

The  
History  
Book

4.95



# The History Book

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by  
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#### TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

I was first shown The History Book by a 10 year old Danish friend when I was living in Denmark two years ago. I immediately warmed to the unusual format of the book. Here was a refreshing, demystifying approach to history. Instead of the usual historical flights, looking down on peaks from above the clouds and charting patterns in selected events and leaders, the book's vision was from ground level, looking around at the complex contemporary landscape and seeking its origins in concepts and values. Instead of chronicling the Magna Cartas and the Great Wars and parading the Queen Victorias and the Genghis Khans, the book focused on the history of the "common people."

My hopes for the book are twofold; that it will be used in schools to supplement and to challenge the more traditional textbook presentations of history; and that this effort of a small group of people in Sweden\* will encourage other individuals and groups to attempt similar projects. Oppressed groups within the United States-American Indians, Women, Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Asians have already begun re-examining their unique group histories with the common finding that "his story" has often ignored or distorted their story. It is the hope of those who have written, translated, and published this book that it will contribute, together with all similar re-assessments of the past, to an understanding of "our story" that will give strength to all our present collective struggles.

\*The book was originally written and published in Sweden.  
I translated the book from Danish.

# WHY we wrote this BOOK

The Midnight Special is an independent, non-affiliated bookstore and distributor operating since 1970. We are a not-for-profit educational organization. The Midnight Special is run by a volunteer collective consisting of workers and students.

Our goal is to distribute educational material that relates to the realities of life and gives one both a past and present scientific analysis of the world.

We presently distribute literature throughout the United States, Canada and Europe to stores, organizations and educational study groups.

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P.S. We greatly appreciate new material and resource information.

Sweden  
October 1970

Dear reader!  
This book you hold in your hand right now has a long history behind it. It all began about a year ago...



Yes, it is truly amazing. But how can we understand it? We listened to the radio and watched television and read books, but nevertheless we still didn't understand.

Everything was so rough and disconnected.

WE HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW IT ALL BEGAN. WE HAVE TO READ HISTORY!



BUT THE WORLD IS SO BIG AND HISTORY IS SO LONG WE CAN'T FIND OUT EVERYTHING AT ONCE.

We decided to look closely at Europe and Africa's history for the last 500 years, and so we ran around to all the city's libraries and borrowed books.

We read and read and wrote great piles of notes.



And then we talked and talked...



Slowly it began to clear up... Think about it! Haven't we got enough information for a book! That was how we got the idea for this book.



And so we wrote a proposal about what the book should contain,

A SYNOPSIS



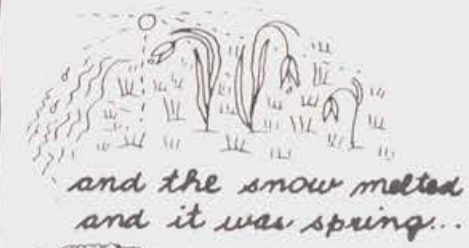
and went to different publishers and asked if they would print the book.



Fortunately we found someone who believed in our idea. Far in Smalands woods.



and wrote again and again and drew...



and the snow melted and it was spring... and it was summer and we drew and wrote constantly. We weren't finished before autumn.

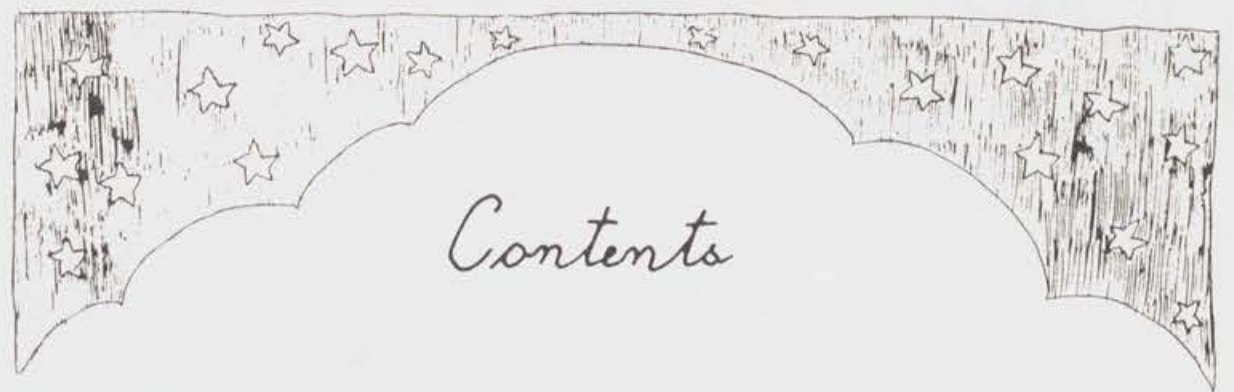


It took a little time before we learned how to print...



So if this is a little dirty we hope that you'll forgive us.

Yes, dear readers, that's how it happened. Now you can begin to read



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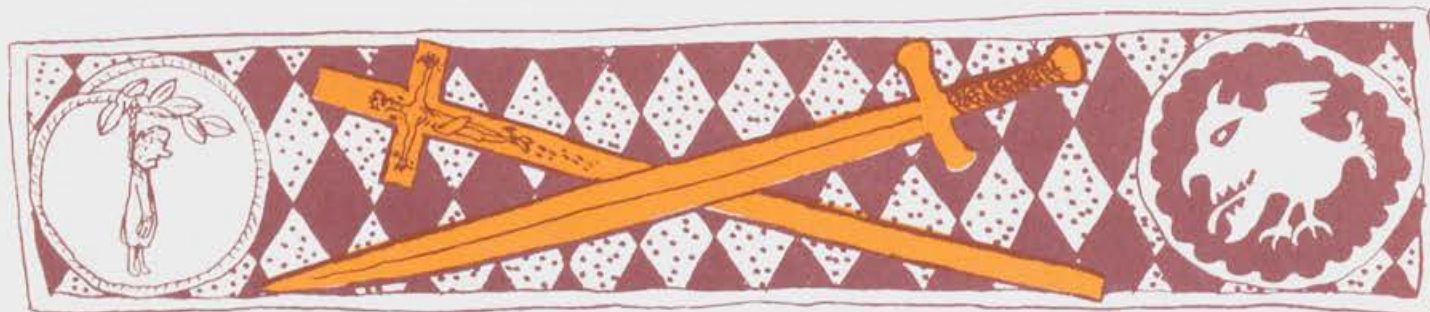
# Chapter I A Flicker of Light in the Dark

This picture depicts Central Europe in the 1400's. There are small kingdoms all around which are separated by large woods. The people in one kingdom don't know what is happening on the other side of the woods. They are afraid to venture into the woods because of wild animals and monsters and other underground creatures.

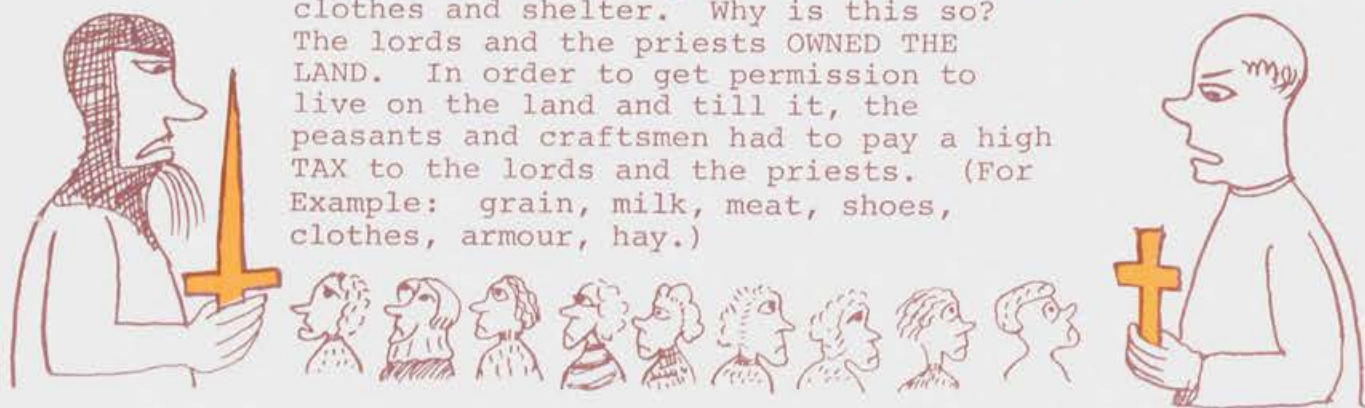
Life is peaceful and quiet on the kingdoms. The children don't go to school because there are none. No one works in factories for there are none. There is only the LAND which they live on. There are the PEASANTS who work on the land, the CRAFTSMEN who make shoes, plows and clothes in the little town, the LORDS who live in the castles and the PRIESTS who preach in the churches...



The peasants and craftsmen must do **EVERYTHING**  
 Food-Clothes-Shelter everything necessary for survival



The lords and the priests did nothing, but nevertheless they had plenty of food, clothes and shelter. Why is this so? The lords and the priests OWNED THE LAND. In order to get permission to live on the land and till it, the peasants and craftsmen had to pay a high TAX to the lords and the priests. (For Example: grain, milk, meat, shoes, clothes, armour, hay.)

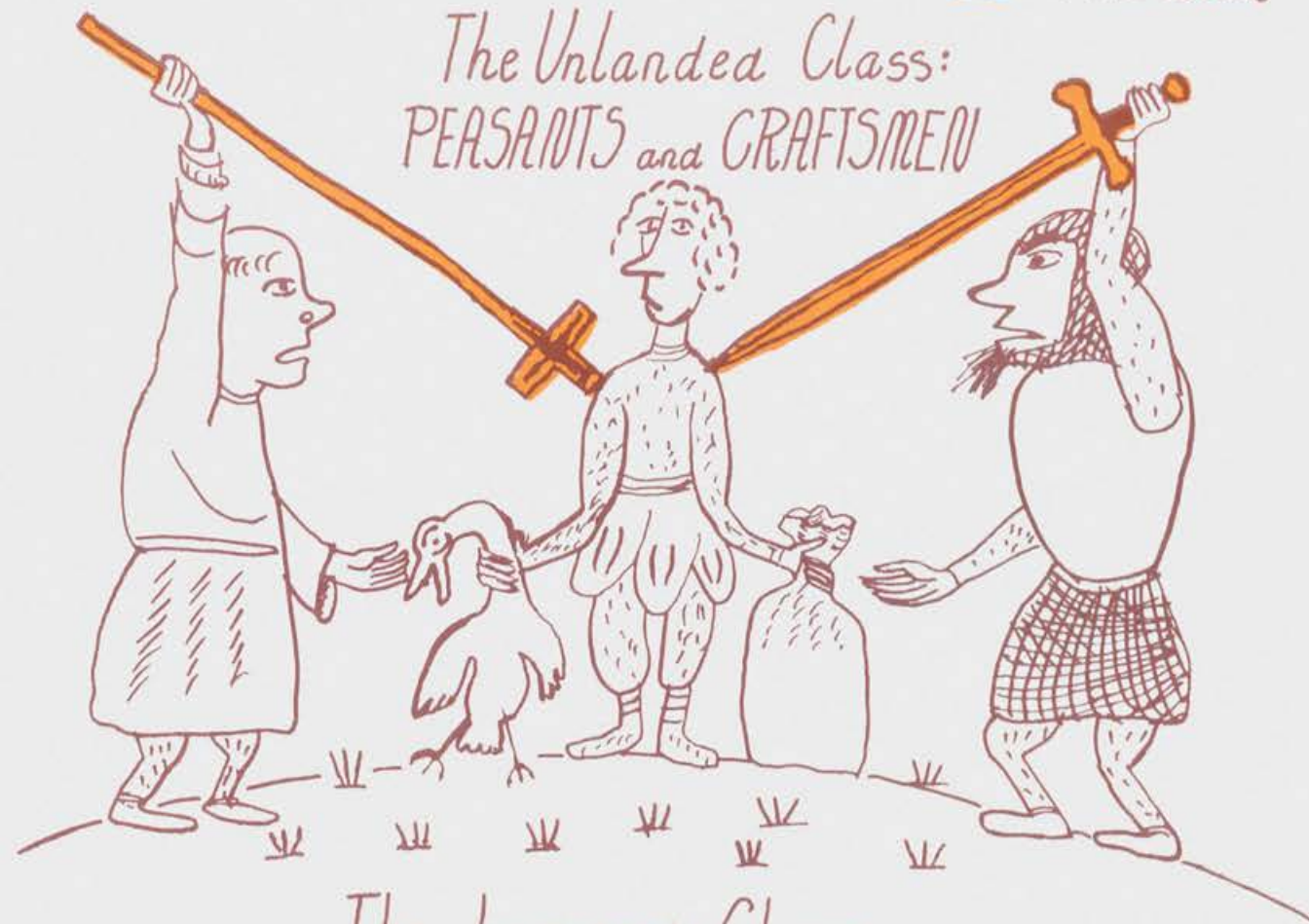


There weren't many who dared grumble because the lord had soldiers with sharp swords who were ready to suppress a revolt.

The priest scared and threatened the people with going to HELL if they didn't pay taxes.

CONSEQUENTLY: THERE WERE DIFFERENT **CLASSES** IN THE SOCIETY

The Unlanded Class:  
 PEASANTS and CRAFTSMEN



The Landed Class:  
 PRIESTS and LORDS

IS IT FAIR THAT THE UNLANDED CLASS PAY TAXES TO THE LANDED CLASS?



Steven: age 11  
 There have always been taxes. How could it be any different?



mother: age 64  
 My grandfather was stupid enough to revolt. He told everyone

in the town not to pay taxes. There was a famine that year. So what was the advantage of it? He was hanged by the lord's soldiers, and the priest said he would go to hell.



baroness: age 34  
 How dare you be so insolent. Shouldn't we have the right to tax our own land? This land has belonged...



Soren: age 29  
 What would we do without the landed class?



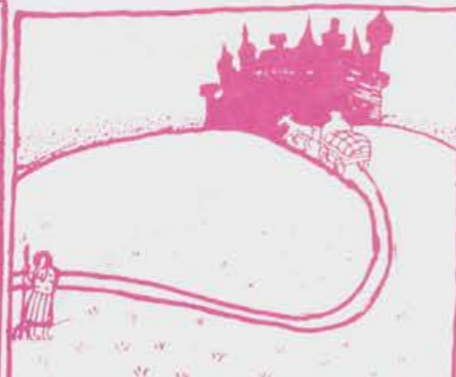
bishop: age 57  
 It was God's will that there be rich and poor. Therefore it is God's will that they pay taxes to us.



BUT WHAT NOW? THERE'S A STRANGER ON THE ROAD...



...WITH A LOADED WAGON.



HE HEADS STRAIGHT TO THE CASTLE. WHAT CAN THIS MERCHANT...???



WHAT ARE THESE?

OH!!

HE UNWRAPS HIS WARES AT THE LORDS HOUSE



THESE KERNELS ARE CALLED PEPPER. THEY REMOVE THE TASTE OF DECAY FROM LAST YEAR'S PORK!!!



OH!! IT'S TRANSPARENT

BE CAREFUL IT'S MADE FROM GLASS!

THE WARES COME FROM FAR AWAY - AND THE STRANGER IS A **MERCHANT** HE COMES FROM A MARVELOUS CITY CALLED VENICE



WHAT WILL YOU GIVE FOR THIS?



WE HAVE EGGS, BUTTER, HONEY AND....

OR WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE SOMETHING HANDMADE - A SWORD OR WOOLEN CLOTHES?



PEOPLE LONG FOR THIS IN VENICE WHAT A BUSINESS!



I'LL TAKE 10 YDS. OF THIS MATERIAL

IT WAS RATHER EXPENSIVE BUT FORGET IT.



UPON MY WORD! THE LORDS BUY MANY THINGS FROM THE MERCHANT AND PAY WITH THE RICHES THEY HAVE TAKEN FROM THE UNLOADED.



THE LORDS ARRANGE A FEAST...

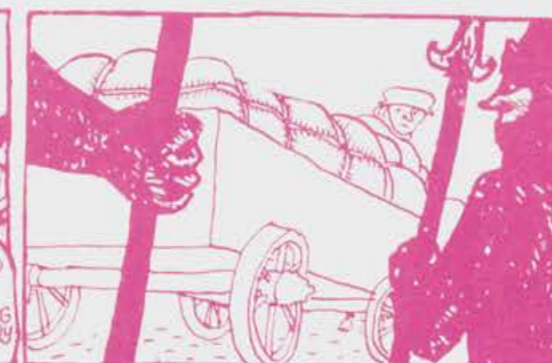


SUCH IDIOTS! THEY CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING EXCEPT FOOD AND CLOTHES AND AMUSEMENTS. THEY'RE VERY RICH BUT THEY DON'T USE THEIR MONEY SENSIBLY LIKE I DO.

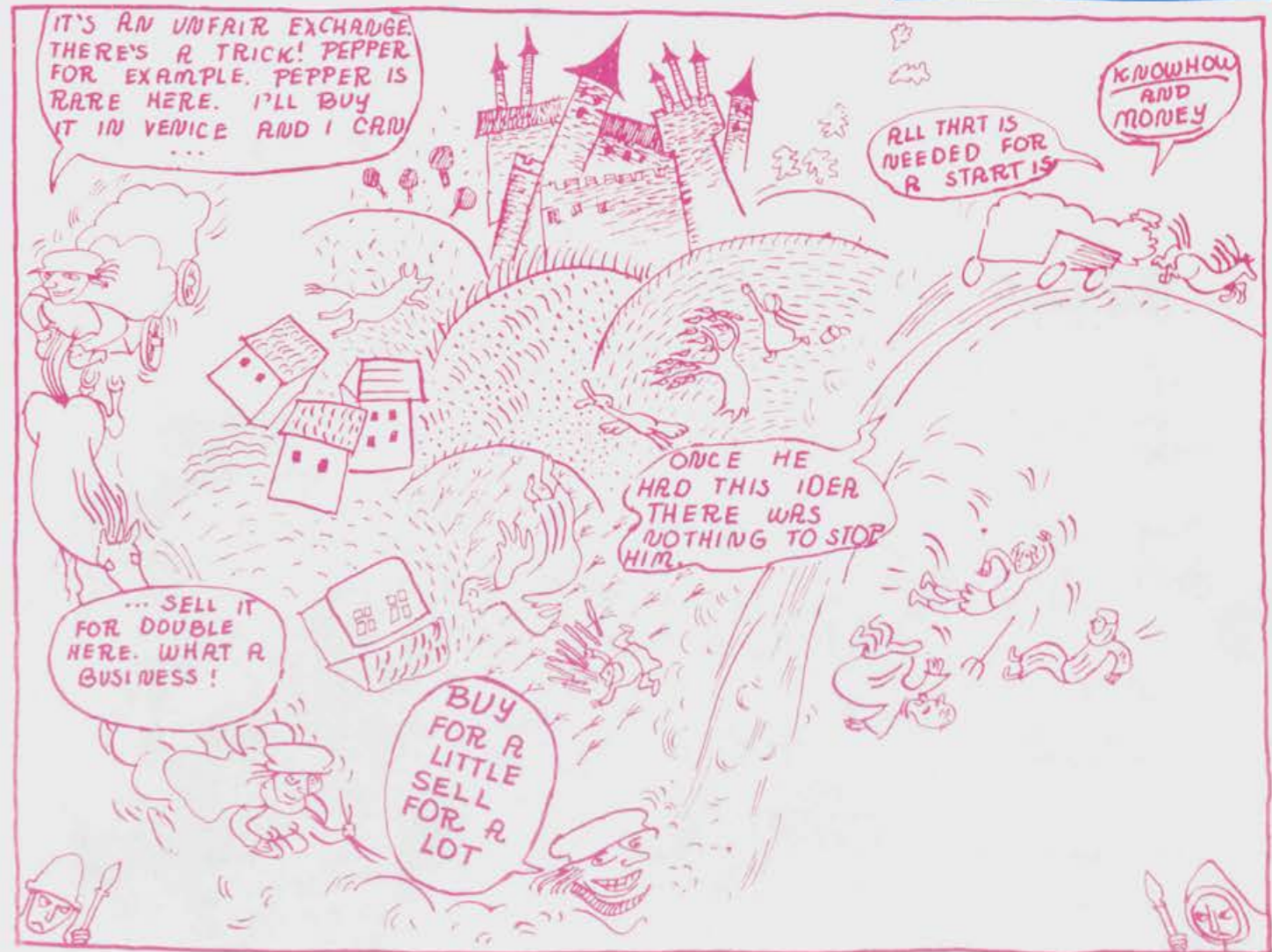
AND THE MERCHANT TRAVELS ON



STOP! ONLY THOSE WHO PAY A TOLL TO BARON GRUNTING CAN COME THIS WAY



THE MERCHANT DOESN'T FIT IN AT THIS TIME. HE OWNS NO LAND. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE A PEASANT OR A CRAFTSMAN. ALL THE MERCHANT DOES IS BUY AND SELL. HOW CAN HE SURVIVE FROM THAT??



IT'S AN UNFAIR EXCHANGE. THERE'S A TRICK! PEPPER FOR EXAMPLE. PEPPER IS RARE HERE. I'LL BUY IT IN VENICE AND I CAN...

ALL THAT IS NEEDED FOR A START IS

KNOWHOW AND MONEY

ONCE HE HAD THIS IDEA THERE WAS NOTHING TO STOP HIM.

... SELL IT FOR DOUBLE HERE. WHAT A BUSINESS!

BUY FOR A LITTLE SELL FOR A LOT





THE MERCHANTS IN VENICE HAD A SUM OF MONEY WHICH THEY CALLED:

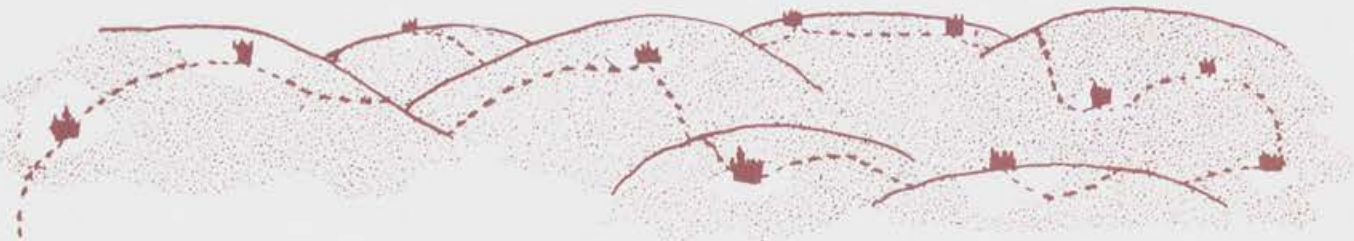
# CAPITAL

THE CAPITAL BOUGHT EXPENSIVE GOODS FROM THE ARABIAN MERCHANT.

THE GOODS COME FROM CHINA, INDIA, ARABIA AND AFRICA.



THE MERCHANTS TRAVELLED AROUND EUROPE AND SOLD AND EXCHANGED GOODS.



D. SOLE MID



THEY HAD MANY RARE THINGS AND THE LORDS PAID WHAT THEY ASKED FOR THEM.

EACH TIME THE MERCHANTS RETURNED TO VENICE THEY WERE RICHER. THEY HAD MORE CAPITAL AND BOUGHT STILL MORE THINGS.



THE MORE THEY SOLD THE MORE MONEY THEY HAD.....

Since they use their money wisely, they never run out of money. The capital just grows and grows and grows.

# CAPITALIST

It's nice to be a

the merchants said.

The capitalists in Venice continue to do a lot of business. But they don't encourage others to join them.



THEY WANT TO HAVE EVERYTHING FOR THEMSELVES

The Portuguese merchants whisper among themselves:

...there must be another way...for men to obtain these fine goods from India...



NEXT DAY

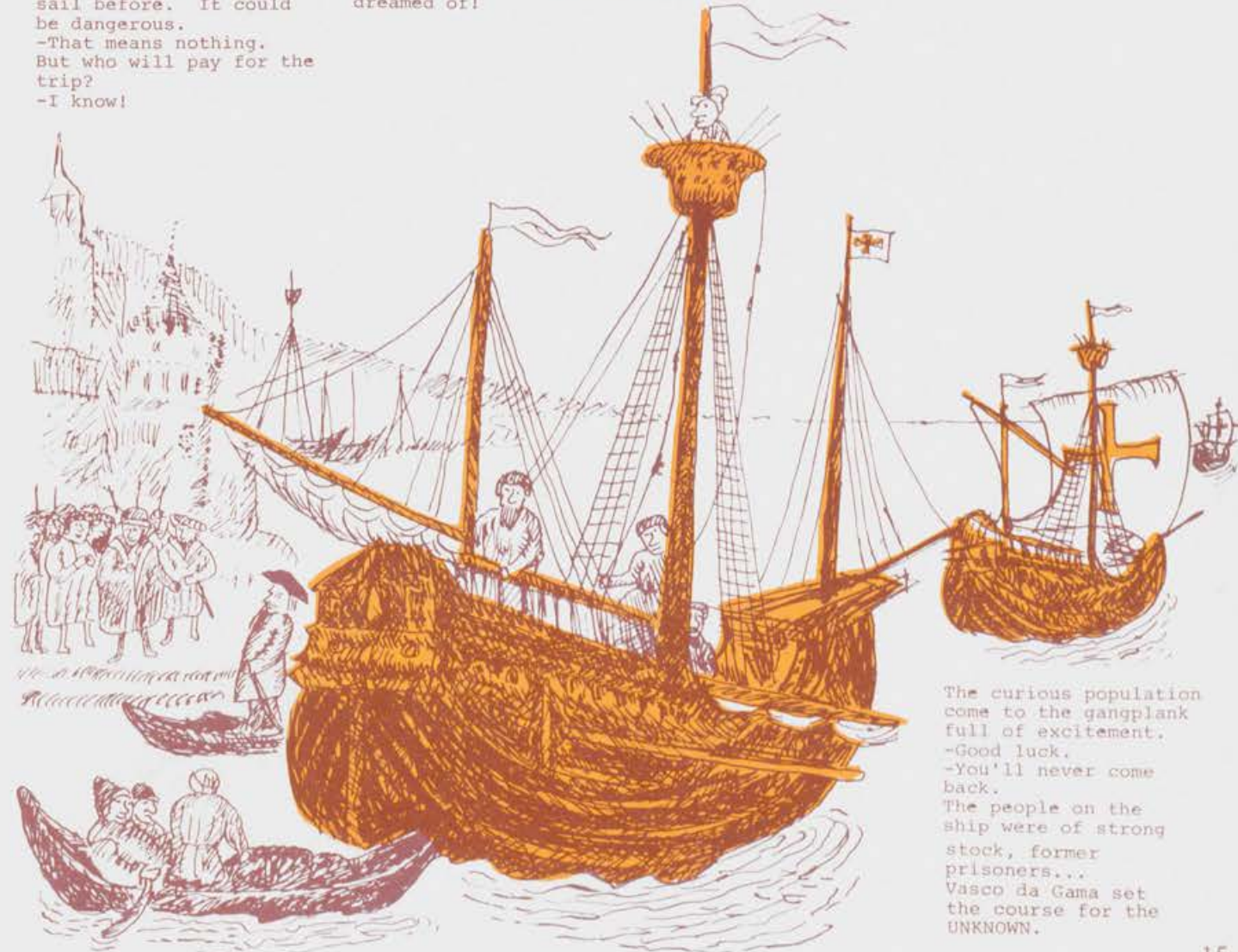


WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM? FROM THE UNLADDED! THE KING IS ALSO A LADDER.

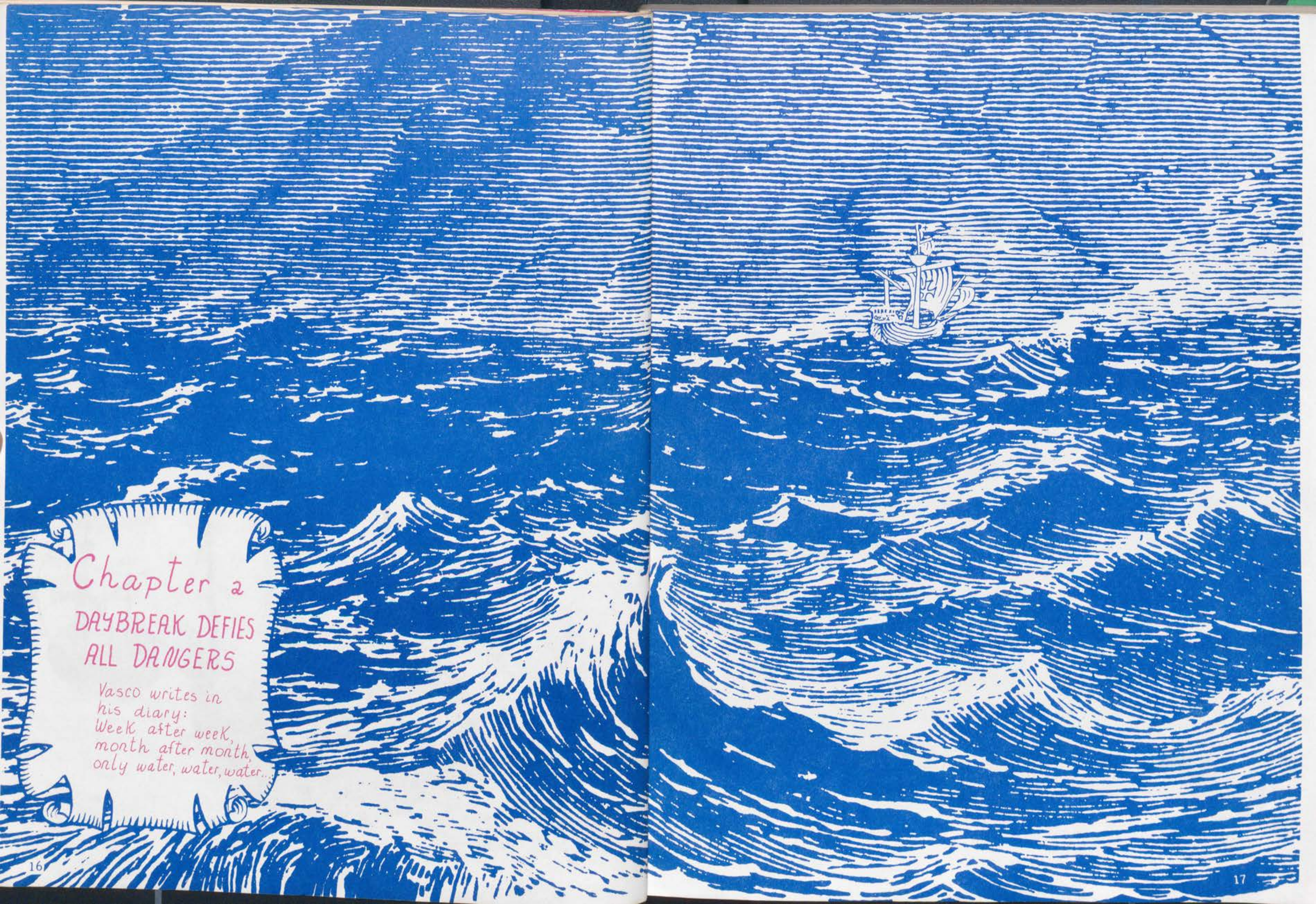
-I have it! We can try to find a way to sail to India and China and deal with those who live there behind the backs of those in Venice!!!  
-No one has dared to sail before. It could be dangerous.  
-That means nothing. But who will pay for the trip?  
-I know!

