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No. 5, 1965

- Communist China -

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Commemorate Victory Over German Fascism, Carry Struggle Against US Imperialism to End	1
Historical Experience of War Against Fascism	18
Seeing the Film "Conquering Berlin" Again	34



COMMEMORATE VICTORY OVER GERMAN FASCISM, CARRY STRUGGLE
AGAINST US IMPERIALISM TO END

Following is a translation of an article by Lo Jui-ch'ing
(5012 3843 0615) in the Chinese-language periodical,
Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 5, 10 May 1965, pages
1-14.

Fully twenty years have elapsed since the great victory over German fascism.

Twenty years have elapsed since the great victory over the bloc of German, Japanese and Italian fascism.

These twenty years have witnessed earth-shaking transformations. As Comrade Mao Tse-tung said, the victory of the anti-fascist World War II "has opened up still wider possibilities for the emancipation of the working class and the oppressed peoples of the world and has opened up still more realistic paths towards it." (1) Since the War, two great historical currents, the socialist revolution and the national-liberation movement, have been rapidly changing the face of the world; they have merged to present a magnificent spectacle -- the Four Seas are raging, the Five Continents are rocking. We are filled with boundless confidence in victory as we recall the victory over German, Japanese and Italian fascism twenty years ago, take stock of the excellent situation for the people's revolution in the world today and see the bright prospects of the fight for world peace, national liberation, people's democracy and socialism.

More than twenty years ago, when Hitler swept over the continent of Europe and threw all his forces into the surprise attack on the Soviet Union, believing that she could be "wiped out" in a couple of months, the whole world was heavily overcast for a time as if "the city might crumble under the mass of dark clouds." Many people throughout the world were morbidly afraid of Hitler, paled even at the mention of his name, and they grew pessimistic about the international situation. At the time Hitler's fascist armies were considered to be virtually invincible. Not

only were the small European countries unable to withstand them, even the forces of such imperialist powers as Britain and France collapsed at the first encounter or fled pell-mell. In the circumstances, could socialism defeat fascism? Could the socialist system triumph over the capitalist imperialist system? Could the Soviet Union withstand the attacks of Hitler's fascist armies? Could the Soviet army defeat Hitler's fascist army? These were questions of the utmost concern to the people all over the world. This was a grave test for the first socialist state, for the socialist system and for the revolutionary armed forces of the proletariat. This was an issue crucial for the destiny of mankind.

Under the brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Supreme Command headed by Comrade Stalin, the Soviet state created by Lenin, a young state which had only recently accomplished socialist industrialization, and its young Red Army of workers and peasants not only stood up to the attack of Hitler's supposedly invincible fascist troops and destroyed the enemy's effectives en masse, but turned to a resolute and timely counter-offensive and pursuit and fought all the way to Berlin, thoroughly smashing Hitler's fascist war machine and scoring the decisive victory in the Anti-Fascist War.

The victory over German fascism was not just an ordinary or regional victory, it was a victory affecting the course of history and the destiny of mankind. It was a triumph for the socialist system. It was a triumph for the Soviet people and the Soviet army. It was a triumph for the Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade Stalin. It was also a triumph for the people of Germany, of Europe, of Asia and of the whole world in their common struggle.

In their struggle against the fascist brigands, the Soviet people demonstrated iron will and unparalleled heroism. Fearing no sacrifices and defying all difficulties, they made a great contribution to victory in the Anti-Fascist War.

Holding aloft the banner of Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet Red Army fought valiantly in an indomitable revolutionary spirit, advanced wave upon wave and brilliantly performed immortal deeds in playing its glorious role as the main force against fascism.

Following Lenin's behest, Comrade Stalin armed the Soviet people with Marxism-Leninism, and under his leadership, they accomplished socialist industrialization and the collectivization of agriculture before the war, thus building backward Russia into an advanced socialist power. In the face of the powerful onslaught of the fascist Hitlerite forces, he dauntlessly and brilliantly led the Soviet people and army to complete victory in the anti-fascist Patriotic War after an unprecedentedly stubborn struggle. Although Stalin committed certain mistakes, including a number in military affairs, facts showed that he was worthy of the name of a great Marxist-Leninist and of a brilliant commander of the revolutionary armed forces of the proletariat.

The people of the world will always honor the heroic exploits of the Soviet people and army, who reared such heroes as Zoya Kosmodemiyanskaya and Aleksander Matrosov. They will always honor the valiant record of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Stalin in leading the War.

By spreading countless lies during the past twenty years the imperialists and the modern revisionists have deliberately distorted the history of the anti-fascist Patriotic War, besmirched the heroic stature of the Soviet people and army and grossly slandered the leadership of the CPSU headed by Stalin. However, the more they do so, the more they prove the correctness of Stalin's leadership and the greatness of the Soviet people and army, united under the banner of Lenin and Stalin. Attempts to distort history can never succeed. Just imagine. If the Soviet people and army had not been led by Stalin but by revisionists such as Khrushchev, and if they had not acted in accordance with the line, policy and method of the Marxist-Leninists represented by Stalin, but with the line, policy and method of the revisionists represented by Khrushchev in the latter's dealings with U.S. imperialism in our day, the outcome could only have been disastrous defeat or capitulation, and who knows how many more hardships the people of the Soviet Union and the world would have had to suffer and how many years Soviet and world history would have been pushed back.

History advances according to its own laws. Alienated from and setting themselves against the people, fascist brigands like Hitler and revisionists like Khrushchev are simply fools on the stage of history, while the socialist cause and the anti-fascist cause to which Stalin and the Soviet people and army under his leadership devoted themselves will shine forever.

Today, when we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the victory over German fascism and of victory in the whole Anti-Fascist War, we must never forget that U.S. imperialism is playing a role more ferocious than that of Hitler. Immediately upon the conclusion of the Anti-Fascist War, U.S. imperialism stepped into the shoes of German, Japanese and Italian fascism, has worked out and pressed its counter-revolutionary strategy for world hegemony, making the Dollar Empire the greatest international exploiter, the gendarme of the world, the chief bulwark of all the forces of reaction and colonialism, the main source of aggression and war in our times and the sworn enemy of the people of the world.

For the last twenty years, U.S. imperialism has been engaged in frantic arms expansion and war preparations and has launched aggression right and left, and it is preparing to impose another world war on the people. We used to say in the past that fascism means war; today we have all the more reason to say that U.S. imperialism means war. In order to smash the aggression of U.S. imperialism and to frustrate its plot for a new war, it is of great practical importance, nay essential, for the socialist countries and the people of all countries to review the

historical experience of the war waged by the people of the world against German, Japanese and Italian fascism.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War teaches us that, so long as imperialism exists, the socialist countries and all revolutionary people must maintain the highest revolutionary vigilance and make effective preparations against the eventuality that imperialism may suddenly impose a war on us.

The danger of war exists so long as imperialism exists. Until imperialism is eliminated and socialism has won victory throughout the world, the victory of socialism in one or a number of countries cannot be regarded as final or complete, nor can the victory of the cause of national independence or national liberation in one or a number of countries.

The truth of this has been repeatedly confirmed by history. The imperialists and reactionaries invariably try by every possible means to suppress and destroy those countries and people who have been victorious in their revolutions. This holds good when the revolutionary forces are weak and continues to hold good when they have grown strong. As Comrade Mao Tse-tung put it, "The principle of the reactionary forces in dealing with the democratic forces of the people is definitely to destroy all they can and to prepare to destroy later whatever they cannot destroy now." (2) This is the way they deal with China as well as the Soviet Union; this is the way they deal with the national independent countries as well as the socialist countries, and this is the way they deal with countries and people fighting for national liberation and carrying on people's revolutionary struggles as well as with countries and people that have achieved victory. This is determined by the class nature of imperialism. After all, imperialism is imperialism, it will never lay down its butcher's knife and suddenly become a Buddha. Khrushchev and other modern revisionists assert that the nature of imperialism has changed as a result of the growing might of the socialist camp. This completely violates Lenin's theory of imperialism and is sheer nonsense.

Today, U.S. imperialism is using its counter-revolutionary dual tactics of war and so-called "peace." While playing up its deceitful talk of peace, it is launching wars of aggression everywhere and accelerating its preparations for new wars. In these circumstances, it is all the more necessary for us to bear in mind the historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War, never cease to maintain high revolutionary vigilance, refuse to be duped by the imperialist peace hoax and guard against any slackening of vigilance and any idea of leaving things to chance. While persevering in their peaceful foreign policy and their economic construction, the socialist countries and the countries that have won national independence must at the same time strengthen their national defenses and make adequate preparations against imperialist wars of aggression. It makes a world of difference whether or not one is prepared once a war breaks out. Among all these preparations, political and ideological

preparation must be given the first priority. Moreover, these preparations must be made for the most difficult and worst situations that may possibly arise. Preparations must be made not only against any small-scale warfare but also against any medium- or large-scale warfare that imperialism may launch. These preparations must envisage the use by the imperialists of nuclear weapons as well as of conventional weapons. To think and act along these lines is more realistic and more likely to win the initiative, so that come what may, we shall be in a position to cope with the situation successfully and be surer of defeating the enemy.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War also teaches us that imperialism is perfidious. Under given conditions, it is permissible for socialist countries to enter into negotiations and reach certain agreements with imperialist countries. But in no case should they pin their hopes for the defense of world peace on such negotiations and agreements. They must firmly oppose any Munich policy like that of Chamberlain and Daladier.

