the growth of Hitler's power, but

it has also been true ever since the war broke out two years ago.

In his brutal war to establish world hegemony for German imperialism Hitler had little difficulty in smashing the armies of rival capitalist states and in overrunning Europe. But he has not been able to expand on a world scale. This is because the Soviet Union has proved to be the insurmountable obstacle in the way of his larger plans of aggression. Hitler did not dare to invade England while the powerful Red Army remained intact at his rear. Nor did the fact that the U.S.S.R. was living up loyally to its non-aggression pact with Germany and wanted to remain at peace remove Hitler's deadly fear. The very existence of the mighty socialist state, the land of plenty and socialist democracy, constituted a threat to the spurious "New Order" which Hitlerism was proceeding to set up on the European continent in its drive for world enslavement. Also, when Hitler, with his plans to invade England blocked, sought another route out of Europe and on to world conquest, again it was the U.S.S.R. that halted

him. This was during his great drive early this year down the Balkans and toward the Middle East, a campaign which aimed mainly at the capture of the Dardanelles and the Suez Canal, the conquest of Iran, Iraq, Egypt and other countries on the road to the Far East. The success of the drive would have meant a disaster for Great Britain and a great weakening of the position of the U.S.S.R. It was the Soviet Union which defeated this grandiose plan of Hitler's by stopping him dead at the Dardanelles.

Now Hitler is trying to destroy the Soviet Union, the great barrier to Nazi world conquest, the force which prevented his opening a doorway out of Europe through Great Britain at one end of the continent and through Turkey at the other. Hitler was doubly moved to attack the U.S.S.R., because of its rapidly increasing strength and its growing leadership of the conquered peoples. The fate of the world depends upon whether or not Hitler succeeds in destroying this loyal guardian of the gate, the U.S.S.R., and makes a path for himself to world conquest.

Were Hitler to achieve his aim of smashing the Soviet Union, then, with no Red Army to fear behind him, undoubtedly he could invade and crush Great Britain. Then, also, with gigantically increased economic, naval and air strength, he would soon be in a position for a decisive collision with the United States in a titanic struggle for world mastery.

From these facts it is clear that a victory for Hitler over the Soviet Union would put into gravest

jeopardy the economic standards, civil liberties and national independence of the United States, as well as those of other countries. With the vast power he would then have at his command Hitler could not only conquer large areas of Latin America but also, with the help of the powerful pro-fascist elements in this country, he would threaten the very existence of the American republic.

The fight of the Soviet Union and Great Britain against Hitler is, therefore, also the fight of the American people, and we should give it all possible assistance and collaboration. The vast forces of the United States—food, munitions, funds, ships, men, everything necessary—should be thrown into the scale against Nazi Germany and its Japanese, Italian and other fascist allies. An international front of the peoples of the world, rallying around a firm alliance of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States, can and should militarily destroy Hitlerism and wipe it from the face of the earth.

The Churchill-Roosevelt conference and the proposed three-power parley in Moscow are a good start in this general direction. But the decisions of aid there arrived at must be fully implemented by the most active collaboration between the three great powers. Especially have England and the United States the duty of building up a great western military front. Hitler must be crushed in a vast two-front vise. The people must be keenly alert to combat any tendency to leave the Red Army to bear the brunt of the fighting while the British content

themselves merely with bombing raids and the Americans only furnish munitions.

To mobilize the American people to perform their historic share in the world struggle against Nazi Germany there must be national unity; a national front of all those elements in the population who are willing to defend America by helping to crush Hitler. Hitler constitutes a threat to all the American people; therefore, the whole American nation should unite to smash him and his barbaric regime. The success of the national front against Hitler will basically depend upon the extent to which the workers, especially organized labor, give it solid support. The workers will shoulder their full share in the national effort to defeat Hitler; but they should at the same time insist that other classes likewise bear their just part of the burden. They will demand the maximum possible maintenance of their economic standards and civil rights and also the curbing of all excess profiteering and the efforts of reactionaries who try to exploit the war situation to set up their own brand of fascism in the United States.

The vast mass of the American people realize in large degree the menace to American national welfare caused by the aggressions of the Axis powers. That is why they so deeply hate Hitler and Japan and also why they favor aiding all those peoples who are fighting these powers. The bulk of the people not only endorse aid to the Soviet Union, but also, as the Gallup poll tells us, 54 per cent of them favor the use of convoys.

