

## TO THE PEOPLES OF THE EAST

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Peoples of the East! Six years ago a colossal, monstrous slaughter broke out in Europe - the World War, which destroyed thirty-five million human lives, devastated hundreds of large towns and thousands of settlements, ruined the European countries, and cast all peoples into the throes of unprecedented poverty, unheard of hunger.

Only slightly affecting Asia and Africa, this colossal war has heretofore been waged in Europe.

This war was fought by the European peoples, and the participation of the Eastern peoples was insignificant by comparison: with troops made up only of hundreds of thousands of Turkish peasants, duped by their rulers, who in turn were bridled by German capitalists, and of some two or three million Indian and Negro slaves, bought by the British and French capitalists, and as such abandoned in the distant foreign fields of France to die for the interests of British and French bankers and industrialists, interests which were alien to these people and which they were unable to comprehend.

Although the peoples of the East remained aloof from this gigantic war; although their part in it was insignificant, this slaughter was waged nonetheless on account of the Eastern countries and peoples

rather than on account of the European countries, the countries and peoples of the West.

The war was waged in order to partition the whole world, and chiefly Asia - the East. It was waged in order to decide who was to be in possession of the Asiatic countries and whose slaves the peoples of the East were to become.

It was waged in order to decide which of them - the British or the German capitalists - were to skin the backs of the Turkish, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian peasants and workers.

The monstrous four years' slaughter ended in victory for Britain and France. The German capitalists were crushed, and with them the German people as a whole was crushed, ruined, and doomed to die from hunger. Victorious France, whose entire adult population had been virtually used up in the war and whose industrial districts had been devastated was bled white in this struggle and was left exhausted despite the victory. As the result of this colossal and savage slaughter, imperialist Britain turned out to be the only plenipotentiary master of Europe and Asia. In all Europe, only Britain managed to maintain enough strength, for she fought by the efforts of somebody else, the efforts of the peoples whom she had enslaved - the Indians and the Negroes. Britain waged the war at the expense of the colonies whose oppressor she was.

On becoming the victor and plenipotentiary master of one hemisphere, the British Government began to realize all the things for which the war had been fought: Britain began to grab for herself all

the Asiatic countries and to enslave completely all the Eastern peoples.

Unhampered by anyone, and no longer afraid of anybody, a small group of greedy capitalist bankers at the head of the British state, upon discarding every sense of shame, began in a most open and insolent manner to make slaves of the workers and peasants of the Eastern countries.

Peoples of the East! You know what Britain did in India.... what Britain did to Turkey....Palestine....Egypt....China....Korea.... Afghanistan....Armenia, and Georgia....

Imperialist Britain has penetrated even into Turkestan, Khiva, Bukhara, Azerbaijan, Daghestan, and the North Caucasus. Her agents are snooping everywhere and with a generous hand they throw around British gold secured by the sweat and blood of the oppressed peoples. Everywhere the British endeavor to support tyrants and despots, khans and landlords. They attempt to combat the incipient revolutionary movement, at all cost to hold all the peoples in a state of oppression and destitution, in poverty and ignorance.

For imperialist Britain the oppression and destitution, poverty and ignorance of the Eastern peoples serve as sources of enrichment.

Peoples of the East! You own the richest, most fertile, and most extensive territories of the whole world. These territories, which at one time were the cradle of all mankind, could feed not only their own inhabitants but also the population of the world. Yet yearly

ten million Turkish and Persian peasants and workers find neither a piece of bread for themselves nor any livelihood in their most fertile and vast territories; they are compelled to leave their native land and seek livelihood in foreign countries.

They are compelled to do this because everything in their native country - land, money, banks, factories, and shops - is in the hands of British capitalists....This situation also existed previously, before the war, at a time when imperialist Britain still had competitors - the German, French, and Russian imperialist beasts of prey; when she did not dare to put her paws on all the countries of the East, fearing that her extended paws might be slapped by anyone of her predatory competitors.

But now when imperialist Britain has crushed and disabled all her competitors, when she has become the all-powerful master of Europe and Asia, now the capitalists who rule Britain will display fully their savage appetite; and without inhibition, without restraint, they will sink their bestial teeth and claws into the bleeding flesh of the Eastern peoples.

British capital feels congested in Europe....The British capitalists strive to seize Turkey and Persia, Mesopotamia and Arabia, Afghanistan and Egypt, in order to take the land away from the peasants in those countries; to buy for almost nothing from the peasants, who are ruined and in debt, all their plots of land; to combine these plots into enormous estate-plantations and to corral into them the Eastern peasants who have been

deprived of their land. In Turkey, Persia, and Mesopotamia they wish to erect factories and shops, construct railroads, develop mines by means of cheap labor, the free labor of the starving Turkish, Persian, and Arab poor....By establishing large firms they wish to ruin the small local merchants and to throw them also out into the street and into the ranks of the proletariat, which has only its own labor to sell.

