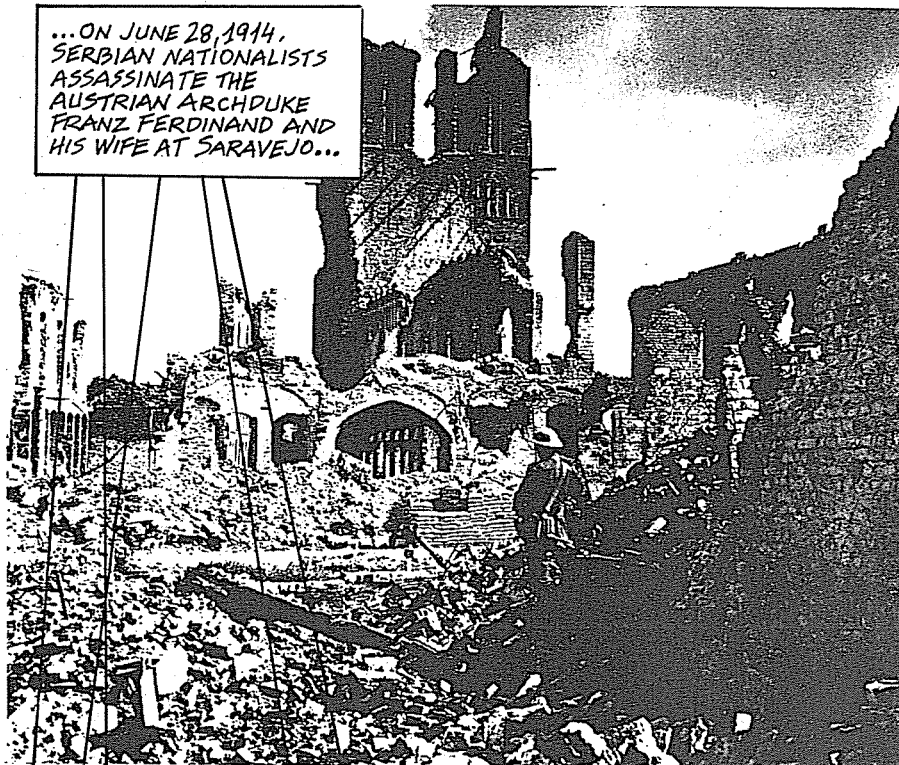


August 1st 1914... The First War World begins

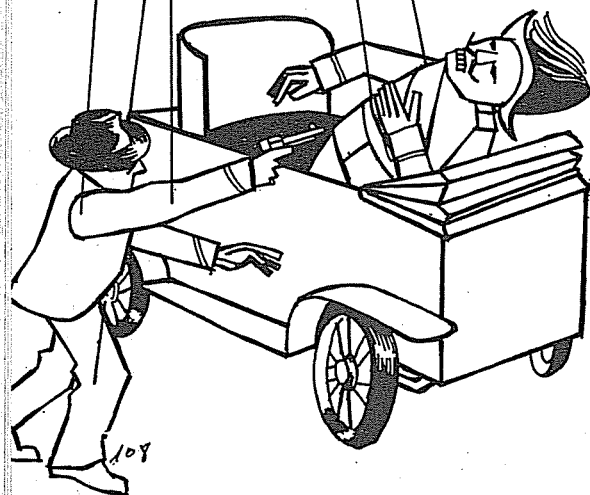
...ON JUNE 28, 1914, SERBIAN NATIONALISTS ASSASSINATE THE AUSTRIAN ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND AND HIS WIFE AT SARAJEVO...



Who — or rather, what — is the puppet-master?

The first 14-odd years of the 20th century were marked by imperialist, colony-grabbing wars: the Spanish-American War 1898, the Boer War 1899-1902, the Russo-Japanese War 1905, the Italo-Turkish War 1911-12, the Balkan Wars 1912-13, etc.

This un-declared 'cold war' between rival imperialist nations finally becomes red hot in 1914!



