
1919 May Day Manifesto of the Socialist Party of America

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On this international holiday of labor the Socialists of the United States solemnly announce their determination to consecrate themselves with renewed earnestness and vigor to the worldwide struggle for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system and for turning over the world's government to the world's workers. The formal termination of the war finds the ruling classes and their governments in all capitalist countries discredited and distrusted, judged and convicted.

In the fierce impact of their conflicting greeds they have brutally slaughtered millions of workers and mutilated, crippled, and invalidated many more millions. They have destroyed human habitations, workshops, and fields without number, and have devastated whole countries.

They have disrupted the lives of the nations and surrendered the peoples to hunger and disease, suffering and despair.

Potent enough to throw the nations into war, but powerless to make and maintain peace; too weak to rule and too selfish to abdicate, the powers of capitalism stand before the world as derelicts of a dark age, as dangerous enemies of humanity and progress.

We, therefore, welcome with joy the powerful movements of our fellow workers in Europe for the immediate liquidation of the capitalist system of oppression and exploitation and for the

establishment of workers' republics.

We send fraternal greetings and vows of wholehearted sympathy to the Socialist Soviet Republic of Russia, which is so valiantly upholding the lofty international proletarian ideals in the face of the combined military, economic, and political attacks of reactionary powers and in spite of the systematic campaign of libelous misrepresentation on the part of the lying capitalist press of the world.

We send congratulations and fraternal good wishes to the workers of Hungary on the establishment of a free communistic workers' republic upon the ruins of the predatory monarchy of their exploiting and land-monopolizing rulers.

We extend the hand of comradeship and solidarity to the revolutionary Socialists of Germany and Austria, now engaged in a life-and-death struggle to secure for the working masses of their countries the full fruit of their victorious revolutions; to the workers of England in their efforts to wrest the control of the industries from the parasites in their country, and to the Socialists of France, Italy, and all other countries of Europe in their fights against their reactionary governments.

With the dismal failure of the ruling class League of Nations, the hope of the world lies in the irresistible League of the Communistic Commonwealth of the workers.

We call upon the workers of the United States to join in the onward march of the international proletariat towards the conquest of liberty.

While our young men by the millions have been risking their lives abroad for the alleged cause of democracy, our government has taken advantage of the oppressive war spirit of intolerant terror to crucify democracy and to crush all radical movements at home.

Under the sanction of a reactionary act of Congress and with the aid of a servile officialdom and judiciary, of profiteering interests and a shortsighted labor leadership, an orgy of oppression and persecution was inaugurated, which is unequalled in the political annals of the country for its shamelessness and brutality. Hundreds of Socialists and radical labor leaders have been thrown into jail for inhumanly long terms, scores of Socialist and labor papers have been suppressed, thousands of peaceful meetings have been broken up; all cherished constitutional rights and liberties of American citizenship were cynically trampled under foot and all representative government was practically abrogated by an administration which has the audacity to pose at home and abroad as the leader of modern "Liberalism."

The Socialists of the United States demand

the immediate restoration of constitutional republican government in this country. We demand the immediate repeal of the infamous Espionage Law, the immediate liberation of all political prisoners, the immediate lifting of the despotic post office ban on radical publications, and the full freedom of speech, assemblage, and organization, to the end that American labor may freely pursue the legitimate struggles for the emancipation of its class.

We demand the immediate withdrawal of American troops illegally sent to Russia to fight the battles of Russian reaction, and we demand that our government keep its hands off Hungary and the other countries of Europe coming under communistic control, to the end that the workers of Europe be allowed to organize their own lives and destinies, free from foreign capitalist and imperialist interference.

Long live Socialism and labor, long live the International of the Proletariat!

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International Secretary.

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