

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Let the Ulcer Be Exposed

The *Independent* recently published an article in which it “deplored the horrors of war,” and commended the Red Cross and similar associations that are “striving to minimize the horrors,”—a genuine bit of barbarous capitalist hypocrisy; the starting of ulcers, the profiting by them, and the covering them up with silk handkerchiefs of pietism.

We differ with the idea, and assert that war should be made as barbarous in appearance, should be made as repulsive in all its details, as it is in reality. War is murder, and there should be no sentimentality to murder. The Red Cross is a sham, and a piece of puerile nonsense that should be abolished. Kick the life out of your prostrate enemy, give him the “water cure,” crush in the head of your fallen fellow soldier, “let none over 10 live,” in a word apply “business methods” to war and have no more of this pukey nonsense.

Our Capitalist Government applies the water cure to the Filipinos. It is equal to the worst torture of the Inquisition. Our newly found brothers of England shoot down and torture the Boers. That is war, real war, without the nonsense and the glamor. Why add these? They are surely not necessary to those, who can knock the life out of an unarmed savage in a hot or a cold climate. Then why talk about the “humane side” of war. There is no humane side.

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It is all murder, and the only good kind of murder is that which is so obvious that it summons, instead of fooling way the avenger. Oh, ye Capitalist Philistines! kill your prisoner, knock the wounded on the head, disembowel them, and you have arrived at the highest point to which war can aspire;—and will have quickened to action all the quicker the human sentiment ye have so long been outraging.

But that, of course, is not what the Capitalist Class is after.

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills
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