Our Flag And The Red Flag

Their History, Meaning Use and Abuse

REV. S. S. CONDO
Author and Publisher
Marion, Indiana

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Notice!

For two years I have studied the flag subject and sought for information in all directions, and hereby give credit to "Hill's Colonial History," "Ancient Lowly," by C. Osborn Ward, McMasters history of U. S. and others; and other sources too numerous to mention.

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By Rev. S. S. Condo.

Ninety per cent of the American people are ignorant of the history and significance of our flag. This fact I have proven and demonstrated by asking this question of some twenty different audiences of from two hundred to three hundred people; "When is American Flag Day?" Only once did I find one man able to say, "June 14th." Another question was put; "When was the Stars and Stripes made officially and legally our national emblem?" No one answered June 14th 1777." "What kind of a flag did we have before June 14th, 1777?" No one could answer this question but a school boy fourteen years old, the son of a comrade who exclaimed, "The Red Flag!" I replied; "My dear boy you are right, when you become a man you will be a Socialist," to which he enthusiastically exclaimed; "I'm a Socialist now," and the audience became wild with applause.

There are three animals that get awfully scared and mad at the red flag,—a bull, a turkey gobbler and an ignoramus, a two legged animal with a head on called a man. Even such men as "Sloppy T. R." and Secretary Daniels of the U. S. Navy, and others associate the red flag with anarchy, knowing better, or knowing that the people are ignorant on this subject and will believe what the political blatherskites say.

June 14th, 1777 the Congress of the colonies adopted the
Stars and Stripes as our national emblem after Washington, unwittingly perhaps, designed it and a woman, Betsy Ross, made it materially. What was Washington's idea and purpose in designing the significance and meaning of our Flag? Let us see what all these colors historically are and represent and stand for today as originally.

We find that the canopy of blue stands for loyalty to truth—all truth, political, scientific, economic, industrial, social and moral truth. In this embodied truth is placed each shining star composing our glorious Union. Only in the truth can these stars shine forth to guide the human intelligence, dispersing the darkness of ignorance, and leading to a higher and better civilization. Shakespeare wisely wrote: "There is no darkness but ignorance." Ignorance has been the curse of the human race down through the centuries; but today, as never before, the social conscience and minds of the great common people of the world are awakening and they see the dawn of a new day, because of the decline of dogmatic ecclesiasticism, and the growth of a living practical democracy. Jesus said "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." White means purity. What shall we say of the impurities of our cities, states and nation over which the red, white and blue floats? Do they not need a lot of purification? The capitalist parties all concede that much cleansing is necessary. Especially is the Socialist party exposing wickedness and inhumanity in high places and demanding that there be radical remedies used in the removal of the causes of our diseased body politic. The old parties confess that Uncle Sam is quite sick and they have called in their political doctors and all they have been able to do is to prescribe large doses of regulation dope, while the patient grows worse and worse as the Stars and Stripes continue to wave over cities, the capitolsof states, and at Washington, D. C. The seven red stripes mean love and labor and the red blood of humanity and brotherhood. As the prophet of old said: "Of one blood hath he created all nations." But there is a class in this country known as the "bluebloods," the few rich, who think they are superior to the common herd. Washington designed and the United States adopted these stripes as component parts of our beautiful and suggestive national banner, and this act
was a patriotic, artistic and scientific one, for it exactly conforms with the ancient symbol red enormously used by Roman and Greek organizations expressive and significant of the scourge, the stripes and lines of blood which streaked the naked backs of the poor and lowly of ancient labor. The red means the stripes, not the revengeful bloody red with the present meaning trumped up against it in wilfully ignorant minds, thus contributing to the uplift of a society unable to disabuse itself of the ancient grudge and contempt of labor, but the stripes and blows which labor received through the centuries in her struggle to emancipate herself from the enslavement, poverty and oppression in which she was held by a brutal, exploiting aristocracy of tyrants.

**Sun's Red Beams**

A Latin dictionary explains the word "flag" as the root of the word "flamma"—a "blazing fire," a "flame." The idea originated from the red beams of the sun which all men in primitive times adored. The ancient labor organizations would never give up their red banners and labor organizations are still carrying them and will continue to do so. The red flag has always been the flag of labor and brotherhood. It was an emblem among labor organizations of blood-making and not of blood-spilling. Red was the adopted color of the gods of industry and always stood for peace and plenty and not for war and death. The emblem of the apostolic church was the red banner representing the red blood of Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth. In heathen mythology we find the two great and celebrated deities presided over labor—Minerva and Ceres. The Greek name of these celebrated and much adored deities was Demeter for "Ceres," goddess of agriculture and fruitfulness of the earth, and Athena for "Minerva," goddess of manual labor and protectress of workingmen and women. These two great deities wore flaming red. Examples proving red to have been the principal color among the producing class are being discovered today in the inscriptions.

