

Fascism and Empire - Rajani Palme Dutt

Fascism is revealed today as the more and more dominant policy of capitalism in crisis all over the world.

Fascism means the rule of the most violent, chauvinist elements of imperialism, throwing aside all democratic pretences, and using every device of terrorist dictatorship to smash the revolt of the working class and of the colonial peoples.

In its initial development Fascism appears as a phenomenon above all of the big imperialist countries, arising with the metropolitan centres of finance-capital to crush the rising working class movement which threatens its power. In order to achieve this task Fascism has to resort to demagoguery so as to delude the petty-bourgeois masses and backward strata of the workers into doing its work. For this purpose Fascism puts on a "*national*" mask. "Britain First", "Germany First", "Italy First" is the slogan of Fascism. "National self-sufficiency", "autarchy", "economic isolation" of each "nation" within its own barriers is declared to be the only path to solve the economic crisis.

But this "national" cover is only a lie to deceive the innocent. Fascism is in reality the weapon and policy of monopoly capital, that is, of imperialism, of the Thyssens and Krupps, of the Deterdings and Rothermeres, of the Monds and the Fords, of the Wall Street and the city and the German Steel Trust and the *Comite des Forges*. Monopoly capital *cannot* find scope for the gigantic modern forces of production within the national frontiers; this is only a fantasy of propaganda. It must constantly seek to extend its rule. It organises the intensified dictatorship of the big trusts within each national unit only in order to fight more effectively on the world scale, for the world market, for world domination, for new spheres of influence, to extend the monopolist area of exploitation throughout the world, to war with other Powers for the maintenance of existing spoils or the conquest of new spoils.

Fascism is thus the weapon, not of "national self-sufficiency," as it pretends, but of world-power, of extended and intensified colonial domination and exploitation.

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