The palace of the Portuguese king:  
-If your majesty can only give us money and a pair of ships and a little gold and something to exchange we shall return home with things your majesty never dreamed of!

King:  
This idea is good enough to invest in. How much do you need?



The curious population come to the gangplank full of excitement.  
-Good luck.  
-You'll never come back.  
The people on the ship were of strong stock, former prisoners...  
Vasco da Gama set the course for the UNKNOWN.



Chapter 2  
DAYBREAK DEFIES  
ALL DANGERS

Vasco writes in  
his diary:  
Week after week,  
month after month,  
only water, water, water...



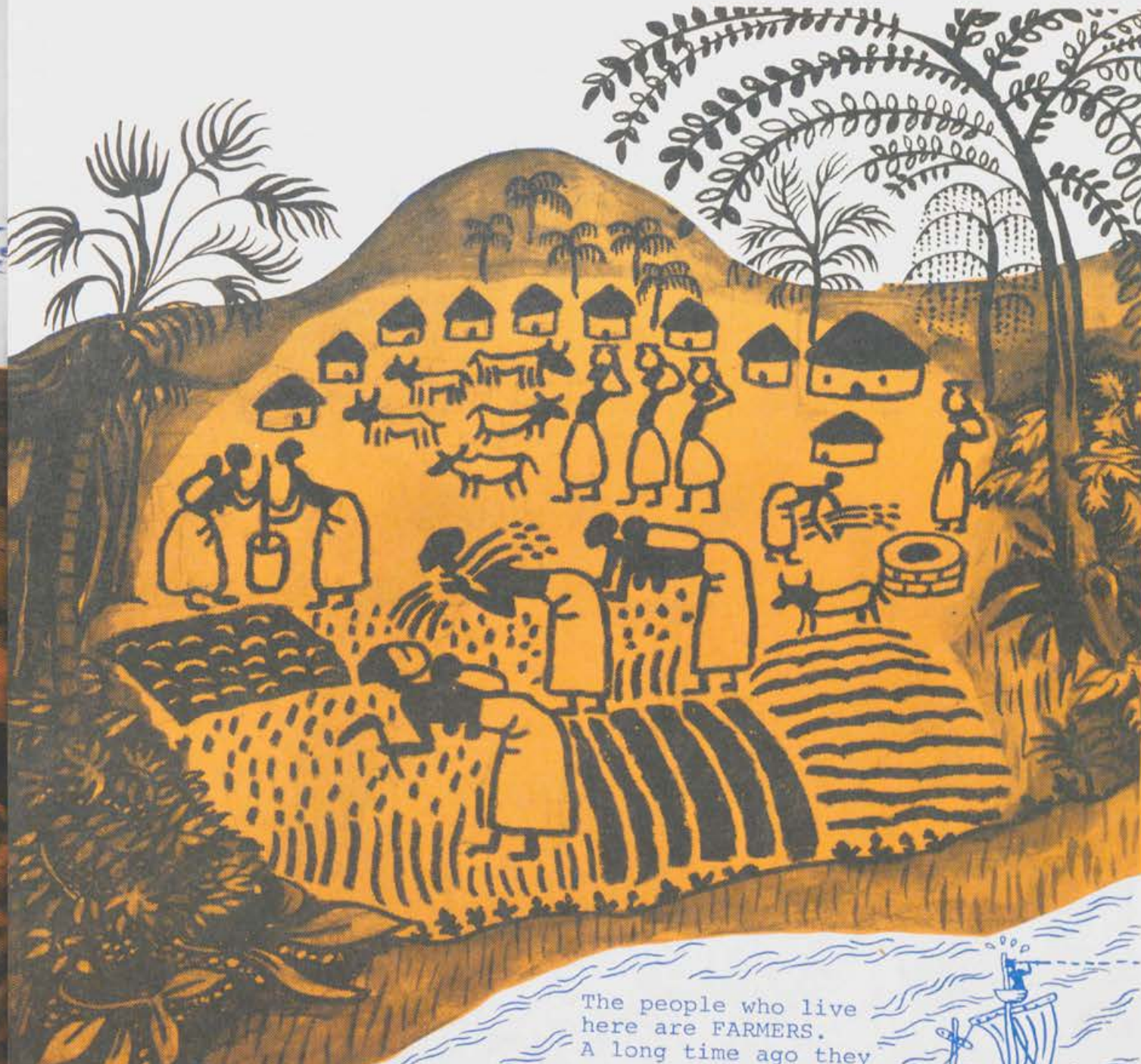
**NOVEMBER 4**  
 Finally after 4 months of sailing we can see land. We are near the southern tip of Africa

We can have water on board and bracelets of ivory in exchange for our red caps and bells

The people who live here are HUNTERS. They live in small tribes and move from place to place. They divide work and food evenly among themselves. Their 'community' isn't divided into classes.



The wind blows violently from the southwest when we leave. It is difficult to stay on course.  
**NOVEMBER 22**  
 we round the Cape of Good Hope.



**CHRISTMAS 1497:**  
 Once again we can see land.  
**JANUARY 10, 1498:**  
 we cast anchor.



Friendly people live here. We name the place "Good Folks Land"

The people who live here are FARMERS. A long time ago they were also hunters but when they could no longer shoot enough to satisfy their hunger, they began to harvest wild vegetables and tame wild animals. Now they all have food. The village chief lives in the large house in the photo. He owns more animals than the others; and the others look after the animals for him. CLASSES are beginning to arise.



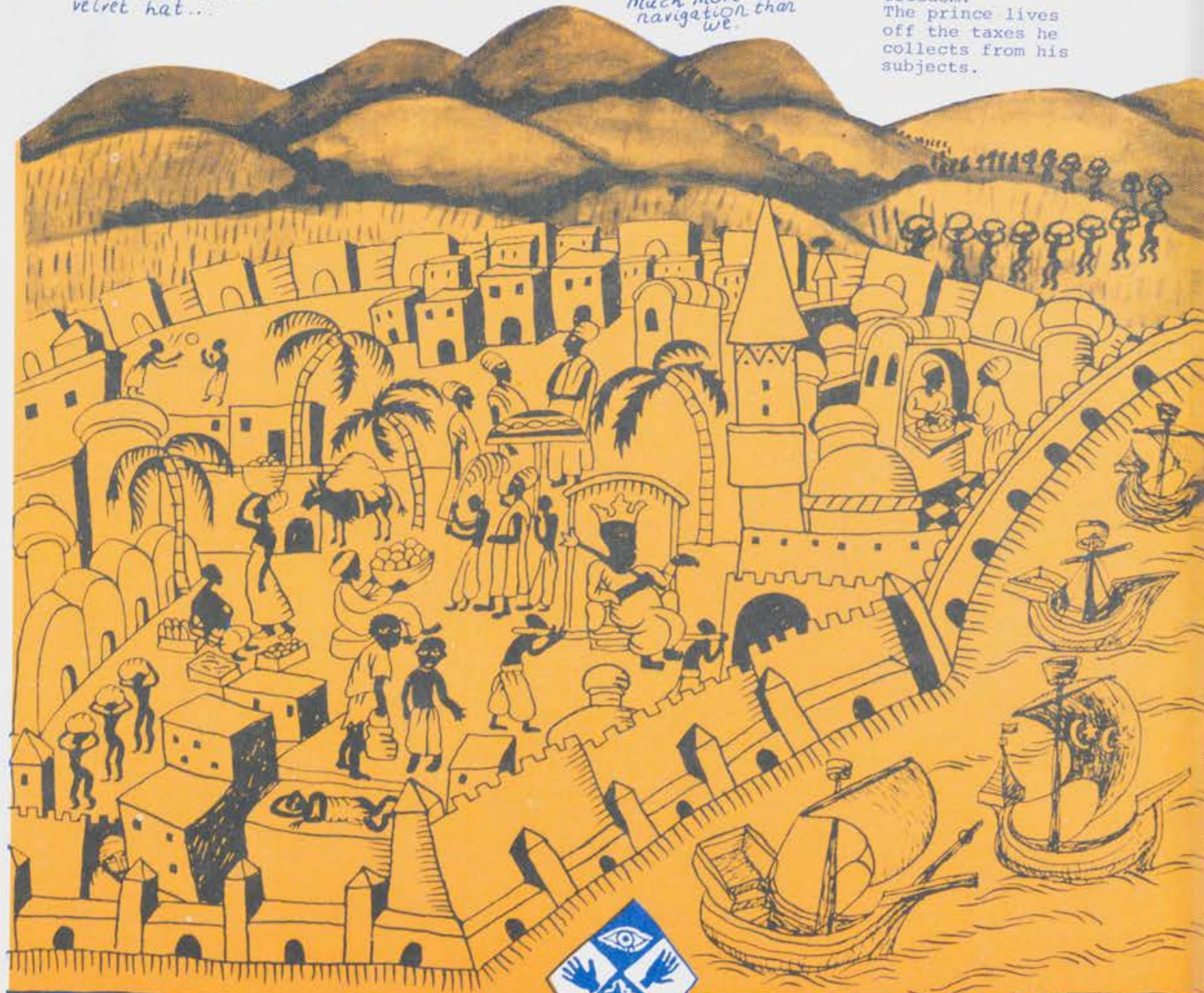


**JANUARY 25:**  
We see a strange sight. Two foreign merchants board the ship. One has a silk turban and the other has a velvet hat...

We pass more rich seaport towns which we've never heard of before--- Kilwa, Quelimane

... there are houses built of stone and a harbor teeming with ships we have found a man who knows the whole Indian Ocean like the inside of his pocket, who knows much more about navigation than we.

This town is like a typical European town. There is really a difference in people here--in other words class differences. At the top is the prince and there are also merchants, craftsmen, and farmers who bring their goods from the land. There are also slaves. The slaves are like servants. They can buy their freedom. The prince lives off the taxes he collects from his subjects.



**THESE MERCHANTS** APPARENTLY FEEL MORE AT HOME HERE THAN THOSE IN EUROPE. THEY HAVE CONNECTIONS ALL OVER--FROM CHINA IN THE EAST TO THE POWERFUL MERCHANTS OF BENIN AND MALI, THE CONGO AND MOZAMBIQUE IN THE WEST.

VENICE

INDIA CHINA

INDIAN OCEAN

MALI

BENIN

AFRICA

CONGO

MOZAMBIQUE

KILWA

QUELIMANE

THESE ARE THE TOWNS SPOKEN OF ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.

Around the whole Indian Ocean the merchants traded with each other--in deserts on camels, on the ocean in ships, and in the jungle with baskets. They all practice the same religion--Islam. The Portuguese envied the Islam merchants...

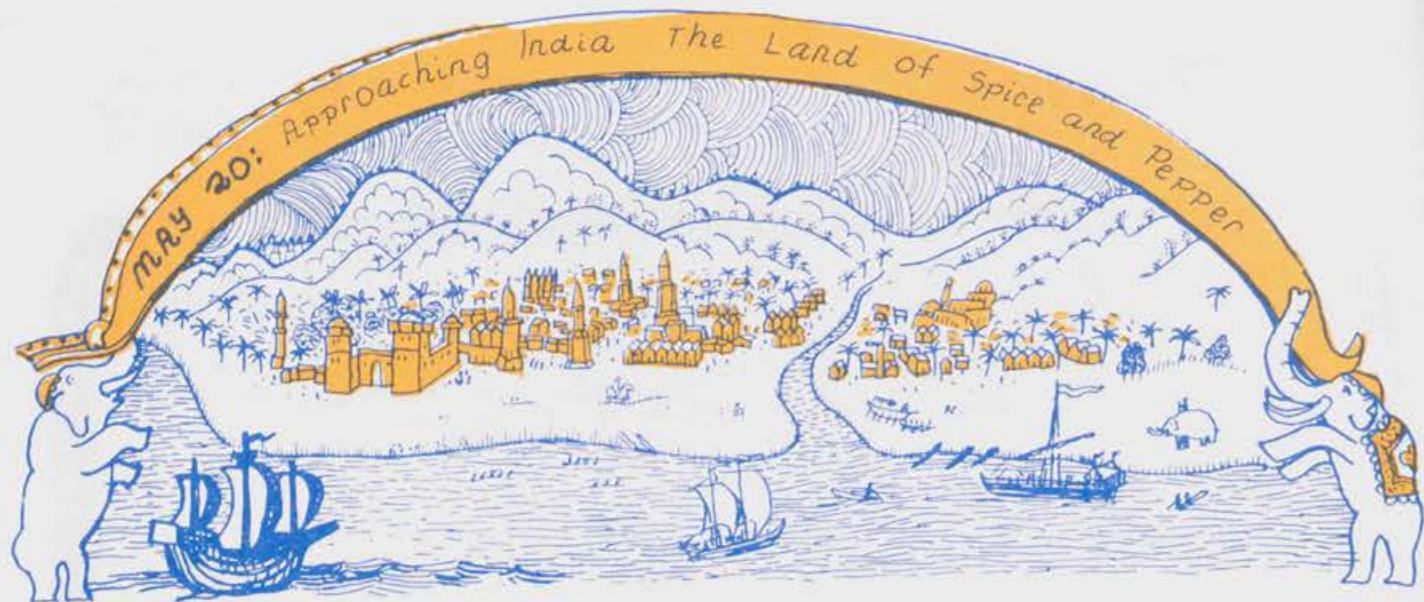
They traded clothes, pepper, perfume, iron, gold, porcelain and ivory...all the wonderful luxuries which the Portuguese longed for. Unfortunately the Portuguese hadn't such fine things to bargain with.



... AFTER WE WERE HERE FOR A FEW DAYS TWO DISTINGUISHED MEN APPEARED. THEY WERE CHIEFS AND SET NO PRICE ON ANYTHING WE GAVE THEM. THEY SAID THEY HAD SEEN A SHIP THAT WAS LARGER AND BETTER EQUIPPED THAN OURS...

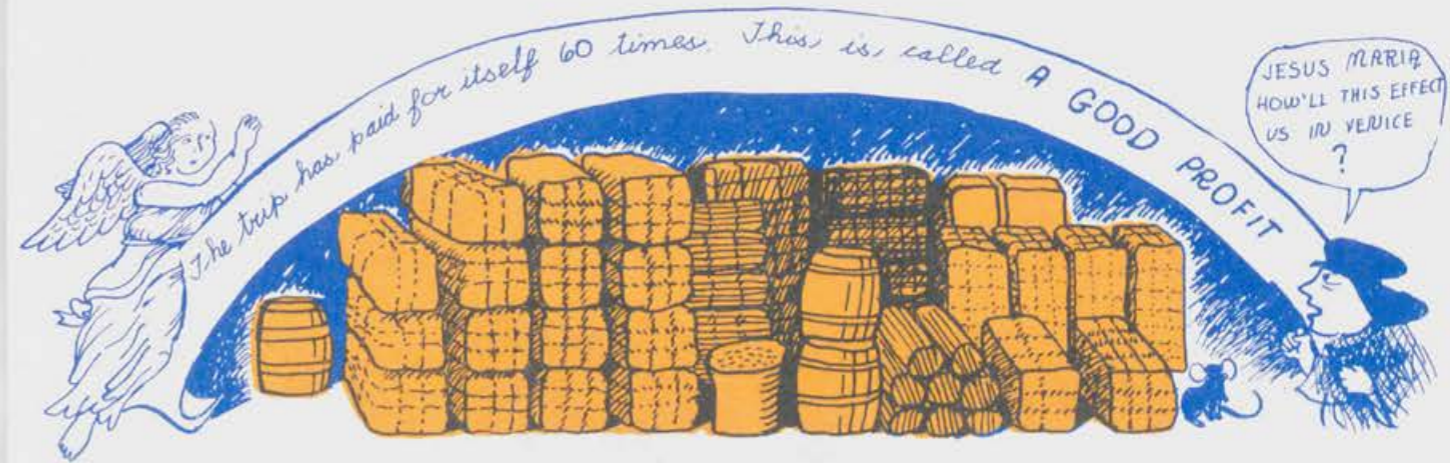


... BUT AT ANY RATE WE HAVE A PLUMB LINE TO MEASURE THE DEPTH OF WATER AND HELP US ON OUR WAY TO INDIA.



The Portuguese had no gauge for the long voyage. But how were things for them in India? We'll not discuss their time in India at great length because Vasco's presents were a big flop. The honey and amber and other gifts which he gave to the Indian prince were completely ridiculed. The only thing the prince liked were the sailors' leather shirts. But fortunately the Portuguese managed to get the pepper and other spices.

29: We lift anchor and start home...



The king is happy and gives Vasco da Gama a warm welcome. But Vasco is a little nervous...



-So we can reckon to make a profit...they aren't interested in our goods...they have very much bettered themselves.



A shadow falls over the king's face. His eyes become small and his mouth forms into an ugly grimace.

## THE SHIPS WHICH LEAVE LISBON ARE HEAVILY ARMED...



# THE WORLD IS "DISCOVERED" AND PLUNDERING BEGINS



Once again the Portuguese ship arrives on the east coast of Africa. This time it is filled with cannon, guns and soldiers. The ship anchors outside the major commercial city. Soldiers land. They circle the town. Those who resist the soldiers are murdered and beaten.



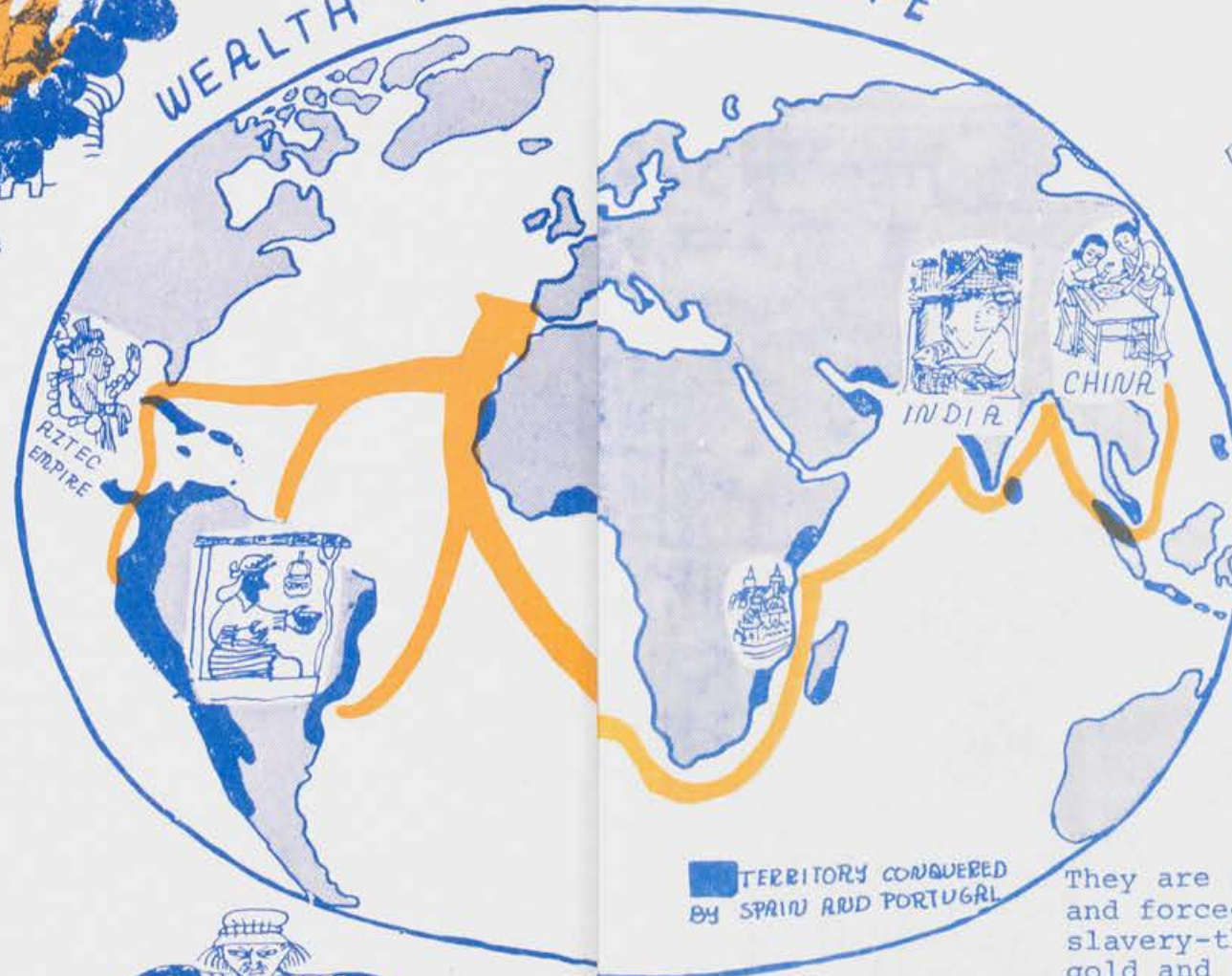
The soldiers break into the houses and palaces and take all they find which is valuable. The city's inhabitants flee in a wild panic to save their lives. The Portuguese ship is filled with gold and ivory. When there is no more to plunder they set fire to the city and bombard what is left. Soon all the splendid commercial cities along Africa's east coast are in ruins.

In this way the Portuguese subdue business in the Indian Ocean. The Islamic merchant remains completely helpless. Their ships are bombarded and their goods are taken from them.



In the end the Portuguese control all the business between Africa, China, India and the East Indies. The wealth flows to Europe.

WEALTH FLOWS TO EUROPE



The same occurs in America. Soldiers, cannon and guns. Men killed. The Portuguese and the Spanish conquer large territories in South America, including the Incas', Mayas' and Aztecs'.



They take land from the Indians. The Indians can't compete with the European guns and horses.

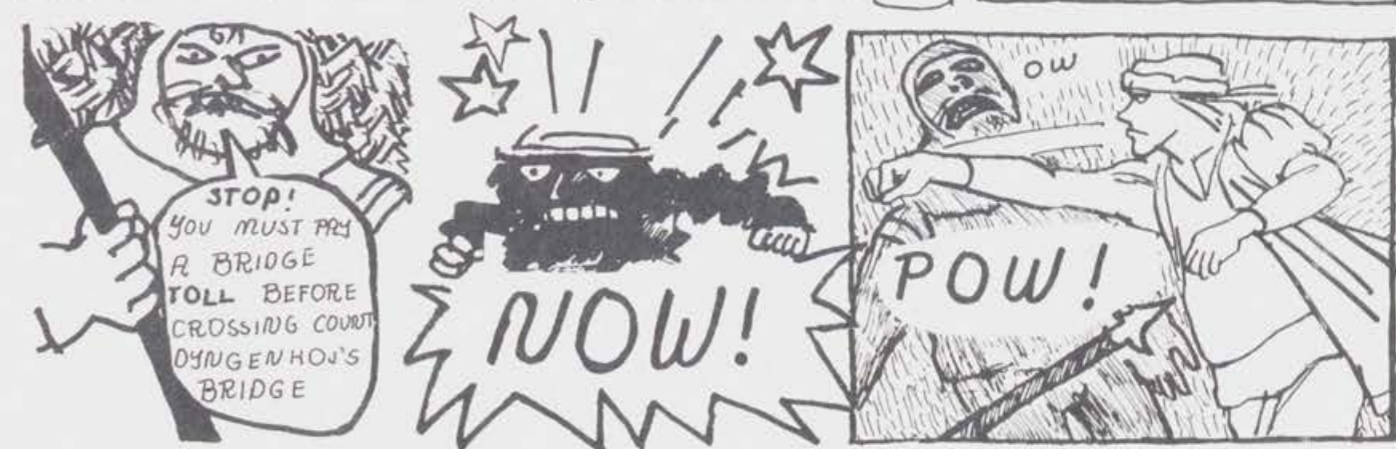
They are subjugated and forced into slavery—they work in gold and silver mines and on tobacco fields. The Indians toiled and sweated for their new masters. Those who weren't able to work quickly enough were beaten and many died from exhaustion and ill treatment.

The goods which the Indians produced were carried in ships to Europe. There they would sell.

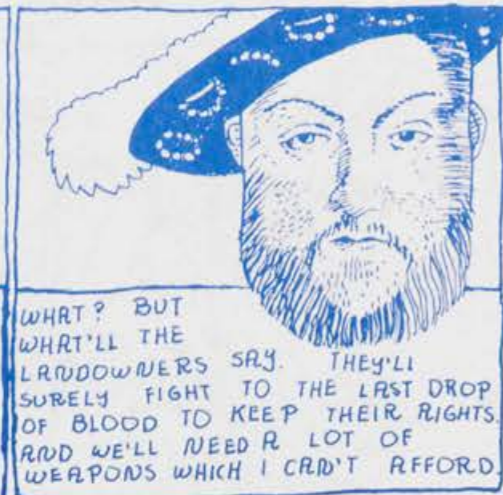
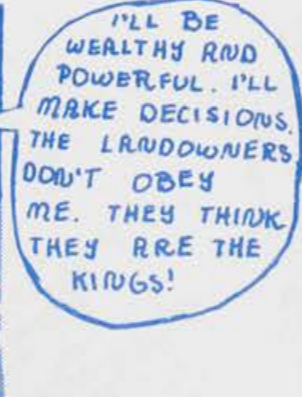
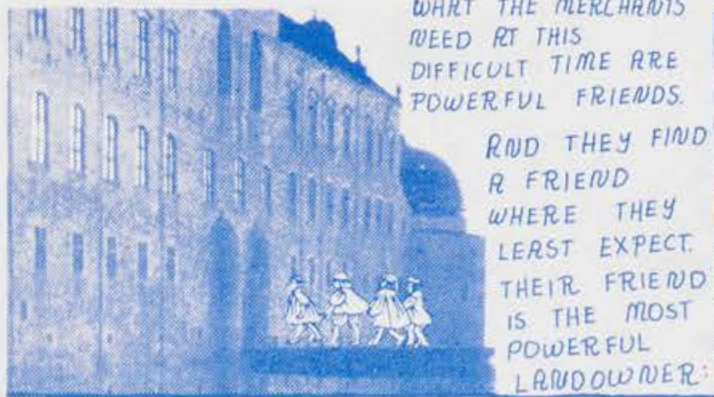


# Chapter 3 The Future is Light

for some



The merchants were very angry now. A stop had to be put to the landowners' extortions. In England, Denmark, Germany, Sweden- all over Europe the merchants gathered and lay murderous plans...



When the landowners realized what the king and the merchants planned, the hair stood up on their heads and turned grey!



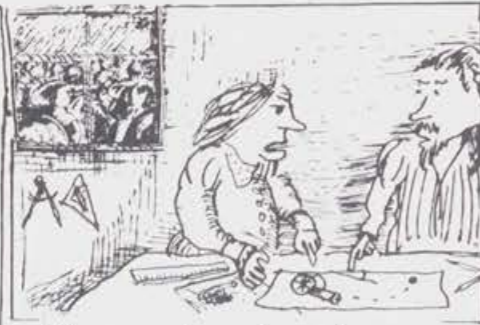
The landowners were embittered-the merchants were embittered. The disagreements couldn't be solved by peaceful means. The landowners resisted the merchant class and both sides were prepared to fight to the bitter end. It became a CLASS STRUGGLE.



The battle between the landowners and merchants was similar to many battles that raged in Europe in the 1500's and 1600's.

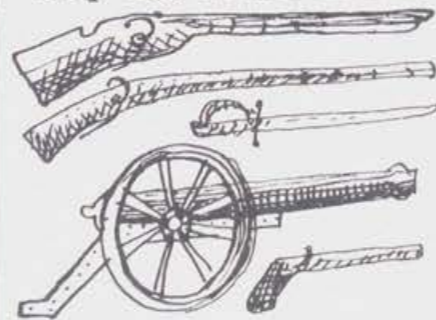


The merchants had neither the time nor the desire to fight on the battlefield. They had more important things to occupy them which could pay better.



They set scientists to work...

...and before long they had found lead...



The king and the landowners' armies fought with weapons...

and who sold them???



And where did the merchants buy the weapons? The merchants bought the weapons from the craftsmen in the towns.



NOW THE MERCHANT TAKES AN IMPORTANT STEP



The merchants purchase iron. Two workers fetch it; there are also a firer, an iron smelter, a caster, a polisher, and a distributor.



Merchant: The king is a healthy renegade for us.

But the landowners lose more and more as the war continues.



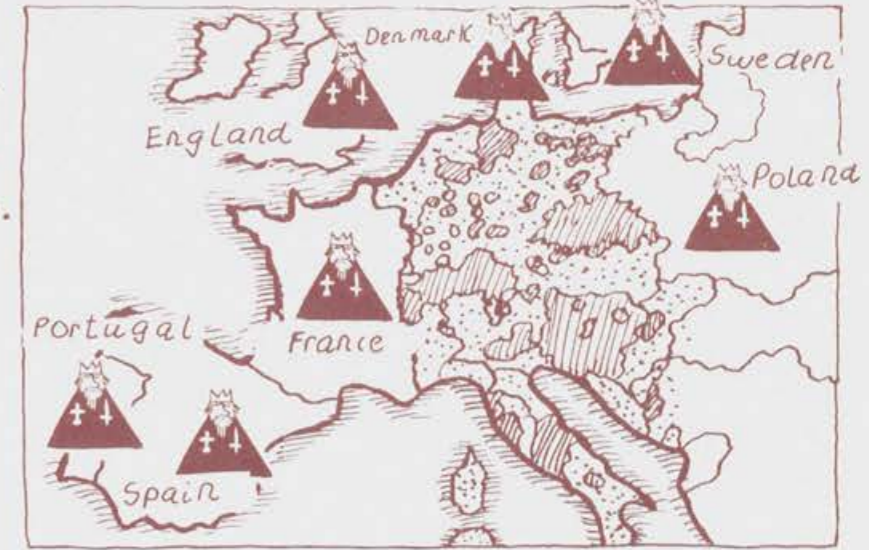
WAR AND BUSINESS AND WORKSHOPS STRENGTHENED THE MERCHANTS AND WEAKENED THE LANDOWNERS. THE MERCHANTS HAVE WON THE FIRST ROUND.



<p>The king hires judges and lawyers who write new laws for the whole country.</p> 	<p>1 All small kingdoms are merged into one and the King makes all decisions.</p> 	<p>2 TRADE IS FREE The landowners may not keep their own soldiers and they may no longer tax the merchants.</p> <p>But the PEASANTS still must pay taxes to the landowners!</p> 
--	---	--

<p>Those who don't obey the new laws are punished by the king's police and soldiers.</p> 	<p>The king, soldiers, police, judges and lawyers - all the royal machinery of power is called</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b></p> 
--	--

In the beginning of the 1600's there were many new countries in Europe. Before then everything was a confusion of small kingdoms. All small boundaries were removed in the new countries. (As you see on the map neither Germany nor Italy became a country at this time.) The merchant could do business for free inside each country. And it seemed like a good idea to have a border against other country's merchants.



First the landowners made decisions. Now the merchants make decisions. But most of them own neither land nor capital. We peasants have merely created a new class to support.





# Thieves and Bandits

and



A judge lived in a large seaport town. He was very rich and had shares in many commerce companies which plundered, murdered, raped, and stole in many places around the world. The companies always came home with large profits and the judge lived in wealth and abundance. His wealth smelled of blood and no one knew how many thousands of innocent men in Asia, Africa or America lost their lives from these excursions.

