

Dying for Imperialism is not a Matter of Pride for People

According to the First World War (FWW) Inventory Project, there are some 10,000 FWW memorials across the country in US. Most prominent among them is 217-foot “Liberty Tower” near the Kansas City- close to the birth place of the top US FWW military Commander General John J. Pershing. A Vietnamese war memorial had come up in 1982, a Korean War memorial and a Second World War memorial also had come up in later years in US capital.

In 2008, Frank Buckles- who worked as a teenage ambulance driver of US in the FWW, raised the question : “What do you say to the last FWW veteran when he asks why there is nothing to commemorate the pivotal role Americans played in the final two years of 1914-18 FWW ? “ The question was debated. The US ruling circles finally agreed in 2014 to build two national memorials, one in Kansas City and another in Washington. The FWW Centennial Commission eventually settled on Pershing Park. The work on the project is expected to begin by November 11, 2018.

The point here is: The colonial and the imperialist powers fought with their imperialist rivals in the First and Second World War in the territories of other countries to retain or expand the areas of control to plunder and oppress the people there. They used the words like patriotism and national interest to rally the people into the imperialist war.

The US wars in Vietnam and Korea were the wars of aggression and occupation. So, there is nothing for the American people to feel proud of these wars. The US imperialists had imposed these wars on the American people. The instances are plenty where the US soldiers felt ashamed, painful and unethical to act like a tool of the imperialist wars and engage themselves in killing Vietnamese and Korean people. . They even revolted against their imperialist rulers. It is no secret that the democratic and peace-loving forces and people in America, many a times, came into the streets in a massive way opposing the unjust and aggressive US war against the Vietnamese people. They also extended their support and solidarity to the just struggles of oppressed people against the US aggression and occupation.

The imperialist powers in general and the US imperialists in particular have learnt nothing from the disastrous policies of invasions and occupations and their countless defeats in the hands of oppressed people in various countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The US imperialists now are pushing through a strategy of world domination. As part of this, they had built up a big empire of most sophisticated and destructive weapons. They maintain dozens of military bases in the world on land, seas and the outer space. They had built up the military alliances at regional as well as world level. They are indulging in acts of threats, coercion, bullying, intervention, armed invasion and occupation against the small and weak countries in an attempt to force them into subjugation. The wars of invasion and occupation waged by them against Afghanistan and Iraq are only a part of this drive. Their so called global war against terrorism and their so called crusade against the Weapons of Mass Destruction and for democracy and democratic regimes in some countries like Syria by playing toppling games are only the vehicles to realize their wild ambitions of world domination. Several millions of poor people in soldiers and technicians uniforms are drawn into this whole gamble of imperialists for world domination. One must, however, be clear that these poor people are used to serve an unjust cause and as a mercenary force.

The imperialist powers, for that matter any reactionary ruling classes, would be generous to ‘honour’ and reward the ‘heroes’ and ‘martyrs’ in every conceivable form who laid down their lives in the service of imperialists and reactionary classes. The national memorials that are built or proposed to be built in US are only a pointer to this. We know that, in the period of FWW (1914-18) the British colonialists used the people of their colonies including that of India not only as mercenary armies to suppress the national movements inside the colonies, but also in their predatory wars with their imperialist rivals to retain and win new colonies. The same British imperialists are now busy in celebrating the Centenary of FWW. They had built up a memorial and museum in Britain

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for those who died in the FWW serving the British colonialists. They are also conduct-ing various programmes in Britain as well as in the erstwhile British colonies including India to honour and reward the ‘martyrs’ and ‘heroes’ of this war.

We must express our sym-pathy and sorrow for those starving and unemployed poor who were compelled to join and serve the colonial mercenary armies or other trades of work and lost their precious lives. At the same time, we cannot and must not forget the fact that the imperialists had used them as cannon-fodder in their unjust wars to subjugate and colonise the people of other Countries. The American people, for that matter the people of all the imperialist countries must realize that they can be free only when they break the shackles of imperialism. They must join theworking class, oppressed people and peace loving forceswho are waging various forms of struggle to wipe out the demon of imperialism from the face of the Earth.