The imperialists and all the reactionaries are amoral pragmatists who for all their fine words stop at no crime. When they feel the need, when they are not yet ready to attack you, when they need to put up a smokescreen before launching attacks, and when they need a breathing spell or have to stop after suffering serious defeats in their wars of aggression, they will sit down to negotiate with you and even talk glibly about "peace" and "friendship," sign all kinds of treaties and agreements, and make all sorts of assurances and pledges. But once they think they can swallow you up, when they consider the situation to be in their favor, and when they have sharpened their knives, they will immediately drop this mask and tear all the sacred treaties, solemn agreements and inviolable pledges to shreds. Modern history provides countless instances of this sort. A case in point was the undeclared blitzkrieg which Hitler launched against the Soviet Union less than two years after he had concluded a non-aggression treaty with it.

This was how Hitler acted, but doesn't U.S. imperialism act the same way today? Indeed, to say that U.S. imperialism is as perfidious as Hitler doesn't go far enough. For U.S. imperialism is actually many times more insidious and deadly than Hitler. Even with regard to its closest allies and partners, such as Britain and France, and its most faithful lackeys, such as Syngman Rhee and Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States makes use of them when they are useful and kicks them aside when they are no longer needed -- sometimes even "slaughtering the donkey after it has done its job at the mill." Such being the way it treats its own partners, is it conceivable that the United States would keep faith with the socialist countries, the national-independent countries and the revolutionary people?

Therefore, in our dealings with the imperialists and reactionaries we must never cherish any illusion about their pledges or lightly believe in their fine words. The socialist nature of our society determines the

peaceful nature of our foreign policy. We do not oppose negotiations with imperialist countries which are necessary for the interests of the people and the revolution, for the defense of world peace, and for the exposure of the enemy and the education of the people, but have always taken such negotiations seriously; we do not refuse to sign agreements and treaties which are necessary, and we have always honored all the agreements and treaties we have signed. But while so acting, we must never forget that no agreements and treaties can stop imperialism when it is bent on war. Whoever pins his hopes for preventing war on treaties and agreements will certainly be badly fooled.

Bullying the weak and fearing the strong are the common characteristics of imperialists and all reactionaries. Whoever wants to ensure his own safety by making concessions to the aggressor and by satisfying his greed at the expense of other people's interests is lifting a rock that will inevitably fall on his own toes. Chamberlain and Daladier rejected the Soviet proposal for an alliance against the fascist war menace and hatched the Munich plot selling out the interests of the Czechoslovak and Polish peoples, in the hope that Hitler would turn the spearhead of his aggression against the Soviet Union. But perceiving their fear of war as a weakness, Hitler struck at them first and caught them unprepared. The three million French troops collapsed in a month and a half, and Great Britain was brought to the verge of subjugation, barely avoiding the tragedy of France thanks to the English Channel. The Munich policy of Chamberlain and Daladier, which inflicted harm on themselves as well as on others, will live in history as a byword of infamy. Today, whoever plots another Munich in the face of the war blackmail of the US imperialists will, like Chamberlain and Daladier, begin by doing harm to others and end by injuring himself. Since the people of the world are awakened, such plots are doomed to failure and such schemers will come to no good end.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War also teaches us that it is imperative to distinguish enemies from friends, make use of contradictions, win over the majority, unite with all the forces that can be united and form the broadest possible united front against the main enemy.

The fascist bloc of Germany, Japan and Italy represented the most rapacious and aggressive imperialism of the time. Their predatory policies seriously menaced the freedom and independence of every nation, not excepting their own partners; that is, the robbers preyed on each other. It follows from the predatory nature of the imperialists that not only will they be opposed by the broadest masses of the people all over the world, but that they are bound to oppose each other and break up.

One of Stalin's major contributions was that he correctly analyzed the current situation in the international class struggle, identified the principal contradiction in the world arena and the principal enemy of the world's people and was therefore able to advance the correct slogan of an

anti-fascist united front and to rally all the anti-fascist forces in a united front, with the Soviet Union and the world proletariat as its main force. As a result, the imperialist anti-Soviet alliance was shattered with the establishment of an anti-fascist alliance, and the imperialist encirclement of the socialist Soviet Union was broken with the achievement of a counter-encirclement of the fascist forces of aggression by the worldwide forces against aggression; thus a fundamental change was brought about in the strategic situation which became favorable to ourselves and unfavorable to the enemy. This was a vitally important factor in the great victory of the Anti-Fascist War.

Today, U.S. imperialism is not only striving to destroy socialism and grabbing vast regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which form the first intermediate zone, it also wants to control the capitalist and imperialist countries of West Europe, North America, Oceania and Japan, which form the second intermediate zone. By its policy of world domination U.S. imperialism is compelling over 90 percent of the people of the world to rise up against it, inevitably alienating its followers, increasingly isolating itself, and becoming surrounded by enemies. In these circumstances, as Comrade Mao Tse-tung teaches us, the U.S. plans for aggression and war can be frustrated and defeated, provided that we are good at uniting the socialist camp and the people's anti-imperialist forces in all countries as well as at making use of the contradictions within the imperialist camp and forming the broadest possible united front against U.S. imperialism. And if nevertheless U.S. imperialism should venture on a new world war, we will be all the more certain of defeating it completely.

Regarding enemies as friends and friends as enemies, modern revisionists such as Khrushchev unite with the United States in "peaceful co-operation" against the people's revolutions, instead of uniting with all the anti-American forces, making use of the contradictions within the imperialist camp and forming an anti-American united front. This is a gross betrayal of the world proletarian revolution. It is also a gross betrayal of the oppressed nations and peoples. The modern revisionists' actions only help U.S. imperialism to extricate itself from its isolation, inflate its arrogance in aggression and increase the danger of its launching a new war. We must therefore relentlessly oppose such actions.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War also teaches us that the strategy of active defense is the only correct strategy for the socialist countries in fighting against imperialist wars of aggression.

The strategy of active defense applied by the Soviet Supreme Command headed by Stalin was an important factor contributing to victory in the anti-fascist Patriotic War. The Soviet Union applied this strategy, thoroughly exposed the aggressive features of fascist Germany, aroused boundless and righteous anger among the Soviet people and army, and won extensive sympathy and support among the people of the world. It was through the application of this strategy that the Soviet army was able

to trade space for time, deplete and destroy the enemy's effective forces on a large scale, and compel him to switch from the strategic offensive to the strategic defensive and finally go down in destruction. It was also through the application of this strategy that the Soviet army was able to take full advantage of the superiority inherent in a just war, gather strength in the course of the fighting, turn from the strategic defensive to the strategic offensive and then to pursuit, and, with the support and cooperation of the people of the world, triumph in the anti-fascist Patriotic War.

Khrushchev and his like have done their utmost to denounce this strategy, alleging that it constituted one of Stalin's crimes and was a theory Stalin invented to justify his errors during the early period of the war. This is a gross distortion and slander. If the strategy of active defense adopted by Stalin was wrong, as they assert, one would like to ask: What other strategy should the Soviet Union have adopted? Pre-emptive war? This is obviously incompatible with the nature of the socialist system. It is not necessary, or permissible, for a socialist country to be the first to attack others; it will never fire the first shot. Or should the Soviet Union's strategy have been one of passive defense, of simply waiting to be attacked? This was obviously not to its advantage. Engels affirmed long ago that "passive defense invariably meets with certain defeat, no matter how well armed one is." (3) Or should the strategy of the Soviet Union have been one of surrender to the enemy? This would have been the betrayal of revolution and the people. Such a strategy is absolutely unacceptable to the people. Whoever wishes to surrender to the enemy will be spurned by the people and branded as a traitor through the ages. Then what is the correct strategy? Of course, it can only be active defense.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung said:

Active defense is also known as offensive defense, or defense through decisive engagements. Passive defense is also known as purely defensive defense or pure defense. Passive defense is actually a spurious kind of defense, and the only real defense is active defense, defense for the purpose of counter-attacking and taking the offensive. (4)

Operationally, the strategy of active defense should not have the holding or capturing of territory as its main objective. It should be to concentrate superior forces to destroy the enemy's effectives. It was precisely by adopting this strategy in the anti-fascist Patriotic War that the Soviet Union forced Hitler to halt his troops before high mountains and outside fortified cities along the far-flung battleline stretching from Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad to the Caucasus, so that they were caught in an impasse, unable either to advance or to retreat, and suffered tremendous losses. Over 300,000 German fascist crack troops were encircled and annihilated in the Battle of Stalingrad, which marked the turning point of World War II. In the subsequent counter-offensives the effective forces of the aggressor were successively wiped out in large numbers.

Such was the brilliant strategy that brought Hitler to his doom. Experience shows that only by energetically wiping out the enemy's effectives is it possible successfully to change the military situation, to defend cities and other places, and finally to defeat the aggressor.

The strategy of active defense does not stop with driving the aggressor out of the country, but requires strategic pursuit to destroy the enemy at his starting point, to destroy him in his nest. As Stalin put it, we must not allow a wounded beast to crawl back to recuperate; we must follow on its heels in hot pursuit and finish it off in its own lair. It was precisely this strategy that was applied by the Soviet Supreme Command headed by Stalin, with the result that the Soviet army's strategic pursuit actively supported the anti-fascist armed uprisings of the peoples of other European countries and helped the East European peoples overthrow their reactionary regimes and win victory in their revolutions. This was a splendid contribution by the Soviet people and army. In any future war against U.S. imperialist aggression, this is the only strategy for the socialist countries to adopt. We seriously warn the U.S. imperialists that they must not expect us to refrain from counter-attacking once they have attacked us. Nothing comes so cheap.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War also teaches us that weapons are an important factor in war but not the decisive factor, and that people and not things are the fundamental factor determining the outcome of war.

Since they are divorced from and antagonistic to the people, imperialists and reactionaries dare not and cannot rely on the masses or on their own troops. In waging war they can only pin their hopes on weapons. They do their best to exaggerate the role of weapons simply because they want to intimidate people, and first of all to disarm the targets of their aggression morally so that their victims lose confidence in their capacity to resist and can be vanquished in a single battle or even without battle. That is the real value of the theory spread by the imperialists and reactionaries that weapons decide everything.

