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# Statement of Purpose of the Social Democracy of America [December 1897]

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## THE SOCIAL DEMOCRACY OF AMERICA. EXECUTIVE BOARD.

EUGENE V. DEBS, Chairman.  
JAMES HOGAN, Vice Chairman.

SYLVESTER KELIHER, Secretary.  
WM. E. BURNS, Organizer.

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### ORGANIZED TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH.

#### *TO SECURE THIS:—*

We call upon all honest citizens to unite under the banner of the Social Democracy of America, so that we may be ready to conquer capitalism by making use of our political liberty and by taking possession of the public power, so that we may put an end to the present barbarous struggle, by the abolition of capitalism, the restoration of the land, and of all the means of production, transportation, and distribution, to the people as a collective body, and by the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war, and social disorder — a commonwealth, which, although it will not make every man equal physically or mentally, will give to every worker the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization and ultimately inaugurate the universal brotherhood of men. The Social Democracy of America will make democracy, "the rule of the people," a truth, by ending the economic subjugation of the overwhelmingly great majority of the people.

With a view to the immediate relief of the people, all our efforts shall be put forth to secure to the unemployed self-supporting employment, using all proper ways and means to that end. For such purpose one of the States of the Union, to be hereafter determined, shall be selected for the concentration of our supporters and the introduction of co-operative industry, and then gradually extending the sphere of our operations until the National Co-operative Commonwealth shall be established.

*All Good Citizens Are Eligible.*

For full information address

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