

WORKERS

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PALESTINE: YOUTH AND NATION

JOURNAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY



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IF YOU WANT TO REBUILD BRITAIN, READ ON

WORKERS

“ And the winner was...

THE MOST important result of the EU election? 65.7 per cent of us effectively said “No to the EU” by not voting at all – the turnout in Britain was 34.3 per cent, down from 38 per cent in 2004. This ever-rising abstention is what frightens our rulers. How the minority voted matters far less.

Just 9.5 per cent of the people voted Conservative, 5.7 per cent voted UKIP, 5.4 per cent voted Labour, 4.7 per cent Lib Dem, 2.9 per cent Green Party, and 2.1 per cent BNP. (The BNP and the ultra-left both see the BNP’s 2 per cent as the most important result!) Just 5.6 per cent of people in Wales voted Plaid Cymru, while 8.3 per cent of people in Scotland voted SNP.

The EU spent 18 million euros on election “awareness”. But across the whole EU, only 43 per cent voted, down from 45.5 per cent in 2004. Turnout has fallen every year since the first EU election in 1979. Its leaders claim the election proves that the peoples of Europe want the EU. In the real world, it proves we don’t.

The ruling class wanted us to vote. The parliamentary parties and the ultra-left, the churches, the BBC, the newspapers and the

European Commission, they all begged us to vote. But we didn’t. We should celebrate that 65 per cent of us defied the pro-EU pleas.

Now the EU election is safely over, the Tories are renegeing – just as Labour did – on their promises to hold a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. Shadow Business Secretary Clarke said, “If the Irish referendum endorses the treaty and ratification comes into effect, then our settled policy is quite clear that the treaty will not be reopened.”

Our rulers clearly want the EU, not democracy. They probably want a nice solution to the expenses scandal along EU lines – MEPs can get expenses and allowances of £363,000 a year, including a £261 daily subsistence allowance for just turning up to sign their name on an attendance sheet. Each MEP costs the European taxpayer £1.8 million a year.

And that’s without counting the cost to Britain of the decisions they make – a heavy cost indeed.

We want democracy, not the EU. We want the referendum that all politicians promised. We should force the referendum on this dying government – referendum now!

”

Cover picture: Palestinian youth in a refugee camp in Sidon, Lebanon – see article, page 11. (Photo: Workers). WORKERS is taking a break for what we hope will be the summer. The next issue, the September issue, will be published at the end of August.



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Economy fails as jobs go

ALL THE parliamentary parties support the free trade policies that underpinned Labour's economic mirage, which has seen 1.3 million manufacturing jobs destroyed since 1997. In machine production, 30 per cent of the jobs have gone, and a £3.8 billion surplus in 1997 became a £17.4 billion deficit in 2007. In road vehicles, a £6.9 billion deficit worsened to £15.2 billion. In scientific and photographic equipment, a £0.9 billion surplus became a £0.5 billion deficit.

Officially, unemployment in April had risen to 2.26 million. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research forecasts that unemployment will carry on rising until 2011, to more than three million. Unemployment among 18-24-year-olds has risen to 16.6 per cent. In 1995, 20 per cent of this age group worked in manufacturing industry; by 2008, only 9 per cent.

The incomes of the poorest 20 per cent have fallen since 2005. In fact, wages have fallen more than we have ever seen. Only the rich have got richer. An economist with BNP Paribas said, "we will continue to lose jobs and we will continue to see downward pressure on wages."

Gordon Brown told us in June 2007 that deregulating Britain's banks would bring "the beginning of a new golden age". The same month, he told the City that growth was "expected to be stronger this year than last and stronger next year than this. We will succeed if like London we think globally ... advance with light-touch regulation, a competitive tax environment and flexibility."

After the financial crisis, the government bought the banks' debts as dearly as possible, so as not to penalise them, running up huge debts and printing money, to save the banks, whatever the cost to the economy. Worldwide, there are \$10 trillion worth of toxic loans, only \$1 trillion of which has been written off so far. Their own banking system can no longer work.

Brown has buried the Cruickshank report urging curbs on profiteering. He sank a plan to encourage new investment in industry. He has saved the tax havens and the shadow banking system. He has fended off demands to regulate the derivatives market and to stop banks gambling our money away in the stock market. He opposes even a 0.005 per cent tax on the \$1000 trillion annual trade in foreign currencies.

Now the Financial Reporting Council proposes to end audits for banks' subsidiaries, even though it was Northern Rock's subsidiary Granite that sank the Rock, when it held the lethal liabilities in £49 billion of mortgages that the Rock sold and moved offshore to Jersey.

EUROZONE

Negative growth

EUROZONE "GROWTH" will be between minus 4.1 per cent and minus 5.1 per cent this year. The European Central Bank's latest six-monthly financial stability review suggests euro area banks have absorbed barely 60 per cent of losses estimated for 2007-2010.

Industrial production in the eurozone is being hit badly, with a drop of 1.9 per cent in April alone. The year-on-year decline is a staggering 21.6 per cent, so April's figures provide no evidence of "green shoots". And worse is to come. Eurozone banks could face cumulative total losses of \$218 billion on their securities and an additional \$431 billion of losses on their loan books, a total of \$649 billion.

In 2007 and 2008 eurozone banks wrote off just \$150 billion of their loan exposures, meaning \$280 billion of estimated loan losses have yet to come home to roost. An International Monetary Fund report put expected write-downs by eurozone banks this year and 2010 at US \$750 billion.

