

# Stalin vs. Trotsky — A Great Mystery Story!

## A Record of Death and Conspiracy

By CLIFFORD RAYMOND

THE greatest mystery story of the age is unfolding—or, who knows, folding up—in the case of Joseph Stalin versus Leon Trotsky, or Leon Trotsky against Joseph Stalin.

Stalin is the absolute ruler of Russia, the Russia of the soviet republics, with one of the world's greatest war machines, an army still fired with the revolutionary zeal of the French republicans of 1793-'95.

Trotsky is an exile in Mexico with a price on his head. He was the co-engineer with Lenin of the October revolution of 1917 which made a fact of the Marxian dictatorship of the proletariat and almost made the wood sawyer of Doorn, then Wilhelm II., emperor of Germany, the master of the destinies of half the world.

Our principal characters are tremendous fellows. They have shaken the world. They may do so again. For a while it seemed as if the frontier lines of all maps might turn fluid under their touch and run wherever their fingers directed. They were strong in Germany. They had Hungary. They were about to take Italy, and they marched on Poland. They created a revolution in China. Whole systems of order, economy, politics, and science of government might have gone down.

Stalin rules 165,000,000 people whether they like it or not. Most of them must profess to like it. An entire young generation of them has been bred to the idea that Russia is the Eden of the modern world. They have been taught that half of America sleeps and starves in the streets and that the little Moscow subway and the Russian parks and playgrounds excel anything that could be found in any other part of the world.

Trotsky now lives in the Mexican home Diego Rivera, the mural artist who used Rockefeller Center in New York for his own communistic amuse-



At the zenith of his power! Trotsky addressing soldiers and civilians in a great anti-Polish demonstration in Red square, Moscow, fifteen years ago.

ber this, because Trotsky is the least decorated of chaps in a gray suit, with a smiling and gay humor and that chin which, bearded, never stops stabbing at an enemy when he appears in front. You say to yourself, he's just another soapboxer, a Bugs' Square orator; but just stop to recall that great armies ran from him and that from the jail into which Kerensky had put him he was recalled by Kerensky to stop the advance of Kornilov's Cossacks, the Savage division, coming back from the front to put an end to this revolution in the rear. Lenin was in flight to Finland and Trotsky was in jail when the moderates called back the bolsheviks to stop the czars in their tracks.

Coyoacan is a village in the Mexico City federal district. Rivera's house has a small patio

know much of him as Vladimir Ilyvich Ulynov. For which the Anglo-Saxons at least will thank the kindly heavens. The trouble with this story is the names, but we can take Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky on the easy tongue. Piatakov, Rataichak, Sokolnikov, and Serebryakov are important names in this story, but they queer the pitch.

Trotsky will not be known by his family name of Bronstein. Nor will his children be known as Trotsky or Bronstein. They will be known by the name of the woman who is Mrs. Trotsky, but also Natalie Sedov, who sits so quietly in a corner of the room in which Dr. John Dewey's preliminary commission is trying to discover the truth of the greatest mystery story of the age.

Trotsky at the hearing is animated, humorous, denunciatory, and often reaches into the air with his fingers for English words.

What is being written in these articles is based upon the recently completed transcript, the court report, of the hearings of Dr. Dewey's commission which went to Mexico in April to allow Trotsky to say whatever he had to say for himself under the questioning of his attorney, Albert Goldman of Chicago. The Tribune procured one of the earliest copies of the transcript. The soviet government made a show of its January trial, after which thirteen new and old revolutionaries were summarily shot, and four, including the well known Russian journalist, Karl Radek, were saved for future uses, the purposes of which may appear before the Tribune Graphic can print this article.

The Russian government made a spectacular show of this January trial and had the published transcript in the hands of Americans with the—believe them or not—confessions, inexplicable in conception and delirious in tone, within two months of the executions. If



As he appears today, Trotsky is an exile in Mexico, with a price on his head.

