

In Imperialist Wars

Cornelius Cardew

[Verse 1]

D
F#m
 When they give you gun and tell you war has begun
G
A
 And send you out to do some murder
D
F#m
 Don t fight on their wars defy all their bourgeois laws
G
A
D
 Class brothers must not shoot one another

[Chorus]

D
In imperialist wars workers give their lives
G D
The ruling class makes no sacrifice
G
We have no choice if we want to live in peace
D G A D
Don t die for them but bring them to their knees

[Verse 2]

D F#m
Before the first world war, labour leaders hotly swore
G A
That by the working class they d stand
D F#m
But when the capitalist called, on their well-worn knees they crawled
G A D
To fight for their glorious homeland
D F#m
When the spectre of world war comes knocking at the door
G A
Class traitors start to howl
D F#m
But we don t have to fear, it means the time is getting near
G A D
When the working class shall rule

[Chorus]

D
In imperialist wars workers give their lives
G D
The ruling class makes no sacrifice
G
We have no choice if we want to live in peace
D G A D
Don t die for them but bring them to their knees

[Verse 3]

D **F#m**
Some say the British empire has finally expired
G **A**
And its rulers lost all life
D **F#m**
But if that s so we would like to know why in many lands across the globe
G **A** **D**
they still wield their butchers knife
D **F#m**
In lands across the sea they re now fighting to be free
G **A**
Their demand is to rule themselves
D **F#m**
We ve got a common cause we must support them in their wars
G **A** **D**
By fighting to free ourselves

[Chorus]

D
In imperialist wars workers give their lives
G **D**
The ruling class makes no sacrifice
G
We have no choice if we want to live in peace
D **G** **A** **D**
Don t die for them but bring them to their knees