These remarkable historical facts prove more and more plainly as the arguments and material evidence upon which it is based receive investigation. Everything throwing light upon
this subject shows the same preference for medeval guilds, for
the red flag among the poor workingclass who learned to adopt
ancient Christianity, because, unlike the old Paganism, it de-
clared for the emancipation of slaves and a religious freedom
as does Socialism all over the world. Much more evidence
might be adduced in proof of the red banner having descended
to the working family of humanity as a legacy from ancient
usages, religions and beliefs. The superstitious reasons for
much have passed away but the economic, industrial still remain
but are now being understood and changed to a system of
equality of opportunity, co-operation and social justice to all.

In view of all these facts why the cry against the little
red flag? The red stripes in ‘‘Old Glory’’ mean fundamentally
what the red flag signifies. For fifty years our revolutionary
fathers carried red flags. The history of American Colonial
revolution is full of deeds of loyalty to human liberty and jus-
tice. No more fitting symbol of the temper and purpose of the
revolutionists could be given than when Putnam gave to the
breeze a red flag at Prospect Hill, July 18th, 1775, and at the
battle of Bunker Hill, July 17, 1775 the troops of the revolu-
tionists were inspired and animated by the waving of the red
flag. When Pulaski, that distinguished general who honored his
native Poland country and his loved adopted America by assist-
ing the colonists, was raising cavalry in Baltimore, the Moravian
women of Bethlehem sent him a crimson banner wrought with
their own hands. This red flag and fiery emblem lighted and
enthused his followers to deeds of patriotism, and when Pulaski
died this resplendent star of military genius and honor was
wrapped in its historic folds for his last sleep.

The poet Longfellow sings:

"Take thy banner! and if ere
Thou shouldst press the soldier’s bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet,
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee.
The warrior took that banner proud
And it was his martial cloak and shroud."
This poem in Longfellow's Book of Poems in the city library of Marion, Ind., (Carnegie) has been cut out. Significant, is it not?

Why then this frenzied hatred and outcry against the red flag? It is not because of the color—red, which is the strongest of all colors and can be seen at the greatest distance. It is because of the class hatred and antagonism of interests. It is the hatred of a class who own the means of life, against the producing class of toilers. It is the conflict and struggle between the owners and the owned, the master and the slave. Shakespeare wisely wrote; "He that owns my means of life whereby I live owns my life."

"There's a Spectre in Red who sits at the feast
Of the capitalist men.
And grins each time as the vote is increased
Again and again.
For the Master class knows at the back of its head
That its trouble will come from That Spectre in Red;
It knows that the mother who sweats at the loom
And the mind stunted child who shares her doom
Are worth far more to Creation's Lord
Than all the plans or wealth that is stored
In the Capitalist den;
Though they don't understand what is coming instead,
We know that the Brotherhood flag that is furled
Will yet wave over the whole broad world."

In 1850 the total wealth of the country was about eight billion dollars and the people who produced it owned sixty-eight per cent of it, but coming up to 1912 we find the total wealth to be about one hundred and twenty-eight billions, and the people who have produced this great wealth only own less than ten per cent of it, and it is getting worse and worse every day. The immortal Lincoln warned the American people again and again against "The aggregation of wealth into the hands of the few until the Republic is destroyed." We have no Republic today only in name. We are oppressed and cursed with an oligarchy of wealth which recognizes in the red flag another class of toilers—the awakened militant producing class, who are equally
determined to stop this robbery of labor and centralization of wealth in the hands of the few. The red flag involves no necessary antagonism to the flag of any civilized nation. It is carried by Frenchmen along with the tricolor, by Britons, by Germans along by the side of their national emblem, and by Americans along with the Stars and Stripes. All the good these national banners represent, or pretend to represent and stand for the red flag of all nations also represents. Our flag floats over nearly 100,000,000 people and including the population of the globe which is about 1,500,000,000 it will be seen that these 1,500,000,000 people are more than 100,000,00, therefore the symbol of this nation is not greater than the red flag of the human race adopted for that purpose and proclaimed and set up to that end, thus representing the red current of human blood which flows in all veins alike. It means to humanize humanity, civilize civilization and christianize so-called Christianity.

