

# Fascism and Empire - Rajani Palme Dutt

## Fascist Movements

The fight against Ireland is maintained on the lines of economic war, and at the same time the Blue shirt movement is developed under General O Duffy and Cosgrave with British encouragement and support to prepare the fighting force for the subjugation of Ireland "with the maximum economy of British lives".

Newfoundland is transformed at a stroke from a Dominion into a subject colony under the dictatorship of a British Governing Commission.

In Australia the New Guard is organised under Colonel Eric Campbell to conduct the fight against the working class and maintain the control of the combined British and Australian capitalist-class.

A similar New Guard has also been organised in New Zealand and in South Africa. These movements are all organised together in the "New Empire Union".

In South Africa the formerly opposed British and Dutch bourgeois parties, the South Africa Party of Smuts and the Nationalist Party of Herzog, drew together in ever closer coalition against the enslaved African five-sixths majority of the population of the South African Union.

At the same time pressure on India and the Crown Colonies is increased. Not only does the British Government policy on India as indicated, move steadily to the right, but the demand of right-wing Conservatism becomes ever more clamorous for the dropping of all "constitutional" shams and pretences and an unlimited policy of the Iron Heel in India. This becomes the test issue of Diehardism in Britain in the present period; and its vote, in the National Conference of Conservative Associations rises from below one-third in 1933 to over two-fifths at the Conference held in March, 1934.

"India must remain within the Empire"; every attempt at liberation must be "ruthlessly suppressed," writes Mosley in "Greater Britain". All the "national" pretences of Fascism here disappear from view. "The Indian market" writes the "Blackshirt" is "vital" to Britain; "this is the fundamental economic reason why British rule in India must be maintained". The Lancashire textile manufacturers, viewing their weakening hold in India, move to the support of Fascism; one of their leading representatives writes in the "Oldham Chronicle" (17.2.34): "Is there any wonder that the youth of this country, tired of procrastination, sick at heart and

with no hope of improvement or employment, are turning in ever increasing numbers to the more virile policy of Sir Oswald Mosley and the creed of 'Britain First'?"

Fascism represents the supreme violent attempt to maintain a hold by every means of terrorism against both the working class in the imperialist countries and the exploited masses in the colonial countries. The struggle is being drawn together more closely than ever before. The privileged condition of the working masses in the imperialist countries is passing away. The conditions of the struggle, against ever more violent and lawless terrorism, which can only be overthrown in revolutionary battle, are approximating closer throughout the world. Therefore the unity of the struggle grows. The united struggle will defeat the last furies of dying capitalism, will overthrow both Fascism and colonial domination. In the development of this combined struggle the League against Imperialism has a large and increasing role to play, and confidently calls for the support of all working class organisations and of all national revolutionary anti-imperialists movements. We are approaching the most critical stage of a world struggle for liberation against enslavement, war and destruction.

(This article is completed. Published in three parts, Dec-2021, Jan-2022 and Feb-2022. One can read the article combining the three issues.)