

The Nazis Take Power - What Now?

Hitler's rise to the chancellorship of Germany is not an ordinary change of cabinets or shift of cabinet portfolios. It marks the beginning of a change of political systems. With Hitler's assumption of chancellorship the world witnessed the first decisive and open step of German trust capital to replace the broken down parliamentary democratic system with an uncampaigned brutal bourgeois dictatorship—a Fascist dictatorship.

The Breakup Of A System

When the Catholic Bruening succeeded Social-democrat Mueller, it meant a change of cabinets, a very important development in the decay of parliamentary democracy. When Papen displaced Bruening and Schleicher succeeded Papen it marked extraordinary cabinet changes and a headlong move towards the breakup of the bourgeois republican system.

It is true, history is not made in a day. But there are days on which history is made. July 20, 1932 is one of those days. It was on this day that the Socialist-Catholic Cabinet of Prussia was yanked out by a corporal and two men of the Reichswehr. The failure of the working class to take any steps to resist and paralyze this Junker-militarist coup d'etat meant a mortal blow against the republic and made almost inevitable all the events which followed subsequently.

Today Germany lives under a Fascist dictatorship. From the viewpoint of even the most elementary prerequisites of capitalist democracy, the March 5 elections will be a grim farce. After this election, the parade of parties is over in Germany. From what I have seen of German Fascism, I am convinced that, unless the working class really closes its ranks and presents a united front against Fascism, the Nazi dictatorship will, in a few months, do as much damage to the German labor movement as it took Mussolini a couple of years. And this is so, despite the fact that the German

Significance of the Hitler Victory

by Jay Lovestone

proletariat is much better trained and organized than the Italian was when Mussolini's Black Shirts swooped down on Rome.

To us, the International Communist Opposition, Hitler's rise to power comes as no surprise. Already in 1928, the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition) warned of the Fascist menace and proposed a practical program of revolutionary activity to make impossible a Fascist dictatorship in Germany. For this, our German comrades were roundly denounced by the official Communist leadership (Thaelmann-Neumann). The latter ridiculed the menace of Fascism and estimated every successive Fascist victory as a "high watermark" of Hitlerism. The official C. P. hailed every one of its own parliamentary advances as "iron rings around Fascism." The Social-democrats swung from Hindenburg and the Supreme Court to General von Schleicher as saviors of German "democracy and Socialism" from the Fascist sweep

False Prophecies

The liberals and bourgeois democrats thruout the world simply sneered at Hitler and said that such an "emotionally unstable" person could never become the leader of that great cultured country, Germany. All together they hailed every momentary recession of the Fascist wave, every difficulty within the Fascist movement, as the "collapse" and the "total disintegration" of the Nazi party. These people, basing their analysis on temporary and superficial phenomena, concluded that the republic was invincible, that the waves of Hitlerism were broken on that rock of "pure German democracy"—Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

How wrong such conclusions were is now obvious. The fact of the matter is that the parliamentary results have for some time played a secondary role in German class

relations. For some time it is the extra-parliamentary moves which have become decisive. Why is it that Hitler was called in to become Chancellor after a series of set-

Appeal for United Front!

New York City.

An appeal for the establishment of a united front anti-Fascist movement in this country "for the purpose of bringing home to the American workers the real meaning of the Nazi victory for them and the danger of the spread of Fascist influence in the United States and for the purpose of rallying to the relief and support of the victims of the bloody Nazi terror in Germany", was issued on February 7 by the National Committee of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. (Opposition) to the leading committees of the Communist Party of the U. S. A., the Socialist party of America, the Conference for Progressive Labor Action and the Communist League ("Trotskyites") "We make this appeal to you," the statement runs, "in spite of the well-known fact that we differ from some of the organizations addressed in this call in fundamental principles and from others in basic strategy and tactics. . . . We believe, however, that, in spite of these differences, we can all join on the basis of the program and tasks outlined above, which is surely to the interests of all of us and to the interests of American labor. We are confident that, if you place the interests of labor above any secondary considerations, you will not hesitate to respond to this call."

**N. Y. WORKERS HIT
NAZI RULE**

backs in Reichstag, provincial and communal elections? Why is it that, even after the serious crisis in the Fascist party occasioned by the defection of Gregor Strasser, Hitler's ablest lieutenant, the German bourgeoisie could do nothing else but entrust Hitler, that is, the Nazi party, with decisive power, with the dominant position?