Ex-mayor Gaynor of New York City wisely said, shortly before his death, when some haters of the red flag objected to the carrying of the red flag with the American flag: "They choose the color red for their emblem not to signify that they favor violence or the shedding of blood as the unintelligent suppose, and as the actions of those in official authority often lead people to believe, but for the purpose of typifying the common brotherhood of all men of all nations through the same red blood which flows through the veins of all." No socialist could have put the significance of the R. F. into more beautiful language. I maintain that the intelligent Socialist is more loyal and patriotic towards the principals and significance of our flag than are the blatant politicians who are continually howling about the patriotism of the flag. How can this nation be really patriotic in the truest sense under present economic and industrial conditions? It is the idea, the meaning behind our flag that generates patriotism and decides whether the flag is worth following.

Often the flag fetish is silly when it is not hypocritical, and hypocritical when it is not silly. I detest every fetish of any kind. Our flag is made the "coat of arms" over the meat trust, standard oil trust and all other trusts and monopolies of
the nation's means of life. It is the standard of Morgan, Belmont, Ryan and the National Manufacturer's Association, Tammany Hall and the Citizens Alliance. Tear our flag away from such men as the Guggenhimes, Oatisses and the "invisible government," place it where it rightfully belongs in the hands of the great common people and they will love it and keep it unspotted from this fetish idolatry.

Hon. Victor L. Berger, one of the best informed socialists said: "My idea about patriotism and the Socialist idea—I believe I have a right to speak for the Socialist party for I am a member of its national executive committee, was one of its founders and am a delegate to the international bureau at Brussels—my idea is that the Socialists are the most patriotic persons on God's green aether. We are the most patriotic for this reason, that we want the greatest good for the greatest mass of the people, and we fight for it every day of our lives. To my mind the star spangled banner does stand for political freedom and for the first experiment of a democratic-republic on a large scale. Therefore, I love and honor the star spangled banner and I'll stand by it no matter how it may be abused by capitalists, Mormons, trusts, grafters and professional man killers called soldiers. We Socialists want to restore the country to the people, and when that is done it will surprise you to find how terribly patriotic the people will be and how the star spangled banner will wave over the homes of the brave and the free. As to the red flag; it is not national; it is international. Nor is the red flag anti-national, and it is exceedingly foolish to try to make out an antagonism between the two flags.'"

Flag Commercialized.

Prof. Simon N. Patton says: "Most nations have been formed by conquest and have therefore started with a dominant and subject class," whereupon the New York World says, "Commerce and conquest have always been the main causes of war. Back of most slogans of strife has ever been the commercial watchword—'trade follows the flag.'" Thus our flag is commercialized as is nearly every thing else, even human life, and Christianity, and some people call this business "patriotism." Mark Twain wisely called it "a Bastard patriotism."
General Sherman declared that "war is hell." Who is it that wants war? The rich ruling class. Then let those who want this kind of hell go to hell. Those are the people that talk so much about patriotism and have made a fetch of our flag and an object of superstition.

The red, white and blue are a sacred trinity of human liberty and unity of interests. We are learning that to swap off a superstition for a fact, to find the truth, is to make real progress. The flag that leads to better bodies and minds and food, clothes, homes and citizenship, and the progress of the human race, is the flag for all to follow, and for these things our flag and the red flag are waving, and the stars of truth and right are shining brighter and brighter. Our flag in itself is alright when understood. It is being desecrated not by the common people but by the exploiters and oppressors of the laboring class and who are trailing it in the dirt and dust of profits and making it wave over child slavery, poverty, prostitution, political graft and rottenness. Ignorant people think that what ever the flag floats over, whatever the conditions industrially, commercially and religiously it is over, it somehow sanctifies and makes all right. But alas! not so. This is idolatory, idiotic and damnable. During the miner's strike in West Virginia, while they were encamped on the hillside the hired thugs of the mine owners equipped a train with a gattling gun, calling it the "Bull Moose train," and running it at dead of night along the foot of the hill, shot up into the encampment of the innocent miners, their wives and children, and killing some of them, and on this train they had the American flag; but if old glory on this occasion could have spoken, as on other occasions, she would have spoken in tones of thunder and lightning against such murder, and prostitution of the principles and purpose of our beautiful emblem, for it is the holiest national flag that ever kissed the air and represents the honest sufferings of the past, the glories yet to come, and like the bow of heaven it is the child of storms and sunshine—the red, white and blue.