Didn't the theories of the fascist brigands that "air power decides the war" and that "tanks decide the war" inspire fear? The myth created by Goebbels of the invincibility of the German army, together with the scream of the siren-bombs and the activity of its Fifth Columns, spread such terror in capitalist Europe that some countries were morally disarmed even before Hitler attacked them. This was of enormous help to him. But when it came to attacking the Soviet Union, Hitler's planes and tanks were no longer so fearsome or decisive. Why? What was the secret? Was it because the Soviet Union possessed more and better planes and tanks than Hitlerite Germany? No. The Soviet Union was inferior to Hitlerite Germany in this respect. Then what gave the Soviet army the strength to stand up to and defeat Hitler's fascist army? Truth to tell, there was nothing mysterious about it. It was because the Soviet Union relied on the people, the socialist system, revolutionary political work in the Red

Army and the Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Communist Party. In brief, it was by relying on the politically conscious people led by the party of the proletariat that the Soviet Union smashed the fascist military machine. This is a law, this is the truth.

Wasn't this so? What could Hitler's fascist army with all its ferocity and power accomplish in the face of the Soviet army and the broad masses of the Soviet people, who, inspired by the glorious tradition of their October Revolution and armed with Marxist-Leninist ideology, were ready to sacrifice their lives to safeguard their socialist motherland? What could it do in the face of the thousands upon thousands of soldiers who defied death and courageously advanced to engage the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, shouting as their slogans "For the motherland, for Stalin?"

Wasn't this so too? How could Hitler's fascist army, for all its numbers and might, consolidate its occupied areas in the face of the widespread guerrilla warfare and sabotage carried on by the masses behind the enemy lines? What could it do except divert its armed forces? How could it avoid being buffeted on all sides? How could it escape tight encirclement by the people and final defeat?

All these facts show once again that victory in war does not depend on new weapons of one kind or another, or on a particular technical arm. It depends on the close integration of the armed forces and the civilian masses, the joint efforts of the people at the front line and in the rear, the coordination of the battlefield at the front and the battlefield in the enemy rear, and close cooperation among the different armed services, of which the ground forces, and particularly the infantry, are primary. Without heroic fighting by the ground forces, no new weapons, however powerful, can determine the outcome of battles or achieve the political aim of a war. This is another law or truth governing war. It holds true for other wars as well as for the Anti-Fascist War. It holds true after as well as before the emergence of the atom bomb. It holds true for oppressed peoples engaged in revolutionary struggle as well as for a powerful socialist country such as the Soviet Union.

The historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War also teaches us that all revolutionary wars support each other. Countries which have won victory should support and help the revolutionary struggles of those countries and people that have not yet won victory. The socialist countries should serve as base areas for the world revolution and as the main force in combating imperialist aggression.

By its victory in the anti-fascist Patriotic War the Soviet Union gave support to the people of all countries, helped the East European countries to win liberation and assisted the Chinese people in their War of Resistance Against Japan. At the same time, the anti-fascist struggles of the people of the world, the uprisings of the people of the European countries and their armed struggles against German and Italian

fascism, and particularly the great anti-Japanese war with the Chinese people as the main force, to a large extent pinned down, hammered and weakened the military force of the fascist bloc as a whole. Without all these factors, it would have been impossible for the Soviet Union to win such a great victory in the anti-fascist Patriotic War.

From the Marxist-Leninist point of view, a revolutionary war or a war of resistance to aggression waged by a country is at once a struggle in its own national interest and a support for the revolutionary struggles of other countries, a support for those countries that have already won victory and a contribution to the defense of world peace. The countries and peoples engaged in such a war should do their best to tie down and destroy more enemy forces, while the countries that have won victory, and particularly the socialist countries, should give full play to the spirit of internationalism and regard it as their bounden duty to support the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples. In this mutual support, all countries, large or small, strong or weak, should firmly guard against and resist great-power chauvinism and narrow national egoism. Supporting others means supporting oneself, and therefore no one has the right to assume the airs of a benefactor or liberator. Whether or not a country which has won victory dares to serve as a base area for the world revolution and to support and aid the people's revolution in other countries is the touchstone of whether or not it is really for revolution and whether or not it really opposes imperialism.

Finally, the historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War teaches us that although a war imposed on us by imperialism will cause sacrifices, losses and destruction, it will also educate the people, and that the people will win the war as well as peace and progress.

The German fascists killed countless people and destroyed thousands of cities and villages in the Soviet Union, but the War resulted in victory for the Soviet Union, in the liberation of East Europe and the spread of socialism from one country to a whole camp of countries. The Soviet Union achieved further growth in its socialist construction. It did not become weaker because of the destruction in the War; on the contrary, it grew stronger. After we rose in resistance, fought and won, the war imposed on us by imperialism turned from a bad thing into a good thing, accelerating historical progress and social development. This lesson was confirmed by the Soviet anti-fascist Patriotic War and the revolutionary wars the Chinese people were compelled to fight over decades. It has been further confirmed by the Korean people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, by the Vietnamese people's war of resistance against French aggression, by the Cuban people's revolutionary war and by Algeria's war of liberation. And there is no doubt that it will be borne out by the wars of liberation being waged at this very moment by the peoples of South Viet Nam, Laos and the Congo (Leopoldville), and by the people's revolutionary wars in other countries.

We are against the launching of wars by the imperialists, but we should not be afraid of war, still less should we oppose revolutionary wars out of fear of war. Of what avail is fear when the imperialists insist on imposing war on us? Can such fear prevent them from launching wars? Can fear eliminate wars? No. History has taught us that fear cannot prevent wars, to say nothing of eliminating them. In order to eliminate wars it is necessary to wage wars of resistance. In order to eliminate counter-revolutionary wars it is necessary to wage revolutionary wars. In order to do away with guns it is necessary to take up guns. It is under compulsion that we have taken up guns; we have waged revolutionary wars not only for the purpose of delivering ourselves from enslavement and oppression, but also for the purpose of eliminating the source of war -- imperialism.

The rich historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War was gained at the cost of the blood of the revolutionary people in all countries. It is the common asset of the people of the world and is of immense practical importance for the current struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Hitler, Tojo, Mussolini and the other fascist brigands met their doom long ago. But U.S. imperialism, which since the War has replaced German, Japanese and Italian fascism as the arch-enemy of the people of the world, is now following in these brigands' footsteps, madly pressing ahead with the counter-revolutionary cause which they tried in vain to further and imposing one war of aggression after another on the people of different countries.

Modern revisionists such as Khrushchev say that Hitler would not have attacked the Soviet Union if he had foreseen the outcome of the War. These revisionists say that the chieftains of U.S. imperialism today are quite different from Hitler, that having recognized the strength of socialism they are able to learn the lessons of history, that they have become "sensible" and "peace-loving" and will not run the risk of launching a war as Hitler did. The modern revisionists have woven a fancy fairy tale in a perverse attempt to make people believe that imperialism and socialism can advance hand in hand towards what they call a world "without weapons, without armed forces, without wars."

How can Communists spout such contemptible lies and such nonsense? Everybody knows it was the class nature of German monopoly capital that made Hitler unleash the war. Similarly, it is the class nature of U.S. monopoly capital that makes the U.S. imperialists launch wars today. Even before capitalism developed to the stage of monopoly capitalism, Marx cited the following passage in a footnote in Capital:

...100 percent [profit] will make it [capital] ready to trample on all human laws; 300 percent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. (5)

The class interests of the monopoly capitalists impel them to embark on mad war adventures in the quest for profit. They are so obsessed with the idea of profit-making that they lose any sense of reality. They invariably underestimate the strength of the people and overestimate their own, and so again and again they fight "the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." (6) Aren't there plenty of examples in the history books? Napoleon's plan to conquer Europe and the world failed, and Kaiser Wilhelm II followed in his footsteps. Wilhelm failed, and Hitler tried again. Hitler failed, and now U.S. imperialism is following in Hitler's footsteps. They can never learn from the failure of their predecessors. They can only follow each other to the grave until the complete collapse of the imperialist system.

Hitler seemed invincible in his time but he failed in the end. Is U.S. imperialism today more formidable than Hitler was then? Will its fate be any better than Hitler's? Compare the present with the past and you will find a clear answer.

Today, U.S. imperialism is greatly over-extended. The contradiction between its high ambitions, its far-flung battlefronts and remote rear, on the one hand, and its shortage of troops, on the other, is far more serious than in Hitler's case. It is aspiring to destroy the socialist camp, which is a vast expanse of contiguous territories with a total population of one thousand million and many times stronger than the Soviet Union was in Hitler's time. Unlike Hitler, U.S. imperialism is confronted by the solid resistance of unprecedentedly broad national-liberation movements when it wages wars of aggression against the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Its army has frequently been defeated in its wars to suppress the people's revolutions and carry out aggression in other countries. It is an army of pampered soldiers far inferior to Hitler's fascist army. Moreover, U.S. imperialism is facing the disintegration of the aggressive blocs it has so painstakingly pieced together, a situation Hitler did not have to face. In all these respects, it is in a vastly inferior position to that of its predecessor. Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out many years ago that U.S. imperialism is only a paper tiger:

The strength of the United States of America is only superficial and transient. Irreconcilable domestic and international contradictions, like a volcano, menace U.S. imperialism every day. U.S. imperialism is sitting on this volcano. (7)

Since Hitler met with utter defeat in his attack on the Soviet Union when the situation and balance of forces was much more favorable, what can the United States achieve except to hasten its own destruction when waging wars of aggression everywhere under such unfavorable conditions?

