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The Class Struggle Is Being Prostituted to the Fight Between Rival Imperialisms

A realistic view of European events is that in a Capitalist World Russia is not a free agent.

Russia must counter rival Imperialist moves, and so, favoring no one country or nation more than another, but seeking rather to play each one off against another in the age-old Power Politics Way, the countries and the people in the border States and/or spheres of influence suffer the fate of all who get caught between rival factions.

Elsewhere in this issue is an Appeal on behalf of the Austrian workers of the Socialist Movement who are suffering un-did agonies of being slowly put to death, fought between the two Imperialist rivals.

Poland is another instance. The workers of the world alone have common interest to END such practice. It is not for them to side with one or the other—but to devote all their energies and understanding to ending the capitalist system and inaugurate a world-wide moneyless co-operative socialist society.

We must be on our guard that we do not back up Anglo-American Imperialism in our criticism of Russian Imperialism, which is primarily imperialistic only because it is forced to counter Anglo-American imperialism.

But we certainly will NOT ACCEPT the other extreme view that Russia is a socialist country. Only the workers of Russia can make that country a socialist one. To-day they are regimented lives in a police State.

The Labor Parties and Labor Governments, by their administration of the capitalist State have sided with and work for British Imperialism.

The Communist Parties are actively working for Russian Power.

The working class MUST REJECT BOTH and be anti-imperialist, anti-aligning with the Russian bureaucratic state.

The official Russian practice shows no humanitarianism; no sympathy for the sufferings of the world's workers. Russia is bitterly opposed to all we regard as socialism as ever Hitler was; as ever Franco is. Russia is a product of a hard, brutal capitalist world, and ruthlessly exterminates all who will not wishly accept the Russian views.

The Australian Communist Party is actively engaged in white washing the TIMES of Russia.

The world's workers MUST REJECT every aspect of inhumanity and rapine that marks Russia's "progress."

Russia's aim would seem to be one of destroying whole peoples, whole nationalities. It is a copy of the Nazi technique.

Don't be misled by the rival propagandists of rival Power Groups.

THE SORT OF LETTER THAT SPURS US ON

I asked for a special Donation to reprint the Russian articles in this issue, Dick Preece weighs in with Ten pounds; he writes:

Dear Jim,—

Glad to hear from you again (27/4/16). You certainly are putting up a battle. I'm with you in what you say in S.S.R. (April-May). "Hence this periodical as a Review gives space to all other individuals and organisations, as well as parties, who are striving towards socialism." That's the way to keep it.

What I am enclosing seems pretty paltry, but it's the best I can manage. Half of it would have gone along to next month, anyway.

Best wishes,
DICK.

LABOR COLLEGE CLASS ON RUSSIA

The Victorian Labor College is conducting a discussion class on *The Russian Revolution*, with Ted Tripp as class leader, on Thursdays, 8 p.m., Room 42, Trades Hall, Melbourne, Lygon Street main entrance, and on top floor.

All those interested in Russia should attend. Classes are free to all.

Review

[Herman Singer, editor of the *Call*, has written and asked us to reprint the following matter to give it the fullest circulation possible.]

A Discussion Supplement of the *Call* (official organ of Socialist Party of U.S.A.)

RED STAR IN THE WEST

By Louis Clair

[The opinions expressed are those of the writer, and merit a close reading and analysis by all readers. We do not wish to introduce theoretical doctrinaire opposition to any particular view or statement with which we may not wholly agree, but leave it to the unbiased reader to make his or her own evaluations.—Editor S.S.R.]

1. PREFABRICATED REVOLUTIONS

"Yes," said the man from Berlin, "before the Russians came here, everybody admired them. In the first days of the occupation most workers would have voted for the Communist Party if there had been an election. But now? Well,

you know, those who are party members try to conceal the fact from their friends."

This revealing comment is typical. For many years, European revolutionary socialists held forth endlessly seeking to explain why any worker who developed leftward gravitated almost automatically toward the Communist Party. It seemed an insoluble problem. European revolutionary groups that were anti-Stalinist seemed condemned everlastingly to exist as tiny sects only. During relatively stable and peaceful days, the

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STRIKES

LAW AND THE WORKING CLASS

It used to be understood that if overseas vessels entered into Australian coastal trade they must pay the Australian Seamen's Award rate of wages and Australian conditions as to hours, etc., would apply.

BUT—

Twelve British seamen were arrested in Melbourne on May 18 last for demanding Australian conditions whilst the vessel, *Ocean Vigil*, is trading around the Australian coast. They had been on strike for 10 days, and are now "charged with disobeying the lawful commands of the master," and also with combining to impede the departure of the vessel.

Owing to exchange rates, British sterling pay is higher than Australian, but the hours are longer and general conditions worse. The only Australian condition "granted" the seamen was the much lower issue of cigarettes and tobacco.

A meeting of trade unionists in the Princess Theatre on the 18th passed a resolution protesting against the arrest of these seamen.

Where, then, are the "rights" that Australian seamen thought they had won for seamen trading in Australian waters?

In every strike the workers run up against the Law.

On May 23 the strike was settled, and the right by choice established of crews of British ships entering the Australian coastal trade to work under Australian rates of pay and conditions.

Much is said and written about workers' "rights."

The employing class is not prepared to admit that the workers have any rights.

The employers always want the Law

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