There has been some flag flapdoodle by Socialists as well as by the "patriots" who wave the American flag in defiance to humanly patriotic "revolutionists," in ignorance of the fact that it had its inception in the great upheaval that revol-
utionized Europe and gave to feudalism its death blow. The Stars and Stripes were baptised in the Spirit of revolution. Mr. Hobson, an English writer, says: ‘Her Majesty’s flag is the greatest commercial asset in the world.’ How true this is, and this fact is the disgrace of most of the civilized nations, even our Stars and Stripes are a commercial asset in the hands of Capitalists, in the interest of Capitalism, instead of in the interest of righteousness and humanity. What difference does it make to any working man what flag he is robbed and starved to death under? But the Red Flag’s principles in force he never would starve, for he would receive the full Social product of his toil. Our Star Spangled Banner was conceived and born in the revolution of 1776 and 1777; and the glorious Declaration of Independence was born in the Spirit of Revolution. This is the spirit of the Redflag of human liberty. Every man who waves the redflag is a brother man, whether he be an Orthodox Russian, or a Catholic Belgian, or a Protestant Swede, or a Mohammedan Syrian, a Japanese Shinto, or an Atheist without a country. He is still a ‘brother,’ whether he speaks the language of George Washington, or jabbers in Slovak or Yiddish. He is still a brother, whether his moral and mental makeup is that of Anglo-Saxon, or that of the swarthy Sicilian, or a Yellow man from Asia, or Black man from Africa. History records the awful fact, that during the wars of the toiling Slaves under the redflag, against the Roman Empire, and its Exploiters and Oppressors, over 1,000,000 slaves lost their lives in war and crucifixions. Their greatest leader and hero, was Spartagus. At one time about 70 B. C. it seemed he would conquer Old Rome, but in that last bloody struggle on the banks of the river Silarus, and in the mountains, Spartagus was slain, and thousands of his men, and 6,000 were taken prisoners and crucified on crosses along the Apian way, and for months their bodies dangled in the air, to delight the vengeance-loving gentry, on their drives to and from Rome and Capua. The real cause of this defeat, was that fratricidal passion that has to this day caused, and withered the hopes of the labor organizations, namely—Suspicion and jealousy of one another—lack of solidarity. About 100 years after this bloody event there appeared one, the man Jesus, who originated and taught the
principle and spirit of true brotherhood among the labor communes of his time, declaiming against the old social and religious doctrine of, "An eye for an eye," and "A tooth for a tooth," that has never brought any permanent relief to the oppressed and downtrodden, and it never will. We have learned at last through all the wars and suffering that force settles nothing permanently and rightly. The Christ spirit and principles have made the world better, and are destined to continue from conquering unto conquest, until we have peace and good will to all men. The Christ spirit and principles are the very heart and soul of this world-wide socialist movement, for which the redflag is waving over the working class of all nations.

For thousands of years the redflag has always been the emblem of the world's working class, and means the sacredness of all necessary toil, and stands for the life giving blood of the human race, and therefore we honor and love it today.

Our Flag Disgraced.

If old Huerta of Mexico is such a bad man as Preesident Wilson thinks he is, why should the President demand of him to salute our flag? Would such a formality be of any honor to our flag? Our flag does not represent or stand for formalities, but for realities. Wilson refuses to recognize Huerta, but demands of him to recognize and salute our flag. What an inconsistency. What business has our flag being in Mexico? The administration has been waiting for a pretense to get into Mexico, and at last has selected the ridiculous pretense of flag idolatry, thinking the American people would "rally round the flag boys," and rise up in flag patriotism and cry for war, and follow the flag wherever it leads; but alas, we are too wise, and loyal to truth and humanity. We honor and respect the meaning of the Stars and Stripes and demand that our flag be saluted and honored at home in our own country, rather than in capitalized Mexico, where ten million people work for ten tents a day and ninety per cent can neither read nor write, and eighty-five per cent are illegitimate. Pres. Wilson had better see that our flag is honored in Colorado, Michigan and West Virginia; and in his own country instead of demanding Huerta to salute the American flag.
In Colorado the flag has been constantly insulted by the mine owners and state troops. At Ludlow it flew over the mining camp which was burned. At Trinidad, where “Mother Jones” was arrested, the Stars and Stripes was carried at the head of our procession by a woman. One of the National Guards who broke up the parade wrested the flag out of the woman’s hands and beat her over the head with the flag staff.

Great is capitalistic flagology! Our flag droops for shame. The cries for justice from the innocent shed blood of Able, down through the centuries to Mexico, and Colorado—cries for vengeance and blood—are not the death knell of this republic, but are the birth pangs of an industrial democracy.

Lloyd George said to the people of Great Britain: “The stains on our national flag are as great if it floats over ill-fed children, and slums, and over ill-paid men and women living in unsanitary houses, as though it drooped on the field of battle.” “I say of the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack, that their stains are as deep and damning if we repeat all the oppressions and injustice of Great Britain in our respective countries of the United States and Canada.”