Some people may say: After all, U.S. imperialism has the atom bomb and therefore it is more powerful than Hitler. It is true that U.S. imperialism has the atom bomb and Hitler did not, and it is also true that

the atom bomb is a weapon of mass destruction. But, as pointed out by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the atom bomb cannot decide the outcome of war because, "without the struggles waged by the people, atom bombs by themselves would be of no avail," (8) and "the atom bomb is a paper tiger which the U.S. reactionaries use to scare people." (9) What is more, the United States' monopoly of the atom bomb was broken many years ago. Now other countries have the atom bomb as well as the United States. For the past twenty years, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars on the mass production of atom and hydrogen bombs, but what use have its atom bombs been, except to frighten those with weak nerves? Its atom bombs could not and did not prevent the great victory of the Chinese people's revolutionary war. They could not and did not prevent the great victory of the Korean people's revolutionary war. They could not and did not prevent the great victory of the Vietnamese people's revolutionary war. They could not and did not prevent the great victory of the Cuban people's revolutionary war. They could not and did not prevent the great victory of the Algerian people's revolutionary war. They have not prevented and will never be able to prevent the growth and triumph of the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. They have not prevented and will never be able to prevent the growth and triumph of the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of West Europe, Oceania and North America, including the United States.

Although it brandishes atom bombs and shouts about nuclear retaliation, U.S. imperialism is completely helpless before the miracles wrought by rifles, hand-grenades and even such primitive weapons as bows and arrows and knives in the hands of the revolutionary people. This decade is witnessing atomic imperialism playing a superb farce. Isn't it being performed beautifully at this very moment in South Viet Nam? What is there for U.S. imperialism to brag about when this reputed Number One world power, possessing innumerable nuclear missiles, is being battered out of its senses by the 14 million south Vietnamese people, and cannot even protect its own embassy?

The history of the twenty years since the War has fully demonstrated that, with all its nuclear weapons, U.S. imperialism is like a big, hollow worm-eaten tree. The day is drawing nigh when this tree will be uprooted by the worldwide storm of the people's revolution.

However, throughout history all dying reactionary forces have invariably put up final desperate struggles against the forces of revolution. Look at Chiang Kai-shek. He fought the Communists for dozens of years. He lost everything except a handful of bedraggled soldiers with whom he fled to Taiwan, and yet he is daily calling for a counter-offensive against the mainland. Is it conceivable that an imperialist power as big as the United States will lightly leave the stage of history without pitched battles, without repeated trials of strength and without life-and-death struggles? U.S. monopoly capital is still very large. It has a strong industrial base. In twenty years of arms expansion and war preparations since the War, its troops have increased eightfold. Its

military bases are to be found in every corner of the world. Out of its armed forces of 2,700,000 men, more than 1,000,000 are stationed abroad for unceasing aggression against the revolutionary people of every country. Clearly, it will never abandon its counter-revolutionary war plans or admit defeat until its counter-revolutionary forces have been destroyed and its last stakes lost. As Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out:

Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again ... till their doom; that is the logic of the imperialists and all reactionaries the world over in dealing with the people's cause, and they will never go against this logic. This is a Marxist law. (10)

A striking instance of the struggle put up by U.S. imperialism to save itself from defeat is its adventurist expansion of the war of aggression in Viet Nam. Its "special warfare" in South Viet Nam having shamefully failed, it has now invented the theory of the "escalation of the war." It divides the war into several stages and each stage into several steps. In its sequence of steps, it is gradually intensifying and expanding its threat and use of force. A characteristic feature is that, every time it adds a faggot to the fire of its war of aggression, it says a prayer for peace. It is trying to save itself from defeat by a better synchronization of its counter-revolutionary dual tactics of threats and blandishments. In accordance with the theory of "escalation," the United States is leading its war of aggression in South Viet Nam in the direction of a local war of the Korean type. It has already spread the flames of war to North Viet Nam and is preparing to spread them further to China. This is a serious challenge U.S. imperialism has flung down to all the peace-loving countries and peoples.

Today, the heroic Vietnamese people are united as one man under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and President Ho Chi Minh and by the vow to "resist U.S. aggression, save the nation, liberate the south, defend the north and reunify the fatherland!" and they are now fighting in the forefront of the struggle against U.S. imperialism. By their courageous action against the U.S. and puppet forces, the South Vietnamese people have already liberated four-fifths of the territory and over two-thirds of the population of South Viet Nam, and are daily approaching final victory in their war of liberation. The North Vietnamese people, who are determined to fight and win, are waging a heroic battle against the U.S. imperialist bombing raids and have dealt one heavy blow after another to the aggressors. The valiant fight of the Vietnamese people is tying down more and more of the armed forces of U.S. imperialism, upsetting its counter-revolutionary global strategy, supporting the revolutionary struggles of the people of all other countries, giving a brilliant example to the people the world over and making a great contribution to the defense of peace in Asia and the whole world.

All revolutionary people rejoice at the great victories of the Vietnamese people, and a tremendous mass campaign to aid Viet Nam in resisting U.S. aggression is mounting throughout the world. The

revolutionary people of all countries are dealing blows to U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in various ways. The heroic people of the Congo (Leopoldville), Laos, Korea, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Cuba, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and the Arab countries, and all other countries and peoples who are combating U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, have each made their contribution to the frustration of the U.S. imperialist policies of aggression and war and to the sacred cause of defending world peace.

The Chinese people resolutely support the Vietnamese people's struggle to resist U.S. aggression and save the nation and the struggle of the people of all other countries against U.S. imperialism. We not only fully support these struggles politically and morally and help them materially to the limit of our capabilities, but are also prepared to send our men to fight together with the people of Viet Nam when they need us. This attitude of ours is firm and unshakable. We will go on supporting and aiding the Vietnamese people, whether or not U.S. imperialism bombs our country and whether or not it enlarges the war. We are not frightened by the U.S. imperialists' bombing threats or their clamour for enlarging the war. Our opposition to U.S. imperialism has always been clear-cut. Our principle is: We will not attack unless we are attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counter-attack. We shall wipe out anybody who dares to attack us. On whatever scale the United States attacks us, we will reply on the same scale. We always mean what we say. We are fully prepared for war. The Chinese people and the Chinese People's Liberation Army are fully prepared. If U.S. imperialism should insist on imposing war on us, together with the people of the whole world we will resolutely crush its counter-revolutionary war by a revolutionary war and do our part in thoroughly destroying U.S. imperialism, the arch-criminal of contemporary aggression and war!

In commemorating the great victory over German fascism and the great victory of the war against fascism as a whole, we pay high tribute to and express our full confidence in the great Soviet people and the great Soviet army, who grew up nurtured by the brilliant thinking of Lenin and Stalin, who have a glorious revolutionary tradition, who stood the test of the war against fascism and triumphed. We are deeply confident that we will be united on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, will fight shoulder to shoulder against our common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and advance together with the people of the world towards final victory in wars against aggression and towards the new era of lasting peace for mankind!

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HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF WAR AGAINST FASCISM

[Following is a translation of an article by the editorial department of Jen-min Jih-pao as published in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 5, 10 May 1965, pages 15-25.]

Twenty years have passed since the great war against fascism ended in victory.

The Anti-Fascist War was a gigantic struggle between the anti-fascist forces of the world, of which the main force was the socialist Soviet Union, and the three fascist powers, Germany, Italy and Japan. It was a just war and a war on a scale unprecedented in history. It ended with the triumph of the anti-fascist forces and the rout of German, Italian and Japanese fascism. First came the collapse of Italian fascism, and then German imperialism and Japanese imperialism surrendered unconditionally, on 8 May and 2 September 1945, respectively.

On the eve of final victory in the Anti-Fascist War, Comrade Mao Tse-tung made the following appraisal and forecast of the world situation in accordance with fundamental Marxist-Leninist principles:

Contrary to the predictions of the Chinese and foreign reactionaries, the forces of fascist aggression will undoubtedly be overthrown and the people's democratic forces will undoubtedly triumph. The world will unquestionably take the road of progress and not the road of reaction. (1)

He added, "War has educated the people and it is the people who will win the war, win the peace and win progress." (2)

The course of events fully corroborated Comrade Mao Tse-tung's scientific predictions. The victory of the Anti-Fascist War marked another great turning point in history, following on the October Revolution. It opened a new page in history.

The victorious Anti-Fascist War dealt a severe blow to international imperialism. While the Great October Revolution made the first breach in the front of world imperialism, the victorious Anti-Fascist War destroyed a large section of it. The rise of fascism and its embarkation on world war represented the last-ditch struggles of the most reactionary forces of imperialism. The jack-booted fascist hordes overran Europe, Asia and Africa, wreaking havoc over a large part of the globe, but this did not save them from extinction. The outcome of the war was the overthrow of three imperialist powers, Germany, Italy and Japan, and the serious weakening of two others, Britain and France. By starting the world war, imperialism moved much nearer to its grave.

The victory of the Anti-Fascist War substantially consolidated and extended the great achievements of the October Socialist Revolution. The world forces of socialism expanded. Tempered in the war, the first socialist state, the Soviet Union, grew stronger. In the new historical conditions resulting from the victorious Anti-Fascist War, a number of socialist countries were born in Europe and in Asia. Together with the Soviet Union, these countries formed the powerful socialist camp, which confronted the decaying camp of imperialism. Comrade Mao Tse-tung said:

With the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in the Soviet Union, a world situation appeared where victory for the people became a foregone conclusion; and now with the founding of the People's Republic of China and the other People's Democracies, the situation has developed and become consolidated. (3)

Victory in the Anti-Fascist War ushered in a new stage in the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations. The roar of the guns awoke the oppressed peoples and nations in every corner of the world. Great revolutionary storms rose in Asia, Africa and Latin America. After World War I imperialist rule in the colonies and semi-colonies enjoyed a period of relative stability, but there has been no such relative stability since World War II. The unceasing anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the people have been shaking and destroying the foundations of imperialist rule. Imperialism has lost its stable rear area once and for all.

