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# **The *New Age* Anniversary: The Socialist Leader Says Support Labor Press that Opposed the War**

## **by Eugene V. Debs**

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Ten years have passed since *The New Age* was launched and in this brief span of time the world in which we live has been shaken and shocked, torn and devastated; ravaged and bled as never before in its history. Every page of the record capitalism has made in that time has been written in the blood of its slaughtered victims. All previous wars were crude and dismal failures in point of slaughter as a science and destruction as a fine art compared to the Twentieth Century World War under the Christian Capitalist Competitive System. All the modern ingenuity the world afforded, all the arts and sciences in its command were employed in the highly christianized and civilized undertaking to blow the earth to atoms, destroy everything in sight, and slaughter all mankind, save alone the international bankers and profiteer and their hireling slaves.

Today, as a result of the World War to end war we are surrounded by a world in ruins. The diplomatic wiseacres at Genoa waved their magic wands of yore, but the dead have not come back to life, the ruin and devastation wrought at the behest of the warlords mock at the ghastly effort to deny and ignore them, industry is still paralyzed, and millions who fought to make the world safe for democracy by turning it over in fee simple to the Wall Street profiteers, are now tramping about looking for jobs, dodging the police, pawning their medals, and willing to swap their prospect for a bonus, the reward of their patriotism and

the symbol of a capitalist nation's gratitude to its defenders, for a ham sandwich.

The lesson taught to the workers of all nations by the World War is that in the present system they are slaves and that their highest mission in life is to serve their rulers and do the bidding of their masters.

The slaves of capitalism did not want the war; they did not yearn for the shambles; they had no ambition to have their bodies ripped open and shot full of leaden slugs. But they had nothing to say. They had no voice in declaring war and no voice in refusing to go to war. Neither had they any voice in making peace. Their masters made both war and peace and compelled their slaves to acquiesce in the terms of both.

Under capitalism the worker has no right to object to being shot for the benefit of the master. He is bound to do his "patriotic" duty in that line or go to jail for treason.

How many workers have had their eyes opened to the worldwide slavery of the toiling masses under capitalism by the war which has drenched the world in their blood?

How many now realize that capitalism must be overthrown, cleared away, wiped from the earth before the workers and producers can be emancipated and the people set free?

How many still believe the silly falsehood drilled into their minds by day and by night by the press and the pulpit, the prostitute editor and the apostate priest, and all the horde of capitalist hirelings, that socialism will break up their homes, destroy their families, and wipe out civilization? If there is any scheme or system ever devised, however satanic, that could surpass the capitalist system in that very line, let the votaries of that system point it out to us.

The Tenth Anniversary of *The New Age* comes at an opportune time. It is celebrated in the spring of the year and at the dawn of a worldwide reorganization of the world's awakened and awakening workers in their struggle for emancipation.

The bonds that united them before the war were torn asunder by the war that they might be bound together more strongly and indissolubly after the war.

The new international will eliminate the weakness of the old and fortify itself in its impregnable position by the tragic experiences bought in the war at the price of the blood of its butchered victims.

The call that now rings over the earth is the clarion voice of Marx in his thrilling shibboleth: **“Workers of the world unite: You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain.”**

*The New Age* has made a splendid record in the ten years of its existence. It occupies a most important industrial field and there is no reason why it should not build up and become one of the most powerful exponents of socialism in the United States.

To make a crowning success of *The New Age's* Tenth Anniversary it is only necessary that its friends and supporters should on that day register the high resolve to double its circulation and to put forth their combined efforts to make the coming year the most aggressive and fruitful one in history.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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