Nevertheless, the American people do not yet fully realize the tremendous sharpening of the danger to their national interests brought about by Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, and the consequent need for vigorous action to counteract it. They are still plagued by many hesitations and confusions. It is upon these weaknesses that the friends and dupes of Hitler operate. The appeasers and would-be Quislings and Pétains of this country; that is, the Hoovers, Lindberghs, Coughlins, Fords, Hearsts, Wheelers and Norman Thomases, who are also spokesmen and servitors of the most reactionary American financial interests—are busily at work trying to befuddle the masses, to break up their growing national unity, to sabotage every practical measure of defense, to disarm and demoralize the American people in the face of the deadly menace of Hitler Germany. Their main organizational center is the America First Committee. They are the fifth column in this country, the beginnings of the American fascist movement. The latest recruit to this sorry crew is none other than John L. Lewis, who, by signing the recent statement of the fifteen Republican appeasement leaders, served notice that he has abandoned the American people in this most critical moment of their history.

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Let me review briefly some of the more insidious and virulent arguments used by the pro-Hitler elements to deceive the American people. First, there is the isolationist

fallacy in its baldest form, namely, that the United States is not concerned whether Hitler wins the war or not, but should hole-up in the Western Hemisphere and let the rest of the world go to smash if it will. Unfortunately, many people still believe in this political idiocy; hence the appeasers harp upon it ceaselessly. Obviously, however, the United States cannot, by sticking its head in the sand, avoid the great attack that will surely come against it from the vastly strengthened and more militant Nazi Germany should Hitler succeed in defeating the U.S.S.R. and Britain. Isolationism can only make that assault more certain and more devastating. By trying to drive a wedge between the United States and the present alliance of Great Britain and the U.S.S.R., isolationism dovetails into Hitler's plans of dividing his enemies and then destroying them one by one. Hitler's present main world strategy seeks to smash first the Soviet Union, then Great Britain, and finally the United States. To attempt to prevent the United States from actively helping the countries now fighting against Nazi Germany is, therefore, to serve consciously or unconsciously as an agent of Hitler. Isolationism, in the present war situation, has become national defeatism and surrender to Hitler. It is no mere coincidence that many isolationists, such as the *Chicago Tribune*, are openly preaching treason. What the protection of American national interests demands is not an impossible attempt to run away from the spreading menace of Hitlerism, but full cooperation with Great Britain and the

Soviet Union in order militarily to destroy it.

Then there is the illusion that the American people can conserve their interests by taking the initiative in negotiating a general world peace with Hitler. This futile project, now being actively propagated by the America First Committee and other friends of German fascism, is the American phase of Hitler's current so-called peace drive. It is an attempt to harness the peace desires of the great masses to the Nazi war chariot. The American people should realize very clearly that there can be no peace with Hitlerite Germany. The only conceivable peace acceptable to Hitler would be a conqueror's peace; an appeasement peace that would demoralize the world forces of democracy and that would give Hitler much-needed time and resources to remobilize his forces for fresh aggressions. Hitler's brutal invasion of the peaceful Soviet Union is a final proof of the impossibility of any free nation living in peace with the Nazis. The whole history of Nazi Germany proves conclusively that the only road to world peace lies through the military destruction of Hitlerism. Hence, there should be no talk of peace with Hitler; nor should the people lose themselves in discussions over the precise terms upon which world peace will eventually be established when Hitler is smashed.

The big task before the masses of all countries, the one to which they should address their main attention, is to mobilize their combined military forces to destroy Hitler and his regime.

Another dangerous illusion assiduously being sown among the masses by assorted fifth columnists and dupes of Hitlerite propaganda is to the effect that now that Germany and the Soviet Union are at war the American people have nothing further to worry about and can rest on their oars. "Let Bolshevism and Nazism destroy each other," say some of these reactionaries; while others put out the version that the Russians will do all the necessary fighting for us. Such propaganda is dangerous in the highest degree to the American people. It is akin to Chamberlain's ill-fated program of promoting a German-Soviet war; a reactionary scheme which resulted in giving almost all of Europe to Hitler. Failure or refusal of the United States and Great Britain to assume their full share of the burden, along with the U.S.S.R., in fighting Hitler would be a catastrophic mistake. Considering Nazi Germany's great strength, such a policy could lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union, with a sure aftermath of invasion for Britain and a desperate war of survival for the United States. Or, in case of a stalemate on the Eastern front, it might cause Hitler suddenly to turn his guns westward and destroy Britain, with ensuing disastrous world consequences. The smashing of Hitler is a tremendous task, one that will require the united strength of Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and the oppressed peoples of Europe. Failure of the United States and Great Britain to cooperate fully with the U.S.S.R. now in its fight against Hitler could have even more

devastating effects than did the refusal of these powers to support the pre-war proposal of the U.S.S.R. for an international peace front of the democratic peoples to restrain the fascist aggressor states; a refusal which brought about the rise of Hitler and the outbreak of the present war.

