

## **Military Resistance 15D4**

**Because of composition difficulties, a number of timely articles could not appear. They follow. T**

### ***April 14, 1988:* *Very Happy Anniversary* **Next To Last Government To Invade Afghanistan Withdraws In Defeat****



**Happy Russian soldiers going home.**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 9-15

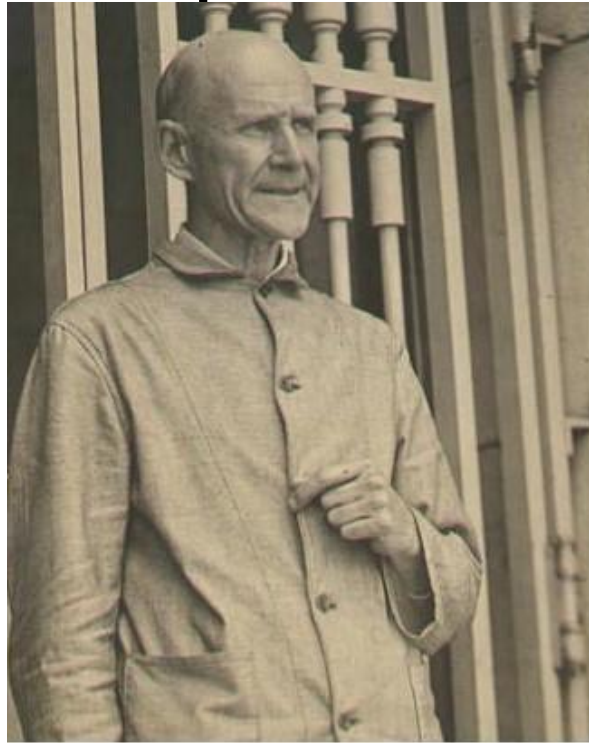
April 14, 1988:

The Soviet Union signed an agreement to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan after ten years of humiliating defeats at the hands of Afghan resistance forces.

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### **April 14, 1919:**

# A Hero Imprisoned For Opposing Imperial War



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"  
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>



Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

Socialist and labor leader Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

**While in prison, he received nearly one million votes for President in the 1920 election (as he had in 1912).**

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# ***The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising***

## **April 19, 1943:**

### **In Memory Of Those Who Died Courageously Resisting An Imperial Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand**



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.  
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.

When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation. Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

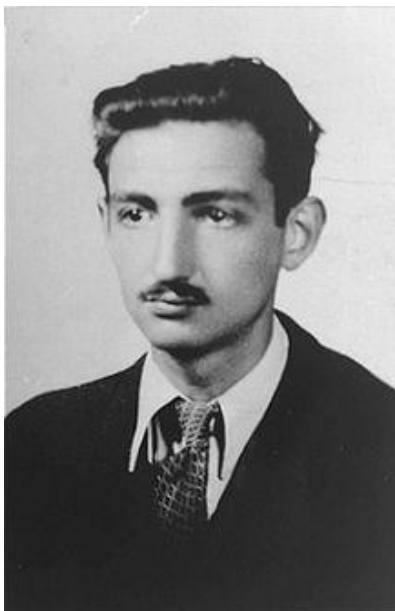
The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

**Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.**

**MORE:**

**Marek Edelman**



[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Wikipedia [Excerpts]

Marek Edelman (Yiddish: מאָרעק עדעלמאַן, born 1919 in Homel or 1922 in Warsaw – October 2, 2009 in Warsaw) was a Jewish-Polish political and social activist and cardiologist. Before his death in 2009, Edelman was the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Before World War II, he was a General Jewish Labour Bund activist. During the war he co-founded the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB).

**He took part in the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, becoming its leader after the death of Mordechaj Anielewicz. He also took part in the city-wide 1944 Warsaw Uprising.**

After the war, Edelman remained in Poland and became a noted cardiologist.

