

THE WAR
AND THE NEGRO PEOPLE



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THE WAR *and* THE NEGRO PEOPLE

The Japanese "Darker Race" Demagogy Exposed

BY JAMES W. FORD

I. THE INFAMOUS ATTACK

WHEN the Japanese warlords let loose a deliberate, cunningly conceived military attack on Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island and the armed forces of the United States, this dastardly, treacherous, unprovoked assault shocked the American people and opened their eyes to the immensity of the danger that threatens America. Then, when Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, four days later, declared war on the United States, there could be no doubt left that this was part of a single Axis plot to dominate the whole world, including our country. The United States is in a war for national survival.

The Japanese made a lightning thrust. This surprise "Blitzkrieg" blow was aimed at knocking out the United States fleet and destroying American defenses in the Pacific Ocean with the first blow. The Japanese attack was aimed also at preventing American aid from reaching the Soviet Union through the Pacific. Japan thus acted to weaken the Soviet Union in her fight for national defense against the German invaders. As part of a single Axis strategy, it was also intended to divert American aid from its British and Soviet allies going through the Atlantic.

The Japanese are continuing their military actions against the Philippines with fanatical fury. They have succeeded in capturing Manila, Cavite, Wake Island and Guam. All United States Pacific outposts are in danger. The western coastal defenses of continental United States are open to air attacks and submarine raids. The Japanese have already sunk American ships off the coast of California. Western cities are subject to air bombings.

The world conspiracy of the Nazi fascists to destroy all liberties, all human values and to enslave all peoples and nations, including the United States, is in full operation.

This is a war of all democratic and liberty-loving people to exterminate fascist slavery, which seeks to envelop every continent. It is the war of the Soviet people, now heroically driving the Hitler invaders out of their country on a 2,000-mile battlefront—at Leningrad, Moscow and Rostov; it is a war of the British people against the Nazi bandits; it is the war of the Chinese people against the murderous Japanese militarists; it is the war of the peoples in the occupied countries to break the Nazi yoke: it is the war of our own country to maintain the national independence

and security of our nation against the Japanese Government and the whole infamous Rome-Berlin-Tokio military Axis.

Anyone or any policies that stand in the way of the full prosecution of the objective of this war to destroy Nazism and fascism., which threaten our nation, betray the interests of the American people. America must be made strong by the entire American people throwing their full force into the all-out military effort.

Ours is a nation of people from many countries. We are a homogeneous nation based on the common heritage and objectives of democracy and liberty; yet each group, of what-ever national origin. maintains its separate heritage and contributes the best of these to the common whole of America. Herein lies one of the great sources of strength of America. Hitler and the Japanese militarists, on the other hand, are struggling for a world domination in which conquered nations are enslaved in a superstate of dictatorial finance capital.

II. NAZI FASCISTS VIOLATE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

The Nazis repudiate the cardinal principle of morality and justice that runs through the Bill of Rights, that was embodied in the Abolitionist movement and that is stamped on the historical development of America. The Nazis are treacherous, deceitful and brutal.

The Japanese ruling clique, moral degenerates of the Nazi fascist type with the character of something that is dying, treacherously attacked the United States. At that very moment the President of the United States was seeking to settle irritating relations between the government of the United States and the government of Japan.

During the two months prior to December 7 President Roosevelt was conducting conversations with Emperor Hirohito and representatives of the Japanese Government sojourning in this country, seeking a way to continue the bond of friendship established nearly a century ago. On the day before December 7 President Roosevelt sent a last minute appeal to Emperor Hirohito expressing hope for the establishment of:

1. The principle of inviolability of territorial integrity and sovereignty of each and all nations.
2. The principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.
3. The principle of equality, including equality of commercial opportunity and treatment.
4. The principle of reliance upon international cooperation and conciliation for the prevention and pacific settlement of controversies and for the improvement of international conditions by peaceful methods and processes.

While these negotiations for amicable settlement of Pacific problems were going on, the representatives of the Japanese Government in the United States talked and delayed, giving their compatriots in Japan time to plan the treacherous attack on the United States.

Infringement upon the honor and territorial integrity of China is not merely a local Pacific question. China is a great world nation. China is not imperialistic; she has not the means of military defense necessary to defend her borders, which have been accessible to an imperialistic aggressor like Japan.

China has something to contribute to mankind. But she has been drenched in blood during the last ten years by Japanese invasion. Because she has been bled and dismembered by powerful imperialistic forces, China has had to rely on the moral conscience of liberty-loving peoples to aid her in her struggle for national freedom. America's intercession in behalf of China was fully justified. China is a great nation not merely because of her size, but because of her tremendous economic resources and centuries of social development.