In summarizing the great historic significance of the victory in the Anti-Fascist War, Comrade Mao Tse-tung said:

If the October Revolution opened up wide possibilities for the emancipation of the working class and the oppressed peoples of the world and opened up realistic paths towards it, then the victory of the anti-fascist Second World War has opened up still wider possibilities for the emancipation of the working class and the oppressed peoples of the world and has opened up still more realistic paths towards it. (4)

The victory of the Anti-Fascist War was a victory of socialism, the most advanced social system in history, a victory of the people in all

countries who united to win freedom and liberation, and a victory for Marxism-Leninism. The history of the War gave fresh and conclusive proof that the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism are universally applicable and hold for all time and that a guiding line, policy, strategy or tactics based on these principles is invincible.

There is a whole series of important differences of principle between Marxist-Leninists and the modern revisionists on the question of how to assess the Anti-Fascist War and on the lessons to be drawn from it. Basing themselves on historical materialism, the Marxist-Leninists respect the facts of history, ascertain the laws inherent in them and thus draw the correct conclusions. On the other hand, in order to adulterate Marxism-Leninism, the Khrushchev revisionists, the representatives of modern revisionism, have been deliberately distorting history ever since the 20th Congress of the CPSU, obscuring facts and concocting conclusions that are extremely harmful.

In the first place, the history of the Anti-Fascist War shows that the socialist system has a tremendous vitality that can stand the severest tests and that a state of the dictatorship of the proletariat is invincible.

The main contest in the Anti-Fascist War was between the Soviet Union, the only socialist state at the time, and fascist Germany, then the most powerful imperialist state. After occupying almost the whole of capitalist Europe, the German fascists mobilized immense resources and manpower and made war on the Soviet Union. It was a severe test for the young Soviet state. It was a decisive battle between the two systems, imperialism and socialism.

Instead of being crushed by Hitler's war machine, the first socialist state, created by Lenin, achieved a great historic victory. Headed by Stalin, the CPSU held high the fighting banner of Leninism and led the Soviet people and the heroic Soviet army, reared in the glorious tradition of the October Revolution, in overcoming innumerable difficulties and in eventually defeating the Hitler gang which had mustered the military and economic strength of more than a dozen European countries. The Soviet people and army successfully defended their own country and opened the way for the East European peoples to liberate themselves from the enslavement of the Hitler brigands. The Soviet people proved themselves worthy of the name of a great people, and the Soviet army proved itself worthy of the name of a great army. Time will never dim their glorious exploits.

The heroic deeds of the Soviet people and army are indissolubly linked with the incomparable superiority of the Soviet socialist system and the great strength of the dictatorship of the proletariat. It was the socialist system and the dictatorship of the proletariat that guaranteed victory for the Soviet people and army. Only this system and this dictatorship could have stood firm under the surprise attack of the most ferocious imperialist power and trained such an army and such a people

who fought the fascist brigands resolutely until final victory. Only this system and this dictatorship could have accomplished the industrialization of the Soviet state and the collectivization of its agriculture in so short a period and thus built up sufficient economic and military strength to defeat the Hitler thugs. As Stalin put it, "Our victory signifies, first of all, that our Soviet social system was victorious, that the Soviet social system successfully passed the test of fire in the war and proved that it is fully viable." He also said, "The war proved that the Soviet social system is a genuine people's system, which grew up from the ranks of the people and enjoys their powerful support..." (5)

The victory of the Soviet people and army are indissolubly linked with Stalin's leadership. In the hour of crisis for the Soviet state after the outbreak of the War, it was Stalin who shouldered the heavy responsibility of leading the Party and the state and it was he who welded together the multi-national Soviet people into a force of invincible steel for their life-and-death struggle against the fascist brigands. As supreme commander of the Soviet armed forces, Stalin directed the entire war and all its major campaigns, from its outbreak to final victory. At the critical moment when Hitler's gangster forces stood at the very gates of Moscow, it was Stalin's supremely confident and determined voice that the people of the Soviet Union and the whole world heard, saying, "Annihilate to a man all the German occupationists who penetrated our country." (6) And when the War entered the stage of counter-offensive, it was Stalin's great call that all the officers and men of the Soviet armed forces heard, saying, "The wounded beast must be pursued close on its heels and finished off in its own lair." (7) The name of Stalin inspired the Soviet people and army throughout the War. Although he made certain mistakes, Stalin was a great Marxist-Leninist and proved himself a great commander. His outstanding contribution to victory in the Anti-Fascist War can never be erased.

All these conclusions have long been established and accepted by the whole world. Nonetheless, Khrushchev and his disciples brazenly distort the history of the Soviet people's war against fascism. They worked out their anti-Marxist-Leninist revisionist line at the 20th Congress of the CPSU. Khrushchev's report on the work of the Central Committee and the secret report he delivered at the Congress were typical revisionist products. A striking expression of their revisionist line was the complete negation of Stalin. They completely blackened the socialist system and the dictatorship of the proletariat, slanderously depicted the great Soviet people as pessimistic and degenerate philistines, and vilified the heroic Soviet army as a cowardly mob.

According to Khrushchev, before the War Stalin took a "carefree attitude" towards the enemy's plans for aggression and "everything was ignored;" when the War broke out he lost heart and "relinquished leadership," thinking that "all was finished;" and during the whole course of the War he simple "planned operations on a globe." In short, according to Khrushchev, Stalin was not a great commander but an "idiot."

While pouring endless abuse on Stalin, these falsifiers of history lauded Khrushchev to the skies. They said that during the War Khrushchev "always stood where the difficulties were greatest" and on many occasions made "more reasonable decisions" than those of the Supreme Command. Khrushchev was not only "the soul of the Stalingraders" but the leader in many "decisive battles." Lieutenant-General Khrushchev thus became Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Patriotic War.

The Khrushchev revisionists' vehement denunciation of Stalin and lavish praise of Khrushchev were very important steps for opposing Marxism-Leninism and promoting revisionism. They tried hard to belittle or obliterate Stalin's role in the Anti-Fascist War in order to destroy his prestige among the people of the Soviet Union and the world as a great Marxist-Leninist and in order to adulterate Marxism-Leninism. Actually, in smearing Stalin, they smeared the socialist system, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the CPSU itself, and thus paved the way for changing the dictatorship of the proletariat into a "state of the whole people" and the proletarian party into a "party of the entire people." They dressed up that clown Khrushchev as the "hero" of the Anti-Fascist War so as to build up his prestige and to enable Khrushchev revisionism to supplant Marxism-Leninism. But after all, gold remains gold in the furnace of history and dross remains dross. The Khrushchev revisionists have already met with failure in their attempt to tamper with history and in their strenuous efforts to negate Stalin and to oppose Marxism-Leninism, and total failure is awaiting them.

In the second place, the history of the Anti-Fascist War shows that imperialism is the source of wars in modern times, that the aggressive nature of imperialism will not change and that to defend world peace it is necessary to wage a tit-for-tat struggle against imperialism.

World War II was the culmination of a series of wars of aggression which were launched and gradually extended in the 1930s by the three fascist powers, Germany, Italy and Japan. It was the result of the imperialist policies of aggression and war. These fascist countries were the three most aggressive imperialist powers. They did not scruple to launch wars of aggression to extricate themselves from their political and economic crises and to plunder more and more countries more and more ruthlessly.

At that time two diametrically opposed policies towards fascist aggression held the world stage. For a long period the British, French and U.S. imperialists and their partners followed a policy of appeasement towards German, Italian and Japanese fascism, indulging the evil-doers and conniving at their crimes. They tacitly consented to the aggression of Japanese imperialism against China. They allowed Mussolini to commit aggression against Abyssinia (Ethiopia). They encouraged the German and Italian fascists in their armed intervention in Spain. They connived at Hitler's annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Instead of buying peace, all this served to whet the fascists' appetite

for further aggression and to bring on the world war. By their policy of appeasement the British, French and U.S. imperialists lifted a rock only to drop it on their own toes, and history meted out due punishment to them.

But the people of the world pursued another policy, that of dealing resolute counter-blows to fascist aggression. The people of the Soviet Union, China and many other countries firmly opposed the British, French and U.S. imperialist policy of appeasement, courageously shouldered the heavy responsibility of fighting fascism and eventually won not only the war but also the peace.

Summing up the experience of the Chinese people and the people of the whole world in their struggles against imperialists and all reactionaries, as well as the experience of the Anti-Fascist War, Comrade Mao Tse-tung has categorically stated that the nature of imperialism will never change, that we must never cherish illusions about the imperialists but must wage a tit-for-tat struggle against them. He said that "the imperialists will never lay down their butcher knives ... they will never become Buddhas, till their doom" and that "it is impossible to persuade the imperialists and the Chinese reactionaries to show kindness of heart and turn from their evil ways. The only course is to organize forces and struggle against them." (8) Developments in the twenty years since the War have proved the correctness of this policy of struggling against imperialism and all reactionaries, as pointed out by Comrade Mao Tse-tung.

