Let the People Vote on War

At the Moment War Breaks, Every Person Will Be Forced Under the War Machine's Totalitarian Heel

By JAMES BURNHAM

Totalitarian War

In past civil war, war was usually the business of a restricted class or caste of the population. The great majority not only took no part in it, but, in general, had no real stake in it. Of course, their lives were very little affected, even indirectly, by the conduct and outcome of wars.

But in modern wars, for example, most of the people were served and enslaved, who lived attached to the land where they were born, and who gained their sustenance from the self-sufficient agriculture and simple handicrafts, with which they contrived to provide any trade or common of life. They were required to turn over a certain percentage of their crops to their feudal lord, and usually able to work for a living unless they were assigned to them by their lord or his bailiffs. They were not, however, subject to any kind of mobilization.

With the exception of one or two of the Crusades, wars were fought exclusively by members of the feudal nobility itself, assisted by their personal servants who served, however, in non-military capacities. Fighting was considered, you might say, to be a “privilege” and prerogative of the nobility. In these feudal wars, not many persons, even of the nobility, were killed. Most weapons were crude, aimed not for mass slaughter but for individual, hand-to-hand combat; and fairly adequate defenses, armor and shields, were worn.

The results of these wars, moreover, did not greatly affect the conditions of life of the great majority. Sometimes a chivalric army would commandeer all the crops of a greater district, or even of the entire land of a country, and mow down the population and cripple its agriculture.

But, since the armies were small and slow-moving, the roads few and poor, and the black mail did not happen often in any particular place. And the question of who won the war was of hardly any consequence to the ordinary people. Their duties and obligations were the same whether Charles X or Louis XIV was their king.

In the first centuries of our time, in the West, the situation did not greatly change. In fifteenth century Italy, for instance, where the two stages of modern civilization reached its height, the powerful cities usually conducted wars by hiring mercenary armies. But the cities were busy at its industrial and commercial tasks, and the major inconvenience of war was only an added drain on the treasury.

Everybody Involved Now

Today, everything is changed. The world-wide division of labor and the development of the world-wide economy, rapid transportation and communication, more or less universal education has transformed war from the sport of the profession of arms into a major enterprise in which every single member of the population, rich or poor, is part of the war machine.

In the first place, in our day, vast numbers of the population are directly or indirectly involved in the fighting.

These factors, however, do not all quite lend up so as to include the whole population. War is far more than a physical war; it is a war of diseases and disorders, not confined to the battlefield. Starvation, food, of disease, disruption of medical services, lack of hygienic and sanitary measures, all extend the casualty list treble to the war by untold millions.

Including All Humanity

In short, war has become, in our day, totalitarian. War is no longer a matter for the social élite. It has spread to the layman and some types of activities. War dominates and controls the total life and activities of all the population.

The governments and general staffs of all nations recognize this to be the case. That is why the war plans of all governments are not based on the small population and the entire population along totalitarian lines. In the case of the United States and a number of other countries, the plans are far more fully prepared. Many of them are included in the famous documents of national defense, the so-called “obligatory” national defense rights and civil defense plans.

The resolution states the L.L.G.U. resolution on the general subject of workers defense.
New Deal Officials’ Threats Fail to Slow Up National W.P.A. Strike

The strike, which began in response to the threat of budget cuts in New Deal works projects, has spread across the country. The W.P.A., which was established to provide jobs and relief during the Great Depression, faces a funding crisis due to the economic downturn. The strike, which began with a single worker’s protest, has grown to involve thousands of workers across the country.

American Fund Answers Somerville Threat By Offering Free Legal Aid to Arrested W.P.A. Workers

The American Fund has stepped up its support of the W.P.A. workers involved in the strike. The fund began by offering free legal aid to the arrested workers, and has since expanded its support to include financial assistance and other forms of help. The fund has also begun to organize support groups and events to raise awareness of the W.P.A. workers’ plight.

The strike has grown in intensity and scope, with workers demanding an end to the cuts and a fair share of the funding. The W.P.A. workers are determined to fight for their rights and are prepared to continue the strike until their demands are met.

This article has been extracted from a larger document that covers various developments in the labor movement, including the rise of the W.P.A. strike, the growing demands for a living wage, and the spread of the anti-Coughlin campaign. The document is a valuable resource for understanding the challenges faced by workers during this time period.
Marceau Pivert Joins List of Persecuted Anti-Militarists

On the Line... with Bill Morgan

In the World of Labor
By Paul G. Stevens

Chicago Relief

Slash

Officials Introduce Cut With Case to Workers
By R. S. Grant

Backpage items are compiled by the editors from information supplied by the sources cited, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and other labor and community organizations.

In the World of Labor

Marceau Pivert Joins List of Persecuted Anti-Militarists

By Paul G. Stevens

Pivert, who has been a prominent labor organizer in the Northwest for many years, has been placed on the list of anti-militarists by the government.

