

War Forever

BENITO MUSSOLINI, no matter what else he may be, is a realist. Which means that he is convinced that what is, is. And he shapes his course of action accordingly. Recently he expressed his realistic approach thus:

"Now, above all, every one, even those with the thickest brains, can see that the division between the economy of peace and the economy of war is simply absurd.

"There is not an economy for peacetime and an economy for wartime. There is only a war economy, because historically, considering the number of years of war, it has been demonstrated that a state of armed warfare is a normal state of the people, at least of those living on the European continent, because even in years of so-called peace other types of war are waged, which in their turn prepare for armed warfare."

This happens to be a truism: War between nations has been carried on incessantly between intermittent periods of armed conflict for hundreds of years. The world is never at peace. War is merely an intensification of national economic rivalries, as expressed in tariffs, quotas, spheres of influence, imperialism—of all the methods used by privileged groups in one country to exploit peoples in other countries.

Indeed, the exploitation economy within every country is merely extended beyond the frontiers through foreign investments, by obtaining land grants from local politicians, by imposing extra-territorial rights. Thus the condition of war is present. Sometimes armed war is a revolt of local exploiters against invading exploiters; sometimes the exploiters of two nations come into conflict on the

territory of the exploited. But the condition of war exists so long as one group of people exploits another.

That is why Il Duce's statement that there is "only a war economy" is correct. He means that all our national economies are based on the exploitation principle; that none of the economies of the nations tend to foster production, which is the only condition of peace.

France and England have been forced to scrap their competitive economies in order to strengthen themselves for the war. For war purposes they cease fighting one another in the economic field. Why did they not get together economically to foster their productive capacities when they were "at peace"? Better still, why did not the nations of Europe scrap their economic antagonisms and thus prevent the insane destruction of life and wealth?

Simply because the rapacity of exploiters in all countries has no moral inhibitions. It is they who shape the laws which make the economy of war also the economy of peace.