The answer to these questions is to be found in the changing class relations in Germany. Capitalism in Germany, with all its high technique, has reached a most critical stage of disequilibrium. Papen's much heralded economic program, Schleicher's much advertised "settlement scheme", failed dismally not only to allay working class unrest but failed even to lessen the sharpening conflict of interests between the East Prussian landowners, the Junkers, and the biggest trust capitalists. The Junker-militarist clique, which seized power in Germany thru the Papen coup d'etat, could not bring about either economic equilibrium or a balanced relationship between the powerful agrarian groups and the Ruhr and Rhineland industrialists and financiers.

Fascism To The Rescue

The sentiment for Communism was rising. The economic situation was worsening. The conflicts in the ruling section of the German governing class assumed ugly proportions. Clearly there was only one thing left for the German top bourgeoisie to do, and that was to apply its very last remedy to stave off disaster and social revolution—the introduction of Fascism. This meant that both the wealthy landowners and the heavy industrialists would be satisfied at the expense of further attacks on the masses. But these attacks could not be made only with the Reichswehr bayonets. To launch such a bloody offensive against the toiling masses of Germany meant that the

Reichswehr bayonets would have to be supported by and rest up on a huge mass base. Only the Nazis could supply such a mass base and the proud aristocrats would have to play second fiddle to the Nazis whom they but yesterday called "upstarts" and "rowdies." Thus came the reestablishment of the ultra-reactionary Harzburg front, that is, the Nazi-Nationalist (Hitler-Hugenburg) block and the installation of a Fascist regime. It is only with such mass support that the German bourgeoisie could continue to rule today, could attempt to extend the life of capitalism thru further assaults on the standards of the working class.

A Major Defeat!

No one can exaggerate the historical significance of the victory of Fascism in Germany. Germany is the key to continental Europe. The working class of the world and not merely the German proletariat have suffered a major and disastrous defeat. The Communist International and the entire international proletariat are now paying a heavy price of years of ruinous sectarian tactics hidden by occasional, really insignificant victories in Germany. Great thanks must of course, first of all be paid to the treacherous role of the German Social-democracy. For the Communist International the crisis within its ranks assumes new and most serious proportions. **We are in danger of facing a situation in which the Comintern will not have a single mass party in the entire capitalist world.** We are on the eve of days which will bring staggering blows to the international working class thru the annihilation of the German labor movement, the trade unions, political parties, cooperatives and all social and cultural organizations of the working class. For the Soviet Union the danger of war assumes most menacing proportions, not so much in the sense of an immediate German military onslaught as rather in the growing probability of Fascist Germany becoming the spearhead of a

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fusing of social purposes than is revealed by present trends, there can be no assurance that the alternative with its accompaniment of violent revolution . . . can be averted."

There you have it—the great message of the "eminent scientists", issued with the blessing of Herbert Hoover: Anything to avert a revolution! Anything to prevent the collapse of the disintegrating capitalistic system out of which are born economic chaos, social confusion, spiritual degradation, all-engulfing misery and mass destruction. A worthy aim indeed for those who claim to cherish truth and human welfare!

Fortunately, neither the "scientific" reaction of these gentlemen of the Hoover Committee nor the more substantial efforts of their master, the great "vested interest", capitalism, will be effective in the long run. Mankind today is faced with the real alternative: **Reversion to barbarism or advance to communism!** Only those who have lost all hope in the destiny of humanity and are content to sink into cynical pessimism, can doubt that mankind will in the end prove able to save itself from the impending disaster!

HITLER IN POWER-- WHAT NOW?

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world-wide imperialist drive against the U. S. S. R.

We sounded an alarm call against Fascism before. We cannot sound it too often. There is still a probability of beating back Fascism, which has so far been vic-

torious. The Communist Party of Germany and the Social-democratic party of Germany must establish a real working class united front. Together, both organizations must work out a plan for immediate preparation for an effective general political strike. This means that the unemployed will have to be organized for a thorough cooperation with the employed and organized workers. This means that the Social-democratic party will have to drop all reliance on Hindenburg, all faith in the Supreme Court and all hopes in the Schleichers, Bruenings, and high Reichswehr officers. This means that the official Communists will have to drop completely their union-splitting policies and take every possible step to hasten the return of all militants to the free trade unions, to liquidate the special Communist unions organized in the so-called "Red trade union movement." There must be established one unified anti-Fascist defense organization. Finally, in the coming elections, the Communist and Social-democratic parties should arrive at an agreement to put up one working class ticket, a unified proletarian front, an election block of the proletariat against the Fascist terror regime.

Only such thoroughgoing cooperation between the Communist and Social-democratic parties, only the building of a broad and honest united front of the proletariat in Germany, can even at this late hour hold out the hope and the probability of success in dealing a death blow to the Fascist dictatorship in Germany.