





The Inquisition Lifts Its Head in America

By WILL HERBERG

ONE thing the Russell case has already done and that is to direct attention to the sinister role of the Catholic Church in promoting cultural reaction.

In late years, a persistent, concerted effort has been made to present the Catholic Church in a new and more attractive light.

This campaign to sell the Catholic Church—which some one has very aptly called the mother of totalitarianism—as the champion of tolerance, enlightenment and democracy has made some headway in certain circles in this country.

The Russell case should be enough to puncture the fantastically inflated illusion of the Catholic Church as the protector of intellectual integrity and human liberty.

Wise with the experience of centuries, the Church knows how to adjust itself to changing circumstances. It knows how to adapt its methods, how to modify its language and approach.

World Imperialism in The Far East Crisis

European Powers Maneuver for Position

By J. CORK

THE present relations of the major world powers to the Sino-Japanese war generally, and to the individual combatants separately, present a rather contradictory picture.

BACKGROUND OF INTRIGUE

The following factors provide the background for a consideration of the shifting relationships in the Far East:

China plays a waiting game. It seeks to shift and build up industries in the West, to train its man-power, to harass the Japanese by guerilla warfare in territory they control.

Japan, bogged down in China, and facing a critical situation at home, seeks to keep what it has, and is interested in getting legal recognition of its conquest thru its dummy Wang Ching-wei regime.

According to a report recently issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, the signs of the weakening of Japan's economic structure are obvious and increasing.

national debt was about five and a half billion, an increase of almost one and a half billion over 1938.

RAPROCHEMENT WITH RUSSIA?

Japan is also seeking a rapprochement with Russia, and has taken definite steps in an attempt to adjust relations amicably.

Most of these efforts have stalled, with the objections coming chiefly from the Russian side.

America continues to defend its present and future interests in the Far East. It refuses to accept Japan's "new order" in China, denounces the invasion, refuses to recognize Wang's puppet regime.

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On Rosa Luxemburg's Work

"The Russian Revolution"

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

(This is the second part of Bertram D. Wolfe's introduction to Rosa Luxemburg's work, "The Russian Revolution."

III. SOCIALISM INSEPARABLE FROM DEMOCRACY The heart of this pamphlet, as of all Rosa's activities and teachings, lies in her unshakeable belief in the mass of mankind, in her conviction that it is capable, and that it alone is capable, of solving the problems facing our epoch—

To her, the chief health-giving force of proletarian revolution—even at the moment that it must still exercise a dictatorship over its enraged opponents—is the extension of democracy, the strengthening of the pulse-beat of public life, the awakening of hitherto inert masses to activity, to intense interest in the common weal, to initiative for the direct, popular solution of all problems, to the assumption of control over their own destiny.

She knew too much of the history of revolutions to reject the employment of revolutionary dictatorship in order to prevent the overthrow of the new order. But she knew, too, that such unavoidable dictatorship employed to prevent counter-revolution has its own frightful dangers; and that the one hope of preventing the degeneration of the revolution even in its victory lay in the simultaneous enormous extension of democracy.

"Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the members of one party—however numerous they may be (even the proverbial '51%')—is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently.

She did not shrink from recognizing that violence might have to be employed to prevent the violence of those who would drown the revolution in its own blood.

Such is the core of Rosa Luxemburg's teachings, which her opponents so scornfully referred to as her "theory of spontaneism" and "underestimation of the role of the party."

With the repression of political life in the land as a whole, life in the Soviets must also become more and more crippled. Without general elections, without unrestricted freedom of press and assembly, without a free struggle of opinions, life dies out in every public institution, becomes a mere semblance of life, in which only the bureaucracy remains as the active element.

Alas, her warning went unheeded and a quarter-century of uninterrupted error has made her worst fears more than justified. The initial deficiencies of Lenin were endlessly magnified by his successor, and his sporadic efforts at correction were abandoned.

As to the totalitarianism, there is one thing that is less widely known is that England recently sold Japan a million barrels of oil from Iran.

Now Here's Something! This war is, in one of its minor objectives, a war to make the world safe for the gold standard.

Hull's lead, has announced that the British government will continue to recognize the Chinese government at Chungking.

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views is revealed by the fact that Leon Trotsky, who has had more than a decade in which to reexamine his own conceptions in deportation and exile, has not to this day attained to her clear and simple vision of the initial defects in the Russian Revolution and its political system.

IV. THE PEASANT QUESTION

WHERE Rosa Luxemburg was wrong—and events have inevitably proved her wrong in some matters as well as right in others—it was where she herself departed from her own principle of respect for revolutionary democracy.

