

Toward Freedom

Bases for Confidence In a Freer World

by **Doxey A. Wilkerson**



I HAD a long argument last week with a friend who questioned my confidence that a new freer world for Negroes and other oppressed peoples will emerge from this people's war. He is "certain" that reaction will triumph once the war emergency is over because, he says, "I can only judge the future by the past."

My defeatist friend helped me understand why so many people are cynical about the future—they simply do not grasp the transcendent NEW political and economic facts to which the dominant nations of the world are now impelled to adjust their policies.

First, the most vicious and powerful force of oppression the world has ever known, fascism, is rapidly being destroyed.

Second, the non-imperialist Soviet Union, a socialist country, all of whose economic and other institutions are owned by and operated for the people as a whole, has emerged as one of the truly great nations of our age, and can neither be ignored nor destroyed.

Third, because the capitalist nations, Britain and America, can no longer protect their national interests other than in unity with the world's one socialist nation, they entered into

the Concord of Teheran for victory over their common enemy; and in the recent Crimean pact they consolidated that unity and projected it into the long-time future.

Fourth, reflecting this growing and progressive unity on a world scale, there has been developing a strong national unity within the countries which comprise the United Nations. It is expressed in Europe by the birth of genuinely democratic governments, and in America by the consolidation of all the democratic sections of our country into a powerful force for freedom and security, centering around the progressive program of President Roosevelt.

Fifth, the world unity indispensable for winning the war is likewise essential for building a peace in which the nations of the world can survive and operate their economies on a level which will prevent dire distress among their peoples. Thus it is that the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods political and economic agreements were necessary, and that the San Francisco conference beginning this month must translate into life the progressive perspectives raised by Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill at Crimea.

Sixth, the national unity indispensable for winning the war must likewise be extended and consolidated in the peace, for there is no

other way to defeat those enemies of mankind who now struggle to protect fascism from complete destruction and to block realization of the Crimean perspective for enduring peace and security in the world. Thus it is that the leaders of capital and labor now enter into a long-time pact of national unity, and that new and powerful allies of the Negro continue to move forward in the struggle against Jimcrow oppression.

Seventh, in the process of building a vastly expanded world trade, without which the capitalist nations of the world cannot survive, it will be necessary to industrialize and thus to raise the living standards of many so-called "backward" peoples, and thereby to strengthen their struggles for national liberation.

Eighth, in the process of building the post-war America in which there is full employment for all who want to work—a goal now entirely practicable—the joint struggles of the Negro people and all other progressive sections of our country will weld even more firmly the unity which has emerged from this war, and at the same time destroy the foundations upon which virulent anti-Negroism feeds.

These are the new things my cynical friend fails to see. They afford very substantial bases for confidence that a freer and more secure world will emerge from this war.