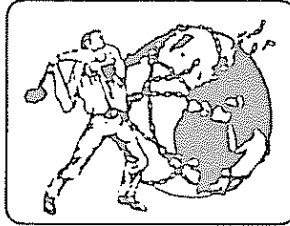


# GEGEN DIE STROMUNG



Organ for the Building of the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany

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50 years ago, German imperialism attacked the then-socialist Soviet Union:

## No Illusions About West/German Imperialism!

With the Nazi-German attack on the socialist Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, German imperialism was pursuing a number of far-reaching goals. After having successfully forced its program of a "New Order in Europe" upon almost all of Europe by means of war and terror, and having transformed that area into its own hinterland, it saw that the time was now ripe to deal with the Soviet Union, the most powerful opponent of that program and the most decisive road-block on the path to world domination.

From the very outset, the Nazis made no secret of the fact that what, in their jargon, they called the "Jewish-Bolshevik World Conspiracy," was their main enemy. Blood-thirsty anti-communism and barbaric racial hatred were characteristics and phenomena of Nazi fascism and accompanied the fascist "campaigns of extermination." Under this banner, they implemented the enslavement of other peoples under the knout of German imperialism, and the exploitation of their resources. These goals could only be completely implemented by means of the complete crushing of the socialist Soviet Union. For the Soviet Union, in which the system of exploitation and oppression of the working people, the system of the enslavement and humiliation of peoples, had been removed, was a source of attraction and an example for the exploited and oppressed throughout the world.

German imperialism was possessed of a war machine big enough to match these ambitions, and this was launched against the Soviet Union. The military machine that was set in motion on June 22, 1941 in order to roll over the Soviet Union in a "Blitzkrieg" was the greatest that had ever been committed to a military operation in history. Some 3.8 million soldiers were committed; they required 17,000 railway trains to transport them to the front. The army of conquest was equipped with 600,000 motor vehicles, 3000 tanks, 7000 artillery pieces and 2000 aircraft.

Not only the dimensions of the commitment of soldiers and materiel, but also, and more importantly, the principles according to which war was to be waged made it clear that from the very outset a campaign of annihilation against the system of socialism by means of murderous terror against the peoples of the Soviet Union had been meticulously planned and was being carried out with "German efficiency." These principles included:

the systematic extermination of the Jewish population under the slogan "Final Solution of the Jewish Question"; the extermination of the civilian population of major cities such as Leningrad and Moscow through starvation and bombardment; resettlement and forced removal of the rural population accompanied by mass shootings and planned mass death; systematic murder of prisoners of war through forced labor, starvation, firing squads and poison gas; ruthless murder of civilian and military "commissars" - i.e., all communists; the shooting of hostages in order to break popular resistance to Nazi barbarism (100 civilians

shot in retaliation for each German invader killed); the express exemption of all army personnel from laws, and freedom from prosecution for crimes committed against partisans or the civilian population; the dragging off of those parts of the population which were still capable of working to forced labor - to "annihilation by labor"; planned theft of the wealth of the country and unlimited exploitation of the industrial and agricultural production, with the calculation that civilians would starve and freeze to death by the millions.

Thus instructed, the German Wehrmacht, supported by the SS "Einsatzgruppen" ("operational groups"), sallied forth to remove the power of the working class in the Soviet Union, to break the resistance of the working people against the fascist invaders and to win a victory for the crusade against communism.

The German invaders waded through a sea of blood and destruction: 20 million Soviet citizens became victims of the war, over 700,000 Soviet Jews were either shot outright or murdered in the extermination camps with poison gas. In the occupied territories, 15 major cities and more than 1700 smaller towns, as well as some 70,000 villages were entirely or partially devastated. The destruction of 6 million houses left 25 million people homeless. A third of the cultivated land reverted to wasteland, almost half the industrial capacity was destroyed.

As their defeat loomed, the Nazi monster

"After its defeat, Germany will of course be disarmed, economically as well as militarily and politically. It would, however, be naïve to suppose that Germany would not attempt to regain its power and to move toward renewed aggression. It is well-known that those who wield power in Germany are even now arming for a new war. History has shown that a brief period of time, only 20 to 30 years, is sufficient for Germany to recover from her defeat and reestablish her power."  
(Stalin, "The 27th Anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution," Nov. 6 1944, collected works, volume 14, pg. 367, German edition)

made every effort to leave behind nothing but "scorched earth" as it withdrew from the Soviet Union.

