

# The People.

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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {202}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**U**NCLE SAM—You look red in the face.

BROTHER JONATHAN

(angrily)—And so should you with shame.

U.S.—Wherefore, pray?

B.J.—All Socialists should be ashamed of the doings of the Socialists in Athens. I may be red in the face, but that is out of rage. I'm no Socialist, thank God! The Socialists, however, should be red in the face with shame.

U.S.—Well, I for one am not. Why should we be. The Socialists in Athens have done nothing disgraceful, on the contrary.

B.J.—Then you are no better than they; you are no Christian.

U.S.—Hey! hey! What's biting you?

B.J.—Why, didn't you read that they were clamoring in Athens against the Government! The wretches, they should go to the front and fight those heathen Turks.

U.S.—Now I understand you; and now you make me laugh.

B.J.—All the more shameful for you.

U.S.—So you, my Christian brother, interpret Christianity to be a religion by which men should fight for their fleecers?

B.J.—No; but against heathens.

U.S.—Do the Turks claim that it is a war of Allah against your God?

B.J.—No; but that doesn't matter.

U.S.—Did the Turks start the war?



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—No; the Greeks did.

U.S.—And did they start it to vindicate their God against the God of the Turks?

B.J.—No; I didn't hear that.

U.S.—I should think not. It is not a war of one religion against another. In fact the real god of both sides is the same—the god Capital. The Greek Government needs money. How is it to get it? By squeezing it out of the people. The Greek securities are at a discount. The Greek Government can not get any money out of the money lenders because the Government has defaulted payments that are due. To get more money it must have more people to take and more property to mortgage. Turkey is its nearest neighbor. It started war with Turkey to get Turkish territory that it may mortgage, and Turkish subjects, whom it may tax. That's why it went to war.

B.J.—But the Turks are heathens.

U.S.—Wait a minute and we shall see. Now, the Turkish Government, like all governments of oppressors, also wants all the money it can get. Consequently, also, all the territory possible to mortgage and all the subjects possible to tax. In so far, it is no better and no worse than the Greek Government. But the story does not end there. Turkey also is in the clutches of the financiers, and has a large debt to pay. If it allows its territory to be curtailed or its subjects to be annexed, it will have just so much less property out of which to pay its creditors. In resisting Greece, it follows that Turkey is simply protecting the interests of its creditors.

B.J.—Yes; but—

U.S.—This is a case which admits of no “buts.” In view of these facts, what have we? On one side, the Greek Government starting war to protect the financiers, and on the other we find the Turkish Government accepting war to protect the identical financiers. See?

B.J.—Hem!

U.S.—You may be right that this is a war of religion, but in this case both combatants are fighting in the interest of the identical god—the god Capital. So honors are easy between them on that score.

B.J.—But did not the Greek people themselves want the war?

U.S.—SOME of the Greek people, and herein lies the good sense of the Greek

Socialists. Some of the Greek people allowed themselves to be humbugged; they were made to believe that it was a war of patriotism; having no knowledge of facts, they were cheated to fight for the financiers while thinking they were fighting for the honor of Greece. The Greek Socialists, on the other hand, are nobody's fools. They can see through false pretences. To them the secret is an open one. They know that no nation's honor can be in the keeping of the class that fleeces it. They know that a nation's honor is in the hands of its class-conscious proletariat only. They know that it is a fight between tax collectors virtually. {—}The Greek tax collectors and the Turkish tax collectors, {—}and that the victory of either will leave things unchanged. Consequently the Greek Socialists have done right to turn their faces against a Government that is using the Greek people as cat's paws.

B.J.—Well, well!

U.S.—The wise man fights the nearest enemy. The Greek Socialists now fight the Greek Government. If the Turkish Government should take possession of Greece they will fight the Turkish Government; and all the time the wise man declines to be duped. You and all other people who are not capitalists, interested in Greek securities and bonds are simply humbugged if you allow yourselves to be made to believe that real Christianity is at stake. Jonathan, I am growing red in the face with shame at finding you could so easily be turned into an ass by the capitalist papers.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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