

May Day

“The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today”



The Chicago martyrs: Parsons, Engel, Spies and Fischer were hanged, Lingg (centre) killed himself in prison

The origins of May day

In 1887 four Chicago anarchists were executed. A fifth cheated the hangman by killing himself in prison. Three more were to spend 6 years in prison until pardoned by Governor Altgeld who said the trial that convicted them was characterised by *“hysteria, packed juries and a biased judge”*. The state had, in the words of the prosecution put *“Anarchy .. on trial”* and hoped their deaths would also be the death of the anarchist idea.

The anarchists were trade union organisers and May Day became an international workers day to remember their sacrifice. They were framed on false charges of throwing a bomb at police breaking up a demonstration in Chicago. This was part of a strike demanding an 8 hour day involving 400,000 workers in Chicago that started May 1st 1886 .

The anarchist idea did not die in Chicago in 1887. Today it inspires a new wave of struggle against global capitalism. Join in this struggle.



London May 2000

www.struggle.ws/about/mayday.html



Paris May 2000



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