

## Module 03: 1917 — Did the War Cause a Revolution?

### Evidence 29: "Workers' Marseillaise"



#### Introduction

Based on the anthem of the French Revolution of 1789, the "Workers' Marseillaise" served as the unofficial anthem of the Provisional Government after the Revolution. While the tune of the song provided a symbolic link to a successful tradition of international revolutionary struggle, the words of the Russian variant appealed directly to a brotherhood of working people "from the Dnepr to the White Sea," and "from the Volga to the Caucasus."

#### Document

"Workers' Marseillaise"

*Verse 1:*

Let us renounce the ancient world!  
Let us shake its dust from our feet!  
We've no need for a golden idol,  
The tsar's palace we do so hate.  
The tsar needs soldiers for his forces,  
So, give up your native sons  
The tsar needs feasts and he needs palaces,  
So, why not give up your very own blood?

*Chorus:*

Arise, arise working people!  
Rise up against the foe hungry brother!  
Sound the cry of the people's vengeance!  
Forward march, forward march, forward march, march, march.

*Verse 2:*

The greedy pack of wealthy kulaks,  
Steal your own hard labor.  
Then your work fattens up those gluttons,  
Who will steal the last bit from your mouth.  
Have we not enough eternal misery?

We'll rise brothers against the spreading plague ?  
From the Dnepr to the White Sea,  
And from the Volga to the Caucases.

*Chorus:*

Arise, arise working people!  
Rise up against the foe hungry brother!  
Sound the cry of the people's vengeance!  
Forward march, forward march, forward march, march, march.

*Verse 3:*

After the bloody dawn the sun will rise.  
The sun of truth and brotherly love.  
Though we paid a terrible price ?  
Our blood poured out for the earth's happiness.  
Now the time of freedom is here.  
Lies and evil will vanish forever.  
And all people will come together  
In the realm of sacred labor.

*Chorus:*

Arise, arise working people!  
Rise up against the foe hungry brother!  
Sound the cry of the people's vengeance!  
Forward march, forward march, forward march, march, march.

Source:

Downloaded from <http://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/sounds/index.htm>.