

*Your cooperation in circulating
this leaflet widely is invited.*

AS OTHERS SEE US

By SCOTT NEARING


THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING HARD THINGS about Soviet foreign policy would gain a better understanding of the situation if they would put the shoe on the other foot.

If it were the Soviet Union that

1. Possessed the secret of the atomic bomb *and*
2. Was doing its best to keep it from us, *meanwhile*
3. Building up a stockpile of the bombs,
4. Maintaining an army larger than ever before in its history *and*
5. A navy larger than all the other navies of the world combined,
6. Instituting compulsory military training in time of peace,
7. Allowing her army and navy officers to talk openly of attacking us before we should have time to recover from our war effort and perhaps learn to make our own atomic bombs,
8. Carrying on a press and radio campaign to foment suspicion and hostility toward us,
9. Building military, naval and air bases all over the globe,
10. Sending naval expeditions into northern waters for special training in arctic warfare,
11. Maintaining its most powerful naval unit near our shores, and armed forces along our frontier,
12. Arming our neighbors, building up our wartime enemies and ringing us around with pacts and alliances, from which we were excluded, *and if*
13. The (Greek) Catholic Church were offering to lead a holy war against us, *and if*
14. At two critical moments in international relations, a British statesman who twice tried to overthrow our government and our economic system had been specially honored by two Russian universities and, in his address on each occasion, called for the formation of alliances against us—

WHAT WOULD WE THINK of Generalissimo Truman and Foreign Commissar Acheson if they did not work night and day to see that the United States had friendly governments in every capital from Canada to Argentina and if they did not move heaven and earth to discover the secret of the atomic bomb?

Let us try to see ourselves as others see us.

 FOR THOSE WHO SEEK an understanding of the economic, political and social aspects of the international scene, SCOTT NEARING issues a quarterly letter of comment and interpretation. Based on a non-partisan, rigorously scientific analysis of underlying forces and impersonal factors, but permeated with a profound sense of the responsibility of each individual in the struggle for social progress, this unique publication is both an education and an inspiration to its readers.

\$1.00 per year; single copy, 25 cents.

SEEDS OF ITS OWN DESTRUCTION

THE SYSTEM OF BUSINESS-FOR-PROFIT, upon which western man erected the structure of modern civilization, can no longer pay its own way. There are at least six reasons for this bankruptcy:

1. Present-day mass production has made scarcity, the prime requisite of business-for-profit, virtually impossible. Businessmen make their profit by producing commodities for sale in the market. They can sell only so long as their wares are scarce. Once there are enough commodities to go around, with a surplus left over, goods take on the character of sand at the seashore; they cannot be sold at all. Mass production therefore threatens the entire profit structure.

2. Profits, accumulating more rapidly than they can be absorbed by the capital market, have pushed the interest rate close to zero. For example, in the United States between March 1946 and March 1947, from \$20 to \$30 billions of profits were tucked away in safe-deposit boxes, bank accounts and other secure places, to await opportunities for investment. Those opportunities will not come, short of another large-scale war. Meanwhile, profit will continue to accumulate, as it did in the 1920's and 1930's, forcing the interest rate closer and closer to the zero mark. A profit economy that no longer pays interest has lost its reason for existence. It will be compelled to restrict production and thus destroy the sources from which alone profit is derived.

3. Business-for-profit can avoid the disastrous implications of abundance and dispose of its accumulating surpluses of capital and labor-power in only one practicable way, by large-scale destruction. The most effective method of large-scale destruction is war. But technological advances have made war so efficient that the capital plant is destroyed along with the product. World War II, by wiping out the factories and warehouses upon which capitalism depends for its productivity, wiped out the foundations

TRUMAN, LUCE and the others who are trying to make the clock of history stand still are living in a world in which the forces of decay and disintegration have gained supremacy and are tearing the social fabric to shreds. Truman and Luce are wasting their time in striving for an American Century of Imperial World Domination. They might as profitably stand on the hills above Berkeley, California, look out on the Pacific through the Golden Gate and command the setting sun to rise out of the western sea, as to attempt to preserve a social order that has finished its historic course.

of European capitalism. Furthermore, total war places the military in control of the entire social apparatus, including the economy, and thus cuts the heart out of "free enterprise."


4. A social order dedicated to competitive wealth-power struggle, using armed violence as the ultimate means of demonstrating superiority and devoting its inventive genius to the production of increasingly effective machine weapons, will finally achieve a level of destructiveness at which neither life nor man-made products can survive. That level was almost achieved in parts of Europe during 1940-45. It was achieved locally in Hiroshima in 1945. Once the level is gained and held, the extermination of man and society is inevitable.

5. Revolt among the colonial peoples disrupts capitalist economy by depriving the industrial centres of cheap foods and raw materials and of markets for their manufactures. Through four centuries, the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America have accepted an inferior economic, political and social status. Their standards of living have been low. Their governments have been run in the interests of the imperialists. They have been kept in poverty and ignorance so that they might work more loyally for their imperial overlords. Asia, home of more than half the human race, is flaming with civil war, directed partly against the western imperialists and partly against exploitation by native owners of land and capital.

6. Wage and salary workers in the imperial homelands are no longer willing to destroy and murder at the command of those who own the jobs and direct the state. Social revolution has swept large areas of Europe since 1917 and now threatens the western half of the continent.

*From WORLD EVENTS, a quarterly commentary on international affairs by Scott Nearing.
Subscription, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 25 cents. Address as below.*

We ask your help in distributing this leaflet. For extra copies, address
WORLD EVENTS COMMITTEE, 125 Fifth St., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

 Contributions toward the cost of printing and postage will be appreciated.