

WAS LENIN A RUSSIAN?

By ISRAEL AMTER.

CALVIN COOLIDGE is an American. The Kaiser and Hindenburg are Germans. Clemenceau and Briand are Frenchmen. De Rivera and Alfonsu are Spaniards. Lloyd George and MacDonald are Englishmen.

Was Lenin a Russian? No, Lenin was the greatest internationalist that the world has ever known. By accident he was born in Russia, but he was an internationalist not only in spirit, but in understanding.

Morgan and Rockefeller, Rothschild and Stimson, Armstrong and Baldwin, Loucheur and de Wondel are also internationalists. They are capitalist internationalists, who know their own interests all over the world. But their interests are the interests of a small group of imperialists whose aim it is to conquer the world in their own interests. Their capital is invested in every part of the world, enslaving races and peoples to make profits for them.

Lenin was an internationalist in the interest of the working masses of the world. He showed that he understood not only the Russian workers and poor peasants, but also mastered the situation in all the capitalist and colonial countries of the world. He formulated the methods that the Russian workers and peasants should use in order to get power. He also formulated the methods that the colonial peoples—India, Java, China, Korea, Africa—should employ to throw off the domination of the Morgans, Rockefellers and their sort. He showed to the workers of *all* countries what they must do to put an end to exploitation.

The imperialists of the world hate and fear Lenin, Soviet Russia, the Communist parties that grew up under his inspiration, and the Communist International, the fighter against world imperialism. They hate and fear the revolutionary movement of the capitalist countries and of the colonies. Hence they are conducting a vicious campaign not only against Soviet Russia, but also against the Communist International, the creation of that greatest of internationalists, Lenin. The colonies together with the masses in the capitalist countries must rise against the capitalists. That is the watchword of the day: Solidarity of all oppressed against the oppressors. Lenin, the internationalist, calls to the revolution.

Today, February 1, at Madison Square Garden, we will commemorate the death not of Lenin, the Russian leader, but Lenin, the leader of the world proletarian and oppressed peoples. They call all revolutionary Russians, because Lenin was a Russian. Let us fill ourselves with the spirit of this Russian internationalist, Lenin, and follow in his steps.