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WILLIAM Z. FOSTER'S BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

This Special Supplement is being sent to all subscribers to Counter-attack, along with the regular weekly newsletter of Feb 11, 1949.

In this supplement we bring you significant excerpts from the book, "Toward Soviet America", by Wm Z Foster (copyright 1932 by Coward-McCann). Foster was Natl Chairman of Communist Party and also Communist candidate for President of the U S when he wrote this book, in 1932.

At that time Foster could be pretty frank about VIOLENT revolution, because Stalin had not yet abandoned his OPENLY revolutionary strategy. Not until 1935 did the Kremlin adopt the disguise of democracy in order to form a "Popular Front" with the democratic governments of the world. Now Foster uses a lot of double talk. In the old days he didn't need so much of it.

But in one respect he was dishonest with his readers even then, as Communists always are and always will be. That was in saying the "proletariat" would lead the revolution, and in describing the governmental machinery through which the masses would rule Soviet America. All this was window-dressing. Fact is the Communist Party would run the revolution and would govern Soviet America. And a few bosses would run the Communist Party.

Counterattack is quoting Foster word for word in the following excerpts from his book. Every omission is indicated by asterisks. After every excerpt you will find the number of the page of the book.

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EXTRACTS FROM "TOWARD SOVIET AMERICA"

American capitalism, like capitalism in other countries, is traveling the same road to revolution.***The American workers will demonstrate that they, like the Russians, have the intelligence, courage and organization to carry through the revolution. The American capitalist class, like that of other countries, is living on the brink of a volcano which, sooner than it dreams, is going to explode. (Page 67)

In the U.S.S.R., as part of the general cultural revolution, religion is being liquidated. (Page 113)

The final aim of the Communist International is to overthrow world capitalism and replace it by world Communism.***The road to this social development can only be opened by revolution.***The capitalist class, like an insatiable blood-sucker, hangs to the body of the toiling masses and can be dislodged only by force. (Pp 128 & 130)

By the term "abolition" of capitalism we mean its overthrow in open struggle by the toiling masses, led by the proletariat. (P 212)

In analyzing the potentially revolutionary forces the first group to be considered are the workers. They are the very heart of the revolutionary movement and lead it in all its stages.***Next to the workers in revolutionary importance are the poor farmers.***The Negroes also constitute a great potentially revolutionary force. (Pp 222-224)

The revolution will not fail to recruit many supporters also from the ranks of the lesser city petty bourgeoisie. The advance of capitalism inevitably crushes down into the proletariat great masses of the small tradesmen, petty manufacturers, professionals, intellectuals, etc. (P 226)

Especially is there a trend among the petty bourgeois intellectuals towards Communism. This is shown by the many prominent writers in Europe and the United States who in the past few years have declared for Communism. (P 227)

In measuring the potential forces for and against the revolution, naturally the question of the role to be played by the army and navy is one of fundamental importance; for, in the final showdown, it is upon them that the bourgeoisie relies to maintain its control. If it loses the armed forces, then all is lost. Here, certainly, the revolution will recruit powerful forces, with fatal effects to capitalism.

The armed forces are not impervious to Communism simply because they have patriotic propaganda dinned into their ears and are subjected to a rigid discipline. The great bulk of these forces originate in proletarian or farmer families and they eventually respond to the sufferings and miseries of their close relatives. Especially is all this true of conscript armies. Besides, they have their own deep grievances in the service. Experience teaches that such worker-peasant forces are very unreliable for the bourgeoisie. (P 228)

The actual strength of the Communist movement in the United States is not something that can be accurately stated in just so many figures.*** The influence of the Party stretches far and wide beyond the limits of its actual membership. (Pp 229 & 230)

The Communist party actively promotes the mass organization of the workers, regardless of political opinion, into trade unions, unemployed councils, organizations to defend the rights of Negroes, ex-servicemen's leagues, labor defense and strike relief bodies, leagues of poor farmers, proletarian sports organizations, labor fraternal insurance societies, organizations to defend the foreign born, societies of working class culture, etc, etc.

Where no mass organizations exist in these fields the Party takes the initiative in forming them; where such are already in existence and are headed by conservative officials, the Party follows the policy of building an opposition within them and fighting for the revolutionary program and leadership. This is the so-called boring-from-within policy. (P 253)

The Communist party bases its work directly upon the mills, mines, and factories.***It concentrates its work upon the heavy industries and those of a war character. The Party and the revolutionary unions are organized especially for this intense shop work. (P 254)

The Communist party practices revolutionary parliamentarism. It places candidates during elections and makes every effort to elect them. It combines its parliamentary action inside legislative bodies with its mass action outside and fights to force all possible concessions from the Govt. It utilizes the election campaigns to educate the workers and to mobilize them for every phase of its program on the economic and political fields.***

Where the Party elects its candidates to legislative bodies they make use of these public forums to expose the capitalist character of the government and to bring forward the Communist program in its various phases. In all its parliamentary activities the Communist party makes it clear to the workers that the capitalist democracy is a sham and that there must be no illusions about peacefully capturing the State for the working class. (P 255)

The Party promotes the formation of the revolutionary opposition in reformist trade unions. (P 257)

The Communist party of the United States, in line with its program of class struggle, unites with the revolutionary workers of the world. It is the American section of the Communist International. The Communist International carries out a united revolutionary policy on a world scale, with the necessary adaptations for the special conditions in the various countries. The Communist International is a disciplined world party; only such a party can defeat world imperialism. Its leading party, by virtue of its great revolutionary experience, is the Russian Communist party. (Pp 258-59)

(NOTE BY COUNTERATTACK: The Communist International pretended to dissolve itself in 1943. But in 1947 Stalin brought it partly into public view again, under name of Communist Information Bureau...or Cominform.)