It matters little what kind of a flag any country waves, but it matters everything as to what the conditions are down on the earth where the people live, and struggle for an existence, whether in England or America. I know of no one thing that is more abused, misunderstood, prostituted and made to deceive the common people, and serve the interest of capitalist exploiters, used in times of peace and war, to mislead the people, than “Old Glory,” and it is high time the working class gets wise about this idolatry and superstition of the flag of capitalism. Our flag is capitalized. Let us socialize it, and make it mean something real to all people. Our flag is always conspicuous in times of war, because the capitalist system has a capitalistic conception of God, as if he were a god of war. The socialist God is a god of human justice, peace, and love, and not a war God. The belief in a cruel God, makes a cruel man, therefore we have so called Christian wars in the interests of private capital, under the Star Spangled Banner.

Lodges and organizations have their emblems. What would you think of a Freemason, or Odd Fellow who was ignorant of
the meaning of those emblems, as are ninety per cent of the American people ignorant of the real meaning of the Star Spangled Banner and the red flag.

There is a tradition that the first flag was made from an army blue blanket, a woman's red skirt, and a white tablecloth. How very significant this fact that we all need clothes to wear, food to eat, and a bed to sleep in. Our flag means all these necessities and much more if it means and stands for anything worth while. We need, and want a patriotism of life, of humanity, and not of a mere emblem or form. You might run the flag up over hell, but that would not change hell into heaven. We are told that the Men's Religious Forward Movement was started with a prayer meeting in Wall street, think of it. You might as well start a prayer meeting in hell. It is not the bastard patriotism of our flag abstractly in itself that we want but the true, loyal patriotism of the principals and meaning of the flag among all the people that is needed today, and that politically and economically will destroy the hells of ignorance and poverty from our country.

A disembodied emotion is intangible, hence some form of symbolism is inevitable, but any form of symbolism, however simple and innocuous in origin, is never free from the danger of degeneration. The Russian peasant whose faith was destroyed by reading an infidel book tore down his icon, put the book in its niche and lighted the candle before it.

Patriotic emotion is almost equal in nobility to religious emotion and so much like it that the two have at times been identified. It is natural, therefore, that patriotism should be subject to the same disease as religion, namely superstition. How easily and unconsciously one drops into a misconception of symbolism.

Democratic Truth Is Eternal.

Robert Hunter wisely wrote:

"A symbol substitutees a form or a color for ideas and principles.

"And men gradually come to consider the symbol as the thing to which they should be devoted rather than to the idea or the program that the symbol was at first meant to represent."
THE AMERICAN FLAG is a symbol that is used today chiefly to fool the voters and to whoop-it-up for patriotism and men will lay down their lives to preserve that symbol without considering in the least what those who wave that flag really stand for.

American children are brought up to believe that the stars and stripes represent freedom, justice and democracy. And when they become men they fight under that symbol, without a question, even when it is made to serve the will of capitalism, imperialism, tyranny and oppression.

The world changes. The Democracy of today becomes the Oligarchy tomorrow, the Republic of today becomes the Empire tomorrow. Justice today becomes injustice tomorrow.

Yet the same flag waves over it all and the people who are devoted to a symbol are usually blind to the fact that the symbol does not change when conditions change. It won't change color or form. Nor will they readily learn that that which is loved today must be hated tomorrow.

Flags are useful to those who want the people to remain ignorant, they are alright in politics for capitalist politicians and party crooks.

But in a thinking, scientific movement, such as we wish ours to be, there should be no symbol worship.

Indeed there should be as little as possible in our propaganda to arouse that besotted, fanatical, bigotry that goes to the scaffold for a symbol even when it is employed by knaves to blind men to reality.

In history we read, "Remember the Alamo," then "Remember the Maine," and now it is "Remember the Salute" we didn't get in Mexico. We are absolutely opposed to saluting the capitalistic flag of private property rights—called sacred rights, above human life rights.

The real significant appropriate emblem of private capitalism is the black flag of piracy. War is Hell. Let us drive hell out of this world and bring in the kingdom of Heaven, of peace and plenty to the whole human race.

The capitalist politicians are trying to blindfold the eyes of workingmen with our flag, while the capitalists pick your pocket.
ets and exploit you with the high cost of living, and with profits, interest, and rent.

As the European war rages, and the different national flags are waving over the slaughter houses of those countries, not a single red flag is seen on the bloody battlefields, because the world's red flag is the emblem of peace, and everlastingly opposed to war.

At the birth of Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, the Angels of Heaven sang triumphantly in the night air over the hills of Judea: "Glory to God in the highest Peace on Earth, good will to men."

