

## Phil Ochs

# "What Are You Fighting For"

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Pre>

C f em

Oh you tell me that there's danger to the land you call  
your own

F em am

And you watch them build the war machine right beside  
your home

C f em

And you tell me that you're ready to go marchin' to the  
war

Dm g7 c

I know you're set for fighting, but what are you fighting  
for?

Before you pack your rifle and sail across the sea  
Just think upon the southern part of the land that you  
call free

Oh, there's many kinds of slavery and we've found  
many more

I know you're set for fightin', but what are you fighting  
for?

And before you walk out on your job in answer to the  
call

Just think about the millions who have no job at all  
And the men who wait for handouts with their eyes  
upon the floor

Oh I know you're set for fighting, but what are you  
fighting for?

[this verse is not in the sheet music]

Turn on your tv, turn it on so loud

And watch the fool a smiling there and tell me that  
you're proud

And listen to your radio, the noise it starts to pour  
Oh I know you're set for fighting, but what are you  
fighting for?

Read your morning papers, read every single line

And tell me if you can believe that simple world you  
find  
Read every slanted word till your eyes are getting sore,  
I know you're set for fighting, but what are you fighting  
for?

And listen to your leaders, the ones who won the race  
As they stand right there before you and lie into your  
face  
If you ever try to buy them, you know what they stand  
for  
I know you're set for fighting, but what are you fighting  
for?

Put ragged clothes upon your back and sleep upon the  
ground,  
And tell police about your rights as they drag you  
down,  
And ask them as they lead you to some deserted door,  
Yes, I know you're set for fightin', but what are you  
fightin' for?

But the hardest thing I'll ask you, if you will only try  
Is take your children by their hands and look into their  
eyes  
And there you'll see the answer you should have seen  
before  
If you'll win the wars at home, there'll be no fighting  
anymore  
/pre>

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