LENIN IS ARRESTED AS AN ENEMY ALIEN IN POLISH AUSTRIA, AUGUST 7th

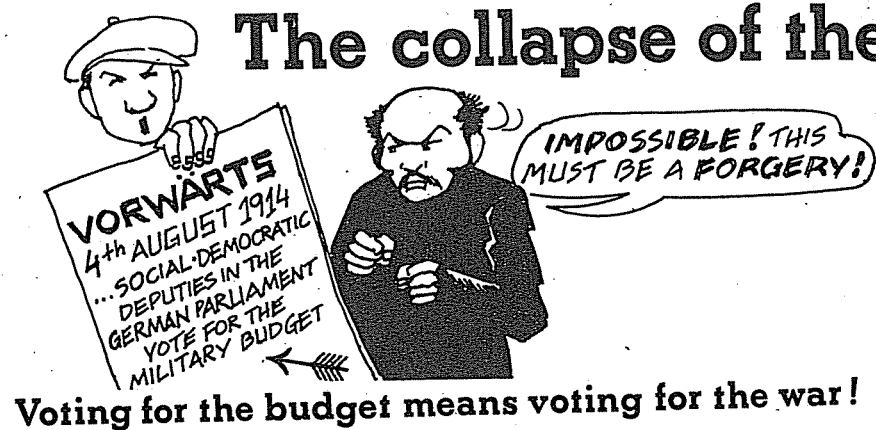


Victor Adler, leading Austrian Social-Democrat, secures his release from prison, and Lenin takes refuge in neutral Switzerland on the 23rd August.



The collapse of the

Socialist 2nd International



Like Plekhanov, socialist leaders in Germany, France, Belgium etc., became 'defensists' and supporters of 'patriotic war'. Others, like Trotsky, Martov, Axelrod, remained faithful to the struggle for international peace.

Gustav Noske (1868-1946) a right-wing German Social-Democrat, later organized the suppression of the German workers' revolution in 1918-21 and his officers murdered the founders of the German Communist Party, Luxemburg and Liebknecht.

Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) was expelled from the Italian Socialist Party for his pro-war views. In 1919 he organized Fascism.



Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919) and Karl Liebknecht (1871-1919) were left-wing German Social-Democrats.

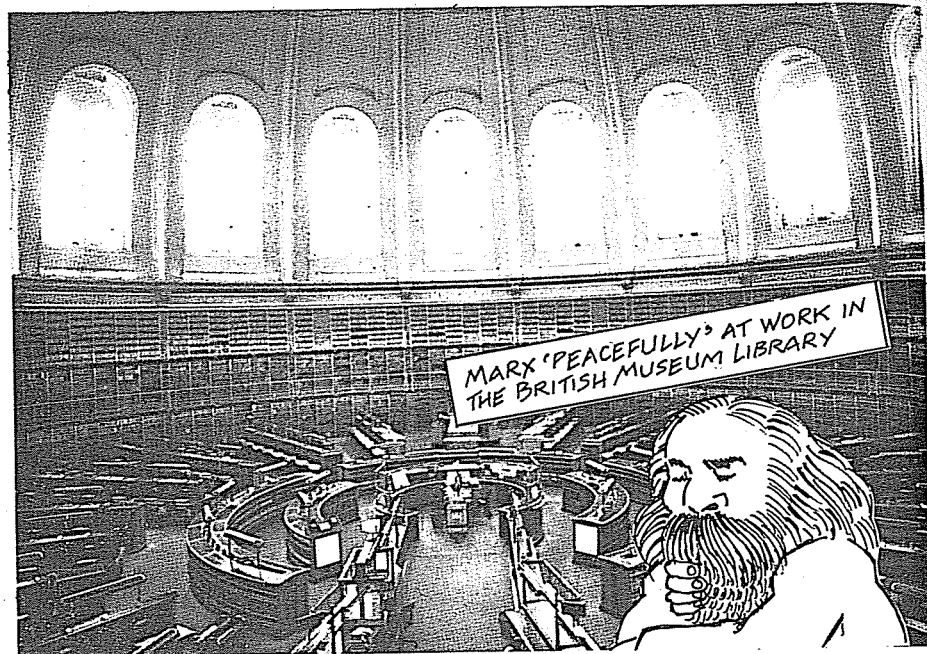
Delegates from 25 nations, at the 1907 Stuttgart International Congress and again at the 1912 Basle Congress, had accepted 'Red Rosa's' resolution:

- 1) to prevent war by any means
 - 2) or if they could not prevent it, to turn the crisis caused by war into a revolution
- Only one leader in the 2nd International lived up to the second pledge — Lenin!

PEACEFUL SOCIALISM?

'PHILOSOPHERS HAVE ONLY INTERPRETED THE WORLD IN VARIOUS WAYS; THE POINT IS TO CHANGE IT.'

