

IN DEFENSE OF BOLSHEVISM

FOR A NEW LENINIST INTERNATIONAL

SPAIN:

The Work of the Popular Front
Government

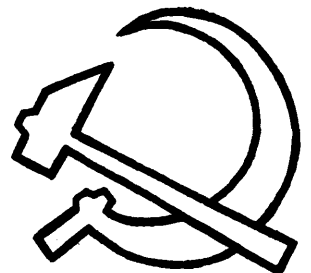
By HARRY MILLEN

The Political Background of the
Spanish Betrayal

By GEORGE MARLEN



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By Hary Millen

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The Work of the Popular Front Government

by Harry Millon

THE SURRENDER OF BARCELONA

THE SPANISH BOURGEOISIE under the leadership of General Franco have, with the assistance of the capitalists of the whole world and of the traitors in the ranks of the working class, succeeded in crushing the masses of Spain.

In order to understand how the defeat of the Spanish toilers was made possible it is necessary to understand the nature and the role of the Loyalist Government and its attitude toward Franco.

The shocking surprise of the surrender of Barcelona and the startling details accompanying the news of this surrender were carried by the world press to millions of anxious and astounded workers:

"BARCELONA TAKEN WITHOUT A FIGHT"

"Franco's legions march into the city without firing a shot." (N.Y. Times January 27, 1939.)

"Barcelona fell to Franco's encircling troops without a shot being fired within its gates." (Herald Tribune, January 27, 1939.)

"The great metropolis was reported to have fallen at the last without serious fighting." (N. Y. Post, January 25, 1939.)

Every day and every hour brought additional and more striking and vivid reports. City after city fell to Franco without a fight. Clearly a debacle was in the making. Apathy, resentment and astonishment prevailed. Uppermost in the minds of the workers was a questioning wonder at the suddenness of the complete collapse, at the utter surrender of the government, at the ease and rapidity with which the fascist tide rolled on:

".....the people discussed mainly the astonishing rapidity with which the Rebels had reached striking distance..." (N. Y. Times, January 24, 1939.)

The masses of Barcelona and the surrounding country did not expect this rapid advance of the fascists and the failure on the part of the government to defend the city. On the contrary the great astonishment of the people was justifiable after what had been instilled in their minds by the Loyalist "defenders." Before the Barcelona masses had been abandoned in this unexpected surrender they had been given every indication that the city would be defended. The glowing promises of the leaders did not prepare them for the despair to follow: