

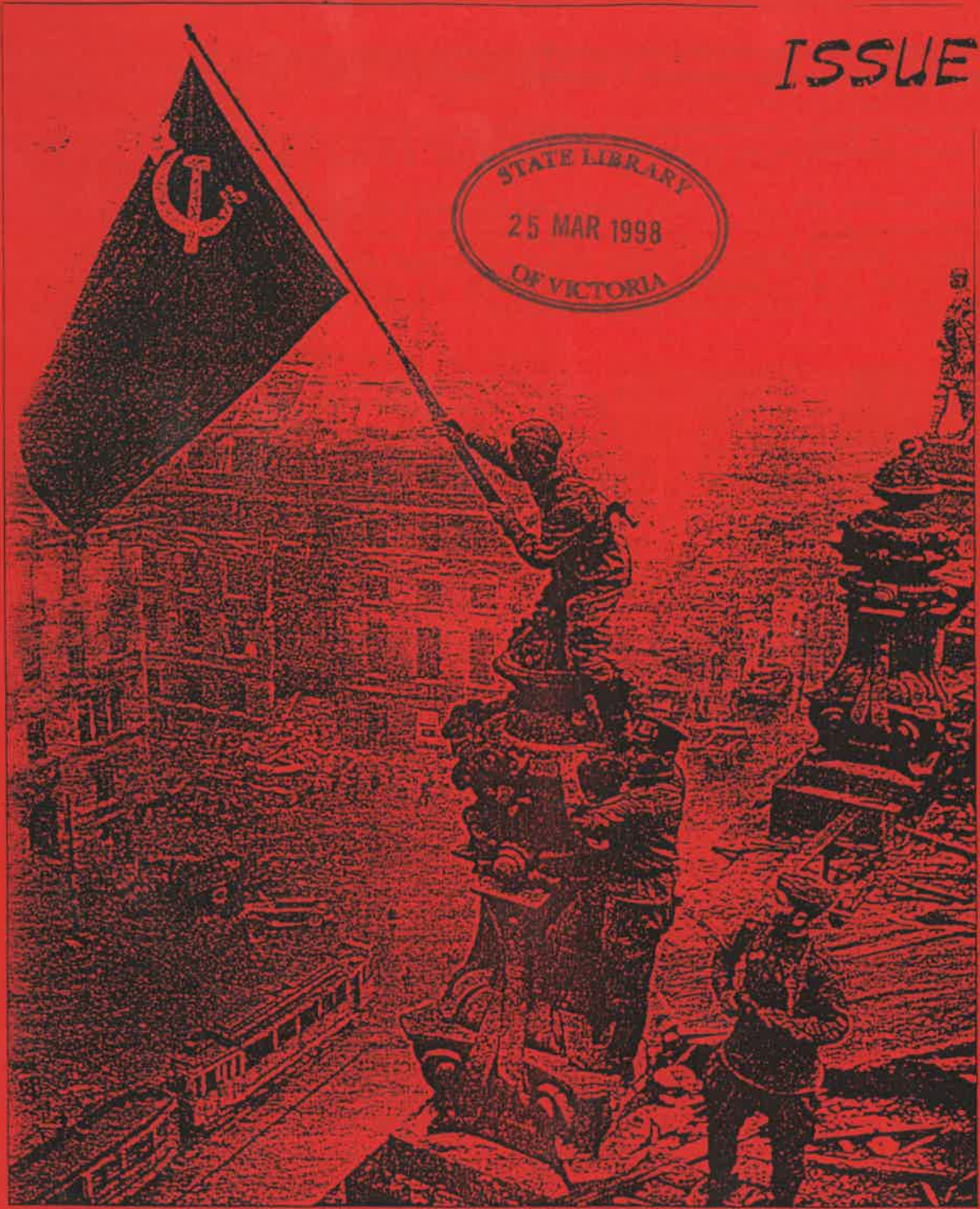
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OF VICTORIA



The Soviet flag being raised over the Reichstag during the fall of Berlin in May 1945. Yevgeny Khaldei's most lasting image became a symbol of Russia's strength and victory over Germany

Dec:97

RUSSIA - LATE 20th CENTURY

From: "Komsomolskaya Pravda", 1 March 1997

On 1 January 1997 the population of the Russian Federation stood at 147,501 million. This meant a population loss of 475,000 people within 12 months - a record for the past years. It meant that last year Russia lost the entire populations of cities such as Lipetsk, Ivanovo, or Tomsk.

Countrywide, deaths exceed births 1.7 times. In some regions (Moscow and Petersburg) the figure stands at 2 - 3 times.

In 1995 one third of deaths (672,000 persons) included those of working-age. Eighty percent of these were men. This unprecedented mortality of working-age men is ascribed to accidents, traumas, and poisonings ... In the countries of Europe, Japan, and the United States, deaths from these causes account for 5.51 %; in Russia, for 22-25 %.

Today's life expectancy of a Russia male is 57-58 years, the lowest in Europe. On the average, women live 14 years longer - nowhere in the world is there such a difference.

Over the past ten years, births have declined by 6 million. There are 3 million less kids aged up to 16 years, and 4 million less children below 6 years of age - a decline of 35 %.

According to official records only, over the past 6 years there has been a 250 % increase in those suffering from syphilis, a 100 % increase of drug addicts, and a 400 % increase of those suffering from alcoholic psychoses. Annual alcohol consumption amounts to 15 litres of pure spirits per head of population, of which a quarter are surrogates. Sixty percent of men smoke, and so do twenty-five percent of women.

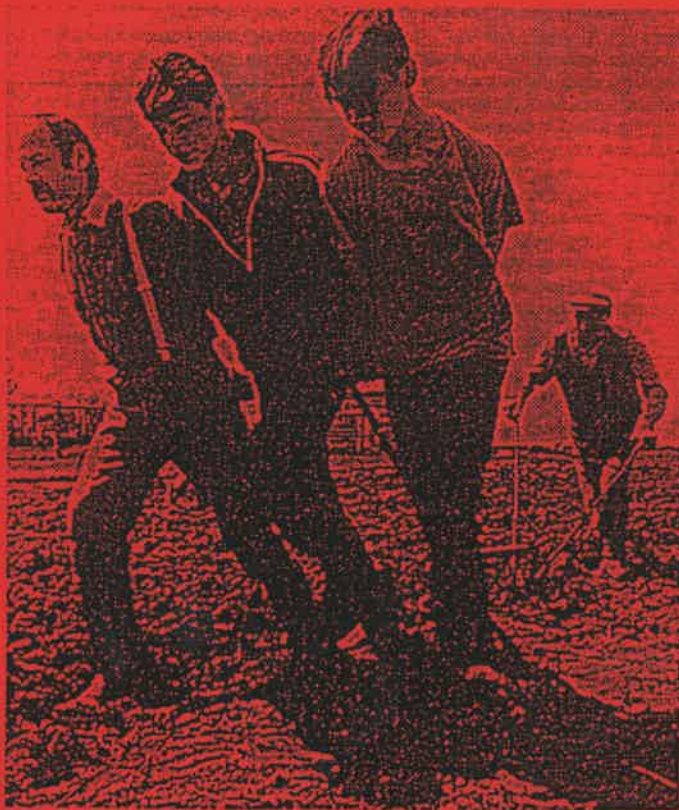


фото Сергея СКВРАТОВА.

