colonial empires, though they never relinquished all their "possessions." This situation was ripe for U.S. imperialism, who had profitted economically from the war and whose country had not been devastated by it. For the first time, the U.S. imperialists became the leading exploiters and oppressors in sections of Asia and Africa, replacing the British, French, German, Italian and Japanese imperialists. The super-profits extracted from these countries and from oppressed nations in Latin America were a tremendous boost to the domestic economy. A final major economic reason for U.S. superiority after the war was U.S. imperialism's ability to dominate the West European and Japanese imperialist economies. The West European and Japanese bourgeoisie came out of the war heavily war damaged and deeply in debt to U.S. imperialism. The European Recovery Program (Marshal Plan) was used to bring the bourgeoisie of those countries under the hegemony of U.S. imperialism. All of these reasons combined to give the U.S. of North America the premier position in the imperialist world. For many years it was able to lord it over the West European and Japanese bourgeoisies and the oppressed nations with its various international imperialist aids: the United Nations, NATO, Agency for International Development (AID), the gold/dollar system, and others.

Through its hegemony over other capitalist and imperialist economies, and its brutal domination of oppressed nations, U.S. imperialism was able to provide its population with a relatively higher standard of living than that which existed in the colonies. Within this context, a significant stratum of workers were temporarily added to the already existing aristocracy of labor, who had primarily consisted of organized, skilled workers. The temporary, new arrivals to the labor aristocracy, in the main came from among labor unions organized in the immediately preceding decades. It can be seen that the temporary, relative, economic prosperity in this nation was gained through the blood and sweat of workers and toilers in other nations.

With the development of a large aristocracy of labor, the basis for a revolutionary working-class movement in the U.S. temporarily declined. The U.S. working class for two decades contented itself with struggles for immediate needs. In the labor aristocracy a tolerable life could be obtained without hardly a struggle, and in the lower stratum, the possibility for upward mobility and small benefits greatly influenced their struggles, resulting in a failure to organize and fight the bourgeoisie. The basis for the existence of a revolutionary working class party in the U.S. declined. The "Communist" Party USA, who in the 1940's got workers to fight and kill workers in other countries for the U.S. imperialists' profit, continued these opportunist and chauvinist views of bourgeois support and reformism

after the war. Today the CPUSA differs from the Democratic Party only in that it supports and promotes the "Soviet" "socialist"-imperialists.

From the above discussion it can be seen that U.S. imperialism did achieve a period of world imperialist superiority after World War II, and that this was due to nothing other than imperialist brutality. But this American imperialist hegemony is being challenged on many fronts, as the world imperialist system is impelled toward another economic depression and another imperialist world war looms on the horizon. Many of the countries that were defeated or devastated by imperialist World War II have now risen to challenge the U.S., particularly in the economic sphere. Because of more efficient methods of production, imperialist countries such as Japan and West Germany are now siphoning off U.S. imperialist markets abroad, and are competing successfully with American capitalists here. The "Soviet Union" long ago became a major imperialist power* and increasingly challenges U.S. imperialism worldwide for spheres of influence and plunder. This confrontation is now leading directly to a new imperialist world war. Finally, the U.S. has its hands full keeping its colonies and semi-colonies in line as the masses continue to press forward the revolutionary struggle for actual national liberation and socialism. All this shows that U.S. imperialism cannot continue its hegemonistic position, that the world economic crisis will affect the U.S. deeply, that the U.S. is getting closer to world imperialist war, and that all this will revolutionize the U.S. working class and toilers, and a revolutionary situation will be created in the U.S.

General Economic and Political Conditions within U.S. Imperialism

The current economic crisis facing U.S. imperialism (and all other capitalist and imperialist nations) has adversely affected the masses of people, but disproportionately. For several years now the U.S. economy has suffered from double digit inflation. At one point last year the official inflation rate was as high as 17 per cent. While this gradually undermines the tolerable conditions of life of the bulk of the upper strata of workers, it impoverishes the masses of lower paid workers whose wages and wage increases cannot at all keep up with inflation. It is becoming more and more a question of how the masses will buy basic necessities. Unemployment also continues to rise. The real unemployment rate is actually much higher than government figures indicate. For example, in the ghettos and semi-impoverished areas where most of the urban black masses live, the actual rate of unemployment is estimated to be as high as 30 percent, and 50 percent among black teenagers. Housing is another area where quality continues to

* We are still studying the development of the Soviet Union from a socialist country to imperialist country, how and when this occurred.