

The Anti-Fascist Vanguard

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

In the present war of national liberation, the efforts of the democratic peoples involved sum up to the destruction of fascism. This monstrous system must be destroyed root, trunk and branch, or the peoples' sacrifices in this war will have been in vain. If fascism is allowed to survive, even in a minor degree, the danger of a World War III will be always present. In fascism mankind has to deal with the most terrible social enemy it has confronted in all its long history.



Although fascism first appeared in definite form with the rise of Mussolini in 1922, its roots go far back into the history of world reaction. Fascism, the rotten fruit of reactionary tendencies of long standing, reaches its culmination in the deepening crisis of the capitalist system. It is native to every capitalist country and it ripens quickest in those lands where the capitalist crisis is most acute. The main bearers of fascism are the great monopolists and landowners, who try to solve their increasingly difficult economic problems with policies of terrorism at home and conquest

abroad. Fascism is a terrible social disease of capitalism.

CORDON SANITAIRE

Among the major contributing factors to the growth of fascism was the widespread capitalist policy of attempting to isolate the Soviet Union, following World War I, by policy of the so-called Cordon Sanitaire, which strengthened fascist tendencies throughout Central Europe and resulted in all the border states to the west of the USSR—

Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania etc.—becoming fascist.

Another basic factor contributing to the expansion of fascism was the refusal of the Social-Democrats to establish socialism in Germany following the overthrow of the Kaiser after World War I when they could easily have done so, and also their constant slander campaign against the USSR, which fitted right in

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Anti-Fascist Vanguard

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with Hitler's anti-Bolshevik crusade. For the fact that the German workers disgraced themselves by fighting against the first Socialist Republic, the Social-Democrats are largely to blame. Still another great cause for the rise of fascism was the policy of appeasement of Hitler and Mussolini, the Munich policy, carried out by reactionaries in England, France, United States, etc. who hoped that by building up Nazi Germany that country would attack and destroy the Soviet Union.

Although the main contagion centers of fascism are Central and Eastern Europe, Spain, Japan, Argentina and some other Latin American countries are deeply infected with it. Nor has the United States escaped the fascist poison. Ever since the days of the wide-

spread of the Ku Klux Klan immediately following World War I, our country has never been free from dangerous fascism, or near-fascist movements. The Huey Longs, Gerald L. K. Smiths, Father Coughlins, W. R. Hearsts and Lawrence Dennis' are only a few of the more notorious of the American fascist demagogues. Even more sinister and menacing than these more or less outspoken fascists, Negro-baiters, anti-Semites, and union-smashers are those powerful financial interests who, while outwardly less avowedly fascist, are nevertheless supporting every ultra-reactionary tendency making towards fascism.

ANTI-FASCIST VANGUARD

On a world scale as well as here in the United States, the Communists, ever since the definite constitution of the Communist movement 25 years ago, have been the most clear-sighted and resolute fighters against fascism. It was they who first pointed out the deadly dangers in Soviet-baiting; they were the most tireless fighters against rising Hitlerism; they fought for an international peace front of the democratic powers, with a policy of collective security that would have strangled the fascist monster in its infancy; they were in the forefront of the anti-fascist struggles in Spain.

In the present war the Communists are to be found wherever the struggle is hardest against fascism, whether in the desperate struggle of the Red Army at Stalingrad, the heroic battles of the Chinese people, the fierce fights of the underground anti-fascists in the occupied countries, or in the ranks of the victorious American, British, French and Canadian armies in Western Europe.

In our national Presidential election campaign, the fascist and near-fascist elements have rallied, with few exceptions, upon the side of Governor Dewey. While Dewey himself, a reactionary is not a fascist, he is nevertheless lined up with those reactionary forces in our country who are the generators of fascism. He is also directly allied with the most outspoken fascist groups in the United States, including those gathered around the Hearst and the McCormick-Patterson papers. A victory for Dewey would distinctly strengthen fascism in our country and it would also give a new lease on life to hard-pressed fascism all over the rest of the world.

Four basic tasks confront the peoples of the world in their determined effort to wipe out fascism. First, the military machine of the fascist powers must be utterly destroyed in this war; second, there must be a world organization of democratic peoples which will unflinchingly maintain international peace and not hesitate to smash at their inception any fascist attempts to precipitate another world war; third, there must be a comprehensive program of economic construction carried out, both on a national and international scale, that will make real headway against the economic chaos and mass unemployment and impoverishment which the fascists have shown themselves quite capable of exploiting for their own ends, and, fourth, democracy must be strengthened all over the world in government and industry, to achieve the foregoing domestic anti-fascist objectives.

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