

# BACKGROUND

# Imperialism & War

Why does the conflict among imperialist powers inevitably come to a head in world war? What should the response of the masses of people against this reactionary aggression be in order to turn this bad thing into a good thing?

Under capitalism, free competition, which means the sharks swallowing up the smaller fish, gives rise to the concentration of production and capital. When developed to a certain stage, this inevitably leads to monopoly.

Monopoly and the law of uneven development of capitalism are the two reasons for the inevitability of war under imperialism. As long as imperialism exists, wars break out continually.

At the stage of imperialism (monopoly capitalism), the monopoly capitalist class having centralized the ownership of whole industries among a few companies, like the Big 4 in auto, must grab and gobble markets and raw materials in other countries in order to expand profits. They must export not only goods, but capital itself, to take over industries in other countries, coming to dominate their economic and political life as well. One example is the US domination of Puerto Rico. Soon the world is divided up into spheres of influence dominated by one or another imperialist power.

Once this division of the world takes place, the intense contention among the imperialist powers for markets, sources of raw materials, outlets for investments and spheres of influence and territory inevitably lead them on the warpath to redivide the world.

Monopoly makes the uneven development of capitalism in different countries sharper. New, rising imperialist powers can develop rapidly and overtake old, weakening imperialist powers. With the world already divided up, these formerly less-developed imperialist countries challenge the old imperialist countries and take away their colonies. The new redivision of the world cannot be a peaceful exchange. It must take the form of a bloody, violent war.

At present, the two superpowers -- US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism -- contend with each other everywhere. They are engaged in a bitter struggle for oil resources and spheres of influence in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, in southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Soviet social-imperialism, the new, rising imperialist power is the more aggressive and less exposed superpower. Therefore it is the more dangerous and is the main source of war. Although both superpowers are the main enemies of the people of the world.

Europe, the heartland of capitalism, has become the major strategic point of contention between the 2 superpowers. They have enormous economic and military interests there and directly confront each other. Both are doing all they can to consolidate the positions they have acquired. Both are trying to pull the carpet from under each other's feet.

US imperialism has carried out infiltration and subversion in the Eastern European countries mainly through ideological propaganda agencies like Radio Free Europe and Voice of America and public opinion campaigns like the "human rights" issue. It makes use of the Warsaw Pact countries' opposition to the hegemonic rule of the Soviet social-imperialists. It also tries to win them away by giving loans, broadening trade and granting the most-favored nation status.

Soviet social-imperialism makes use of the economic crisis in Western Europe to try to overcome its own growing economic difficulties. It lures their capital, equipment and technology to build up its economic strength in contending with US imperialism.

The focus on Europe once again proves the correctness of Lenin's thesis:

"The characteristic feature of imperialism is precisely that it strives to annex not only agrarian territories, but even most highly industrialized regions, because 1) the fact that the world is already divided up obliges those contemplating a redivision to reach out for every kind of territory, and 2) an essential feature of imperialism is the rivalry between several Great powers in the striving for hegemony, i.e., for the conquest of territory not so much directly for themselves as to weaken the adversary and undermine his hegemony." (Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism)

The struggle between imperialist powers to be top dog (hegemony), as it sharpens, will result in war against the opponents. We saw this in World War I and World War II. The history of imperialism is a history of contention and war. As long as there is imperialism, there will be war.

But WWI gave rise to the first socialist state in the Soviet Union. After WWII, more countries took the historic path of socialism. This is the dialectics of the situation. Either world war will give rise to revolution or revolution will prevent world war. If there is proletarian revolution in one or the other superpowers, world war can be prevented.

But under the present circumstances, the more likely path is that world war

will give rise to revolution, because of the undeveloped nature of communist leadership in the 2 superpowers. This means that the Party of the US proletariat must expose the dangerous war preparations of the imperialists and lead the masses in making preparation for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie. We are against predatory imperialist war, for it will cause heavy suffering to the masses, but we are not afraid of it. If the imperialists dare to unleash a new world war of aggression, we will turn it into a civil war. We will turn our guns around to aim at the imperialists, make socialist revolution and set up the dictatorship of the proletariat. A third world war will only lead the imperialists to their graves sooner and bring on more victories of socialism!