

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THIS book is the first sustained popular explanation of Communism in the light of current problems and events by the author. His previous book, *Communism in the United States* (International Publishers, 1935), was a collection of official reports, articles, speeches and pamphlets, brought together over a period of three years. It had all the shortcomings inevitable with such a form. The present book is, in contrast, a single work. Many of its leading thoughts, paragraphs, and even whole chapters, were published in the periodical press in the period from May to November, 1935, but all were re-worked and new material included to give the book its present form. A considerable part first appeared as a series of articles in the *New Masses* (May to July); the third chapter first appeared in the *Bolshevik* (beginning of August), theoretical organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Chapters VIII, IX, X, are re-worked from the report to the Seventh World Congress; other items have been printed partially in articles or speeches from time to time. Despite this, however, the book here presented is not a collection but a consecutive whole. It is the author's hope that it will provide a clear answer, easily read, to the thousands of questions currently being asked about Communism, what it stands for, its relations to other parties and tendencies, and to the situation of the country. The 1936 presidential election, in which the foremost candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt, will exert great efforts

to disprove the charge of "Communism" leveled against him by the Liberty League-Hearst-Republican combination, should cause many people to find valuable the authoritative answer of this book to the question "What is Communism?" This is a question of the day for the United States, as for all the rest of the world.

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