**As a member of Solidarity, he took part in the Polish Round Table Talks of 1989.**

Following the peaceful transformations of 1989, he was a member of various centrist and liberal parties. He also wrote books documenting the history of wartime resistance against the Nazi German occupation of Poland.

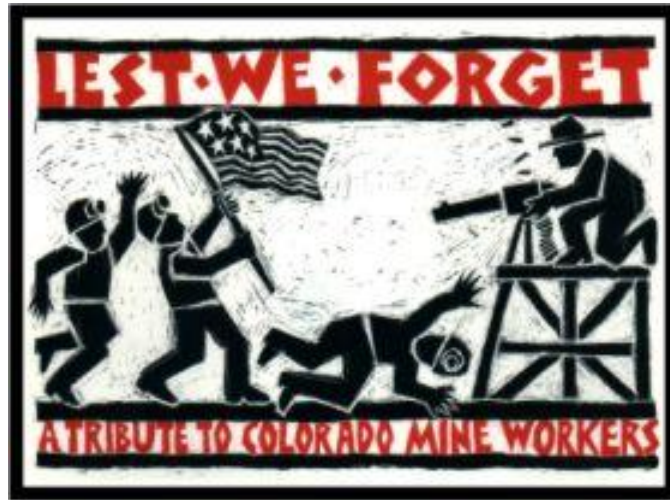
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***The Ludlow Massacre***  
**April 20, 1914:**  
**Infamous Anniversary:**  
**Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms**  
**Slaughtering Women And Children**  
**To Serve The Rich:**  
**Some Honorable Soldiers Resist, But**  
**The Colorado National Guard**  
**Becomes Notorious All Over The**

# World As Foul, Cowardly Strike-Breaking Scum

**Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org



A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

**Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.**

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

## The Ludlow Massacre

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

“... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the ‘Ludlow Massacre’ of April 1914.

**Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.**

**Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies.”**

“When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

**The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.**

**The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.**

**With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as ‘our little cowboy governor’) called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard’s wages.**

**“The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.**

**They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.**

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

**Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.**

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

**“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.**

**On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.**

**The miners fired back.**

**Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.**

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

**At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.**

**“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.**

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

**In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.**

**Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.**

**At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.**

**“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.**

**They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.**

The press reported that ‘the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.’

**“In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: ‘The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

**They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.**

“Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.



Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

“The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: ‘Somebody blundered ... ‘

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: ‘With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.’

“The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

**Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.**

**The union had not won recognition.**

**Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.**

**Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.**

“The Times had referred to Mexico.

**On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.**

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, 'the natural selection of accidents.'

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

"The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

**YOUR INVITATION:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, 459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

**Tiananmen Square:  
April 21, 1989: Honorable Anniversary  
Pissed Off People Rise Up Against A  
Corrupt Government Of Tyrants,  
Exploiters And Oppressors**



Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

Six days after the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed reform-minded leader of the Chinese Communist Party, some 100,000 students from more than 40 universities gathered at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to commemorate Hu, voice their discontent with China's authoritative communist government, and call for greater democracy.

**Ignoring government warnings of violent suppression of any mass demonstration, the students were joined by workers, intellectuals, and civil servants.**

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## ***April 21, 1856: Brilliant Anniversary*** **“The First Organized Workers In The World To Achieve An Eight-Hour Workday”**

Carl Bunin Peace history April 20-26

Stonemasons and other construction workers on building sites around Melbourne, Australia, stopped work and marched from the University of Melbourne to Parliament House.

They advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.

Their direct action protest was a success, becoming the first organized workers in the world to achieve an eight-hour workday, inspiring the celebration of Labor Day and May Day.

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***April 22, 1992:***  
***Honorable Anniversary:***  
**Serbs Stand Up Against A Politician's**  
**Plan For War:**  
**“When The New Conscript Reached**  
**Barracks His Unit Had Already Split In**  
**Two – Between Those Who Agreed To**  
**Go To The Front And Those Who Were**  
**Refusing”**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

June 1994 By Ivan Vejvoda, New Internationalist [Excerpt]

It may come as a surprise to many Westerners that there was a large, spontaneous opposition within Serbia and Montenegro to the war waged by the Milosevic regime.

