

Schuyler's Bloody Dream

By **Doxey Wilkerson**

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER's article in the November Crisis, "A Long War Will Aid the Negro," advances an argument which is both fallacious and dangerous. Moreover, it reveals the curious spectacle of a Negro cynic promoting the cause of fascist reaction.

When stripped of its sociological trimmings and its Nazi-like geo-political embellishments, Schuyler's argument boils down to this: "The longer the war lasts, the swifter will be the trend" toward the complete integration of Negroes into American life. "If the war should end now through a negotiated peace or the sudden collapse of the Axis enemies, it would not have lasted long enough to have effected the economic, social and psychological changes necessary to the elimination of the color line in this country."

Pointing to the revolutionary wartime progress of the Negro people toward freedom, and anticipating (and hoping) for at least five more years of war, Schuyler asks: "If the above changes in the Negro's industrial and military status have occurred in the two preliminary years of America's war participation, is it not logical to suppose that there will be far more changes in the direction of full integration before 1944 rolls around?"

Schuyler's program calls for many more years of murder and slaughter of additional millions of men, women and children throughout the world, and for the further destruction of their homes and factories and villages and cities. This alone stamps it as reactionary in the extreme. But more than this, it is

not "logical." There are at least two relevant and basic considerations which Schuyler's "long-war" argument overlooks—or deliberately ignores.

* * *

FIRST, a long, drawn-out war may bring into dominance in our own country precisely those pro-fascist forces which constitute the greatest menace to Negro freedom. A long war would give Hitler time to rally, to consolidate his fascist hegemony over Europe, and to make a successful bid for a "negotiated peace" which would leave his oppressive regime virtually intact, thus strengthening the forces of reaction throughout the world.

This is why our whole cabal of native American fascists, the deadliest enemies of the Negro people, are working feverishly to prolong the war. They fear a quick and decisive Allied victory, for they know it would upset their plans for a fascist America moving toward the imperialist domination of the world.

But this prospect holds no terrors for journalist Schuyler. Indeed, he looks forward with apparent approval to "a long period of State Capitalism," ("Rude people," he says, "call this Fascism.") He anticipates with enthusiasm "the inevitable preparation for World War III," when "the American Empire will need every available inhabitant, regardless of color, to help" in its defense.

This is no program for Negro freedom; this is naked reaction. If the lessons of this period of world history teach anything, it is that fascism and imperialism lead to the enslavement and destruction of oppressed minority peoples, not to their liberation. The emergence of a fascist-imperialist America from a long war and a negotiated peace would blast all hope of Negro freedom.

SECOND, the only real guarantee of the complete liberation of the Negro people—and it is a very substantial guarantee—lies in the triumph of the democratic forces which now struggle for a quick victory over the Axis and the destruction of fascism. Just as the wartime gains of the Negro people arise primarily from the progressive, liberating character of the war, so the continued extension of Negro freedom depends upon a progressive, liberating peace.

It is not merely because our nation is at war that the Negro's problems are rapidly being solved; it is because we are involved in a progressive war, a people's war of national survival and liberation. Faced with the threat of its own enslavement, our nation has at last joined hands with the progressive forces of the world for the destruction of fascism. This is what makes possible the Negro's effective wartime demands for greater freedom. This is what brings new and powerful allies to his side.

The future of Negro freedom is not to be found in the fascist-imperialist speculations of a George S. Schuyler, but rather in the progressive political realities which are laying, right now, the substantial basis for a just and durable peace. The historic Moscow conference agreements assure the decisive defeat of Hitler, the destruction of fascism, and the liberation of the peoples of Europe. Quick achievement of these goals is certain to release the enormous power of the progressive forces which this people's war has set into motion throughout the world. In the tremendous democratic upsurge which is sure to follow, the reactionary program of the pro-fascist defeatists for whom Schuyler speaks will be swept into oblivion.

