

---

# Socialist Sunday School

by Eugene V. Debs

Published in *Socialist News* [Cleveland], vol. 1, no. 40 (Sept. 4, 1915), pg. 3.

Every child is a potential revolutionist. Whether he becomes one in *fact* will depend upon his intellectual environment and training during the formative period of his career.

Every wealth producer, every wage worker, ought to be in revolt against the system that robs him, and, if he was, the capitalist system would not last overnight. The reason the workers of this and every other nation on earth are not in open revolt against the system that robs them is that the beneficiaries of capitalism control every avenue of information and education from the cradle to the grave.

In schools, both public and private, the child of the worker is taught to revere the institutions of capitalism. Six days in the week, through the school, the press, and the spoken word, a perfect deluge of capitalist philosophy and hypocrisy is poured upon the innocent and plastic mind of the child of the worker. On Sunday the church and the Sunday school perform their service for capitalism, and the child-mind is doped with the false morals of the master-class — all in the sacred name of religion.

All the institutions of capitalism, including the state, the church, the press, the schools, and even the places of amusement, conspire to poison the receptive mind of the child of the worker.

The Socialist father and mother who neglects the opportunity offered in the Socialist Sunday School to checkmate this work of capitalism in the mind of the child neglects the noblest work in the entire field of Socialist propaganda.

The hope of the future is in the child of today. Teach him the songs of the revolution, and, above all, teach him the revolutionary character of Jesus — the worker; teach him the religion of Love and Human Brotherhood; teach him to despise war and the fomenters of war.

Inculcate in the mind of the child a love for and a pride in his class, for “as the twig is bent the tree’s inclined.” If the Socialists of today will attend to the training of the child, tomorrow will take care of itself. Let us by all means utilize the Socialist Sunday School in the noblest cause that ever challenged the mind of man.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*