Mostly it took the form of resisting conscription into the armed forces. In Belgrade only 10 per cent responded to the call-up to what was then, in 1991, still the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).

**Thousands of young conscripts went into 'internal exile' hiding with friends and relatives. The latter would ignore knocks at the door so as to avoid receiving the call-up orders. Thousands of potential conscripts left the country and headed for Britain, France, Germany, Holland and Greece. Visas were not needed then – as they are today.**

Even among those who did obey the draft, there was resistance. The story of young Miroslav Milenkovic from a small town in Serbia is a poignant example of the dilemma faced by many.

**When the new conscript reached barracks his unit had already split in two – between those who agreed to go to the front and those who were refusing.**

Milenkovic went from one group to another, not knowing which group of friends and relatives to side with. At one point he stopped and, standing between the two groups, took his rifle and shot himself.

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## April 23, 1971: Above And Beyond



1968





Carl Bunin Peace History April 20-26

In the final event of Operation Dewey Canyon III, nearly 1,000 Vietnam War veterans threw their combat ribbons, helmets, and uniforms on the Capitol steps along with toy weapons.

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## ***April 24, 1917:*** ***Anniversary Of A Noble Cause:*** **The Irish Take Arms To Fight A Foreign** **Imperial Occupation**



The Easter Uprising began when between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood attempted to seize Dublin and issued the declaration of Irish independence from Britain.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

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By Constantine Fitzgibbon, Users.bigpond.net [Excerpt]

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a force of Irishmen under arms estimated at between 1,000 and 1,500 men and women attempted to seize Dublin, with the ultimate intention of destroying British rule in Ireland and creating an entirely independent Irish Republic to include all 32 counties of Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught.

Their leaders, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the others, knew that their chances of success were so slight as to be almost non-existent.

Yet they fought, and died.

Why?

The circumstances that led to the Irish rebellion of 1916 are of an intense complexity, historical, social, political and, perhaps above all, psychological. The Irish writer, Sean O'Faolain, has written of his country: "Most of our physical embodiments of the past are ruins, as most of our songs are songs of lament and defiance.

**"The Easter Rising was a complete failure, which left large parts of Dublin in ruins; yet without it Ireland might never have been free of English rule.**

**"The leaders, alive, had very few supporters even among the Irish patriots; dead, they became and have remained their country's heroes.**

**It was a great historical paradox, and one that to this day the British have perhaps never understood.**

**Had they understood it, it is conceivable that the British might still have an empire, since the overthrow of British rule in Ireland marked the beginning of the overthrow of British imperial might in Asia, in Africa, and elsewhere**

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**"We Declare The Right Of The People  
Of Ireland To The Ownership Of  
Ireland"**

**"The Long Usurpation Of That Right  
By A Foreign People And**

# Government Has Not Extinguished The Right”

[Stephen-stratford.co.uk]

*[Text Of The Declaration Made After The Occupation Of Dublin’s General Post Office During The 1916 Easter Uprising]*

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

**We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.**

**The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.**

**In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms.**

**Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.**

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the



nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God.

Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine.

**In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.**

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

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**“If These Men Must Die, Would It Not Be Better To Die In Their Own Country Fighting For Freedom For Their Class, And For The Abolition Of War, Than To Go Forth To Strange Countries And Die Slaughtering And Slaughtered By Their Brothers That Tyrants And Profiteers Might Live?”**

By Ted Grant, Unknown source, April 1966; <http://www.marxists.org/> [Excerpts]

On 17th April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, together with the Irish Volunteers, rose up in arms against the might of the British Empire to strike a blow for Irish freedom and for the

setting up of an Irish Republic. Their blow for freedom was to reverberate round the world, and preceded the first Russian Revolution by almost a year.

