

THE NEGRO WORKER

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The World Today / By George Padmore.

Unemployment and War are the two most vital issues before the working class today. Both are inevitable parts of the capitalist system. In every country of the world, with the exception of the **Soviet Union**, a handful of men own and control everything. These people are the capitalists. The great majority of the people are compelled to toil for them in order to eat. These are the workers. Today, the entire capitalist system is in the greatest crisis which it has ever known. The capitalists are no longer able to provide the workers with jobs. Over 40 millions people have been thrown on the streets to starve in every country in Europe and America. If we add to this number of the unemployed, those in China, in India, in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies and semi-colonies, the total will come up to hundreds of millions. This is the "blessing" of capitalism which these parasites, aided by their lackeys, preach to the masses as a system which the toiling masses of humanity have no right to revolt against.

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The workers, however, do not intend to sit down and starve to death. Everywhere they are beginning to organize and to demonstrate on the streets under the slogan, "**We want bread, we want work**"; "**Down with the capitalist governments of starvation and war!**" — The Negro workers in America, in Africa and other colonies are also taking an active part in these demonstrations, for they are the greatest sufferers from starvation and hunger.

The capitalists, realizing their difficulties — are feverishly preparing to plunge the world into another bloody war. They hope that by starting a war, not only among themselves, but especially against Soviet Russia, the only country ruled by workers, they will be able to kill two birds with one stone. First, they hope that the workers will forget unemployment, starvation and hunger, and thereby ward off the overthrow of the capitalist system; and second, these parasites who prey upon the living and the dead, will be able to continue to run their factories by turning them into ammunition plants for the production of war materials.

Already they are beginning, with the aid of the capitalist newspapers, the cinema and the Churches to preach to the workers that the war means work. That if the workers want to get jobs they must support the plans of the war mongers. Unfortunately many workers believe this lie. But let us not forget the lessons of 1914-18. Let us not forget the millions of workers and peasants of all races and nationalities who died in order to help the capitalists to rob one another and enslave the colonial peoples. War means destruction, waste, wholesale murders. War does not bring relief to the workers. War is only of benefit to the bankers, the capitalists, the armament manufacturers.

This war has already started. The Japanese imperialists, supported by the other war mongers, especially England and France, without even the formal declaration of war,—which the imperialists no longer waste time to indulge in—bombed Shanghai and destroyed the whole of the Chinese section of the city, known as Chapei. During this bombardement which lasted only a short time, it has been estimated that **over 8,000 were killed, 2,000 wounded, 10,400 missing, while over 250,000 workers have been thrown out of jobs**, because all of the factories valued at more than 15 million dollars were completely destroyed by the Japanese artillery and airplanes. All this happened just in a few days.—Such are the “blessings” of imperialist war.

Not satisfied with this, the Japanese imperialists have invaded Manchuria, stolen it away from the Chinese, enslaved the workers and peasants by means of machine guns, and are now turning Manchuria into a battle field which they are preparing to use as the “jumping off” ground to attack the Soviet Union. **War is like the plague. Once it has begun,—it spreads.** And before long, we Negro workers will soon find ourselves involved in another world slaughter, as in 1914-18, unless we join with the other workers to put a stop to it at once, through organized demonstrations and protest.

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Many workers think that the Japanese are the only ones to be blamed. This is not so. The Japanese imperialists and militarists would never have ventured to make war against China or carry out their warlike provocative threats against the Soviet Union unless they knew before hand that they had the support of the other imperialist States, especially England and France. The French imperialists, who are the most bloodthirsty war mongers in Europe have loaned Japan hundreds of millions of francs, with the express agreement that the Japanese imperialists spend it back in buying war supplies from French armament manufacturers. The British and American capitalists, jealous of the big war supply trade which France is doing with the Japanese militarists, have also agreed to loan Japan money, so that they in turn could buy ammunition from them.

For example, it was officially admitted in the House of Commons, a few weeks ago, that during the months of February, March and April, British armament firms, with the consent of the National Government, of which that arch-hypocrite MacDonald, who poses as the “Angel of Peace” is Prime Minister, supplied the Japanese imperialists on the one hand with the following ammunition: **240 field guns and machine guns and 6,000,000 machine gun cartridges.** And during the same period, the very same armament firm supplied China with **25 machine guns, 505,000 machine gun cartridges, 500,000 rifle cartridges.** The U. S. A., although the greatest rival of Japan is also shipping war supplies to Tokio.

While this traffic in death dealing devices is being carried on between the East and West,—the representatives of the various capitalist nations were assembled at Geneva, making speeches about disarmament. This only serves to show what liars and hypocrities these imperialists are. While they pay lip service to peace in order to try and mislead the masses, they are at the same time adding to their bank accounts by promoting and encouraging war.

