

has altered its policy in this respect, its stand on "equal rights" for the Negro race in the United States remains unchanged.

Numerous reasons can be adduced to explain the failure of the Communist Party, USA, in spite of its almost overwhelming efforts, to attract even a significant minority of the American Negro population to its program. Probably the most obvious is the realization by the Negro (as well as the vast majority of Americans) that the constant shifts in the Communist Party "line" are determined by the needs of the Soviet Union and not by any factor intrinsic to the American way of life or by the Party's interest in Negro welfare. Other reasons, more specifically applicable to the Negro, include the Communist Party's previous espousal of the theory of "self-determination" (which is too similar to segregation for Negroes), in spite of the Negro's deep-rooted desire for total equality within the American society; its severe criticism of influential Negro clergymen, particularly during the late 1920's and early 1930's; its inability to justify Russia's aid to Italy when the latter invaded Ethiopia; its subversion of the National Negro Congress, which originally showed promise of becoming an important Negro improvement organization; its activities during World War II,