The background to the rebellion was the centuries of national oppression suffered by the Irish people in the interests of British landlordism and capitalism. In this they had the support of the Irish landlords and capitalists, of the Catholic hierarchy, who were linked by ties of interest to the Imperialists, and joined with them in fear of the Irish workers and peasants.

It is impossible to understand the Easter Rising without understanding the ideas of its leader, James Connolly, who considered himself a Marxist and based himself on the ideas of Internationalism and the class struggle. Like MacLean in Britain, Lenin and Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg and other Internationalists, Connolly regarded with horror the betrayal by the leaders of the Labour movement in all countries in supporting the Imperialist War.

**Dealing with the betrayal of the Second International, Connolly declared in his paper *The Workers Republic*: “If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for freedom for their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”**

Protesting against the support by the British TUC of the war, Connolly wrote: “Time was when the unanimous voice of that Congress declared that the working class had no enemy except the capitalist class – that of its own country at the head of the list!”

Connolly stood for national freedom as a step towards the Irish Socialist Republic. But while the Stalinists and reformists today – 50 years after 1916 still mumble in politically incoherent terms about the need for the “national revolution against imperialism”, Connolly was particularly clear about the class question that was at the basis of the Irish question.

Without being in direct contact with Lenin and Trotsky he had a similar position. “The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour”, he wrote. “They cannot be dissevered. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil”.

Connolly had no illusions in the capitalists of any country, least of all Ireland.

**On International capitalism he wrote: “If, then, we see a small section of the possessing class prepared to launch into war, to shed oceans of blood and spend millions of treasure, in order to maintain intact a small portion of their privileges, how can we expect the entire propertied class to abstain from using the same weapons, and to submit peacefully when called upon to yield up forever all their privileges?”**

And on the Irish capitalists, “Therefore the stronger I am in my affection for national tradition, literature, language, and sympathies, the more firmly rooted I am in my opposition to that capitalist class which in its soulless lust for power and gold would bray the nations as in a mortar”.

**And again, “We are out for Ireland for the Irish. But who are the Irish? Not the rack-renting, slum-owning landlord; not the sweating, profit grinding capitalist; not the sleek and oily lawyer; not the prostitute pressmen – the hired liars of the enemy.**

**“Not these are the Irish upon whom the future depends. Not these, but the Irish working class, the only secure foundation upon which a free nation can be reared.”**

Writing on the need for an Irish insurrection to expel British imperialism he wrote in relation to the World War: “Starting thus, Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn out until the last throne and the last capitalist bond and debenture will be shrivelled on the funeral pyre of the last War lord.”

As an answer to the demand for conscription which had been imposed in Britain and which was supported by the Irish capitalists for Ireland too, where the employers were exerting pressure to force Irish workers to volunteer, Connolly wrote: “We want and must have economic conscription in Ireland for Ireland.

Not the conscription of men by hunger to compel them to fight for the power that denies them the right to govern their own country, but the conscription by an Irish nation of all the resources of the nation – its land, its railways, its canals, its workshops, its docks, its mines, its mountains, its rivers and streams, its factories and machinery, its horses, its cattle, and its men and women, all co-operating together under one common direction that gather under one common direction that Ireland may live and bear upon her fruitful bosom the greatest number of the freest people she has ever known.”

He looked at the employers who were opposing conscription too from a critical class point of view: “if here and there we find an occasional employer who fought us in 1913 (the Great Dublin lock-out in which the employers tried to break union organisation, but were defeated in this object by the solidarity of the Irish workers and their British comrades too) agreeing with our national policy in 1915 it is not because he has become converted, or is ashamed of the unjust use of his powers, but simply that he does not see in economic conscription the profit he fancied he saw in denying to his followers the right to organise in their own way in 1913.”