In the period since the War, U.S. imperialism has taken the place of German, Italian and Japanese fascism and become the most aggressive imperialist power. U.S. imperialism is the main force of aggression and war. It harbors the vain hope of subjugating the whole world, and it is the sworn enemy of the people of all countries. It encroaches everywhere and launches wars of aggression one after another. The Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations have all been patterned from the same mold, they have all been faithful executors of the U.S. monopoly capitalist policies of aggression and war. From their own experience the people of the world have come to understand with increasing clarity that peace can never be won by begging for it from imperialism, and that, on the contrary, it can be effectively preserved only by waging resolute struggles against imperialism, and especially against U.S. imperialism. The victory of the Chinese people's revolutionary war, the victory of Korea's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, the victory of the Cuban people's revolutionary war and the victories won in anti-U.S. struggles in many other countries have all served to puncture the arrogance of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and were all effective in defending world peace. It is now plain that the only way the people of the world can smash the U.S. imperialists' plans for aggression and war and prevent another world war is to hit the U.S. aggressors hard on every front of the struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Imperialism always uses the counter-revolutionary dual tactics of armed aggression and fraudulent peace, sometimes alternately, sometimes

simultaneously, against the revolutionary people of any country. The people in their turn must make skillful use of revolutionary dual tactics in struggling against imperialism. The signing of the Soviet-German non-aggression treaty on the eve of the Anti-Fascist War and the conclusion of the Korean armistice agreement and of the two Geneva agreements after the War all show that so long as the basic interests of the people are not violated, it is perfectly permissible and even necessary to conduct negotiations with the imperialists and reach certain agreements with them on appropriate occasions. However, a tit-for-tat struggle is necessary when negotiating with the imperialists. It is absolutely impossible to gain through talks what is not won on the battlefield. Even when certain agreements are reached and signed with the imperialists, they never keep their word and they may tear up the agreements at any time. Whoever pins his hopes of preventing war and safeguarding peace on negotiations with the imperialists, or goes so far as to accommodate himself to imperialism at the expense of the basic interests of the people, will come to grief in the face of reality.

The Khrushchev revisionists completely ignore this important historical lesson of the Anti-Fascist War. They eagerly preach that the nature of imperialism has changed and they have tampered with the fundamental Marxist-Leninist thesis that imperialism is the source of war in modern times. In their opinion, world wars are not a product of the imperialist system or of the predatory nature of imperialism, but are a result of momentary impulse or loss of reason on the part of certain individuals. They used to describe Eisenhower and Kennedy as "peace-loving," and now they have spoken of the Johnson Administration as being "moderate" and "sensible." In their relations with U.S. imperialism, they practice capitulationism, spread the idea of "mutual concessions," "mutual compromise," "mutual conciliation," and "mutual accommodation," and try to subordinate the revolutionary struggles of the people in various countries to their general line of "peaceful coexistence" and "Soviet-U.S. cooperation for the settlement of world problems." Again and again they have betrayed the interests of the revolutionary people -- in the Caribbean crisis, in the matter of the Congo, the German peace treaty and West Berlin, and the partial ban on nuclear tests.

Khrushchev's successors are more cunning in their ways, they utter fine-sounding words and play various tricks; nevertheless, they cling to the revisionist line laid down at the 20th Congress of the CPSU, carry out Khrushchev's old policies and still want the revolutionary peoples to submit to what they call "Soviet-U.S. cooperation." They even want to organize a "U.N. force" in collaboration with U.S. imperialism and play the world gendarme to hold down the oppressed peoples and nations. They are colluding with the U.S. aggressors and plotting to sell out the basic interests of the people of Viet Nam and of all other countries, including the Soviet Union. The Khrushchev revisionists are out-and-out appeasers. Their line does not safeguard world peace, but aids and abets U.S. imperialism in committing unbridled aggression and unleashing war.

This line is inevitably being discredited as the people throughout the world become more and more awakened.

In the third place, the history of the Anti-Fascist War shows that a people's war is sure of victory, that it is entirely possible to defeat the imperialist aggressors, that imperialism is a paper tiger, which is outwardly strong but actually weak, and that the atom bomb is also a paper tiger and it is people and not weapons, of whatever kind, that decide the outcome of war.

In the early period of the War, the three fascist countries, Germany, Italy and Japan, arrogantly threw their weight around, and quite spectacularly so for a time. They set their whole war machine in motion and they had great superiority in military strength. They dominated almost the whole of capitalist Europe, occupied half of Asia and invaded Africa, treading 800 million people beneath their heels. But that was only a transitory phenomenon. It was the people and not the fascists with their military superiority who proved really powerful. The reason was that the fascists were waging an unjust war of aggression, that they were the enemies of the people of every country, including their own, and that their temporary victories were therefore built on sand and were without any solid foundation. The war that the people of the world were fighting was a just war against aggression and in defense of their motherlands. The potential strength of the people is inexhaustible. Given correct leadership in accordance with a correct line, the people will gradually grow stronger and become powerful in struggle, gradually change the balance of forces, and in the end they will defeat the fascist aggressors. The just people's war is bound to triumph; the unjust imperialist war is bound to go down in defeat.

In 1946 Comrade Mao Tse-tung advanced his celebrated thesis that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers, and he did so after summing up the experience of the revolutionary struggles of the Chinese people and of the people of the world as well as the historical experience of the Anti-Fascist War. He said:

All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful. (9)

He added:

Wasn't Hitler once considered very strong? But history proved that he was a paper tiger. So was Mussolini, so was Japanese imperialism. On the contrary, the strength of the Soviet Union and of the people in all countries who loved democracy and freedom proved much greater than had been foreseen. (10)

Sharply criticizing the theory that "weapons decide everything," Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out that it was "a mechanical approach to the question of war and a subjective and one-sided view." He said:

Our view is opposed to this; we see not only weapons but also people. Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor; it is people, not things, that are decisive. The contest of strength is not only a contest of military and economic power, but also a contest of human power and morale. (11)

He declared emphatically:

The atom bomb is a paper tiger which the U.S. reactionaries use to scare people. It looks terrible, but in fact it isn't. Of course, the atom bomb is a weapon of mass slaughter, but the outcome of a war is decided by the people, not by one or two new types of weapon. (12)

The twenty years since the War have demonstrated the incontrovertible truth of Comrade Mao Tse-tung's theses that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers and that the relationship between man and weapons must be correctly handled, theses that have stood the test of practice. Despite its possession of nuclear weapons, U.S. imperialism was unable to prevent the victory of the Chinese revolution, of Korea's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, of the Cuban revolution or of the revolutionary struggles in many other regions, and it will definitely not be able to prevent the Vietnamese people from achieving victory. The nuclear weapons of the U.S. imperialists may scare the faint-hearted but can never intimidate revolutionary people. However savagely the U.S. imperialists suppress the people's revolutionary struggles, the flames of the people's revolution can never be quenched. Is there not a most convincing proof in the surging national-democratic revolutionary movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America and in the fact that the people's struggle against U.S. imperialism is growing in breadth and depth in all countries?

The Khrushchev revisionists completely ignore this important historical lesson of the Anti-Fascist War. They have lost confidence in the struggle against imperialism, they have never had faith in the great strength of the people, in the ability of the people of all countries to win victory in their revolutionary struggles. They believe one hundred percent in the theory that "weapons decide everything." All they see is the nuclear weapons in the hands of the U.S. imperialists, and they tremble with fear. They play up the horrors of war and preach the philosophy of survival -- "What is the use of principles if one's head is chopped off?" -- in order to intimidate the people and to oppose and, indeed, sabotage the people's revolutionary struggles in all countries. They have degenerated into willing propagandists for the U.S. imperialists' policy of nuclear blackmail.

In the fourth place, the history of the Anti-Fascist War shows that, in order to defeat the imperialist aggressors, it is imperative to

rely upon the unity of the people's revolutionary forces in all countries, win over to our side all the forces that can be won over, form the broadest possible international united front, and concentrate our blows on the main enemy of the people of the world.

The victory won in the Anti-Fascist War was a victory of the broad international united front against fascism. As far back as 23 June 1941, the day after the outbreak of the Soviet-German war, Comrade Mao Tse-tung clearly pointed out:

For Communists throughout the world the task now is to mobilize the people of all countries and organize an international united front to fight fascism and defend the Soviet Union, defend China, and defend the freedom and independence of all nations. In the present period, every effort must be concentrated on combating fascist enslavement. (13)

At that time, the German, Italian and Japanese fascists constituted the gravest menace to mankind; they started aggressive wars and formed the centre of world reaction. To oppose fascist aggression and enslavement was the common fighting task of the people of all countries. The people were the basic force combating fascism. It was because all the different peoples supported each other and fought shoulder to shoulder that the Anti-Fascist War was won.

The Soviet Union, which was the only socialist country at the time, was the main force in annihilating the German fascists and played the decisive role in defeating fascism. The Chinese people waged their revolutionary war against Japanese imperialism, for a very long time on their own, and made a most significant contribution to victory in the Anti-Fascist War. Likewise, the people of many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and America made their own contribution to the Anti-Fascist War. The people of the countries occupied by German, Italian and Japanese fascism either persisted in guerrilla warfare and underground struggles at home, or organized themselves into armies abroad which later fought their way back to their own countries. In the latter period of the War, the people in some countries successfully staged armed uprisings and liberated large tracts of their territory, or sent troops to join in the pursuit of the fascist hordes and to support the people's liberation struggle in other countries after their own countries had been freed. In Germany, Italy and Japan, the masses of the people also resisted fascist rule at home in various ways, up to and including armed struggle, and supported the struggle of other peoples suffering from fascist aggression and enslavement. All these struggles contributed to victory in the Anti-Fascist War and each occupies a place of honor in the history of the War. The Khrushchev revisionists, however, try at one stroke to write off the role played by the people of all other countries in the Anti-Fascist War, arrogantly declaring that the Soviet Union was "the only force smashing the German fascist machine." By this they try to promote their great-power chauvinism and demand that all countries which were helped by the

Soviet army should obey their orders, submit to their control and bullying, and put up with their exploitation.