But Nazi Germany had miscalculated. The German imperialists had stretched their greedy jaws to far open, in order to swallow the Soviet Union, but the morsel was too large. German Communist leader Ernst Thälmann's words, hurled at his tormentors in Brandenburg Penitentiary, were proven to be accurate: "Stalin will break Hitler's back."

**The West/German imperialists and the Gorbachev revisionists cannot erase the memory of the Soviet Union's just war for the defense of socialism and for the liberation of the peoples!**

One of the main Nazi slogans used to justify their whole rapacious war - aside from the openly imperialistic theory of "Gesundstossen" by means of the theft of the wealth of other peoples and the theory of the "lack of living space" - was the "struggle against Bolshevism," against the supposed "dictatorship of Stalin," against the spread of communism. One aspect or the other would be emphasized as the situation required; in this way, the war of conquest was ideologically prepared and later publicly justified.

After the defeat of the Nazis in World War II, this tradition was continued. Although they had been shipwrecked, their ideology had not been lost. German imperialism was indeed defeated, but it was far from smashed; on the contrary, it came back to life. In West Germany, capital grew stronger with each passing year, and recreated an army of aggression, the Bundeswehr, in the tradition of the Wehrmacht. And once



"The Russian must die so that we may live" - the battle cry of fascist German Wehrmacht in its attack on Stalin's socialist Soviet Union.

again, the guiding slogan used to justify a war against "the East" was the "struggle against communism." German imperialism's war of 1939-1945 was described as "bad" (especially the fact that it had been lost), but, it was added, Stalin had not been one iota better than Hitler.

Today, these products of the poison-plant of anti-communism are being warmed over in order to slander the just character of the Soviet Union under Stalin. In this regard, it is especially the West/German imperialists who, as a quid-pro-quo for billions in credits, are receiving supporting fire from the Gorbachev revisionists who - following in the footsteps of Khrushchev - will stoop to any "exposé", any slander in order to sell the capitalist-revisionist system of exploitation in the Soviet Union as an "alternative" to socialism under the leadership of Stalin.

For West/German imperialism, this is not only useful as confirmation of its decade-old propaganda claiming that socialism cannot work and amounts to nothing more than "totalitarianism." They have coolly calculated it as a means to dilute and justify the crimes of German imperialism, which are supposed to sink into oblivion, and of obscuring the historical continuity of German imperialism up to the present day.

In reality, the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi fascism cannot be separated from the fact that the Soviet Union was engaged in a just war of liberation against German occupation in order to defend socialism. It was this moral superiority which gave rise in the peoples of the Soviet Union to that great confidence in victory which Stalin had expressed as early as half a year after the attack by the Nazi armies:

**"The mere fact that the German robbers, who have lost all human appearance, have long since sunken to the level of wild beasts in their moral depravity, this fact alone indicates that they have been delivered to inevitable defeat."**  
(Stalin, "The 24th Anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution," Nov. 6 1941, collected works, volume 14, pg. 254 German edition)

But this was not the only reason, and not even the most important reason, why the smashing of the Soviet Union by the greatest military machine in history was doomed to fail. True, the Soviet Union and the Red Army suffered great losses at the outset of the war, and the fascist Wehrmacht was able to fight its way to the outskirts of Moscow. But in the long run, it was inevitable that factors which made the socialist system of the Soviet Union superior to imperialist-capitalist Nazi Germany would take effect.

## **The Victory over Nazi Fascism is inseparably tied to the name of Stalin!**

For the peoples of the Soviet Union were not only fighting against an external enemy who was destroying their country, they were also fighting for their power and for their revolutionary accomplishments. In the socialist Soviet Union of that day, the factory owners had been dispossessed, the national economy had been resurrected after the first years of the civil war, and with great effort, heavy industry had been built. The exploitation of the working class had been removed, and the exploiters were prevented by dictatorial means by the majority of the peoples of the Soviet Union from renewing their exploitation of the working people. In the countryside, the bloodsuckers of the rural workers and small peasants, the rich-peasant kulaks, were dispossessed and deprived of influence in a gigantic mass movement. By and large, national oppression was eliminated; residual elements of it were being combatted.