**Answering objections to the firm working class point of view which he expounded he declared: “Do we find fault with the employer for following his own interests? We do not. But neither are we under any illusion as to his motives. In the same manner we take our stand with our own class, nakedly upon our class interests, but believing that these interests are the highest interests of the race.”**

It is in this light that the uprising of 1916 must be viewed.

As a consequence of the struggles of the past Connolly who was the General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had organised the Citizens Army for the purpose of defence against capitalist and police attack and for preparing for struggle against British imperialism.

The Citizens Army was almost purely working class in composition: dockers, transport workers, building workers, printers and other sections of the Dublin workers being its rank and file. It was with this force and in alliance with the more middle class Irish volunteers that Connolly prepared for the uprising.

**He had no illusions about its immediate success. According to William O'Brien, on the day of the insurrection Connolly said to him: "We are going out to be slaughtered."**

**He said "Is there no chance of success?" and Connolly replied "None whatsoever."**

**Connolly understood that the tradition and the example created would be immortal and would lay the basis for future freedom and a future Irish Socialist Republic. In that lay his greatness.**

What a difference from the craven traitors of the German Socialist and Communist and Trade Union leaders who despite having three million armed workers supporting them, and with the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of the German working class (ready to fight and die, capitulated to Hitler without firing a shot.

**The British occupying troops suppressed the insurrection and then savagely executed its leaders, including the leader of the insurrection James Connolly, who was already badly wounded.**

**Connolly was murdered, but in the last analysis, British imperialism really suffered defeat.**

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## **April 24, 1971: Magnificent Anniversary**



Peace History April 23-29

500,000 demonstrated against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. It was the largest-ever demonstration opposing U.S. war in Southeast Asia. 150,000 marched at a simultaneous rally in San Francisco.

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## ***April 25, 1974: Portugal: Most Honorable Anniversary Soldiers Rise Up To Overthrow A Dictator***



Socialist Worker.co.uk

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

A peaceful uprising by army and civilians, known as the carnation revolution (Revolução dos Cravos), ended 48 years of fascism in Portugal.

The regime killed four before giving into the popular resistance.

25 April 2004 By Manny Thain, Socialist World.net [Excerpts]

**It started at 12.25 am on Thursday 25 April 1974 when the rebel song, Grandola Vila Morena, played on the radio.**

**By early evening the end of dictatorship was announced.**

**The Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA), radical mid-ranking officers, had executed the plan devised by Captain Otelo de Carvalho. Troops secured Lisbon and the second city, Porto. Key installations were taken, ministers arrested.**

**THE news of the regime's downfall spread like wildfire. People flooded the streets.**

**MFA vehicles were mobbed by adoring crowds. Thousands of school students marched, shouting "Down with fascism".**

**Red carnations, the symbol of the revolution, blossomed in rifle barrels and festooned the streets in this festival of freedom.**

The ex-dictator, Marcello Caetano, cowered in National Guard barracks.

He was the successor to the fascist regime consolidated in the early 1930s by António Salazar. Paramilitary groups terrorised left-wing and industrial militants. Independent trade unions and the right to strike were illegal.

The secret police had a massive network of agents and informers. Torture was systemic.

But it was the armed African liberation struggles - especially Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique - begun in the early 1960s, which drove the final nails into the coffin of the fascist regime.

**Many mid-ranked officers had been influenced by the Marxism they read in counter-insurgency training.**

Radicalisation continued in Africa with the brutal repression meted out to the people fighting for their freedom. A policy of fast-tracking new officers fuelled the anger.

The MFA set up a 'junta of national salvation' to rule until a provisional government was formed. Elections were promised within a year. It announced freedom of association and expression, and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Having suffered at the hands of bosses and landowners linked to the regime, workers drove them out of the factories and off the land. The editor of the daily, Diário de Notícias, was forced out on 7 June after print workers seized the presses, publishing a front-page article exposing his fascist connections.