This is the spirit and principles the red flag would herald forth for the whole human race

"Beneath thy onward tread of destiny sublime,
Shall sink all flags of ancient or modern time;
Their "glory" but reflects the lurid battle flame;
The holocaust of ruin—The past centuries' shame,
Thou flag! which typifies the blood of ALL mankind
Shall quench all warfare by thy love and right divine.
Heaven grant THY glories may still triumphant shine
'Till Strife and Wrongs are lost in never-ending time!"

**Carrying the Red Flag.**

Relative to carrying the red flag in parades, I think it is a matter of policy or tactics, rather than a matter of principle, and not a wise thing to do, to flaunt it in the face of the ignorant and prejudiced, as it will excite and anger many of them and repulse those who are friendly toward our movement.

It is an admitted fact that you can teach and lead people into the truth, but you cannot drive or force them into Socialism. We must treat and take people as we find capitalism and ignorance has made them, and teach them the meaning of the red emblem. The law of least resistance should be observed in this matter of tactics. We can be good loyal Socialists without carrying or wearing a red flag or socialist button. This is a matter of personal option, and only one for recognition among comrades. Too many men wear a socialist button on the outside, who are not within filled with the principles and spirit of heroic socialism. I am here contending for the reality, and not much for formality.
I shall not be surprised to see state legislatures enact laws against carrying red flags.

SAYINGS ON WAR.

There never was a good war or a bad peace.—Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

War never decided any question of right or wrong.—Thomas Jefferson.

The military profession is a damnable profession.—The Duke of Wellington, Napoleon’s Rival and Conqueror.

A good man never makes a good soldier. The soldier is nothing but a hired legalized murderer.—Napoleon Bonaparte.

General Sherman said: ‘‘War is Hell.’’ As business men are the cause of all wars, it may be well to say: ‘‘Business is Hell.’’—Admiral Swinburne of the United States Navy.

I do not know of a war for the last 300 years that was caused by a soldier or by a soldier’s ambition. All wars have economic causes. Without a single exception all wars are wars for trade. They are all caused by bankers, merchants and business men.—The late Frederick Dent Grant of the United States Army, at the peace congress in Chicago in 1909.

I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. Even success the most brilliant, is over dead and mangled bodies, the anguish and lamentations of distant families appealing to me for missing sons, husbands and fathers. It is only those who have not heard a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded and lacerated, that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.—General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Who Are Real Christians

The Chicago Record-Herald of April 27, 1914, quoted several leading clergymen of that city on the Mexican situation. Among others were the following:

Bishop Samuel Fallows of St. Paul’s Reformed Episcopal church said:

‘‘I can not help saying that any men who in our present emergency shall discourage enlistments in our army and navy are unworthy of the name of American citizens. Palsied be the
tongue and paralyzed the hand that would embarrass the government in this hour of need.'"

Bishop Fallows paid a high tribute to President Wilson.
"He is a man of faith, and thus a man of prayer," he said.
"In all his movements he has an eye single to the glory of God and of the country he is trying to serve."

Dr. Frederick E. Hopkins, pastor of Park Manor Congregational Church, said:
"There are some things worse than war." "One of them is the insincerity of rantings for universal peace; another is the lack of the fighting spirit."
"The man who will not fight for his country's honor had better give the gun as well as the ballot to women. He is not worth his salt as a citizen, a banker, merchant, mechanic, lawyer, physician, preacher or anything else.'"

Think of Jesus Christ uttering such capitalistic rot as those bigoted religionists—they are a disgrace to and slanderers of Jesus. During the war with Spain in Cuba, a big gun preacher of Chicago said: "The scripture that says, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature,' should be made to read, "Go ye into all the world, and shoot the gospel into every creature." Ye white necktied false teachers in sheeps clothing, can not deceive the working class who think. You can't wave our flag from your pulpits and excite the common people to commit murder and then tell them to hide their bloody hands in the folds of any flag.

Comrade R. A. Dague has significantly sized up those religious Pharisees in the following language:
"It is a fact that the Christian nations, so called, are the ones that have waged the most savage bloody wars for nearly 2,000 years. Budda, and Confucius, and other great so called pagans, preached a gospel of brotherhood and peace and their adherents have generally been true to their teachings. Jesus also taught peace and universal brotherhood, but ever since that most unfortunate day when the bloody tyrant Constantine, A. D. 326, captured the Christian church, so called Christians have spilled seas of blood, murdered millions in war, and made
this fair earth a literal hell. How is it that even in modern times, nearly all those who are opposed to war are called infidels and heretics by men who assume to be Simon-pure Christians, viz., such men as Victor Hugo, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Alfred R. Wallace, William T. Stead, John Ruskin, Count Tolstoi, Theodore Parder, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, and all Unitarians, Universalists, Quakers, Christian Scientists, Spiritualists, and every free-thought and religiously liberal non-orthodox sect and society in Europe and America? Even modern Jews oppose savage wars. It seems that no religionists on earth are so ready and eager to fly at their brother man, and burn his property, outrage his women, blow out his brains, steal his lands and markets as the so called Christian sects.

