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# Down With War!

## The Workers of the United States Have No Desire and No Reason to Shed Their Blood

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By a mere executive decree, the President of our country has broken off diplomatic relations with the German empire, and placed the people of the United States in imminent danger of being actively drawn into the mad war of Europe.<sup>1</sup>

During the last 30 months, the blackest months in the annals of human history, six million innocent men have been brutally killed, and many more millions have been crippled and maimed for life. Whole countries have been devastated and the accumulated treasures of human industry and nature’s generosity have been ruthlessly destroyed.

Europe is a dread house of mourning in which the disconsolate sobs of the widows and orphans at home mingle with the agonized groans of the wounded and dying on the battlefield.

In this savage carnival of wholesale and indiscriminate murder, there was but one powerful member of the family of nations that preserved an attitude of comparative sanity — the United States of America. Removed by the vast stretch of the Atlantic Ocean from the scene of the inhuman conflict, safe in our economic self-sufficiency, and proud of our advanced and democratic institutions, we watched the self-destruction of our European brothers with bleeding hearts, eagerly waiting for the opportunity to bring them back to reason and peace, to life and happiness.

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<sup>1</sup> Diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany were severed on February 3, 1917. War was declared on April 6 of that same year.

And suddenly, with little notice or warning, without the sanction or consent of the people and with out the consultation with the people's chosen representatives in Congress, we are practically ordered to join in the mad dance of death and destruction and to swell the ghastly river of blood in Europe with the blood of thousands of American workers.

The Socialist Party of the United States, speaking in behalf of hundreds of thousands of its adherents and in behalf of the working class of the country, enters a solemn protest against this wanton attempt to draw us into the European conflict.

We are opposed to wars between nations because war is a reversion to brutal barbarism. We are opposed to the present threatened war in particular **because no great war has ever been waged with less justification and on more frivolous pretexts.**

This policy of unrestricted and indiscriminate submarine warfare recently announced by the German government is most ruthless and inhuman, but so is war as a whole and so are all methods applied by both sides. War is murder. War is the climax of utter lawlessness, and **it is idle to prate about lawful and unlawful methods of warfare.**

**The German submarine warfare does not threaten our national integrity or independence, not even our national dignity and honor.** It was not aimed primarily at the United States and would not affect the American people. **It would strike only those parasitic classes that have been making huge profits by manufacturing instruments of death or by taking away our food and selling it at exorbitant prices to the fighting armies of Europe.**

The workers of the United States have **no reason and no desire to shed their blood** for the the protection and furtherance of **the unholy profits of their masters** and will not permit an lying and venal press to **stampede them into taking up arms to murder their brothers in Europe.**

The six million men whose corpses are now rotting upon the battlefields of Europe were mostly workingmen. If the United States is drawn into war, it will be the American workers whose lives will be sacrificed — an inglorious, senseless sacrifice on the altar of capitalist greed.

**Workers of America, awake! The hour is grave; the danger is imminent! Silence would be fatal! Gather the masses in meetings and demonstrations! Speak in unmistakable tones! Let your determined protest resound from one end of the country to the other!**

Send telegrams or letters to President Wilson, to the United States Senators and Congressmen. Demand that American citizens and American ships be forbidden to enter the war zone, except at their own risk. Insist that this nation shall not be plunged into war for the benefit of plundering capitalists.

**Down with war! Down with the inhuman social system that breeds war! Long live peace! Long live the International solidarity of the workers of all nations!**

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THE ABOVE PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE  
BY THE  
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ADOLPH GERMER, National Executive Secretary.

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*If this interests you, pass it on.*

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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