Homeless people occupied empty properties. Shipyard and underground workers went on strike for a 50% pay rise. Car workers won a 40-hour week. Bakery and textile workers struck. Train and tram conductors refused to collect fares.

General António de Spínola was made acting president. The son of a friend of Salazar, Spínola had impeccable fascist credentials. He had, however, called for the easing of direct colonial rule, which gave him a certain amount of support.

Spínola made one more pathetic bid for power, on 11 March 1975.

**But the paratroopers he mobilised mutinied.**

The fact that six members of the Espírito Santo banking family were implicated in the coup fiasco fuelled further outrage.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder and it is the working class who fights all the battles, the working class who makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely sheds their blood and furnishes their corpses, and it is they who have never yet had a voice - in either declaring**

war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war.

They are continually talking about patriotic duty. It is not their patriotic duty but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about. Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.

-- Eugene V. Debs

**“The Capitalist Seeks By All Means To Press Down The Living Standard Of The Worker, To Expand To The Maximum The Unpaid Labor, Surplus Value”**

**“Capitalist Production Cannot Take A Single Step Forward Without Reducing The Share Of The Workers In The Social Product”**

**“Relative Wages Steadily Fall Lower And Lower, Without Pause Or Interruption”**

**“Surplus Value, I.E. The Unpaid Wealth Of The Capitalists Squeezed Out Of The Worker, Grows Just As Steadily And Constantly Higher And Higher”**



From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

We assumed in our earlier example that the worker had to work the first six hours out of an eleven-hour working day in order to cover his wage, i.e. his means of subsistence, and then spend five hours creating surplus value for the capitalist for free.

We assumed in this example, therefore, that the production of means of subsistence for the worker cost six hours' labor.

We also saw how the capitalist seeks by all means to press down the living standard of the worker, to expand to the maximum the unpaid labor, surplus value.

But let us assume that the worker's living standard does not change, i.e. that he is still in the position to obtain the same quantities of food, clothing, linen, furniture, etc. We assume, therefore, that there is no reduction in wages in absolute terms.

If however the production of all these means of subsistence becomes cheaper, as a result of advances in production, and requires therefore less time, then the worker will spend a shorter time covering his wage.

Let us assume that the quantity of food, clothing, furniture, etc. that the worker needs per day no longer demands six hours' labor but only five. Then the worker will not spend six hours out of his eleven-hour day replacing his wage, but only five hours, and he will have six hours remaining for unpaid labor, for the creation of surplus value for the capitalist.

The share of the worker in his produce has been reduced by one-sixth, while the share of the capitalist has grown by one-fifth.

There has however been no reduction in the absolute wage. It may even come about that the living standard of the workers is increased, i.e. that absolute wages rise, let us say by 10 percent, and indeed not just in money terms, but also the actual means of subsistence of the workers.

But if the productivity of labor has risen in the same time by some 15 percent, then the share of the workers in the product, i.e. their relative wage, has actually fallen, despite the rise in absolute wages.

The share of the worker in the product thus depends on the productivity of labor.

The less labor it takes to produce his means of subsistence, the smaller his relative wage. If the shirts that he wears, his boots and his caps, are produced with less labor than before, due to advances in manufacture, then he may obtain with his wage the same quantity of shirts, boots and caps with his wage, but at the same time he now receives a smaller share of the social wealth, the total social product.

The daily consumption of the worker, however, is made up of the same quantities of all the different products and raw materials. Not only do (advances in) shirt manufacture cheapen the worker's maintenance, but likewise in the cotton manufacture that supplies material for his shirts, the machine industry that supplies sewing machines, and the yarn industry that supplies yarn.

Similarly, the worker's provisions are made cheaper not only by advances in baking, but also by American agriculture that supplies grain on a massive scale, by advances in railways and steam shipping that bring this American grain to Europe, and so on.

