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The Reemergence of the Inter-imperialist Struggle

There are certain fundamental trends inherent in the world system of the capitalist mode of production which cannot be overcome except on the basis of a revolutionary socialist reconstruction of society.

In the absence of such a reconstruction these trends appear and reappear again and again. It should be noted that these fundamental trends, which were already visible during the early stage of capitalist commodity production, became an overriding and irresistible tendency at the turn of the last century with the transformation of the old competitive capitalist system into full-fledged monopoly capitalism.

The most significant trend is the continuing struggle among the various huge capitalist cliques and combines, which are grouped into powerful multi-national corporations, to grab ever-larger shares of the world market. It is the operation of these powerful combines and multi-national conglomerates which has transformed the world market into a virtual combat zone for the most ferocious struggle between the largest capitalist states for the lion's share of the market.

In this struggle, each of the leading imperialist countries inevitably tries to line up the smaller capitalist countries as well as the oppressed countries on their respective sides.

While this struggle can be temporarily delayed, driven underground, or diverted, it nevertheless has reemerged again and again, two frightful, bloody imperialist wars notwithstanding.

Thus, the struggle waged between capitalist Germany and Britain since the early 1890s for industrial and economic hege-