But our villain judge, for certainly he was a villain, who lived well from letting others plunder, rape and steal for him...he belonged to a particular class which fortunately controlled the community. And this class in power decided what was considered right and wrong.  
For Example:

This wealthy judge's work was to write laws and sentence men to harsh punishment. Another man was called John. He was young, strong and had a good heart. His parents had worked hard for a horrible landowner who pressed them for more and more taxes. One day they were thrown out of their house and forced to beg in order to survive and feed little John who was then one year old.

The father was sickly and after a horrible fever epidemic which spread among the beggars on the road, he died. The starving mother went to the town, the large seaport town where the judge had his home, and she saw the beggars' success at surviving in the filthiness and evil smelling slum quarters. But she had to sell her son to a rich merchant who needed a boy to clean up and run errands. John was then seven. His master practically drove him to death and his wage was a daily bowl of weak soup and a piece of stale bread. What his master's menu was he dared not think nor dream.

One day when John was grown he met his old mother. She had come to the store where her son worked. For her whole life she had regretted selling her son for money, and now she, a beggar, wished to see him again before she died. The son saw

her unspeakable poverty and thinking of the merchant's wealthy home, he was filled with hatred. During the night he stole into his master's home and took a silver bowl which he sold the next day to have money to buy his old mother medicine.

But bad luck followed him. The theft was discovered. He was thrown into a dark, smelly cell at the police station without seeing his mother again. Probably she died that same night. John appeared before a court. He had to listen at length to entangling accusations which he scarcely understood. The judge delivered a thunderous lecture and then passed sentence. The young man was a criminal, a thief of the worst kind, an insult to society. He was an insult to private property. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. He could be glad he wasn't hanged.

★

So it was then and so it is today. The big robbers who become rich from murdering and plundering go free. They are considered fine and respectable. But the little scoundrel who steals only to maintain his life and who is driven from his land and home—he is considered a criminal and held in a moldy prison. The small thief is imprisoned but the biggest thieves and murderers rule society.



# Chapter 4

» Bloody Preparations «

The Spanish and Portuguese remained the commerce rulers in the Indian Ocean and conquered territories all over America. But in the rest of Europe the greedy capitalists sat and gathered strength.



John Hawkins and his friend sit and drink coffee:

-This new fangled thing isn't so foolish, coffee with sugar in it, it's the thing.

-It is also a very special coffee, Portuguese. And the Portuguese haven't traded it. They are smarter than that. They have begun to cultivate coffee in America.

-Shit! It'll be very cheap.

Think if you were Portuguese what a lot of money you could have.

-Don't be envious of them. It's correct that they have money but we can also... (glancing suspiciously about and whispering)

...You have the blacks do the labor. First the indians were compelled to work on the plantations but the indians died...so now they would rather have slaves. And I know where we can buy them.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT

# JOHN



# HAWKINS

Here you see John, a sinister fellow, hard and rough and cold.

He'll contribute to Africa's destruction.



London summer 1562, John Hawkins speaks with several businessmen. -If you obtain 3 boats for me and fill them with toughened sailors and a little junk to exchange, I promise you that you'll have fat on the capital you invested. On August 3rd 3 ships sail out of London harbor.

He sets fire and slaughters all. The boats are filled. "Good work, boys. Now that we have 300 pieces let's leave this horrible coast." On the ocean they meet some Portuguese and take their slaves. "Hurrah! The ship is bursting with people's bodies. What a lot of money. What a profit, boys!"



Back in London John sells everything. The businessmen are wild over the profits John obtained for them. John becomes rich on the coup. Queen Elizabeth ennobles him. By his devices slaves are put in chains.



On the other side of the Atlantic these pirates sell the living cargo. "Perhaps we have filled the boat too much, boys, but we'll certainly make a lot." The plantation owners pay well. John is content. "It's wonderful to be done." With the money he buys ginger, hides and sugar. The boats are filled to capacity so they buy two more and fill them also.



...and here are 1st class knives from Manchester, 10 knives and 10 meters of cloth for a slave. I'll have the boats filled with 1st class blacks." John gets what he wants but he still isn't satisfied... "Boys, there is a village...what about some free people?"



The commerce with men increased. Slave ships from England, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Portugal and Spain sailed along the west coast of Africa.



BLACK SLAVES ARE EMPLOYED

I FORBID YOU TO SUPPLY SLAVES TO THE EUROPEAN SHIPS.

OH, YOU'RE AN OLD KING. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I'LL BUY 100 SLAVES. HERE HAVE THESE GUNS.

... AND THE EUROPEAN GUNS ARE STRONGER THAN EVER!

NOTICE! THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN SLAVE TRADE PROFITS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA: THE MERCHANTS IN AFRICA PROCURE ONLY FINE THINGS... BUT BACK IN EUROPE THE MERCHANTS INVEST THEIR CAPITAL IN FACTORIES AND HAVE MORE AND MORE CAPITAL ALL THE TIME...

FERR SPREDS

HERE ARE 5 METERS OF CLOTH AND 10 GUNS FOR PAYMENT

THE SLAVE HUNTERS TOOK MY SMALL CHILD AS HE PLAYED IN THE GARDEN.

ALL MY HUNTING COMRADES WERE TAKEN PRISONERS. ONLY I ESCAPED.

ALL MY TOWNSPEOPLE WERE KILLED. HELP US KING!

The slave hunting also spread to a large Congo kingdom. People came to the king whose name was Affonso and complained.



King Affonso sent letter after letter to his friend the king of Portugal.

The answer came with the boat.

Dear Emanuel!

Although we have forbidden the spread of your merchants' weapons in our kingdom, many of the chiefs no longer listen to us since you have more valuables than we. Daily our sons and our daughters are taken by your merchants. Because of your merchants' greed our land is becoming depopulated. Dear brother, we request your help in this matter. Please forbid your merchants to sell arms. It is our will that there be no slave commerce in this land.

Affonso

DEAR AFFONSO!

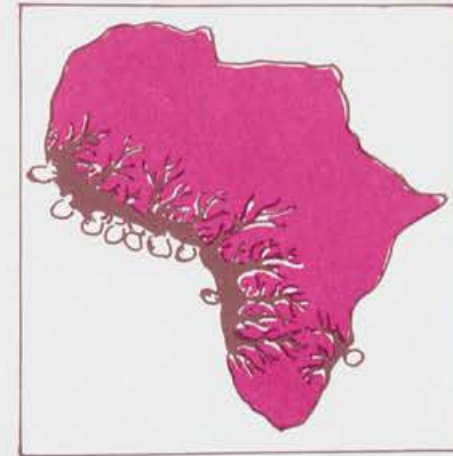
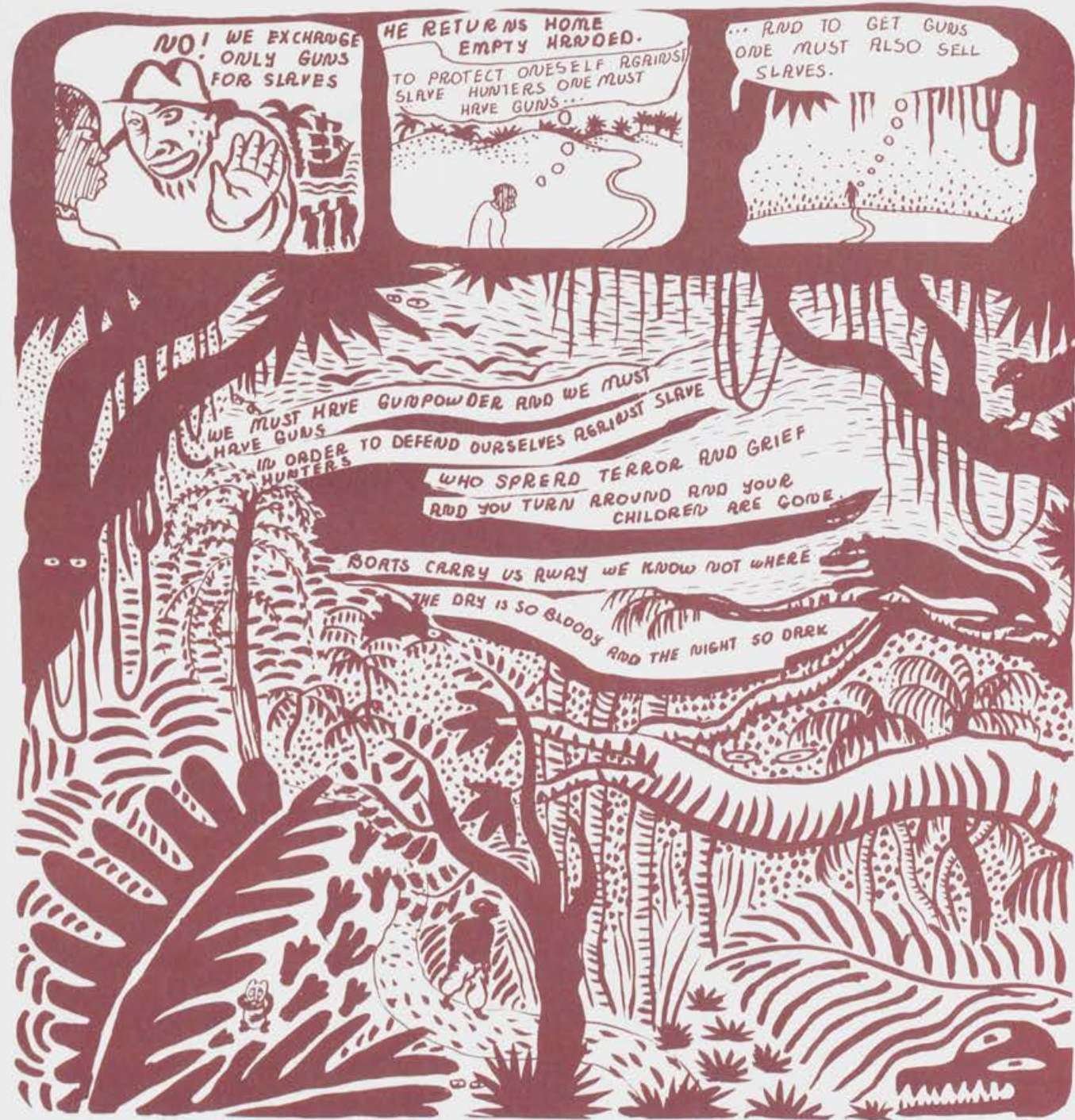
DON'T BE PECULIAR. ONE MUST KEEP UP WITH THE TIME. BUYING AND SELLING SLAVES HAS BECOME AN INDUSTRY FOR THE EUROPEAN MERCHANT WHICH NO MIGHT IN THE WORLD CAN STOP. BESIDES I DON'T HAVE PARTICULAR INFLUENCE WITH THE COMMERCE. I ALREADY OWE THE MERCHANTS A LARGE SUM.

FAREWELL  
Emanuel

The people in the Congo can't defend themselves against the slave hunters with arrows and bows and spears. They must have guns. And they can only get guns from Europe. King Affonso sent a messenger.



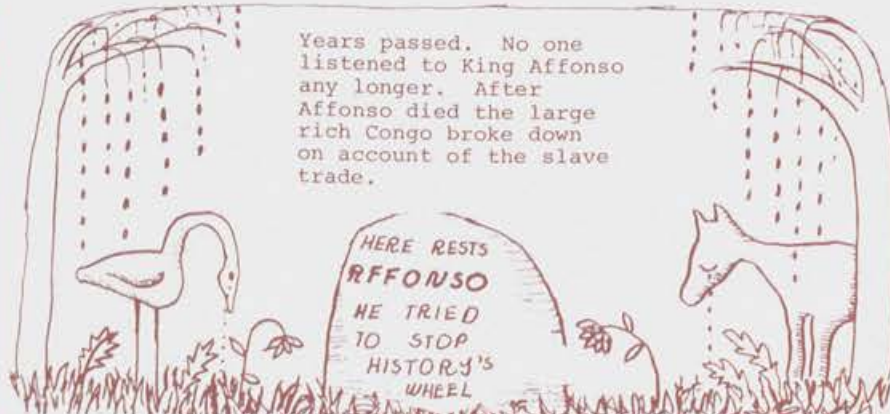
TAKE THIS CLOTH AND IVORY TO THE COAST AND EXCHANGE IT FOR GUNS.



Along Africa's west coast small commerce towns where slave traders live spring up. The slave traders live there as leeches and suckers of Africa's blood. Merchants from England, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Denmark demand more and more men.

100 MILLION PEOPLE ARE CAPTURED

The atrocity spreads over Africa. One village takes slaves from a neighboring village. People become mistaken about each other. One no longer dares to cultivate more land than necessary. It is dangerous to be working in the field if it is necessary to flee. Clothes are no longer made when one can buy cheap European clothes. Superstition and savagery follow in atrocity's trail. This lucrative business gives Europe factories and increased profits while Africa gets syphilis, gin and guns.



Years passed. No one listened to King Affonso any longer. After Affonso died the large rich Congo broke down on account of the slave trade.

1750

A SLAVE WHO REGAINED HIS FREEDOM HAS COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE WHERE HE WAS BORN. ALL WAS CHANGED. THE SLAVE HUNTERS HAD ONLY ALLOWED THE OLD AND WEAK TO REMAIN.



WHAT DO THEY DO WITH YOU OVER THERE?

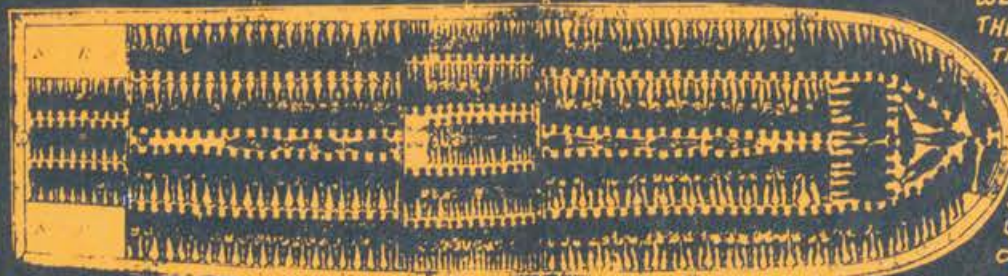
IS IT TRUE THAT THE WHITES EAT YOU?

THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE

HE BEGINS TO TALK:



WE WERE UNDERWAY FOR FOUR MONTHS



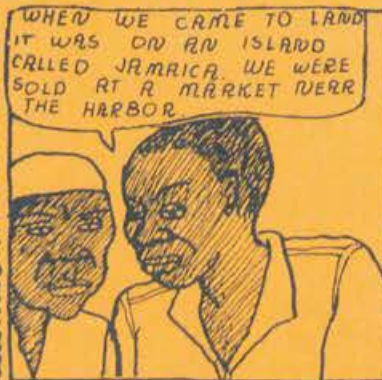
WE WERE 140 SLAVES. THERE WAS A STORM THAT LASTED FROM SUNRISE TO SUNRISE. WHEN THE WIND SUBSIDED WE WERE ONLY 50. THE OTHERS WERE WASHED OVERBOARD.

... IN ORDER TO SAVE SPACE WE WERE STOWED AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE ON THE SLAVE SHIP.

WE WERE CRAMMED TWO AND TWO, THIS ONE'S LEFT FOOT TO THE OTHER'S RIGHT AND THE SAME WITH THE HANDS.

1/7 OF THE SLAVES DIED ON THE VOYAGE

WE WERE A DUTCH SHIP. AFTER SIX WEEKS OF TRAVEL WE WERE FIRED AT BY ANOTHER VESSEL. THEY WERE WHITE MEN FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, ENGLAND, AND THEY ATTEMPTED TO TAKE US FROM THE DUTCH.



WHEN WE CAME TO LAND IT WAS ON AN ISLAND CALLED JAMAICA. WE WERE SOLD AT A MARKET NEAR THE HARBOR.



ON THE SUGAR PLANTATION WE BEGAN WORK AT 5 A.M. AND FINISHED AT 7 P.M. WHITE SUPERVISORS RODE AROUND WITH A WHIP TO KEEP US IN PLACE.

On the Portuguese plantation in Brazil sugar was cultivated. On the West Indies and on the French and English plantations in North America tobacco, sugar and cotton were cultivated.



SLAVES WHO STEAL SUMS OF \$-50 ARE HANGED. SLAVES WHO DISOBEY ARE BURNED WITH TORCHES. SLAVES WHO TRY TO ESCAPE ARE PLACED IN IRON RINGS WITH NAILS AROUND THEIR NECKS AND ANKLES.

WE'VE PROTECTED MANY TIMES

THE PRIESTS TRIED TO SCARE US BY SAYING THE REBELLIOUS WOULD GO TO HELL. BUT WHICH HELL IS WORSE THAN OURS?

WHAT IS THE LAND CALLED WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE TAKEN?

AMERICA

JUST WAIT FOR THE DAY WHEN THE SLAVES RISE UP AND PROTEST.

A BARK PROTRUDS LIKE LIGHTNING BETWEEN HIS THOUGHTS

THE SLAVE OWNERS AND GUARDS LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR. EACH NIGHT THEY SLEEP WITH A PISTOL UNDER THE PILLOW.

BUT THEIR STRENGTH ISN'T ONLY IN GUNS!

THE WHITE MERCHANT IS AFRAID OF US...

JUST LOOK AT THE SHIRT YOU HAVE ON. DOES IT COME FROM ENGLAND?

YES. ALL SHIRTS ARE MADE THERE!

IT IS WOVEN AND SEWN IN ENGLAND.

... BUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAVE OFFERED THEIR LIVES ON THE PLANTATION FOR THE COTTON.

THE SHIPS GO ALL OVER AND THE WEALTH FLOWS TO EUROPE.

THE WHITE MERCHANT EARNS MONEY OFF OF US OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

# COMMERCE TRIANGLE

Cotton, sugar, and tobacco come on ships from the American plantations. These products are sold in Europe and the merchants get a good profit.



In Europe the profits from commerce and plundering are invested in the weaving trade and weapons. The workers weave and weave cotton to cloth; cloth and guns are the cargo on the ships which steer to Africa.



1



3

In America the slaves are sold to the plantation owners. The slaves are used as free labor to cultivate cotton, sugar and tobacco. The merchants use the money they get for the slaves to fill their ships with cotton, sugar, and tobacco. But they have money left over...



2

In West Africa guns and cloth are traded for slaves. The ships sail to America filled with slaves.

The English merchants get special help from their country. The English navy and army are sent to America, Europe and Asia to shoot all the Spanish, French, Dutch and Danish merchants. By the middle of the 1700's they had conquered all the commerce between Europe and other lands. And what this meant for these English capitalists we'll soon get to see...

**LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND 1766**

COMPANDED... SPINNING IS SUCH A SLOW PROCESS AND COTTON SELLS SO WELL ALL OVER THE WORLD.

TAKE THIS AND SEARCH YOUR BRAINS FOR A SPINNING MACHINE FOR ME! I PAY WELL!

"Spinning Jenny" is finished in 1767. But now there is so much yarn spun that the weavers couldn't keep up.

In 1785 a mechanical loom is invented.

But in order to make all the machines one needed to have iron. And in order to make iron one had to have coal. But water ran at the bottom of the coal mines. "We must have pumps."

Inventors invent pumps which are driven by steam. The steam hammer hammers iron. The steam engine drives all the looms and spinning machines.

1840-1850



Chapter 5

# TRUMPHERANT SYMPHONY



The steam whistle's whistle gives the start signal. A new time has come. The snorting and groaning steam locomotive blusters between field and wood. Out over the ocean the steam ship steams filled to capacity with goods from capitalist shops. Hear the machines sputter and whine. Machines can do everything. The small workshop grows into the large factory. Increased production-more smoke. The powerful funnels wrap the land in roads, mines and tunnels. Progress goes forward with leaps and bounds. Technology overcomes nature.



AIRSHIP  
1852



PHOTOGRAPHY  
1852

MATCHES  
1833



PROPELLER  
1834

MORSE TELEGRAPH  
1844



PETROLEUM LAMP  
1860

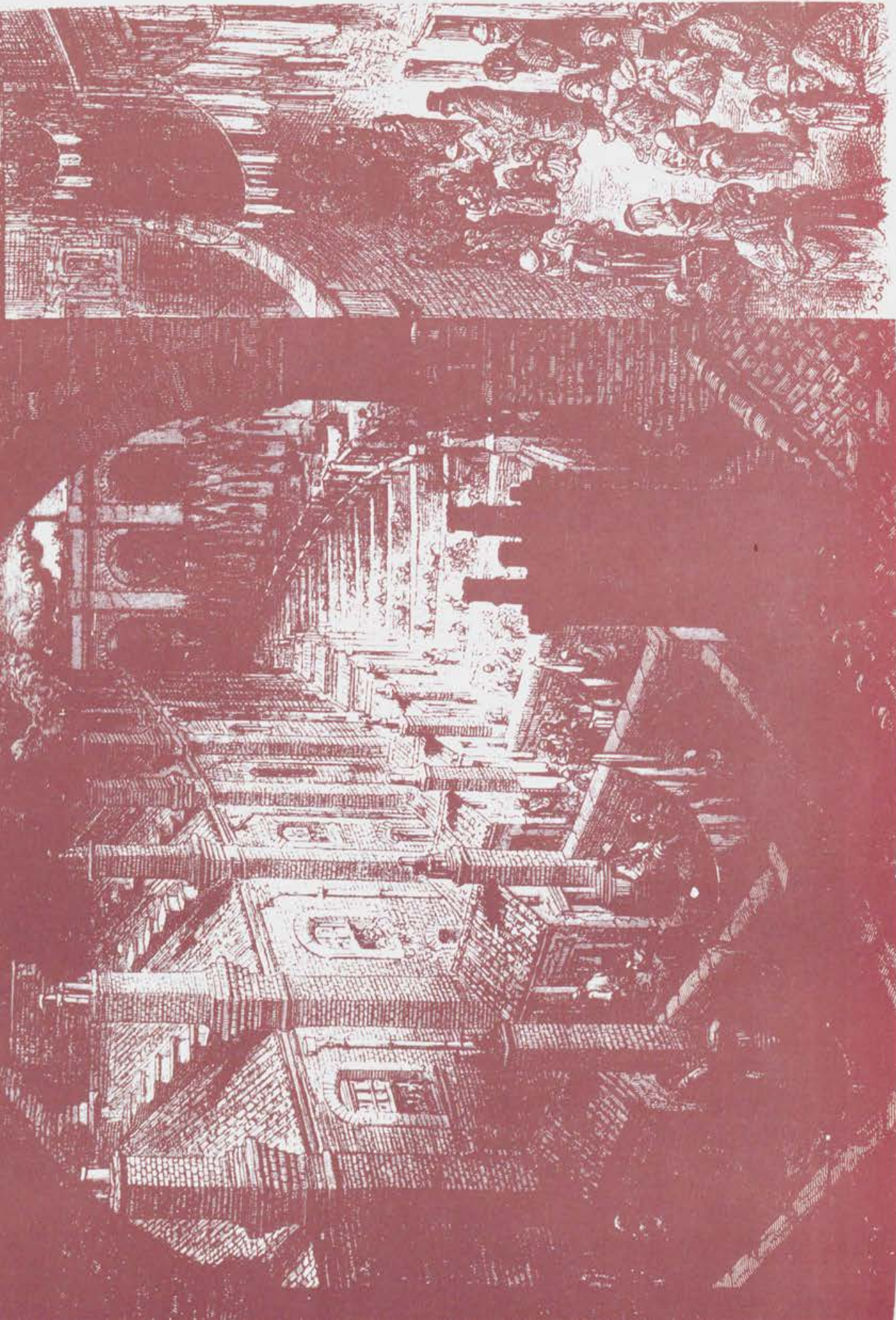
ELECTRIC FURNACE  
1858



WE CAPITALISTS are humanity's beneficiaries. Oh, I become altogether exhilarated thinking and of all the industry and all the inventions. They'll provide all with luck and well being. All this knowledge, all this capital. All of it is OUR work!!!







THE CITY IS FULL OF SMOKE AND SOOT, ILLNESS AND OVERPOPULATION. THERE ARE FACTORIES, MINES, IRON WORKS AND WEAVING MILLS HERE. WE MUST WORK FOR THE CAPITALISTS HERE. THEY PRESS ALL OUR ENERGY OUT OF US. THEY PURSUE US TILL DEATH. THEY KNOW THAT WE CAN'T RESIST.



Ellison Jack, coal carrier: age 11  
"I have worked in this mine for three years. My father accompanies me here at 2 in the morning and I come up again at 1 or 2 in the afternoon. I go to bed at 6 in the evening to be ready to go to work the next morning. I have to carry the coal scuttle up 4 or 5 high staircases or ladders before I come to the head entrance. I carry 5 tons of coal in a day and sometimes I am beaten when I can't get it done."



John Smith, weaver: age 42  
"I go to work each day. When I come home I'm so tired that I can't sleep. Day in and day out it is the same. Soon I'll die. It's as though my life has no meaning."



Sarah Gooder: age 8  
"I'm a door opener in the mine. I have to work without light and I'm afraid. I begin at 4 and sometimes 3:30 in the morning and come up again at 5 or 5:30. I never sleep. When I have light I sing but when it's dark I don't dare."  
(From a state commission 1842)



Bob Jones, factory worker: age 18  
"We must not think as they decide everything. They trample us and disdain us. They treat us like dumb and helpless work animals. Such is working for capitalists."



Anne Brown, spinner: age 23  
"Both my husband and I and our two children work 15 hours a day. We hardly have enough to pay for rent and bread pieces and some oats for porridge. But if we protest we are fired and without work we can't possibly survive. Now let the devil be damned. I've had enough of this extortion."

# THE CAPITALIST ACCUSED OF THIEVERY

We hundred thousand who bend our backs and toil, sweat and hurt our bodies, we who build roads and mine iron ore, pick cotton and sort nails, make racks

and build banks, stand by machines and lay iron railings, yes all of us who work and are necessary for society have no power and can't make decisions for ourselves.



Those who OWN the factories, mines and machines make our decisions. It is they who have the power. They decide how fast we shall work, what we shall set forth, which laws we shall have. They decide everything about our lives and death. And they bleed us, exploit us, press life out of us...

They live from our work like landowners lived from the peasants' and craftsmen's wear and tear. (see pages 10, 11)



54



The capitalist buys WORKERS as he buys MACHINES and RAW MATERIALS. (Raw materials are what one uses to be able to do different things—for example iron, trees, wool.) And he buys workers with WAGES.

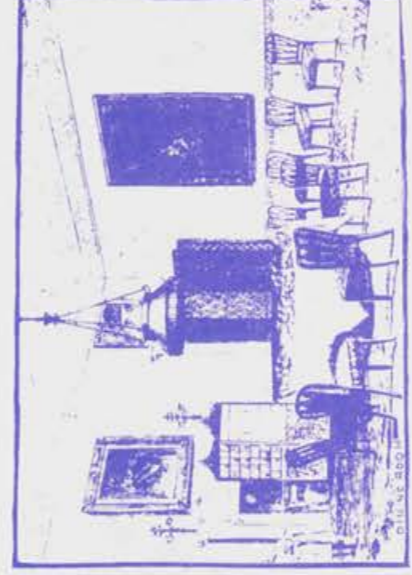
He can pay a high wage or a low wage to the worker but one thing is sure: The worker never makes as much in wages as his work is truly worth.



He only gets paid for a part of the work, the rest he must do without getting paid for it. The capitalist steals the rest. Free work or stolen goods is called earnings and likewise goes into the capitalist's pocket. With the profits he can buy more factories and employ more workers and have more money.

## SO CAPITAL GROWS

The trick of making a profit is therefore the same old trick of buying cheaply and selling expensively. The capitalist



buys labor cheaply and sells the manufactured articles for a lot. This way the profit is his.

Now he is revealed, your smart businessman and all his class. Behind his smiling face, elegant moustache and velvet shoes, we now suspect which man-eating thief he really is. And he controls society...



55

# THE COUNTRY

MAKES SURE KEEP THAT HE CAN THE CONTROL

IT IS NO LONGER THE KING OR QUEEN WHO RULE - THEY SIT BACK LIKE ORNAMENTS

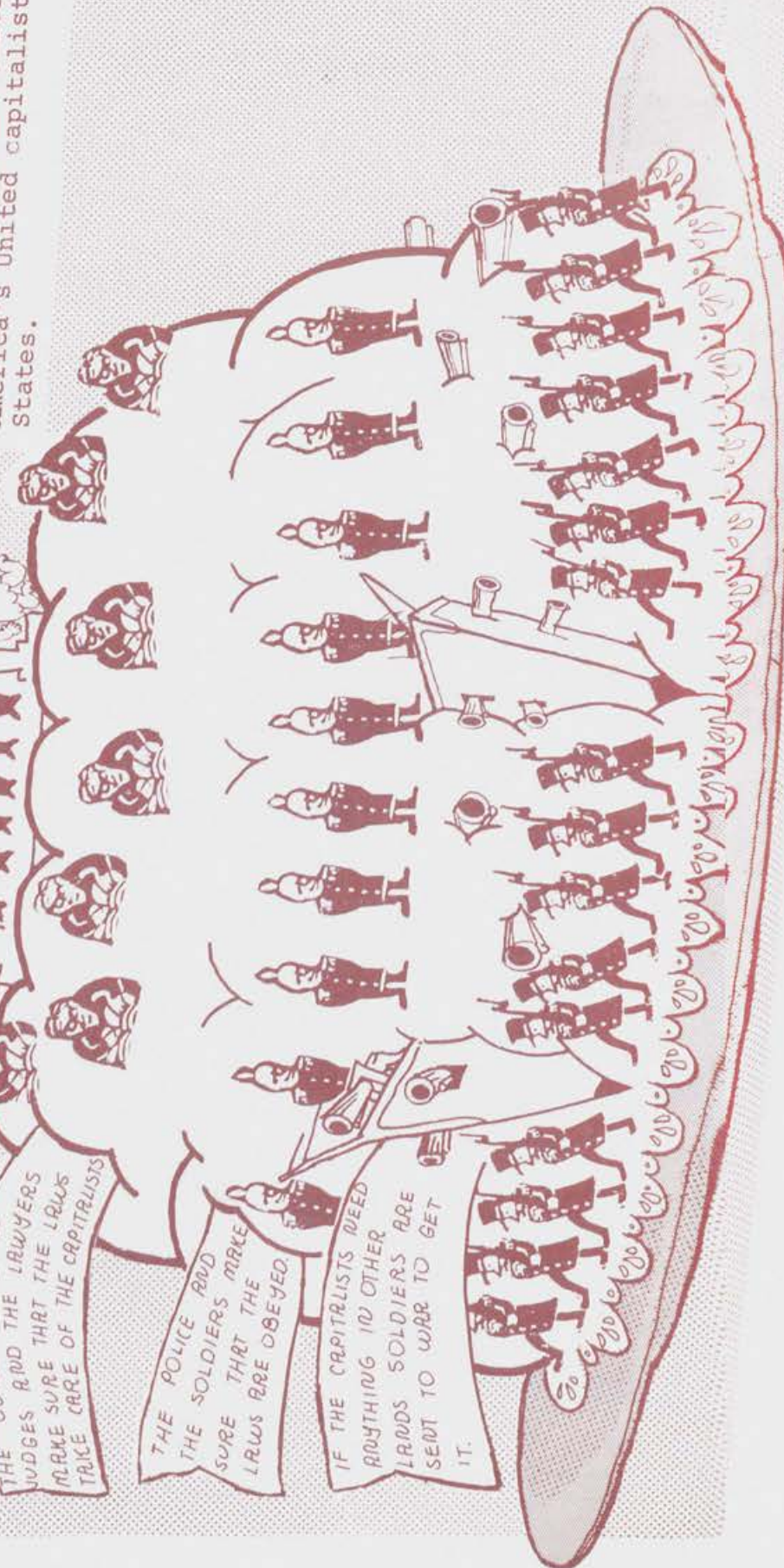
THE GOVERNMENT RULES AND IT IS COMPRISED OF THE GREAT CAPITALISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

THE GOVERNMENT, THE JUDGES AND THE LAWYERS MAKE SURE THAT THE LAWS TAKE CARE OF THE CAPITALISTS

THE POLICE AND THE SOLDIERS MAKE SURE THAT THE LAWS ARE OBEYED.

