



Out of the Way!

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Scene from the Russian Civil War: A struggle for power in which man, in the form of representing his own interests, tries to rise above God and nature. Here on the poster, the proletariat is trying to defend itself against the old powers, who in turn are trying to overthrow the new powers.

The picture shows a clash of two antagonistic forces, as in a battle – with a very hostile, even threatening effect. On the left side of the poster stands a well-fed man in tails and top hat on black background. The Russian word CAPITAL can be read on his cylinder. He stretches his left hand towards his

opponent – a claw-like hand that drips blood. In his right hand he is holding a miniature gallows and a chain. He's losing his spit. His big eyes are directed at his counterpart, who outwardly embodies the opposite.

Opposite him is a slim, strong man who belongs to the proletariat. With strong arms he points his rifle with bayonet at the man in the tailcoat. He is determined to defend his newly acquired power. The symbols of the hammer and sickle shine in the sun. This encourages him in his actions. In contrast, above the scenery on the side of the capital, a flower with a dove tied to a chain can be seen, dark and sad.

Directly in front of the proletarian fighter, a group of church representatives stood up, openly and directly confronting and pleading with him. There it is written: "In God's name: Be humble, obey, do not kill!" This means keeping everything the same for peace. But on the other side, on the left of the picture, you can read: "In God's name: Humiliate, overcome, kill the servants of God!" But the servants no longer want to be servants.

The following Russian text can be read above and below the edge of the picture: "The priests help the capitalist and obstruct the worker! Get out of the way!" This is probably the core message of the picture: The church is not on the side of the proletariat and shows no understanding of the needs of ordinary and exploited people. The poster wants to raise awareness against the faith and the church. It shows with simple means that one should not allow oneself to be exploited by the church with its dogmas.

The dualistic representation of the poster is also underlined by the use of colour: The left side is dominated by black, which symbolises tradition and conservatism. In contrast, the right side is kept in red, which stands for struggle, renewal and thus for a completely opposite attitude.