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This war in the East is merely the beginning of another world war. Since the world is already divided up among the various imperialist States, they are all feverishly striving to find new outlets. They want to turn the Soviet Union into a colony which they could loot and rape as they are doing in Africa, China and

elsewhere. In order to carry out this scheme, the imperialist powers, headed by Japan, have started the ball a-rolling. Their scheme is to first of all divide up China and share it up among themselves in just the same way as they divided up Africa during the latter part of the last century. At the time Japan had not yet emerged as a great imperialist power. It was only after the Russian-Japanese war in 1905 that she was admitted into the council of the foremost robber states of the world, and by that time Africa was already divided up among the other imperialist nations. That is one of the reasons why she is so anxious to grab up as much of China as possible, so that by the time the squabble between the other imperialist land grabbers starts with machine guns and battle ships she will have already got away with her share. On the plan of dividing up China,—Japan, France and England, are already in common agreement. Japan will take over Manchuria in the North of China, England the Yang-Tse valley territories, and France the Southern provinces, next to her colony, Indo-China. But America, although out to rob China, is not in favour of the dividing up scheme for fear that her rivals may get the lion's share. She rather wants what is known as the "Open Door" policy, which will give her greater economic advantages over her rivals, especially Japan. This is where the first contradiction shows itself. This contradiction is most sharply expressed between Japan and America, for they are the greatest rivals in the Pacific. They are like two thieves who cannot agree upon how to share up the booty. Each is jealous of the other. Each is afraid that the other will get too much. Yet still, each wants to devour China in its own way.

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Now, with regard to the Soviet Union. All of these capitalist bandits are for war upon the Soviet Union. Why is there this common agreement? First of all, the Soviet Union is no capitalist country. It covers one sixth of the earth's surface and is under a workers' government. In Soviet Russia, there is no unemployment, while in America, the richest capitalist country, there are more than 12 million black and white workers starving. The capitalist countries represent a decaying society. In the Soviet Union, the toiling masses are building up a new society,—**Socialism**. The capitalist world is like a dying old man. The Soviet Union is like a healthy, verile young man. And here we have the greatest contradiction in a nut-shell. It is a question of Age against Youth,—a conflict of social systems, Socialism versus Capitalism.

And it is just because the capitalists and their agents realize that they and their society are doomed, there is the common agreement among them to make war upon the Soviet Union, and destroy it, if possible. For, the more the Soviet Union develops on the basis of its Five Year Plan, the more it inspires the millions of starving workers throughout the world to follow the example of the Russian toiling masses. That is to get rid of their exploiters and set up their own government. For this is the only way to abolish unemployment and war. In other words: What the Russian workers have done, we can also do.

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This is the reason for the feverish preparation for war among the capitalist nations and their increasing hostility towards the Soviet Union. This is why Europe is spending a sum of 500 million pounds a year on maintaining huge armies, while millions of workers walk the streets,—starving. This is why England, France, America and the other powers, although they are quarreling among themselves as to who will get the biggest part of China, are like "loving brothers" when it comes to the question of war upon Russia. This is why all of these powers are supplying the Japanese imperialists with ammunition and encouraging Japan to

start a war against Russia, with the promise that they will join in and help in destroying the fatherland of the working class, and set the whole world once more aflame.

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Negro workers! This war concerns you! You will be mobilized again as cannon fodder. The millionaires, the bankers, the shipowners, the armament manufacturers, the landlords and the tax collectors—they and their sons don't go to war. It is the workers, the peasants, and the toiling youth who are called upon to dress up in uniforms and go and shoot each other down, while the exploiters and the oppressors remain at home and fill their coffers by profiteering.

Negro workers! Let us not forget how we were fooled in 1914-18. The imperialists and their black agents,—Dubois for the American imperialists, Blaze Diagne for the French, and Marcus Garvey for the British. They told us to go and fight. That after the war we would get "democracy". That Africa would be free. That the Negro peoples of the world will have the right to live as free human beings. Millions of black men, misled by these fakers, died on the battlefields of France, in Egypt, East and West Africa in this imperialist slaughter. And what is the result? Today we are worse off than we were before 1914. In America, Negro men and women are still lynched with impunity. Nine boys are in Scottsboro prison framed up by the same imperialists for whom we fought, faced with death on the electric chair. This is American "democracy"! In Africa, the Negro masses are subjected to the worst forms of exploitation, forced labour and taxation. This is how the British and the French imperialists proclaim their "democracy"! Although the Negroes fought and died, Tanganyika, Cameroon, Togoland and South Africa were all taken away from Germany and divided up among the imperialists of England, France and Belgium. These colonies were not given back to the natives who fought and died in the campaigns against the Germans in Africa. The Africans were not even consulted as to their wishes. This is how the League of Nations carries out the "right for self-determination"! Added to which, millions of Negroes—ex-service men and their families are starving today.

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Negro comrades, black brothers! Let us learn from our experiences of 1914-18. Remember the saying: "Once bitten,—twice shy." The imperialists mean us no good. They are our greatest enemies. When they cannot come forward to present their lying promises to us they employ black agents who try to mislead us. They too are our enemies, whom we must expose and denounce as traitors. We have a great duty to fulfill. We must organize today and join forces with the white workers of Europe and America, the yellow workers of China and Japan, the brown workers of India and other lands and tell to these imperialist murderers, these capitalist bandits and cut-throats, these human scavengers who thrive upon the dead and the living, these scourges of humanity,—that we will build an iron ring around the Soviet Union, that we will refuse to fire one shot against our heroic comrades of the Soviet Union who are showing us the path to freedom and emancipation. We must let the imperialists know that if they dare to invade the land of Socialist construction, our arms will be used against them. We will never be used to further their predatory interest. We will strike a blow for the freedom of Africa and the liberation of the toiling masses throughout the world, for we all realize that the successful building up of Socialism in the Soviet Union is the greatest inspiration to the Negro toiling masses in their struggle for national freedom and social emancipation from the yoke of imperialism and capitalist exploitation.