

The Colours

The Men They Couldnt Hang

VERSE 1:

D **G** **A** **D**
I am a member of the council of the naval mutiny
 D **G** **D** **A** **D**
And no traitor to my conscience having done my sworn duty

VERSE 2:

D **G** **A** **D**
These are my last words before the scaffold and I charge you all to hear
 D **G** **D** **A** **D**
How a wretched British sailor Became a citizen mutineer

VERSE 3:

D **G** **A** **D**
Pressed into service to carry powder I was loyal to the crack of the whip
 D **G** **D** **A** **D**
If I starved on the streets of Bristol, I starved worse on a British ship

CHORUS:

D **G**
Red is the colour of the new republic, blue is the colour of the sea
 D **A** **D** **D** **G** **D**
White is the colour of my innocence, not surrender to your mercy

VERSE 4:

D **G** **A** **D**
I was awoken from my misery by the words of Thomas Paine
 D **G** **D** **A** **D**
On my barren soil they fell like The sweetest drops of rain

CHORUS:

D **G**
Red is the colour of the new republic, blue is the colour of the sea
 D **A** **D** **D** **G** **D**
White is the colour of my innocence, not surrender to your mercy

BRIDGE:

D **D**
So in the spring of the year we took the fleet every sail and cannon and compass
sheet
 G **A**
And we flew a Jacobean flag to give us heart
 D **Bm** **G** **A** **D**
While Pitt stood helpless we were waiting for Bonaparte

CHORUS:

D **G**

Red is the colour of the new republic, blue is the colour of the sea

D

A

D

D

G

D

White is the colour of my innocence, not surrender to your mercy

VERSE 5:

D

G

A

D

All you soldiers, all you sailors, all you labourers of the land

D

G

D

A

D

All you beggars, all you builders, you've come here to watch me hang

VERSE 6:

D

G

A

D

And to the masters we are the rabble, we are the swinish multitude

D

G

D

A

D

But we can re-arrange the colours of the red and the white and the blue

CHORUS:

D

G

Red is the colour of the new republic, blue is the colour of the sea

D

A

D

D

G

D

White is the colour of my innocence, not surrender to your mercy

CHORUS:

D

G

Red is the colour of the new republic, blue is the colour of the sea

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D

D

G

D

White is the colour of my innocence, not surrender to your mercy