
Proclamation of the Socialist Party of America on the Outbreak of War in Europe. [August 8, 1914]

Published in *The American Socialist* [Chicago], v. 1, no. 4, whole no. 92 (Aug. 8, 1914), pg. 1.

The Socialist Party of the United States hereby extends its sympathy to the workers of Europe in their hour of trial, when they have been plunged into bloody and senseless conflict by ambition-crazed monarchs, designing politicians, and scheming capitalists.

We bid them to consider that the workers of the various nations involved have no quarrel with each other, and that the evils from which they suffer — poverty, want, unemployment, oppression — are inflicted upon them not by the workers of some other country, but by the ruling classes of their own country.

We bid them to take thought before they allow themselves to be used blindly by heartless and inhuman despots who would spill the blood of thousands, inflict pain and sorrow upon millions, devastate the land and set back civilization in order to further their own wretched plots and schemes.

The Socialist Party of the United States, in conformity with the declarations of the international Socialist movement, hereby reiterates its opposition to this and all other wars, waged upon any pretext whatsoever; war being a crude, savage, and unsatisfactory method of settling real or imaginary differences between nations, and destructive of the ideals of brotherhood and humanity to which the international Socialist movement is dedicated.

The Socialist Party of the United States hereby expresses its condemnation of the ruling classes of Europe and points out to the world that by their action in this crisis they have conclusively proven that they

are unfit to administer the affairs of nations in such a manner that the lives and happiness of the people may be safeguarded.

The Socialist Party of the United States hereby calls upon all foreign-born workingmen residing in this country, particularly upon those whose home governments are engaged in the present strife, to hold joint mass meetings for the purpose of emphasizing the fraternity and solidarity of all working people, irrespective of color, creed, race, or nationality. We call upon the Socialist locals throughout the country to promote such meetings and to give all possible assistance.

The Socialist Party of the United States hereby pledges its loyal support to the Socialist Parties of Europe in any measures they might think it necessary to undertake to advance the cause of peace and of goodwill among men.

The Socialist Party of the United States hereby calls upon the national administration to prove the genuineness of its policy of peace by opening immediate negotiations for mediation and extending every effort to bring about the speedy termination of this disastrous conflict.

By order of

The Committee on Immediate Action.

Walter Lanfersiek,

Executive Secretary, Socialist Party of America.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.