

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Writings of Leon Trotsky (1932-33)**

BY LEON TROTSKY

Trotsky is a major figure as a writer no less than as a man of action. Circumstances make it unlikely that we shall have in any predictable future a completed edition of his works. But his followers in this country and the United States are making a laudable effort to keep as many as possible of them in print in English—a language in which none of them was originally written.

Of these three volumes all issued by Pathfinder Press in New York, *Leon Trotsky Speaks* is a somewhat miscellaneous selection of his speeches, spread over his whole career; *The Spanish Revolution* contains his articles on the revolution and civil war in Spain, ranging from 1931 to 1939; *Writings of Leon Trotsky 1932-33* is a contribution to a series designed to include all Trotsky's journalistic output during his exile.

The second and third volumes contain a good deal of fugitive material of transient interest, and are for the student or disciple rather than the general reader.

Army cadres in the late 1930s; war industry was left in a state of unpreparedness; and the Stalin-Hitler Pact was presented as an insurance of peace.

The 1932-33 *Writings* contain a number of items which deal with Trotsky's views on questions posed to Soviet foreign policy during that period, including disarmament treaties and more on the considerations that should determine trade and diplomatic relations with capitalist states. Other articles include: "Fascism and Democratic Slogans"; "What is Historical Objectivity?"; "My Daughter's Suicide"; an analysis of the Soviet economy; a discussion of the tactic of the general strike in relation to stopping fascism in Austria; a prediction on Japan's prospects in a world war; a letter on the Marxist attitude toward differences in matters of philosophy and of art; an international appeal for help for Russian oppositionists under Stalin's heel; and other items.

The editors have supplied a chronology of events, excellent footnotes, thorough identification of the source of all pieces, an index, and a list of other published writings from the period.

Readers will find this volume, and the entire *Writings* series, an impressive contribution toward building and strengthening the continuity of leadership between today's young revolutionists and those who kept alive the traditions of Lenin and the October Revolution during the heyday of Stalinism.