

Our Study Corner

Capitalist Crisis — Imperialist War — And the Workers' Way Out.

The terrific crisis in the capitalist world is growing worse. The capitalist class are seeking the most desperate remedies for this crisis.

In France unemployment increased last year by 523 per cent. In Germany 24 per cent. in Italy 53 per cent., in Britain 7 per cent. In America there are 12 millions unemployed.

In the colonies the situation is even much worse.

What is the immediate cause of this crisis?

More goods have been produced than the capitalist class can sell at a profit. For under capitalism the workers and small peasants in the "mother-countries", and less yet in the colonies, can never receive an income sufficient to keep themselves and their families. These masses who produce all the wealth of the earth with their own hands, do not gain enough to buy back from their exploiters even the bare necessities of life.

Hence food, raw materials, and manufactured goods are piled up on the one hand, while million upon million of unemployed workers and ruined small farmers are starving.

What is the reason for this?

The main reason is that the capitalist system of society cannot plan the production and distribution of wealth. Wealth production is carried on by separate competing groups of capitalists all engaged in scrambling for the market.

The result is that there is chaos. More is produced than the market can absorb. Production comes to a stop.

In the past the capitalists have busied themselves with cutting wages and social services, and waiting until the goods have been cleared off and a new era of prosperity comes. Now they see that they must do much more than this.

Why this crisis is different.

Why must they do much more than this?

Because this breakdown of trade and industry is happening in a world which is very different from the world of 1914.

What is the difference?

The first difference is that capitalism today has only five-sixths of the area to expand and trade in that it had in 1914.

On the remaining one-sixth of the world the Soviet Union is building up Socialism—organizing production for the benefit of the workers, not the profits of the parasites.

Is that the only difference?

No, another great difference is the colossal revolution, the struggle of the workers in countries like India and China to free themselves from the native exploiters and win the independence of their country.

"There is a vital weakness in the economic struggle of the world. It is not war. It is not pestilence; there was no great cataclysm of nature. What then is this profound weakness? I will try to answer that question in a single word—Asia. ... China is plunged in anarchy. India is shaking with unrest and insecurity." — Winston Churchill, House of Commons, February 18.

How does this affect the capitalist class of the imperialist countries, like England, France, U. S. A.?

The great mass struggles in the colonies further dry up the income which (already reduced by the crisis) the capitalist class draws from the colonies. Thus

in the last two years the income which the British capitalist class drew from the colonies, from shipping, etc., fell by £186,000,000 per annum.

A further result. During former crisis the capitalists sought to escape from the situation in which they were placed by opening up new countries as markets for their goods, as places in which they could invest their capital. Now they have to meet the fierce resistance of the colonial masses in rebellion.

Yes, that is clear. Is there any other difference in the position today from that of pre-war?

Yes, the capitalist countries have been divided into victors and vanquished. The victors have, in the words of R. H. Brand, the banker, "sucked other nations dry".

Further, the desperate nature of the crisis, the struggle for markets intensifying the danger of war among the capitalists themselves.

Last, but not least, the working-class is not the same as it was in 1914.

It has passed through many experiences. It is more militant. Under the influence of the crisis it is beginning to move forward to challenge capitalism. In countries like Germany the revolutionary movement has reached a high stage.

Capitalists Seek a way out.

What are the capitalist Governments doing in order to escape from the situation?

They are at one and the same time attacking all the forces which are threatening the existence of capitalism.

In Britain wage-cuts of over 25 million have taken place in 1931; £25,000,000 per year is being saved at the expense of the unemployed.

Taxes are now being put on almost every item of food. Workers who organize the struggle against this robbery are thrown into prison. This is only the beginning of their drive.

Simultaneously a reign of terror is launched against the Indian masses. People are shot down every day; 14,000 are imprisoned. A censorship is imposed to hide the truth from the British workers.

So you might say that Britain is doing the same in India as Japan is doing in China?

Yes, but you must remember that Britain is also taking a leading position in China. It wants to grab a big chunk of China for itself to develop it as a market. It wants to suppress the revolutionary movement in China, which is hindering this.

Are all the other imperialists agreed on this?

They are all agreed on the need for suppressing the revolutionary movement in the colonies.

There is profound disagreement among them as to the sharing out of the spoils.

The U.S.A., for example, wants not to divide China up so as to keep the greater part of China united behind the Nanking Government, which the U.S.A. is seeking to control. This would make China an U.S.A. colony.

Menace to U.S.S.R.

If the Japanese and American imperialists are quarrelling in China and France and Britain are supporting Japan, won't they be so busy fighting among themselves that they will have no time to attack the U.S.S.R.?

On the contrary, the more the imperialist rivalries increase, the nearer they are driven to war, the more they appreciate the danger to capitalism, which such a war would create.

A war between the imperialists at a time when the Soviet Union is going magnificently ahead, when the colonies are in revolt, when the workers are fiercely resisting the capitalist attack, might be disastrous for the imperialists.

Strange as it may seem, therefore, the more they are driven to quarrel among themselves, the more the policy of dropping their quarrels in favour of an attack on the U.S.S.R., leading to the opening up of Russia as a market for capitalism, finds favour.

In this particular situation, for example, the U.S.A. might ultimately agree to Japan's annexation of Manchuria, provided she expanded towards Soviet Mongolia and Siberia and not into other parts of China, ruled by the Nanking Government.