ИЗ ЦИКЛА "ГОЛОСА"

Говорят воины Советской армии, павшие на фронтах Великой Отечественной войны:

"Мы отдали жизни за то, чтоб вы были,
Чтоб целым остался Советский Союз.
А вы так бездарно страну погубили,
Без боя отдали отчизну свою."

Ну, что ж! наслаждайтесь свободой базара.
Вы сами избрали свой пагубный путь.
Не знали вы горя большого пожара,
А нам, его знавшим, пора отдохнуть."

1992 г.

Россия, конец двадцатого столетия.



4. THE WORLD HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

The October Revolution Laid the Foundations for the Victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.

The Great October Socialist Revolution was a turning point in the life of Russia. It wrested the country from the capitalist system and directed her along an entirely new path, the path of Socialism.

On October 25 (November 7), 1917, the first day of the victorious revolution, Lenin stated:

"The significance of this revolution is, first of all, that we shall have a Soviet Government, our own organ of power, in which the bourgeoisie will have no share whatever. The oppressed masses will themselves create a power. The old state apparatus will be shattered to its foundations and a new administrative apparatus set up in the shape of the Soviet organizations.

"From now on, a new phase in the history of Russia begins, and this revolution, the third Russian Revolution, should in the end lead to the victory of Socialism."*

The Great October Socialist Revolution abolished the power of the capitalists and landlords and shattered the old, bourgeois-landlord state apparatus. The dictatorship of the proletariat was established in Russia. For the first time in history the oppressed masses created their own

* V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, 4th Russ. ed., Vol. 26, p. 208.

power, the power of workers and peasants, built up their own, Soviet state apparatus.

The Soviet state, brought into being by the Great October Socialist Revolution, succeeded in crushing the resistance of the overthrown exploiting classes, in defending the Soviet land from its internal and external enemies and in developing socialist construction. The Great October Socialist Revolution secured the victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.

The October Revolution created all the conditions necessary for a steady improvement in the material well-being of the working people and for raising their cultural standard. It blazed the trail to a free and happy life. "Our Revolution," said Comrade Stalin, "is the only one which not only smashed the fetters of capitalism and brought the people freedom, but also succeeded in creating the material conditions of prosperous life for the people. Therein lies the strength and invincibility of our revolution."*

The October Revolution destroyed national oppression. All the formerly oppressed peoples of our country became equal members of the Soviet family of nations.

The October Revolution abolished the inequality of women. The working women were the most oppressed of all the oppressed. The Great October Socialist Revolution emancipated them from oppression and made them equal members of society, and active builders of Communism.

The October Revolution led our country out of the imperialist war and delivered our people for always from the bitter obligation of shedding their blood in the interests of the Russian and foreign bourgeoisie.

The October Revolution took place at a time when Russia was threatened with losing her independence completely. Had the workers and peasants not carried out the

* J. Stalin, *Speech at the First All-Union Conference of Stakhanovites*, Moscow 1950, p. 19.

socialist revolution under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, Russia would have been turned into a colony of the imperialist states. The October Revolution saved our country from being enslaved by foreign powers and secured her freedom and independence. It created the conditions for overcoming Russia's time-old backwardness and turning her into the most advanced and powerful state in the world.

The October Revolution Opened a New Epoch in the History of Mankind

The October Revolution is of the greatest significance not only to the peoples of our country, but also to the whole world. It deeply influenced, and still does, the development of all countries.

Before the Great October Socialist Revolution the changes in the development of society amounted to one set of exploiters, being replaced by another set of exploiters, but exploitation, the oppression of the working people remained.

Comrade Stalin writes:

"The history of nations knows not a few revolutions. But those revolutions differ from the October Revolution in that they were one-sided revolutions. One form of exploitation of the working people was replaced by another form of exploitation; but exploitation, as such, remained. One set of exploiters and oppressors was replaced by another set of exploiters and oppressors; but exploiters and oppressors, as such, remained. Only the October Revolution set itself the aim of abolishing *all* exploitation and of eliminating *all* exploiters and oppressors of every brand."*

The October Revolution, as distinct from all other revolutions, overthrew all exploiters and transferred power

* J. Stalin, *Speech Delivered at the First All-Union Congress of Collective-Farm Shock Workers*, Moscow 1950, p. 11.

to the most revolutionary class of the working people, the proletariat. Under its leadership the old system of exploitation was destroyed and a new, socialist system established in which exploitation and oppression have no place.

The Great October Socialist Revolution marked a radical turning point in the history of mankind—from the old, capitalist, world to the new, socialist world.

Before the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution capitalism held sway throughout the world; the revolution deprived it of its biggest country, Russia, which occupies one-sixth of the globe.

The result: the single, all-embracing capitalist system was breached, the world split into two systems: the capitalist and socialist systems. The very existence of the new, socialist system, undermines the power of world capitalism, shakes it to its foundations.

The Great October Socialist Revolution inspired the proletariat of the world with confidence in their strength and in the victory of their cause.

The bourgeoisie claim that the exploited cannot manage without the exploiters. The October Revolution showed the working people of all countries that they could rid themselves of the exploiters and successfully build a new life.

The bourgeoisie claim that capitalist property is inviolable, sacred and eternal. The October Revolution deprived the capitalists of their plundered wealth and made it the property of the people.

The bourgeoisie claim that mankind is divided into inferior and superior races, and that the former must submit to the latter. The October Revolution proved that all nations, once emancipated, can successfully develop their economy and culture. In abolishing national oppression in our country the Soviet government showed the oppressed peoples of the world the path leading to their liberation.

The October Revolution exposed the theory of the compromising parties which claimed that Socialism could be achieved without a class struggle and by collaborating with the bourgeoisie.

The October Socialist Revolution marked the beginning of the collapse of world capitalism, ushered in a new era in the history of mankind—the era of Socialism. The Soviet people are justly proud of the fact that their country is the birthplace of this really great revolution.

Lenin wrote:

"... We have a right to be and are proud of the fact that to us has fallen the good fortune to *begin* the erection of a Soviet state, and thereby to *usher in* a new era in world history, the era of the rule of a *new* class, a class which is oppressed in every capitalist country, but which everywhere is marching forward towards a new life, towards victory over the bourgeoisie, towards the dictatorship of the proletariat—and towards the emancipation of mankind from the yoke of capital and from imperialist wars."*

* V. I. Lenin, *Selected Works*, Two-Volume ed., Vol. II, Part 2, Moscow 1951, p. 597.

