
Farewell, Capitalism!

by Eugene V. Debs

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The system in which capitalists and profiteers so long have fattened while working people and their families starved, body and soul, is in the throes of collapse and dissolution. The war has broken its backbone and ripped it to shreds and patches.

Farewell, capitalism! You have done your best an worst, and you will go to your grave in the cemetery of the past, not only unwept, but amidst the rejoicing of a disenthralled race.

Capitalism in its early stages did a wonderful and constructive work, and for this it is entitled to full credit; but at its zenith and in its decline and decay it took bloody toll of the children of men. It enslaved the workers even unto their babes; it created the most luxurious splendor in the midst of the most frightful poverty; it glutted and bestialized the few and starved and brutalized the many; it broke and blasted the lives of men, prostituted women, murdered little babes, and finally drenched the earth with the blood of its countless victims.

Farewell, capitalism! We have waited long and patiently for your end, and it finally has come. The frightful war of your own making shall be your funeral dirge.

Welcome, Socialism! Aye, a thousand welcomes to the new social order that comes with the blessings of peace and goodwill to a bleeding and an agonizing world!

Edited by Tim Davenport

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