Crisis Reaches War Phase.

But aren't all the imperialist Powers in such a desperate position financially that they will be reluctant to let the war on China develop into a large-scale war on that country, let alone a war on the U.S.S.R.?

On the contrary it is the very desperateness of the situation that is driving the capitalists to seek a way out of the crisis by war.

They have waited for two years for improvements. Things are getting worse. They must act.

They must get markets, hence the attack on the revolutionary movement in the Colonies, the war on China, the drive to war against the U.S.S.R.

The Workers' Reply.

So in trying to get out of the mess the capitalists are robbing us, murdering the Chinese, driving to a new world war. What can we do to stop this?

We can work for the unity of the workers in every country with all the forces which are working against this decaying robber system.

We can unite our struggles with the struggles of the Russian workers building Socialism and we can unite the struggles of the workers in the "mother countries" with the struggles of the Colonial peoples.

Yes, that is easier said than done. How can it be done?

Take the railways and shipping lines as an example. The workers are anxious to resist further wage-cuts. They can do this by building up a powerful rank-and-file movement of resistance.

They can win the branches and groups for struggle. The militant branches and the active workers inside the depots and on the ships can work to get powerful committees elected to prepare for resistance to the wage-cut.

If the militants show their fellow-workers the relation between the war in China and their own struggles, then this rank-and-file organization must be used to stop the transport of munitions and troops to China and to link up with the unemployed and the workers in other industries in a big drive to stop munitions and withdraw troops. The same applies to all other workers.

But if you block capitalism getting out of the mess by wage-cuts and war, what then.

Then its attacks grow fiercer. It seeks to break the resistance of the working-class in the metropolies and of the Colonial people. It drives against the U.S.S.R.

This will present the workers of all countries with the necessity of lining up with the workers of Russia to seek their way out of this situation of hunger and slavery and war, by overthrowing capitalism and developing the Socialist society, which can alone guarantee world peace and plenty and freedom.

What is the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers?

The Negro Workers Committee was formed in July 1930 at an international conference of Negro toilers held in Hamburg, Germany. The Committee is not a race, but a **class organization**, organizing and leading the fight in the interests of Negro workers in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies.

The aims of the Committee are as follows:

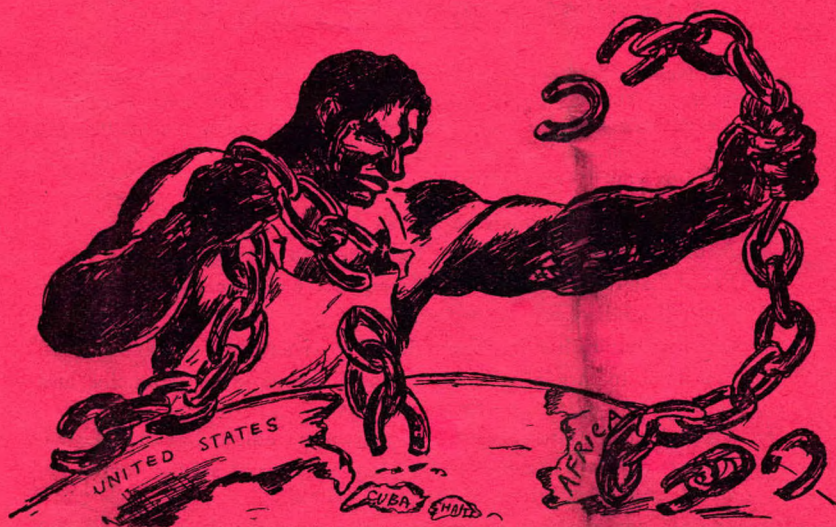
1. Abolition of Forced Labour, Peonage and Slavery.
2. Equal Pay for Equal Work — Irrespective of Race, Colour or Sex.
3. Eight Hour Day.
4. Government Relief for Unemployed, — free rent, no taxes.
5. Freedom to organize trade unions, unemployed councils and peasant committees, — right to strike.
6. Against racial barriers in trade unions and colour bar in industry.
7. Against capitalist terror — lynching, police and soldier terrorism, arrest and deportation of foreign workers.
8. Against confiscation of peasant and communal lands, against taxation of the Negro workers and peasants.
9. To promote and develop the spirit of international solidarity between the workers of all colours and nationalities.
10. To agitate and organize the Negro workers against the imperialist war in China and the intervention in Soviet Russia, in which the white capitalist exploiters intend to use black workers as cannon-fodder as they did in the last war.
11. To defend the independence of Liberia, Haiti and other Negro States and to fight for the full independence of the Negro toilers in Africa and the West Indies, and their right of self-determination in the Black Belt of U. S. A.
12. The Committee also fights against white chauvinism, (race prejudice) social-reformism and the reformist programmes of the Negro capitalist misleaders, and the missionaries, preachers and other agents of imperialism.

These misleaders, instead of organizing the Negro masses to fight for their freedom are the very ones who help the capitalists by preaching obedience, and loyalty to imperialist rule:

Negro Workers, organize the fight against imperialism!

Support the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement!

Fight for the Freedom of the Working Class!



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We will send them a free copy.**

**By building the "NEGRO WORKER" you help in
strengthening the fight for our Emancipation!**

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