5. DEFEAT OF THE INTERVENTIONISTS AND WHITEGUARDS

The Socialist Fatherland Is in Danger

From the very first days of its existence the Soviet Republic was faced with severe trials. The capitalists and landlords bitterly resisted the victorious workers and peasants. The old tsarist officials in the Ministries, banks and other institutions refused to work with the new power and maliciously sabotaged the measures of the young Soviet state apparatus. With the help of the Socialist-Revolutionaries, Mensheviks, Trotskyites, Bukharinites and other enemies of the people the capitalists and landlords hatched counterrevolutionary plots, instigated anti-Soviet revolts, assassinated Party and Government leaders.

Notwithstanding the enormous difficulties, the Party and Soviet government successfully crushed the resistance of the enemy. Supported by the workers and peasants the Soviet Government exposed the machinations of the overthrown exploiting classes and foiled all their plans. The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (Vecheka), formed in the initial period of Soviet power, and headed by the staunch revolutionary Felix Dzerzhinsky, waged a ruthless struggle against the bourgeois-landlord counterrevolution.

Soviet power penetrated to all parts of the country. At the end of 1917 and beginning of 1918 it spread at such

a rapid rate that Lenin referred to it as the triumphal march of Soviet power.

After having crushed the early resistance of the internal counterrevolution the young Soviet Republic had to fight the forces of foreign imperialism. Toward the end of 1917 the Soviet government started peace negotiations

with Germany. Lenin and Stalin considered it imperative to conclude this peace and thus enable the Soviet country restore its economy and start socialist construction. But all the Russian counterrevolutionaries: the Socialist-Revolutionaries, Mensheviks, Trotskyites and Bukharinites conducted a frenzied campaign against the conclusion of peace. Taking advantage of the treachery of Trotsky and Bukharin, the German imperialists broke off the peace negotiations in February 1918 and treacherously invaded the Soviet land with the object of overthrowing the Soviet power, converting Russia into a German colony and enslaving our people.

The old army crumbled before the onslaught of the armed German hosts which advanced on the Ukraine and Byelorussia and approached Petrograd. Mortal danger threatened our country.

In those decisive days Lenin and Stalin issued the call to the Soviet people "The socialist fatherland is in danger!" appealing to the workers and soldiers to defend every position to the last drop of blood. And in response the working people rose en masse in a sacred war against the German invaders.

Lenin and Stalin organized the workers' and peasants' Red Army to defend the Soviet Republic from its external and internal enemies. The young detachments of the Red Army received their first baptism of fire in battle against the German intervention troops, heroically resisting the marauders who were armed to the teeth. At Narva and Pskov the German invaders met with a resolute repulse. Their advance on Petrograd was checked.

February 23, 1918—the great day the troops of imperialist Germany were repulsed—is regarded as the birthday of the Red Army, and is celebrated every year in our country.

In March the Soviet government concluded a peace treaty with Germany. It was forced to accept the onerous terms imposed because it needed a respite from the war to consolidate the Soviet state, to create a powerful Red Army, and to start peaceful socialist construction.

End of the Respite and Beginning of Foreign Military Intervention

The respite won by the Soviet Republic was short-lived. It was broken by the imperialists of Great Britain, France, Japan, the United States and other countries who after the German imperialists, took up arms against Soviet Russia. The imperialists of these countries wanted to crush the Soviet power, to restore the bourgeois-landlord order, to seize the Soviet lands and their wealth and to enslave our people. With this object in view they embarked on an armed invasion of Soviet Russia.

In 1918 the Japanese marauders landed troops in the Far East and seized Vladivostok, the Maritime Province and North Sakhalin. The British imperialists occupied Archangelsk, Murmansk, Baku and parts of Central Asia. Wherever they set foot they perpetrated outrages of the worst kind against the workers and peasants. In September 1918, for instance, the British imperialists, with the aid of the Socialist-Revolutionaries, had twenty-six Baku commissars including Stepan Shaumyan, Alyosha Djaparidze, Meshadi Azizbekov, Ivan Fioletov, shot in the Transcasian region.

In August 1918 American troops landed in Siberia, occupying the territory up to April 1919. Like the Japanese,

British and other interventionists they burned Russian villages, unleashed a reign of terror against the Russian population, shooting hundreds of workers and peasants. General Graves, the American commander, admitted that by invading Soviet territory the United States took part in the efforts to overthrow the Soviets. That is also why Wilson, President of the United States at that time, undertook to help Admiral Kolchak with supplies, arms and provisions and make his government an all-Russian government. In pursuance of this the United States sent the Whiteguard armies hundreds of thousands of rifles, millions of cartridges, machine guns, guns and equipment of every kind.

The interventionists operated in close alliance with the counterrevolutionaries in Russia. The Russian capitalists and landlords bartered our country, readily handed over to the foreign imperialists our territories, grain, oil and industry in order with the help of the invaders to restore their rule in the country and again oppress the working people. Thus, two forces united in the struggle against the Soviet power: the foreign imperialists and counterrevolutionaries at home.

The Whiteguards, Socialist-Revolutionaries, Mensheviks and other counterrevolutionary scum engineered anti-Soviet revolts in Moscow, Yaroslavl and other cities in the country. In the East the bourgeois and landlord counterrevolutionaries reared their head and overthrew Soviet power in a number of important parts of Siberia and in the Volga region. The enemies of the workers and peasants in the meantime organized terroristic acts against leading figures of the Party and the Soviet government. In June 1918 the Socialist-Revolutionaries assassinated Volodarsky in Petrograd. In August of the same year they assassinated Uritsky in Petrograd, and in Moscow made a villainous attempt on the life of Lenin.

In the summer of 1918 mortal danger threatened Tsaritsyn. General Krasnov's bands were surrounding the

town; inside Whites and traitors were plotting. In order to procure grain and save Tsaritsyn Lenin sent Stalin there. Once there Stalin secured a radical change in the situation within a short space of time, dispatched substantial supplies of food to the starving capitals, saved Tsaritsyn and prevented the Whites from breaking through to Moscow. Tsaritsyn was subsequently renamed Stalingrad in honour of its heroic defence under Stalin's leadership in 1918.

Campaigns of the Entente

The foreign bourgeois states proclaimed a blockade of the Soviet Republic, that is, cut all sea routes and other lines of communication with the outside world. No manufactured goods, provisions or medicaments could reach Soviet Russia. Simultaneously, the imperialists of Great Britain, France, Japan and the United States sent their troops against the Soviet Republic where they rode roughshod over the country, drenching it in blood and plundering it of its wealth.

The British, U.S., Japanese and French imperialists organized and inspired all the anti-Soviet campaigns and supplied the Whites with arms, equipment and army instructors. The British General Knox wrote: We shipped to Siberia hundreds of thousands of rifles, hundreds of millions of cartridges, hundreds of thousands of army uniforms, machine-gun cartridge belts, etc. Every bullet sent into the Bolsheviks was produced in Britain.

The Soviet Republic's bitterest enemy Churchill, British War Minister at that time, announced the campaign of fourteen bourgeois states against Soviet Russia.

In 1919-1920 when the intervention against Soviet Russia was at its highest the Entente, having vanquished Germany and Austria, organized three campaigns against Soviet Russia hurling large military forces against it.