Japan, by its latest act of treachery, has incurred the hatred of all peoples who respect accepted principles of international morality. This heedless adventure has aroused the American people to struggle for a *just cause*. Peoples of the Fast East, Filipinos, Hawaiians and others, are joined with the United States in this just cause. The peoples of Latin America are also joining with the American people in struggle for the maintenance of their national integrity and inviolability of their borders and security.

III. AMERICA UNITED

The Japanese attack united the overwhelming masses of the American people.

President Roosevelt declared to the Congress of the United States on December 8: "We will win through to absolute victory."

The two national bodies of the trade union movement, the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L., responded wholeheartedly to the nation's call. Regional bodies and local trade unions immediately pledged full support to the nation's war effort. Great mass meetings of labor went on record for support of the country's war. This is a momentous, historical occasion for labor. This is the third time in our country's history that the Star Spangled Banner has carried the destiny of progress, of right over might and brute force, of the cause of labor. Labor therefore realizes its Future rests in victorious struggle over Nazi fascist reaction.

The National Committee of the Communist Party, in plenary session on December 7, pledged its loyalty, the devoted labor and the last drop of blood of Communists in the greatest crisis that ever threatened the existence of this country.

Negro Americans, true in their loyalty to America and their determination to defend freedom, as they have always done in all crises of this nation, have responded throughout the country to defend America. Successful struggle against Nazi enslavement is a defense of liberty and freedom of the Negro people.

The sudden attack on the United States has exposed the isolationist leaders and spokesmen of the America First Committee. For the moment, they may pull in their claws. But America is at war. Every precaution must be taken against fifth columnists and traitors to assure the fullest national unity.

The Communists will do their full share to bring about this victory. The Communists are Americans, steeped in the traditions of America's struggle for liberty, and fighters for the interests of

the American people. Earl Browder, leader of the Communist Party, has contributed much to making America understand its problems and obligations. The nation needs Earl Browder now. American justice demands that Browder be released from the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, at the moment of America's greatest hour of crisis.

IV. NEGRO AMERICANS JOIN THE FIGHT TO WIN THE WAR

In every sphere of American life, in every section of the population the cry is the same—win *the war over the Nazi Fascists and Japanese bandits!*

The Negro people are an exceedingly important phalanx of national unification. They have tremendous manpower and play a big political role in America. Unless the Negro people play their part in helping to win the war, the war effort will be less effective. When the Italian fascists struck Ethiopia; when the Japanese militarists struck China and Manchuria; when the Western European countries were invaded and their national independence and the liberties of the national minorities within these countries were shackled; when Negro Americans together with white Americans went to fight in Spain for the cause of Spanish democracy against the Nazi fascists—the Negro people knew that this was *their* struggle. They now know that this war for the military destruction of fascism is *their* war.

The manpower of American Negroes must be brought to bear to help win the war. For the armed forces of the nation, through the democratic selectee system, the Negro male population is available to fight this war against fascism to a successful conclusion. The Negro people must rally to every phase of the military and industrial life of the nation.

Negro women, in their own right and as replacement for men who will be called to arms, are available for America's industries, civilian defense and Russian and Allied war relief work.

The Negro doctor, lawyer, all professionals must do their share to win the war. The pen of the Negro writer, the artist, the brush of the painter, the cheering notes of the singer—all must be thrown fully into the war effort to crush fascism. To paraphrase Frederick Douglass: A war undertaken by Nazi fascists for the permanent enslavement of colored men and women calls logically for colored men and women to help suppress it.

Negroes, like all other Americans, will respond in every way to win the war against the aggressors and urge that the barriers of discrimination and Jim-Crowism existing against them in the industries and in other phases of national defense be done away with so that the entire manpower of the nation is put into winning the war.

America needs the all-out contributions to production of the Negroes so that more tanks, planes and munitions, can be produced against Japan and the Axis.

Negro Americans must be fully integrated into every phase of the war effort, in the armed forces, in industry, in civilian defense, Allied and Russian war relief.

America's war program already calls for doubling, tripling and quadrupling production. This will require more men and more women. The President's Conference of Government, Labor and Industry must keep the Negro in mind and be urged to utilize Negro workers, who want to play their part in the nation's objective, of every available manpower hour for production to win the war.

The Negro people, with their glorious record of patriotism and bravery in 1775, in 1861 and throughout the history of this country, stand ready to give their last drop of blood to defend their country and to crush the arrogant Japanese aggressors and their Hitler master.

The fullest national unity is required to win the war. The main current of Negro leadership supports the war effort. But this opinion is not yet united. The problem before Negro leadership is to activate every single Negro individual and every Negro organization. No individual, no organization must stand in the way of Negro unity behind the war effort. On the contrary, leaders of Negro organizations and thought should take steps to organize a conference on the extent of the stake of the Negro people in the war and the relationship of their problems to it. Prior to the Japanese attack on the United States, unity among Negro Americans against the Nazi fascist enemies was progressing rapidly. Full unity must now be clinched speedily. A supreme responsibility rests with every Negro leader to lay aside all differences and answer the call of the nation to win the war.

