

## International Patriotism (July 4, 1915)

We socialists hold in scorn and contempt the narrow, mean, and contemptible “patriotism” surreptitiously inculcated in the minds of unsophisticated workers by their crafty and unscrupulous masters. But for this false and vicious “patriotism” which has poisoned the minds and hearts for its millions of victims the war now deluging the nations of Europe with blood would have been impossible.

It is “patriotism” of the workers of one nation to fall upon and foully murder the workers of another nation to enlarge the possessions of their masters and increase the piles of their bloodstained riches, and as long as the poor, deluded toiling masses are fired by this brand of “patriotism,” they will serve as cannon fodder and no power on earth can save them from their sodden fate.

We socialists are not wanting in genuine patriotism, but we are deadly hostile to the fraudulent species which is “the last refuge of the scoundrel”<sup>1</sup> and which prompts every crook and grafter and every blood-sucking vampire to wrap his reeking carcass in the folds of the national flag that he may carry on his piracy and plunder in the name of “patriotism.”

Ours is a wider patriotism — as wide as humanity. We abhor murder in uniform even more than we do in midnight assassination.

We stand with Garrison<sup>2</sup> upon the proposition that the world is our country and that all mankind are our countrymen.

We stand for peace and for the only system that makes peace possible. They, who support a system that breeds war cannot consistently say they are for peace, and they who prate so much about their “patriotism” have, as a rule, the hearts of poltroons and the souls of cowards.

Patriotism, like brotherhood, must be international and all embracing *to be at all*. Socialism rightly understood is the most profound patriotic movement on the planet.

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<sup>1</sup> The quotation is attributed to British essayist Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), who is said to have used the line on April 7, 1775 as part of a polemic attack on Whig politician William Pitt (1708-1778).

<sup>2</sup> William Lloyd Garrison INSERT FOOTNOTE HERE