For the United States as well as other countries, the Soviet Union is a plain indicator of the society that is to be, taking into account minor variations for special conditions in the several lands. (Pp 268-69)

The American revolution, when the workers have finally seized power, will develop even more swiftly in all its phases than has the Russian revolution. This is because in the United States objective conditions are more ripe for revolution than they were in old Russia. (P 269)

Besides this more favorable industrial base, American workers, once in control, will have other advantages which will greatly speed the tempo of revolutionary development. These are, first, the vast experience accumulated in the Russian revolution, and, second, the practical assistance of the Soviet governments existing at the time of the American revolution. (P 270)

When the American working class actively enters the revolutionary path of abolishing capitalism it will orientate upon the building of Soviets, not upon the adaptation of the existing capitalist government. (P 271)

The building of Soviets is begun not after the revolution but before. When the eventual revolutionary crisis becomes acute the workers begin the establishment of Soviets. (P 271)

The decisions of the Soviets are enforced by the armed Red Guard of the workers and peasants and by the direct seizure of the industry through factory committees. A revolutionary American working class will follow this general course, which is the way of proletarian revolution.

The American Soviet government will be organized along the broad lines of the Russian Soviets. Local Soviets, the base of the whole Soviet State, will be established in all cities, towns and villages. Local Soviets combine in themselves the legislative, executive and judicial functions. Representation, based on occupation instead of residence and property, comes directly from the shops, mines, farms, schools, workers' organizations, army, navy, etc.***Citizenship is restricted to those who do useful work, capitalists, landlords, clericals and other non-producers being disfranchised.

The local Soviets will be combined by direct representation into county, state, and national Soviets. The national Soviet government, with

its capital in Chicago or some other great industrial center, will consist of a Soviet Congress, made up of local delegates and meeting annually, or as often as need be, to work out the general policies of the government. Between its meetings the government will be carried on by a broad Central Executive Committee, meeting every few months. This C.E.C. will elect a small Presidium and a Council of Commissars, made up of the heads of the various government departments, who will carry on the day-to-day work.

The American Soviet government will join with the other Soviet governments in a world Soviet Union. There will also be, very probably, some form of continental union. The American revolution will doubtless carry with it all those countries of the three Americas that have not previously accomplished the revolution. (Pp 271-73)

The American Soviet government will be the dictatorship of the proletariat***the revolutionary government of the workers and toiling farmers. In the proletarian dictatorship the working class is the leader. (P 273)

The proletarian dictatorship must be supported by the organized armed might of the workers, soldiers, local militia, etc. In the early stages of the revolution, even before the seizure of power, the workers will organize the Red Guard. Later on this loosely constructed body becomes developed into a firmly-knit, well-disciplined Red Army. (Pp 274-75).

(NOTE BY COUNTERATTACK: In the following passage Foster wrote of several political parties, including Progressive Party. Of course he didn't mean the party of that name which was formed later, in 1948, and is under Communist control. He meant the state-wide Progressive Party in Wisconsin, which was led by Robt M & Philip LaFollette and is now out of existence.)

Under the dictatorship all the capitalist parties -- Republican, Democratic, Progressive, Socialist, etc. -- will be liquidated, the Communist party functioning alone as the Party of the toiling masses. Likewise, will be dissolved all other organizations that are political props of the bourgeois rule, including chambers of commerce, employers' associations, Rotary Clubs, American Legion, Y.M.C.A., and such fraternal orders as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Columbus, etc. (P 275)

The churches will remain free to continue their services, but their special tax and other privileges will be liquidated. Their buildings will revert to the State. Religious schools will be abolished and organized religious training for minors prohibited. (P 316)

American imperialism is now strong. Its champions ridicule the idea of a revolution. But their assurance is not now quite so sure as it was a couple of years ago, before the great industrial collapse. They are beginning to feel a deadly fear. The Russian revolution is to them such a terrible reality. But they console themselves with the thought that "it can never happen in this country," and they scorn the at-present weak Communist party. But they overlook the detail that the same attitude was taken towards the pre-revolution Bolsheviki. (Pp 342-43)

(NOTE BY COUNTERATTACK: Wm Z Foster's book, "Toward Soviet America", is as frank a threat of violent revolution and tyranny as was Hitler's "Mein Kampf". For prices of this Special Supplement, see page 1.)
