

---

# Letter to Eugene V. Debs in New York City from Ludwig Lore in New York City, March 9, 1917.

Eugene V. Debs papers, microfilm edition: reel 2, frames 0309A-0309B.  
Published in J. Robert Constantine (ed.): *Letters of Eugene V. Debs*, v. 2, pp. 292-293.

New York, March 9, 1917.

My dear Comrade Debs:

Comrade L.B. Boudin and I tried very hard yesterday and today to see you. We intended to lay before you a proposition that, we were quite sure, would interest you and whose purpose would find your support.

The whole story is in short as follows:

A group of Socialists who endorse the position of the Zimmerwald and Kienthal Conferences has decided to start a new Socialist periodical, whose task shall be mainly to educate the intelligent rank and file of the Party.

The publications, which shall appear for the first time on April 15th, dated May 1st, is intended, at least for the near future, to be a bimonthly of about 96 magazine size pages.†

We have decided to publish a number of articles, each about 8 pages in length, which appear in the regular issues of the periodical, as propaganda pamphlet, which we hope will help us to reach a considerable part of the membership with our message and will support us in our primary purpose, the influencing of the Party in the direction of that wing of the Socialist movement that maintained throughout the war its international and social-revolutionary character.

The financial basis of this new publication is secure. But we hope soon to raise enough funds to publish it monthly.‡

The Editorial Committee hereby asks for your cooperation and urges you to send us an article for the first issue if at all possible. To give you an idea of the tentative program mapped out for the first issue we add hereto the list of articles that have been secured or promised:

Socialism and Pacifism  
by Leon Trotsky.

The Condition of the Socialist Party  
by Louis B. Boudin.

Problems of State Socialism  
by L.C. Fraina.

What the War is Doing to America  
by A.M. Simons (promised).

Militarism and Educational Problems  
by William Bohn (promised).

American Trade Unionism and Imperialism  
by Ludwig Lore.

The International Socialist Movement.

Editorial Department  
under the editorship of L.B. Boudin.

†- The magazine in question, *The Class Struggle*, was indeed launched with an initial issue dated "May-June 1917." The publishers called themselves "The Socialist Propaganda Society." A goodly number of pamphlets were issued in addition to the regular magazine, and a special glossy magazine was published by the Society in celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the Russian Revolution in November 1918. Debs did not write for *The Class Struggle* until the February 1919 issue.

‡- *The Class Struggle* was published bimonthly throughout 1917 (4 issues); 5 issues were published in 1918; and 4 quarterly issues were published in 1919. The final issue was published under the auspices of the Communist Labor Party of America as the organization's theoretical organ. Publication was abruptly terminated due to the state repression which brought about the underground period.

We hoped that you probably might consent to write an article on “The Defense of the Fatherland,” a subject that could be treated by on other pen as well and powerfully as yours and that undoubtedly could and would find a very large circulation as a separate pamphlet.

If you could find time to call up Comrade Boudin (Teleph. WOrth 4475) tomorrow morning, he could, I am sure, give you any further information you might desire. That such a magazine for the enlightenment of our intelligent Party-workers is an urgent necessity, nobody can doubt. Your assistance would assure its success.

Fraternally and cordially yours,

*Ludwig Lore,*  
Ass. Editor *NY Volkszeitung.*

The Editorial Committee consists of:

L.B. Boudin.

Leon Trotsky.

†- The Editors of *The Class Struggle* at the time of its first issue were Louis B. Boudin, Louis C. Fraina, and Ludwig Lore, with a mailing address of 115 Worth St., NYC. Effective with the first issue of 1918, the publication changed its mailing address to 119 Lafayette St., NYC. Louis Boudin’s name left the masthead at the time of the Sept.-Oct. 1918 issue and the publication’s mailing address changed to 431 Pulasky Street, Brooklyn. Eugene Debs was added to the masthead as a third editor effective with the Feb. 1919 issue and the publication’s address moved again to 243 — 55th Street, Brooklyn. The third issue of 1919, dated August, listed the 15 Spruce Street address of the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* as a mailing address. The final, CLP issue dated Nov. 1919 used the same mailing address but listed a new editorial trio consisting of Duluth *Truth* Editor Jack Carney, Ludwig Lore of the *Volkszeitung*, and Gregory Weinstein, the general office manager and secretary to Ludwig Martens at the Russian Soviet Government Bureau in New York. These address changes are useful aids for persons interested in assigning dates to the dozen or so pamphlets produced by the Socialist Publication Society.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

***Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.***