PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

This book is the first sustained popular explanation of Communism in the light of current problems and events by the author. His previous book, *Communism in the United States* (International Publishers, 1935), was a collection of official reports, articles, speeches and pamphlets, brought together over a period of three years. It had all the shortcomings inevitable with such a form. The present book is, in contrast, a single work. Many of its leading thoughts, paragraphs, and even whole chapters, were published in the periodical press in the period from May to November, 1935, but all were reworked and new material included to give the book its present form. A considerable part first appeared as a series of articles in the *New Masses* (May to July); the third chapter first appeared in the *Bolsheviki* (beginning of August), theoretical organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Chapters VIII, IX, X, are re-worked from the report to the Seventh World Congress; other items have been printed partially in articles or speeches from time to time. Despite this, however, the book here presented is not a collection but a consecutive whole. It is the author's hope that it will provide a clear answer, easily read, to the thousands of questions currently being asked about Communism, what it stands for, its relations to other parties and tendencies, and to the situation of the country. The 1936 presidential election, in which the foremost candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt, will exert great efforts
to disprove the charge of "Communism" leveled against him by the Liberty League-Hearst-Republican combination, should cause many people to find valuable the authoritative answer of this book to the question "What is Communism?" This is a question of the day for the United States, as for all the rest of the world.

Earl Browder

January 1, 1936

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION:
THE CHIEF ISSUES IN THE 1936 ELECTIONS 11
I. WHO ARE THE AMERICANS? 17
II. BIG TROUBLE AHEAD 24
III. A SPECIAL KIND OF DEPRESSION 32
IV. FASCISM: AMERICAN BRAND 45
V. HUEY LONG'S ASSASSINATION 52
VI. FATHER COUGHLIN: PRIEST OR POLITICIAN 57
VII. PROPHETS OF THE PROMISED LAND 67
VIII. THE SPLIT IN THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT 72
IX. THE UNITED FRONT 82
X. A FARMER-LABOR PARTY 89
XI. CAN THE WORKERS LEAD A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT? 100
XII. THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT 109
XIII. THE QUESTION OF TACTICS 118
XIV. FORCE AND VIOLENCE 124
XV. THE FIGHT FOR PEACE 131
XVI. THE NEGRO PEOPLE AND LABOR 139
XVII. WHAT ABOUT RELIGION? 146
XVIII. THE FAMILY AND REVOLUTION 151