The first campaign was launched in the spring of 1919. The imperialists placed their chief hopes in Admiral Kolchak, their puppet in Siberia, who had almost reached the Volga with his armies and had proclaimed himself the supreme ruler of Russia. General Denikin's troops were fighting against the Soviet power in the south and General Yudenich's armies were operating in the northwest. Yudenich was advancing on Petrograd from the direction of the Baltic. The Central Committee of the Party sent Stalin to Petrograd to organize its defence, and the threat to the city was removed. This made it easier to tackle Kolchak, and his army was completely routed at the end of 1919.

General Denikin headed the Entente's second campaign. In the autumn of 1919 his troops took Orel and were nearing Tula, threatening to capture Moscow. The Party and the Soviet Government mobilized all forces at this decisive period to fight Denikin. Stalin's plan to defeat Denikin, was approved and carried out under Stalin's direction. Denikin's troops were completely routed. Defeated at Orel and Voronezh they fled to the south. By the beginning of 1920 the whole of the Ukraine and the North Caucasus were cleared of the Whites.

In its third campaign the Entente utilized the forces of the Polish gentry and the troops of the Whiteguard General Wrangel who had entrenched himself in the Crimea. Both Poland and General Wrangel were supplied by the British and the French with arms, armoured cars, tanks, planes and ammunition of the latest type. But they met with the same failure as Kolchak and Denikin in their campaign against the Soviet Republic. In October 1920 Soviet Russia concluded a peace treaty with Poland. In November of the same year Red Army units under M. V. Frunze liberated the Crimea of the interventionists and Whiteguards, thus victoriously ending the Civil War as a whole. (It ended later in some regions. Japanese intervention in the Far East lasted until 1922.)

"The war of the foreign interventionists and the Russian Whiteguards against the Soviets ended in a victory for the Soviets.

"The Soviet Republic preserved its independence and freedom.

"This was the end of foreign military intervention and Civil War.

"This was a historic victory for the Soviet power."*

The Soviet Country—One Armed Camp

In order to vanquish the intervention armies and the Whiteguards the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet state took measures to strengthen the Red Army and the Soviet rear.

The whole country was placed at the service of the front. To secure victory over the enemy the Soviet government took all industry under its control, including the middle-sized and small industries, prohibited private trading, and established the surplus-appropriation system under which the peasants had to turn in all surplus produce for provisioning the army and workers. Under the exigencies of war the government was obliged to introduce food rationing. It also introduced universal labour service for all classes making physical labour compulsory for the bourgeoisie.

All these measures, which were necessitated by the Civil War, were in their entirety known as War Communism. Without War Communism the Soviet power would not have emerged victorious in the Civil War.

In their policy in the countryside the Party and the Soviet Government relied in the main on the poor peas-

* *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Short Course, Moscow 1950, p. 300.*

ants. The government waged a vigorous struggle against the kulaks who refused to sell grain to the state at fixed prices. The kulaks wanted to strangle the Soviet Republic through starvation and restore the former system. The Party organized the poor peasants to smash the kulaks and to support the measures of the Soviet government. In 1918 Committees of the Poor Peasants were formed. These committees were strongholds of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the villages and played an important part in the struggle against the kulaks and in supplying the army and population with foodstuffs. "The struggle for bread is a struggle for Socialism," Lenin said at that time.

The Party's correct policy toward the middle peasant was most important in ensuring the victory over the interventionists and Whites. The Lenin Decree had given the peasants land; the middle peasants now comprised the bulk of the peasant population, and not the poor peasants as had been the case before the revolution. The outcome of the Civil War largely depended on which class would win over the middle peasant—the proletariat or the bourgeoisie.

In the early months after the victory of the October Revolution the middle peasant vacillated between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. But beginning with the autumn of 1918 there was a change in the attitude of the mass of the middle peasants. The peasants realized that if the interventionists and Whites were victorious the landlords would restore their rule and seize the land of the peasants. The middle peasants began to swing over to the Soviet power. The alliance between the working class and working peasants, led by the working class, played a most important part in the victorious outcome of the Civil War.

Why the Red Army Was Victorious

The enemies of the Soviet power—the interventionists and Whiteguards—had many advantages. They had a ready army, experienced officers, first-class arms, ammunition and equipment. Furthermore they occupied the richest food-producing regions of Russia at one time.

The Soviet Republic was in a difficult position. It was hemmed in by the blazing circle of the fronts. At one period three-quarters of the Soviet land was in the hands of the foreign invaders. The Soviet Republic was short of grain, arms and equipment.

And notwithstanding all these difficulties the Soviet Republic emerged the victor from this unequal combat. The armies of the interventionists and Whiteguards were completely smashed.

How is this to be explained?

The armies of the interventionists and Whiteguards fought for aims that were alien to the people, for the interests of the capitalists and landlords. That is why they could not meet with the sympathy and support of the people. The Red Army, on the other hand, fought for the cause of liberating the workers and peasants from the bour-

geois landlord yoke, for the freedom and independence of their socialist motherland. It fought for the Soviet regime which was pursuing the only right policy, one that fully corresponded to the interests of the people. The people understood this policy as their own policy and supported it unreservedly.

The Red Army is the offspring of the people. It is loyal and faithful to its people; that is why the people love and support their army. Its indissoluble ties with the people made the Red Army a great, invincible force in the fighting against the intervention and Whiteguard hordes.

The Soviet troops understood the aims and purposes of the war and recognized their justice. This strengthened the fighting efficiency of the Red Army, its revolutionary

discipline and organization. The Red Army men courageously fought the enemy which had attacked the country from all sides, displayed unparalleled self-sacrifice and heroism.

The Red Army was victorious because the heroic party of Lenin and Stalin was its leading and organizing spirit. At the time of the Civil War nearly half of the Party membership went to the front. The Party produced from its ranks such organizers and agitators as the military commissars who cemented the ranks of the Red Army and fostered in it the spirit of discipline and courage.

The Bolshevik Party was the leading core both at the front and in the rear. It converted the country into an armed camp. The rear supplied the front with arms, ammunition, equipment, food and reinforcements. Splendid Bolsheviks operated behind the lines of the Whiteguard armies, raising the workers and peasants in revolt against the interventionists and Whiteguards. They undermined the rear of the foe and thereby facilitated the advance of the Red Army. By their operations the partisans of the Ukraine, Siberia, the Far East, the Urals, Byelorussia and the Volga region rendered invaluable service to the Soviet troops.

The Bolshevik Party raised the masses of workers and peasants in a patriotic war against the foreign invaders and bourgeois and landlord Whiteguards. The incredible difficulties of this war and their successful elimination vividly demonstrated the strength and energy the mass of workers and peasants can display if they are led by the Bolshevik Party. The discipline of the Bolsheviks united in their solidarity, their revolutionary readiness for any sacrifice for the success of the common cause, their ability to organize millions and to lead them properly in complex situations, determined the outcome of the fierce Civil War battles.

