

## On the eve of 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory over Fascism Carry struggle thorough to the end against Imperialism and Hegemonism

May 9, 1945 is a historic day when the socialist, democratic, national and peace loving forces of the world had won an unparalleled victory over Fascism in the Second World War. This year, Russia has celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this glorious victory. On this day, there was a massive victory parade. The parade was followed by a march of more than 5 lakh Moscow people with portraits of their close relatives who lost their lives in the war.

September 3, 1945 is the historic day when the Japan had formally announced its defeat as well as surrender in the Second World War. On this day this year, China has celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this victory of anti-fascist forces in a big way. In this context, the Chinese President Xi Jinping announced to reduce the size of the People's Liberation Army by 300,000. On this eve, he also declared: "We Chinese love peace. No matter how much stronger it may become, China will never seek hegemony or expansion. It will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation".

These celebrations were attended by 30 heads of state, including a Minister from India.

Before and during these celebrations, the Chinese Govt as well as the media have carried on an extensive propaganda on how the Japanese invaders in the past had committed countless brutalities and massacres in China and how the Chinese people had put up a heroic and victorious armed resistance to evict the Japanese invaders from China. The Chinese President has reminded to the Chinese people and the world that "the Japanese militarist invaders (before and during WW II) were extremely bloody and cruel, who treated the Chinese people with unprecedented brutality, and tried to use massacres and death to get the Chinese people to yield". He reminded that 35 lakh Chinese people had lost their lives because of Japanese invasion and war.

Moscow's victory celebrations on May 9<sup>th</sup> were attended by 30 Heads of State. No one was present from the US, UK and Germany. It was reported that they have boycotted in protest against Russia's role in Ukraine. It is also reported that some countries could not attend the Moscow celebrations because they could not defy the pressure from the US.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin could not conceal his dissatisfaction at the situation. He observed: "The enemies of Russia" are attempting to "rewrite history". "The goal is obvious: to undermine Russia's power and moral authority-to divide the people and set them up against each other and use historical speculation in their geo-political games". He warned that fascism is again raising its head in Europe. He said: "In recent decades, we have seen the basic principles of international co-operation being increasingly ignored. We have seen attempts at creating a uni-polar world and how military bloc mentality is gaining momentum".

The celebrations in Russia and China bring to the fore the political scene in the wake of World War-II as well as the political situation and contradictions in today's world.

Here are two historic periods before us. One is the period of World War-II and second is the present period. We must draw line between the two periods and take note of the changes during this period in the nature, relations and roles of different forces. Then alone we can view the past correctly and arrive at a proper conclusion on how to carry on the present struggle in the interests of proletariat, oppressed nations and people.

There existed basically three types of political forces on the eve of and during the Second World War in the world.

1. USSR. It was a young and developing socialist country engaged in life and death struggle against the external and internal enemies.

The proletariat, oppressed nations and people the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America who were in different phases or stages of struggle to get rid of the yoke of colonialism, imperialism and the fetters of feudalism and build new societies.

Soviet Union, as a socialist country, viewed as its proletarian internationalist duty to extend support and solidarity to the struggle of proletariat and oppressed people, in the world. Similarly, the proletariat and oppressed people viewed the existence of socialist Russia as a source of strength and extended their support and solidarity to it. Thus both were bound by the common interest and common cause.

2. Germany. Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933. He came to the fore with an ideology, political and military line of imposing the German domination over the world by means of a devastating war. Moved by this ambitious aim, he roped by 1937 Japan and Italy into an axis headed by Germany. Obviously, destroying and annexing the Soviet Union, grabbing the countries of Europe together with the colonies and spheres of influence controlled by them was a part of this strategy for world domination. The preparations and actions of the Fascist bloc were only in line with this.