IF THE CAPITALISTS NEED ANYTHING IN OTHER LANDS SOLDIERS ARE SENT TO WAR TO GET IT.

The merchants old royal machinery of power is the capitalists own country. The capitalists have changed the old country into an entirely new one: the German capitalist state, the Italian and Austrian and Japanese state and America's United capitalist States.

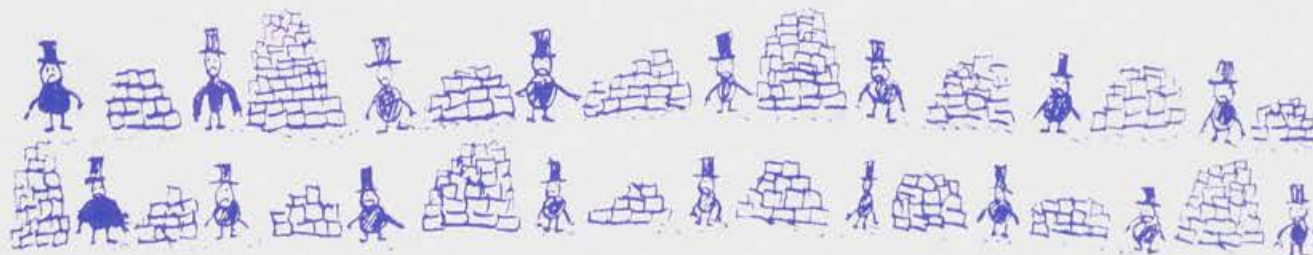


## CHAPTER 6

# Clouds Accumulate...

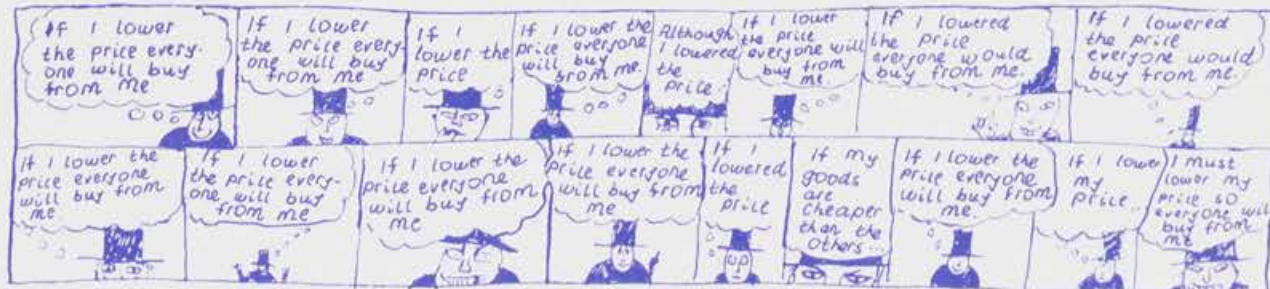


It was in England where the first industries got started. As long as the English capitalists were alone they had no problem selling everything they produced. In fact it was difficult to produce all that was demanded. But in the middle of the 1900's industries sprouted up in France, Belgium, Germany, the USA...and all the factories belched out goods. Now the capitalists had difficulty selling all their goods.



Many capitalists had unsold goods. No one bought from them and they had to compete for sales...

And everyone had the same idea



and everyone lowered his price as much as possible

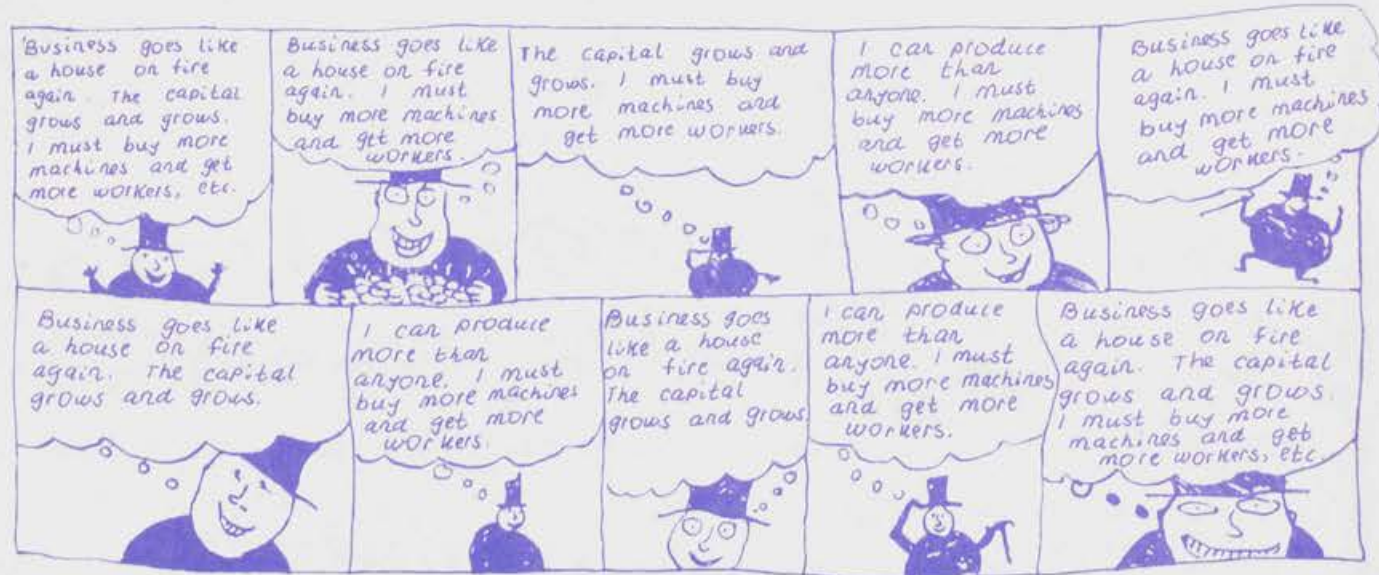
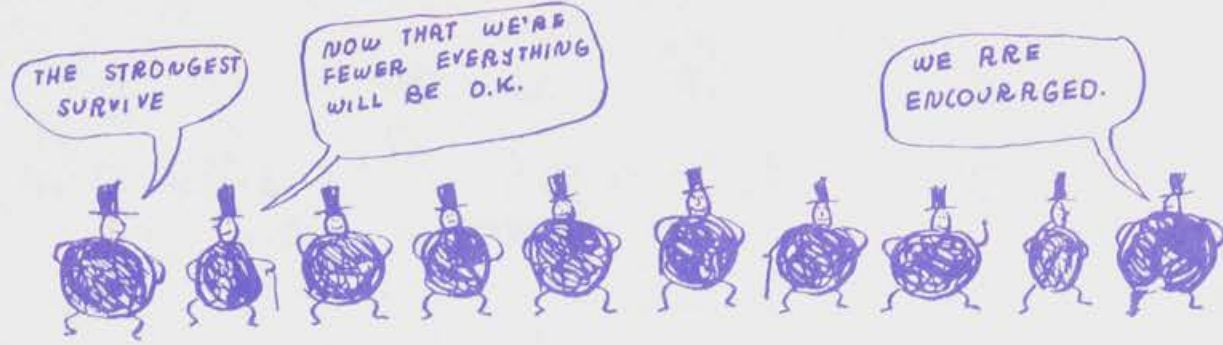


But not everyone could afford to lower the price the same. Those who had more and better machines were able to make the cheapest goods.

Everyone bought their cheap goods. No one bought from the others. These others couldn't sell anything and went bankrupt.



Now there were fewer capitalists, but wait, it gets worse...



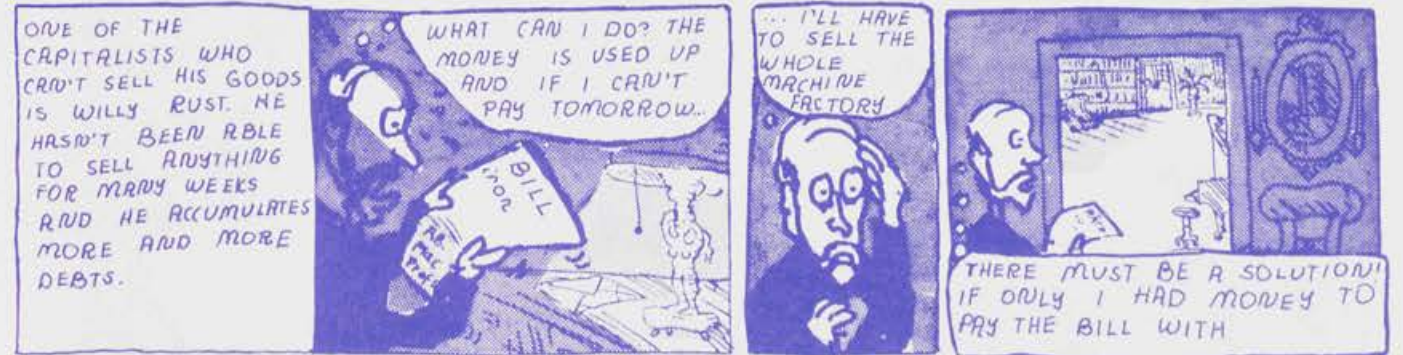
And the same thing happened as before.



Once again there were more goods than could be sold.



Who will be hurt this time?





The times were hard. The little capitalists had an enemy on their neck: the bank director.

The bank director is a capitalist who through many more or less shady businesses has obtained much money which he lives on by loaning out.

(He takes money for the money he loans out. In other words he takes 'rent' from loaning money.)

And as in our account of Willy Rust the bank director loans only money to large capitalists who give a sure profit. In this way he doesn't risk his lending capital.

THE LARGE AND STRONG HOLD THEIR OWN IN COMPETITION

The iron and steel, oil and coal and electric industries borrow most because their industries need complicated and very expensive machines...



MACHINES

THE LARGE COMPANIES AND THE LARGE BANKS

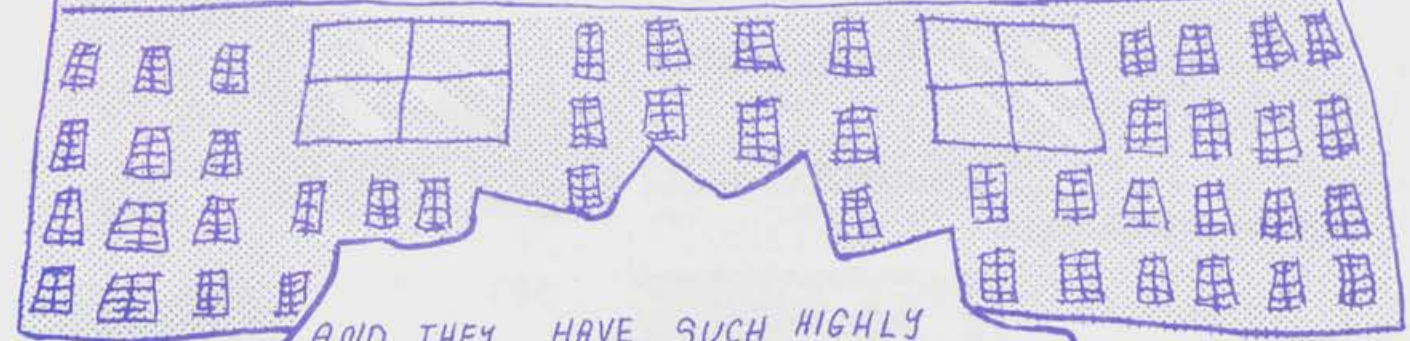
WORKED TOGETHER  
AND HELPED EACH OTHER  
BECOME

LARGER  
AND

LARGER  
AND

LARGER

(ESPECIALLY IN THE USA AND GERMANY)



AND THEY HAVE SUCH HIGHLY  
EFFECTIVE GIGANTIC

FACTORIES

THAT THEY CAN MANUFACTURE  
THE UNIQUE GOODS

THAT...





THE CAPITALISTS BECOME DESPERATE. THEY LOWER PRICES SO THEY'RE DIRT CHEAP.



LOWER PRICES = LESS MONEY



THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE I CAN ECONOMIZE ON INSTEAD...



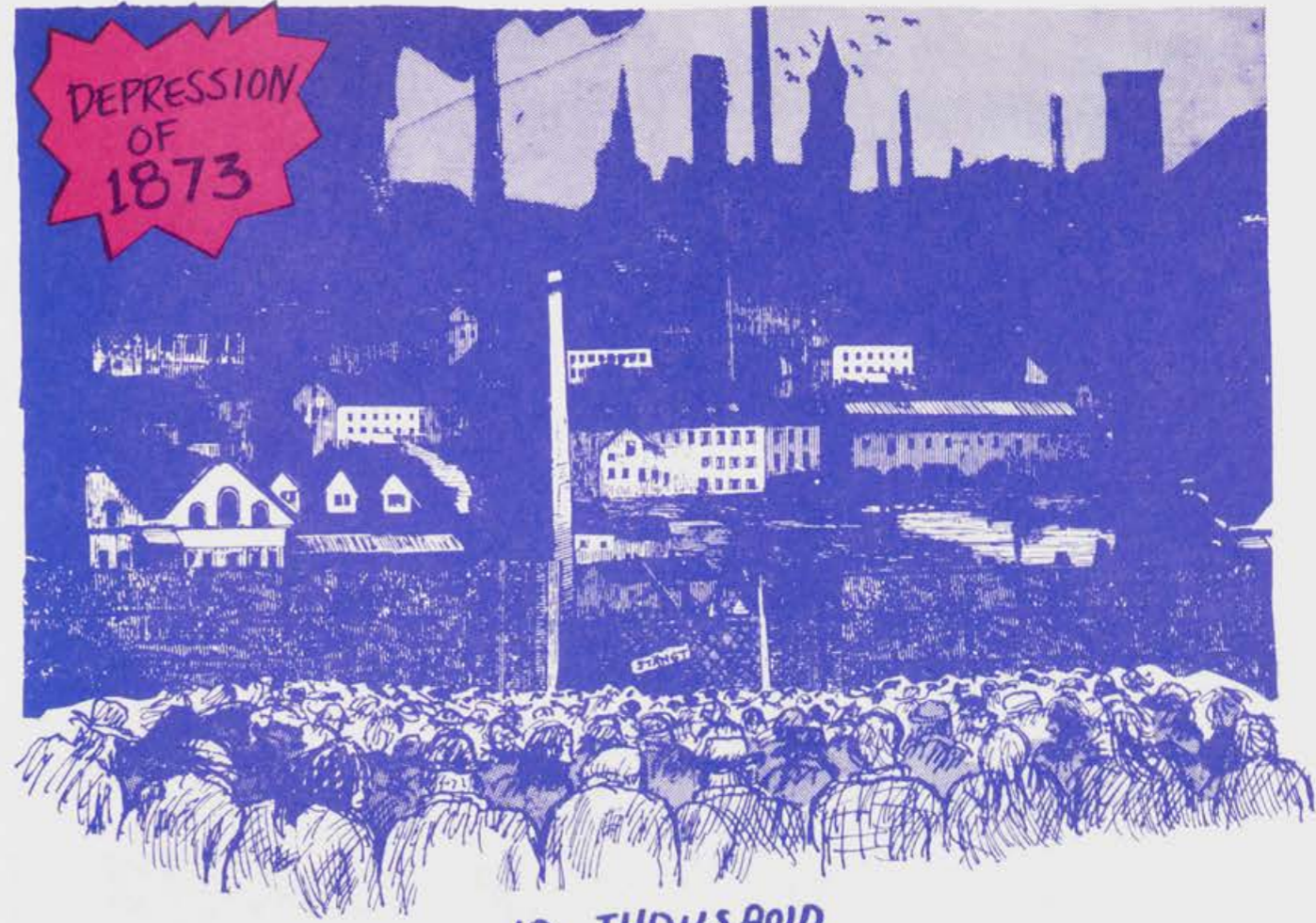
NOW WE HAVE EVEN LESS MONEY TO SPEND



It was perfectly simple for the capitalists not to sell all their goods. To lower the price even more was pure suicide as there would be no profit.

The only solution seemed to be to let the factories run at half force or close completely.

The shock was sudden.



10 THOUSAND  
100 THOUSAND  
MILLIONS

OF WORKERS ARE THROWN OUT ON THE STREET WITH NO WORK-NO WAGE-NO FOOD

The depression which began in 1873 spread to all the countries where industry is found. And the hard times didn't end-one year, two years, three years, four years, five years...

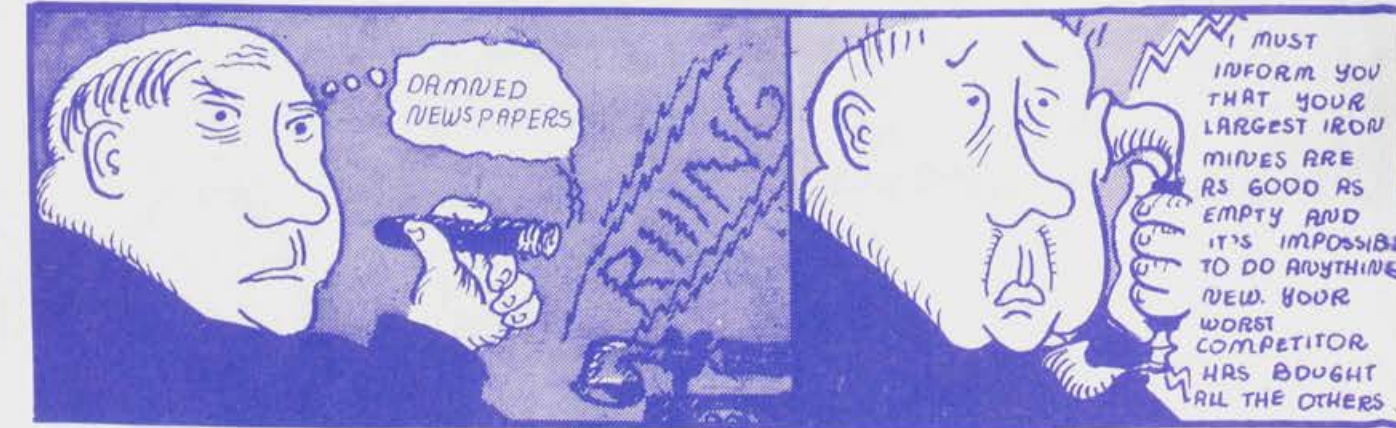


The workers are starving, desperate, obstinate. They assemble for meetings. They feel that together they have strength enough to fight against their enemies. They are fiery and rebellious. They all talk at once.  
-Those capitalists sit with their overflowing stocks of goods which they can't sell...  
-While we starve!

-They close factories because they can't pay.  
-And we go without work.  
-They give us no warning.  
The people mutter...  
-Such a horrible existence. We are treated like animals...  
-What shall we do? When shall we be carried away?  
-We'll revolt!

The tired people rush forward with clenched fists. One worker who is a little better dressed begins to talk:  
-You needn't take such a course. Calm down. We can improve society little by little...  
There is a whispering among the gathering. Men and women stare distrustfully at the speaker. One young serious mineworker shouts indignantly:

-Kryster Knudsen! Little by little! We won't reduce the exploitation of the working class little by little. Instead we'll abolish all exploitation and all slave wages and it'll be done completely. I know what I'm talking about.  
Applause and Clapping.  
The meeting continues...



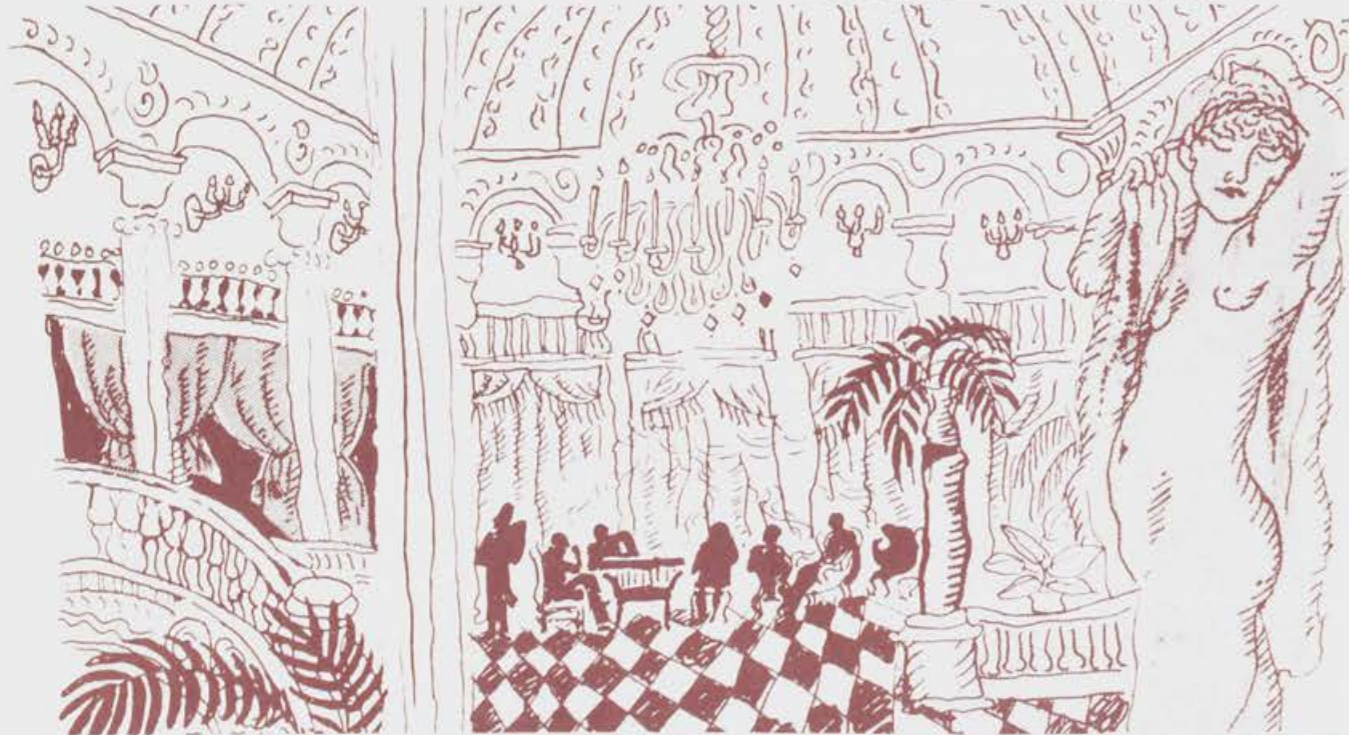
The workers organize. They form socialist trade unions and parties. They want all things in society to be owned in common. If society were socialistic, no one would need to suffer. Everyone would help everyone else make a better life. But before this can be accomplished all capitalists must be abolished. Workers are getting ready to struggle to the end.

**THEY WORK AS THOUGH THE CAPITALISTS' LAST HOUR HAS COME!**

# CHAPTER 7

## TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Leaders from the large companies and large banks gathered for deliberation. In Paris, Brussels, Rome, New York, St. Petersburg, Tokyo and London chrystral shined in the night. Capitalism must be saved-no matter what the cost.



AND THE SHIPS  
FROM EUROPE!  
AFRICA WILL  
BE CONQUERED!



Hundreds of years of plundering, slavery and extortion have made Europe's capitalists the most powerful in the world.

They are so numerous they can outfit an army. A large dark ship approaches Africa's coast. It is weighted down with soldiers, cannons and guns.



AFRICA RESISTED.

BUT AFTER 400 YEARS OF SLAVERY IT WAS DIVIDED AND VULNERABLE.

THE EUROPEAN MERCHANTS HAD PREVENTED THE AFRICANS FROM CREATING THEIR OWN INDUSTRIES. BECAUSE OF THEIR (THE MERCHANTS') SUPERIOR WEAPON TECHNOLOGY THE BATTLE COULD ONLY GO ONE WAY.

THE PEOPLE'S BRAVERY AND COURAGE DROWNED AFRICA'S RESISTANCE IN BLOOD.

The Metabele and Mashona people resisted between 1893 and 1897. The Ibos took a stand from 1900 to 1918.

At least 24,000 people died in combat in the Sudan.

The Zulus were defeated in 1887 after a bloody war.

The Burundi defended themselves between 1881-1898.

The Kilwa people revolted between 1905-1906 and 120,000 died.

The Hereo people in southwest Africa defended themselves between 1901-1906.

In Chad 60,000 people died resisting in 1900.

In Cameroon the Yaonde fought in 1896.

In Guinea the people weren't subdued until 1936.

Botswana was in revolt in 1895.

Egypt was defeated in 1882.

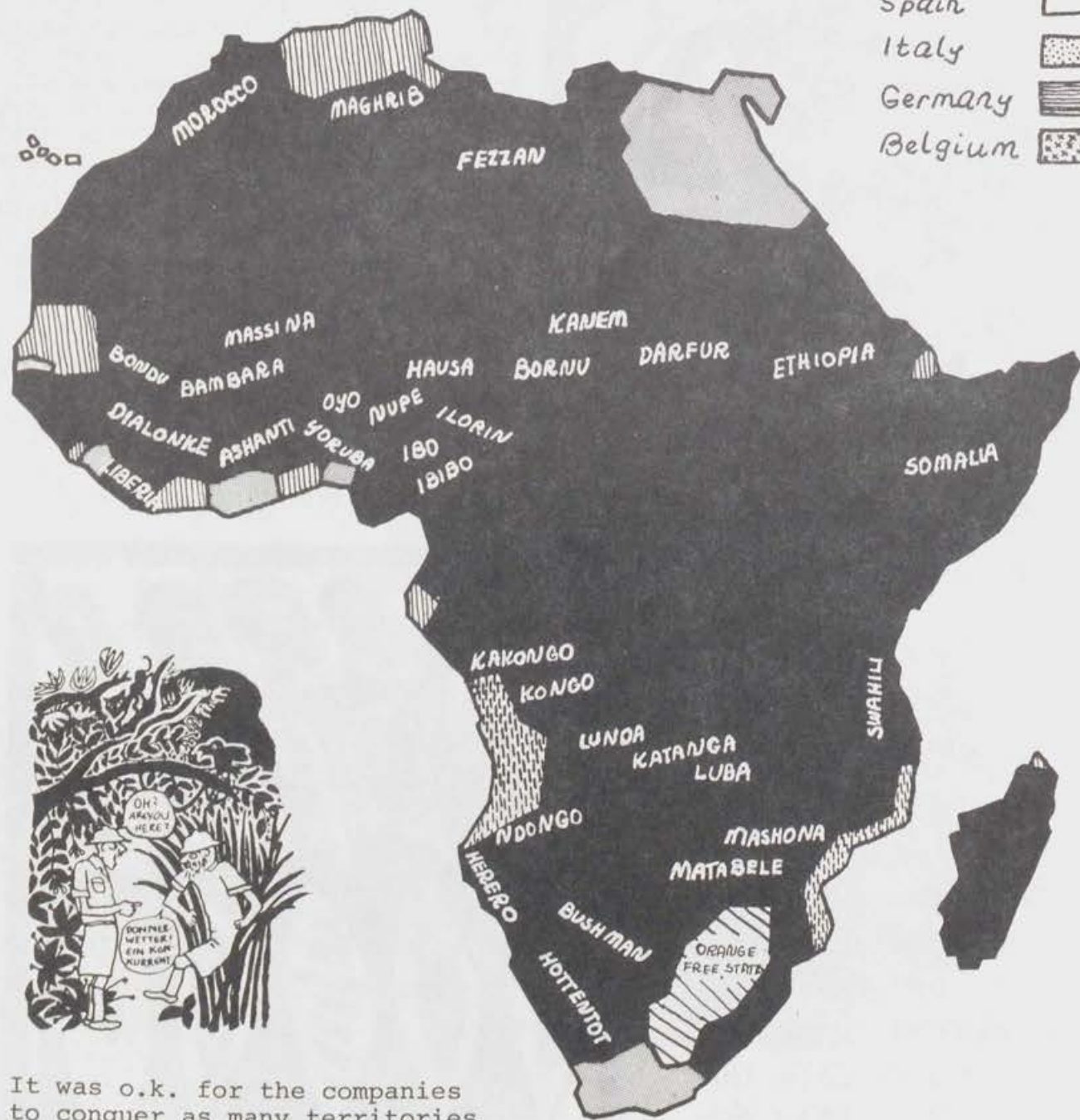
Ghana, Mali and Songhai took 20 years to subdue, etc. etc.

BUT THE SPARK WAS NEVER ENTIRELY EXTINGUISHED.



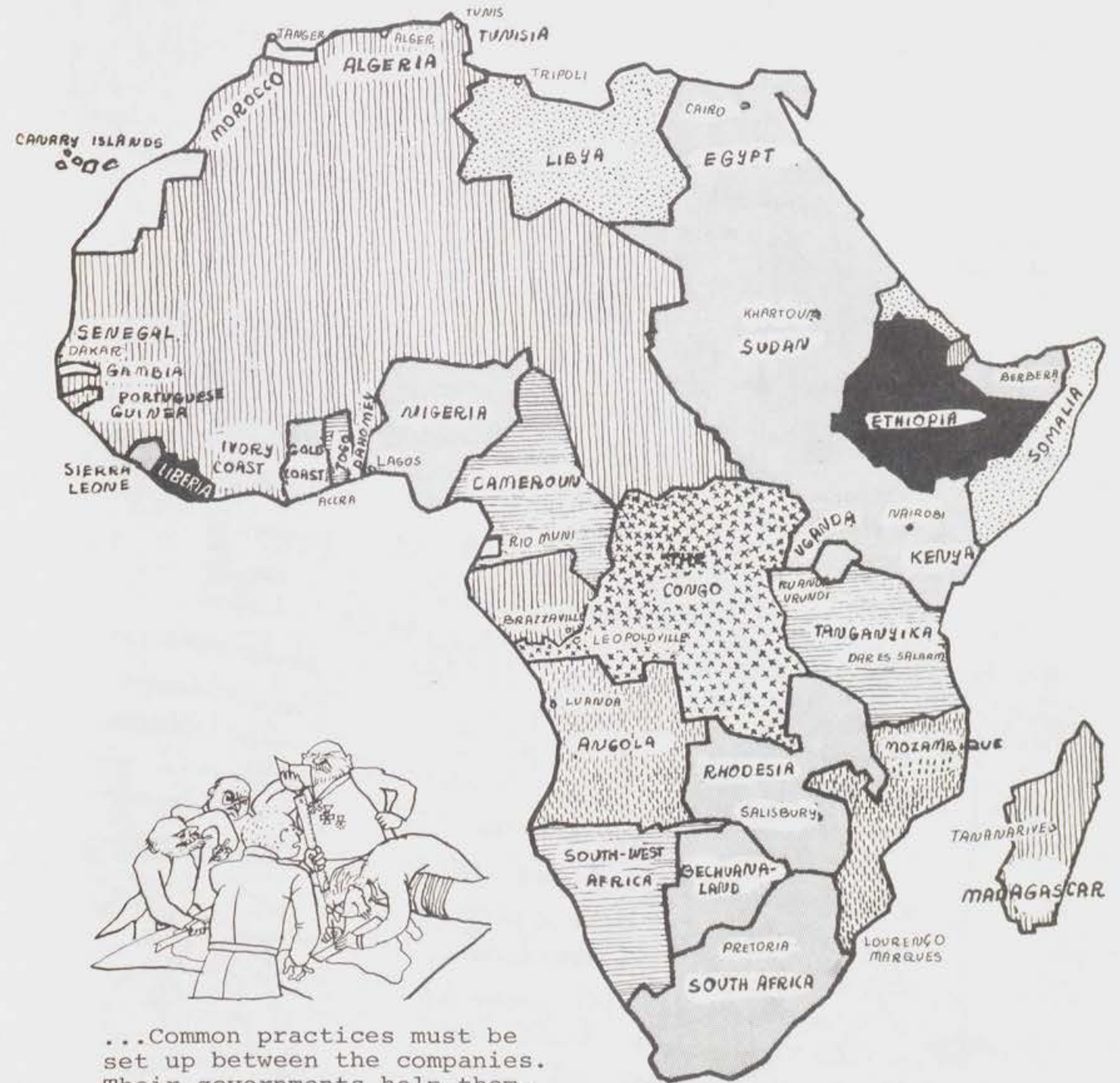
# AFRICA 1882

- England 
- France 
- Portugal 
- Spain 
- Italy 
- Germany 
- Belgium 



It was o.k. for the companies to conquer as many territories as possible. The competition was incredible. Often different companies wanted the same territory...

