

ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL WORLD

Our movement is growing. More and more people are demanding a peaceful resolution of the world's problems. But the threat of war is increasing daily. To be successful in our struggle to achieve a peaceful world, we must understand the source of war. *Today, the overriding cause of war is the struggle for markets.*

Here's why:

Billionaires who care only about profit, privately own the corporations under capitalism. Each produces according to what profits them most, not according to a national or international plan. Each introduces new technology to produce faster and cheaper with fewer workers in order to undercut their competitors. The market eventually becomes glutted with more goods than can be sold. Trade comes to a halt. Factories shut down. Depression sets in. People starve, yet there is plenty of everything. The competition for new markets becomes the basis for destructive wars to corner new markets. The process is ongoing.

However, today's crisis is qualitatively different — and ever more dangerous — than all previous crises. Today's crisis cannot be resolved within the capitalist system. This is because new electronic technology has created permanent overproduction and also, permanent joblessness. Already, almost half the world lives on less than \$2.50 a day. This poverty is rising. Who can afford to buy the mountain of commodities being produced? A cutthroat battle over a shrinking global market has begun. The danger is that everything the U.S. does to encroach on other nations' markets only increases the threat of war. In a world with nuclear weapons, the future of humanity is at stake.

What we can do:

We must demand that the billions spent on war go instead to the health care, education, housing and other necessities that are so desperately needed — and that are in plentiful supply. At the same time, we must recognize that capitalism, a system based on the corporate drive for maximum profit, by its very nature, engenders war. To achieve peace — to end war forever — we, the people, must create a new society that is based on cooperation, not profits, competition and war.

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