THE SOVIET DRIVE FOR WORLD DOMINATION

The USSR is on the move around the world. Using Cuba and more recently Vietnam as their pawns, the capitalist rulers of the two superpowers want to use the Kremlin's People's Liberation Army to be a dominant power in the border provinces. They want to establish a “new international” order in which the world is divided into zones of influence. This involves a strategy of encirclement of both Europe and the US. The USSR wants to control the countries of the USSR's Eastern European satellites as a base for its own colonial adventures, and in Southeast Asia it wants to create a buffer zone against the US. This strategy is based on the Soviet claim that it is seeking “peace and friendship.”

Soviet tanks on maneuvers. Their new military equipment gets battle tested in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

What's behind the China-Vietnam clash?

On February 17, 90,000 troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army drove across the Vietnamese border. The assault, which pushed up to 25 miles into Vietnam's border provinces, was aimed at provoking Vietnam for its continued attacks on China's border and for its aggressive efforts to control all of South East Asia. Additionally, the Chinese military action was intended to demonstrate to the world that it is possible and necessary to resist the expansion of the Soviet Union and its allies.

The key battle of the campaign took place in the first week of March. The Vietnamese sent crack main force troops to defend the contested city of Dien Bien Phu. On February 17, 90,000 troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army rolled by Great Britain and France. The US dominated Latin America and much of the Pacific, Germany, and Italy were growing capitalist powers, but could find nowhere to expand — the world had been divided up without them getting much of the take.

Pre-WWII Era Holds Lessons for Today

The danger of a third world war is on the rise. The USSR in its drive for global domination has come face to face with the rulers of the US, who are scrambling to prevent the collapse of their own world-wide empire.

The Chinese Communist Party has pointed out important similarities between today's situation and the decade leading up to the outbreak of World War II. At that time, US and European imperialism here gave the Western capitalists power, enabling them to drive Vietnam's army and thus very differently from China.

At that point, China launched its limited attack, which had three main objectives:

1) It was important to alert Vietnam that actions like the overthrow of the puppet government in Kampuchea (Cambodia) and on China's border cannot be undertaken without heavy consequences. This is why it was limited in space and time, with the Chinese making it very clear that they "do not want an inch of Vietnamese territory." 2) It was aimed at confronting the Soviet Union, which is Vietnam's Spearman, while the ink is still wet. The USSR is on the move around the world. Using Cuba and more recently Vietnam as their pawns, the capitalist rulers of the two superpowers want to use the Kremlin's People's Liberation Army to be a dominant power in the border provinces. They want to establish a “new international” order in which the world is divided into zones of influence. This involves a strategy of encirclement of both Europe and the US. The USSR wants to control the countries of the USSR's Eastern European satellites as a base for its own colonial adventures, and in Southeast Asia it wants to create a buffer zone against the US. This strategy is based on the Soviet claim that it is seeking “peace and friendship.”

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Vietnam blitzkrieg bogs down in Kampuchea (Cambodia)

First hand report from S.E. Asia

Following is a Workers Voice interview with George C. Hilderbrand, a Southeast Asia scholar and journalist, who is co-author of one of the few books in the English language on Kampuchea today, "Cambodia: Sanctuary and Revolution.

Some comments were adaped by Margaret Flowers, a writer for Time magazine from Cambodia from 1975-77, and currently a student of Southeast Asian affairs. Hilderbrand and Heder were in Asia in January and February where they spoke with Kampuchean and visited China, Thailand, and the "Taiping" border region. They held the cities and the major highways — not the people. At first the western press was impressed by the Vietnamese attack. But we donot want to be misled by this blitzkrieg. The Kampuchean chose not to fight when they were weak; they evacuated the cities and fell back on the countryside where they could organize peoples' war. The Kampuchean military, largely intact, regrouped in the countryside, many into battalion-sized units.

There's a pretty high level of very heavy, organized resistance going on. The Kampuchean Revolutionary Army forces have been able to launch attacks in all major parts of the country. They occupied the city of Takeo — very close to Vietnam — for almost a week. They attacked the port of Kompong Som on the sea, and downtown Pursat, right in the middle of the country. As far as the overall areas, peoples' war means you fight everywhere the enemy comes. Kampuchean resistance forces are inVietnam. The Vietnamese invade Kampuchea December 25 and marched into the capital, Phnom Penh, January 7.

What do you know about how Kampuchea today, "Cambodia: Sanctuary and Revolution." Some comments were adaped by Margaret Flowers, a writer for Time magazine from Cambodia from 1975-77, and currently a student of Southeast Asian affairs. Hilderbrand and Heder were in Asia in January and February where they spoke with Kampuchans and visited China, Thailand, and the "Taiping" border region.

Since the Vietnamese invaded Kampuchea December 25 and marched into the capital, Phnom Penh, January 7, how much do they control?

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What do these civilians do?

Heder: Everybody is organized to do something for the Front. The military conscription-age men are all at the front lines. And everybody else is behind them. They're in school, they're in the army, they're in the training camps. The women and the old people make banana traps and placage rice in bamboo leaves. And then the children load the rice packets on the trucks to be driven off to the front. The children go out and put the bamboo spikes in place. Everybody is busy. Everybody seems to have their own task.

If the Kampuchans are waking a peoples' war, how would you describe what the Vietnamese are doing?

The Vietnamese launched a massive invasion on a number of different fronts in armoured columns with heavy air support. It was very much like an American-style attack — an extremely heavy, modernized conventional war approach. The Vietnamese describe it as a "blooming lotus" approach. You hit hard at the center and then fan out and try to mop up opposition in columns. It's a full transition from peoples' war to conventional war, which mirrors the political transition from being a nation fighting for its independence against U.S. imperialism, to being an aggressor nation trying to attack a neighbor state and take it over.

Who is leading the Kampuchan resistance now?

It's a standing military committee of the political committee of the Kampuchan Communist Party. It's under the direction of the Prime Minister and Party Secretary Pol Pot.

So politically and militarily it's a continuation of the Democratic Kam-%

What do you know about how Kampuchans lived under the Pol Pot government from 1975 when it liberated the country from the U.S. and the Lon Nol regime until the Vietnamese invasion?


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