# AFRICA 1914



...Common practices must be set up between the companies. Their governments help them. Back in Europe the diplomats from different lands gather to cut up Africa. A ruler is used to draw up boundaries and divide Africa up into colonies.

Dear reader,  
 Much blood has flowed and much money has changed hands since the first capitalist was born in Europe. You remember when he came driving into the large old feudal society with his wares. He was enterprising and had new ideas. Yes, he was like a breath of fresh air.



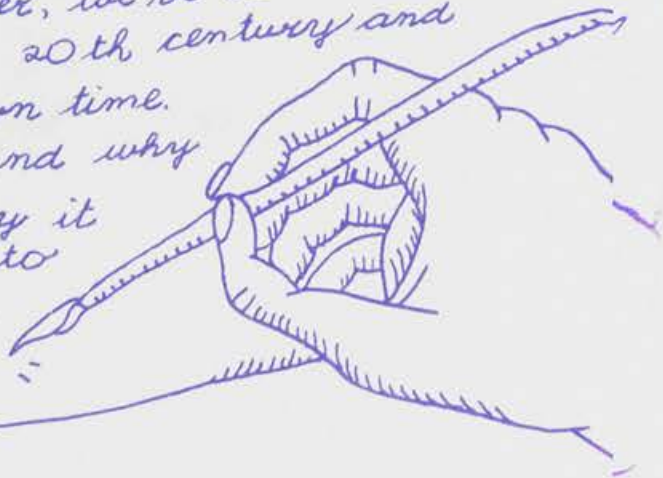
He had taken over from the olden days when the land owners ruled and he ruled society with help from his company. He became an industrial capitalist.



But in order for the capitalist to rule, the factories had to grow and for the factories to grow the capitalist needed money. The banks became vital to the great capitalists but perilous to the small and middle sized capitalists. Men like Willy Rust died like flies because the spiders in the bank only loaned money to the biggest and strongest. The spider became the mightiest of all history's capitalists for he steered both the banks and the companies.



Now, dear reader, we've come to the beginning of the 20th century and are nearer to our own time. In order to understand why the world is the way it is today you have to read the history of...



# The Spiders

WHY ARE THERE DEPRESSIONS AFTER ALL? WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR SO MANY SURPLUS GOODS AND SUCH CATASTROPHIC PRICE DROPS...



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MORE GOODS THAN CAN BE SOLD? THE REASON IS...



THE DEPRESSIONS ARE THEREFORE CAUSED BY COMPETITION!!!



AND THE DEPRESSIONS BRING US RUIN IF NOT...



THE SPIDER HAS AN IDEA

THOSE LOATHSOME DEPRESSIONS HAD THEIR EFFECT THE LAST 20 YEARS. ONLY A FEW COMPANIES HAVE SURVIVED. THEY ARE LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME.



WHILE THE COMPANIES CONQUERED AFRICA THE SPIDERS WORRIED IN THE DIFFERENT CAPITALIST COUNTRIES.

HE SENDS TELEGRAMS TO THE MIGHTIEST CAPITALISTS. THESE CONTINUAL DEPRESSIONS HASTEN OUR RUIN. STOP. ONE HAS TO KEEP UP WITH COMPETITION. STOP. WE HAVE TO BECOME FRIENDS. STOP. THIS IS OUR ONLY SALVATION. STOP.

THE TELEGRAPH WIRES BURNED. THE TELEGRAMS CRACKLED IN ALL DIRECTIONS OVER EUROPE AND THE USA...



THE SPIDER RECEIVES A REPLY WHICH PERHAPS SOUNDS LIKE THIS:



MY NATURAL INSTINCT IS TO COMPETE.



OR I AM SO BIG...



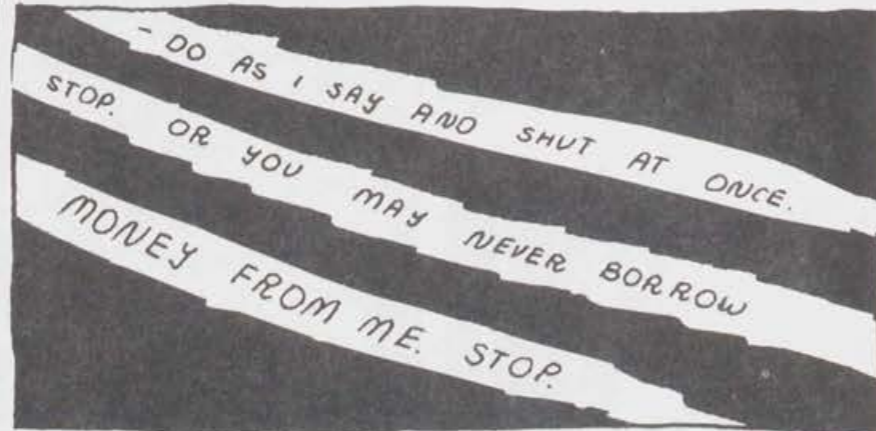


AND POWERFUL  
HOW CAN I WORK  
WITH OTHERS WHO  
ARE THE SAME???  
STOP.



IT'LL  
NEVER WORK.  
STOP.

... BUT THE SPIDER UNDER-  
STANDS THAT IN QUESTION  
NOW WAS THE VERY LIFE OF  
CAPITALISM. NEW DEPRESSIONS  
MUST BE PREVENTED!!!



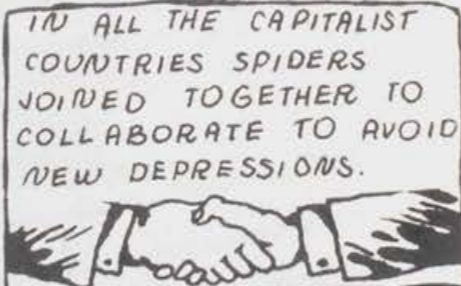
- DO AS I SAY AND SHUT AT ONCE.  
STOP. OR YOU MAY NEVER BORROW  
MONEY FROM ME. STOP.



THE COMPANIES  
WHICH SURVIVED  
THEREFORE BECAME  
FRIENDS.



HA... BUT UNDER NEATH  
THEY WOULD RATHER  
DEVOUR EACH OTHER.



IN ALL THE CAPITALIST  
COUNTRIES SPIDERS  
JOINED TOGETHER TO  
COLLABORATE TO AVOID  
NEW DEPRESSIONS.

THE SPIDERS



K.A. Wallenberg  
Sweden



J.D. Rockefeller  
USA



N.M. Rothschild  
England



G. Krupp  
Germany



C.F. Tietgen  
Denmark

AS THE AMERICAN BANDIT LAW READS:

"If you can't do it alone join forces"

THE  
COMPANIES  
CHANGED

WE ARE A CARTEL

-We are a cartel.  
Together we  
manufacture all  
the steel in  
the country.  
We have  
stopped  
competing  
with  
each other.  
We have  
agreed to  
only  
manufacture  
as much steel  
as we can  
sell.  
The spider  
is our  
friend.



WE ARE A TRUST



-We are a trust. We no  
longer compete. We have  
agreed to be a company.  
We produce all the  
electrical devices in the  
country. We decide what  
the top price will be and  
everyone is forced to  
buy from us.  
The spider is on our side.

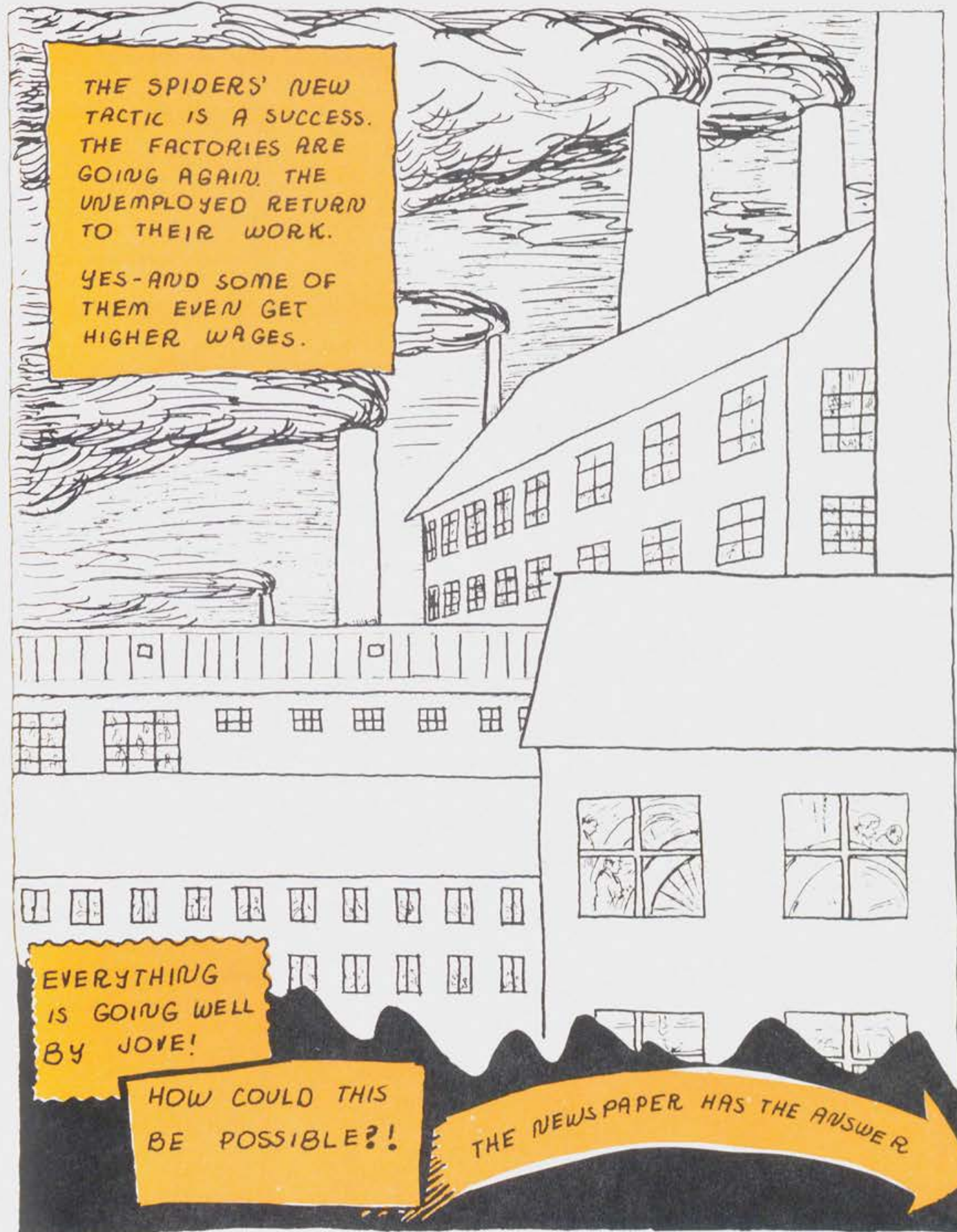


# I AM A MONOPOLY

I don't compete.  
I've just  
beaten all my  
competitors.



Now I decide  
how much oil  
to pump and  
what it'll  
cost.  
The spider and  
I are good friends



THE SPIDERS' NEW  
TACTIC IS A SUCCESS.  
THE FACTORIES ARE  
GOING AGAIN. THE  
UNEMPLOYED RETURN  
TO THEIR WORK.  
  
YES-AND SOME OF  
THEM EVEN GET  
HIGHER WAGES.

EVERYTHING  
IS GOING WELL  
BY JOVE!

HOW COULD THIS  
BE POSSIBLE?!

THE NEWSPAPER HAS THE ANSWER

IN AFRICA:

Where the capitalists found buyers for their unsold goods.

BUT most of the people in Africa were slaves. They worked for themselves and bartered for what they needed. They had to be forced to use money. Therefore they were forced to pay

# TAXES



The companies procured cheap raw materials for their factories. Therefore they needed men to work in mines and on plantations.

BUT many people lived on the best land. They had to go.

# THEFT OF THE LAND



The companies invested money in rails, bridges, houses, harbors, palaces, mines. But these things didn't benefit those who had to work.

AND since the people had enough to do cultivating land why should they work for militant strangers? They had to be forced to work.

# FORCED LABOR



Another way to obtain workers and free raw materials...

# FORCED WORSHIP





Assyai: age 49

In the past many more people lived here. We had gardens, agriculture and lots of hens and goats. That was seven years ago. Now everything is destroyed. Towns lie in ruins. Gardens and fields are destroyed. Hens and goats are dead. We are sick for we have to work more than is possible and get no wages. We have no time to work on our own fields. We are sick and hungry. Many are dead.



Keela: age 23

Our town couldn't produce as much rubber as the company wanted. In order to force us to work more efficiently they locked up 50 women and children in a house. They couldn't come out until we were finished with the work. They had no fresh air, no light, no food, not even water. They were tortured and we heard their shrieks as we worked. It took 3 weeks to get the amount of rubber the company wanted and most of the women and children were already dead.



Sita: age 14

We couldn't work our own land. The whole time we worked for the company. We are hungry. Even after a good harvest we have to eat the rubbish. In bad years farmers die from hunger and lie on the fields and roads.



M'Bezi: age 31

Last year was dry. The harvest was bad. We had no grain. We ate grass and roots. The old people died of hunger. Many left their homes and hid in the woods. The company sent hunters and soldiers after those who fled. They were caught and the soldiers put them in a cave where they died of hunger.



Kaywana: age 18

We have lost our land. We have lost our cattle. We are the white people's slave. We are nothing, we have no rights, no law.



Anonymous colonial administrator: age 45

If the native is disobedient or rebels he'll be killed. I myself have killed 150 natives with only my fists. Many women and children were crucified, 60 hands were cut off and the mutilated bodies were hanged on the wall in the town. In my period of service there were 1500 natives killed on the first plantation...

## RACISM

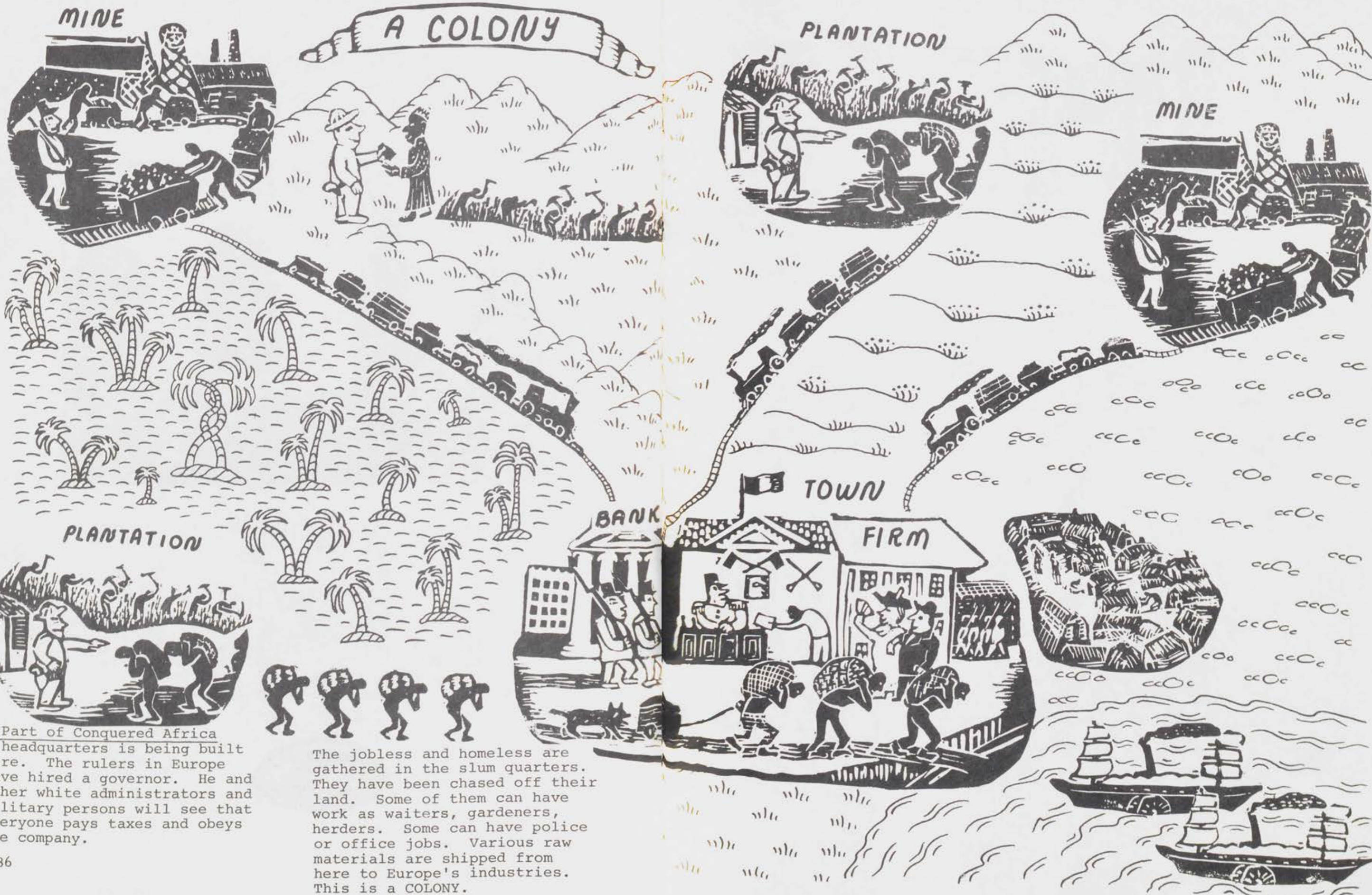
The Africans were forced to believe that they were an inferior race. The white scholar found that blacks had less brains than whites and that they were naturally evil and couldn't provide for themselves. So the oppressors made excuses for their crimes and could sleep with good consciences.



-The meaning of your life is to make the rich capitalists still richer.

Capitalism survived by depriving farmers of their lives and dignity. Only by oppressing people and enslaving them can the spiders' gigantic factories in Europe continue to function.



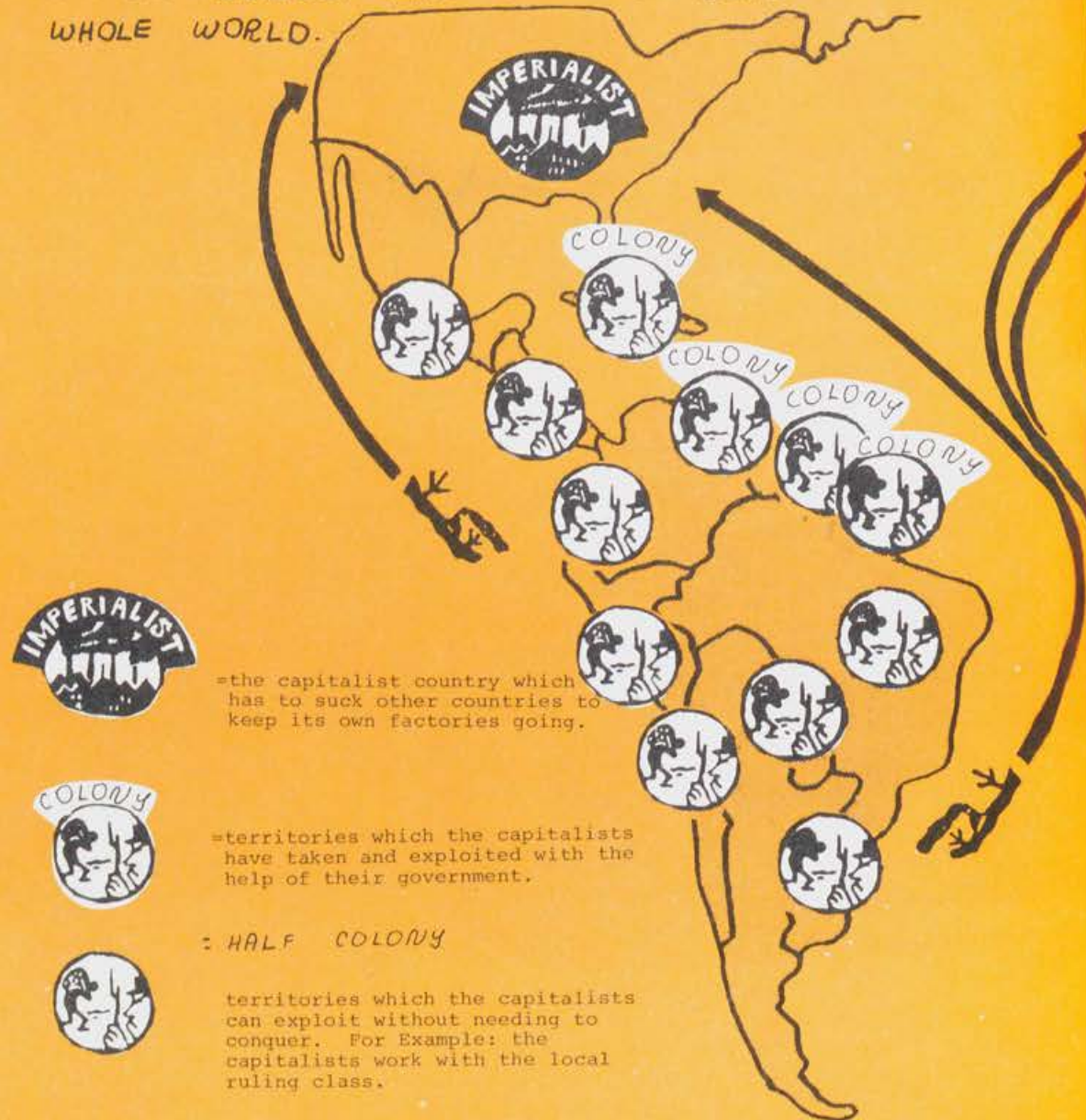


A Part of Conquered Africa  
 A headquarters is being built here. The rulers in Europe have hired a governor. He and other white administrators and military persons will see that everyone pays taxes and obeys the company.

The jobless and homeless are gathered in the slum quarters. They have been chased off their land. Some of them can have work as waiters, gardeners, herders. Some can have police or office jobs. Various raw materials are shipped from here to Europe's industries. This is a COLONY.

# IMPERIALISM

LIKE CARTELS, TRUSTS AND MONOPOLIES HAS CONQUERED AFRICA AND HAS CONQUERED THE WHOLE WORLD. THE SPIDERS' CLAWS COVER THE WHOLE WORLD.



=the capitalist country which has to suck other countries to keep its own factories going.

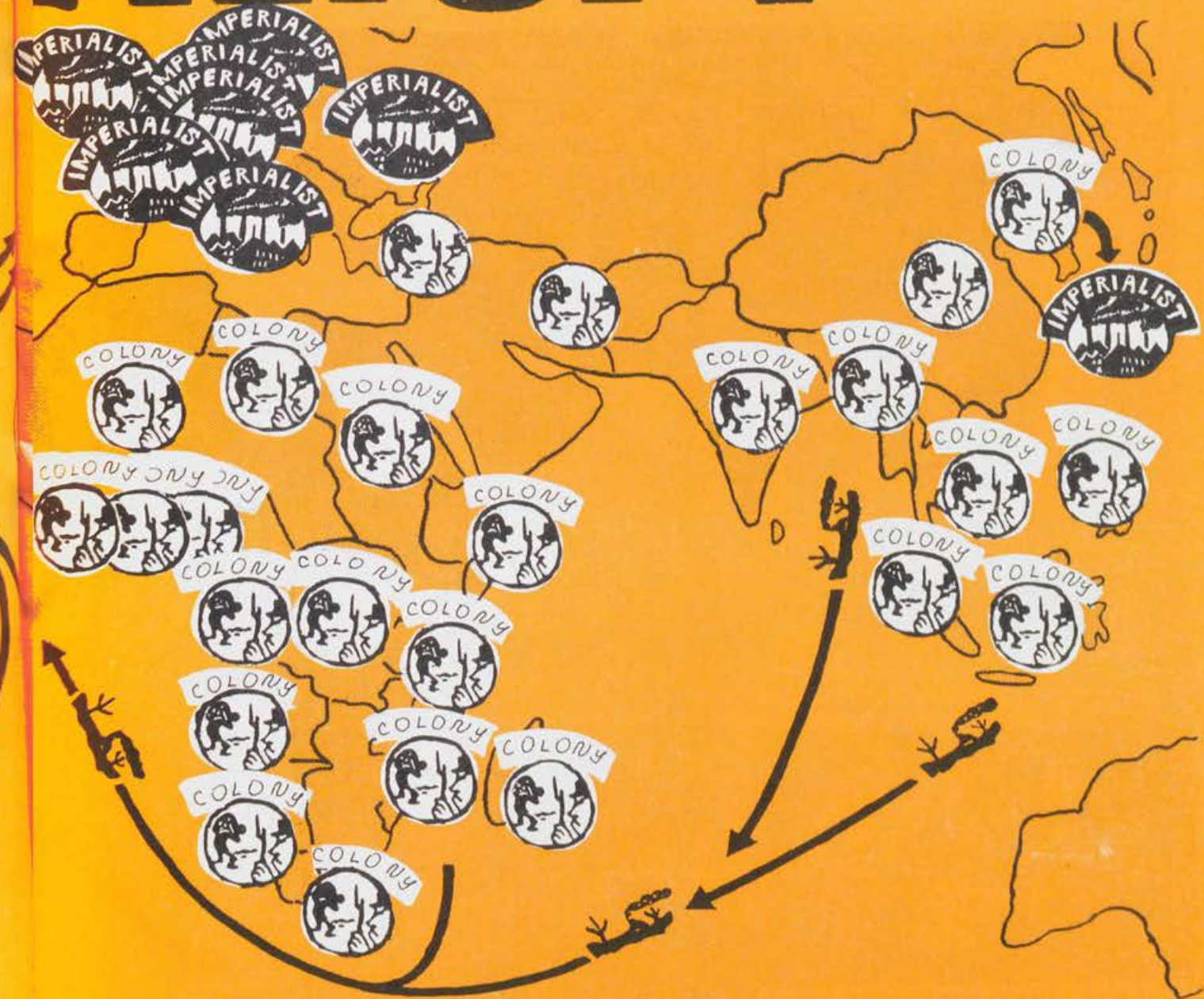


=territories which the capitalists have taken and exploited with the help of their government.



= HALF COLONY

territories which the capitalists can exploit without needing to conquer. For Example: the capitalists work with the local ruling class.





**IMPERIALISM IS LIKE THE AIR WE BREATHE - WITHOUT IT WE DIE!**



ALL POSSIBLE RAW MATERIALS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE TRUSTS, CARTELS AND MONOPOLIES.



THERE AREN'T ENOUGH RAW MATERIALS IN THIS COUNTRY.

ALL RAW MATERIALS ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN US - THE LARGE COMPANIES

WE HAVE TO PROCURE RAW MATERIALS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES



OUR GIANT INDUSTRIES PRODUCE SO MANY GOODS



... THAT WE CAN'T SELL THEM ALL IN THIS COUNTRY.

WE HAVE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ABOUT HOW MANY GOODS WE CAN SELL HERE.



WE HAVE TO SELL MANY GOODS



WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO BE SUCH A COMPANY BUT...



WE CAN'T INVEST OUR PROFITS IN THIS COUNTRY

EVERYTHING THAT ONE CAN INVEST IN IS ALREADY TAKEN UP BY COMPANIES LIKE ME.

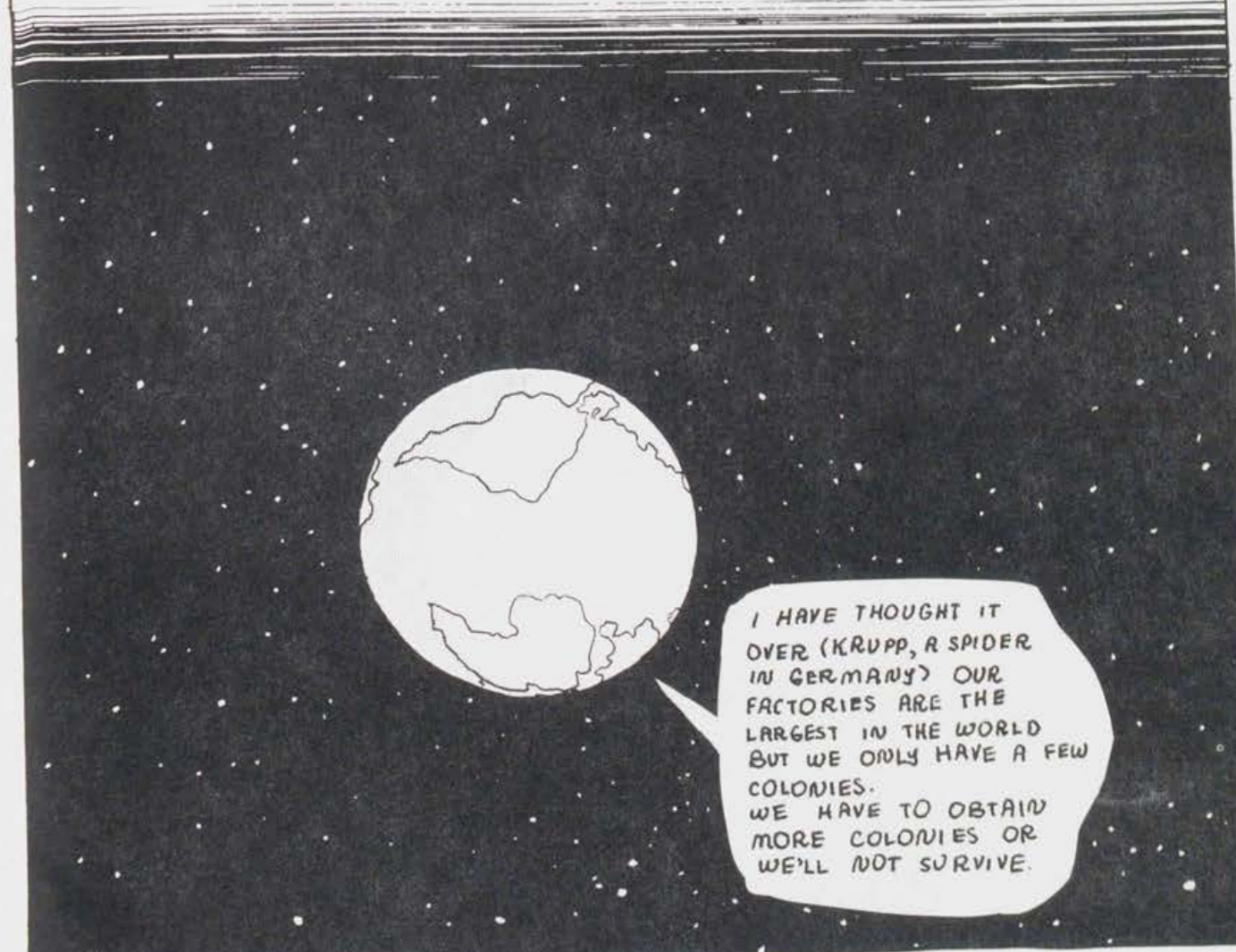
WE HAVE TO INVEST OUR PROFITS



# Chapter 8 Twilight Descends

Your days are numbered capitalist people. The time of destruction nears. You think you are strong now that you have made the world yours but in truth you have never been so weak. You enjoy imperialism as one enjoys a large feast but think about it as your last.

