

U.S. Will Decide Its World Course Nov. 7

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

The United States will in all probability emerge from this war as the most powerful capitalist country in the world. While all the other great powers have been either decimated or severely ravaged by war, this country remains practically uninjured. From the standpoint of its industry, its sea and air fleets, and its armed forces, its strength, indeed, has been vastly increased.

The great power of the United States, in the midst of a war-devastated world, thrusts upon this country heavy responsibilities of international leadership. These responsibilities cannot be avoided. The whole world will be looking demanding towards America for it especially to use its splendid industrial equipment constructively to help humanity out of the terrible hardships and impoverishment into which it has been plunged by this war. If the United States, is to escape internal crisis it is imperative that it use its strength in this way.

There are two general ways for the United States to face up to its grave responsibilities to its own people and the rest of the world. The



first and constructive manner is along the lines laid down at Teheran, which is the Roosevelt way. That is, to follow a policy of close and democratic collaboration with all the other peace-loving peoples of the world to win the war, to build a strong world organization to maintain the peace, to strengthen world democracy, and to bring about world economic rehabilitation.

Especially with regard to its economic program will the United States be called upon to exercise real democratic statesmanship in the postwar period. It must be prepared to remove its tariff-barriers, to grant long term—low rate loans, and to join wholeheartedly with other countries to strengthen their economic system. These things it must do to a degree that we hardly dream of at the present time. The welfare of our country, as well as that of the whole world, depends upon the United States thus exercising constructively its present position.

The other way to meet our nation's grave world responsibility is the Dewey way; that is, to take the path of aggressive American im-

perialism, to make an attempt by the United States to exploit its strong world position through dominating the rest of the world. This is the perspective that the reactionary forces behind Dewey — the Hearsts, Hoovers, Pews, Girdlers, duPonts, etc.—have in mind. They see the advantageous world position the United States occupies at the present time and they are determined to exploit it for the benefit of the great monopolistic interests.

While at the moment, in their need to capture votes for Dewey in the elections, these people have suddenly blossomed forth as ardent collaborationists with other countries, nevertheless, could they put their candidate into the White House, they would at once embark upon a policy of American imperialist aggrandizement in all parts of the world. With the great American industrial system at their disposal, they figure they would be able to dominate the world's markets; with seven-eighths of the world's gold supply hidden away at Fort Knox, they are sure they could control the financial arrangements of the world, and with this country's great armed forces, they believe they could overawe any power that might dare to oppose them.

By maneuver and pressure, especially directed against the USSR, which these imperialists feel to be the most serious obstacle to their postwar program of world conquest, they would undertake to push on until the world's leaders would have to come, hat-in-hand, to Washington to beg favors and to receive instructions.

GOP PROGRAM DEADLY

The Dewey program of American world domination is a wild fantasy. It is suicidal. It could not possibly be achieved, and any attempt to realize it could only result in national and international disaster. Strong as the United States may be at this time, such a policy on its part as a Dewey administration would try to put into effect, would throw our country into fatal collision with the great economic and political forces that have been generated by this war. The inevitable result would be economic chaos and an urgent danger of a new world war.

At the heart of the present Presidential election, therefore, stands this question of how the United States is going to exercise its great prestige and strength in this war-torn world. If Roosevelt is elected it will mean that our country, working in a spirit of political equality with Great Britain, the USSR, China and the rest of the United Nations, will apply its great power and leadership for the rebuilding of the world (which is also the only way it can construct and maintain its own prosperity).

But if Dewey should be elected, it would mean that the United States government, having in mind its own imperialist aggrandizement at the expense of other people, would use its huge strength in ways that could only bring the world face to face with another catastrophe.

This is the great question the American people have to decide on Nov. 7: Shall the United States, in the true spirit of the American people, exercise its leading position as the world's strongest capitalist power constructively and democratically with other nations, to the benefit of all? Or shall it, in the spirit of the reactionaries and exploiters, use its great power in an effort to grab world domination for itself, and thus inflict fresh ruin upon all humanity?

For a generation after our great Revolution of 1776 the United States stood in the very forefront of the world fight for democracy. Will it now be able to live up to this great democratic tradition in the postwar period and be an inspiration and tower of strength to the world's democratic forces under a Roosevelt? Or will it become the spearhead of world reaction under a Dewey? That is the question.

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