

# WHO IS SUPERIOR?

## Bourgeois Theories of Master and Slave Races Exploded by Historical Facts

By Cyril Briggs

There is a relation, by no means accidental, between the theories of upper class Negroes previously dealt with and the "racial" theories of bourgeois "scholars" of inherent, immemorial "racial characteristics," of "superior" and "inferior," "master" and "slave" races. They are the obverse and reverse side of the same spurious coin.

The black man, because of his pigmentation, whether he be designated Negro or Ethiopian, is outside the pale of civilization, say the bourgeois "race" theoreticians. He is incapable of progress, they declare, ignoring the historical fact that the Negro population of Egypt, Ethiopia, etc., were the first to develop civilization and the sciences, and that the Kushites and Hittites, whose achievements they do not deny, were Negroes.

### Imposed Ideas

Karl Marx long ago pointed out, in the Communist Manifesto, that "the prevailing ideas of a period have always been simply the ideas of the ruling class." By its control of the "free" press, the schools, churches, etc., the ruling class imposes its ideas upon the backward sections of the toiling population.

Today, the "racial" theories find their most brutal and open expression in fascist Germany, where the Nazis are conducting a campaign of terror and murder against "non-Aryans," (Jews and other minority groups) and the revolutionary German workers. This is not accidental. Fascism is a continuation under more openly brutal forms of the capitalist dictatorship against the majority of the population and the setting of one nationality against the other.

These bourgeois "race" theories seek to justify capitalism and its colonial policy (imperialist plundering and oppression of the Negro, Chinese and colonial masses). For their own misery and exploitation at the hands of the white ruling class, the white toilers are offered the "compensation" of belonging to a "superior" race.

### Mess of Pottage

This mess of pottage is proffered the exploited white workers as a bribe to gain their support for the brutal colonial policy of the imperialist bandits. They are told they are members of a "superior" race and must not associate or fraternize with the "inferior breeds." By this and other means, capitalism, which is based on the exploitation of all toilers, black, white, and yellow,

seeks to maintain its rule by splitting the ranks of its victims.

Like the Negro reformist theories, already dealt with, the "race" theories seek to hide the social contradictions which are tearing the capitalist system asunder, and helping to prepare the way for the conquest of power by the proletariat, for the free, classless, Socialist society. This society, is already rising triumphantly in the Soviet Union and Soviet China, where exploitation of man by man, unemployment and mass misery, race hatred and national oppression have been abolished forever.

The "race" theories have been time and again refuted by the outstanding teachers and leaders of the working class, by Marx and Engels in their day, later by Lenin, and in the present day by Stalin in his writings and speeches on the National Question.

### Bankruptcy Revealed

In his book, "Historical Materialism: A System of Sociology," Nikolai Bukharin, Soviet writer, clearly shows the bankruptcy of the "race" theory, and points out, on page 127:

"At bottom, this theory reduces itself to the peculiarities of races, to their immemorial 'character.' If this were the case, this 'character' would have expressed itself in the same way in all periods of history. The obvious inference is that the 'nature' of the races is constantly changing with the conditions of their existence. But these conditions are determined by nothing more or less than the relations between society and nature, i.e., the conditions of the productive forces."

The Communist Party relentlessly fights against all theories and practices designed to split the ranks of the toiling population and perpetuate the system of private ownership of the social means of production, of exploitation and social and national oppression. The Communist fractions in the mass organizations and all Communist workers must wage a ruthless struggle against these anti-labor theories, whether put forward by bourgeois "scholars" or born in the fantasy of Negro reformist theoreticians.