The struggle of the Soviet state against the interventionists and Whiteguards enlisted the sympathy and sup-

port of the workers of all countries. The governments of the capitalist countries dispatched their troops against Soviet Russia and tried to stifle the first workers' and peasants' state in the world, but the workers of these countries called strikes, refused to load munitions consigned to the invaders and the Whiteguards, and set up "Hands off Russia!" Councils of Action. "The international bourgeoisie has only to raise its hand against us to have it seized by its own workers,"* wrote Lenin.

Lenin and Stalin, the leaders of the Bolshevik Party and Soviet state played a paramount part in the defeat of the interventionists and Whiteguards. Lenin courageously and with a firm hand steered the Soviet ship through the storm of the Civil War. He worked tirelessly to build up the defence of the Soviet state, organized the Red Army and inspired it in battle; worked indefatigably

strengthen the Soviet rear. Lenin headed the Council of Workers' and Peasants' Defence, which mobilized the country's man power and economic resources for the needs of the front.

Comrade Stalin was Lenin's chief mainstay in the organization and direction of the defence of the Soviet Republic. During the Civil War the Central Committee of the Party, and Lenin personally, sent Stalin to the most crucial fronts, wherever the threat to the revolution was most imminent, wherever the advance of the interventionists and Whiteguards threatened the very existence of the Soviet regime. And wherever he went Stalin secured victory. Stalin directed the military operations at Tsaritsyn and Perm, at Petrograd and against Denikin, against the Polish gentry and Wrangel. He drew up brilliant plans for routing the enemy and successfully carried out these plans. It was Stalin who directly inspired and organized the major victories of the Red Army.

* *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Short Course*, Moscow 1950, p. 304.

Under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia beat off the first invasion of the foreign imperialists on the socialist fatherland. Supported by the workers and peasants the Red Army cleared Soviet territory of the enemy, saved the Soviet regime, and the great gains of the October Revolution, secured the state independence of the socialist fatherland and made it possible for the working people of the Soviet land to pass over to peaceful socialist construction.

BRIEF SUMMARY

At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century capitalism entered the last stage of its development—imperialism. Under imperialism the contradictions of capitalism were aggravated to the extreme. Imperialism gave rise to predatory world wars. Imperialism is the eve of the socialist revolution.

The war of 1914-1918 was an imperialist war for the redivision of the world. The Bolsheviks called on the workers and peasants to convert the imperialist war into a civil war.

In February 1917 the workers and peasants of Russia overthrew the tsarist autocracy. The Bolshevik Party roused the working class and the poor peasants to develop the revolution further, to overthrow capitalism and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The Great October Socialist Revolution deposed capitalism and laid the foundation for the building of Socialism in our country. The Great October Socialist Revolution showed that the age of capitalism was drawing to a close. It ushered in a new era in the history of mankind—the era of Socialism.

The young Soviet state, which came into being in the fire of the October Revolution, in fierce battles with the combined forces of the foreign invaders and Whiteguards, upheld its freedom and independence. The Bolshevik Party, led by Lenin and Stalin, organized and secured the victory of the Soviet socialist state over its enemies.

With the defeat of the enemies of the Soviet Republic in the Civil War the working people of the Soviet country were able to embark on peaceful socialist construction.

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment: The Plan to Replace Democratically Responsible Government

John McMurtry

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment is a document being secretly negotiated by economist bureaucrats and corporate advisers from the 29 nations of the Paris based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Resembling the NAFTA and the WTO agreements in its one-sided logic, it is the latest fast track initiative to institute a transnational regulatory framework of private corporate ownership and trade as a sovereign order which overrides national, regional and municipal jurisdictions and laws.

The MAI's focus is protection of foreign investment capital. Its master principle is the blanket right to "national treatment" of transnational corporations in host societies. Under the agreement, foreign corporations must never be "discriminated against" by any government on any level on any account, such as their contribution to the well-being of the home society.

Serving the interests of the home society is deemed to be "protectionist". To accomplish the full colour of this right, a massive re-engineering of the access of foreign corporations to the wealth of all societies is required. Accordingly, the MAI has written into its detailed draft articles the rights of transnational corporations:

- to export their commodities or services across all borders of locale or nation to other societies' markets with no conditions attached;
- to unilaterally purchase and own any built structure or productive capacity of any other signatory nation with no requirement to sustain its viability, employment-level or location in the home country;
- to own any saleable natural resource of other countries and to have national right to any concession, licence or authorisation to extract its oil, forest, mineral or other resources with no obligation to sustain these resources, or to use them in the interest of the host society;
- to profit from any commercial enterprise with no requirement to reinvest in the enterprise or any other enterprise in the country in which the resources have been received and the profits earned;
- to create credit and thus increase domestic money supply with no restriction on the amount of new currency demand so created in the host economy, however inflationary to the economy, or bankrupting to domestic citizens;
- to bid for and own any privatised public infrastructure, social good or cultural transmission without any limit of foreign control permitted by law;
- to access any domestic government grant, loan, tax incentive or subsidy with the same rights as any domestic firm with no means test, locale requirement or public-interest distinction permitted;
- to be free of any and all performance requirements of job creation, domestic purchase of goods, import/export reciprocity and technology or knowledge transfer to the host society;
- to repel as illegal any national standards of human rights, labour rights or environmental protection on goods produced in and imported from other regions or nations.

"We will oppose," stated the President of the U.S. Council For International Business in a letter to U.S. officials on March 21, 1997, "any and all measures to create or even imply binding obligations for governments or business related to environment and labour" (Tony Clarke, *The Corporate Rule Treaty*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives, 1997, p.9).

Corporate Rights To Rule, Public Obligations To Obey:

Under the proposed agreement, all provision by domestic governments of goods to their citizens by public ownership or control are construed as "monopolies".

Monopolies of knowledge by corporate copyright, in contrast, are specially excepted as non-monopolies. This double standard is significant because monopoly designation entails special legal restrictions on pricing and distribution of goods which would be "an interference with business freedom to transact" on private corporations.

Any public non-profit "monopoly" in health-care, education or other universally accessible life-good is, therefore, to be bound by the obligation to act "solely in accordance with commercial considerations in the purchase or sale of its good or service"; to "in particular" be prevented from the "abusive use of prices" which might adversely affect the market share of foreign corporate investors; and, in general, to be liable for damages for any "lost opportunity to profit from a planned investment" which might be incurred by public involvement in providing citizens with goods in which private foreign corporations could assert a market interest.

Worker buy-outs of enterprises, or return of their ownership to home investors are, moreover, not to be permitted any favourable loan, tax or start-up cost by public authority, since this would constitute a "discriminatory treatment" against foreign investors.

"Educational products" as well as any other product, except military, the one article of trade given full protectionist walls by the treaty, are also prohibited from any limit on foreign control or domination.

Any requirement for long-term commitment of investment in any strategic area such as the nation's natural resources or high-employment sector are, moreover, forbidden.

Any other condition which reduces the right of foreign transnationals to move their profits and assets from the home society to other jurisdictions with lower environmental, labour, corporate tax or safety standards is likewise prohibited by MAI law.

