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## IMPERIALIST PATRIOTISM

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**Ever** since the US imperialists had come to the fore as the leader of capitalist world in the post-Second World War period they had been carrying out all the strategies and designs aimed at imposing their own hegemony over the world. The armed invasions against the other Countries are a part of them. The US had stepped into Vietnam in the early 1950s. It first deployed a few “advisers” in Vietnam. By July 1965, it resorted to a full scale armed aggression against Vietnam. By this time, there were 5 Lakhs of US soldiers on the Vietnamese soil. The Vietnamese people fought against this aggression with an unprecedented heroism and valour. They confronted the modern weapons of US imperialists with conventional weapons and by the method of guerrilla warfare. They inflicted many defeats and heavy losses to the aggressors. According to one estimate; 30 Lakh people had lost their lives in this national liberation war. Half of them were Vietnamese people. The US had dropped 140 Lakhs of bombs and other weapons on Vietnam. It is said that 10 per cent of them did not explode. Many exploded after the war at different times and at least one Lakh Vietnamese people had died as a consequence of it. The just struggle of Vietnamese people had received extensive and whole hearted support and solidarity from the people of China, Russia, Indo-China, India and all the countries of the world. Particularly, a powerful protest movement against the US aggression had come up right in the US. The American people had taken the US rulers to task in several ways. Thus the historic struggle of the Vietnamese people against the US aggression and for national liberation was just and patriotic war. The sacrifices made by the Vietnamese people during this war are invaluable and inspiring for the entire exploited and oppressed people of the world. The Vietnamese people’s struggle and sacrifices are memorable.

The US rulers were compelled to enter into a dialogue with the Vietnamese leaders after tasting series of defeats and when they found their final defeat quite inescapable. The last US soldier had left Vietnam by April 1975. All the workers, oppressed and peace loving people who were aspiring and struggling for the independence, liberation, democracy and peace in various countries of the world hated the invading US soldiers. These soldiers were seen as none but the mercenary forces of the enemy. The American people too were not waiting with garlands to welcome the US soldiers who were returning to their homeland after butchering lakhs of people in a decade-long unjust war of invasion against another Country. They only greeted the US soldiers with protests and demonstrations.

However, the peculiar thing is, the US imperialist rulers had begun celebrating the “Fiftieth Anniversary of Vietnam War” since 2012. They spread these celebrations to every nook and corner of the US. The US rulers had built up a big Memorial in Washington DC where they engraved the names of 58200 US soldiers who died in the Vietnam War. They are describing the period of US aggression against Vietnam as the period of “patriotic sacrifices” and these armed men as “War Veterans”. The US rulers, however, never talk about why they had sent these soldiers to a small country situated at a distance of thousands of kilo metres and what atrocities and massacres they had committed there.

How an American soldier sent to trample the independence and freedom of Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people who fought against the US aggression and to defend the independence and freedom of their own Country - both can be called as “patriotic fighters” and “heroes”? Can there be more vulgarisation of the word “patriotism” and “Heroism” than this?

How the conscious masses of American people view the memorials built by the US rulers for their sons whom the Imperialist rulers had forced to die in an unjust war against the people of other Country? Will not the act of US rulers who had used the American people as cannon fodder in a war to impose their own plunder us hegemony over the people of another Country cause pain and anger to the people? What message the U S imperialist rulers wish to convey to the American people by this kind of memorials, centres and celebrations? Are they not calling upon the American people through this to enthusiastically die in the ongoing wars of invasion and be prepared to die in the wars they propose to wage in future? The American people must turn these memorials into the symbols and centres of protest against the imperialist policies of aggression. They must take the pledge in the name of their near and dear, who had lost their lives in the wars for a wrong cause, never to take part in the wars of invasion. They must oppose the attempts of imperialist rulers to build their oppressive empires on their own dead bodies. They must join the ongoing struggle of world people for a world free from exploitation, oppression domination and war.

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