

# THE VICTORY THAT SAVED MANKIND

It is forty years since the Second World War ended. That historic event will be celebrated in many lands. The most significant celebrations will take place in Moscow on May 9th. This is the day when Hitler Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Soviet army. The anti-communist West tries to belittle the Soviet Union's wartime role and talks about its own efforts. They try to hide the fact that it was mainly the Soviet Union that saved the world from fascist domination.

## The Forces Behind Hitler

The imperialists try to hide the true causes of the war and the fact that Hitler owed his rise to power to the assistance given by international capital. For it was capitalism's aim to see a militarised Germany crush the Socialist Soviet Union. Hitler at first enjoyed the support of the Western rulers. But later sharp differences between them led to Britain and France declaring war on Germany in September 1939. No serious fighting followed, however, until Hitler's massive invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941.

## On the Soviet-German Front

It was now that the real battles began. The Soviet Union fought almost single handed against Nazi Germany and its fascist allies. The main events of the war were taking place on the Soviet-German front. It was here that Hitler concentrated 250 divisions, millions of troops, thousands of tanks, planes, artillery. Until June 1944, 95% of the German army was on the Soviet front. Hitler's armies had easily overrun Poland, France and most of Europe. The world now saw the fascist armies grind to a halt and then saw them being thrown back. The myth that Hitler could not be beaten was smashed. Through four grim years the Soviet forces fought the gigantic military machine of the fascist bloc and bled it white. The invader was expelled from Soviet land. A dozen countries enslaved by fascism were liberated and the Red Army went on to capture Berlin and crush Hitler's Germany. No-one living through those times could forget the major battles at Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kursk, etc. where Hitler's armies were destroyed. Yet those battles are deliberately minimised in today's capitalist history books.

## The Source of Victory

What was the source of Soviet strength? It was the Soviet people — organised, inspired and led by their communist party — that were the creators of that victory. They fought a just war,



*May 8th, 1945  
A Soviet soldier  
raises the  
red flag  
on Hitler's  
Reichstag  
in Berlin*

in defence of their own Soviet power and socialist system. The Soviet people were united under their great party, determined and ready to sacrifice. By contrast their enemy was fighting for false promises and unjust aims.

The cost of the war was tremendous. Of 50 million that died, 20 million were Soviet. Thousands of cities, towns and villages in the Soviet Union were destroyed. The cost of the war to the Soviet economy was calculated at 2.5-trillion rubles. The USA gained \$52-billion profit and lost 340 000 soldiers.

## In Defence of Peace and Freedom

All this explains why the Soviet people work so hard for peace. The victory over Hitler Germany is the victory of all progressive forces. The Soviet victory helped Socialism to become a world system. It also meant that the national liberation movements were strengthened and colonialism collapsed. This had dramatic results in Africa and Asia and in South Africa too.

It is useful to remind our people that the Verwoerds and Vorsters supported the Nazis. Botha's party idolised Hitler and tried to sabotage South Africa's opposition to him. Communists and ANC members such as Slovo, Bunting, Hodgson and David Mashigo, who this government attacks as unpatriotic, were in the South African army fighting for freedom.

Communists today remain in the forefront of the fight to crush Botha's fascist racism.

**SMASH SOUTH AFRICA'S FASCISTS!**