

# Victor Berger, the Milwaukee Socialists and Civil Liberty

See a lesson plan related to this material on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](http://www.wisconsinhistoricalsociety.org).

## Newspaper Article

"Censoring God" Milwaukee Leader, 8/24/1917



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### CENSORING GOD.

The publishers of Bibles are away behind with their orders. The war has created an unprecedented demand for them, especially for the New Testament.

This is good news. We hope the purchasers of these books will read them.

They will probably have to do it on the sly, however. For, as you know, the Bible is treasonable nowadays. It says, "Thou shalt not kill." This infamous doctrine has been put over on the human race for a long time. But our latter day commercial and political saints will have none of it. They are a whole lot wiser than God—who is said to have given the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," to Moses. They have amended the commandment by striking out the word "not" so as to make it read, "Thou shalt kill." Before any more Bibles go to press, we suggest that that word be gouged out of the plate. Of course, it will leave a blank spot on the page. But that's all the better. It will call the attention of the present and future generations to the fact that our wise commercial and political saints overruled God and censored His word.

Then, they must remember that the New Testament reaffirms the above mentioned commandment. But that isn't the worst. It also adds a new commandment—"that ye love one another." Now isn't that horrid? That will have to be gouged out too.

And, while we are about it, let's gouge out the place where it says "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

There are a number of other anti-bloodshed and anti-hatred expressions that also call loudly for the chisel. When the censor gets through, it will be a badly speckled book, but it will be safe and highly moral. All the treasonable utterances made by God and His Son will have been eliminated.

And the war fan preachers will no longer be embarrassed every Sunday when they go to read the scripture lesson.

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