

**UNITED STATES  
CONSTITUTION  
AND SOCIALISM**

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United States Constitution and Socialism by Silas Hood

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# United States Constitution and Socialism

by

SILAS HOOD i.e. Henry T. Jones

Author of "REVOLUTION"  
"PLUTOCRACY", Etc.

Brief History of the "Patriotic" Achievements  
of Our Fore Fathers

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*Statesmen of the Twentieth Century are not  
wise enough to frame a Constitution  
for the People of the Twenty  
First Century*

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Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Statesmen  
formed a Constitution for their great,  
great, great grandchildren



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*¶ This little volume is dedicated to the memory of the working class of the revolutionary period of 1776 who fought, bled and died to obtain freedom, but who, after their unselfish sacrifice, were robbed of the fruits of their struggle—robbed by the cunning conspiracy of an exploiting master class of the heritage that should have been theirs.*

TO THE  
CALIFORNIA

Library of  
Congress

*"The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people are just now in want of one."*

—Abraham Lincoln in 1864

*The time is not only ripe for a change, it is rotten ripe*

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NO. VIII  
ANNALS  
INTRODUCTION.

In this brief history of the recital of historical events, which preceded and followed the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, it is not the purpose of the writer to attempt to destroy any of the patriotic spirit of which every true American should be proud to boast. On the contrary, it is the purpose of the writer to stimulate patriotism—*real patriotism*.

We have listened long and patiently to the "patriotic sentiments" expressed by our Fourth of July orators, who in the same breath have showered so much eloquent praise upon the "glorious provisions of the United States Constitution." We have heard the beautiful song so many times, and we have been taught so much in our public school histories of the exalted purpose of our revolutionary forefathers that it has seemed almost like sacrilege to even hint at a word of criticism regarding their work.

But a careful search of the pages of history shows that we have been worshipping false gods and institutions.

There is nothing more terrible than the truth, and at the same time there is nothing more beautiful than the truth, and the truth herein is told, notwithstanding the fact that some of our "revolutionary heroes," whom we have long been taught to revere, are stripped of some of the halo that surrounds them.

There were tens of thousands of real heroes engaged in that heroic struggle of revolutionary days, but the bourgeois historians have failed to recognize the great part those heroes played in the battles for freedom, and have showered praise where it did not belong.

And there are just as many patriots—real patriots—in proportion to the population, here today as there were in those revolutionary days. And these revolutionists will arise in the near future—will go to the ballot box—and overthrow a combination of capitalist rulers *who are more arrogant and more oppressive today than King George III ever dared to be*. And the result of this revolution will be decisive and sure, for the working class cannot longer be deprived of its own. The Socialists are both hopeful and defiant. The future belongs to us, and it belongs to us because it is right that it should belong to us.

SILAS HOOD.



## CHAPTER I.

### PATRIOTIC CONSPIRACY.

For more than a century the people of America have been taught to have reverence for the Constitution of the United States and to revere the memory and applaud the acts of the men who made possible the laws under which we are now living.

It is the purpose of the writer to show that a careful examination of the historical data, that can be found in hundreds of public libraries of the nation, will prove that the famous constitutional convention held in Philadelphia in 1787, instead of being a gathering that was called to accomplish something that would result to the advantage of the people as a whole, was dominated *and controlled by the commercial buccaneers*, such as exist today in the shape of such persons as J. Pierpont Morgan, August Belmont, Andrew Carnegie, Victor Lawson, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Pfister, H. G. Otis, Whitelaw Reid, Ogden Armour, J. D. Rockefeller, J. J. Hill, Henry Frick, the Guggenheim brothers and other prominent citizens who regard the workingman solely as a source of profit.

It is also the purpose of the writer to show by undisputed records of history that the majority of "the great patriotic forefathers" were not patriots at all and that they at all times represented the interests of the "well born," the commercial, and the landed interests of the states.

The constitutional convention was the result of a conspiracy of the monied interests of the nation to build up a strong central government so that the rights of property would be more than these capitalist exploiters found them to be under the old articles of confederation.

Thirty-nine names of "revolutionary patriots" were signed to the sacred document when it was forwarded to the various legislatures to ratify, and not one of these men had any more authority to frame the document as they did than the National Civic Federation has to say whether miners or mill workers in 1911 shall wear rubber boots, moccasins or go bare-footed.

The delegates were the selection of the rich and the members were exclusively of the aristocratic class and were made up of lawyers whose clients were the wealthy slave holders, owners of large landed estates, rich merchants and money lenders.

*Not one representative of the working class* was among the number of conspirators, and when Patrick Henry was selected as a delegate from Virginia he declined to go, saying that it was plainly the purpose of those fostering the idea to attempt to deprive the people of what little rights they had been able to secure under the articles of confederation. After the constitution was made public Henry denounced it as "pernicious" and declared that its provisions meant the inauguration of an impolitic and dangerous system. Under it, he said, neither the rights of conscience, liberty of the press, nor trial by a jury would be secure. "An aristocracy of the rich and 'well-born' will spring up under it and trample on the masses," he said. And history proves that Patrick Henry was right. The poverty, unemployed, low wages and "charity" of today is evidence that the constitution has not protected the masses.

#### CONTEMPT FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

The delegates had been empowered to revise the old articles of confederation or to make amendments to the provisions of that document, but the instructions were ignored and as one historian expresses it, were consigned to the wastebasket.

The first thing the delegates decided (and there were less than thirty of the gentlemen present on this occasion) was that the vulgar public was to be excluded and that none of the proceedings of the gathering was ever to be made known. *Every member was sworn to secrecy* and how well the conspirators kept the oath is understood when it is known that James Madison, fourth president of the United States, and last survivor of the delegates, was in his grave before the proceedings of that remarkable gathering were known. In his "Journal of the Constitutional Convention," found in every well equipped public library, we learn of the contempt with which the working class was regarded by our patriotic forefathers, and instead of the report of the proceedings revealing the men in the light of venerable statesmen we see that their purpose solely was to

establish a government that would permit the building up of a commercial aristocracy and an unlimited number of wage-earners, renters and subservient workers.

Madison's journal contains about 100,000 words of the debates and proceedings of the four months of the secret gatherings, and in all that mass of data there is *not a single allusion* to the rights of the working class or what would happen to the toilers when they became more numerous than the jobs. The patriots realized that this condition would arise in the near future and they gloried in such a situation, as they said it would put an end to troublesome black slavery, because the white wage-earners of Europe, who would be induced to come to this country by the glorious vision of freedom, would be only too glad to work for less wages than was at that time required to care for the chattel slave. What was to become of the black men in the event of such a contingency was not once considered—not even by Benjamin Franklin, who was the only delegate who raised his voice in the interest of the masses at any time during the convention proceedings.

Washington, according to the journal, once did express the wisdom of doing something for the great majority of the disinherited, but as he was a slave-holder and a possessor of large landed estates, he did not press the claim. He, too, had had his training on the battle-field. For a time he was opposed to the holding of the convention. At first he declined to be present at the gathering and had decided not to participate in the proceedings. But the commercial conspirators, realizing the hold that Washington had on the affections of the people persuaded him to accept. They insisted that it was a duty he owed his country and he reluctantly consented.

And when the representatives of the monied interests got him there they selected him as the presiding officer, and in this position he apparently found small opportunity to raise his voice as an advisor.

### AN EXECUTIVE FOR LIFE.

Among the first of the plans to be considered was one providing for the appointment of a chief executive of the United States by the votes of the various legislatures, already controlled by the interests, for a life term. A motion to amend so as to provide for the election of a president by the people