To avoid protests by citizens against such a one-sided bill of rights to transnational corporations at the expense of societies' established right to govern themselves, the MAI's planning and drafting were not reported by any government or, with rare exception, any mass media in any of the 29 countries involved, including Britain, France and Canada during their national election campaigns.

To round out its assertion of overriding rights to multinationals at public expense, all the costs of this new regime to privilege transnational corporations above governments and electorates that is, the costs of its planning, negotiation, enforcement, adjudication, liabilities for infraction are under the agreement to be paid for out of the public purse.

All of these facts are drawn from a draft of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, Paris, January 13 Draft, 1997.

The draft in question includes reservations from specific countries on specific clauses for example, Norway with respect to the MAI's inclusion of "authorisations, licences and concessions for the prospecting, exploration and production of hydrocarbons", a right of the home country which Norway's negotiators, mindful of Norway's reliance on public control of public oil resources for the funding of its social infrastructure, sought to exclude Definitions 2.b.9).

The Unifying Principles

What unifies the diverse and sweeping prescriptions of this extra Parliamentary formation of a transnational framework of law is the single, final goal of releasing corporate investment from any interference or social condition set by national or local public authority. Every term of the agreement is to guarantee this free subject-hood of "Investment" as sovereign over any democratic decision to set limits on its movement, location, time-frame, objective, or volume.

What unifies the private monetary interests driving this would-be regime, in turn, is the fact that transnationally mobile corporations in of the signatory jurisdictions are freed from accountability to any other interest, government or citizen body in their new guarantee of unlimited access to all of the markets, resources, subsidies and assets of the 29 societies involved.

What makes this appropriation of public power by for-profit transnational corporations possible to impose on peoples' historically evolved rights of self-government is, in further turn, its absolutized expression of the market program of value which is widely accepted as the final authority on how all societies ought to live. This dispossession of citizens and communities of their collective rights to protect their lives and resources as their own is, in the end, grounded on a metaphysical principle that unfettered market rule has a natural right to regulate all of the world's societies in their best interests.

Society's liberation from this invisible prison begins with the clear recognition of what it is. This has been the task of the above analysis. The next step is to understand the ground of its acceptance a program of thinking which has become decoupled from all life interests other than the transnational investor in corporate form.

The third step is both complex and straightforward. It is to ensure that other international laws than those protecting private corporations are inserted as terms of agreement in this and other codes of trade law.

Long-established international laws governing the community of nations include laws for the prevention of crimes against humanity, crimes against peace and war crimes, international labour and civil rights conventions, and environmental protocols and treaties. Currently there is no recognition or inclusion of these international laws in the MAI or other transnational trade agreements, with the sole exception of Article 104 of the NAFTA which parenthetically acknowledges that international protocols on the ozone layer and trans-boundary pollution can be complied with by societies without triggering transnational trade sanctions.

The exception is not heeded. Virtually all international laws, however solemn and far-reaching, are daily violated in the new corporate-regime, then condoned as "necessary for profitable international trade" and "competitiveness within the new market order".

This is not the development of a world system which respects life. It is the forging of a global absolutism of special-interest rule which has no place for individual, community or environmental life in its regulatory framework. All that is recognised is the protection of corporate investor rights to other societies' wealth.

To restore some sanity to this perfectly one-sided regime, already evolved and signed international laws must be included in these trade agreements as prior obligations of contracting parties and their enterprises, upon which their right of access to other societies' markets, assets and resources is conditional. If they do not comply, they can be subject to barriers against their access to domestic markets, assets and resources.

This long overdue rule of law in the new transnational trade order does not solve the problem of the loss of sovereignty of peoples over their own societies. But it renders the monster of money-to-more-money rule across nations less internationally lawless than it now is.

Wolf Robe in June 1909

Only when
the last
tree has
died and
the last river been
poisoned and the last
fish been
caught will
we realise
we cannot
eat money.

Cree Indian saying



Capitalism Creates Hell On Earth

The wilful destruction of 800,000 hectares of Indonesian rainforest by plantation owners again highlights the fact that capitalism is prepared to destroy the world in its relentless drive for profits.

Coverage of the event by the mainstream media illustrates their complicity in the affair as they measure the costs of this environmental vandalism by the extent to which exchange rates and tourist numbers have fallen.

Whole species of animals including the orang-utan have been brought to the verge of extinction by fires which were lit to quickly clear areas of rainforest for the planting of cash crops.

The fires are likely to blaze well into the new year as the Indonesian Government and its ilk dither in expectation of monsoonal rains extinguishing the fires. The Australian Government's response has been to donate \$300,000 towards a survey on the effects of the fires, money which could have been spent on extinguishing the fires when their effects are so devastatingly obvious.

The resulting smoke haze has caused hundreds of thousands of people from Indonesia and surrounding countries to seek medical treatment and over forty have been killed in maritime "accidents" due to poor visibility. The actual death toll will never be known.

The Sydney Morning Herald had the temerity to run a headline "Climate threat to world markets". "World markets threat to climate" would be more appropriate as the most servile of the so-called scientific experts continue to question whether in fact degradation of the environment has any long-term effects. These wafflings are reported in all seriousness by the mass media.

The Indonesian fires highlight the increasing likelihood of environmental issues acting as the major catalyst for the next wave of mass radicalisation throughout the world, the Bolsheviks' and Mao's "spark" being a most appropriate metaphor in this instance.

The progressive environmental organisations will increasingly develop an anti-capitalist dynamic as capitalism continues its short-sighted and relentless drive for profits. It is therefore imperative that Marxists accept the historic importance of these relatively new forms of organisation as the old and outmoded forms of organisation and struggle lose their relevance for the mass of the people.

Today's struggle is now not merely for some amorphous form of socialism but for a socialism which embraces the need to limit economic growth in the name of environmental sustainability.

Animal effluent puts rivers out of bounds

By JOHN STAPLETON

FAECAL bacteria, from piggeries, dairy farms and sewerage runoff have made parts of eight NSW rivers unsuitable for swimming.

In the worst instances, NSW rivers exceeded national guidelines for swimming and recreational use of rivers by almost 400 times.

The study, Bacteriological Quality of the States River Systems for 1995-96, produced by the NSW Water Quality Services Unit, was released on the same day that Land and Water Conservation Minister Kim Yeadon addressed a NSW Farmers' Association conference in Tamworth.

The samplings were conducted between January and May last year, during which time there had been heavy rainfall.

Mr Yeadon blamed sources of contamination, such as piggeries, dairy farms and feedlots, as well as sewage treatment plants and runoff.

"The raw data indicates that at certain times during the sampling period, the levels at most sites exceeded the accepted standard for faecal coliforms for activities such as swimming," Mr Yeadon said. "Some sites failed the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines."

The sites which were unsuitable for swimming during the monitoring period were: the Gloucester River at Gloucester; the Cudgegong River at Mudgee; the Macquarie River at Bathurst, Wellington and Warren; the Mooki River at Ruivigne; Narrabri Creek at Narrabri and further downstream; the Horton River at Elders;

the Gwydir River at Gravesend; and the Mehi River at Moree.

