

# The Communist Democratic French Election Victory

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE CAPITALIST world, particularly American monopoly capital and its agents are crying out in alarm at what transpired in the French national elections of a couple of days ago, and well they may. For the elections showed that French imperialism, a protegee of American imperialism, is in a bad way. The substance of the elections was that the Communist Party of France, increasing its popular vote by almost 400,000 and gaining 54 additional seats in the National Assembly (making 151 all told), won a resounding victory. The underlying meaning of the general situation is that France has taken another stride towards the formation of a Popular Front government, composed of all democratic forces, in which the Communist Party will play a key role.



In 1947, upon the bidding of the U.S. government, the Radicals, Socialists, and the Catholic MRP expelled the Communists, the largest party in France, from the government. For this betrayal of the French people, the ensuing governments have received huge financial subsidies from the U.S. For the past 8 years they have tried to govern France to the exclusion of the party of the working class, the Communist Party. But they have failed dismally. The result has been a prolonged tragedy for the French people. One bankrupt government has followed the other in rapid

succession, the latest election debacle bringing the sharpest parliamentary crisis yet.

## POLICY OF TREASON

The so-called middle parties, which have been governing France since 1947, have made a sorry mess of things. Attaching France to the chariots of Wall St. imperialism, they have trailed along behind the expansionist policies of the monopolists here at the expense of France's national independence. They have supported the various war aggressions of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations; they have mortgaged France to NATO and done their best to re-arm a reactionary Germany; they have attempted, without success, to shoot down the liberation revolutions of the oppressed peoples of Indo-China and of French North Africa; they have turned a flinty face towards the demands of the workers, while the rich profiteers and tax dodgers were being allowed a free hand. In this reactionary course, the role of the Socialist Party, dominated by right wing elements, has been particularly deplorable; it fully supported the whole reactionary program.

France is rapidly sinking into a political crisis. The empire, next to the British the biggest in the world, is being torn to pieces by the revolutionary colonial peoples. The parliamentary debacle is growing more and more manifest. One of the most sinister aspects of the situation, but one inevitable in view of the bankruptcy and disruption of the center bloc of parties, which have been running the government, is the menacing growth of fascism in France. The

chief expression of this danger were the 2,000,000 votes cast for the Poujadist party in the elections.

## GENERAL CRISIS

At present France, like most capitalist countries in the world is experiencing something of hectic industrial boom, based upon the temporary war-bred prosperity. But this boom has been quite unable to wash away the political crisis, which constantly becomes sharper. France's deepening crisis is only one expression of the evermore acute general crisis of the world capitalist system as a whole.

The sole road for the French people to establish a solid and progressive government is on the basis of a People's Front, on the 1935-36 model, based upon a working alliance between the Radical, Socialist and Communist parties, with the full backing and participation of the trade unions and other people's organizations of the working class, small peasantry, and lower middle class. The political conditions are ripening rapidly for such a government in France.

The factors that will bring it to pass are the bankruptcy of the middle bloc of parties, the continued crumbling of the French colonial system, the growth of fascism, and, eventually the end of the present artificial industrial boom. The leaders of the middle parties—the Faures, the Mendes-Frances, and the Mollets, may be able to maneuver a bit longer yet, but despite them, France is on the way to a People's Front government and it cannot be balked in this course.