On the Line... with Bill Morgan

Here's a story which might be read and thought about and then set aside. But it surely will be read--especially in labor circles. It's the story of a strike that came through with the easy promises of the years. It went through with the apparent demand for `no sweating' on the part of a group of workers, who had been assured by a similar `no sweating' on the part of their employers. It went through, as many expected it would, with the ease of a strike that had the support of the workers themselves. It went through to the end of the strike, and then to the end of the union.

The strike was the United Steelworkers of America against the Republic Steel Corporation, which is one of the largest steel生产企业s in the country. The strike was called by the workers themselves, and it was supported by the United Steelworkers of America. The strike lasted for over a month, and it was called off by the workers themselves, after a victory had been won.

The strike was the result of a dispute over working conditions, wages, and other issues. It was a bitter strike, and it was fought with great determination. The workers refused to work under the terms of the company, and they were determined to win their demands. The company, on the other hand, refused to give in, and it was determined to keep its workers from striking.

The strike was a test of wills, and it was a test of strength. The workers, who were well-organized and well-supported, fought hard and long. The company, which had the support of the government, fought just as hard and just as long.

The strike was a test of the strength of the union, and it was a test of the strength of the workers. The workers, who were supported by the United Steelworkers of America, fought hard and long. The company, which had the support of the government, fought just as hard and just as long.

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**SOCIALIST APPEAL**

**Vol. III, No. 16**

JULY 14, 1939

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**FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR...**

- A Ten-Million-dollar Federal works program
- A minimum maximum for all workers at all wages
- A fair world wage scale and disability insurance
- Employment at just wages and security
- The Strike Can and Must Be Won

Every decent worker in the United States stands one hundred percent behind the W.P.A. strikes.

The building trades unions of the A.F.L. have taken the lead in the fight against the infamous Woodworth war. The C.O.I.O. is backing the strike to the hilt.

But the building trades unions haven't stopped the strike. They cannot break it. The power of united, militant, fighting labor is too strong to be broken. That power is not merely the organized ranks of the building trades unions. It is the unorganized, the sweetheart of every worker in this country, skilled and unskilled, employed or unemployed.

That power numbers MILLIONS. All it needs is DETERMINATION.

If the building trades workers lose this fight it will mean a blow, a sharp knife in all labor.

But if they win—and they can and must win—they will set an example that will encourage and strengthen other unions everywhere.

Who's AGAINST the strike?

The Washington Bureaucracy, the A. M. Broadhead (the former governor of New York) and the C.T.O. (the police of the W.P.A.), have been working overtime on this job to cut wages and lengthen the working day. Of course, the gangsters in Washington have their differences, and will cut the W.P.A. wages, while others cut it out entirely. None of them are for the workers.

President Roosevelt is against the strike. He has called Governor Crowell of New York and the Gov. of New Jersey and the others and said: "You must stop the strike and get back to work." Roosevelt's Colombo Society is against the strike and it is ready to use the scale to break it.

Roosevelt's Colombo Society has the strike and it is ready to use the scale. labor at 20 years old and younger and the old W.P.A. labor at 20 years old and younger and all the W.P.A. directors will not cut the workers wages while others cut it out entirely.

The capitalist newspapers are against the strike and are helping the workers not to fight the government.

But why worry about it?

Woodrow Wilson and Roosevelt and Hoover and all the newspapers put together can't dig a hole big enough to bury the W.P.A. All power—above all the power to win their bargaining power and get wages at the right level.

The only way the workers can get wages at the right level is to let themselves be kicked out of this power.

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**The Government---Strikebreaker**

At a meeting on Monday, the president of the New York and Long Island Building Trades Council, Thomas A. Murray, declared:

"We are not十足地 on the 7000 workers who are on strike in the city of New York, and at the same time the city of New York is working to change the strike to an all-out strike against the W.P.A."

"The workers who are on strike are being fired and their jobs are being taken over by the W.P.A."

"We are not十足地 the strike, but we are working to try to change the strike to an all-out strike against the W.P.A."

"The workers who are on strike are being fired and their jobs are being taken over by the W.P.A."

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**Defy Coughlin in Fascists at Bronx Outdoor Meeting**

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**City Twin W.P.A. Workers Stage Strike Against Stabilization Bill**

By CARL OMEDA

(Covered in the Socialist Appeal)

The Socialists, in an important development, have launched a nationwide campaign of W.P.A. workers, estimated by the boss, to build up the W.P.A. hero worship to a peak. The workers are in the W.P.A. nationwide, in the Vegetarian workers, and in the W.P.A. nationwide. The strike in Minneapolis in Minnesota is an important development, and the workers in Minneapolis are in the W.P.A. nationwide.

The strike was begun in Minneapolis and has spread to other cities. The workers have been on strike for two weeks. The strike has spread to the Twin Cities area, and it has spread to the Twin Cities area. The workers in Minneapolis have been on strike for two weeks.

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**Watch Out for Stalin Scabbing**

The Daily Worker practical coming to the W.P.A. offices.

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