Then there are those who would give aid to Great Britain but none to the U.S.S.R. A typical example is the leader of the American Legion in New York State, who said recently that he would rather die fighting Hitler than help Stalin. But that is not the issue. The question is not that of helping Stalin but of helping America; for, as the conservative *New York Herald Tribune* of August 21 declared editorially: "They [the Russians] hold today our first line of defense." Not to aid the U.S.S.R. is to aid Hitler against Britain and the U.S.S.R.—to aid Hitler against the U.S.A.

Hitler is making his main drive against the U.S.S.R., for reasons previously discussed. Therefore, everyone who wants to fight Hitler must give all possible aid, and immediately, to the U.S.S.R. To confine American assistance simply to Great Britain would be suicidal. Airplanes, guns, munitions of all sorts must also be rushed to the Eastern front. The Soviet Union should be provided with all necessary credits, priorities, and lend-lease arrangements to facilitate its most effective struggle. At the same time, Great Britain and the United States should cooperate in opening up a great Western front, so as to force Hitler into a fatal two-front war. The problem of destroying Hitler

is a joint one for Great Britain, the United States and the U.S.S.R. Aid must be sent where it is most urgently needed, and this means that the U.S.S.R. must get its full share at once. Any tendency to play off one front against the other is a pro-Hitler tendency, and it could have the most disastrous effects.

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There are others who, recognizing the menace of Hitlerism and desiring its destruction, say, "Let's help both Great Britain and the U.S.S.R.," and then they launch into a tirade to the effect that Stalin is as bad as or worse than Hitler. This is a favorite slant of the bourgeois press and the radio commentators. We also find the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. expressing the same idea. Do not such people realize that by this line they only add grist to the mill of the appeasers? For when people have constantly dinned into their ears the falsehood that the Soviet Union is cut from the same cloth as Nazi Germany, naturally their willingness to aid the U.S.S.R. is dampened. This is precisely what is wanted by Mr. Hitler and his American Quislings—the Hearsts, Lindberghs, Norman Thomases, etc. The lumping together of communism and fascism is an infamous lie, and it is especially the job of the Communists to prove it to be such. We must convince the masses that the U.S.S.R. is the strongest bastion of world freedom and also that in its socialist system is to be found the only final answer to the wars, hunger and fascism with which the rotting capitalist system is increas-

ingly filling the earth. The American people, who are realizing more and more that the fate of world democracy is now hanging on the effectiveness of the Red Army, are also beginning to suspect the truth of the ocean of anti-Soviet slander with which they have been deluged for over twenty years. They are turning an honestly inquisitive ear toward the country that has produced such a splendid fighting force as that which is now heroically combating Hitler's plans for world conquest. The circulation of a couple of million more copies of the Dean of Canterbury's famous book, *The Soviet Power*, now being sold for five cents a copy, will go far toward giving them the information about the U.S.S.R. which they are so eagerly seeking.

Finally, there are those elements who are spreading the "all measures short of war" illusion. Many of these people (see the recent Auto Workers' convention, for example), honestly want to fight Hitler, but they unwisely try to set limits to the degree of the fight they will make against him, which is all very pleasing to the American agents and friends of Hitler. The advocates of the "all measures short of war" slogan overlook two very vital facts. First, they ignore the reality that Mr. Hitler, now out to conquer the world, also has a deciding vote as to whether or not the United States will enter the shooting stage of the war. Therefore, for any group in this country to say that it will use all methods against Hitler except war is to adopt an unrealistic attitude and to play into his hands.

Secondly, they ignore the fact

that, although the United States is not yet fully a "shooting" belligerent, it is already deeply in the war. We may be perfectly sure that Mr. Hitler considers it to be war against Nazi Germany when this country gives huge quantities of planes, ships, guns and food to Great Britain, when it promises to help the U.S.S.R., when it occupies Greenland and Iceland; when it holds what are virtually war conferences with the representatives of Great Britain, the U.S.S.R. and China; and when it takes one drastic step after another to checkmate Hitler's aggressions. We may also be certain that when Hitler deems the time ripe he will reply to such measures by waging open warfare against us. Daily Hitler's offensive against this country takes on sharper forms. Already his Axis partner, Japan, has advanced to the very brink of war with us. Those who would defend the interests of the American people in this world, when the Nazi tiger is on the loose, must not handcuff the country with the slogan "all measures short of war." The true watchword for our people in these critical days is "every measure necessary for the military destruction of Hitler!"

For the successful building of national unity against Hitler it is necessary to liquidate isolationism, the illusion that a negotiated peace with Hitler is possible, the deadly notion that the Red Army alone can do all the fighting against Nazi Germany, the proposition of aiding Britain but not the Soviet Union, of favoring aid to the U.S.S.R., but of denouncing it in the same breath, the "all measures short of war" de-

lusion, and similar pro-Hitler ideas and propaganda. The master weapon to combat this type of fifth column propaganda effectively is to make clear to the American people how the whole character of the war has been changed by the involvement of the U.S.S.R. What before was an imperialist war has now become a war for the freedom and independence of all nations and peoples. By his attack on the U.S.S.R. Hitler is trying to demolish the main fortress of world democracy, thereby enormously jeopardizing the liberty and well-being of all peoples, including those of the United States. Moreover, with the U.S.S.R. now in the war, there exists the prospect of a decisive victory over Hitlerism and a guarantee of a genuinely democratic peace. Once the American people understand more definitely the changed character of the war and the vital significance that it now holds for them, the sooner they will overcome their lingering confusion and hesitation. They will then be prepared to adopt every means necessary for the destruction of Hitler.

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In his attack upon the Soviet Union Hitler has made two major miscalculations. Properly utilized by the democratic peoples, these basic errors can be made to bring about his downfall. The first of Hitler's mistakes in his campaign against the U.S.S.R. was to underestimate grossly the fighting capacity of the Red Army and the Soviet people. He and his generals, like many so-called experts in other

capitalist countries, thought, the Soviet Union would be a pushover for the German army; that the war would be a matter of only a few weeks at most. Instead, Hitler has run into a resolute and powerful resistance. He is shattering the élite of his fascist forces and destroying the best of his war material upon the granite of Soviet resistance. Meanwhile, behind him the peoples of the occupied countries, taking heart from the Red Army's valiant fight, are beginning to stir in the revolt that will eventually grow into a major factor in the wiping out of Hitlerism. The Moscow correspondent of the Chicago *Daily News*, reflecting present world military opinion, declared in the issue of August 18 that the Soviet-German war was going to be a long, hard one, saying "Adolph Hitler terribly miscalculated Soviet morale."

It is our task, that of the Communist Party as well as of the rest of the American people, to help make Hitler's miscalculations of Soviet strength fatal to him, by sending limitless quantities of munitions to the U.S.S.R. and by demanding that the United States and Great Britain create a great Western front, one that will catch Nazi Germany in the death trap of a two-front war.

Hitler's second major miscalculation in his anti-Soviet war was his underestimation of the world ha-

tred of Nazism. He thought that all he had to do was to proclaim a holy crusade against Bolshevism, whereupon the peoples of Great Britain and the United States, as well as those of lesser countries, would either join hands with him against the U.S.S.R. or, at least, would give Germany a free hand to assail the world's first socialist state. But the peoples of this and other countries have come to learn the treachery, brutality and barbarism of the Nazi regime. Moreover, they cannot be caught with the bait of anti-Sovietism. Hence, instead of joining up with Hitler in his so-called anti-Bolshevik crusade, they are rapidly building a powerful international front to destroy him.

It is also our task to help make this second great error of Hitler's a potent cause in his undoing. The American people should insist that their government join in full collaboration with the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain; that it aid and stimulate the resistance of China and all other peoples fighting against fascism; that it take all necessary steps, jointly with the growing international front, to wipe the pest of Hitlerism from the face of the earth. The only way to defend America effectively is by collaborating with all other anti-Nazi peoples, immediately and with all our power, militarily to annihilate Hitler and to smash his whole monstrous murder machine.