The history of the Anti-Fascist War teaches us that the imperialist countries do not form a monolithic bloc. Owing to the uneven development of capitalism, the German, Italian and Japanese fascists struck first at the spheres of influence of Britain, France and the United States. Although in the early stages of the War the British, French and U.S. imperialists first followed the appeasers' policy of conniving at aggression, and then for a time after the outbreak of the Soviet-German war followed the policy of "sitting on top of the mountain to watch the tigers fight," there were irreconcilable contradictions between them and the German, Italian and Japanese fascists. They finally joined the anti-fascist ranks for their own interests.

Obviously, it would have been impossible to win the War without the unity of all the forces that could be united against fascism and without a broad, worldwide united anti-fascist front.

Since the War U.S. imperialism has become the principal enemy of the people of the world. It is now the world's biggest monopoly capitalist power and the chief prop of every reactionary force. The armed interventions and wars of aggression it is launching one after another in different parts of the world are a grave menace to world peace. U.S. imperialism today is taking the same path as that travelled by German, Italian and Japanese fascism over twenty years ago.

U.S. imperialism is indulging in unscrupulous military threats and war provocations against the socialist countries and brazenly suppressing the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples and nations. This demands the formation of a close-knit militant alliance by the socialist countries and all the oppressed peoples and nations against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

At the same time, U.S. imperialism is intensifying its control over and bullying of all its allies in the political, economic and military spheres. There are irreconcilable contradictions between the United States and its allies, who, in their own interests, are likely to take action against U.S. imperialism on one issue or another sooner or later.

It is therefore the common task of the people of the whole world to unite all the forces that can be united, direct the spearhead of their struggle against U.S. imperialism and concentrate their forces on combating the main enemy.

In view of this situation, Comrade Mao Tse-tung has issued a great call for the formation of an international united front against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. He said:

The people of the countries in the socialist camp should unite, the people of the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America should unite, the people of the continents of the world should unite, all peace-loving countries and all countries that are subject to U.S. aggression, control, interference and bullying should unite, and should form the broadest united front to oppose the U.S. imperialist policies of aggression and war and to safeguard world peace. (14)

This international united front is now growing and expanding. Making enemies all over the world, U.S. imperialism is inevitably meeting with resistance everywhere. It is becoming increasingly isolated and is besieged ring on ring by the people of the world.

The Khrushchev revisionists completely ignore this important historical lesson of the Anti-Fascist War. They have betrayed proletarian internationalism, and have been treating enemies as friends and vice versa. Instead of uniting with all possible forces against U.S. imperialism, they are bent on aligning themselves with U.S. imperialism against the people of the world and on realizing U.S.-Soviet world hegemony. Obstinate persisting in their schismatic line, they undermine the unity of the socialist camp and the international communist movement and regard the fraternal countries and Parties which adhere to Marxism-Leninism as their enemies. Despite the U.S. imperialist expansion of the war of aggression in Viet Nam and the acute need for unity against the enemy, they held the Moscow meeting in March, which was a grave step to split the international communist movement.

The successors to Khrushchev are now talking loudly about "unity against the enemy" and "concerted action." This is nothing but a swindle. We would like to ask: Who exactly is the enemy you wish to confront? Is it U.S. imperialism or the revolutionary people of the world? What is the purpose of the concerted action you demand? Is it to combat U.S. imperialism, or to surrender to it? What is the basis of the unity you demand? Is it Marxism-Leninism, or Khrushchev revisionism?

How can you expect "concerted action" with the Marxist-Leninists and the masses of the people in all countries, who constitute over 90 percent of the world's population, when you persist in the revisionist line laid down at the 20th and 22nd Congresses and embodied in the Programme of the CPSU, and when you persist in the line of "Soviet-U.S. cooperation for the domination of the world?" Do you want us to join you and work for revisionism and submit to your line of "Soviet-U.S. cooperation for the domination of the world?" To speak frankly, that will never happen.

In short, to assess the history of the Anti-Fascist War correctly and to draw the necessary lessons from it is not merely a matter of assessing history, it is also of profound practical significance. Here the difference between the Khrushchev revisionists and ourselves is in essence a difference over whether or not to oppose imperialism, whether

or not to make revolution and whether to have genuine unity or sham unity, and, in the last analysis, it is the difference between loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and its betrayal.

The great Lenin told us that "a struggle against imperialism that is not closely linked up with the struggle against opportunism is an idle phrase, or a fraud." (15) The postwar practice of revolutionary struggle by the people of various countries has proved that one must follow the Marxist-Leninist line if one wants to expand the forces of revolution, promote the revolutionary cause and defend world peace. If, instead, one acts in accordance with the Khrushchev revisionist line, the inevitable result is to weaken the forces of revolution, ruin the revolutionary cause and endanger world peace. We must thoroughly expose the true face of Khrushchev revisionism, eliminate its influence and carry the struggle against it through to the end in order to promote the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples and nations, smash the U.S. imperialist plans for aggression and war and defend world peace, and in order to expand the united front against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

Today, the whole world is faced with the grave danger of the extension of the war of aggression in Viet Nam by U.S. imperialism. The Viet Nam question is the focal point in the present worldwide struggle between the revolutionary forces of the people and the forces of counter-revolution, between the forces of peace and the forces of war. The heroic patriotic struggle of the 30 million people of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression is not only a struggle to defend and reunify their fatherland, but also a struggle to safeguard world peace. It is the bounden international duty of all revolutionary forces and all peace-loving countries and people to support and aid the Vietnamese people in their struggle.

More recently, U.S. imperialism has dispatched large numbers of troops to invade the Dominican Republic in its attempt to suppress the struggle of the Dominican people to overthrow the traitorous dictatorial rule in their own country. This constitutes not only a wanton interference in the internal affairs of the Dominican Republic, but also an act of provocation to the people of Latin America and to the people of the whole world who have the sacred right to safeguard their own national independence and win democracy and freedom.

U.S. imperialism is still carrying on intervention and aggression in Laos, Cambodia, South Korea and Japan. In collusion with British imperialism, it has created "Malaysia" and is committing aggression against Indonesia. It is trying to put down the revolutionary movement of the people of the Congo (Leopoldville) by armed force. It is using Israel to menace the Arab countries. It is continuing its disruptive and subversive activities against Cuba. It is fostering West German militarism and attempting to grab West Berlin and subvert the German Democratic Republic. It is also perpetrating many other crimes in other countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania and Europe. It is also a bounden international duty of all revolutionary forces and all peace-loving countries

and peoples to give firm support to the struggles against U.S. imperialism waged by the people in these countries. If the U.S. aggressors are allowed to do whatever they please and the modern revisionists are allowed to conspire with them and sell out the interests of the peoples, that will only whet the appetite of the U.S. imperialists for aggression and encourage them to spread the flames of war. Conversely, if all revolutionary people and all peace-loving countries and peoples unite and act in a determined struggle against U.S. imperialism, they will be able to smash its plans to extend its war of aggression.

The most pressing task facing the people of the world today is to broaden the united front against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, unfold an unprecedentedly powerful mass movement on a world scale, and compel the U.S. aggressors to get out of Viet Nam, out of the Dominican Republic, out of Asia, Africa and Latin America, out of Europe and Oceania, out of all the places they have invaded.

The world situation is now fundamentally different from what it was before the Anti-Fascist War.

The revolutionary forces of the people of the world are now stronger than ever before. Whereas there was then only one socialist state, the Soviet Union, there is now a socialist camp consisting of a number of socialist countries. Wide expanses of Asia, Africa and Latin America have ceased to be the rear areas of imperialism and instead have become the frontlines in the struggle against imperialism. Moreover, the working class and the working people in Western Europe, North America and Oceania are experiencing a new awakening.

The Marxist-Leninist ranks are now stronger than ever before. Steeled in the struggle against modern revisionism, the international communist movement has vastly increased its fighting capacity. Long-tested Marxist-Leninist nuclei of leadership have appeared in many Communist Parties. The forces of Marxism-Leninism are developing even within those Communist Parties that are temporarily dominated by revisionism.

International imperialism has become far weaker. U.S. imperialism is having an increasingly hard time. It is sitting on a volcano which rumbles again and again. The contradictions among the imperialists are growing sharper and their camp is in the process of disintegrating.

The true face of the Khrushchev revisionists as accomplices of the imperialists has been more and more clearly exposed. Their revisionist line is already bankrupt. Everywhere the revisionists are just a handful of people. Even these are jostling each other and parting company. So far from being able to save the lives of the imperialists, the revisionists find that their own thrones are tottering.

In the present world situation, the United States is in a much worse strategic position than was Hitler in his day. It is much more

difficult for the United States to unleash a world war. At the same time, the forces defending world peace are much stronger than twenty years ago. The possibility of averting a world war has enormously increased. Through their common struggle the revolutionary people and the peace-loving countries and people can frustrate the U.S. imperialist plans for aggression and war. The people's cause of world peace, national liberation, people's democracy and socialism is sure to win still greater victories. If, following in Hitler's footsteps, U.S. imperialism dares to impose a world war on the people, it will inevitably come to the same ignominious end as Hitler.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out long ago:

The First World War was followed by the birth of the Soviet Union with a population of 200 million. The Second World War was followed by the emergence of the socialist camp with a combined population of 900 million. If the imperialists insist on launching a third world war, it is certain that several hundred million more will turn to socialism, and then there will not be much room left on earth for the imperialists; it is also likely that the whole structure of imperialism will utterly collapse. (16)

The just cause of the people of the world is bound to triumph!
U.S. imperialism is bound to fail!

Marxism-Leninism is bound to triumph! Revisionism is bound to fail!

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SEEING THE FILM "CONQUERING BERLIN" AGAIN

Following is a translation of an article by Huang Kang (7806 6921) in the Chinese-language periodical Hung Ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 5, 10 May 1965, pages 38-41.

Stalin led the Soviet people
Fearlessly through the flames of war.
Like severe floods or the spring wind we pushed on,
And concluded our march with the victory at Berlin.