XIth THESIS ON FEUERBACH KARL MARX 1844



MARX'S FAMOUS XIth THESIS IS THE ESSENCE OF PROLETARIAN PHILOSOPHY...

ENGELS

...IT CALLS FOR ACTION NOT CONTEMPLATION!

ROSA

But the 2nd International operated in a peaceful period of European history (1889-1914). Many socialists began thinking that 'revolution' was no longer their immediate business... and they began to interpret Marx "in various ways" (economism, reformism, revisionism etc.)...

...FORGETTING THAT IT'S THE WORLD THEY MUST CHANGE - NOT MARX!



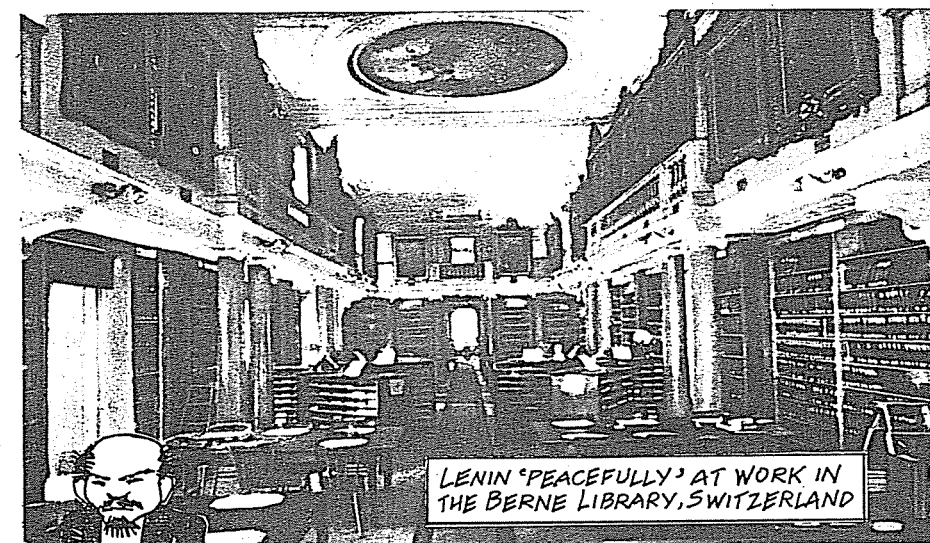
On the consequences of peaceful socialism

The West entered a phase of 'peaceful' preparations for the changes to come. Socialist parties, basically proletarian, were formed everywhere, and learned to use bourgeois parliamentarism and to found their own daily press, their educational institutions, their trade unions and their cooperative societies...

The dialectics of history were such that the theoretical victory of Marxism compelled its enemies to disguise themselves as Marxists. Liberalism, rotten within, tried to revive itself in the form of socialist opportunism... They cravenly preached 'social peace' (i.e., peace with the slave-owners), renunciation of the class struggle, etc. They had very many adherents among socialist members of parliament, various officials of the working-class movement, and the 'sympathising' intelligentsia.

Lenin, Pravda No.50, 1913.

On the 30th anniversary of Marx's death



...WRITES IMPERIALISM, THE HIGHEST STAGE OF CAPITALISM, 1915-16

...THE 'PEACEFUL' PHASE IS OVER!

WHY IS IMPERIALISM THE 'HIGHEST STAGE' OF CAPITALISM?

Marx studied capitalism in its early stage of free competition and world-market expansion. But, around 1900, the struggle to dominate the world-market increases . . . and 'free enterprise' capitalism turns into monopoly capitalism.

WHAT IS MONOPOLY CAPITALISM?

Essentially, it is a link-up between high finance, big industry and the national government.

More and more, the national economy is directed by the monopoly system which controls large holdings of shares.

Stocks, shares and state loans increase the amount and power of surplus-capital.

This surplus-capital is exported beyond the national borders as investments and loans to 'backward' countries.

