

# Victor Berger, the Milwaukee Socialists and Civil Liberty

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## Newspaper Article

"A Big Business War," Milwaukee Leader, 6/6/1917



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### A BIG BUSINESS WAR.

To have it impressed upon one's mind that the war is a war of the big business of one group of nations against the big business of another group of nations, each using the workers to do the fighting and the dying, it is only necessary to attend meetings of big business men.

We recently had this experience, and we had it rubbed into us good and plenty that it is a business men's war.

Oh, of course, the big business men do not intend to do the fighting.

Not on your life.

In fact, one of the speakers, himself a big business man, in urging them to be liberal financially, frankly said, "I don't suppose any of you intend to go to the front—I don't intend to."

It was quite a safe assumption.

They will keep at a safe distance. Some of them will make a few financial sacrifices for the time being. Others will make unusually large profits during the war. All of them expect to profit by the war eventually.

To them, patriotism and profits are the same.

We have yet to meet anyone who is enthusiastic over the war except big business men, bankers, and their satellites among the lawyers and others. And a great many of these are not enthusiastic over it.

It is a business man's war, and the object is profits, not democracy.

See more classroom materials and lesson plans on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).

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