

# INTRODUCTION

By William Z. Foster

The present is a most vital time in the history of our country and the world. It is a period of great wars and revolutions; the era of the transition from obsolete world capitalism to ascending world socialism. The Soviet Union, in November, 1917, was the first great nation to take this revolutionary path; it is now being accompanied by the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe and the great Chinese People's Republic. Over one-third of the human race is definitely on the road to socialism, and the rest of the world's peoples will not tarry long before they go the same way.

The wealthy and rotten financial oligarchy of Wall Street—American imperialism—is striving to reverse this whole fundamental course of world evolution and revolution. Mobilizing as its allies various bankrupt capitalist governments, the Vatican, and Social-Democracy, it is seeking to destroy socialism, to save doomed capitalism, and to reduce the whole of mankind to subservience to its autocratic rule. To accomplish this end Wall Street is aiming to plunge humanity into another great war and to fasten the yoke of fascism upon the toilers of the world.

But all this is a vain and impossible imperialist dream. It will be completely shattered by the peace and liberty-loving determination of the masses; by their irresistible drive towards socialism. Nevertheless, the striving of American imperialism for conquest constitutes a major

threat to the welfare of the world. Unless it is promptly checked and defeated, it will lead to untold human slaughter and mass pauperization.

The Communist Party of the United States, located in the greatest stronghold of world capitalism, has the heavy responsibility of mobilizing the workers and other democratic strata of this country to resist the attacks of Wall Street on the peace and democracy of the United States and the world. It is standing up well to this responsibility, despite sharp attacks from the capitalist class and its government.

This present book, consisting of articles and speeches by the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Eugene Dennis, vividly reflects the Communists' valiant fight against war and fascism and for the general economic and political interests of the workers, the Negro masses, and the American people as a whole.

At the center of its drive against peace and freedom the reactionary Truman government is trying to outlaw and destroy the Communist Party. The notorious Foley Square trial of eleven of the Party's leaders—with its biased judge, unscrupulous prosecution, perjured witnesses, and intimidated jury—is only one of many such attempts. But they, too, will fail. The Communist Party is fighting on the side of history and cannot be destroyed.

Gene Dennis, a man who all his life has devoted himself loyally and unselfishly to the cause of labor and socialism, is the most outstanding victim of the severe persecution now being directed against the Communists. He has been sent to Federal prison for boldly expressing his contempt for the House Committee on Un-American Activities headed by the notorious J. Parnell Thomas, who has since been proven guilty of stealing government funds. The liberty and peace of our country are indeed in danger when genuine patriots like Dennis are railroaded to jail for defending the people's rights, while notorious reactionaries and common crooks like Thomas are placed at the head of infamous thought-control committees and allowed to

intimidate the workers and other progressive, peace-loving forces with their fascist ravings.

The Communist Party stands in the front line of the defense of democracy and peace. It is the great champion of the only solution of the terrible situation into which decadent capitalism has plunged the world, that is, Socialism. Every attack upon the Communist Party and its leaders is an assault upon the trade union movement, upon the Negro people, upon American democratic rights and civil liberties, upon the peace of the world. To safeguard the most profound interests of the working class and of the whole American people, the civil rights of Communists must be defended, and Eugene Dennis and many others persecuted and jailed for their political views and activities must be set free.