

Pattern for Equality

By Doxey Wilkerson

While war-profiteers and defeatists were trying to undermine the living standards of the American people through destruction of price control subsidies, and while the "un-

holy alliance" of poll tax Democrats and "Ran-kin Republicans" was attempting to disfranchise millions of American soldiers, Allied chiefs of state were meeting in Cairo and Tehran to lay the

foundation for a quick victory and a post-war world of peace and freedom for all men.

At about the same time, International Publishers released a new book which describes the pattern of society which our new world of the future is certain, in the long run, to adopt. It is a society organized on the basis of production for use, rather than production for profit. It is a society which guarantees maximum participation by all the people in the affairs of government, rather than the exaltation of minority rule.

Hewlett Johnson's *The Secret of Soviet Strength* does more than answer a question which the astounding triumphs of the Red Army have posed for the entire world. As in his earlier *The Soviet Power*, the Dean of Canterbury here interprets "The New Way" in which history's first socialist country has brought "The

New Life" to some 200,000,000 people inhabiting one-sixth of the world. The picture he draws is of especial interest to Negro Americans.

Here is a "vast territory . . . peopled by 150 nationalities, speaking different languages, each with its own culture, customs and habits." How does it treat its minority racial and national groups?

Before the establishment of socialism, Russia was known as 'the prison of the peoples.' No oppression, no effort to break the spirit of the peoples, or divide them one against another, had been neglected. . . . No means were too brutal to secure domination and no weapon too vile to employ. . . . Discord was sown between people and people."

With the advent of socialism, "a new era, securing the establishment of national liberties, has begun. . . . Absolute equality of all nationalities, due representation, in the central organ, of all national republics and regions; with reasonably wide administrative, cultural and economic autonomy to each with organs of administration locally recruited and employing their own language—that is now the basis of the Soviet Constitution. . . . To produce equality in fact . . . has been the Soviet aim and progressively the Soviet achievement."

The pattern of equal and autonomous republics and regions for the varied peoples of the Soviet Union is not the precise pattern by which the Negro people of our country will one day achieve full freedom. The Negro people aspire to complete in-

tegration into all areas of American society, rather than to equality as an autonomous national group. Moreover, the revolutionary wartime progress of the Negro people toward full citizenship demonstrates that this goal of complete integration is quite attainable in the near future.

Even so, progress toward this goal will be hastened to the extent that our own country approaches the material and moral foundations upon which the free and creative society of the Soviets is being built. There, likewise, lies the road to strength for our nation as a whole.

"Behind Russia's strength in war lies her strength in peace. . . . Strong in battle, because strong in industry, in agriculture, in schools and colleges, in science and hospitals."

"Strong in protecting life because strong in releasing life, whether in infant and child, in boy and girl, in youth and maiden, in man and woman. Strong in withstanding massed attacks of men and materials because strong in developing the latent capacity, and enlisting the sympathy of the 150 different nationalities which make up her Union. Russia reaps in war the harvest she sowed in peace."

The Secret of Soviet Strength teaches important lessons to a nation whose struggles for survival is impeded by the sabotage of profiteers and defeatists, by the poll tax instigators of race hate. It points the way to freedom, not only for the Negro people, but for the masses of all Americans.