European companies face losses too: they must refinance £2.4 trillion of debts over the next few years.

TRADE GAP

Up, up and away

BRITAIN'S TRADE gap in April was £7 billion, up from March's £6.5 billion, the Office for National Statistics revealed last month. Exports of goods rose by 0.5 per cent in the month, to £18.5 billion – but the value of imports went up by 2.5 per cent.

If you have news from your industry, trade or profession we want to hear from you. Call us or fax on 020 8801 9543 or e-mail to rebuilding@workers.org.uk

EUROBRIEFS

The latest from Brussels

European security police planned

THE EUROPEAN Union aims to have its first-ever internal security policy in force by the end of 2009. The proposal includes: a centralised EU ID card register; internet and satellite surveillance systems; and biometric and risk profiling. Jacques Barrot, the European Justice and Security Commissioner, said, "National frontiers should no longer restrict our activities."

An EU official explained these plans will need powers given in the Lisbon Treaty, adding that "The British and some others will not like it as it moves policy to the EU." The Treaty creates a new Standing Committee for Internal Security to coordinate policy between national forces and EU bodies like Europol, the Frontex borders agency, the European Gendarmerie Force and the Brussels intelligence-sharing Joint Situation Centre.

Not voting works

THE EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, expressed his disappointment at the low turnout in the EU election, saying voter apathy bothers him more than eurosceptics in the European Parliament.

No euro here

A COMRES poll reveals that just 28 per cent of us think that we should join the euro, with 68 per cent against. The poll also found that 88 per cent of us want a referendum before giving the EU any new powers.

The penny drops

EUROPHILE John Monks, General Secretary of the European TUC, has admitted, "The European Commission lacks credibility to regulate the market. It has encouraged flexibility and mobility of workers at the expense of security and quality of work".

Latvia told to cut budget

EU ECONOMIC Commissioner Joaquin Almunia has insisted that Latvia must implement and sustain budget cuts over the long term to get further loans from the EU and the IMF and avoid national default. The cuts include 20 per cent in all public sector workers' pay, 10 per cent in pensions and a 70 per cent cut in the future pensions of those still in work.



Pickers attending a strike meeting at Liverpool Station, London, at the start of the 48-hour strike on the London Underground by RMT members in defence of jobs and pay.

Photo: Andrew Wiard/www.reportphotos.com

Teachers sink Academy plan

GOOD NEWS from Newham, east London. On 17 June, Newham Authority went public in the local paper, *THE NEWHAM RECORDER*, announcing that it was dropping its plan to turn The Royal Docks Community School into an academy school controlled by Ark, a foundation run by merchant bankers and currency speculators. Now it is officially exploring the idea of a Trust School with the Co-operative College (part of the co-operative movement).

Given the local balance of forces and the fact that Newham has an Executive Mayor, who was initially in favour of the academy, this change of direction is a great step forward for state education, allowing the Newham family of schools to be retained.

The campaign to stop an academy and retain The Royal Docks has continued for ten months and has involved two extremely successful strikes, one a combined NUT/NASUWT strike with a joint picket line. There have been three public meetings and several mass leafleting projects of the local neighbourhoods.

The distribution of an anti-academy newsletter across the local Royal Docks ward during a by-election led to a fall in the Labour vote. Countless hard-hitting press articles appeared in both local newspapers, and there have been several emailings of local councillors.

Other activity included sterling work on the governing body; the creation of a dedicated network of local parents against an academy; the leafleting of seven feeder primary schools; lobbying by Newham NUT of the Authority and Mayor, followed by an NUT Deputation (and then an NASUWT deputation) to the Mayor; and finally under the auspices of the Newham NUT Secretary the coordination and sponsorship of exploratory meetings between the NUT, the Co-op and the Authority.

This sophisticated campaign has involved a sensitive interweaving of industrial action, mass campaigns, lobbying and negotiations. The basis of the campaign was always clear and principled, based on maximum unity of all who could be united in the community (including teachers, parents, students, and ultimately the Mayor), as well as the bedrock of unity between the unions at school level, linking the three teacher unions with positive support from other unions such as Unison and GMB.

The telling use of strike action that was organised, focused and directed at involving the community, promoted the concentration of ideas and was a lever for organisation across the borough. In the end, the campaigners sought to enlist the support of the Mayor, and though it was hard work, eventually he shifted tack, which needed courage.

The campaign illustrates that resistance can have an impact, and can be successful. Although from day one, many counselled the strikers and the union to give in, as "you won't get anywhere – it's a hopeless cause" – everyone remained true to their convictions and the Ark Academy has been sunk.

Obviously, the trust will not be a paradise but steps are already being taken to influence the working and educational environment of the Co-op Trust, to ensure staff and parents are fully involved and that their involvement in the progress of the school is extended. But the essential aim has been accomplished: no academy. The school remains within the authority, and other secondary schools in Newham receive a major boost as the academy bandwagon has been halted temporarily.

NEWSPAPERS**Progress in Glasgow**

JOURNALISTS at the DAILY RECORD and SUNDAY MAIL in Glasgow have suspended their industrial action over compulsory redundancies and changes in status for many members after the management backed down on several key issues.

The highly organised chapel (office branch) has been in action since April, with seven days of strikes and a work to rule, after management announced 70 job cuts out of a workforce of 240, and declared that 23 of them would be compulsory.