V. THE "DARKER RACE" THEORY EXPLODED

The future of the Negro people, as of all mankind, lies in achieving a smashing military victory over the Berlin-Rome-Tokio Axis forces of murder, rapine and plunder. The Japanese fascists have for some time attempted to divide the unity of the American nation. They have insulted the Negro people by pretending to be the "champion of the darker races of the world." They claim to be fighting against Chinese "imperialists" for a "co-prosperity sphere" in China and Thailand. If that is so, then why did the Japanese militarists attack Guam, Hawaii and the Philippines?

This claim is a monstrous fraud. This deceitful claim is a part of the Berlin-Rome-Tokio powers' effort to dominate the world.

This hideous lie that Japan is the "champion of the darker races" comes from the lips of a gang of fascists who betrayed Ethiopia and took their places beside Mussolini and his whole-sale murder of this peaceful Negro nation in Africa.

No section of the American people would be more brutally persecuted than Negro Americans should the Berlin-Ronte-Tokio Axis be victorious.

It would mean for the Negro population unbridled oppression and torture, such as Mussolini's armed hordes visited upon Ethiopia; such as has been heaped upon the Jewish people, upon Frenchmen, upon the heroic people of Central Europe who are fighting against the Nazi hangmen.

It would mean setting back for centuries the whole struggle of the Negro people for their liberation from oppression and discrimination.

The Japanese Government is the ally and collaborator of the worst enemy of colored and other peoples that the world has ever seen. Hitler has declared both in words and deeds that the Negro people are "latent brutes."

Japan's Real Aims in Asia

Japan's real objectives were set forth in the notorious Tanaka memorandum, a secret document presented to the Mikado in 1927 by the then Premier, Baron Tanaka:

"... A more dangerous factor is the fact that the people of China *might some day wake up ... We must beware the day when China becomes unified* and her industries become prosperous.

"After studying the present conditions and possibilities of our country, our best policy lies in the direction of taking positive steps to secure rights and privileges in Manchuria and Mongolia. These will enable us to develop our trade. This will not only forestall China's own industrial development. . . . This is the best policy possible!" (Italics *ours*—J.W.F.)*

Japan wants to be considered defender of the "darker races." Is this possible of invaders who are robbing all Asia? When they began to conquer and maraud Asia, they showed their real, imperialistic aims.

* *Japanese Imperialism Exposed*, International Publishers, p. ii.

The Japanese military began its campaign of "liberation of the darker races" in 1894, by an unprovoked attack on China; they grabbed large chunks of China, including Formosa. They imposed an indemnity of \$150,000,000 upon the poverty-stricken Chinese people.

In 1910, Japan forcibly annexed Korea and set about wiping out every vestige of Korean culture, a culture which dated back to the twelfth century B.C. In the same year the Japanese levied 9,750,000 yen for a campaign of extermination of thousands of Formosans, who refused to submit to Japanese rule.

In 1931, Japan seized Manchuria and established the puppet state of Manchukuo, and carried aggression into North China. The Manchurian peasants were forced to build roads and rail-ways without pay; the land of the peasants was confiscated and heavy taxes were levied; universities were closed.

In 1933, Japan extended her conquests into Jehol and later into Inner Mongolia.

All of this is conquest and imperialism. That is what the Japanese call "Asia for the Asiatics." The pretense of the Japanese of being friends of the "darker races" is hollow mockery from robbers who have enslaved the Koreans, the Formosans and Manchurians; who have murdered tens of thousands of men, women and children—the best sons and slaughters of China.

The Berlin-Rome-Tokio Race Myth

The Chinese people, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, reject the so-called "prosperity sphere" and are heroically resisting the Japanese militarists. The Chinese people are boiling over with hatred of the Japanese invaders.*

This is not a war between "races." It is a war of nations and peoples fighting for freedom and national security and independence against a gang of international bandits who aim to destroy all nations and subject them to enslavement. It is a war of black and white, of brown and yellow men and women against the "racial" theories of the Nazis.

Another glorious example of this is the case of the Filipinos, who are fighting side by side with white Americans and black Americans against the Japanese invaders.

