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SECOND EDITORIAL

I CAME, I SAW, I CONQUERED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The London *Spectator* in an editorial article on the Chinese situation says: "It is not the strong States that are dangerous to the peace of the world, but the weak ones, such as Spain, Turkey and China." As coldly as one might discuss dividing apples among children, the capitalist press discusses the partitioning of China among the strong States, and never a mention is made of the "rights" of the "weak States," or of that "individuality" which the capitalists claim to be the special guardians of.

It is only when the interests of the capitalist class are assailed in any way that the cry of "rights" is raised. The taking of property only becomes "confiscation" when the property belongs to the ruling class. This is true within and without the national boundaries, and the bourgeoisie indulges in no cant when it speaks of the "sacredness of private property," because always and ever it means capitalist private property.

As the capitalist class increases in strength it demands a powerful governmental weapon to extend the sphere of its exploitation; it needs a strong State. Hence, those States whose position or form render them unfit for this purpose must suffer the fate of out-worn and antiquated machinery: they are broken up, and whatever material is in them that may still be useful goes to the upbuilding of the modern implement; the rest goes to the rubbish heap.

The capitalist class is not averse to patriotism and national traditions—while these may be made a source of profit. It does not destroy the family—until the family life becomes inimical to profits. It supports and fosters religion—as long as it yields a good per cent. It does not support prostitution for the love of prostitution per se, but because prostitution is necessary to the existence of the capitalist class. It does not make war for glory or fun, but as a business transaction.

With the cash nexus as the only tie that binds; with profits and even more profits as its goal; the capitalist class marches on over the ruins of out-worn

systems, institutions and traditions to the smashing and plundering of “weak States.” From every battlefield it sends Caesar’s message “I came, I saw, I conquered.”

But on its heels marches a power that some day the bourgeoisie must turn and face. Not a “weak State,” not an antiquated and decaying nation, but a class, virile, young and eager for the fray. Physically, mentally and morally superior to the capitalist, the proletariat will make short work in the death grapple.

The proletariat will send from the battlefield where it meets the rough-handed smasher of “Weak States” the same message the capitalist was wont to send:

“I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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