Aaron Burr, being tried for treason after six months in the hands of Mr. Jefferson's secret police, had explained himself elaborately and with rhetorical wealth of detail, instead of defending himself, how he and his associates had planned to kill the President, had testified that Benedict Arnold had been the instigator of the plots and that Great Britain and France were to be given great areas of American territory in order that eventually he, Burr, could take over what was left of American soil and principles—if this had happened in our history we might understand what was confessed in the one trial which Stalin has made fully public.

Many persons have tested their sanity by reading these confessions which ended the lives of so many old Bolo associates of Lenin.

The Trotsky commission going to Mexico to hear what the old commissar had to say had no such public treasury advantages. The commission's purse is rather flat than fat, and the one court reporter, Albert Glotzer of Chicago, undertook the job by himself. In these hearings it was an unusual session which did not involve the use of four languages and present a half hundred names unknown to fame and court reporters. The Trotsky transcript could not be written up until after the conclusion of the hearing. The Tribune then obtained the copy now used. Nearly every other comment which has been made upon the statements of Trotsky has been without the benefit of the transcript. No examination of so mysterious a transaction can be undertaken without such documentation. Give Dr. Dewey fair credit. He begins with the transcript and does not end with it. The examination, investigation, and check-up may take weeks or months before a report can be made.

The mystery is one of many deaths, unbelievable confessions, murderous autocracy, and world-wide conspiracy.

Why did Hitler and the army government of Japan announce last year the signing of an alliance against Russia which might have brought about a war greater than the one of 1914-'18?

Why did Hitler in so conspicuous a speech to his own people and the world say in hungry tones what he could do with the Ukraine and the Urals?

Why did the Japanese army at this time create such a parliamentary crisis by demanding complete control of the government and the greatest military budget in the history of the nation?

Were these historic incidents related to Trotsky's pledge to



As a man without a country! Trotsky at the inquiry in Mexico into the Moscow charges that he conspired with Germany and Japan against the soviet government.

the German and Japanese governments to wreck Russia in the manner and way confessed by the bolsheviks in two trials?

What credibility can be given to the testimony of old bolsheviks against Trotsky in two trials of which we have the incredible transcripts?

Where was Trotsky on dates which if his story could be corroborated would be conclusive as to his vindication?

Will the French police of a government allied to Stalin give up their records which might prove Stalin, the French ally, to be the greatest judicial murderer of the age?

Is Trotsky a smiling, witty, and convincing liar, or is he the realistic revolutionary he says he is?

The old Bolos are nearly all dead. What is their real story? What is the future of Russia? What is the future of the world in which Stalin still faces Hitler and Mussolini? What is to be Trotsky's revolutionary fate?

Did Piatakov make the sensational December, '35, airplane flight to Oslo? Did Trotsky meet Vladimir Romm in Paris in July, '33?

The detective work, most of it amateur, must follow Trotsky in his restless movements about the world after his expulsion from Russia in 1929. It must follow him through parts of France, checking his arrival, stay, and departure as he visited little resort towns. It must follow his son, Leon Sedov, in his movements in Germany and in Denmark, if he went there, which Trotsky denies, and in France, where he did meet his mother and father. It must check the flight of Piatakov, if he made it, in the winter of '33 to Oslo. It must take the detailed confessions of the now executed conspirators and check them with the deposition Trotsky made in Coyoacan.

## Two Principal Actors Have Shaken the World

There is to be a French commission, and the American investigators hope that Andre Gide will accept the leadership of it. There is to be a Swiss commission, but what would be most valuable would be an outfit of German investigators who, if Hitler found any state reasons for it, might check up the record of the German firms which are alleged to have promoted the wrecking operations of the Trotskyites in the soviet transportation, mining, chemical, and manufacturing administrations.

This detective work may get somewhere or it may get nowhere. There are great problems of state which may determine whether one or two or three of the European governments will help prove that Stalin is a murderer of so many of his old associates or leave Trotsky condemned as the instigator of this generation's greatest plot.