The study also suggests high levels of faecal contamination in the Darling, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Richmond, Williams and Wilson Rivers.

Senior scientist with the Department of Land and Water Conservation Bruce Cooper said it was unlikely that water from any NSW river would pass drinking water guidelines without some form of treatment.

He said to reduce bacterial contamination, its sources needed to be identified. "We have a long way to go in some of these catchments before we can say you can swim in them without any risk," Mr Cooper said.

The chairman of the Conservation and Resource Management Committee for NSW Farmers, Ian McClintock, said it was very curious that while Mr Yeadon had addressed the annual NSW Farmers Association meeting at some length on water issues, he had failed to mention the report.

"At the same time as he was addressing a conference of farmers and facing intense questioning over the impending NSW Water Reform Package, he was releasing a report to the media attempting to shift home blame for river pollution to piggeries, dairy farms and feed lots," said Mr McClintock.

"You have to be cynical about the timing and release. There are many natural sources of faecal coliforms and these results would have been consistent with a flush occurring through the catchment at the time."

We are told by James Klugmann in *From Trotsky to Tito* (Lawrence & Wishart Ltd, London, 1951):

"In Mussolini's Italy of the nineteen-thirties, when it meant long terms of imprisonment, and perhaps torture or even death, to be in any way connected with the Communist Party, and when not only all the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, but the works of all Italian and foreign democrats and progressive were strictly banned from Italian libraries and bookshops, the works of Trotsky, on the 'new kind of communism' were 'freely' and widely translated and distributed. I remember vividly how in 1938, passing through Italy on the way to meet the anti-fascist and Communist students of Belgrade University, and spending a few hours in Mussolini's Milan, the word 'communism' caught my eye on a number of books prominently displayed in a bookshop window. They were the newly translated works of Trotsky.

"In Hitler's Germany, when to be a Communist or Socialist or militant trade unionist or liberal or democrat meant arrest, the concentration camp, and often death and torture, when there was instituted one of the most thoroughgoing 'purges' of literature and burning of books that the world has ever known, when Schiller's 'Don Carlos', the poems of Heine and the novels of Thomas Mann were banned or burned as 'subversive', the writings of Trotsky were widely translated and distributed.

"Trotsky's writings and those of his followers were freely published in the middle and late thirties by the Hearst Press in America. His works on his 'new kind of Communism' were published by the Franco Press at Salamanca and Burgos. The secret police of the Polish dictatorship were specially educated in Trotskyism in order to facilitate their work of espionage and disruption inside the Polish working-class movement".

A QUOTATION FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSETUNG

So long as we can grasp the science of Marxism-Leninism, have confidence in the masses, stand closely together with the masses and lead them forward, we shall be fully able to surmount any obstacle and overcome any difficulty. Our strength will be invincible.

ECONOMIC CRISIS OF CAPITALISM.

Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are caught in the grip of an economic crisis. The banking systems in each country are in danger of collapse under the weight of huge debts. The economies of Hong Kong and Singapore are also feeling the bite. As results shape up it appears that a crisis of world capitalism is unfolding.

International capital poured into South East Asia (SEA) to take advantage of the low wages and poor working conditions of the workers. The Australian ruling class set up a chorus over the past decade that Australian workers must compete with the workers of the "Tiger" economies of SEA. They used this to slash wages and conditions at home while companies based in Australia moved off shore to make profits from the labour of the workers in SEA.

The "Tiger" economies produced mountains of goods to flood the markets of the world. But, these mountains of goods must be consumed, therefore if the workers are paid miserable wages, they cannot buy back the goods produced.

The multi-national corporations look for greener pastures to make ever greater profits. They withdraw to China, Eastern Europe and Latin America where the wages are cheaper and the governments offer greater tax concessions to the exploiters, and neo-fascist juntas suppress the people.

The millions of workers who flooded in to SEA now face unemployment and abject poverty. Since the beginning of the SEA economic crisis the currencies and stability of nations is spreading world wide.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, instruments of the powerful corporations mostly American, jump in to dictate terms to the governments, slash budgets, spending on welfare, close factories and halt spending on infrastructure. The burden will fall directly on to the backs of the working class.

In Australia, government Ministers, at first, said Australia was different. We had a sound economy and couldn't be touched by these world events. Lately they have changed their tune. They now predict that the Asian economic crisis will undermine Australia's trade performance, will slash economic growth and cost, at least 60,000 jobs, Unemployment will rise from the official 8.6%, and could rise to 11%; economic growth will be cut by 3%; and the current account deficit will rise to \$40 billion, or 6.4% of the GNP. Tourism will suffer a decline, the education big business will decline in numbers and the primary products are at risk. They predict another move to 'flexible wages'

Under capitalism production grows spontaneously and industry proceeds without plan as in anarchy. The race for profits leads to unlimited expansion of production. However, this tendency meets the impassable barriers of capitalist relations of production. The consumption capacity of the producers, the masses of the people, are limited because of their exploitation and poor wages.

Modern bourgeois society, with its relations of production, of exchange and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and exchange, is like a sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers of the netherworld whom he has called up by his spells. For many a decade past the history of industry and commerce is but the history of the revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production, against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeoisie and its rule. It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their return put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on trial, each time more threateningly. In these crises a great part, not only of the existing products, but also the previously created productive forces are periodically destroyed. In these

ECONOMIC CRISIS OF CAPITALISM.

crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all other epochs, would have seemed an absurdity, the epidemic of over-production. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed. And why? Because there is too much civilisation, too much means of subsistence, too much industry, too much commerce. The productive forces at the disposal of society no longer tend to further the development of the conditions of bourgeois property; on the contrary, they have become too powerful for these conditions, by which they are fettered, and as soon as they overcome these fetters they bring disorder into the whole of bourgeois society, endanger the conditions of bourgeois property. The conditions of bourgeois society are too narrow to comprise the wealth created by them. And how does the bourgeoisie get over these crises? On the one hand, by enforced destruction of a mass of production forces; on the other, by the conquest of new markets and by the more thorough exploitation of the old ones; that is to say, by paving the way for more extensive and more destructive crises and by diminishing the means whereby crises are presented...Read the Communist Manifesto.

This does not mean that capitalism will disappear as a result of its own contradictions or will automatically collapse. The bourgeoisie will always find a way out of its own crises. It is only the persistent struggle of the proletariat that will put an end to capitalism.

The proletarians in South East and North Asia now facing greater exploitation and unemployment have taken to the streets in struggle. This struggle we must support.

We must be very vigilant. The Australian Armed Forces are presently under going a re-vamp. It is called "looking over the horizon". What they have in mind is intervention in the affairs of SE Asia. They have done this in the past; in Malaya in the 1940's and in Korea in the 1950's.

War is another way the bourgeoisie destroys over-production.

HANDS OFF IRAQ !

The US is again threatening Iraq if it does not comply with the United Nations (read USA) resolutions on arms inspections. The USA needs to maintain its dominance in the Gulf yet it cannot muster Arab support. Arab opposition, especially from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who, along with other Arab states, are a wake up to the USA's double standards in the Middle East.

