

# The Indonesian National Liberation Revolution

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*(We publish below an article written upon request, for publication in Indonesia.)*

HEARTIEST greetings to the people of Indonesia upon the occasion of the 10th anniversary of your national revolution of Aug. 10, 1945. The working class and the bulk of the

American people have watched with sympathy and interest your long and gallant struggle to free yourselves from the harsh oppression and exploitation by the Dutch imperialists and their British and American allies.

Although today the U.S. is a country controlled by monopoly capital and big imperialists, it nevertheless has a definite revolutionary tradition. In fact, our people have fought through two successful revolutions. The first was the great national liberation revolution of 1776, which freed the United States from the col-



onial domination of England; the second was the revolution of 1867 (the Civil War), in which the people broke the power of the slave-holding landlords and emancipated over 4,000,000 Negro chattel slaves. These revolutionary memories are still strong in the mind of the people, although the ruling monopolists have long since betrayed and violated them.

THE VAST national revolution, which has been shaking Asia and the world since the end of World War II, and in which Indonesia has played such an heroic and important part, is one of the greatest events in human history. It is a tremendous mass movement which is freeing over half of the human race from the bitter enslavement of capitalist colonialism. The advanced workers of the industrial world look upon this stupendous movement with awe and admiration.

The great people of the East, with their thousands of years of civilization and culture, are challenging the reactionary capitalism of Europe and America

and they are coming forth upon the stage of history as a vast new and constructive force, a powerful lever, along with the workers of the capitalist countries, for the revolutionization of the world. Its was one of the supreme achievements of Lenin, that he pioneered in understanding and in cultivating this whole massive progressive movement.

Besides the tremendous advance made by the national revolutionary forces in their own countries, in their building of mass trade unions, peasant organizations, and Communist parties, in their emancipation of women, their writing of a whole body of progressive labor laws, and the abolition of innumerable intolerable feudal and imperialist institutions—they have also become a gigantic influence for progress on a world scale. The great conference of Asian and African peoples at Bandung was a massive blow against the warmongers and one of the decisive world forces that led to the constructive conference of the Big Four recently in Geneva. In destroying colonialism, the

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workers and peasants of Asia are tearing away the very foundations of the reactionary and obsolete world capitalist system.

THE COLONIAL revolution in Asia is in different stages of development in the several countries but everywhere its general trend is toward the same goal—to wipe out imperialist oppression, and eventually capitalism itself. The peoples of Asia—those who have taken the field against imperialism but not yet against capitalism as such—will learn that their countries have no future as capitalist lands. The obsolescent capitalist system, which is decaying in its European and American birthlands, will never be re-born and get a new lease on life in Asia.

The great leader of the world national liberation movement is People's China, co-partner with the Soviet Union. With its world Marxist-Leninist fighter Mao Tze Tung at its head, it is the pace-setter for the entire colonial world. China is pointing the way to people's democracy and Socialism, the road that all other peoples of Asia and eventually also of Africa and Latin America, will finally travel. Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Burma, the Philippines, Korea, Viet-Nam and the other Asian countries, despite all delays and sideroads forced upon them by the still very powerful reactionary forces, each with the means appropriate to its own situation, will all take essentially the path to people's democracy and Socialism.

The great national liberation struggle in Asia has already largely shattered the old-style imperialist system of Great Britain, France, Holland, Japan, and Portugal, on which the imperialist powers brutally ruled the oppressed people by direct occupation and by rigid military controls. Now the great danger, it seems to me, comes from the newer American-type of imperialist domination, in which the oppressed countries are allowed a shadow of national independence and limited control of their national armies, while their economies and political systems are dominated nevertheless by the imperialist power or powers. This is the system used by the United States in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and many countries of Latin America. In the latter vast expanses many of the reactionary governments are puppets of the U.S.

This insidious type of imper-

ialist domination, I should say, is the gravest danger now confronting the many Asian peoples who, although they have taken the field against imperialism, have not yet completely broken the power of the imperialists and their landowner allies in their respective countries. The greatest danger in this general respect comes from the United States, which, with its vast wealth and productive power, is striving to dominate the world—not only colonial and semi-colonial countries, but also the developed capitalist nations, and the Socialist sectors of the world as well—a vain, futile, and dangerous dream of world conquest.

AT PRESENT in Asia, the Wall street imperialists are making many claims of democracy; but these are quite hollow. The facts are that the United States is a country of monopoly capitalism: its industries, government, press, schools, and other key institutions are all owned and controlled by the big capitalists. The workers, working under a fierce speed-up, are deeply exploited. Millions of farmers are finding their limited income rapidly decreasing. The Negro people, 16,000,000 strong, are subjected to gross discrimination and are generally treated as second-class citizens. The country, since the end of World War II, has been a prey to a vast amount of pro-fascist, anti-trade union, thought-control laws and governmental edicts. The Communist Party, and numerous progressive trade unions, have been proscribed, and large numbers of Communist leaders have been sent to prison for long terms. There is a very definite danger of fascism in the United States, the basis of which is the reactionary drive of American imperialism for world domination.

Indonesia is a vast, rich, and beautiful land, the sixth most populous on the globe. Its people have ahead of them a glorious future of progress and well-being. It also has behind it a glorious traditions of struggle by the allied workers and peasants. But it can never realize in full its great progressive destiny until it has broken the power of imperialism and its domestic allies, and with the proletariat in the lead, headed by the Communist Party, it has definitely embarked upon the broad road to people's democracy and Socialism.