

## By My Silence

2008 written by Ellen Bukstel & Nick Annis

*(Sara Thomsen's version at [echoesofpeace.org/land-of-plenty](http://echoesofpeace.org/land-of-plenty), adds a verse about Native Americans and also "I am innocent," which improves on the original. Our verse about Native Americans is very much based on Sara Thomsen's, only changing the tribal nations mentioned.)*

I'm not a communist  
So when they came for the communists  
I held my tongue  
Minded my own business like a good neighbor  
I trusted that justice be done  
I didn't ask what was their crime  
It was their sadness, wasn't mine  
I didn't care where they were sent  
By my silence I gave my consent  
By my silence I gave my consent

I am not Jewish  
So when they came for the Jews  
I had nothing to say  
Branded with stars, like cattle in box cars  
They were taken away  
I didn't ask what was their crime  
It was their sadness, wasn't mine  
I didn't care where they were sent  
By my silence, I gave my consent  
By my silence, I gave my consent

I'm not Tulalip, Saanich or Swinomish, Samish or Lummi  
When they came for the children, to boarding schools taken away  
I had nothing to say  
I didn't ask what was their crime  
It was their sadness, wasn't mine  
I didn't care where they were sent  
By my silence, I gave my consent  
By my silence, I gave my consent

I didn't care when they came for the unionists  
Came for the socialists, took the powerless  
I'm not a terrorist, I'm not an immigrant  
I am not one of them, I am innocent  
I didn't ask what was their crime  
'til their sorrow turned into mine  
'til their sorrow turned into mine

I was ok, I was a citizen and I was free  
I didn't care now there's nobody there

No one to speak out for me  
At the time I believed  
It never would happen to me  
I didn't know what it meant  
For my silence to be my consent  
By my silence I gave my consent  
By my silence I give my consent