The USA demands one set of rules for the Arab states and another for Israel. Washington fails to apply the same good behaviour to Israel when Israel ignores numerous UN resolutions and the US vetoes UN resolutions condemning Israel's settlement activities or human rights violations in occupied Palestinian territories. The USA turns a blind eye to Israel's weapons of mass destruction, including its nuclear capacity, and even helps Israel to upgrade this capacity.

The Arab states have become suspicious of America's real motives in the Middle East. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright calls Saddam a "cheat and a congenital liar", while Netanyahu brands him a "brutal aggressor". The Arab states, however, see the USA in pursuit of maintaining its dominance in the Middle East as being full of deception and aggression. They also condemn Israel's occupation of Arab territories and aggression and military operation in the Lebanon, most Arab states view Saddam as less of a menace than the USA.

There is growing concern in the Middle East and all over the world as the children of Iraq die because of the blockade imposed by the United Nations led by the USA.

The USA has demonized Saddam Hussein for home consumption and to justify their aggression against the people. Don't let the imperialist media machine turn things on its head. The truth is that the US leadership are the biggest war criminals in history.

MARITIME MERCENARIES.

Former and present army personnel, possibly from the SAS, are being trained as stevedores in a Middle eastern country, then returning to Australia to work on the waterfront on Australian Workplace Agreements. (The Australian 4/12/97)

This operation organized by two former SAS Commandos, new directors of a company known as International Port Services Training Group, ruled out any federal government involvement. The 120 "stevedores" left for Dubai for training. Later they will train in NSW with other recruits and then could be employed by an Australian stevedore : both Patrick Stevadores and P& O have denied any involvement.

By working on individual contracts and not joining the union, it would inevitably provoke a conflagration on the wharves as union members refuse to work with them.. The government, so the Maritime Union argues, would then have the excuse to step in at the four main ports; Fremantle, Sydney, Perth, and Brisbane. The Federal government denies any involvement, although it is well known they intend to "reform" the waterfront, as pressure from big business mounts to fix up the waterfront..

The Union wants to know who is paying for the operation undertaken by a \$20 company. The ACTU estimates the cost at \$2 million. The International Confederation of Trade Unions warned it would launch a massive campaign to support the Maritime Union of Australia. and the Metal workers Union threatened a nationwide strike if a "mercenary" waterfront worker sets foot on an Australian wharf.

Less than a decade ago a Labor government used hundreds of serving members of the armed forces to break the Pilots strike and imported foreign pilots to replace them. The Australian Labor party has a short memory. They now condemn any suggestion of strike breakers on the wharf. a decade ago they thought the scabs were heroes. Recently we read of armed security personnel being used against miners in Queensland. We also have not forgotten that in 1949 the Labor government used the troops on the waterfront and mines to break a strike. The government was routed at the next election.

FORWARD DEFENCE

The Minister for Defence outlined new strategies for the Australian armed forces. saying that defence of Australia was a first priority but defending regional interests is a high priority in its own right.. Forward defence involved Australian forces in WW1 in defence of the British Empire. WW 11 saw Prime Mimister Curtin recalling Australian troops to defend Australia rather than British interests. After 1949, under Robert Memzies, Australian troops went to Malaya, Korea and Vietnam.. Under the Labor government, troops went to Cambodia, Somalia and the Gulf. The conservatives now swings back to 'forward defence' with an array of military hardware to match.

The daily press reporting on the defence documents , points to three scenes of possible conflict; war on the Korean Peninsula, conflict between the USA and China in the Taiwan Strait, and a conflict between China and one of the states in South East Asia claiming island in the South China Seas.. In any case , it is likely that if the USA is involved in a war in North Asia, Australia will be asked for a contribution.

Over the last century 100,000 Australian soldiers have died on foreign shores defending , either the British Empire, the US Empire and Australian imperial interests. The new strategies are more of the same. The imperial bourgeoisie is in a severe economic crisis of over-production with nation states in severe economic collapse. Unemployment is growing all over the world, both in the oppressed nations and in the capitalist citadels. Workers of the world ; do not allow the imperialists to temporally solve their difficulties with intervention and war.

THE SECRET POLICE.

The revelations by the Melbourne newspaper, The Age about the secret surveillance of community groups by the Operations Intelligence Unit (OIU) between 1985-92 has caused disbelief and outrage.

The Victorian police, already under fire from community groups for the huge number of police shootings, compiled dossiers on 1200 people: civil libertarians, politicians, clerics, students, feminists, trade unionists, ethnic and Aboriginal activists. The OIU bugged the telephones of organizations calling for an inquiry into the police and spied on representatives of people killed in police shootings and they infiltrated other organizations.

Questions are being asked, who authorised the exchange of dossiers compiled by the OIU now called the Protective Security Intelligence Group and ASIO? Why did the Police ignore a government instruction to destroy files on private citizens and groups when the Special Branch was abolished in 1982.

The reactions of people whose names appeared vary, some call for an apology, some a judicial inquiry, and others said they would be very disappointed if they were not on the list.

More and more people are aroused to action against the ruling class and their representatives in the parliament as draconian legislations strips away at the hard won conditions and rights of the people.

The activity of the Secret police will only expand as the people organize against capital.

If a citizen suspects they have been a target of the secret police, they are not able to use the ordinary courts and procedures to be cleared of, whatever is said in a dossier. Some have applied under Freedom of Information for their file, only to find relevant parts have been removed. Other people find the items in the file trivial. However, we must take the activities of spies against workers and democratic people seriously.

Many books have been written about the activities of the secret police which seems to strengthen its position with every criticism. Now and again the curtain is lifted to reveal names of those spied upon. This can intimidate a few good people.

The secret police is part of the state machine of the bourgeoisie. The apparatus of state power, the armed forces, police, prisons, the courts is in the hands of the owners of the means of production, the capitalists, bankers, monopolies; to suppress the class of workers, who in order to live, must sell their labour to the capitalist.

Two major functions characterise the activity of the state;

The main function is at home, to keep down the exploited majority, and abroad, not the main function, is to extend the territory of its class, the ruling class, at the expense of the territory of other states, or to defend the territory of its own state from attacks by other states.

The secret police supplies the names of the key fighters against the bourgeois state. The recent revelations should act as a timely warning to be vigilant against police spies inside the organisations of the people.

Half a million Australian women experienced either physical or sexual violence each year.

A 1996 Bureau of Statistics report stated that 110,000 women in a married or defacto relationship had experiences violence perpetrated by their partner in the previous 12 months.

Monash University's Centre of Population and Urban Research points out =
1.8 million children are now living in poverty

a rise in the working poor who live below the poverty line, means tested line, of \$22,650 a year.

637,000 rise in people employed---full time jobs are being eliminated for part-time and casual employment.

Mission Australia reports on Housing...

40% of public housing cuts were made by Labor Governments, followed by Conservative cuts of \$200 million.

waiting lists for public housing grew from

168,652 in 1986-7

230,000 in 1996-7

Mission Australia said the crippling high rents and mortgages condemn many families to spend half their income on rent.