

Proletariat

CAN WE DO BUSINESS WITH RUSSIA AFTER THE WAR?

Congressman John Coffee

Probably the most tragic mistake in modern diplomacy was the Munich-minded effort to isolate the powerful Soviet Union. There were too many statesmen, now happily no longer in power, who hated her more than they hated Hitler.

Hitler rectified that error for us, much to his sorrow, and in so doing dug his grave.

Until this master-monster sent his Nazi hordes into peaceful Russia, there were many misconceptions about this vast land and its many peoples prevalent in the United States. Their valiant defense of their homeland has been a great service to the forces of freedom and a liberal education to us. The Red Army has taught us how wrong we were.

We have learned that the Soviet Union is not alone a country rich in resources, but that it has a powerful industry which efficiently uses those resources in our common effort.

We have learned that the Russians are not an uneducated, backward people, but a well-trained, able people with a great tradition and culture.

We have learned that, as former Ambassador Davies put it, her people and our people are more alike than almost any others.

It is surprising to me that there are still a few people who wonder whether or not we should do business with Russia after the war. No one questions whether we should "do business" with her now, or how important to us this "business" is. Opposition to doing business with Russia seems to be based upon opposition to her form of government. I think her form of government is no more a concern of ours than is our form of government a concern of hers.

We did business with Hitler even after he started letting the blood of the world. We did business with Czarist Russia, which had a government we all despised.

Russia has more than earned our friendship. Historically our countries, at least until after the World War, were always friends. We got Alaska from her. She is the one major power with which we have never been at war. Today the blood of her almost 200,000,000 citizens is the strongest barrier between Hitler and us.

It is my strong conviction that after we have won this war against the forces of international fascism, we can best insure the world against a similar horror by a policy of cordial friendship with this large, strong and rich country. We can hardly afford not to do business with her.

In the crucible of this war, the most important in the history of humanity, let us fuse this friendship.