

American Dollar Diplomacy in Action

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ARTICLE III.

American Colonialism.

In more ways than one does the American imperial and colonial empire resemble the Roman empire of old. But the most outstanding resemblance of the policy of the Roman republic of yesterday and the modern American capitalist imperialistic republic of today, lies in the management of the colonies and in the interference with domestic affairs in the various spheres of influence. The American military governor generals of the colonial possessions are the exact prototypes of the procurators and pro-consuls governing the provinces of the old Roman empire. In Rome men were given the office of pro-consul or procurator in order to redeem either their personal fortunes or their political friends and masters. On exactly the same principle are our colonial military governor generals chosen today. General Leonard Wood was sent into the Philippines to force upon the Filipinos an economic policy which would enable him to repay in valuable concessions the powerful bankers and manufacturers who financed his primary campaign in 1920 to the cost of \$2,000,000. Likewise, we find Major Enoch H. Crowder, formerly chief of the American military staff, serving as Ambassador to Cuba. An American commission is now in Bolivia watching the collection of taxes in the interest of the Standard Oil. In Nicaragua, the only solvent country in Central America, the United States administers the treasury and customs of the country in the interest of the American bankers and investors. The decisive outcome of an election in Honduras is the conduct of an American warship lying off its coast. The Argentine republic cannot pass laws regulating its own industries without the sanction of the American packing interests. South America is often in danger of war and strife because of the machinations of American war contractors fostering rivalry among the southern republics. The Bethlehem Steel Co. has recently become the official contractor for the Argentine navy. The Secretary of State Hughes has become the official spokesman for the American bankers in all their deals as shown by the

recent \$6,000,000 loan to Salvador in which the State Department "assisted" in the selection of the collector of customs, who, according to the loan contract, is to be appointed in case of default.

American capitalists have been quick to extend their domination wherever catastrophe has aided them. The collapse of the sugar market in Cuba during the latter part of 1920 is a typical case in which the industries of the weaker country were salvaged in order to enable the American interests to secure over 50 per cent control. How serious the interference of American capitalists, aided and abetted by the United States Government, is in the internal affairs of these weaker exploited nations is clearly seen from the present situation in Brazil. An American naval mission of about 30 officers with the approval of the United States Navy Department, has for several months taken over control of the Brazilian naval schools, shipyards, and fleet. They were paid by the Brazilian government. This has resulted in upsetting the naval balance of power between the A B C powers and has proven a source of serious trouble to the whole continent.

American occupation and influence are characterized by the same brutality and outrageous conduct coloring the actions of the other imperialist powers. Since General Wood has arrived in the Philippines he has pursued a policy of forcing the natives to hand over valuable concessions to American capitalists. In this campaign General Wood has made the attempts of the natives to nationalize their industries, the target of his attacks. The obvious purpose of these attempts at government ownership in these lesser developed countries is to save the industries from falling into the hands of foreign exploiters. The purpose of the agent of American imperialism is to remove all hindrances and obstacles to the domination of the weaker countries by American capital.

The Filipinos strongly resent this move of General Wood. Their Senate and Legislature have gone on strike against this high handed policy of their American masters. The Filipinos are bent on preventing the American capitalists from gobbling up their country. There is talk of in-

dependence. The American auditor Wright has cut off the independence funds. So serious a turn have recent events taken in the Philippines that the imperialists of other countries are afraid that the contagion of national independence will spread from these islands and make trouble in the entire Far East. Thus the editor of the "Far East," one of the leading Japanese imperialist journals in Tokio, recently declared that the Filipino crisis was "adding fresh fuel to the anti-foreign fires smouldering in China, to the anti-British blazes in India and to the general unrest against control in many parts of Asia and in large sections of Africa." This remark is especially significant since normally Japan would like to see the United States get out of the Philippines in double quick time. It is interesting to note how the capitalist imperialists of all countries line up and forget their differences when their fundamental interests are at stake.

When the Cuban millionaire Colonel Tarafa proposed his bill to consolidate the railways so as to eliminate 47 private ports in Cuba and private railways, President Coolidge at the behest of the American Sugar Refining Co., the American Metal Co., and a score of other firms representing over half billion dollars, warned the Cuban government to drop consideration of this measure. American imperialist agents, even resorted to the tactics they employed in the Canal Zone by an attempt to engineer a fake revolution in the country. Much resentment has been stirred up in Cuba against this high handed attempt of the American capitalists to throttle their native government.

In the other colonies and spheres of American influence there is considerable trouble brewing. The Virgin Islands are complaining bitterly, as can be seen from the following appeal by the editor of the "Emancipator", one of their native papers: "We are serfs who work for wages ranging from ten cents to a dollar a day. Politically we are peons governed by the United States Navy. Federal United States laws have worked havoc upon these islands. The people live in one room houses; eat scanty meals; and are forced to move about in a manner unbecoming civilized people at this age."

Porto Rico has repeatedly demanded its independence from American imperialism. What American exploitation of Porto Rico means is seen from the following appeal of Senator Iglesias for independence: "There are 776,396 acres of the islands choicest land under the control of 447 American, Spanish and French corporations and individuals. We have all the evils of absentee ownership and faulty systems of education, industry, credit and sanitation."

Even Mexico does not afford unbounded peace and comfort to American imperialists. The Obregon has completely surrendered to Morgan and Rockefeller interests, and is quickly dropping all pretense at friendship even with the most conservative elements, there are disturbing factors on the political horizon in Mexico. In spite of our capitalists being sure that Calles, the most likely successor of Obregon, will do their bidding, they are taking steps to make sure that no losses are suffered by them in the change of administration. American interests played a most important part in the recent rebellion of De la Huerta against the Obregon-Calles combination.

Our marines hold Haiti, San Domingo and Nicaragua. Central America is under our financial thumb. An American financial mission is instructing Colombia how to run its finances. Bolivian policy is dictated by American bankers. Peru is virtually in American hands.

The diplomacy and philosophy of American imperialist policy towards the southern republic has been forcefully stated by Secretary of State Hughes before the American Bar Association a few months ago. If one should strip bare such verbiage of Hughes as the Monroe Doctrine "does not infringe upon the independence and sovereignty of other American states and does not stand in the way of Pan-American cooperations," one will find that American imperialism in no way differs from the other capitalist imperialism. Despite all our protestations of loyalty to the "principle of national security" all Latin America is now seething with protest at the dictatorial attitude of the American delegates to the recent Pan-American conference.

(To Be Continued Friday.)