Eleven of the 23 have since been reinstated, and ten have left on enhanced redundancy terms. The chapel is still balloting on action over management plans

to merge the newsrooms of the two papers and introduce new editorial technologies. But significantly, the management has now agreed that there will be no further redundancies without consultation and agreement.

The dispute was marked by an active public campaign supported by local politicians, and also tight coordination with freelance journalists, who received union hardship pay for loss of earnings.

The agreement in Glasgow came in a week where the NUJ also celebrated victory in the case brought against member Suzanne Breen, the Belfast-based northern editor of the SUNDAY TRIBUNE, when judges refused to order her to hand over to the police her notes, computer files and other material relating to a story about the Real IRA.

Turnout mars Unison election

ELECTIONS FOR the new National Executive Council of Unison, the second-largest trade union in Britain and the largest in the public services, have concluded. They reveal a problem that can't be ignored: turnout.

For those elected for a regional seat the turnout was 6.5 per cent – a drop on average of 1.5 per cent from 2007's appalling figures. Those elected from service groups fared slightly better – 7.8 per cent.

What credible authority do those elected have? Successful candidates really only gleaned 3 to 4 per cent of the membership.

The positive is that the self-proclaiming "left" takeover of the union has flopped. Unison at NEC level is not occupied by an ultra-left squatting in the members' property.

The question of union democracy, of member participation, of renewal, resurgence if not survival should keep those newly elected and genuinely committed to their union and class awake at night.

FINANCES**Credit crunches further**

THE SUPPLY of credit has fallen to its lowest level since June 2000. Gross new loans to firms fell to just £7.9 billion in May, down from £9 billion in April and £12.6 billion in March. The banks have used our money to improve their profit margins and rebuild their capital positions, not to help to rebuild the economy.

Construction output fell by 9 per cent in the first quarter, much more than an initial estimate of 2.4 per cent. Officials from the Office of National Statistics said that "all things being equal", this could suggest the economy shrank 2.2 per cent in the first quarter.

Export orders have not risen, despite a 20 per cent fall in the pound's value. Retail sales volumes in May were 0.6 per cent lower than in April and 1.6 per cent lower than in the same month a year ago. Mortgage lending fell by 58 per cent from this time last year.

The public finances are worsening all the time. May saw the largest monthly government borrowing in history – £19.9 billion. The total outstanding government debt has risen to £774.8 billion, £150 billion more than one year ago, equal to 54.7 per cent of our GDP.

JUSTICE**Trial without jury**

THE GOVERNMENT is destroying yet another fundamental liberty, in force since Magna Carta. The Lord Chief Justice has ruled that the trial of four men accused of an armed robbery at Heathrow in 2004 must be heard by a judge sitting alone. This follows consistent government efforts to bring in judge-only trials for special offences and circumstances.

The trial would be the first crown court case in England and Wales to be heard by a judge alone using powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which came into force in July 2007.

WHAT'S ON**Coming soon****JULY**

Friday 17 July to Sunday 19 July

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival and Rally
Tolpuddle, Dorset

Music, speeches, and the annual march through the Dorset village to commemorate the struggle of the agricultural labourers transported to Australia for forming a union. Free.
www.tuc.org.uk/tolpuddle

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6 September

Burston Strike School Rally 2008,
Church Green, Burston, near Diss,
Norfolk.

The annual rally commemorates the strike and celebrates those who continue to fight for trade union rights. The rally kicks off at 11am, and ends at 4.30pm. Speakers and music. See <http://tinyurl.com/l6bd8v>

Thursday 10 September, 7.30pm

"The economy – why workers should run Britain"

Bertrand Russell Room, Conway Hall,
Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

The first in a series of three public meetings organised by the CPBML and Workers magazine (see advertisement, page 8). All welcome.

COLLEGES**Employers withdraw**

IN FURTHER Education and 6th Form Colleges, the Association of Colleges' initial 1 per cent pay offer, which they had acknowledged was an "opening" offer and which the unions dismissed as derisory, has suddenly become a "full and final offer".

Effectively the employers have withdrawn from negotiation. Spurious arguments about the funding crisis are being used to justify the employers' stance even though funding settlements have not been finalised and the evidence is that funding will be up by a margin of 4.5 per cent.

A campaign to reopen negotiations will now begin, starting with highlighting gross increases awarded by college principals to themselves to shame the employers back to talks.

Strange tactics and thinking: will shamefaced principals return to talks, offer 1 per cent, and the unions grab it with both hands? It's important to keep collective bargaining alive, but paralysis is rapidly spreading through the system.

Illegal immigration in London

THE GREATER London Authority is campaigning to “regularise” the position of illegal immigrants. It held a meeting at City Hall on 16 June to promote this, backed by a report pithily entitled, “Economic impact on the London and UK economy of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants to the UK”.

The GLA estimates that Britain has a population of some 618,000 irregular residents, 70 per cent of them failed asylum seekers. Some 442,000 live in London – a number equivalent to the population of the boroughs of Camden and Harrow. It claims that regularising their status could add £3 billion a year to national GDP.

The GLA goes on to claim that they might then generate £846 million in extra tax revenue (if they left the black economy but kept their jobs). It estimates extra public services costs at £1 billion and the cost of the regularisation scheme at £300 million. Net cost – £454 million.