**Every advance in industry, every increase in the productivity of human labor, makes the maintenance of the workers cost ever less labor.**

**The worker need therefore spend an ever smaller part of his working day on replacing his wage, and the part in which he creates unpaid labor, surplus value for the capitalist, becomes every greater.**

But the constant and ceaseless progress of technology is a necessity for capitalism, a condition of its very existence.

Competition between individual entrepreneurs forces each of them to produce their product as cheaply as possible, i.e. with the greatest possible saving on human labor.

And if anyone capitalist introduces a new and improved process into his own factory, this competition forces all other entrepreneurs in the same branch of production to improve their technology in the same way, so as not to be driven from the field, i.e. the commodity market.

The visible outward form of this is the general introduction of machine power in place of manual, and the ever more rapid introduction of new and improved machines in place of old.

Technical inventions in all areas of production have become a daily occurrence.

The technical transformation of all industry, not only in production itself but also in means of communication, is an incessant phenomenon, a vital law of capitalist commodity production.

And every advance in labor productivity is expressed in a reduction in the amount of labor needed to maintain the worker.

**In other words, capitalist production cannot take a single step forward without reducing the share of the workers in the social product.**

**With each new technological invention, each improvement of machinery, each new application of steam and electricity to production and communications, the share of the worker in the product grows smaller and the share of the capitalist larger.**

Relative wages steadily fall lower and lower, without pause or interruption, while surplus value, i.e. the unpaid wealth of the capitalists squeezed out of the worker, grows just as steadily and constantly higher and higher.

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# Blindfolded

Written by Dennis Serdel: Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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## Blindfolded

I was born in March of 1947  
when my Father came home from WWII  
and married my Mother who worked  
as a Secretary in Kalamazoo.  
Yes, I am a true "Baby Boomer" or  
in other words a "War Baby" born  
from the "Greatest Generation."  
I now know how they are going to handle  
the influx of all the "Baby Boomers"  
who are beginning to retire.  
The Companies are going bankrupt,  
They Say, and will Not pay me any  
Retirement pay or Health Care.  
But in the 1960's, it was my turn to serve  
in the Army in Vietnam because  
I was fighting Against the Idea  
that a Country's wealth should be  
evenly spread to All the Citizens  
as fair as possible.  
Instead, I was fighting for the Idea  
that a Few people should own  
the Wealth of a Country  
and the rest of the Citizens  
should be poor.  
But when I came home from the War  
I joined a Union and I was Not poor  
but "Middle Class."  
However, it looks like I shall return  
to my proper place again  
that being poor as the Unions are  
being stabbed in the back by  
Obama who represents the Few.  
Did I mention that my Son is a  
"War Baby" from America's  
"Worst Generation ? "  
So let him be especially  
laid off fired let go and poor.  
The Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers  
and Veterans are another  
"Greatest Generation" who do

what they are told to do by the Few  
but it looks like they will be poor  
anyway because that is the way  
America wants them to be.  
A Few people have all the money  
and the rest of the Citizens are poor.  
So I have taken on the job of  
convincing our new "Greatest Generation"  
that when the Wars are over,  
they will be tossed aside like  
used toilet paper and their reward  
will be to work hard at slave Worker  
wages to raise their "War Babies."  
The government blindfolds them  
now with yellow ribbons,  
parades with all the trimmings  
all the welcome backs  
and elaborate funerals to assure  
them that their Country really  
appreciates them for fighting  
and dying for the Idea of America.  
The greatest fear that the Few have  
who own all the wealth have  
is giving guns and ammo to the poor  
people like our Iraq and Afghanistan  
Soldiers.  
I mean, gee whizz Uncle Sam Few,  
you really do fear that after you  
keep stepping on their poor Mothers  
and Fathers, Aunts and Uncles,  
Brothers and Sisters  
Cousins and Neighbors  
and Friends that the Soldiers  
just might get together  
and march on Washington  
DC and NY City  
to eliminate the Few.

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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