

International Labour Day

International Labour Day emerged from the workers' movement in the industrial city of Chicago. May 1 was the start of the financial year in the US, so it was the day when new workforce contracts were signed. On May 1, 1886, workers across the US participated in strikes and protests to compel employers to comply with their demands for better working conditions. The protests were severely suppressed, leaving hundreds of workers dead and injured and many union leaders in jail. Ultimately, however, the employers agreed to the workers' demands. Three years after the protests in Chicago, the First Congress of the Second Communist International decided to make May 1 a day of protest and struggle for the proletariat worldwide.

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The symbol of this day is the lily of the valley. On May 1, 1891, a workers' protest took place in northern France, where ten people were shot dead, including Marie Blindeau, who was dressed in pure white clothes. As a tribute, the French adopted the small white flower as a symbol of the day.

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Where did International Labour Day originate?

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Who declared that May 1 would be International Labour Day?

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What is the purpose of International Labour Day?