You are proud that you have divided the world among yourselves and made all people slaves. But have you realized that now there is no more to divide, no more to take. And all the time you need more raw materials, more buyers, larger factories in order to increase your fortunes. Have you decided how to deal with this problem?

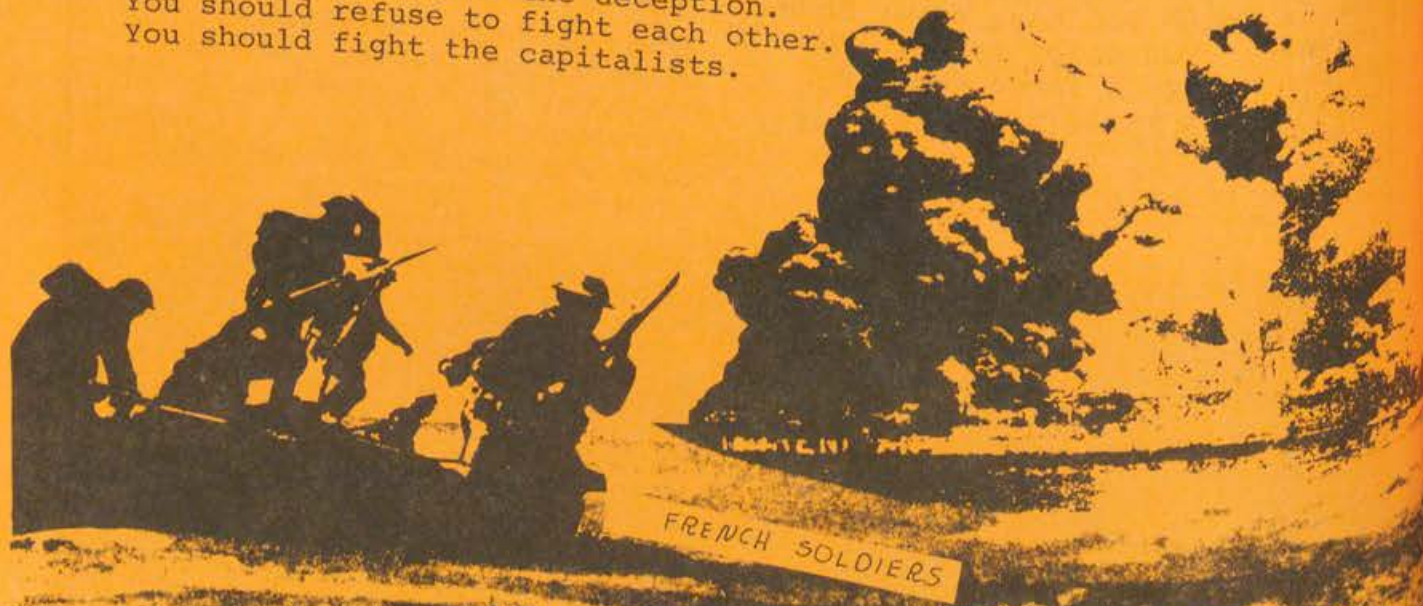


I HAVE THOUGHT IT OVER (KRUPP, A SPIDER IN GERMANY) OUR FACTORIES ARE THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD BUT WE ONLY HAVE A FEW COLONIES. WE HAVE TO OBTAIN MORE COLONIES OR WE'LL NOT SURVIVE.

The Japanese and Italian capitalists had the same problem as the Germans. But the whole world was divided up. In order to conquer territory from other imperialists they had to start a war.

The imperialist countries clash.  
There is a world war in 1914.  
The workers from many lands are sent out as cannon fodder.

You think that you fight  
for your fatherland.  
You don't understand the deception.  
You should refuse to fight each other.  
You should fight the capitalists.

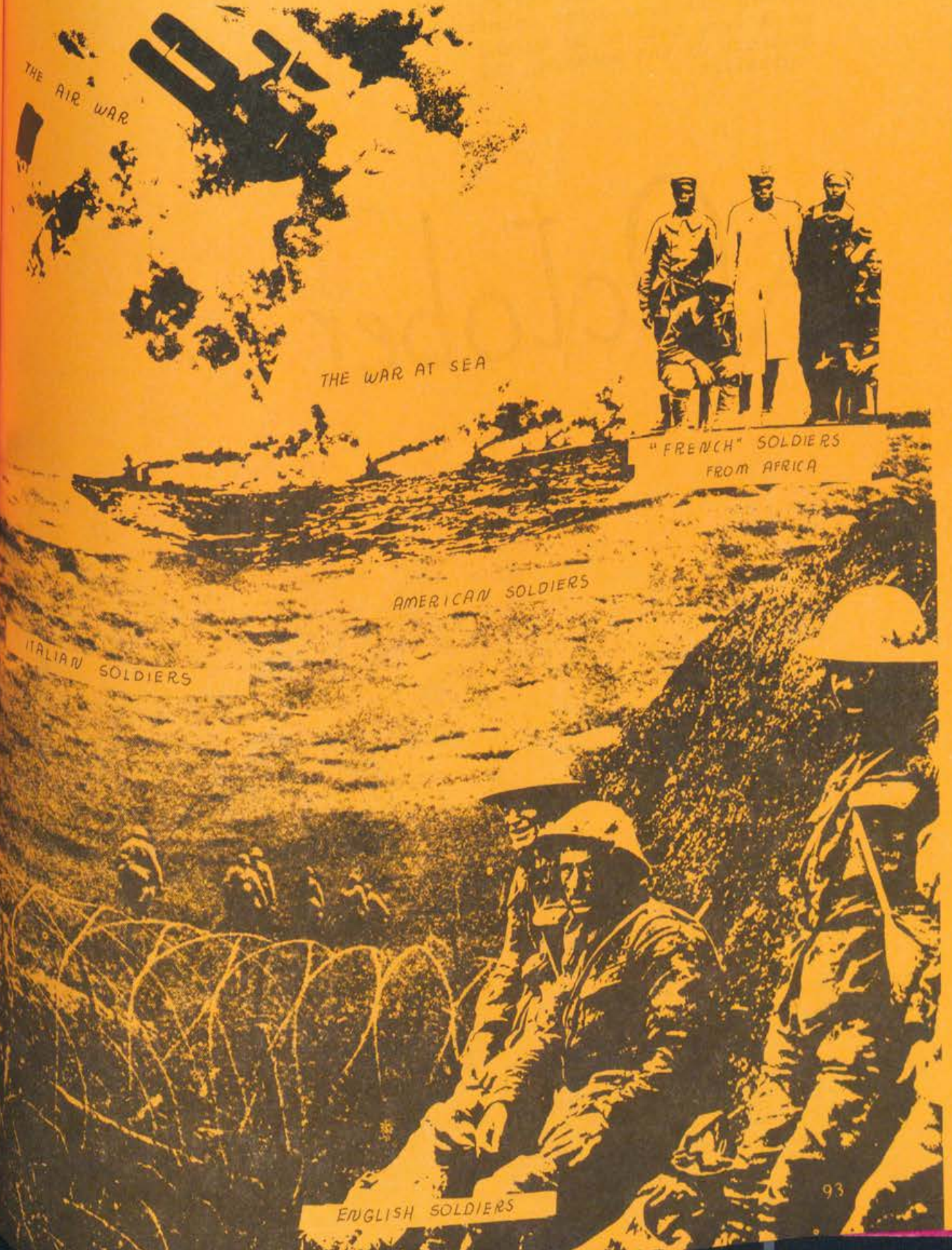


FRENCH SOLDIERS



JAPANESE AND  
GERMAN SOLDIERS

WAR IN THE TRENCHES



THE AIR WAR

THE WAR AT SEA

"FRENCH" SOLDIERS  
FROM AFRICA

AMERICAN SOLDIERS

ITALIAN SOLDIERS

ENGLISH SOLDIERS

They gave us guns. We learned how to use them. But first we shot our brothers and sisters, the workers from other countries, as we were told to do by the traitors of the workers, the capitalists.

# October

# 1917



In Russia people sought to get rid of all the capitalists at once. They knew from earlier experiences that a revolution was necessary to

be able to make decisions themselves. The workers took over the factories.

"We'll no longer produce goods just to have them but because there's a need for them. We'll no longer bother with goods we can't sell because we use everything and we'll have the means to buy everything. No one will steal from us because from now on we work for ourselves.

When we lack food, everyone lacks food. The factories and fields will yield enough for everyone."

All over the world the capitalists shake with fear. But the workers are happy: it is possible to have a revolution.



# Sweden 1917



A Conversation Between a Social Democrat and a Communist

-Yes!

-No!

-Yes!

-No! We'll not let ourselves be bullied any more by this evil monster. We'll force all those fiendish exploiters out at once like in Russia.

-Think about what you're saying. Have you thought what a revolution implies? Bloodshed, violence... there are other methods for bringing about justice.

-Ah! What are the other ways?

-Well, for example, talking with employers.

-Capitalists, you mean.

-Yes, hm. We talk with them...they give a little on their side and we give a little...

-Collaborating with the bloodsuckers! NEVER!

-Wait until I've finished talking. We merely fool them. We eventually take everything as in Russia but a little bit at a time. This is the difference.

-Not so. Do you think they would allow themselves to be tricked. No thanks. I've heard enough. Goodbye Kryster Knudsen!

the same time at a "higher level"



KRYSTER KNUDSEN WAS A ZEALOUS SUPPORTER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. HERE SITS ITS LEADER HJALMAR BRANTING (ON THE RIGHT) RECENT FINANCE MINISTER IN CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF SWEDEN'S SPIDERS KNUT WALLENBERG (ON THE LEFT) WHO HAS JUST RETIRED AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

-I understand, groans Branting. There is trouble in the workers' ranks. The workers are beginning to listen to the revolutionary roar from the east. They must do something and do it swiftly. We have to attempt to calm them. If we don't listen to them and give them higher wages the whole is lost as in Russia.

Wallenberg has contradictory feelings. His moustache shaking and sweating... "Higher wages... so there is less money...but if they have a revolution one can say farewell to all the money." His heart hammers and his eyes fill with tears but slowly he lights up. The spider has an idea. "If they get higher wages they can buy more...if the goods are sold there is less chance of a depression..." He breaks off his reflections: "Perhaps you are right about the wages. But the vote (groan)...they will take all my factories from me and (sob) perhaps they will kill me..."

Branting lays a calm hand on the spider's shoulder: "Don't be afraid. We social democrats will change society little by little using peaceful means... as long as the workers have confidence in us they won't take a red cent." "Is it a promise? No nonsense, no violence..." "It's a promise." "NO REVOLUTION!" The two agitated men exchange a scared glance.

The common and equal suffrage for men became law in Sweden in 1918 and for women in 1919. The workers' living standard slowly improved. The Swedish spiders kept their banks and factories.

# A CURVE OF CAPITALIST BUSINESSES

1918

1920

FIRST THE WORLD WAR ENDS. GERMANY LOSES. THE OTHER CAPITALISTS TAKE THE GERMAN COLONIES.

BUSINESS IS GOOD

GERMANY AFTER THE WAR



THE UNEMPLOYED, THE SOLDIERS KEEP WATCH BY THE SHOPS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE STARVING WORKERS FROM PLUNDERING THEM.



ENGLAND 1926  
GENERAL STRIKE

GERMANY 1923



MONEY IS VALUELESS. A TURNIP AT THE MARKET SELLS FOR 15 MILLION MARKS.

FRANCE 1931



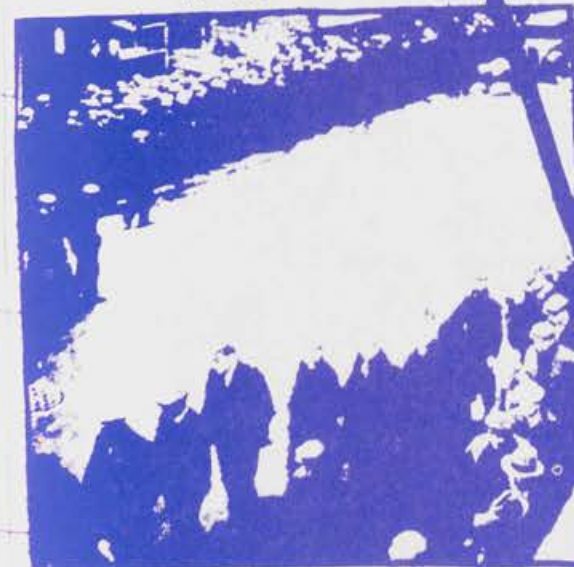
DEMONSTRATIONS

BUSINESS IS AWFUL

1930

USA 1929

13 MILLION JOBLESS



SWEDEN 1931



5 WORKERS ARE SHOT BY THE MILITARY IN ADALEN. A WAVE OF DEMONSTRATIONS TAKES PLACE OVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

THE PICTURE SHOWS A DEMONSTRATION IN STOCKHOLM. 30 WORKERS ARE STRUCK BY HORSE BACK RIDING POLICE AND MUST BE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.

1935

BUSINESS CAN'T KEEP GOING THIS WAY. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE. BUSINESS IS ESPECIALLY POOR FOR THE GERMAN CAPITALISTS BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE COLONIES. THEIR PROBLEMS CAN'T BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY. THEY SUPPORT HITLER WITH MONEY.




1933

HITLER BECOMES GERMANY'S LEADER. THE WEAPON INDUSTRY PRODUCES TO FULL CAPACITY. SINCE GERMANY PREPARES ITSELF FOR WAR THE OTHER IMPERIALISTS DO THE SAME. THIS GIVES A THRUST TO BUSINESS.



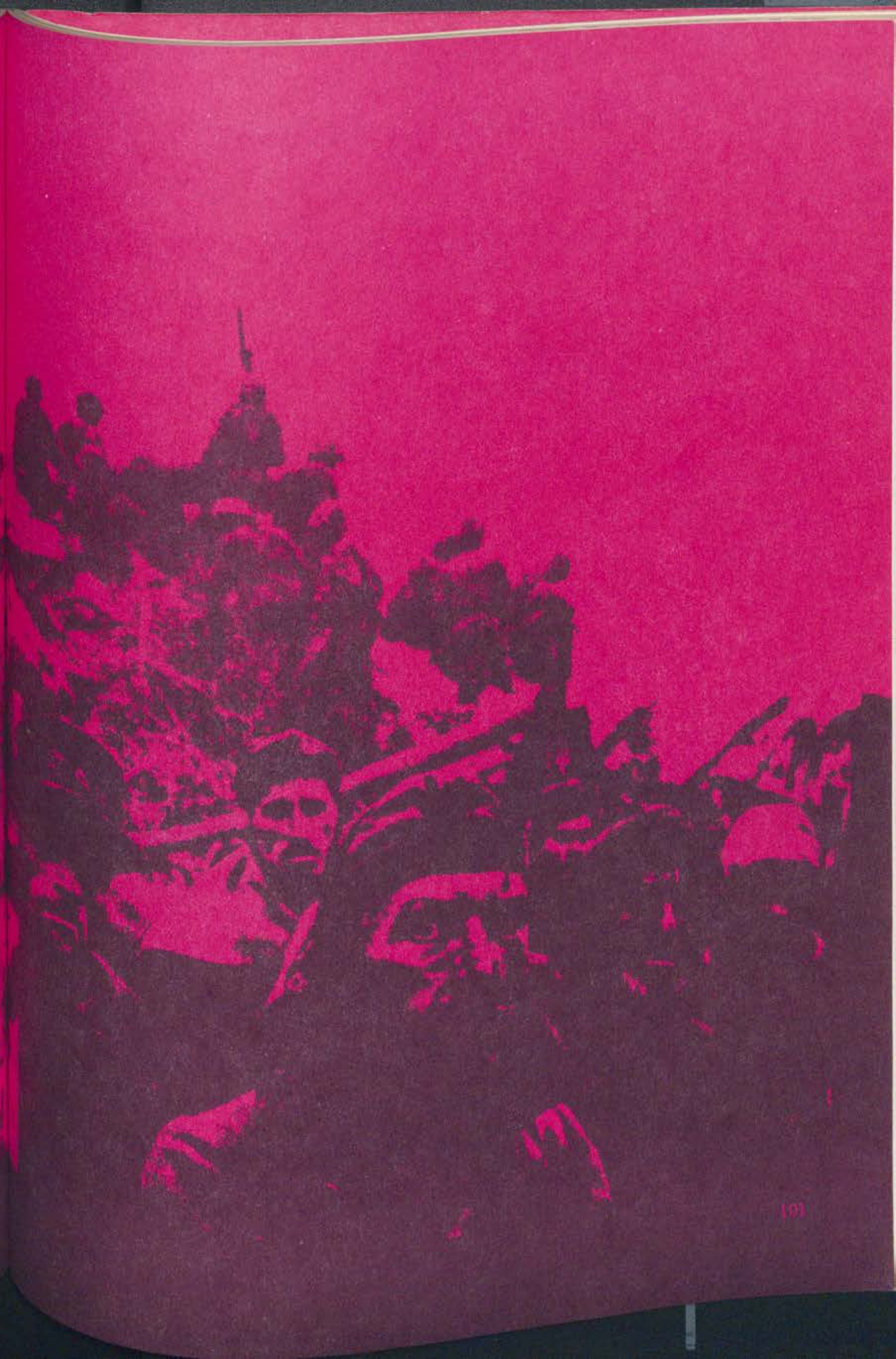
1932

IVAR KREUGER SWEDEN'S LARGEST SPIDER CAN'T SAVE HIS FACTORIES HE GOES BANKRUPT AND KILLS HIMSELF.



A world war starts again in 1939.  
The 2nd world war.  
The imperialists send out  
workers from many countries as  
well as from the colonies as  
cannon fodder...

They think they kill for their  
fatherland.  
They don't understand the  
deception.  
They continue to kill each other  
instead of the capitalists.



Germany, Japan and Italy lose the 2nd World War.  
The Soviet Union was one of the victors.

## Let's see what has been happening



The Russian people had reckoned that the revolution would spread over Europe and that they would have help from the workers there. But the social democrats in Europe collaborated with the capitalists and put a stop to this help.



The borders were locked around most of Europe's developing farming countries. They were alone.



The farmers toiled to procure food for the people. The harvest was poor and the bread was delayed.



Then the imperialists attacked. They sent agents and spies in and they collaborated with the enemies of the workers, the former capitalists. There was civil war at the same time as the land was attacked from the outside. Many, many Russians lost their lives.



The people needed food and weapons to defend themselves. No outside help came. A strong industry was necessary in order to manufacture weapons and farm machinery. But the industries were small and few. Something had to be done quickly.

But the Soviet Union was not the same in 1945 as it was in 1917...

## with the Russian Revolution



When the war was over the Soviet leaders wanted the eastern countries to help them become as powerful as the capitalist countries. Now began the great competition between East and West: "the cold war." And because the eastern countries were weak and bombed out the Soviet leadership moved in to help them rebuild their country along socialist lines.



Many farmers were compelled to work in industries. The leaders had no time for explanations. Many farmers were hostile and burned their own wheat fields and killed their livestock. Those who protested were imprisoned and severely punished.



The Soviet Union succeeded in building a strong industrial economy and a powerful national defense. It is the major socialist power in the world. In addition, over the years the Soviets contributed to the growth of other revolutionary movements, especially in Korea, Cuba and Vietnam.



The Soviets were again assaulted by the imperialists in the 2nd world war. But fortunately this time the capitalists didn't succeed in conquering the country. Instead the Soviet army liberated many lands in East Europe from the Nazis and capitalists. 20 million Soviet people were killed.

Yet many feel that the Soviet Union too often puts its own interests over the interests of struggling liberation movements; and that inside Russia has become a lot like capitalist countries in its search for wealth and power.

Only time will tell but what seems certain is that unity among all socialist and progressive countries will be needed to finally defeat USA imperialism.



KOREA CUBA VIETNAM

CHINA ALBANIA



There are more revolutions- in China, Albania, Vietnam, Korea and Cuba. Poor farmers and workers fought for their freedom with arms in hand. The imperialists didn't surrender. The war lasted 5-10-20-30 years. The war was the people's war. No one was free from the imperialists' bombs and soldiers and therefore everyone worked together. They learned to rely on their own strength. And they succeeded in beating the imperialists.

THE PEOPLE SUCCEED

IN NORTH KOREA, NORTH VIETNAM, ALBANIA AND CUBA



NOW WE ARE BUILDING OUR OWN COUNTRY!

YES. AND WE MAKE DECISIONS OURSELVES.



WE'VE DECIDED THAT YOU CAN GO TO THE UNIVERSITY AND LEARN ABOUT MOTORS BECAUSE YOU ARE INTERESTED AND BECAUSE YOU ARE A GOOD COMRADE.

WE MOVE THE FACTORIES TO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN ORDER NOT TO COMPEL PEOPLE TO WORK IN THE CITIES.

YES! ? THAT'S WONDERFUL.

HOW IS THE OFFICE FAT ???

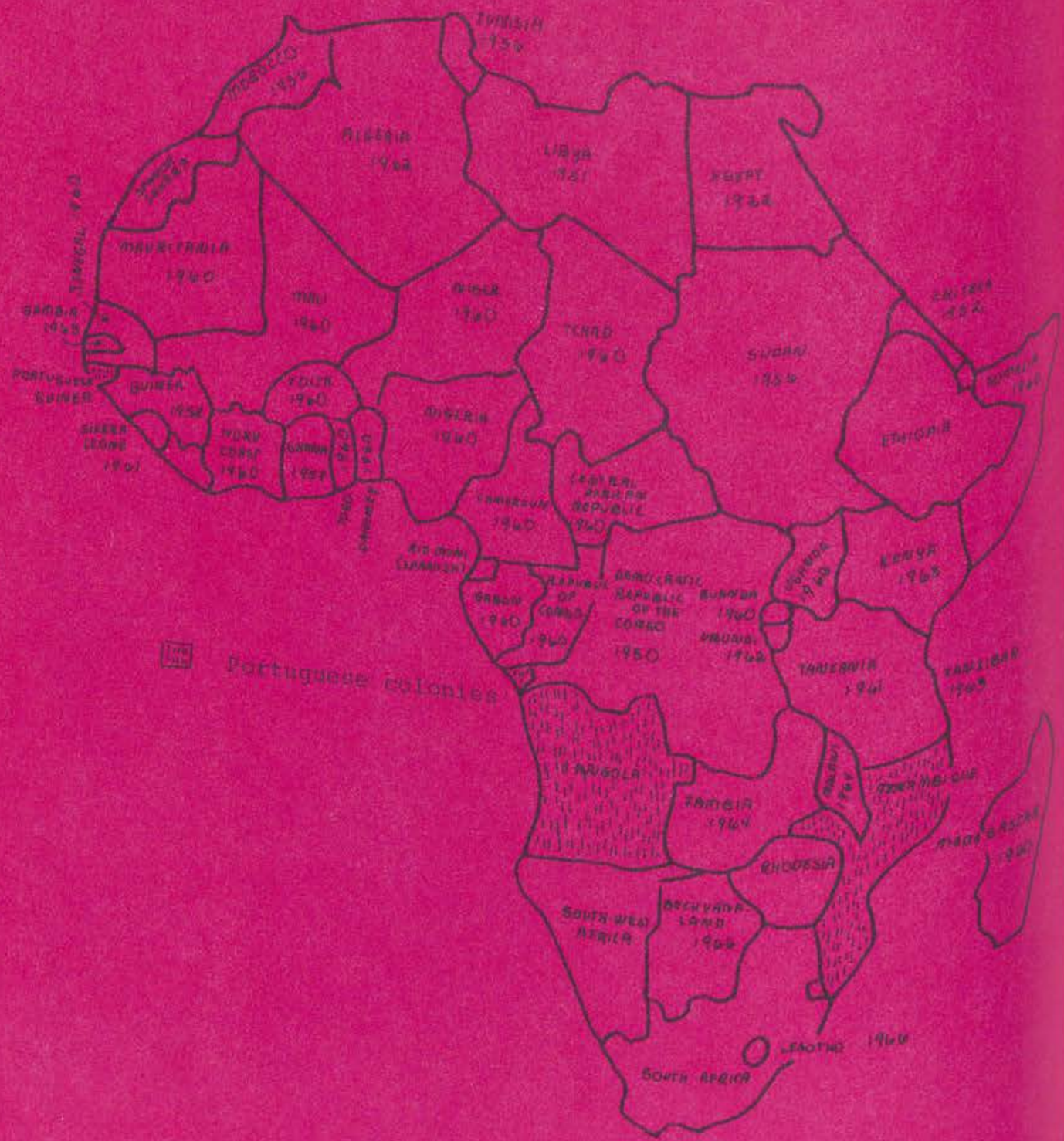
All the people have helped to free their country. Now it's necessary to prevent the bureaucrats, trade unions and technicians from seizing power for themselves. In order that the clerks and public servants don't think that they're better than workers they try to work in the factory or as farmers a short time each year. The universities and other institutions are open for workers and farmers. The farmers aren't compelled to work in large industrial centers. Instead people build factories in country towns and market towns where the people live.

THE CAPITALISTS SWOON FROM FEAR AS USUAL BUT...



The large colonial powers, England, France, Holland and Belgium at first won't give up their colonies but eventually after much persuasion they followed the advice of the USA. Portugal refused.

# AFRICA 1966



WE RECEIVE  
INDEPENDENCE  
IN  
1957



EVERYONE  
IS  
HAPPY

WE  
HAVE  
LARGE  
FESTIVALS



GOOD BYE



THE ENGLISH  
FLAG IS TAKEN  
DOWN.

AN ENGLISH DUKE WAS  
HERE AND SAID GOOD-BYE!

OUR OWN  
FLAG IS RAISED!

THIS SHOULD BE THE END TO OPPRESSION!  
WE WERE NO LONGER A COLONY. WE WERE FREE!

OUR LAND CHANGED ITS  
NAME. THE EUROPEANS  
HAD CALLED THE  
COUNTRY THE GOLO COAST.  
NOW IT'S CALLED

# GHANA

WHICH IS THE  
NAME IT WAS  
CALLED BEFORE  
THE WHITE PEOPLE  
CAME.

We were happy. Everything should be o.k. But it didn't go as we had thought...



Cacao beans are dried

Almost everyone in our country is a farmer. Most of them live from cultivating cacao and selling it to the company. Before we were forced. Now when we are free and have our own government we expected to earn more money. We received so little from the cacao that we could only live poorly.

The government tried to have

the price raised but this didn't work. The company said that they would stop buying from us if we raised the prices so the prices remained the same. We were obliged to sell in order to make ends meet. In addition the prices fell after independence. So instead of being better off as we had expected we were worse off.

People began to get angry because there was no progress. In 1961 when wages fell for workers in the city there was a general strike. The iron workers, the dock workers, the shop keepers, the office workers, and the women in the market all struck the boats in Sekondi-Takoradi, Kumasi and Accra.

The government tried all possible methods to force them back to work. After almost 3 weeks the exhausted strikers were forced to resume work. All their money and food were used up. Those who had begun the strike were thrown in prison.



Dock Workers in Accra

The president talked on the radio and said that we must be patient, that the country was in a difficult situation, that we must offer our services and not think of ourselves. It's easy enough for him to say this as he sits in his air-conditioned house and drives



around in his elegant cars. One might be surprised that the chiefs have any idea how we are. They have gone to English schools and have studied law at the university. They are more like Englishmen than Africans.

OUR COUNTRY SHOULD BE RICH.  
 WE SHOULD HAVE OUR OWN FACTORIES.  
 NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY ANYMORE.  
 WE SHOULD HAVE SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS  
 FOR EVERYONE.  
 WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN? WE CONTINUE  
 TO WORK FOR THE COMPANY. THERE  
 IS NO DIFFERENCE.



In fact the government has lured even more companies here, not only English but also West German and American. The government thinks that it is better to have more foreign companies. I don't understand how they can feel that way when one realizes what the companies have done to us.



Feb. 26, 1966: They said on the radio that now there was a new government with a new president. The old government was toppled. The military had seized power and was saying that they would put an end to all injustice. Many were happy. It sounded good. People took the change calmly and waited for conditions to improve. But nothing got better. Everything stayed the same.



Everything is wrong. The country isn't ruled for the interest of the people but so the companies can have what they want. We know

this is wrong. But what can we do? Most of us can't read or write. How can we change anything?





# MINE



# A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

This is a developing country, a former colony which has its own government, flag and anthem. But it is still managed by the imperialists. The country's raw materials were shipped from the mines and plantations to the waiting factories. The companies paid little for the raw materials. In the spiders' factories the raw materials were converted to machines and manufactured goods and were sold back to the developing nations and other imperialist states at a high cost.



# PLANTATION



In the towns a new class springs up: an African middle class. It consists of government workers, bureaucrats, officers, university professors, etc. who live better than the rest of the people. It's the middle class' duty to see that the imperialists have what they need—that they get raw materials cheaply and that they are undisturbed when they carry their profits out of the country. As long as the imperialists are allowed to steal the developing country's wealth the people become poorer and poorer.

In the end the developing country's government is obligated to the imperialist countries for aid and loans to build schools, hospitals and other things the people need. The developing countries become increasingly caught in the spider's web. The unemployment, poverty and hunger never cease.

The spider gives people freedom with one hand and holds them in the other.



# PLANTATION



# MINE



# TOWN

# FIRM





SUCH IS IMPERIALISM TODAY:  
The spiders stretch their claws  
and extort from and oppress  
people wherever there is profit  
to be made.



with duplicity and  
deception, violence and  
terror they steal millions  
of men's work and lives.



Their appetites  
are insatiable.  
Each day they  
demand their  
sacrifice of  
cheap labor,  
cheap raw  
material and  
everything else  
to make PROFITS.