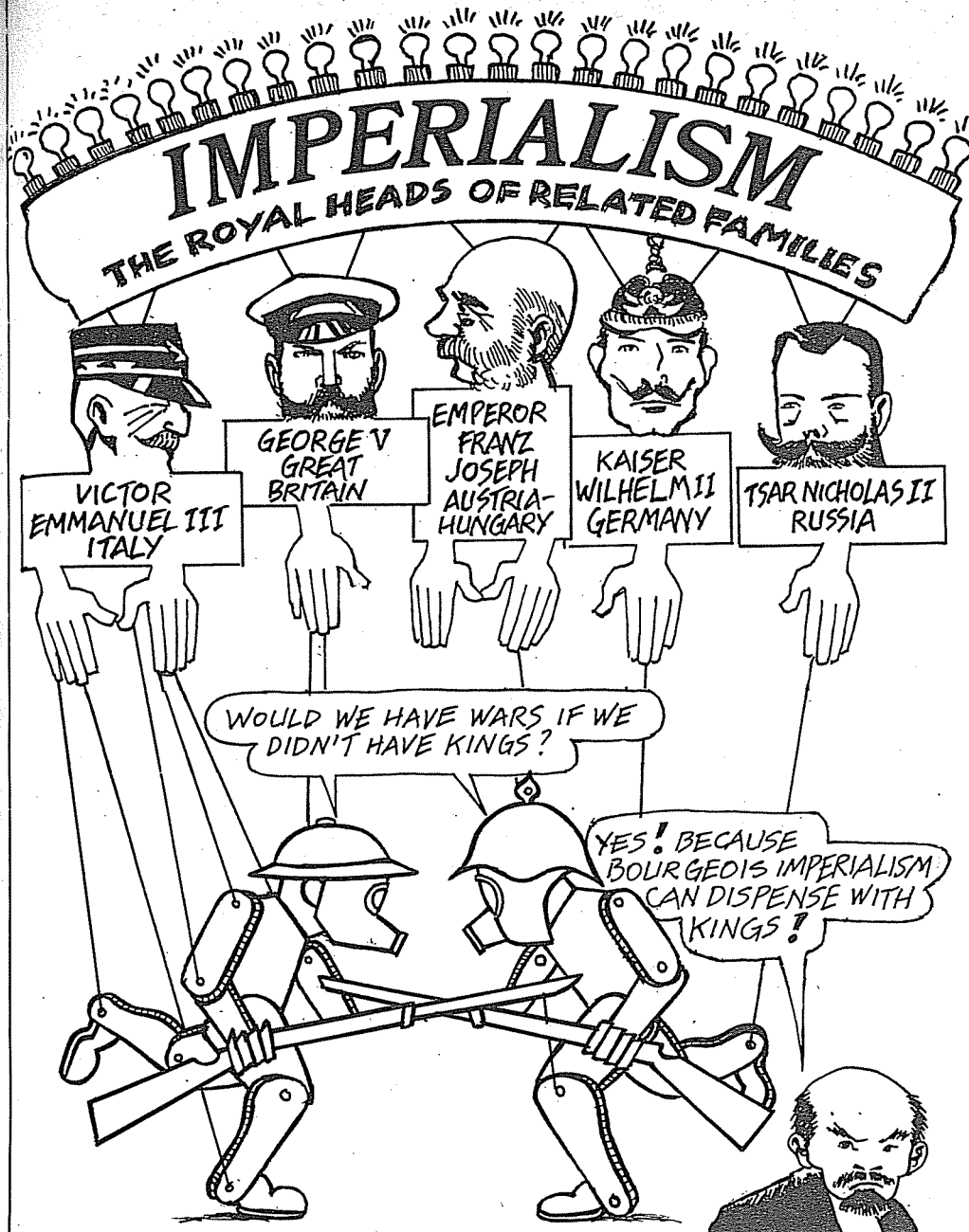
A struggle develops between the supra- or multi-national monopolies to control the world-market.

But since the world has already been divided up by the imperial Great Powers, the rival monopolists struggle to re-partition the world — to 'muscle in'.

Therefore . . .

The economic disparity between rival monopolists — and the uneven development of rival capitalist nations — make imperialist wars inevitable . . .

"The European and world war has the clearly defined character of a bourgeois, imperialist and dynastic war. A struggle for markets and for freedom to look foreign countries, a striving to suppress the revolutionary movement of the proletariat and democracy in the individual countries, a desire to deceive, disunite, and slaughter the proletarians of all countries by setting the wage slaves of one nation against those of another so as to benefit the bourgeoisie — these are the only real content and significance of the war."



BUT THERE IS ONE REAL HOPE...

As capitalism enters its 'highest stage', so too the proletariat approaches its highest stage . . . which is **REVOLUTION!**

Lenin's economic theory of imperialism is a guide to immediate action because it shows that world war and revolution are dialectically related. That's Lenin's great lesson . . .

Lenin

FOR BEGINNERS

