

# Neomilitarism - A New Danger For Peace

SECURITY NEEDS FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

by Prof. Hans Thirring, Vienna

## The Classic Idea of Security: Si Vis Pacem Para Bellum

In former times the prescription for security needs of a country was simple enough: Keep sufficient military strength to deter your neighbours from assailing you.

For a country like England a powerful fleet with better equipment than that of the continental powers seemed to be a sufficient guarantee against damage to the isles in a war.

## Changed Attitude Since 1945

Basic technological and political changes have occurred since the advent of the atomic age. Full security is no longer possible against a nuclear-powered enemy if he were seriously intent upon destroying one of his enemies. Both, the USA and the USSR, are equipped with super weapons and delivery means with a destroying capacity many thousand times that of the sum of all the arms used from the beginning of history till today. If the big powers really wanted to do so, they might wipe out any of the European countries before the mobilisation order of the assailed state could have reached its reserves.

There is no direct military defense possible against a well-aimed nuclear annihilation. For this reason the main factor of security of any state is no longer the vain attempt to possess military forces of equal or superior strength than that of its neighbours. What is needed most is a sound political strategy which does not lend to the militarists of any potential enemy the excuse to wage a war. It was widely believed in the past that relying on political strategy alone without adequate military power would mean surrender. This may have been true in the days of Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon and Hitler. And the aggressive tone of the communist manifesto of 1848 by Marx and Engels lent also support to the idea that nothing else but ruthless power could rule the world.

But, on the other hand, it was Marx himself who discovered the great influence of technological progress on human society. If he had foreseen the nuclear power stalemate between communism and capitalism of our times he would have stated more explicitly that social revolution is not meant to be an export article and he would have warned against that kind of world revolution which the present China Government believes to be "Marxist".

The day of Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and the development of thermo-nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles spoiled the appetite of would-be Hitlers for victories and conquests. For, although it would be a feasible military task for the USA as well as for the USSR to destroy any other state, the unresolved problem would be how to justify such a crime before the world.