The £3 billion a year would, it claims, accrue almost entirely due to higher rates of employment (6 per cent) and increased earnings, which would rise – it says – by 25 per cent! All this – in a recession! Surely employers would more likely sack workers than raise their wages by 25 per cent.

The Spanish government has regularised immigrants – and Spain’s unemployment rate is now 25 per cent. Adding to the supply of registered labour would inevitably drive wages down, not increase them. And what happens when millions more would-be migrants are attracted to make “irregular” (we used to say “illegal”) entry into Britain?

The missing costs

The report ignores the costs of providing the extra schools, health care and housing to meet the needs of the 618,000 extra people. (Earlier, it mentioned that meeting their housing needs might cost £6.2 billion, but more realistically – for once – conceded that it was more likely just to lengthen waiting lists. Its authors “forgot” to include this figure in the overall summary.) So the people would just continue to be crammed into the existing housing stock.

Similarly, the children already here are jammed into increasingly overcrowded schools and the ill into increasingly overcrowded hospitals. So the extra 618,000 extra people have meant more crowded houses, classrooms and hospitals.

This policy is driven by the employer (as Mayor Johnson’s support proves), backed by the Liberals, and opposed by workers.

As workers try to act in a concerted way nationwide, new devolved powers would seek to divide them...

Unity, not devolution

WITH CURRENT actions in the oil refining, postal and rail industries demonstrating their ability to think and organise nationally, British workers are showing how unity brings them strength. Indeed it is this consciousness that can create a sense of nation, while capitalists are happy to see disintegration, with no loyalties except to their own profits. They seek refuge in the European Union, now seeking to increase its powers through the Lisbon Treaty. Attempting to break national unity, the EU is creating “regions” with more and more devolved powers. This is a creeping assault on workers’ ability to achieve unity, and thereby strength and nationhood.

Now comes the latest twist in this saga. It is the government-sponsored Calman Report recommending extra powers for the parliament in Edinburgh, a further boost for Scottish devolution and a weakening of national unity. It will also be a further encouragement to those in power in Scotland seeking a total break, with an “independence” referendum to be scheduled for the next parliament. The EU project is seldom openly stated; whenever a new development is needed, a convenient “commission” is appointed to give its ‘independent’ report.

The Calman Report is no different, its outcome predictable. Created by Labour and subtitled “Scotland and the United Kingdom in the 21st Century”, its conclusions have been lauded by political parties across the “left-right” spectrum, with many on the “left” complaining that the new powers are not yet great enough.

Raising taxes

The real increased power in the hands of the Scottish parliament lies in it being granted an enhanced ability to raise taxes. The report – which an all-party committee is moving to ensure it becomes law before the next general election – will, just for Scotland, create a totally new tax system. This would make it much easier to achieve, at a later date, a fully independent and autonomous tax system.

In granting this measure of real power and responsibility to the Edinburgh parliament a change has been made far greater than the 1998 setting up of devolution. Divisions could now open up, such as stimulating the housing market with stamp duty levels lower than in England, differing taxes, as well as a host of other differing rules starting with government borrowing, road speed restrictions, drink driving limits, firearms, legal matters and new, Scotland-specific taxes.

It would spell an end to Britain’s unified tax system; and tempt tax avoidance and crime. It will hand to the current nationalist administration more autonomy, more power with an ability to create ever more distance between Scotland and the rest of Britain. With their control approaching half of all income tax it becomes quite a short road to future control of all income tax.

The next logical step would be for the Scottish parliament to acquire the power to raise all taxes and deduct a portion to finance those few remaining “reserved issues” dealt with in London. Discussion of some devolving of broadcasting, defence related matters and controls of social security is already happening.

The “gradualist” nationalists see all of this as leading to independence in all but name, with not even the need for a referendum on it (which, at the moment, they would undoubtedly lose). The Calman report is the logical extension of the original devolution settlement and shortens the distance left to travel to break up.



The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh – with three flags flying outside: the Union flag, the Saltire...and the flag of the European Union! What price Scottish independence?

The political parties have embraced a report that is proposing a far more radical transfer of powers from Westminster to Holyrood than they envisaged when they agreed to set up this commission following the Scottish National Party victory in the 2007 elections – and their unanimity will ensure a smooth and speedy path to the statute books.

The same as independence

Around the world there is no example of such a sub-national government with such full fiscal autonomy, if that were achieved: such complete control is synonymous with independence. With “exports” from Scotland to the rest of Britain worth £41.5 billion in contrast to its £18.6 billion of exports to the rest of the world, devolving taxes would seriously impede internal trade and harm workers’ livelihoods and living standards throughout Britain.

It is thought that moves to control major taxes such as VAT, National Insurance and Corporation Tax were narrowly defeated within the Calman

Commission. First Minister Alex Salmond’s opinion was that “In reality this report puts Scotland on the road to independence – not to strengthening its place in the Union”. The report also recommends that the Scottish parliament should now take control of running the elections in Scotland. Nor will there be a referendum on the report and its sweeping changes.

Meanwhile, on the back of this the SNP is reviving its 1970s call of “It’s Scotland’s Oil”, encouraged by the renewed vigour of the EU’s attempts to gather all controls over energy and energy policy unto itself. Of course, the SNP – and Labour – are friends of the EU and Alex Salmond never lets up in his calls to join the euro currency. There is no clear distance between him and his former employer, one of the biggest failed banks in the world.