This is the most fundamental reason why Soviet power was successful in creating a strong link between

the rear areas and the front, a link between military, industrial and agricultural production for the front and supply of the civilian population, and why it was able to organize the cooperation of the Red Army and the partisan units for the liberation of the country, and to create that close tie between the peoples of the Soviet Union with their political and military leadership which formed the basis for the victory over fascism. This victory is very closely tied to the name of Stalin.

The war against the Hitler army was not conducted by the Soviet Union only in its own interests. Rather, the Soviet Union carried the main burden of the struggle for the liberation of the peoples of the world from Nazi fascism. Ultimately, the German people, too, who had born such a great share of co-responsibility for the crimes of the Nazis, were liberated by the Red Army.

The socialist Soviet Union of Stalin had broken the back of the Hitler gang - that is what the German imperialists will never forgive him for.

## **Ever-stronger West/German Imperialism - an aggressive Imperialist Great Power and a Source of Wars in its own Right!**

When, on May 8 1945, the Red Flag fluttered above the Reichstag in Berlin, German imperialism was beaten but not smashed. The capitalist system was unaffected in western Germany. With the support of the imperialist western powers, who, after 1945, very quickly betrayed the commonly-formulated goals of the Anti-Hitler-Coalition and nurtured badly-wounded German imperialism back to health, particularly against Stalin's Soviet Union, it was very soon possible to get back on the old road to power and glory. Thus, Stalin's prediction, made even before the end of the war (in 1944), in which he had warned of just such a development, was proven true.

Today, a great degree of political blindness is necessary in order to avoid seeing that West/German imperialism has long since become, once again, a great power, economically, politically and militarily, which is striving for world domination in competition with other imperialist great powers such as the USA, the Soviet Union, Britain and France. Greedily, this imperialist great power is thirsting for revenge for the defeat inflicted upon the Nazi fascists, and is preparing for a war for the redivision of the world, for spheres of influence and for markets.

With the process of annexation of the GDR and West Berlin, which has been pushed forward considerably, West/German imperialism has successfully implemented the imperialist project of "reunification," which it has pursued for decades, and has on a large scale expanded its power over all of Germany. In doing so, it was able to largely cancel the limitations which had resulted from the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, and thus to gain a free hand.

Today, its troops are once again on the Polish border, which had been invaded by the Nazi-fascist German Wehrmacht at the beginning of World War II, and had been subjected to a reign of murderous terror. The Federal Republic has never recognized Poland's post-war Oder-Neisse boundary as just.

It is not only that the army of West/German imperialism, which in all respects stands in the tradition of Prussian militarism, and is characterized by the spirit of revenge and great-German chauvinism, has advanced eastward, and is becoming active even internationally - albeit mostly in "humanitarian" disguise. The "peaceful" permeation of influence into Poland and other countries of eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, is also an unmistakable facet of the

growing aggressiveness of West/German imperialism, revisionism and militarism.

The large-scale implementation of the process of incorporation of the GDR and the additional political and economic advance into eastern Europe - which have been given further impetus through the collapse of the revisionist-capitalist regimes - has further increased the danger of war caused by West/German imperialism.

Since the Soviet Union abandoned the socialist road after Stalin's death and took the capitalist road, Stalin's warnings of "new aggression" by a restrengthened Germany bear repetition all the more urgently, and should be recognized to the full extent of their implications. For today, the strong socialist power on which German imperialism once broke its fangs, no longer exists!

## **Vigilance and irreconcilable Struggle!**

West/German imperialism, revanchism and militarism is a great power on the move. The attack on the Soviet Union by German imperialism 50 years ago, the unspeakable enormity of the mass murder, destruction and devastation which it perpetrated with this war, must be kept awake in our consciousness as the unforgettable proof of its criminal nature.

The thread of German history has not been cut. West/German imperialism stands in the tradition of Nazi fascism, for the system of German imperialism which gave rise to it has never been smashed.

The system of West/German imperialism rests upon exploitation and oppression of the vast majority of the population by a minority of capitalists. It oppresses other peoples, plunders them and threatens them with war. As soon as the interests of the exploiting class demand it, the worn-out bourgeois-democratic mask will be completely thrown off.

Drawing lessons from the past therefore means above all:

The working class in West Germany must prepare for the proletarian revolution, a merciless civil war against the exploiters and their lackeys, and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat - without any illusions about West/German imperialism!

## **Death to West/German imperialism, revanchism and militarism!**

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