

## The Red Flag

Billy Bragg

The people's flag is deepest red  
It shrouded oft our martyred dead  
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold  
Their hearts' blood dyed to every fold

Then raise the scarlet standard high  
Beneath it's folds we'll live and die  
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer  
We'll keep the red flag flying here

It waved above our infant might  
When all ahead seemed dark as night  
It witnessed many a deed and vow  
We must not change it's color now

It well recalls the triumphs past  
It gives the hope of peace at last  
The banner bright the symbol plain  
Of human right and human gain

It suits today the meek and base  
Whose minds are fixed on pelf and place  
To cringe beneath the rich man's frown  
And haul that sacred emblem down

With heads uncovered swear we all  
To bare it onward till we fall  
Come dungeons dark or gallows grim  
This song shall be our parting hymn