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THROUGH SOVIET EYES.

The Moscow Press and the Outside World.

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I.—*Victory and Beyond.*

IN his broadcast message to the peoples of the Union on the 9th May Marshal Stalin declared that "Fascist Germany has been brought to her knees by the Red army and the troops of our Allies." His message, together with those of Mr. Churchill and President Truman, were published on the 10th May. But it was well to be reminded by Ehrenburg (*Pravda*, 10th May) that "the Red army has saved humanity from mortal danger What would have happened to the children of the Canadian farmer or the Parisian worker if the Russian fighter having tasted too much sorrow on the Don had not reached the Spree? We saved not only our motherland, we saved all human culture, the ancient stones of Europe and her cradles, her workers, museums and books." "I do not wish to minimise the rôle of our gallant Allies," continues M. Ehrenburg on the 16th May (*Izvestiya*). "They have earned their place at the victors' table But when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union the Soviet people were alone. The British were still on their island. America had not yet entered the fray, and France was conquered." It is true that the Soviet Union "was promised assistance by Britain and the United States and had the moral support of all progressive mankind," and that "the Allies' economic aid was substantial" (*Red Star*, 22nd May). But for three years "the Red army held out alone against the German armies, encouraged the enslaved nations of Europe to resist, and gave Britain and the United States time to prepare for decisive military operations against Germany" (*Red Fleet*, 22nd May). The great landmarks in the war are Soviet landmarks. They are:—

- "(1) The defeat of the Germans at Moscow and the Red army's advance in the winter of 1941-42."
- "(2) The defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad and the Red army's offensive in the winter of 1942-43."
- "(3) The defeat of the Germans at Kursk and the advance of the Red army in the summer of 1943 and the winter of 1943-44."
- "(4) The advance of the Red army in the summer and autumn of 1944."
- "(5) The advance of the Red army which began on the 12th January, 1945, and concluded with the entry of Soviet troops into Berlin and the signing of the surrender on the 8th May in Berlin." (*Red Fleet*, 22nd May.)

The "victory of the Russian people is a turning point in the history of mankind" (Academician Potemkin in *Izvestiya* on the 23rd May). There have been other triumphs in Russia's epic story; but it was not until the October revolution that "the creative forces of the Russian people were given an opportunity of expressing themselves Lenin and Stalin have raised Russia to heights undreamed of. The backward country has been turned into a mighty State, into a great union of peoples, joyfully and freely developing their culture The Russian people have stood tests that no State of the capitalistic world could have done As a standard bearer the Soviet State now leads progressive mankind forward" (Academician Potemkin, People's Commissar for Education in the R.S.F.S.R., in *Izvestiya*, 23rd May).

"The Soviet people owes military victory to the party of the Bolsheviks, to the leader of the party and people, Comrade Stalin The Soviet people owes the great economic victory of our country over Hitlerite Germany to the party of Bolsheviks and to Comrade Stalin Our people owes to its great

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