

FINLAND FIGHTS FOR LIFE— HER OWN AND THAT OF EUROPE

Lies and terror are the Soviet and Nazi weapons

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IT is not merely that Finland refuses to yield to terror. It is not merely that the renowned Red army, up to date (January 19), may be said to have made war on the men of Finland with exceedingly small success. Against the women and children of Finland, against patients and nurses in hospitals, they have, up to now, waged war much more successfully.

In the little villages, with no combatants and with no protection against air raids, in places which the small Finnish air force cannot reach and defend, they have successfully smashed cottages and houses by the hundred. They have forced the inhabitants to flee, at a temperature of twenty-two below zero, along the open roads where Soviet planes can let their machine guns play full bore against the caravans of women and children.

Our Norwegian ambulances tell us about it. During the few days they have been active over there, they have experienced what it means to bring patients down to bombproof rooms—which very often are not so very bombproof after all. People with double pneumonia, men who have just undergone an amputation, who a moment ago had to be given blood transfusions, must be dressed in a room where the icy air streams in through burst windows. Then they must be brought somewhere—to some place which is less exposed. Now they remove the Red Cross marks from hospital roofs and ambulances: no good to call the Russians' attention to their favorite targets.

Up to now, the Finnish soldiers have succeeded in the defense of their frontiers against forces exceedingly superior in numbers. But they cannot possibly succeed in the long run. They know it themselves: not unless they get support, men and arms. It is urgent, time is pressing.

They cannot defend the civilian population in those parts of the country that are remote from their long front line. They know they could manage that, too, if they could get a sufficient number of fighters and guns, get their air defenses sufficiently strengthened. But it is urgent.

Democracies will never fight, democracies are too rotten—we have all heard that sneer of the dictators. Well, Finland fights for her life as a nation. But Finland's battle concerns the whole civilized

world. God knows, democracies are not immaculate; all of them have many and heavy sins to account for. Promises and treaties were broken before our world saw the rise of totalitarian states. Politics used crooked ways, deceit and lies before that time, too. Yet there was always present some sort of common sense in the nations; a warning voice which said: Truth is the safest foundation to build upon; the Lie is a thing one ought to resist.

In reality, the most horrible thing about the concept of the new Totalitarian States is this: on principle, they prefer to work *with* lies. Here is a perfectly grotesque fact. In our times we are fully aware that, where the so-called exact sciences are concerned, in physics or medicine for instance, the urgent demand is truthfulness, in the widest meaning of this concept. Straight thinking, an incorruptible will to make precise observations, a conscientious manipulation of every scrap of material in hand is demanded, lest the work should be entirely wasted. Where the social sciences are concerned, however, when it comes to work upon the minds of men, leading men of our times put their trust in lies above everything else.

With lies and with terror National Socialism and National Communism are striving to foster in the human intellect all the qualities that will make it impotent to think straight, that will weaken its sense of realities.

Truly, this is Fates' most cruel irony! The white man has, for some centuries, prided himself on the advance of enlightenment. He has scornfully looked back upon the superstitions of the "Dark Centuries"—which mostly were conditioned by erroneous interpretations of sound observations, in many cases because men lacked scientific means of control, and mostly were given in perfectly good faith.

But now we have lived to see men who felt themselves called to be the leaders of their people deliberately propagate superstitions which they cannot possibly believe in themselves. They use all the means of modern propaganda and educational technique to prevent men in their countries from thinking for themselves, and thus from being less easily led in the way their leaders would drive them.

On such ideologies you cannot build a society.

The nations that cultivate them *must* attempt the subjection of their neighboring nations, must suck the life-blood out of them in order to prolong their own existence for a while, must march on for fresh prey. If they succeed in their desire of destroying Europe, they must try to win support on the other continents. They must inculcate their lethal ideologies in the nations overseas, they must provoke war on every continent. There is a possibility that this may happen. If Finland succumbs, it surely will happen.

World cultures have broken down before now. Large culture-creating people have been reduced to small vegetating tribes of fellahin. Now it is our European-American culture which is at stake. It is built on our classical inheritance which, among other things, is the foundation of all our scientific and of all our technical progress. It is founded on Christianity which maintained that no human being is entirely without worth or dignity, since they were one and all of such worth that a God should die for them. This is the foundation of the democratic view of life.

The states that have been built on democracy are far from being immaculate or free from sin.

Nor are the individuals who call themselves democrats free from guilt. But the democratic conception of human life will eternally contain the elements necessary for a possible regeneration of human society, for social adjustment and bettering of the peoples' conditions under leadership of the fittest individuals, namely, the men and women who have the courage and the will to respect truth, whether they seek the true laws of the nature that environs us, or the truth about our human nature.

This is exactly what Finland fights for. Shall her battle end in the victory of a conception of life which, in spite of human imperfections, contains all the elements that a culture can live by, because it respects realities and truths?

Or shall the victory be with those ideologies which, forever, will be impotent to fulfil their promises of building some new and splendid future world. Their building activity is a dream activity, directed by wishful thinking, while their actual activity will always be destructive, since it disregards truth.

This is why Finland's battle is a battle for the future of all Europe. And for the future of the Americas, too, be sure of that!