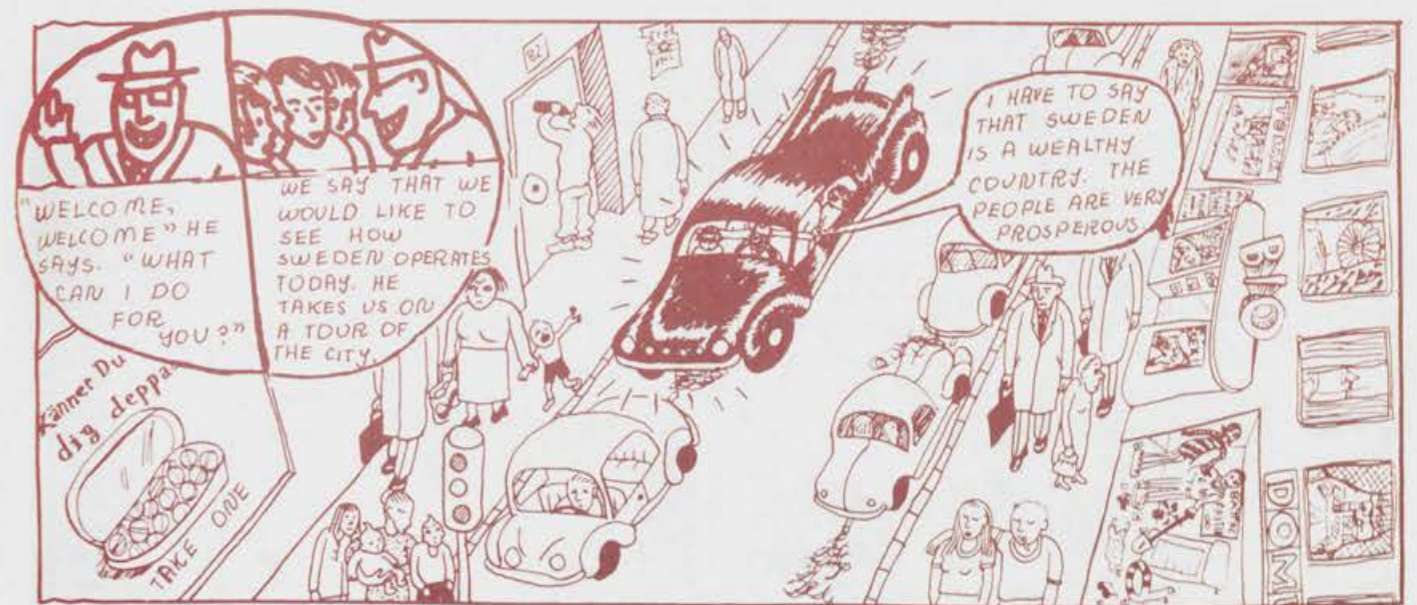
with their bombers,  
tanks and soldiers  
the spiders murder  
those who fight  
in order that the  
world's riches will  
be distributed  
between all men  
on the earth. In  
Vietnam, Laos, Angola, Cambodia,  
Thailand, India, Palestine, Bolivia,  
Yemen, Uruguay, the Phillipines,  
USA, Ethiopia, Mozambique,  
Dominican Republic, Greece, etc.



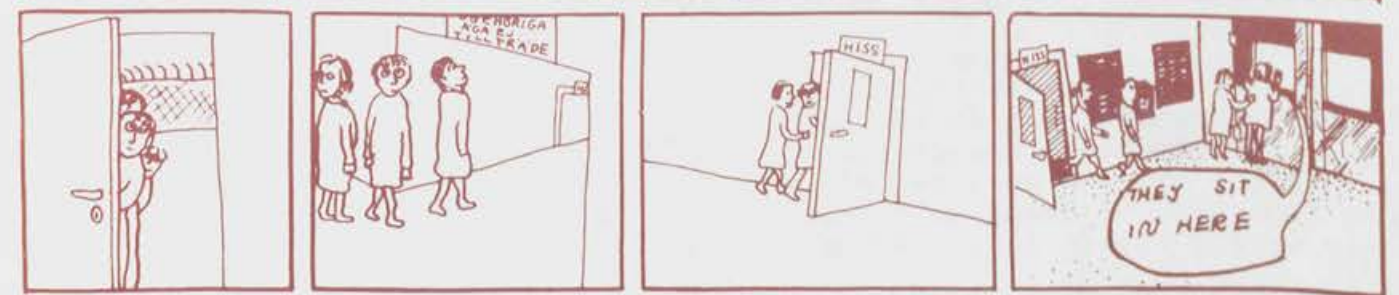
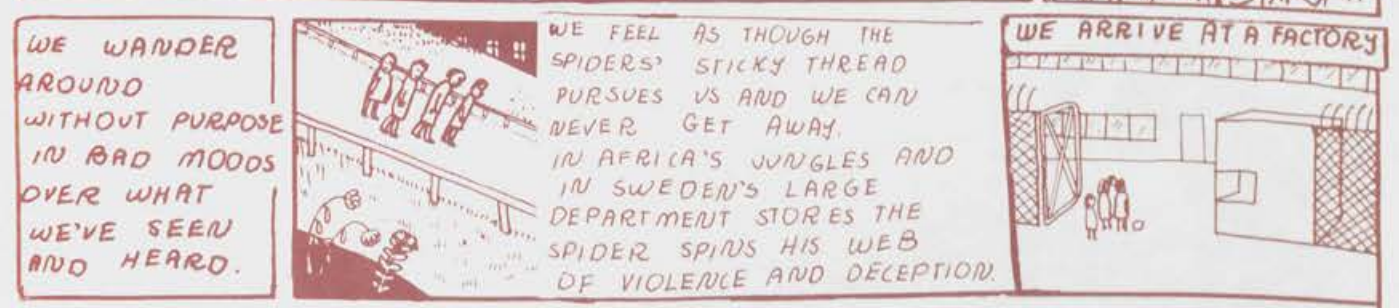
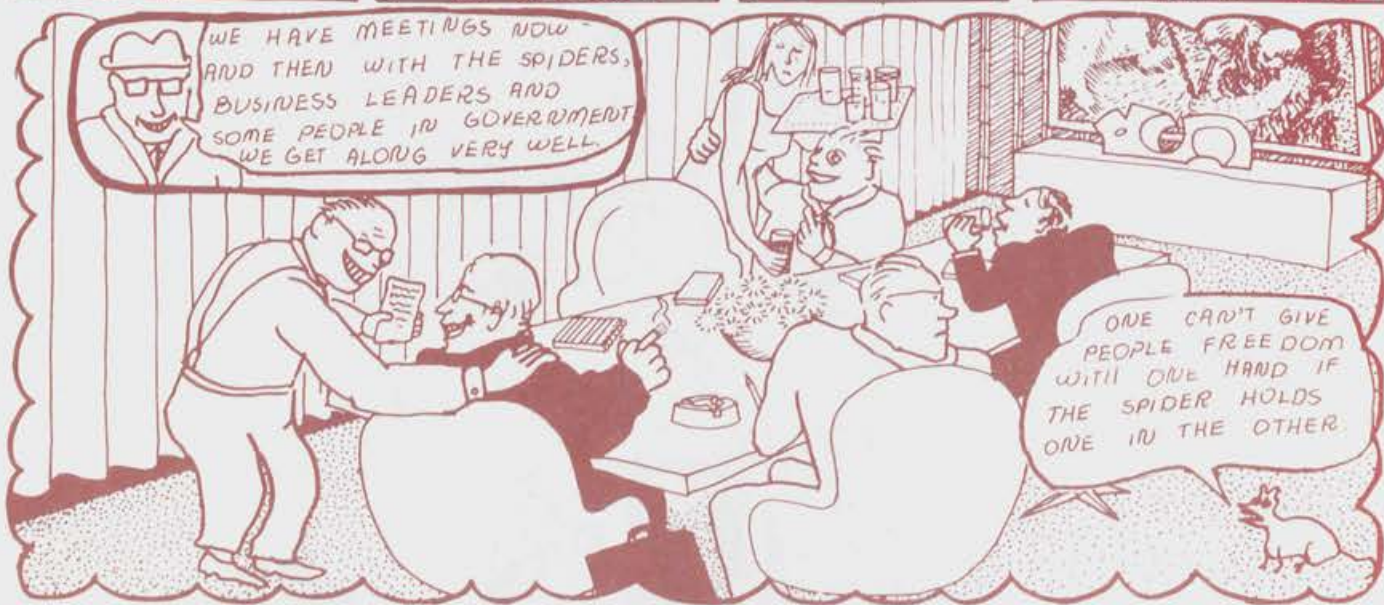


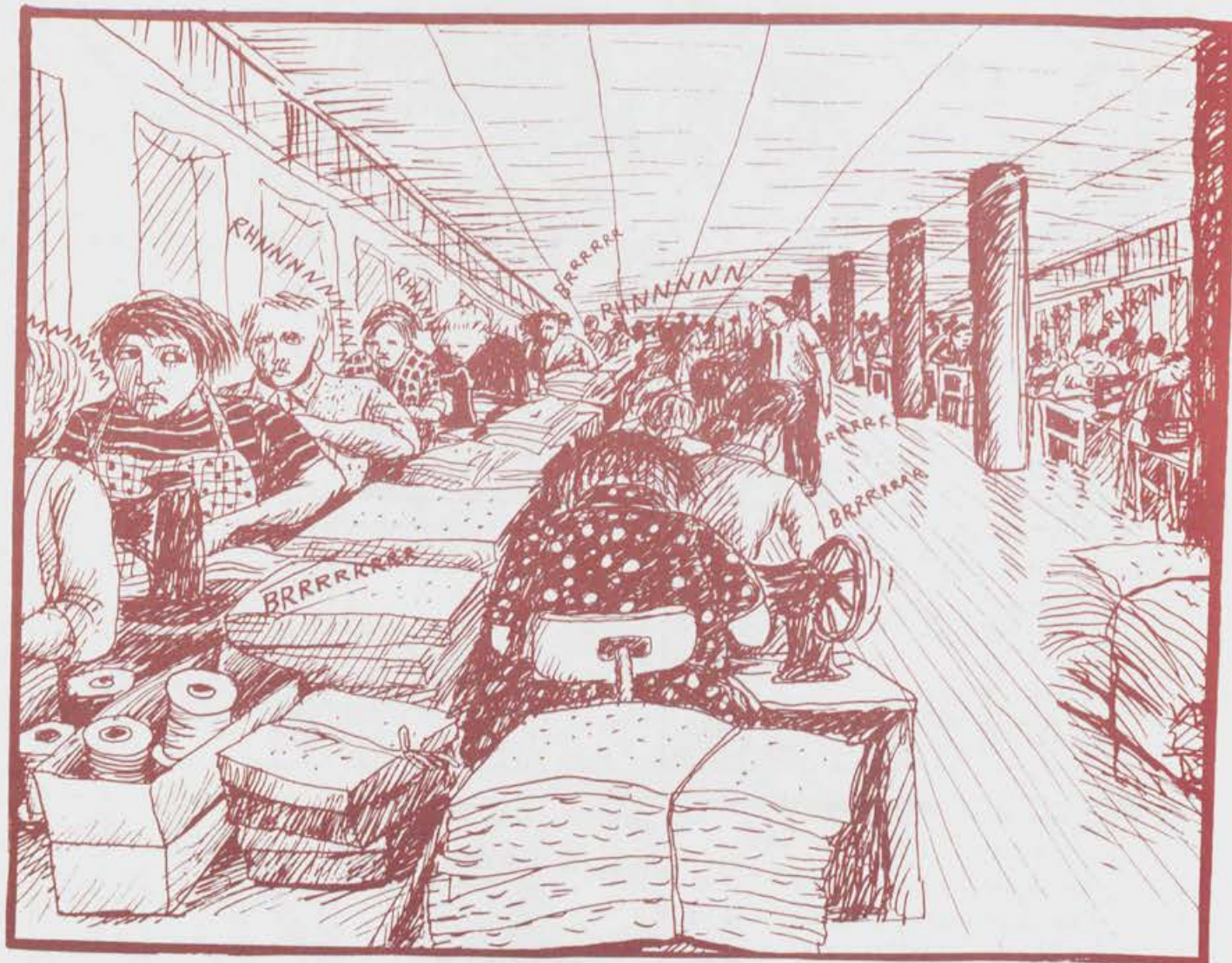
We land in the countryside where there are trees and lakes and hiways with speeding cars. The forest is empty and desolate and we wonder what has happened to the people who once cultivated the land and lived on small farms in small

towns or in the woods. We see large smelly towns which teem with people, cars and troubles. It doesn't look very inviting but we stop there nevertheless and immediately meet a capitalist who is exactly like the capitalists we've already met.



SWEDISH ENTERPRISES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: RSEA, SAAB-SCANIA, FLAKT FABRIKEN, L.M. ERICSON, FACIT LESVÖFORS, ELEKTROLUX, ALFA LAVAL, FAGERSTA, AGA, GRANGESBERG, FÖRENADE SUPERFOSFAT, SVENSKA TÄNDSTICKS AB, STORA KOPPARBERG, ESAB, MÖNARK SV KULLAGERFABRIKEN, ASTRA, PERSTORP, SIDA REX, BAHCO, BOFORS, AND MANY, MANY MORE... 119





The workers sit in a large noisy room. We wait for them to have a break so we can go in and talk. We ask about the work in the factory.



MS. M. "I came to Stockholm last year from a mining town in northern Sweden. If one has a democratic focus like I do, one asks herself where democracy is found in Sweden. We are merely slaves in respectable dress.

But what can one say? Slavery is respectable nowadays. That's all. One has the feeling of being totally exploited. The young can revolt. We older people have more trouble protesting.

It's not natural. When I saw the string come towards me that first day, I was terror stricken. It was so depressing that I was on the verge of tears. Was it stupid to stay. This has no end, I thought. It was so terribly stupefying. Women help the industry make large profits with their poor wages and demands. At Christmas extra people are employed-house-keepers who don't depend on incomes and accept things as they are.

They are awful. They buy status symbols. If one has once had something, one won't be without it. Don't miss the main point. One is a slave. It's only the young who don't have to purchase anything who protest.

But the young change. When they have to shut up to earn money, it's the end of them."



MS. Z. "I remember in the past when they held a party for the workers because production had gone up that year and we each got a bottle of perfume and a sheet of paper on which was written 'Honorable Colleague...' And I remember in the past when those from Klippan thought that now everything would take care of itself. But shortly after the capitalists started importing poplin from Hong Kong and the whole factory was closed down. At the same time they had many employees and efficiency experts from America. So one must sew a bra in a minute. It was like driving

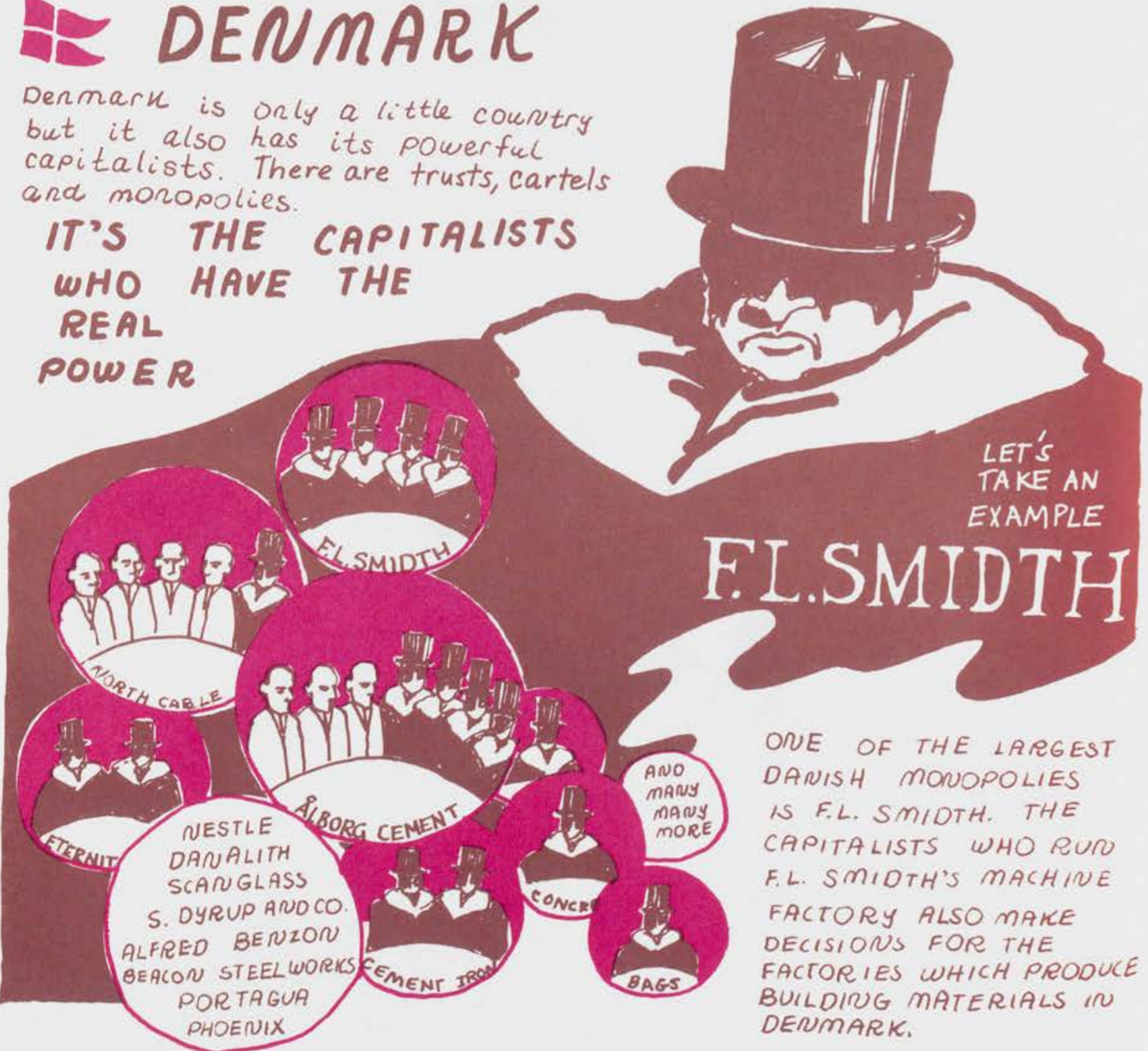
a large bus. Afterwards one was exhausted all over. The back couldn't take it. The children were finishing school. The girls married and lived in central Sweden. The boy is a photographer in Norrland. I alone remained. One of my daughters would like me to live with her so we can go to work together, etc. I have found no friends here. In this past year my husband left and no one has invited me home. When my children lived here I felt a bit alive. Now I feel dead."



# DENMARK

Denmark is only a little country but it also has its powerful capitalists. There are trusts, cartels and monopolies.

**IT'S THE CAPITALISTS WHO HAVE THE REAL POWER**



ONE OF THE LARGEST DANISH MONOPOLIES IS F.L. SMIDTH. THE CAPITALISTS WHO RUN F.L. SMIDTH'S MACHINE FACTORY ALSO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE FACTORIES WHICH PRODUCE BUILDING MATERIALS IN DENMARK.

Danish Sugar Factory. All of these companies are good friends of the largest bankers: Handelsbank, Landmandsbank and Privatbank.

The largest Danish monopolies are called F.L. Smidth, OK, A.P. Moller, the Great North Telegraph Company, the Forende Brewery, and the

THE MANUFACTURE OF CONCRETE AND CEMENT, METAL, GLASS AND PAINT FOR BUILDING AND THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR AND BEER ARE ALL IN THE MONOPOLISTS' HANDS.

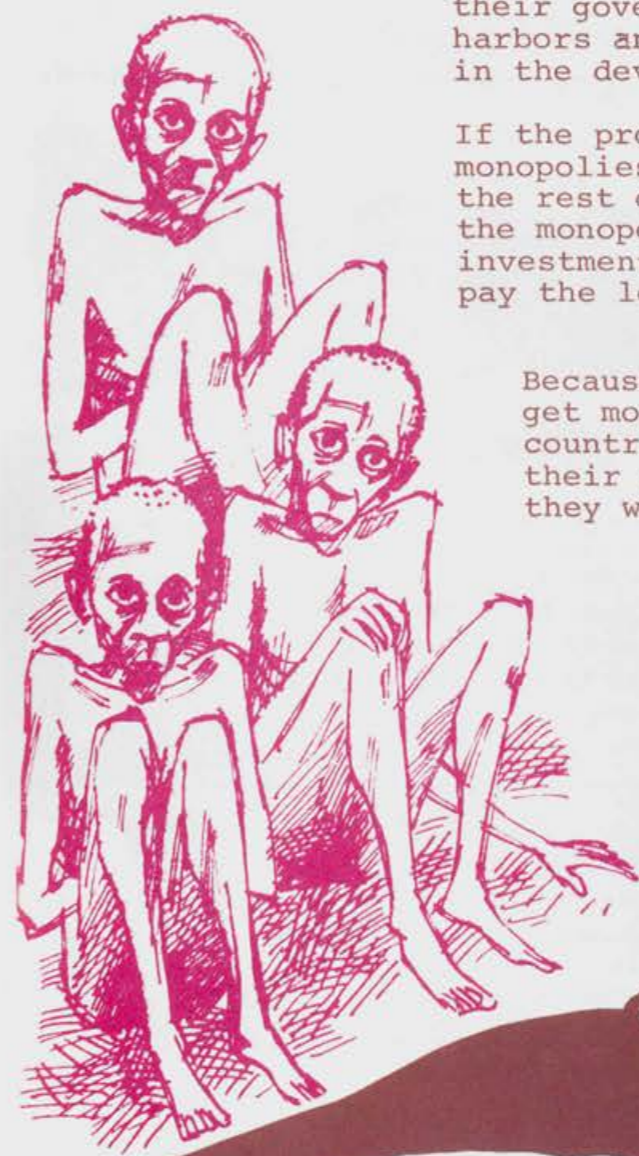


The Danish monopolies borrow money from their government to be used for factories, harbors and other money making projects in the developing countries.



If the projects are profitable, the monopolies can pay the loan back and keep the rest of the profit themselves. Therefore the monopolies don't risk anything-if their investments don't make a profit they needn't pay the loan back.

Because of these profits the monopolies get more money from the developing countries than they give. If their investments weren't profitable they wouldn't invest.



In former times Denmark had colonies. Now Denmark has no colonies. Denmark has Greenland and this isn't a colony. Greenland is a part of Denmark.

**THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT**

**THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE CAPITALISTS**

In the past the Greenlanders lived in small towns along the coast. They lived on what they were able to catch in the harbor.



The Danish capitalists said:

WHY DON'T YOU CATCH MORE FISH? IF YOU CATCH MORE THAN YOU EAT YOU CAN SELL THE REST



AND IF YOU TREAT THE FISH SO THEY KEEP LONGER YOU CAN SELL EVEN MORE



AND THEN YOU NEEDN'T LIVE IN THOSE SMALL UNHEALTHY HUTS. YOU CAN AFFORD TO LIVE IN FINE APARTMENTS LIKE WE HAVE IN DENMARK.

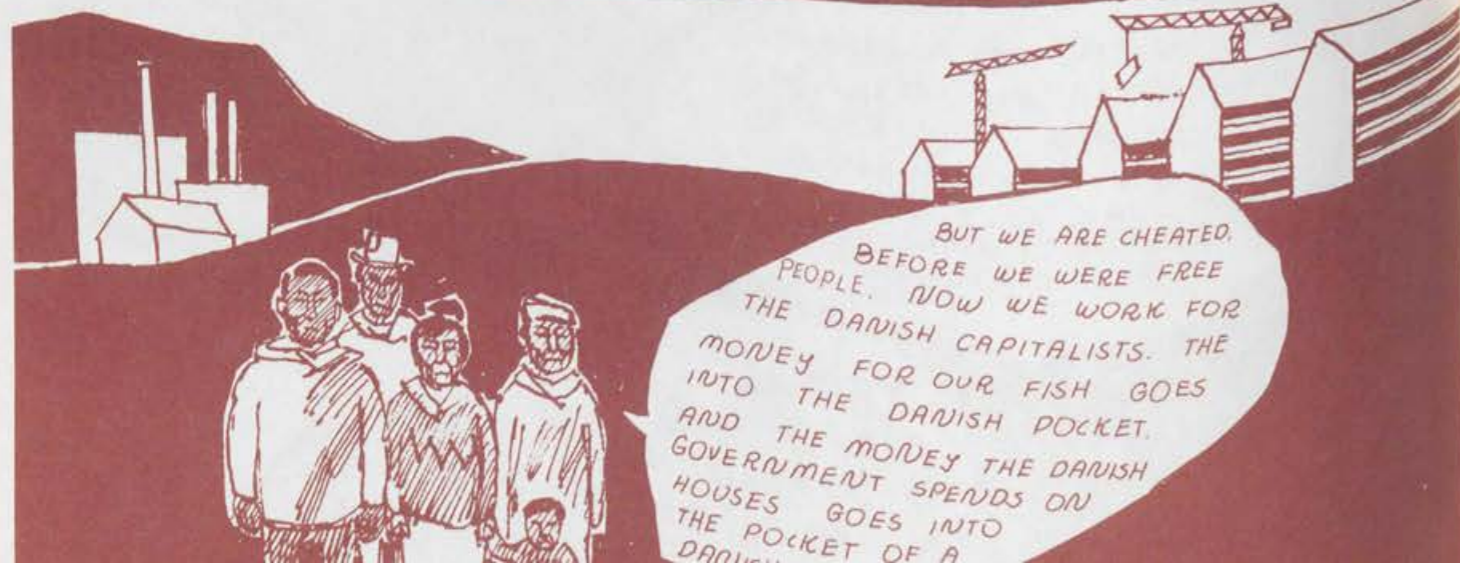


WE'LL HELP YOU. YOU CAN BUY OUR FISH CUTTERS AND WE CAN BUILD FISH FACTORIES AND HOUSES FOR YOU.

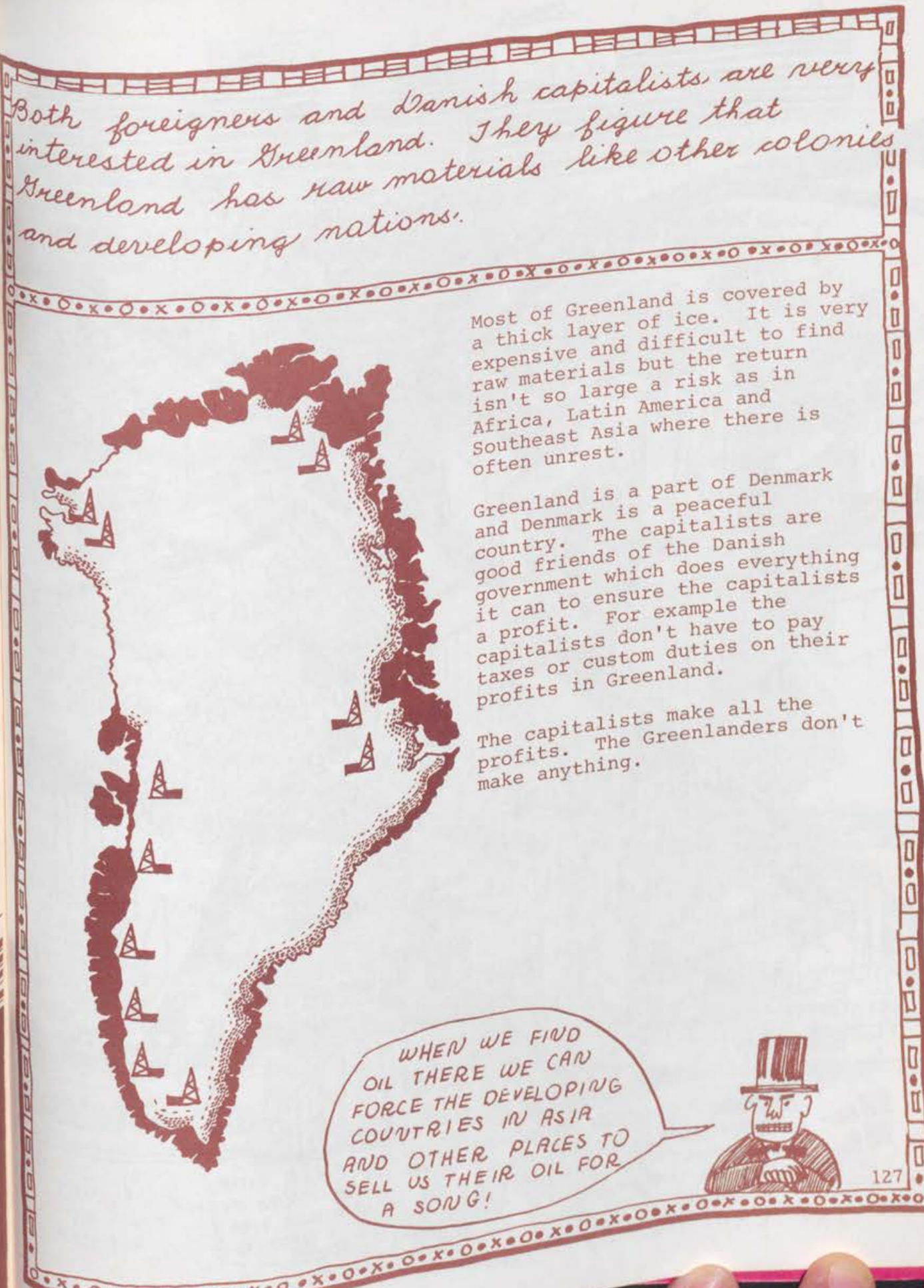


And the government said: we must help the poor Greenlanders.

We would like to help them buy cutters, homes and factories.



BUT WE ARE CHEATED. BEFORE WE WERE FREE PEOPLE. NOW WE WORK FOR THE DANISH CAPITALISTS. THE MONEY FOR OUR FISH GOES INTO THE DANISH POCKET. AND THE MONEY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT SPENDS ON HOUSES GOES INTO THE POCKET OF A DANISH CAPITALIST.



Both foreigners and Danish capitalists are very interested in Greenland. They figure that Greenland has raw materials like other colonies and developing nations.