3. The colonial and imperialist powers like Britain and France. They were controlling vast areas in the world as colonies and spheres of influence. US-a new and upcoming imperialist power-was also on the world scene with them with all ambitions to have its own share of dominance over the countries. These powers were faced with two types of problems at the time. One: In many colonies, the oppressed people were increasingly on the path of struggle. The presence of a socialist country, the support and solidarity extended by it to the struggles of oppressed people and the active or leading role being played by the Communist Parties in the people's revolution were a dangerous phenomenon before them. Two: The emergence of a fascist bloc led by Hitler with all out preparations to re-divide the world by force with a clear aim of bringing the entire world under their own domination was a dangerous development for other imperialist powers in the world.

The strategies, tactics and actions resorted by these three types of forces had influenced and determined the outcome of the Second World War.

The Socialist Russia led by Stalin had prepared itself to face any eventuality basing on its own people, strength and resources. At the same time, it proposed the formation of an international anti-fascist alliance to effectively counter the menace posed by the aggressive strategy of Germany and its Fascist bloc for world domination. While trying to convince Britain, France and US to form this alliance, the socialist Russia had simultaneously prepared its people, the armed forces as well as materially to face the menace, if need be, alone.

On the other side, Britain, France and US were busy in their conspiratorial, dual and dangerous tactics and designs against the USSR. While pretending to be negotiating with Russia for an alliance, they had done everything to frustrate the talks. On the other side, Britain was engaged in the attempts to strike a secret deal with Hitler on the basis of agreement to divide the spheres of influence, and in the course, destroy Russia. These power were not at all ready to confront with Germany. The British Prime Minister of the time, Winston Churchill continued to doze in wild dreams of "strangulating Bolshevism in the cradle with the help of Germany. These imperialists wished "to hurl Germany's and Japanese aggression against the USSR, to sandwich it between the two fronts and then smear it." Harry Truman, who later became the US President had said soon after Germany's invasion of the SU: "If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia, if Russia is winning, we ought to help Germany, and that way let them kill as many as possible".

Hitler never wanted to share the world domination with others. He wanted to rule the entire world including the Europe. Though Russia was his important target, he acted like a 'wise' and over ambitious gambler. He decided to strike at Europe first and then hit Russia with all his might. In April 1940, Germany began its onslaught on Europe and brought a major part of it under its control by the summer in 1941. Once Poland came under its control it thought that time was ripe for an attack on USSR.

Germany waged a surprise attack on Russia on June 22, 1941, it concentrated three fourths of its armed forces and weapons in Russia. It dreamt to win the war in a few days. But it had turned out to be an unprecedented, exceptionally heroic war waged by the Soviet people and Soviet Red Army. The war went on for 1418 days encompassing 3000 to 6200 KMs of area behind the lines and the enemy occupied areas in USSR. It was a war waged on several fronts by every section of people, women and men and of every age with unimaginable stamina, sacrifice, endurance and unbreakable resolve. Finally, the German fascist armed forces had to eat the dust and face the ignoble and devastating defeat. The victorious Red Army had hoisted the red flag on German Reichstag (Parliament in Berlin)

The European powers had agreed for an alliance with Russia only when they were left with no other choice and that too for name sake. They did not open up the second war front even when Russia was in a life and death war with Germany. Even when they began it, they were too weak and half hearted in their resistance. After the victory of Russia and the anti-fascist forces of the world over Fascism, the US and other imperialist powers had hastened to grab the fruits of victory and claim that the victory was possible mainly because of their own struggle.

It is necessary to recollect and re-iterate the historic facts when we are talking about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of victory over Fascism. At the same time, it will be useful to take note of certain important factors.

1. USSR was a socialist country at that time. The strategy, tactics and policies pursued by it in the period of Second World War under the leadership of communist party and Stalin were clearly based on anti-imperialism and proletarian internationalism. They reflected the aspirations and interests of the proletariat, oppressed and peace loving people. Naturally, they helped to inflict a death blow upon Fascism, which had come to the fore as most dangerous enemy and also to seriously weaken colonialism and imperialism in the world. They helped to advance the struggles and peoples revolutions in various countries of the world for national independence, national liberation and peoples revolution.