On the land question, it was Lenin, who despite his previous doctrinaire misgivings, had recourse to the theory of stimulating the initiative of the oppressed peasant masses for the democratic solution of Russia's agrarian problem.

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"War for Democracy" Is A Mockery to the Negro

By EDWARD WELSH

(We publish below the address delivered by Edward Welsh at the symposium, "The Negro and the Present War," held recently in Harlem.

THE Second World War is now under way. Altho the United States is not directly involved today, it may become so tomorrow.

EXPERIENCE OF LAST WAR

Before we can decide what our attitude should be towards our government in the event of a war, we should first consider the attitude of our government towards us.

It was no easy task to whip up enthusiasm amongst Negroes or enlist them for the war.

Negroes were to share in this democracy that was being fought for. They wanted to know if lynching was to be stopped, if racial persecution was to end.

A few easy promises, a few pats on the back from those in high places, and Negroes were called upon to close ranks—close ranks not to fight for the just demands of the Negroes, not to exact real guarantees for the future of the Negro people, but close ranks with the war profiteers, the lynchers in the South, in order to make the world safe for more profits and more lynchings, and for the perpetuation of a rule of tyranny and oppression.

DEMOCRACY ABROAD—LYNCHING AT HOME

Prior to the United States entering the war, 3,000 Negroes had been lynched in the South. In the years 1917 and 1918 alone, while American black soldiers were fighting and dying for democracy, and while medals for deeds of valor and bravery in the face of the enemy were being swung from their breasts, their black brothers were swinging from sycamore trees in the South, tasting of a strange and bitter fruit.

In the years 1917 and 1918, when the United States was actively engaged in the war and black men in uniform were dying on the battlefields of France, black men in overalls were dying in the South.

After the war had been won and the world made safe for democracy,

Is Stalinism a Form Of Marxist Theory?

In the Discussion "Marxism Reexamined"

By B. HERMAN

(This is the fourth article of the series by B. Herman in our discussion, "Socialist Fundamentals Reexamined."

IN discussing Stalin as the inheritor of Marxian principles, something newly discovered by Max Eastman, we are confronted with a difficult problem in first trying to find out what Stalinism is as a body of thought.

This pamphlet, then, is not a work of perfection, nor a sacred text for a new cult and Talmudical exegesis. Indeed, there are no works of perfection produced by living men and women who dare to attempt to understand and influence history in the making.

This pamphlet is expressive of the woman who wrote it: a work of penetrating and lively intelligence, of fearless experimental analysis, aglow with love of freedom, revolutionary energy and passionate love of her fellows.

I would therefore say that the essential feature of Stalinism, without which its lack of theory and

turns in policy are incomprehensible, is the cult of the Leader, the infallibility and omnipotence of the great and only Ruler. In this we have the diametrically opposite pole to Marxism, in which scientific principle takes precedence over any Leader, regardless of how many policemen that Leader may have at his disposal.

STALINISM AS NATIONAL CHAUVINISM

As a corollary to the Leader cult, Stalinism has another essential feature—national chauvinism. For, if the supreme Leader knows no other principle than the extension or maintenance of his regime and power, then it becomes a "truth" that the interests of the international working class must be subordinated to that regime.

This is again the diametrically opposite pole to Marxism. Marxism is essentially international and revolutionary. There can be no subordination of the interests of the international working class to any Leader or bureaucratic, nationalistic interest.

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Their Master's Voice

IN the Daily Worker of April 17, there appears the manifesto issued by the Norwegian Communist Party on the occasion of the Nazi invasion. The opening paragraphs are worth noting:

"German troops have occupied several important points in our country, including Oslo. The German military authorities declare that the aim of the occupation is defense of the country and to prevent the possibility of its becoming transformed into a theater of military operations."

"The situation created in this connection depends on the strivings of the Anglo-French military block to extend the imperialist war and also to disarm Scandinavia."

The meaning of these words is perfectly clear: Not the German assault on Norway constitutes an extension of the war to Scandinavia—that was undertaken merely in order to "defend the country"—but exclusively the 'strivings' of the Allies. This is identically the official Nazi position, proclaimed by von Ribbentrop and then spread by the German and Russian press.

Is it any wonder that the Communist Party and its press remains quite legal in Nazi-controlled Norway?

THE Jewish Telegraphic Agency reports that Germany and Russia are now negotiating an agreement to "repatriate" some 60,000 Jews and Poles who fled from German-held Poland to Soviet territory during the days of the invasion.

In truth there is no atrocity of which Stalin is not capable!

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