
To Our Russian Comrades!

by Eugene V. Debs

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The anniversary of the Russian Soviets is an event that should be celebrated with joy and enthusiasm by the revolutionary proletariat of every nation on earth. It is an event which should evoke the heartiest congratulations of the working class of the whole world.

When the Revolution in Russia occurred a year ago and the actual toiling and producing masses came into power under the leadership and inspiration of Lenin and Trotsky, all the ruling class powers on earth, the United States not excepted, instinctively arrayed themselves against the newborn working class Republic and predicted freely that the new regime would not last one week. From that time to this these powers of imperialism and capitalism and their corrupt politicians, their slimy priests, and their whole vast brood of mercenaries and sycophants, including their filthy and venomous press, have gone to every extreme of falsehood, calumny, and personal vituperation to discredit the leadership of the Russian revolutionaries and ruin and destroy the Bolshevik administration in the history of the world.

But in spite of all these stupendous reactionary and destructive forces, the Soviet has survived and the Russian proletariat, thanks to its heroic and uncompromising leadership and its own inflexible determination, is still in power, defiantly challenging its ruling class adversaries and issuing its greeting and message of fraternity and good will to the proletariat of the world.

Comrades of the Russian Soviet and the



Bolshevik Republic, we salute and honor you on this first anniversary of your great revolutionary triumph, the greatest in point of historic significance and far-reaching influence in the annals of the race. You have set the star of hope for all the world in the eastern skies. You have suffered untold persecution, exile, and misery and you have shed your blood freely all these years in the great struggle for emancipation, not only of your own oppressed people, but the oppressed of all the earth. On this historic anniversary we ex-

tend our proletarian hand to you from all directions and across the spaces and assure you of our loyalty and our love.

The chief glory of your revolutionary triumph is that you have preserved inviolate the fundamental principles of international socialism and refused to compromise. It will be to your everlasting honor that you would rather have seen the Revolution perish and the Soviet with it than to prostitute either one by betraying the workers to alleged progressive reforms, which would mean to them an extension of their servitude under fresh aggregation of exploiters and parasites.

You, Russian Comrades of the Soviet and of the Bolsheviks you represent, are resolved that for once in history the working class, which fights the battles, sheds its blood, and makes all other sacrifices to achieve a revolution, shall itself receive and enjoy the full fruitage of such a revolution; that it shall not allow itself to be used, as

dumb driven cattle, to install some intermediate class into power and perpetuate its own slavery and degradation.

On this anniversary day we pledge you, brave and unflinching comrades of the Soviet Republic, not only to protest against our government meddling with your affairs and interfering with your plans, but to summon to your aid all the progressive forces of our proletariat and render you freely all assistance in our power.

We pledge you, moreover, as we grasp your hands in comradely congratulations on this eventful day, to strive with all our energy to emulate your inspiring example by abolishing our imperialistic capitalism, driving our plutocratic exploiters and oppressors from power, and establishing the working class Republic, the Commonwealth of Comrades.

Eugene V. Debs.

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