

# Nat Turner, Negro Champion and Martyr

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By **CYRIL BRIGGS**

**T**ODAY, November 11, is the anniversary of the murder by the American slave holding class of the Negro revolutionary leader, Nat Turner. On this day while the American bourgeoisie make a mockery of the working-class dead in the last war with their fake phrases of democracy, self-determination, etc., the thoughts of the Negro masses and of the revolutionary white workers will turn to the heroic figure of Nat Turner, the daring Negro revolutionary who with sixty followers challenged the power of the slave-holding state of Virginia and threw terror into the hearts of the brutal slave owners of that day.

## **Bosses Try to Destroy Revolutionary Traditions.**

The American bosses, with the support of the treacherous Negro petty bourgeois misleaders (preachers, landlords, business men) have very nearly succeeded in wiping out of the minds of the Negro masses all revolutionary traditions. The white imperialists and their Negro tool have set up in the place of such heroic figures as Nat Turner, Frederick Douglas, Denmark Vesey, etc., the pitiful figures of such servile and traitors as Booker T. Washington and the even more despicable Moton. By pretending that Negroes are "inferior," that their character and role have been immemorably servile and subordinate, the imperialist oppressors seek to jus-

tify their savage oppression and super-exploitation of the Negro masses.

In support of this policy, the utmost care is taken by the prostitute bourgeois historians to consistently present the picture of the Negro as a slave, satisfied with his slave status and incapable of revolt. This policy is faithfully supported by misleaders like Kelly Miller, and the officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League and other Negro reformist organizations.

## **Negro Misleaders Support Enemy.**

To these Negro misleaders any thought of the frightfully oppressed Negro masses joining ranks with the revolutionary white workers of this country for the overthrow of their mutual oppressors is unthinkable and horrible. For these traitors there is, then, no inspiration in revolutionary traditions. For the Negro masses, however, groaning under a ruthless oppression and virtual slavery, the case is different.

Nat Turner launched his revolt on the night of August 31, 1831. John Brown invaded Virginia with 19 men, and with the expressed determination to take no lives save in self-defense. Nat Turner, far more resolute and capable, attacked Virginia from within, with only six men, and with the revolutionary determination to spare no life of the slave-holding class until slavery was completely crushed.