With the collapse of Royal Bank of Scotland, Bank of Scotland and Dunfermline Building Society (in Gordon Brown’s constituency) the British taxpayer – British workers – were saddled with the biggest bailout in

history. And if Alex Salmond had his way, Scotland would have been on the rubbish heap of capitalism like Latvia, Iceland and, first to declare recession, Ireland.

Arc of calamity

In the fraudulent “boom”, Salmond trumpeted these countries as “the arc of prosperity”, to be emulated by Scotland. With over 50 new oilfields now to be opened up (with the help of tax incentives, of course) in the North Sea and with exploration advanced in the near North Atlantic, Salmond and the bankers have something to whet their appetite.

The details, just out, from the Government Expenditure and Revenues in Scotland annual report show that £12 billion is the likely revenue to go to the British Treasury next year from oil and gas extracted from waters around Scotland, and it is this money that separatists have their eyes on. Yet at least £50 billion has been spent on

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saving the Scottish arm of the failed banks!

This brings us to the point that all these politicians seem to have missed – their plots and plans have been dwarfed by the greatest accumulation of debt and borrowing ever amassed by the British state outside the world wars.

The great struggle for workers is to survive the onslaught on jobs, to fight against plummeting living standards, to create their own and better nation – and to achieve this unity is essential.

On small scales many are resisting this separatism. There is a struggle in the world of sport over putting forward united British teams – for example, the Scottish Football Federation has rejected

a single Olympic team, whereas both the Men's and Women's Volley Ball have formed all-British teams enthusiastically. There is a fierce argument going on in the legal profession over the formation of a single British Institute of Actuaries, with a vote on merger on July 23. Of course, similar arguments and moves to increased devolution are happening in Wales. But for workers a great goal would be to increase the bonds of unity, not weaken them.

British workers' unity grows

At last there are some "green shoots" showing in Scotland – and it's nothing to do with a recovery of capitalism; it is that at least some of its workers see the sense in a united resistance in Britain to capitalism in decline. Witness the solidarity shown in Scotland for the

Lindsey Oil Refinery strikers and their campaign for British jobs.

And possibly the most significant words spoken at this year's Scottish Trades Union Congress in Perth came from Fiona Farmer, the 2009 President and Unite regional officer. Tucked away in her opening remarks was an account of the all-Britain Trades Union Congress (TUC) – and the need, in these times, to keep the links close. Hints of the need for closer collaboration also came in an address from the President of the Welsh TUC, Vaughan Gething.

That such sentiments have reached the tips of the tongues of the top union officials is no accident – this year's vigorous actions against the imposition of the undercutting, cheap labour coming in under the EU flag have been Britain-wide.

CPBML/Workers

Autumn Series of Public Meetings, London

Thursday 10 September

The economy – why workers should run Britain

Thursday 15 October

Stopping the parliamentary road to fascism

Thursday 12 November

Marxism – why you should be a communist



All meetings are held from 7.30-9.00 pm Bertrand Russell Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Nearest tube Holborn. Everybody welcome.

Helped by the government's strategy of printing money, speculators are targetting the import and export of medicines – and the NHS is losing out...

Running out of drugs

BRITAIN'S National Health Service is beginning to experience a shortage of drugs as one of the effects of the capitalist recession.

The shortage has developed with the weakening of the pound sterling as the government has taken on massive debt and started to print money. It looks as though one of the effects is that speculators are now targeting British pharmaceutical supplies for export to more lucrative markets. Also it seems that there has been a dramatic slow down in the import of cut-price branded drugs into Britain.

Apparently when the pound was strong, "parallel traders" could buy drugs in Europe and sell them in Britain at a profit. There is evidence that these traders are now attempting to buy up British supplies, re-package them and export them at a profit to Scandinavia and Germany.

Waiting for medicine

Drug manufacturers and wholesalers have begun re-listing the quantity of drugs each British pharmacist, GP and hospital dispensary can buy. Pharmacists report that in some cases patients have had to wait days for drugs that have never before been in short supply. Apparently the change in this market could also lead to higher costs for the NHS as pharmacists attempt to recoup the loss of earnings.

These parallel traders want to import drugs into countries with relatively strong currencies that were originally manufactured, packaged and priced to sell in another country. To do so in Britain they must then apply for a licence to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

The latest data from that agency shows a 60 per cent drop in the number of applications from November 2007 to November 2008. This is apparently because a fall in the pound has made a lot of products "invaluable for importation" in the twisted jargon of the profiteers.

It is said that these "parallel traders"



Drug wholesalers are warning Britain could become "the new Greece"

are generally only interested in importing drugs where there used to be a 20 per cent difference between what they paid and what they could sell them for. The pound has fallen by more than 20 per cent in the last twelve months, wiping out much of that potential profit.

Parallel trading is extremely controversial, but not very well known. There have been claims that it has already caused drug shortages in countries such as Greece and Spain, which have been targeted by traders wanting to source low cost drugs. It is a sign of the depth of the British recession that the executive director of the British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers recently warned that there was a danger that Britain could become "the new Greece, or the new Spain".

In the midst of this situation British exports of pharmaceuticals appear to be increasing, again to make use of the

differences in price due to currency movements. Indeed there was a 33 per cent increase between May and June in 2008 for precisely this reason, and this produced an export figure 51 per cent higher than in 2007.