But few modern writers understand this better than did Mark Twain, the great author and broad liberal. He wrote: "All Christendom is a soldier-camp. The poor have been taxed in some nations to the starving point to support the giant armaments which Christian governments have built up, each to protect itself from the rest of the Christian brotherhood, and incidentally to snatch any scrap of real estate left exposed by a weaker owner." Contrast the difference between these religious bigots and the so called "atheists." Look for proof over in Europe, in that warring slaughter house of humanity. King Leopold of Belgium the most intensely Christian monarch except Alexander VI., that has escaped hell thus far has stolen an entire kingdom in Africa, and in fourteen years of Christian endeavor there has reduced the population from 30,000,000 to 15,000,000 by murder and mutilation and overwork, confiscating the labor of the helpless natives, and giving nothing in return but salvation and a home in heaven, furnished by the Christian priests at the last moment.

Within the last generation each Christian power has turned the bulk of its attention to finding out newer and still newer and more effective way of killing Christians, and incidentally a pagan now and then. The surest way to get rich quickly in Christ's earthly kingdom is to invent a kind of gun that can kill more Christians than any other existing gun.

All the Christian nations are at it. The more advanced
they are the bigger and more destructive engines of war they create.

"Christian nations are somewhat civilized, in spite of their religion, not because of it. The church has opposed every innovation and discovery from the day of Galileo down to our time. Every step in astronomy and geology ever taken has been opposed by bigotry and superstition."

Bishop Fallows says 'President Wilson is a man of prayer and has an eye single to the glory of God., I confess that I can not understand how any devout Christian man can ask God to assist in murdering thousands of His little, ignorant children 'for his own glory.' It is said that the Krupp family are very religious—they gather around the family altar twice a day and repeat the Lord's prayer which says 'May Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' The Krupps are the German millionaires who manufacture great guns and other war materials and doubtless they often ask God to bless their business, and when it becomes dull because of 'too much rantings for universal peace,' they pray God to stir up the hell of war somewhere and stiffen up the market for guns, and swords, and bayonets and bomb-shells.

David Starr Jordan, President emeritus of Stanford University, says there exists a wide-spread conspiracy to work up a war spirit to the end that markets may be made for war materials, and opportunities opened up for speculation and profits. But Dr. Jordan is not religiously 'orthodox,' and the Fallows-Hopkins-Krupp brand of pious Christians think he 'is not worth his salt,' because 'he lacks the fighting spirit,' and is now touring Europe lecturing and urging the governments of the world to disarm, arbitrate international disputes and abolish war forever. The real Simon-pure orthodox who hate heretics and would have women go to war when men refuse to kill each other, say all those 'rantings for universal peace are worse than war and that the peace advocates are not worth their salt as citizen, banker, merchant, lawyer, physician or anything else.
JESUS WAS RIGHT.

Personally I profess to be a religious man and as such I prefer to believe that Jesue was right when He said “Blessed be the peace-makers.” I will at least venture to accept the statement of the “Prince of Peace,” instead of the theology of Dr. Hopkins that no man is worth his salt who is not willing to take a gun and go and blow out the brains and stab through the heart fellow-men of some other country on the mere pretense that he has refused to salute a flag or has insulted me; or because millionaire manufacturers of big war materials have worked up a war and say it is a glorious thing to go forth and slay somebody anyway from motives of patriotism, avenge the insults offered “old glory,” and uphold what our rulers have done whether they are right or wrong.

FLAG DAY.

June 14th is American Flag Day, and it will be observed more and more; but up to this time it appears that the idea and observance is only for soldiers, as if they were the only patriots. The Order of Elks have a very beautiful and significant ritualistic service for the observance of this day, and will do much to educate the people in the real spirit and principles of our national emblem. Judging from most programs in cities and in the schools, you would conclude that “flag day” was for war, past, present and future, instead of for peace, justice, and human happiness.

There is no suggestion that the men, women and children who cleared the forests, broke the prairie sod, built the railroads and the cities, put the marvelous machines in the factories and furnished the skill to operate them, in short, who have fed, clothed, housed, educated and created all that is worth while in this nation, are worthy of consideration.