The British capitalists wish to proletarianize all the Eastern peoples, to destroy the economies of the peasants, artisans, merchants, and to corral these hungry slave workers in their own plantations, factories, shops, and mines. By means of intolerably hard labor the British capitalists will be able to squeeze sweat and blood out of the enslaved Eastern peoples and to turn this workers' sweat, this peasants' blood into surplus value, gain, profit, pure gold, hard cash.

This is the future which is being prepared by imperialist Britain for the peoples of the East.....

But it shall not be!

The British capitalists are being confronted by the organized might of peasants and workers of the Eastern peoples, who have united under the Red banner of the Communist International, the Red banner of the union of revolutionary workers, who have set themselves the task of liberating the whole world, all mankind from every exploitation and oppression.

Loudly so that all the world can hear; the First Congress of the Eastern Peoples tells the capitalists who rule Britain: "This shall not be!"

"Your dogs will not devour the peoples of the East. You, a pitiful handful of oppressors, will not cast hundreds of millions of Eastern peasants and workers into secular slavery! You bit off a larger piece than you can chew and you will choke on it."

For a long time the Eastern peoples have wallowed in dark ignorance, under the despotism of tyrant rulers, under the yoke of foreign capitalist conquerors. The thunder of the world slaughter and the thunder of the Russian workers' revolution, which broke the Eastern Russian peoples' secular chains of capitalist slavery have aroused the Eastern peoples, have awakened them from centuries of sleep; and now they are arising.

They are waking up and hear the call for a Holy War, the "Ghazivat." This is our call!....

We representatives of the toiling masses of all the peoples of the East - India, Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Afghanistan, Beludjistan, Kashgar, China, Indo-China, Japan, Korea, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Daghestan, Northern Caucasus, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Khiva, Bukhara, Turkestan, Ferghan, Tartaria, Bashkiria, Kirghizia, etc., - united in an indissoluble union with each other and with the revolutionary workers of the West, call upon our peoples to rise in a Holy War.

We say:

"Peoples of the East! Many a time you heard your governments call you to a Holy War. You marched under the green banner of the Prophet; but all these Holy Wars were deceptions and lies, for they

served only the interests of your greedy rulers. After these Holy Wars you peasants and workers remained in slavery and poverty. By fighting you merely procured good living conditions for others. As for yourselves, you never reaped any benefit.

Now for the first time we are summoning you to fight in a war which is really holy - a war under the Red banner of the Communist International.

We summon you to a Holy War for your own good, for your own freedom and life.

Britain, the last remaining powerful imperialist beast of prey in Europe, has spread her black wings over the Eastern Moslem countries in an endeavor to turn the Eastern peoples into her slaves and booty.

She brings horrible slavery, destitution, oppression, and exploitation to the peoples of the East. Accomplish your own salvation, you peoples of the East!

Arise for struggle against this beast of prey!

Rise as one man in a Holy War against the British conquerors!  
Arise, you Indian exhausted by starvation and intolerable slave labor!  
Arise you Anatolian peasant, burdened by taxation and usurers!

Arise you Persian ryat, strangled by the miralkadar!

Arise, you Armenian toiler, driven into the bare mountains!

You Arabs and Afghanians lost in the sandy deserts and cut off by the British from the entire world, arise!

All of you rise for struggle against the common foe - imperialist Britain!

The Red banner of the Holy War is flying high, the Holy War for the liberation of the Eastern peoples, for the abolition of the division

of mankind into oppressed and oppressor nations, for the complete equality of all the peoples and tribes regardless of the tongue they speak, the color of their skin, the religion they profess.

We summon you to a Holy War to abolish the division of countries into advanced and backward, dependent and independent, the metropolis and the colonies.

We summon you to a Holy War to liberate mankind from the yoke of capitalist and imperialist slavery, to abolish all oppression of one people by another and all exploitation of man by man!....

Peoples of the East! In this Holy War all revolutionary workers and all oppressed peasants of the West will be with you! They will help you, they will struggle and die with you.

This is what the First Congress of Representatives of the Peoples of the East is telling you.

Hail unification of all peasants and workers of the East and West, unification of all the toilers of all oppressed and exploited!

Hail its fighting staff - the Communist International!

May the Holy War of the Eastern Peoples and the toilers of the whole world against imperialist Britain burn with an eternal flame!

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