2. The contradiction and conflict manifested between the Germany-led Fascist bloc and other imperialist powers at the time of Second World War were only a manifestation of inter-imperialist contradiction and conflict. The socialist forces, oppressed nations and the genuine peace forces in that period were sufficiently strong and active. At the international level, they had drawn a clear line of demarcation between themselves and imperialism and could pursue revolutionary strategy and tactics. As a result, they could play an active and independent role in the context of Second World War and there by further intensify the contradiction and conflict between imperialism and socialism; between imperialism and oppressed nations; among the imperialist powers and between the forces of war and people. It is only because of all these reasons, they could foil the conspiracies and evil designs of the imperialists to destroy the socialist country, drawn the struggles and revolutions of the oppressed people in the blood and push back the human progress to decades of darkness; they could inflict powerful blows on imperialism and play a decisive role in the struggle to save the world from a stupendous calamity-Fascism.

3. There is a fundamental change in the political character of Russia. Today, it is a capitalist country and imperialist country. So its contradiction with US and other imperialist powers is in the nature of inter-imperialist contradiction. In the present situation, it is operating within the frame-work of collusion and contention. It is a country with a strength of weapons in size and quality comparable with US imperialism and it is aspiring for a share in the position to decide the world issues. Its criticism against the US attempt to impose its hegemony over the world and its clash with the US on some policies are manifestation of this attitude rather than anti-imperialism and anti-hegemonism in true sense of the terms.

4. The US imperialists, who have emerged as the leader of capitalist world, are implementing the political, economic cultural and military strategies aimed at imposing their hegemony over the world. Their acts of threat, intervention, invasion and their military blocs, alliances, groupings, military bases and deployments and their so called global war against terrorism are only a part of them. Naturally, the proletariat and oppressed people of the world in general and the affected people in particular are very

much agitated at this development. The protests, movements and resistances that are growing in strength and momentum in various countries are only a manifestation of it. Gaining inspiration from the great struggle waged by the socialist proletariat and oppressed people in the period of Second World War will help to lead the present struggle against imperialism and hegemonism in proper direction.

5. The Chinese proletariat and people have a glorious history of waging struggle against feudalism and imperialism under the leadership of Communist Party and Mao. They foiled the conspiracies and attempts on the part of British and US imperialists to gain control and perpetuate the rule of their comrodars in China. They waged a full scale revolutionary war of resistance against the Japanese militarists who invaded China and had succeeded in evicting them. The New Democratic and Socialist China remained as a source of great inspiration and support for the masses of oppressed people all over the world. However, China has changed its colour and has taken the capitalist road. In their relations with US, the present Chinese rulers are seen pursuing a policy of co-operation and conflict. The attempts of Japanese rulers to revive the Japanese militarism, their alliance and partnership in the US strategic drive for hegemony over the Asia and pacific region and their attempts to rally the countries against China are aggravating the contradiction and tensions between China on one side and Japan and US on the other side. The SCO and BRICS came only as a part of the attempts on the part of China and Russia to mobilise the counties and forces against the US and its ally Japan in Asia.

There is need to learn and take inspiration from the glorious struggle waged by the Chinese people in the past against imperialism and Japanese invasion and also from the socialist Russia and its people, who waged an unparelled struggle against the German invasion and occupation of Russia and the menace of Fascism at the international level. Today learning from the past only means owning the struggle began by the proletariat and oppressed people against imperialism and carrying it to the end. It also mean protecting these struggles and their fruits from the pseudo and alien class forces. The struggle against imperialism and hegemonism only means opposing and fighting them in every form and from which ever quarter they may raise their heads. It is needless to state that the proletariat-its vanguard Communist party alone can lead this struggle in a consistent and thorough-going manner.

\*\*\*\*\*