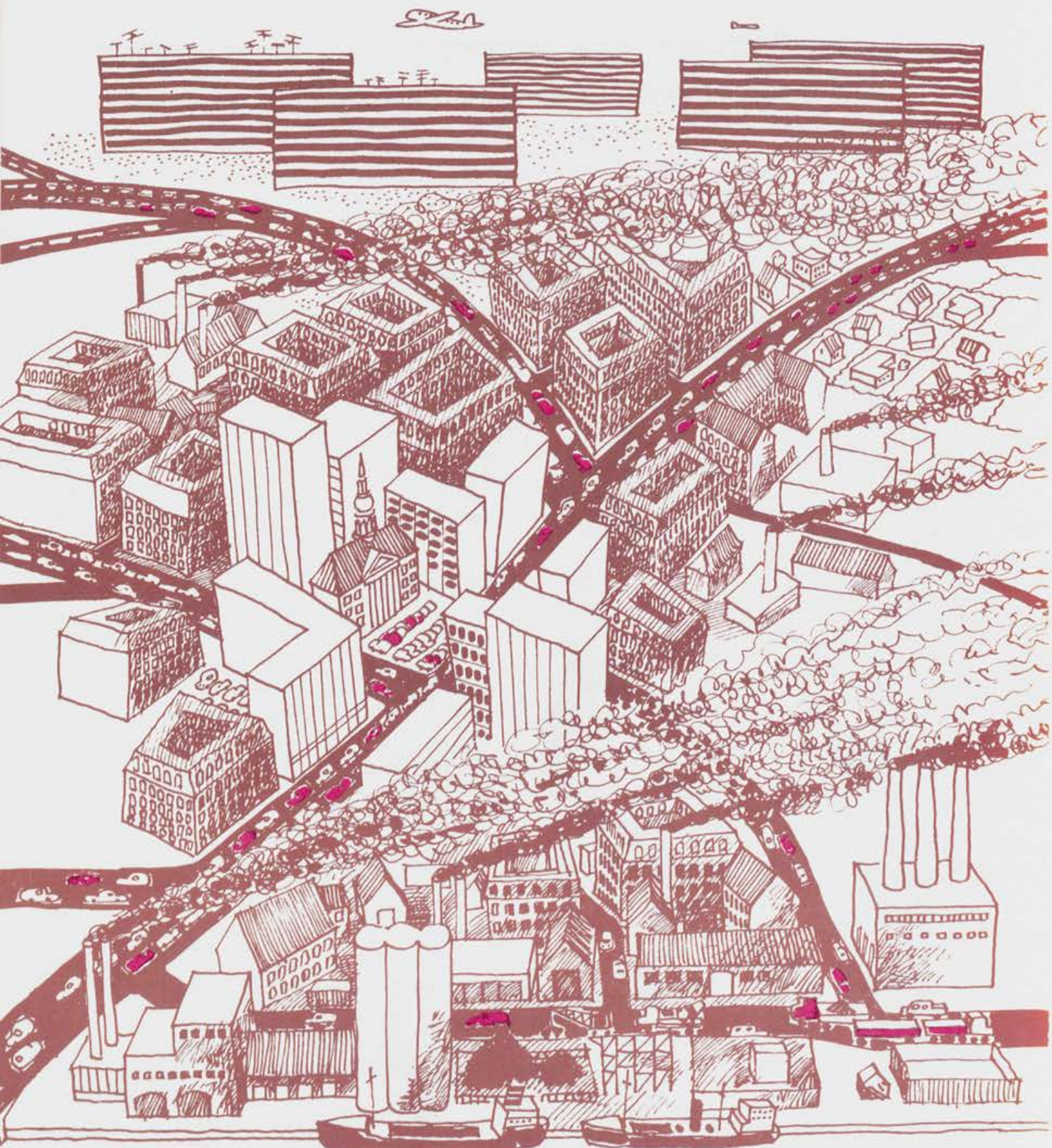
Most of Greenland is covered by a thick layer of ice. It is very expensive and difficult to find raw materials but the return isn't so large a risk as in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia where there is often unrest.

Greenland is a part of Denmark and Denmark is a peaceful country. The capitalists are good friends of the Danish government which does everything it can to ensure the capitalists a profit. For example the capitalists don't have to pay taxes or custom duties on their profits in Greenland.

The capitalists make all the profits. The Greenlanders don't make anything.

WHEN WE FIND OIL THERE WE CAN FORCE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND OTHER PLACES TO SELL US THEIR OIL FOR A SONG!





DENMARK'S LARGE CITIES ARE FULL OF FACTORIES, OFFICES, AND BUSINESSES. ALL THE WORKERS LIVE HERE.

IN THE LARGE CITIES THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THE CAPITALISTS AND BUY THEIR GOODS.



THERE ARE APARTMENT BUILDINGS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE LARGE CITIES. MOST OF THE CITY'S WORKERS LIVE HERE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO LIVE NEAR THE CITY WHERE THEY WORK. IT'S THE CAPITALISTS WHO OWN THE BUILDINGS.

THE APARTMENT BUILDINGS ARE COMMODITIES WHICH THE CAPITALIST RENTS TO THE WORKERS.

ALL THE APARTMENT BUILDINGS ARE THE KIND THAT ARE CHEAP TO BUILD. THE CAPITALISTS ALWAYS BUILD THE APARTMENTS THEMSELVES SO THEY CAN DECIDE HOW MUCH RENT THE WORKERS WILL PAY.

### CHEAP APARTMENTS · HIGH RENTS · LARGE PROFITS

THE LARGE BANKS, HOTELS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND EXPENSIVE SHOPS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY. LAWYERS, SHIP OWNERS AND DIFFERENT COMPANIES HAVE THEIR OFFICES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE COME HERE. THEY COME IN ORDER TO BUY THE CAPITALISTS' PRODUCTS OR GO TO THE CAPITALISTS' BANKS OR STAY IN THE CAPITALISTS' HOTELS.

THE BUILDINGS ARE BUILT BOTH HIGHER AND CLOSER TOGETHER THAN IS "SUITABLE" BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WHO GOVERN THE CITY WANT TO HELP THE CAPITALISTS EARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.





THE STORY OF A HOTEL



Four big capitalists hold a meeting. The director of an air transport company, the director of a large building firm and the head of a large architect firm gather at the bank.



HOTELS ARE GOOD BUSINESS. IT'LL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY!

IT'LL BE A LARGE HOTEL! I KNOW WHERE THERE IS CHEAP LAND.



HELLO, MR. MAYOR. WE'VE FORMED A HOTEL FIRM. WE'LL BUILD THE HOTEL ON THAT CHEAP GROUND YOU KNOW! CAN WE BUY IT FROM THE CITY?



IT'S VERY NEAR THE APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND THE RESIDENTS WANT BOTH A SCHOOL AND NURSERY TO GO THERE. IS THERE NOTHING ELSE?



WELL. WE CAN FIND LAND IN ANOTHER CITY. IT'S ASHAME, THOUGH. THAT'S SUCH AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR A HOTEL, ISN'T IT?



YES. WAIT A MOMENT. CAN'T WE FIND OTHER LAND FOR A HOTEL? NO. THAT'S IT!



THEY'RE FINALLY DOING SOMETHING WITH THAT OLD STORE HOUSE. PERHAPS WE'LL GET A KINDERGARTEN. NO. IT'S GOING TO BE A HOTEL.



HOTEL? SO WE'RE NOT GETTING A KINDERGARTEN AND THERE'LL BE EVEN LESS LIGHT AND AIR THAN BEFORE.



IT'S STUPID! WE MUST PROTEST.



WHAT'S THIS? PROTESTS FROM THE RESIDENTS. IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.



THE KINDERGARTEN AND PARKS ARE ONLY EXPENDITURES WHILE THE HOTEL PRODUCES REVENUE. A CITY IS ALSO A KIND OF BUSINESS. THE RESIDENTS DON'T UNDERSTAND.



HOTEL END

In the middle of the city along with the capitalists' expensive buildings there are also plots of land with very old houses. The rest of the city's workers live in small and rundown apartments here. The buildings are built so close together that there is no place for the children to play. Children have to play in dark streets among billboards and garbage.



It is the capitalists, of course, who own the large buildings. This is also a good business. Although the buildings are decaying they are becoming more and more valuable.

AND ALL THE TIME THE WORKERS PAY MONEY TO LIVE IN THEM.

The money which the workers pay in taxes could be used to make kindergartens and play areas. But the money is instead used for roads to the capitalists' buildings and offices. It is used for parking places for the capitalists' cars.

It is used for fast streets in the middle of the city so the rich will be happy to go into the capitalists' large offices and businesses. The people whom the workers have chosen to govern the country and the city represent the capitalists.

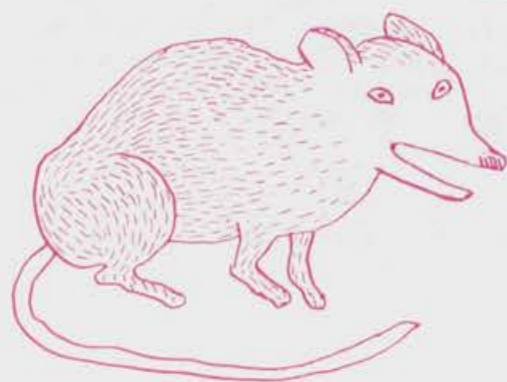
WE ALL KNOW THAT THE SITUATION IS CRAZY BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? WE ARE LONELY AND TIRED. ALL DECISIONS ARE MADE FOR US. HOW CAN WE COMMON PEOPLE CHANGE ANYTHING?

Friends. Have you had enough?  
How long will you be patient?  
How long will you permit the world to be governed by capitalist spiders.  
You can't afford to let another minute go by. You can't afford to let the spiders' love for profit hinder you in living your life and discovering all the delights that are found in the world.  
The warm sun and the chilly shade.  
The fresh wind and the good earth.  
Machines that could free you from hunger.  
Factories that could destroy poverty.  
Knowledge that could make people comfortable with the earth and each other.

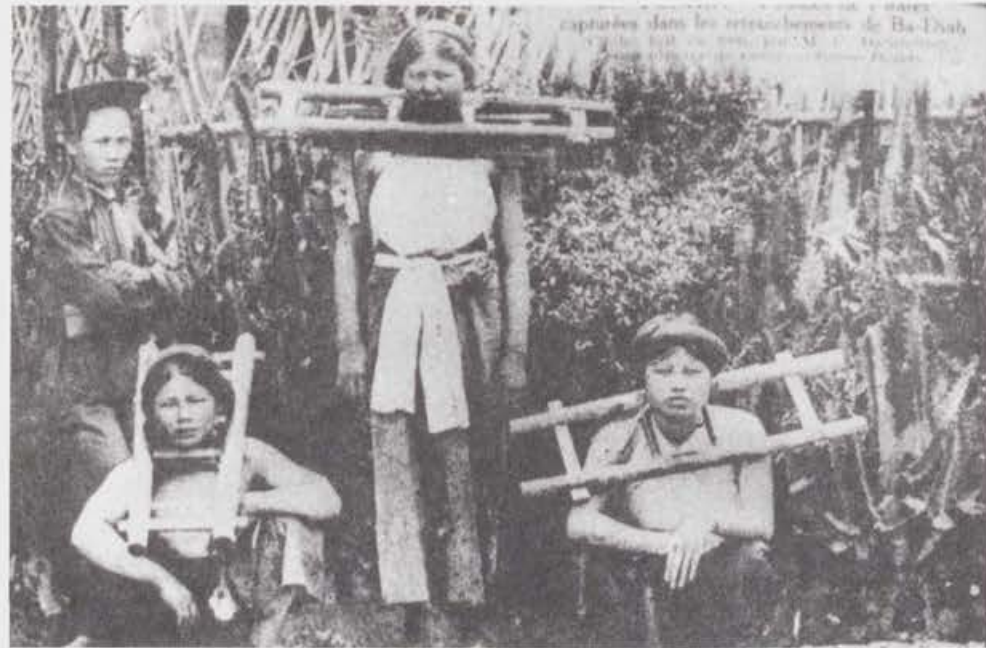
Friends, you can't afford to let the spiders prevent you from discovering all of this. You have to take away the power from those who prevent you from sharing the world's wealth.

5,000 million years ago, almost the same age as the sun, the earth and the other planets were formed out of the cosmic sky. The earth's body chilled and the rain gathered in hollows and formed the first ocean. Oxygen was formed and life started up. The rain, ice, and wind formed the earth's body. Fish, birds, and mammals were born.

People came. Capitalists arrived only some hundred years ago. They had knowledge to solve all technical problems for humanity. But they didn't take advantage of the possibilities. They misused the earth more and more. The spiders' love of gain interfered with nature, exploited the earth and poisoned air and water. The spiders' love of gain murdered the beautiful and fine...but evolution is never peaceful, history isn't finished yet and the new society will arise from the old-this is understood by those who will no longer allow the imperialists to rule.



# VIETNAM: THE STRUGGLE FOR



Women political prisoners held by the French in the 1930's for engaging in patriotic activities. Photo hangs in Museum of Revolutionary History in Hanoi.

Many countries tried to conquer Vietnam during its 2000 year history - China, France, Japan and the USA.

After controlling Vietnam for 89 years, the French were defeated by the Vietnamese people in the battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954.

Vietnam is a poor country. It has little industry and very few weapons. So it was a very important victory for the Vietnamese people to defeat such a strong and wealthy imperialist power as France.

# INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM



The Thái Phiên senior high school and the Lý Tu Trong junior high school in Ngô Quyền district Hai Phong, completely destroyed by USA bombs on April 16, 1972.

The future for Vietnam was decided at a big meeting of powerful countries including France, the USA, the Soviet Union and Vietnam. The meeting was called the Geneva Convention and it met in 1954. The powerful people at this meeting agreed that Vietnam was one country but they temporarily divided the country. The liberation fighters agreed to go North to put down their guns. The North had a socialist government. The south was controlled by Emperor Bao Dai who allowed the French capitalists to exploit Vietnam. Two years later, in 1956, free elections were supposed to be held to decide what kind of government would rule all of Vietnam.

By 1956 the USA heard that Ho Chi Minh from the North was going to win the free elections by an overwhelming majority. He wanted a free and independent Vietnam. This would mean that the USA couldn't decide the future for Vietnam. So instead of allowing the elections to take place, the USA supported a man named Diem who stopped the elections. This began the serious USA involvement in Vietnam which continues today.



Hundreds of children are imprisoned in South Vietnamese jails. These are shoeshine boys caught sleeping on the streets and unable to pay a bribe of 25¢.  
Photo: Don Luce

In the 12 years from 1961 to 1973 the USA sent over 500,000 soldiers to Vietnam, hundreds and thousands of planes that bombed the people and the water buffalo and sprayed the beautiful forests with chemicals that killed the trees - all to force the Vietnamese people to accept a government friendly to the USA. But nothing worked. The USA was forced to give up directly making war on Vietnam when it lost 12 of its B-52 bombers during Christmas 1972. The B-52s destroyed hospitals, schools, dikes, houses and churches in Hanoi and Haiphong, the largest cities in North Vietnam.

So in January 1973 another agreement to end the war on Vietnam was reached. It was called the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. Four sides signed this agreement - the USA, North Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and the Saigon Republic of Vietnam. Another big meeting of powerful nations (like in Geneva) again agreed that Vietnam was one country and had the right to be independent of these other nations and choose its own government.



Members of the South Vietnam 25th Liberation Young Volunteers' Brigade, a "Hero" unit of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces with outstanding achievements in fighting and serving the front in the Mekong delta.  
Photo: GPA

After the Paris Agreement the people of North Vietnam were very happy because the bombs would no longer fall on their land. The children could return to the cities and the schools.

But alas, the south is still at war. The Saigon government is supported with lots of money and guns and airplanes and bombs from the USA to continue the war. The Provisional Revolutionary Government defends its land from attack but hopes that some day the promises made by the USA in Paris will come true. Some day the Vietnamese hope to see their country reunited and their families living together in peace. The example of the Vietnamese people's fight for independence against the most powerful imperialist country in the world has given courage to national liberation struggles around the world.



President Ho Chi Minh surrounded by Young Pioneers and children.  
photo: Vu Dinh Hong

## A MOTHER'S DUTIES

by Hung Dung age 15  
Provisional Revolutionary Government

To be a mother in Vietnam is not an easy thing.  
Elsewhere, you teach children to pick flowers.  
In our country, you teach them to go into  
the trenches.  
Elsewhere mothers teach their children the sounds  
of birds,  
We teach them to distinguish the roar of the  
B-52 from the terrible roar of the Phantom jet.  
Elsewhere the only task is to teach one's  
children to become men and women  
In Vietnam more is required...  
To teach them to become heroes.  
Such is the task of mothers in my country.



The air is warm and moist. A group of people sit together under the trees. They whisper to each other. No one must hear them. Who can the spies be? None of the leaders and merchants can be relied on, they collaborate with the Portuguese and make a profit on imperialism. What do they talk about?

## THE DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONY OF GUINEA IN 1960

-If we weren't forced to cultivate peanuts for the company we wouldn't be as hungry as we are.  
-And if the Portuguese didn't steal our chickens and pigs.  
-And if the taxes we paid benefited us.  
-Where are the schools and hospitals?  
-We don't have anything for what we do.

The farmers are angry. They are tired of forced labor, taxes and of having their things stolen. A stranger from the city who has assembled them for a meeting has sat still for a long time. Now he begins to talk.  
-We'll put an end to everything you talk about. The time has come to drive the Portuguese out of our country. I'm with an organization called PAIGC. It means the African Independence Party for Guinea and Cape Verde. We're the ones

who organized the strike in Pijiguiti last year. We made a mistake that time. The strikers were mowed under by the Portuguese soldiers. Fifty workers were killed. Now we've learned by our mistake. Next time we'll not let ourselves be killed by imperialists, next time we'll use weapons and chase all those imperialists out of our country. But if this is to succeed everyone must be united. If we help each other and stay together we'll succeed.

-We're black. We don't own as much as a toothbrush. How can we drive the imperialists from our country?

They talk for a long time. Many are doubtful. One of the farmers, Sala Ntonton, sits thinking for a long time. Finally he says resolutely:  
-You're right. We must all help to drive the Portuguese out of our country or we'll never be better off. I'll participate in your group. I'll participate in creating justice.

The members of PAIGC continued for many years to travel around the towns and talk to the farmers. Everyone must work together and understand what the saying  
FREEDOM FOR ALL  
means. Eventually there were so many members that the fight could begin.

By 1963 all the preparations were completed. The people were ready to throw the imperialists out.

The guerilla army (people's army) was organized and had enough weapons to begin armed battle.



Each attack was carefully planned. The guerilla army hid itself in the woods and when the Portuguese militia appeared they killed them. Meter by meter the imperialists were thrown out of the country.

BY 1971 2/3 OF THE LAND WAS FREE.



The people in the towns help the guerilla soldiers and give them food.



The Portuguese hide in their forts. They don't dare to even stick their noses outside. Guerillas are found all over.

Many Portuguese soldiers refuse to participate in this war. They won't kill people who fight for their freedom. They flee from the fort and join the guerillas.



Now the spiders' only resource is to use BOMBS



A boy burned by napalm-1968



The bombed town of Mores



Each time after the guerillas have attacked, the Portuguese bombers drone in the sky and drop bombs. Over fields, towns, and people. Napalm bombs with burning jelly which glues itself to the skin. Fragmentation bombs which explode and tear people's bodies.

The people have learned who the real devils are. On the bombs is written USA. The airplanes come from West Germany and USA. The guns, captured from the Portuguese soldiers, come from West Germany. The Portuguese government is helped by all the world's imperialists.

THE FARMERS MOVE THEIR TOWNS INTO THE FREED AREAS AND SHELTER THEM FROM BOMBS. AN OLD WISE MAN SAYS:

"In the time of the Portuguese we had no dignity. Instead of working for our own government all men and women were forced to do compulsory work and were whipped and tortured.

We haven't seen any Portuguese for two years. Our town was destroyed in 1963. Before that the Portuguese had taken all our cattle.

Now we're protected by the party. We work for our own government and give rice to the soldiers. The soldiers and we are brothers and sisters.

Those who knew us when the Portuguese were here realized at once that we weren't happy. We didn't make our own decisions about property and work. Now although we're in the middle of a war we know it'll pass.

Although we only own a little we make decisions ourselves. We are satisfied now despite inconveniences.

During the colonial period we were sick. Now we're alive.

The farmers are hopeful that there'll be an end to their suffering and that they'll have a better life after victory."





The farmers have moved their towns into the woods, hidden from bombs. The fields are cultivated here while armed men and women keep watch. There is also a little factory. In the people's factory the town's inhabitants exchange

their rice, coconuts, rubber and skins for woolen goods, mosquito nets, sewing machines, fish hooks, tooth brushes, pots, tools, salt and sugar. The PAIGC sells the farmers goods in foreign countries and the money buys goods for the People's Business.

Money is no longer used in the freed territories. There are schools here for all the town's children. The people and soldiers learn to read when there are pauses in their work. Before freedom only one out of a hundred could read

and write. The people elect three women and three men to the town committee. The leaders all work in the town and make sure that all the inhabitants have medicine and that the wounded soldiers have help.





COMRADES, I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY TO YOU. IN ABOUT A YEAR THIS TOWN WILL BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY MIND CAN VISUALIZE. WHEN OUR LAND IS FREE!

WE'LL BUILD BEAUTIFUL HOUSES IN DJAGALI WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS. PERHAPS THE OLD WILL LOOK INSIDE THE DOOR. THOSE WHO SAY DOUBT

HOUSES IN DJAGALI WITH RUNNING WATER AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS. PERHAPS THE OLD WILL COME TO LOOK INSIDE THE DOOR. THOSE WHO SAY DOUBT WHAT!

REMEMBER THIS- IT'S THE TRUTH AND WE'LL FIGHT FOR IT. OUR FATE LIES IN OUR OWN HANDS. WE'LL BUILD SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS AND NO ONE

WILL BE EXPLOITED. OUR TASK IS TO CULTIVATE OUR LAND AND GROW FLOWERS- FREEDOM ISN'T ONLY THROWING THE PORTUGUESE OUT AND HAVING A FLAG AND AN ANTHEM.

THE PEOPLE HAVE TO BE CERTAIN THAT NO ONE STEALS THEIR WORK, THAT THE COUNTRY'S RICHES DON'T VANISH INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S POCKETS.



AND THE PEOPLE WILL BE TAUGHT EVERYONE TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD. BECAUSE WE WANT

DJAGALI ISN'T THE WHOLE GUINEA AND GUINEA ISN'T THE WHOLE WORLD.

OUR PEOPLE MUST SEE HOW PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WORK, SUFFER AND FIGHT.

THE WAY WE'VE CHOSEN IS LIKE THE RIVER FARIM, THE WATER NEVER COMES BACK TO ITS SOURCE BUT FLOWS TO THE SEA- AND IN THE SAME WAY PAIGC WILL ATTAIN ITS GOAL- REAL FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE. TO FIGHT AND WORK.

What do you want to do with the world we live in?

Powerful forces are in motion,  
large upheavals are happening.

The poor people  
who are hungry, who live in slums,  
whose lives are filled with wretchedness and misfortunes  
have straightened their bent back.  
They rise from their degradation and stare their oppressors  
deep in the eyes and say:

NO

You have no right to destroy our lives.  
You have no right to steal what we've toiled and labored for.  
For hundreds of years you've prevented us from having enough food  
and houses. You have refused us the right to live in happiness  
and peace.

But you'll see:  
This is the end.

Now we've come to the point where we would rather go out and  
die in open battle with you rather than die in silence.  
Perhaps we'll die when we fight our oppressors but our  
children and our children's children and our great grand  
children will be able to live a life without hunger and poverty.  
We willingly offer ourselves so our survivors will be free.  
The capitalists will see that their defeat is near.  
They'll not hesitate to murder.  
They invent atom bombs and hydrogen bombs.  
But they can't scare people who are determined to die for  
freedom.

Yes, yes you say. Of course this is so.  
But everything is happening so far away,  
not in Denmark, not in our house.  
But look around.

Changes are beginning to take place.  
Workers strike in the shipyards and in factories. They  
are beginning to see the corruption in the cooperation  
between their trade unions and the spiders. They are beginning  
to demand meaningful work.

Students say no to the fake picture of the truth that the  
capitalists want them to learn. They demand to see how the  
world really is.

Women begin to demand their freedom from household duties but  
not in order to compete with men but in order to help in the  
creation of a better society.

Prisoners go on strike in order to have a more humane existence.  
Everywhere people begin to rise up; they'll no longer let  
themselves be treated like dogs.

A powerful force is in motion and one day we'll all be  
conscious of our dignity and we'll join together with all the  
oppressed people in their fight.

The days of the imperialists are numbered!

THE BEST WAY TO  
SHOW OUR SOLIDARITY  
IS TO BEGIN THE  
FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM  
IN THE USA, IN EUROPE  
AND IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.  
SENDING US MEDICINE IS  
ALSO GOOD BUT SECONDARY.  
I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS-  
IF YOU FIGHT  
IMPERIALISM IN THE  
USA AND IN EUROPE  
WE'LL ALSO SEND  
YOU A LITTLE  
MEDICINE.\*



Amílcar Cabral  
PAIGC

\*TODAY AFTER 500 YEARS OF COLONIAL RULE PORTUGAL HAS  
FINALLY BEEN FORCED TO PULL OUT OF AFRICA.  
GUINEA-BISSAU IS INDEPENDENT

# GLOSSARY

**CAPITALISM:** Capitalism is a system in which a little group of people, the capitalist class, owns the means of production. (example: factories, machines, etc.) The capitalists force the majority of people—the working class—to work in their factories. When the working class works for the capitalists its members earn only a portion of what their work is worth in wages. The capitalist puts what remains in his pocket and calls it profit. Profit is therefore something which the capitalist steals from the worker.

**CLASS:** A class is a group of people with the same means of production. (example: factories, machines) All capitalists belong to the same capitalist class because they have the same means of production—they own the machines and factories. The workers are a different class because they stand in a different relation to the means of production—they work with the means of production without owning them. Because of the different relation to the means of production the capitalist class can force the working class (proletariat) to work.

**COLONY:** A colony is a territory which is conquered by a capitalist country where the capitalists rob and plunder as much as they like with the help of the police and military. (see pages 86-87)

**COLONIALISM:** Colonialism occurs when a country goes after colonies in another part of the world. Europe's colonialism began at the end of the 1500's (or the 1600's). (see pages 24-25) By 1960 most of the colonies were independent. (The capitalists had found another way of controlling these countries—see neo-colonialism) Today there are only a few colonies remaining.

**COMMUNISM:** "to each according to his ability—to each according to his need."  
A communist society is a society where all people have learned to live the same and help each other, where there are no classes, where no class profits, where there is no longer the need to force and control people.

**CORPORATION:** The first corporations were formed in the middle of the 1800's. In order to keep the factories which had grown very large running a lot of money was needed; so much money was needed that it was difficult for one capitalist to obtain all the money himself. Many capitalists put their money together and started joint enterprises and corporations.

**COUNTRY:** A country is a ruling class's machinery of power. A country is a capitalist society ruling and governing the working class through schools, law, military, etc. so that the capitalist class can uninterruptedly use the working class. In a socialist country the country uses the working class to keep the former capitalists out of power and to make their own decisions.

**DEVELOPING COUNTRY'S HELP:** There are two kinds of aid to developing countries. Good and Bad. The good aid is the aid which goes to the people—to liberation movements or to the people who've seized control from the imperialists (example: Cuba). Most of the developing country's aid is in the form of loans, goods and experts who the imperialist countries send to help imperialism. The developing country's government is forced to accept help in order to stay in power. The imperialists continue to exploit the people. (see pages 114-115)

**GUERRILLA:** Guerillas are people who aren't military by profession but who procure weapons and fight. They are often poor people who wish to throw capitalists and imperialists out of their country.

**IMPERIALISM:** About 100 years ago the capitalist corporations became so large that it wasn't sufficient for the capitalists to steal from their own country's workers and raw materials. In addition the stores in their country weren't able to sell everything that was produced. The capitalists were forced to utilize the workers and raw materials and stores in other countries or go bankrupt. Today, for example, USA owned monopolies invest their money and sell their products in countries like Denmark. They couldn't survive without the cheap raw materials they steal from developing countries. The same is true with the large Danish companies. They have to buy and sell many goods and they have to use cheap workers in developing countries. Today's capitalists have to be imperialists in order to survive. If necessary the imperialists resort to war and mass murder. For example the USA's involvement in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

**NEO-COLONIALISM:** Although the former colonies have their own government, flag, and anthem, capitalists from foreign countries as well as the developing country's own capitalists still retain power. They own the mines and have factories.

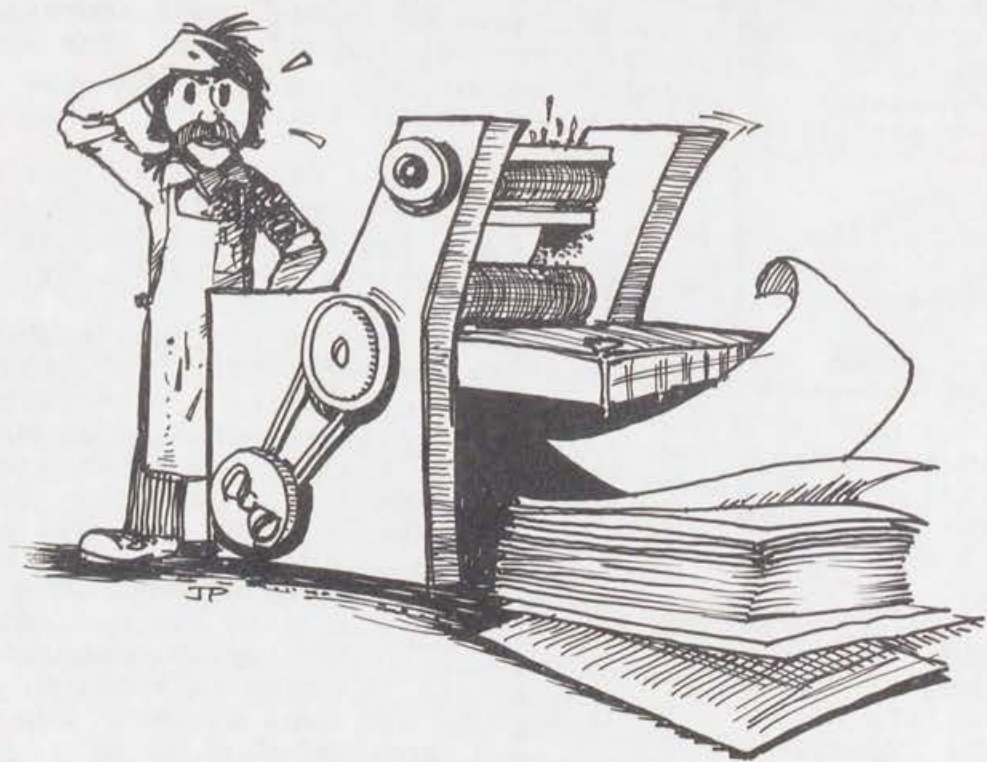
**PROFIT:** In a capitalist society profit=booty. In a socialist society workers decide how much of the excess of production will go for higher wages, schools, hospitals, etc. There is no profit. Profit is also called increased profit.

**REVOLUTION:** Revolution is the total upheaval of society. The oppressed class topples its oppressors and takes power.

**SOCIAL DEMOCRAT:** A social democrat is a person who thinks that society's large differences—class differences—can smooth out little by little without revolution. The social democrats give the workers a sense of having participated without disturbing the capitalists' ownership of factories, land and mines by certain reforms and higher wages. The capitalists exploit the social democrats in order to hinder crisis and revolution.

**SOCIALISM:** Socialism is halfway between capitalism and communism. The people own the factories, mines, schools and hospitals in common. The country makes sure that everything is divided fairly and that the workers produce what is needed.

**WALLENBURG:** Wallenburg is the strongest finance family in Sweden today. The Wallenburgs own Stockholm's Enskilde bank, Investor and Provedentia. In addition to the different kinds of banks, they own and make decisions for a network of factories and establishments where one company owns the next, the next the third, etc.



Whew! Printing these History books was very hard work for the Peace Press. Three years ago we could not have attempted such a hard job as this. We started as a tiny political print shop, printing flyers for movement groups. Our shop began as a project controlled and owned by the workers. We had no technical skills, no business skills and little capital. Gradually, after years of collective cooperation, our present goals and style of work have emerged. We have built a shop where we, the workers, determine our wages, our hours, and the type of work we want to print. We have mixed commercial jobs with work for over 300 political groups so that we can help contribute to social change. We have built our skills so that we can reach our goals of printing and ultimately, publishing books.

The finished History Book is important to the Peace Press because it is relevant politically, with its people-oriented view of history, and because it is a highly technical job that required years of training before we could attempt to print it.

We hope you enjoyed the collective work of the authors, the translators, the Midnight Special, and the Peace Press.