All this taken together proves something that we already should know – capitalism is bad for Britain. We might not have known that it was bad for the pharmaceutical industry but now we do. There is already a list of drugs dangerously close to being in short supply and these are needed for medical conditions ranging from hypertension and kidney problems through to transplant patients, seizures, obesity and bipolar disorder.

In order to ensure that we safeguard the future supply of pharmaceuticals we need, we will have to ensure self-sufficiency in drug supply, as in so many other areas of life.

Once again, the Lindsey oil refinery has become the flashpoint for the struggle for the right to work...

Contracting fight flares up again



AS WORKERS goes to press, sacked workers from the Lindsey Oil Refinery are holding a demonstration outside the plant near Immingham and burning the letters they have received, telling them they must apply for their jobs by 5pm on Monday 22 June. Needless to say, few if any would do so. Around the country, workers were walking off the job in solidarity strikes.

The dispute, which began on 11 June, has its roots in the preceding days. On 5 June, the national Shop Stewards Forum (SSF – stewards from both Unite and the GMB), met to endorse the recommendation from the national committee to begin the process of organising for a national ballot of the membership in the engineering construction industry on our demands for a new National Agreement Engineering Construction Industry (NAECI - Blue Book).

The ECIA (the employer's body) had rejected every demand bar one two days previously, including a zero pay offer against a 5.5 per cent pay claim and significantly a register of all unemployed workers that the employer must exhaust before bringing in any worker from outside the country. (British Jobs for British

Workers by any other name – an element of the claim that, oddly, the ultra-left seem to have no problem with, despite their fear and loathing for BJ4BW). A letter was duly despatched to the ECIA informing the employers of the intention to ballot.

“This action was a clear provocation...”

On Monday 8 June, an employer – Blackett & Charlton – recruited 60 workers. The following day some 51 workers employed by Shaws had Post-It notes placed on their clocking-in cards informing them of imminent redundancy that Friday. The trades concerned were a close mirror to that of B&C.

This action was a clear provocation to the workers of Shaws, who had been at the centre of the dispute earlier in the year. The question is whether this a deliberate ploy by the employers to pre-empt the battle on the horizon over the new agreement, to induce the most militant section into walking off the job in defence of the 51 redundancies. Actions to date suggest this may be so, with their constant references to the strike as “illegal”.

Total has played cat and mouse first by

sacking 647 workers, then with the stewards and full-time organisers by saying they will talk through the conciliation service ACAS, thus raising hopes of a settlement. On Friday, after keeping union negotiators waiting for four hours, Total repeated its statement about the strike being illegal and issued letters inviting the men to apply for their jobs.

There is also talk of Total's desire to mothball the plant at Lindsey and blame its late delivery on British workers rather than the blunders by the Italian contractor IREM (all welds failed and set the job back five months – now that's “specialist” workers for you!). Clearly a successful ballot would allow support, direction and control – guerilla action. What we have instead is sizing up for a toe-to-toe, and they've got bigger boots than us.

Provoking other sites into solidarity action allows the employers to repeat the “illegal” tag, and (if the employers and government dig in for long enough) to exhaust the enthusiasm for an “official”, and thus financed, struggle. Additionally, it shifts the focus from a struggle for the industry and its future, to one of “you're losing money for the sake of them at Lindsey, again”. That is not to say that support for Lindsey is wrong but that it puts a greater strain on our forces – a move that only benefits the employers.

An area where every job counts

THE AREA around Immingham in Yorkshire, scene of the most important industrial battle in Britain at present, is an interesting place. The “Pilgrim Fathers”, as they are known in the USA, sailed in 1608 from Immingham bound for Holland prior to their longer voyage across the Atlantic in 1620. They had come from the area just a little further inland around Gainsborough and Bawtry. Four hundred years later people in the area have decided to stay and fight for the right to live and work in their own country.

The port of Immingham, though upriver from Grimsby, in modern times has a much deeper channel, up to 70ft.

Immingham Dock was developed initially in the 1930s, and in the 1960s and 1970s the twin refineries were built at nearby Killingholme by Conoco and Total-Fina.

Modern supertankers draw too much water to reach Killingholme's jetties without a partial discharge at Tetney monobuoy at the Humber mouth. The oil is then pumped 17 miles to the refinery as the ship steams upriver to complete the pump-out at the jetty. If she were to discharge completely at Tetney, she'd be unmanageable in a wind.

This is Britain's largest port measured by tonnage. All the iron ore for the nearby Scunthorpe steelworks is landed there,

together with massive tonnages of coal both for steelmaking and power. The conveyor belts, bunkers, etc for coal handling were originally installed for exporting Yorkshire coal. In an area hit hard by de-industrialisation and the current depression, every job counts.

On the north bank of the Humber is Hull, connected to north Lincolnshire by the Humber Bridge, underused due to high toll charges. It is widely felt that this great, still underdeveloped estuary would thrive much better if the crossing were free. The debt remaining is quite tiny compared with Brown's largesse to the banks.

WORKERS visits Palestinian refugee camps – and finds a people with no intention of abandoning their nation and drifting around Europe seeking charity...

The refugees who don't abandon nation



Photo: Workers

A Palestine Liberation Official outside the youth centre at the Shatila refugee camp, site of a massacre by Phalange militia in 1982.