The Socialist would make the flag worthy of the devotion of every person over whom it waves. He would make it truly the symbol of the solidarity of the people. He would test the patriotism of those who seek for public honor by the extent to which they have helped to make this a happier nation for all those who must live in it.
The Socialist would base patriotism upon something more solid than the hypnotism of jingo orators, the rattle of martial music and the force of bayonets and bullets.

The Socialist would have a nation in which every citizen could truthfully join in the chorus of "My Country 'Tis of Thee." He would accomplish this by securing to every citizen a share in the ownership and management of the things upon which the life of the country depends.

We want a flag day that will inspire the common people to lift themselves from poverty and ignorance into the realm of social justice. Such as Robert G. Ingersoll saw in his vision of the new world; and poetically described by Dr. E. O. Foss as follows:

\[\begin{align*}
I & \text{ see a world with no tyrant king,} \\
& \text{A world bereft of thrones;} \\
& \text{A land without aristocracy,} \\
& \text{No plundering, pillaging drones.} \\
I & \text{ see a world without a slave;} \\
& \text{Man is at last born free.} \\
The & \text{ forces of nature have conquered all,} \\
& \text{Applied to machinery.} \\
& \text{Lightning and light and wind and wave,} \\
& \text{And all the powers of earth,} \\
& \text{As tireless toilers of the human race,} \\
& \text{Proclaim for man a new birth.} \\
I & \text{ see in the end a world at peace,} \\
& \text{Adorned with beauteous art;} \\
& \text{With music and love and words of truth,} \\
& \text{To appease each aching heart.} \\
I & \text{ see a world where no prisoner mourns;} \\
& \text{No exiles longing call;} \\
& \text{Where lips are rich with words of love,} \\
& \text{And the jibbet does not fall.}
\end{align*}\]
I see a world with full reward,
For Labor's brawn and brain,
Where work and worth go hand in hand;
No scorn and no disdain.

I see the girl at her dainty toil,
The image of Venus, sublime;
Her body not sold at the auction block,
But free from shame and crime.

I see no beggar's outstretched palm,
Shivering in the wintry cold;
No miser's heartless, stony stare,
In search for the glittering gold.

I see no piteous wail of want,
Nor livid lips of lies;
But peace and love and comradeship,
Beneath the celestial skies.

I see a race without disease,
Of flesh or brawn or brain;
Shapely and fair to look upon;
Devoid of anguish or pain.

And as I look I see a world,
Blessed with eternal Love;
The luminous stars of human hope,
Shines in the dome above.
CONCLUSION.

Back of our flag marches the great host of the common people, who are the honest daily toilers and who patriotically are inspired with the vision of our revolutionary fathers, who died to establish liberty for all people. Every day should be a flag day of true patriotism, of truth and righteousness. Let no man wave the flag in your face and excite you to commit murder in the name of patriotism, and then try to hide your stained hands in the folds of any flag. Worship not the emblem, but adore the living principles it stands for. Hoist not the cross, but lift up the Christ who suffered and died for all.

Don't be deceived by the American flag that the jingoes drape over their shoulders and guns. The jingoes seem to think that the Stars and Stripes are their private property, the same as almost everything else. If there were no other reasons for suspecting jingoes, this would be one, when he wraps the flag so tightly around himself, beware! he is trying to conceal something behind it to fool the unsuspecting. The jingo is a fraud, a "wolf in sheep's clothing," crying "peace, peace, when there is no peace." All the heavens and hells of Dante fail to adequately picture forth the horrible, inhuman conditions so prevalent in the world's civilization of today. Mammonism and Militarism are the family twins of Capitalism. The so-called "peace league" is but the dreamings of well intentioned war fanatics. Henry Ford wisely says: "I can think of nothing lower in the moral scale than a man who will grow rich on the blood of soldiers driven to battle, one against another, for no reason whatever."

The man, or men, who murder for hate, are no worse than those who murder for profits, and then wave our beautiful national emblem over the bloody scene.

"Freedom blandly smiling bade all the world rejoice; Grim Oppression shrank beneath that prophetic voice; While love and peace, twin seraphs, from dawn's rosy red, Brought forth in infancy our universal flag! Then hail, all hail! thou emblem of liberty true, With Charity interwoven in thy texture's hue; Justice to all prefigured on thy radiant scroll"
Image of truth; Heav'n-born symbol of the soul!
'Tis the Red flag of Freedom, on high let it wave,
'Till the earth is freed from the despot and slave
'Till our lost rights restored and our futures secure—
In charity brought forth shall forever endure!'
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