National chauvinism, which is prevalent among some sections, should be eradicated. This is not a war against a so-called "yellow peril." The term "Jap" is chauvinistic and divisive. The American people do not hate the Japanese masses, who are held in subjugation by a clique of Japanese militarists at the top. National chauvinism creates distrust and resentment among sections of our own population who eagerly want to destroy Japanese militarism. America does not need to resort to chauvinistic terms to stir our

* As we go to press the following news despatch has come from China: "*New China*, daily newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party published by the Eighth Route Army, called for an immediate alliance of East Asiatic peoples against the Japanese. The newspaper said the Siamese, Indians, Malayans, Filipinos, Koreans, Formosans and Chinese should organize a united front. 'Without such a united front of Oriental peoples against aggression attacks on the Japanese in the Pacific will be ineffective' *New China* said."—*Daily Worker*, January 2, 1942.

nation to unity and enthusiasm against the Japanese militarists, Nazis and fascist;

Col. Frank Knox. Secretary of the Navy, declared before a graduating class at the United States Naval Academy. on December 19, 1941:

"Our enemies proclaim the virtues of so-called superior races with a mystical right to oppress all other peoples of the earth. We fight for a world where every race and every nation will have an equal chance to grow and prosper."

Destruction of the Japanese military clique will crush its rule not only over the Formosans and Koreans but also over the masses of Japanese people. America and her allies in victory over the Japanese-Nazi-fascist set-up will open up the path for freedom of all peoples subjugated by Nazi fascism, including the Franco Spanish kind. That is why Filipinos, Puerto Ricans and Cubans, who in the past suffered under the heel of Spanish feudalism, are now fighting side by side with the United States against the Nazi aggressors, including their Franco partner.

VI. "LEFT ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOODS"

A dangerous dividing poison is the "Left anti-imperialist ideology." Agents of Nazism refer to Japan's attack on the United States as "anti-imperialist," "anti-Yankee imperialist," "anybody that fights America is fighting against imperialism." This apparently super-radical idea comes from certain Latin American

sources. The Trotskyites propagate this also. The Nazi Axis is very crafty. It uses all means to hide its perfidy.

Japanese spies and saboteurs are operating in Mexico and other Latin American countries. Franco spies especially operate in Spanish-speaking communities in the United States, as well as in Latin American countries, for the Berlin master. Hitler has caused Franco to dream of "rebuilding the Spanish Empire" in the Philippines and the Spanish Main in the Western Hemisphere, which for four hundred years were "Rich Spots" for the Spanish monarchy and feudal marauders and despoilers.

A Hitler-Franco regime in the old Spanish Empire style would be worse than the marauding Spanish Conquistadors. The medieval atrocities of the Spanish conquest of Mexico pale into insignificance compared to what a Hitler victory would mean. Four hundred years of Negro slavery are nothing besides Nazi persecution of Jewish people, peoples of the occupied countries, and "races" of so-called "inferior" status.

The Berlin-Rome-Tokio Axis is the most rapacious of all the imperialists in history. Joseph Stalin describes the perfidy of the Nazis as follows:

"The party of the Hitlerites is a party of imperialists, moreover, the most rapacious and plunderous imperialists among all the imperialists of the world. . . . To cover up their reactionary, blackguard essence, the Hitlerites are branding the Anglo-American internal regime as a plutocratic regime. But in England and the United States there are elementary democratic liberties, there are trade unions of workers and employees, there are labor parties, there is a Parliament, whereas the Hitler regime has abolished all these institutions in Germany...."

"Actually the Hitler regime is a counterpart of the reactionary regime which existed in Russia under tsarism...

"The Hitler party is a party of the enemies of democratic liberties, a party of medieval reaction and blackguard pogroms...."*

Mussolini was very pompous when he carried out his "civilizing mission" in the conquest of Ethiopia. The Italian people have since learned the folly and the tragedy for Italy of that adventure. When he declared war on the United States he at the same time declared war on Americans of Italian descent, of whom there are more than six million. How the Italian fascists hope to justify this attack with the Italian people in Italy nobody knows. They certainly cannot justify it with Americans of Italian origin in the United States.

The Latin American population of the United States is overwhelmingly in support of the war effort of the United States against the Axis powers. They must be on the alert to combat supporters of Franco. The Negro people resent and will combat as traitors to America anyone who tries to influence them with the "darker race" theory of the Japanese. The Jewish people have from the very beginning stood in the forefront of the fight against Hitler and Hitlerism in opposition to those who wanted them to follow a "hush. hush," policy, "not to stick their necks out."

Americans of all national groups, Latin Americans, Americans of Italian or German origin, must be on the strictest guard and watchful of the Nazi-Franco or Japanese-Mussolini spies. The workers and people generally must struggle against and expose the Trotskyites as obstructors of national unity and the war against the Nazi fascists.

* *Stalin Speaks to the World*. Workers Library Publishers, pp. 9-10. 14

"Action, Action"

Do not worry now that the struggle should have been started earlier—when the turn of events in June showed that our country and its security were vitally endangered. This is not the time to argue the question. Action, action! That is the word of the moment. Words are useful now only as they stir us into action and show us where to hit and where to labor for the defense of the nation and the annihilation of the Nazi fascist enemies.