THE INCREASE of migration and asylum seeking has made this a recurring theme in the pages of *WORKERS*, where we have argued that workers should fight where they are. Instead of claiming persecution in their own country and finding a way to travel half way around the world to get to Europe, or specifically Britain, they should stay and fight their own class enemy or rebuild their country.

Sometimes, this means basing yourself in a friendly neighbouring country so that you can maintain your fight. For example, those South African ANC activists who could not stay inside the country because they were being hunted down continued to organise against the apartheid regime whilst being hosted in Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Angola.

Many SWAPO fighters were based in Angola until they liberated their native Namibia. With few exceptions, they did not get on the first flight to London and claim

political asylum or economic migrant status. They knew where their struggle was.

So it was with interest that our *WORKERS* correspondent was invited to visit Palestinian refugees in camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and witness first hand if and how they fitted into this concept.

The Middle East has for long been subjected to the control and interference of the imperialist governments of Britain and France. While Egypt and Sudan were effectively British colonies, it was the First World War that brought about the demise of Germany's ally, the Ottoman Empire.

Promises, promises

The British, using T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia"), encouraged the Arab revolt to attack the Ottoman forces, promising the creation of independent Arab states, including Palestine, while simultaneously promising the Hashemite

kings' control of Palestine and Iraq, and the Zionists a home for the Jews in Palestine.

Of course, no such thing happened, and Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq became new British colonies while Syria became a French colony.

For the next 25 years there was resistance to this colonisation resulting in independence following the Second World War. France carved up Syria before independence to plant the seeds of future division, so that it could continue to control part of the region. It separated Lebanon from Syria in an attempt to maintain control through its Maronite Christian stooges. It "gave" Antioch and the surrounding area to Turkey as a gift for its support during the war.

Britain "gave" Transjordan and Iraq to the Hashemites and handed Palestine to the UN in order to legitimise partition into

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

“Jewish” and “Arab” areas at the bidding of the Zionist Organisation and following terrorist campaigns by the Zionist Irgun and the Stern Gang. So just as in Africa, Ireland, and India, the colonial powers used religion and treachery to weaken and divide the post-colonial settlements in order to maintain influence and control.

The first wave of refugees with 750,000 Palestinians expelled from their land took place between 1947 and 1949 – before, during and after the partition in 1948 as Zionists drove Palestinians from their land both in the designated “Jewish” areas and the “Arab” areas. The intervention of Arab armies was unsuccessful in trying to stop this.

Some more refugees became internally displaced in what became Israel. Many more fled to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, (occupied by Egypt), and the West Bank, (subsequently annexed by Jordan). Some even went to Iraq with the retreating Iraqi army. Palestinians in the West Bank were given Jordanian citizenship as Jordan first occupied and then annexed the West Bank.

New wave of refugees

A new wave of 400,000 refugees was created in 1967 when Israel occupied Gaza, the West Bank and the Syrian Golan heights, including Syrian refugees, many fleeing for a second time. Many refugee activists were forced out of Jordan in 1968, and Palestinians living in Kuwait were forced to flee to Iraq following the Gulf war in 1991. Thousands of Palestinian refugees in Iraq had to flee to Syria and Jordan following the Anglo US invasion of that country and the resulting anarchy.

Most Palestinian refugees outside Israel and the Occupied Territories live in Jordan (2,000,000 Palestinian refugees, of whom 20 per cent do not have Jordanian citizenship and live in camps), Syria (250,000 registered without citizenship) and Lebanon (250,000 registered without citizenship). When the internally displaced refugees in the West Bank, Gaza and



Children learning English in a youth centre in Sidon.

Photo: Workers

Israel are taken into account, it is estimated that three-quarters of the Palestinian population have been displaced.

So how are they dealing with the situation they find themselves in as a consequence of Britain’s colonial legacy and as the forgotten people in what is considered one of the world’s most intractable conflicts?

Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, famously said of the refugees “The old will die and the young will forget”, hoping that they would disappear or become transient migrants in somebody else’s country.

But when you speak to the refugees in the camps, it became obvious that this strategy has failed. There are still old Palestinians who can remember being evicted from their land in 1948 and 1967 and who will tell their stories to whoever will listen.

Ask any child in a camp where their home is and they will find a map of Palestine and point to the village from where their family was expelled. Most of their parents still hold the deeds to the

land, which has long since been stolen, and the keys to a house, long since bulldozed to make way for a new settlement for Jewish immigrants from Europe and America. In Jordan, Palestinian charities are named after the villages from where the families of supporters of the charity were forced out at gunpoint in 1948.

Organisation and dignity

In the Yarmouk camp in Damascus, Syria, which accommodates 115,000 registered Palestinian refugees, the Coordinator of the Jafra Palestinian Youth Centre told WORKERS, “Our families have been refugees for sixty years and still there is no solution, just as there is no solution in Iraq. But we have to organise ourselves and maintain our dignity as Palestinians despite this, because Palestine is our home and our struggle. The two state ‘solution’ will not necessarily take account of the right of return of refugees because we can’t all squeeze into Gaza and the West Bank. There has to be recognition of the right of return, even if we don’t choose to exercise it. So we fight on. The main problem for us

to deal with in the camps is the youth. There is nothing for them to do in the camps and although they learn to read and write at the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] schools, there are no books to read. There is nowhere for them to play and no access to the 21st century through new technology. Yet these are the future generation from which the next generation of Palestinian leadership will come. They are our future and the future of our struggle. So we have to work for them and that is our struggle today.”

