

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

### Evidence 42: "Internationale"



#### Introduction

"Internationale," the song of the First and Second International, was written by a transport worker after the Paris Commune was crushed by the French government. The song was later used as the first Soviet National Anthem and Anthem of the (Third) Communist International, until the latter dissolved it in 1944.

#### Document

"Internationale"

*Verse 1:*

Arise ye pris'ners of starvation  
Arise ye wretched of the earth  
For justice thunders condemnation  
A better world's in birth!  
No more tradition's chains shall bind us  
Arise, ye slaves, no more in thrall;  
The earth shall rise on new foundations  
We have been naught we shall be all.

*Refrain:*

'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.  
'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.

*Verse 2:*

We want no condescending saviors  
to rule us from their judgement hall

We workers ask not for their favors  
Let us consult for all.  
To make the thief disgorge his booty  
To free the spirit from its cell  
We must ourselves decide our duty  
We must decide and do it well.

*Refrain:*

'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.  
'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.

*Verse 3:*

We toilers from all fields united  
Join hand in hand with all who work;  
The earth belongs to us, the workers,  
No room here for the shirk.  
How many on our flesh have fattened!  
But if the norsome birds of prey  
Shall vanish from the sky some morning  
The blessed sunlight then will stay.

*Refrain:*

'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.  
'Tis the final conflict  
Let each stand in his place  
The International Union  
shall be the human race.

Source:

Adaptation of Charles H. Kerr's English translation for *The Industrial*

*Workers of the World ("Wobblies") Songbook*, 34th ed. Mp3 and Russian lyrics from <http://english.sovmusic.ru>.