

THE CRISIS
OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL:
HOW IT OPENED
IN 1951

by Stephane Just

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Part III, Chapter One, of
"The Fortieth Anniversary of the Foundation
of the Fourth International:

More than a Century of Struggle
for the Workers' International"

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THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Over a Century of Struggle for the Workers' International

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Part III, FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

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Chapter 1 The Crisis of the Fourth International Opens

The IIIrd World Congress was held in September 1951. It adopted documents which the French section characterised as "confused and contradictory". These documents placed the Fourth International round the axis of the perspective of the Third World War; a war of a coalition of the imperialists under the leadership of the USA against the USSR, the so-called "People's Democracies" and China.

THE REVISIONIST CENTRE BECOMES THE CENTRE FOR LIQUIDATING THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

The perspective of a Third World War was a possible, though not an uplifting one. In any case, such a war would show that the proletariat had to pay for the delay of the world revolution at an enormous price. The responsibility for this belonged to the policy of the social-democracy and of the reformist apparatuses, but especially to the counter-revolutionary policy of the Stalinist bureaucracy and its international apparatus. The documents of the IIIrd Congress concealed the political function of the Kremlin bureaucracy and its international apparatus; the defence of the bourgeois order on the international scale.

To be sure, imperialism was preparing for war, but in a relation of forces between the classes which was extremely favourable to the proletariat as a result of the revolutionary wave at the end of the war. To be sure, imperialism was preparing for war against the USSR, but the most effective counter-revolutionary instrument at its disposal was (and remains) the Kremlin bureaucracy and its international apparatus. Far from re-stating this fundamental truth, which would have meant counter-posing, in the classical way, the class

