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Civil War Threatens China"

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## Newspaper Woman Declares Civil War Threatens China

By Betty Brown

**A** CHINA where the man who cultivates rice will have rice to eat . . . the man who weaves cloth will have clothing to wear . . . and where everyone will be educated, free of charge, is what the Chinese are fighting for and for which they have been fighting for the last seven years, according to the graphic picture of "China at War," presented yesterday by Agnes Smedley, newspaper correspondent and Red Cross worker in China, before a capacity audience at the Women's City Club.

"The Chinese picture has been glamorized for us in America," she said. "Unemphasized is the fact that China is dangerously near a civil war. Communist armies are trying to fight the war and establish simultaneously the objectives for this new China. Armies of the government postpone these objectives as a postwar achievement."

Miss Smedley inferred that the United States can help alleviate this difference of opinion by aiding the Communist armies, who "want to introduce a democratic form of government," as well as by supplying those armies of the Chinese government. Much of her discussion was on the value of political education of army personnel.

### Education Needed

"The Chinese recognize that 90 per cent of the Russian spirit and morale is due to the fact that the Russian soldier knows what he is fighting for," she continued. "Surveys have shown that the Red Army is the best informed group in Russia today. Leaders recognized that if Chinese were to fight on, it would be necessary to educate the soldier."

"Today the army is the Chinese soldier's university and training school. Fifty to 60 per cent of the illiteracy in China has been absorbed. Poor peasants have learned guerrilla warfare, enough Japanese to shout slogans in battle, to read and write, and have become acquainted with subjects taught in our universities and schools. When the Chinese reflects on the time he spent in this war he won't feel that he has been robbed of four or five years of life."

"Were one to scratch the surface of a Chinese, one would find an empty British sentiment. They question the policy of western imperial powers. They recognize the consequences of an independent strong China on neighboring Burma, India and Indo-China. These questions are pondered by our allies in Asia, signifying that we dare not betray our democratic principles in our support to reactionary Chinese alone. The stage is set for a civil war. It is up to us to help stop it, by aiding both groups."

Miss Smedley, the author of "Bat-

tle Hymn of China," was introduced by Mrs. Leyton Carter. The talk followed luncheon.