-- From "Conquering Berlin" --

"Conquering Berlin" is a famous film of 16 years ago which described the great victory over the German fascists.

This film has been shown in the Soviet Union, in China, and in all parts of the world, and it has been ardently welcomed by the world's revolutionary peoples. It has stimulated their battle determination and revolutionary spirit.

Today, in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the defeat of the German fascists, we again viewed this film with incomparable excitement. In it, we again saw the revolutionary spirit and heroism of the Soviet people and the Soviet armed forces who spared no sacrifices in order to protect the socialist motherland. In it, we again saw the glorious figure of the great commander-in-chief, comrade Stalin, who was leading the Soviet people.

Testing this film out after a period of 16 years, we find that it still serves the revolutionary function of exciting people's hearts and of encouraging a militant spirit.

"Conquering Berlin" is completely different from those revisionist films which outrageously slander the dictatorship of the proletariat, which purposely distort the revolutionary lives of socialist peoples, and which have frantically attacked Stalin. It shows that the Soviet people and armed forces, nurtured for a long time by the proletarian regime and party created by Lenin, and that the Soviet state, under the leadership of the CPSU headed by Stalin, withstood the trials of history's most cruel and difficult war and brought this war to a conclusion by "annihilating Hitler's state

and his criminal chiefs." (1)

This film is completely different from those revisionist ones which shamelessly slander the heroic deeds of the glorious Soviet Red Army generals and men in the anti-fascist war and which intentionally distort the just character of the great war to protect the Soviet motherland. It shows that the high ideological consciousness of the soldiers was the same as that of the highest leaders; it shows that the individual interests of the Soviet people and the Soviet soldiers were fundamentally in accord with the interests of the socialist motherland; it shows that the Soviet people and the Soviet Red Army soldiers fought heroically and with a spirit of self-sacrifice in this just cause.

"Conquering Berlin" is totally different from those pacifist productions which spread terror of war and the capitulationist viewpoint. It is a paean to a just war.

The film shows that when Hitler's fascist bandits, violating their word, launched an attack against the Soviet Union, the Soviet people, possessed of strong determination to defend the socialist motherland and to annihilate the fascist criminals, leaped forward to join the armed forces; and it shows that they doggedly set out on the long, slow expedition which led from the defense of Moscow to the counter-attack against Berlin. With solemn tones and sharp outlines and with deft strokes portraying revolutionary optimism, it shows the heroic battle undertaken by the Soviet people and the Red Army when they were faced with the serious threat of the invading enemy forces.

The film depicts the common Soviet soldier, filled with revolutionary heroism and proletarian ideals, whose motto was "annihilate the enemy if he does not surrender," and who overcame every difficulty in the course of the war.

The film shows that when Stalin expressed his war aims as being "to drive into the lair of the wild fascist beast, to finish off this wild beast which had only been wounded, and to raise the banner of victory on the walls of Berlin," which was to encourage and arm the whole of the Soviet armed forces, he continued to receive the strong support of the motherland and the limitless encouragement of the peoples of the world. Thus nothing could hinder the conquest of Berlin. (2)

"Conquering Berlin", based on moving historical facts, not only describes the indivisible unity of the Soviet armed forces' front lines and rear areas, but it also stresses the important, crucial leadership activities of the headquarters for the war, of the highest commanding officers. The film honestly illustrates how the highest Soviet headquarters, under the leadership of Stalin, led the Soviet people and the Red Army to seize victory in the anti-fascist war.

From the film we also see that when the fascist forces of Hitler drove on into the Soviet hinterlands, and when even the safety of the capital was severely menaced, Stalin personally guided the defense of Moscow. When the situation was in this serious stage, he predicted the general trend in the development of things.

From the film we also see that in that serious stage Stalin tolerantly listened to the battle reports of the frontline commanders at a meeting

of the supreme Soviet command, and then in firm tones he made a penetrating analysis of the development of the war. Stalin said: "The wealth of Western Europe is completely controlled by Hitler's Germany. The population is huge. We must not ignore this. We must be firm and reduce the enemy's strength. We must in time overcome the enemy, so as to enable us to make preparations for the future counter-attack." He also said: "Hitler's reckless tactics are for the purpose of throwing us into a panic. If we remain steadfast, this will be the same as defeating his plans."

This scene in the film took place on 6 November 1941, the eve of Stalin's speech at a troop review in Red Square on the 24th anniversary of the October Revolution (in which he pointed out the bankruptcy of the enemy's "blitzkrieg.") In actuality, just ten days after the German-Soviet war broke out, on 3 July of that year, in his famous "radio broadcast" Stalin noted that the German military superiority was only a temporary thing, and that it would give way to the Soviet Union's huge political superiority, for the latter was "the important, long-range factor." (3) Not long after this, on 23 February 1942, in the "orders by the chief of the National Defense People's Committee" Stalin again argued: "The fate of present wars will not be determined by the accidental factor of surprize. But it will be determined by those constant factors: The consolidation of the rear lines, the battle spirit of the armed forces, the quantity and quality of the forces, the equipment of the armed forces, and the organizational ability of the leading officers." In this Stalin again stressed: "This must be pointed out: If the German fascist army were to lose its factor of surprize, the army would be immediately on the verge of collapse." (4)

"Conquering Berlin" reflects the historical reality. With abundant facts from actual life as proof, and using sharp and easily defined positions, it graphically demonstrates the correctness of Stalin's decisions on the questions of the war. And it shows the leading role of these decisions in the war.

The film shows that the supreme Soviet headquarters, under the command of Stalin, adopted a positive defensive strategy. And this was an important factor in the Soviet victory.

In the film, after complete victory in the war under Stalin's command, Stalin said: "Very good; the counter-attack which is completely prepared is the most invincible assault." In fact, in the second year after the end of the war, in February 1946, Stalin solemnly recounted his military leadership thought in an open letter. He wrote: "The counter-attack I refer to is the one which takes place after the enemy has advanced smoothly but has produced no decisive results. During the enemy advance, the defensive side gathers its forces and then launches a counter-attack, which results in a decisive defeat for the enemy. I believe that a well-organized counter-attack is a very significant form of offensive." (5) The battle of Stalingrad, which was the turning point in the war, was carried out under this important military principle.

As stated above, "Conquering Berlin" accurately and verifiably describes the eternal accomplishment of the Soviet people and the Red Army, under the leadership of the supreme commanders, in defeating the German fascists.

On the one hand, this film describes how the Soviet people and the

Red Army, under the leadership of Stalin, took on the burden of opposing Hitler's Germany and its evil cohorts; it depicts the dauntless struggle in opposing the fascist army and the tyrannical rule, and how this won the love and respect of all peace-loving peoples. On the other hand, the film also portrays: Due to the fact that the Red Army's victory basically undermined Hitler's military machine, the entire course of World War Two was changed, which hastened the collapse of Hitler's forces and his satellite forces. Thus, Hitler pinned his last hopes on further collusion with the English and American reactionary forces, by which he hoped to rescue himself from annihilation.

The film exposes the fact that the British and U.S. imperialists secretly conspired in the evil plots of Hitler. It shows how the Soviet leaders, headed by Stalin, undertook a sharp struggle at the Yalta Conference with the Churchill group which harbored unfathomable ideas, and how they gave a setback to the British and U.S. Imperialists' policy of sitting by and looking on. It shows how they protected the anti-fascist united front throughout the world, united all forces possible, and thus guaranteed victory in the anti-fascist war.

At the end of the film, Stalin has begun the champion for the peoples' struggle against fascism, and he appears amidst the welcoming cries of the European masses which have been liberated. Stalin says to the masses surging around him: "From today on, history, facing the peace-loving peoples, has again expanded its path." "Everyone of us can bravely look towards our own future."

Twenty years have already passed since the collapse of the German fascists who were hoping to rule the world.

On one day in early summer 20 years ago, Stalin stood in front of Lenin's tomb and reviewed the triumphant forces from every front which he commanded. That was on 24 June 1945. On that day, the Soviet battle troops, which were taking part in this victory review in Red Square, the naval forces and the officers and men of the Moscow home-defense guard carried the banners of the defeated and annihilated German fascist forces to the front of the reviewing stand and threw them at the feet of the Soviet people, who were shouting with joy at the victory, and in front of the great stone steps leading into Lenin's tomb.

The sounds of triumphant marching by the Red Army in this review are still not too distant. Another viewing of the film "Conquering Berlin" makes one think of the historical experience in the anti-fascist war: We must cherish no illusions about imperialism, and we must undertake an uncompromising struggle with it; the strength of the people is invincible, and imperialism can be defeated; the socialist system is incomparably superior, and states with a dictatorship of the proletariat are invincible.

Today, U.S. imperialism has taken on the cloak of Hitler's fascism, in a vain attempt to rule the world. It carries out tyrannical actions everywhere and stretches its aggressive claws into every part of the world. Proletarians of the world and all oppressed peoples and nationalities must unite to oppose imperialism headed by the U.S. and the reactionaries, to oppose the capitulationist policies of the modern revisionists who undermine the peoples' revolutionary causes, and to strive for world peace, for national liberation, for people's democracy, and for socialism.

The revolutionary peoples of the world will surely accept the historical experience in overcoming the German fascists and engage in an unrelenting struggle. The future of the world certainly belongs to the peoples of the world.

Footnotes:

(1) Stalin: A report on 6 November 1942 at the meeting of the Moscow Workers' Representative Soviet, the Moscow party organization, and social groups, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

(2) Stalin: A report on 6 November 1944 at the same type of meeting in commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

(3) Stalin: A radio talk on 3 July 1941.

(4) Stalin: Orders by the National Defense People's Committee on 23 February 1942.

(5) Stalin: 23 February 1946, "A Reply to Comrade La-hsin."

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