

# Rise Up Americans... Poem for Martin Luther King Day. MLK Stood Up against War and Racism

By [Sherwood Ross](#)

Global Research, January 14, 2016

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

*Rise up! Rise up, Americans!*

*Too long have you delayed!*

*While imperial-minded presidents*

*Their cruel wars have made.*

*The hard-earned coin for which you toil*

*They waste on wars on foreign soil,*

*The liberties you enjoyed of late*

*They club to death in their police state.*

*Rise up! Rise up, Americans!*

*Take peace into the street!*

*Only the Pentagon gains from war*

*For the rest of us it's defeat.*

*MLK denounced the war in Viet Nam*

*As he would today's war in Afghanistan*

*As King stood up to racism*

*Let us stand up to militarism.*

*Rise up! Rise up, Americans!*

*Take peace into the street!*

*It is in our hands we hold our fate*

*Non-violent America, demonstrate!*

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