No one except persons who have access to the records of the secret police can know how many executions or murders have attended the purge of the Red government and party in the last three or four years. Men have disappeared and nothing more has been heard of

party trials the accused were engineers, some of them English and German, accused of wrecking activities in betrayal of the trust reposed in them. Some of the aliens were condemned and then released to go home.

Radek, the great Russian journalist, was chief co-conspirator with Piatakov in the trials of January, but he was preserved. He was saved from the firing squad along with Sokolnikov, former ambassador to Great Britain, and two of the minor accused, including the star nitwit of all known conspirators, Arnold, a name he said he assumed when he went to France in the American army in 1917.

Here might be the time and place to allow an anticipatory glimpse into the Red revolutionary mind. Attorney John Finerty of the commission has asked for Trotsky's views on terrorism.

"Do you recognize mass terror as an effective political means of obtaining power?"

"Yes," says Trotsky, "we have that now in Spain. What is the civil war? It is mass terror against the oppressors."

"I don't mean merely revolutionary war," says Mr. Finerty. "I mean mass executions."

When began the Red terror?" Trotsky replies: "After the intervention of the foreign capitalist powers. The historical responsibility for the severe terror of our revolution we must put on the capitalistic interventionists. I am not advocating severity, but I am ready to carry all the responsibility for all the terroristic acts committed by the Russian people against their oppressors."

MR. FINERTY—But as a political measure you believe it is the right, the political right, of a government to protect itself by mass executions?

The question is one hard to answer. Stalin has exercised that right.

"It is not an abstract right," says Trotsky.

Hardly an answer, you'll say. It leaves the question of the ox and whose ox.

"But," says Trotsky, recovering his shrewdness, "the pioneers were everywhere very severe people, on the road to revolution. I believe the Americans know that better than myself. It is the character of pioneers, your pioneers, on the road of the revolution."

Is Trotsky a conspirator? Yes. A terrorist? Yes, if the terror arises in mass action against oppression. Would he drive Stalin from power? Yes. Would he assassinate him? No. Individual terrorism never destroys a bad system of government. Terrorism must be a mass uprising against oppression.

And so we go to Coyoacan, first to hear what Trotsky has to say of the present terror, beginning on a soft drum beat and with increasing tempo coming to the barbaric noise of another march of a new Savage division. Stalin is now czar. The civilized world may read and profit.

(Continued next Sunday.)



The military Trotsky of 1920, when he was head of the Russian army.



Joseph Stalin, dictator of Russia. He rules 165,000,000 people whether they like it or not. Most of them profess to like it. (Acme photo.)

ment, has been given for his use in Coyoacan, the Mexico City suburb. A house alertly guarded by the Mexican police, its doors which might have opened on Avenida Londres are sealed to within a yard or so from the tall ceiling by a barricade of adobe bricks. Apparently it is thought that a bomb cannot get a trajectory above the adobe and crash through the boards.

This contriver of victory, the commissar for war, the organizer and general of the Red armies which swept the Whites, Denekin, Wrangle, and Kolchak; the Czarists, the British, Americans, and Czechoslovakians out of Russia and Siberia, is first of all a writer. Once with his newly organized and equipped Red and raw recruits he swept through the White opposition, and although many powerful nations wanted to stop the man, they couldn't do it.

At Coyoacan we must remem-

with a lemon tree bearing fruit in the sunlight and a sturdy blooming bougainvillea growing up a tree.

Mrs. Trotsky is there, a small woman whose face is deeply lined but impassive—a Euripidean figure. Her daughter, separated from husband and children by the soviet government, has committed suicide. Her son Sergei is in the hands of the dread G. P. U. Her son Leon Sedov is under death sentence, as is her husband, if Stalin can ever lay hands on either of them.

All the old rivals who pretended to be Trotsky bolsheviks have denounced her husband. Her name is Sedov. That is the name of her children. Her husband's name is Trotsky. But that is his political name. The Russians have political names. Lenin is a political name. History will not