

**press  
review**  
**THE MISFORTUNE OF EUROPE****«ZËRI I POPULLIT»**

From the Balkans to the northern expanses Europe has been turned into a zone of constant new conflicts and dangerous tensions due to the interference of the United States of America and the Soviet Union. This is a bitter reality which the Americans and the Soviets try to cover up and which the West-European bourgeoisie and the revisionist countries of Eastern Europe pretend not to see.

The heavy political, economic and military chains the two superpowers have put on Europe speak of the existence of a great national problem both in the East and in the West.

This great national problem the European political chancelleries try to conceal by spreading the illusion that, if warmer winds begin to blow in Soviet-American relations, ampler space will be created

for the independent activity of the European states. This is being heard especially at present, when Washington and Moscow, along with demonstrations of strength, are making new gestures of détente towards each other. There are many people in Europe who support the American-Soviet thesis that the lowering of tension in the relations of the United States with the Soviet

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Union and collaboration with them create better conditions for peace and international security. The irony of the European position is that Europe itself has fallen a prey to these illusions. The American Department of State has re-emphasized the Sonnefeld Doctrine, according to which America recognizes Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. This thesis was recently re-affirmed by the newspaper «New York Times» which wrote that «Eastern Europe is a zone which enters into the Soviet sphere of influence». In exchange, the Kremlin and the political observers of the Soviet Union recognize the «legitimacy» of American interests and influence in Western Europe.

It is clear that the recognition of the right of one superpower to exercise its influence in its sphere is based on the recognition of the same right of the other superpower. Both the United States and the Soviet Union consider their rule over their allies a historical right of theirs. «I want to re-affirm to our allies,» declared Reagan, «that we accept the responsibility for the role of international leadership America has assumed from the historical evolution of events following the Second World War.» The claim expressed by the Soviet theoretical journal «The USA: the Economy, Politics, Ideology» has essentially the same character. It states: «The Soviet Union is the ideological and political centre of the world

revolutionary and liberation movement.» However, recognition of the right of influence, according to the division of spheres, does not in the least exclude the increased efforts of either superpower to expanding this sphere in Europe through the inclusion of other countries or to interfering in one way or the other in that part which is traditionally considered as belonging to its rival.

One of the regions in which the superpowers are more active in demanding ever new concessions to their further penetration is the Balkans. Here there is a growing threat due to the participation of the different Balkan countries in the military blocs of the superpowers and the intrigues of the superpowers trying to incite the Balkan countries and peoples against one another.

The fact that the superpowers go beyond the bounds of their spheres of influence on our continent (in general on the border of the countries participating in the blocs ruled by the superpowers) explains in part the grave situation in Europe and the great national problem that exists on this continent. We have said and still say that the participation of the majority of the countries of Europe in the military and political blocs of the superpowers is the cause of its misfortune. The great danger of this participation is due not only to the all-round political, economic, military,

and cultural control of the superpowers over the member countries of their blocs, but also to the attempts of the Americans and Soviets to transform these countries into tools for their strategic and tactical, political and military activities which highly endanger the freedom and independence of all the peoples of Europe and the whole world.

The possibility created for NATO and the Warsaw Treaty to take actions outside the European geographic perimetre, which is being talked about at high level meetings of the two blocs, is very significant. Despite the fierce contradictions that break out between the superpowers and their allies, it is Washington and Moscow that make decisions, both in regard to the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty and the member countries of NATO.

The participation of the European countries in the military and political blocs of the superpowers has created a suitable climate for the American imperialism and the Soviet social-imperialism to step up their hegemony-seeking and expansionist policies. It is a hard truth which brings out with even greater force the correctness of the thesis of the PLA that there can be no talk about the freedom and independence of the European countries, about security and peace on the European continent without the disappea-

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rance of these blocs and the elimination of the presence of the superpowers in Europe. As Comrade Enver Hoxha has put it in his address to the electors; «The development and prosperity of the European states, the

defence of their culture, traditions and civilization are achieved and strengthened by opposing the hegemonic policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, by giving neither of them any possibility to exploit their po-

litical, economic and other links with the European countries in order to attack other countries, to put in danger the freedom and independence of the peoples, peace and international security».