So the Jafra Palestinian Youth Centre, under the wing of the PLO, has set up a Computer Centre in Yarmouk, organising training in IT skills for children and young people. They also develop media skills, provide English language training, make films, perform plays, music and poetry and have plans to develop a children’s library that will also be accessible to the poor Syrians who live in the camp.

They also organise an annual Summer Camp for children from all the camps in Syria. This is not just about play, but about bringing boys and girls together at an early age, which is breaking a huge taboo, and making them aware of their rights, and in particular, their status as refugees. The kids also learn about respect for one another, the need for organisation throughout the camps and the concept of a secular democratic Palestine, so in the event of their return as part of a one or two state solution, they are prepared to be good citizens.

To enhance the education potential of the children, Jafra is developing a network of kindergartens through the camps to both allow pre-school children to learn through play and to help their parents work. Jafra hopes to spread its centres throughout all refugee camps in Syria. The Coordinator went on to tell WORKERS “Sometimes we have drug problems with the youth, mainly down to boredom, unemployment and poverty. We intervene to try to help them. Those we help successfully become motivated young people often working to support the Centre. Those we cannot help often turn to religion and cross the border into Iraq to

fight the Americans.”

Meanwhile, in refugee camps in Lebanon, the Palestinian Youth Centres have been successfully up and running for some time and provided the model for the first Youth Centre in Yarmouk, Syria. At the Shatila camp in Beirut, which accommodates 10,000 Palestinians, the centre is flourishing.

The PLO Official responsible for all the Youth Centres in camps in Lebanon told WORKERS “The UNRWA schools have not expanded at the same rate as the population of the camps. Given our situation, education is all that we can offer the next generation. So the Youth Centres provide extra education, training and skills development and provide the kids with useful and recreational things to do. We are not permitted to work in Lebanon and don’t have the money for expensive higher education. We need to make sure they attend school, and we provide extra English language training as well as developing computer and media skills and cultural development.”

Massacre

This camp was the scene of a massacre in 1982 carried out by the Lebanese Phalange Militia. One eyewitness described to WORKERS what happened: “While Israeli General Ariel Sharon watched through binoculars from a nearby tree-covered hill, the Phalange entered the camp early in the morning and began silently killing mainly women and children with clubs and bayonets. The killing went on for three days and at one stage they buried alive some 400 of our youth in Sport City, a nearby stadium. 4,000 were killed in total, not the 2,000 that the world was told about, including many Lebanese who lived in the camp.”

When asked why he thought the massacre was committed, he replied, “It was to strike fear throughout the Palestinian refugee camps and to make us flee and become transient illegal immigrants in Europe and other Middle East countries. I myself was smuggled through eight countries to Germany but I returned”. When asked why he returned

“There is a growing movement to take responsibility for the future by nurturing the next generation...”

from a job in Germany to poverty in Shatila refugee camp he replied “You can’t change your skin or your nation. Germany was not my country. Palestine is my country and this is my struggle.”

In a refugee camp in Sidon, South Lebanon, an enclosure of poverty surrounded by wealth, the young woman running the Youth Centre told WORKERS “If the kids drop out of school, they end up on the streets and join either gangs or religious fanatics. We try to keep them in school and help them develop skills, social responsibility and motivation for the future.”

In Jordan, political activity had been restricted in the camps ever since the events that became known as Black September in 1968. However, a Youth Centre is being developed in Baqa’a camp where 80,000 Palestinians live. And in Gaza, a youth centre was operating successfully in difficult conditions, but was a target for Israeli bombs earlier this year.

Palestinians have their own serious political divisions, not a subject for this article. What is obvious to this observer from WORKERS, however, is that there is a growing movement to take responsibility for the future by nurturing the next generation of Palestinians in the refugee camps, developing their skills as well as developing a secular, respectful outlook. There is a determination not to allow the Islamisation of the Palestinian cause in the camps and to maintain their struggle under very difficult conditions.

They are an honourable people that do not want to desert their land to become itinerant migrants. How different from those so-called “asylum seekers” queuing at Calais to be smuggled into Britain.

A new biography looks at the life and work of Frederick Engels, survey of the condition of the English working class was the pre-
authorship of the **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**...

Western philosophy's 'greatest intellectual



Frederick Engels, one of the founders of Communism

THE FROCK-COATED COMMUNIST: THE REVOLUTIONARY LIFE OF FRIEDRICH ENGELS, by Tristram Hunt, hardback, 443 pages, ISBN 978-0-712-99852-8, Allen Lane, 2009, £25.

TRISTRAM HUNT, a lecturer in British history at Queen Mary, University of London, has written a fine biography of Frederick Engels, who was Karl Marx's co-author on the **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO** in 1848. He shows how Engels developed by working through Shelley's poetry, Strauss' **LIFE OF JESUS**, Georg Hegel's **PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY**, Ludwig Feuerbach's critique of Christianity, and Thomas Carlyle's two volumes on Cromwell.

Hunt notes how Engels was both a patriot and an internationalist. Engels reported capitalism's human costs, first in Barmen in Prussia, then in Manchester, in the brilliant **CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ENGLAND**, written in 1844, where Engels wrote, "I accuse the English bourgeoisie before the entire world of murder, robbery and other crimes on a

massive scale."

Apart from his work on the **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**, Engels made a huge contribution to **DAS KAPITAL**, "the foundation text of scientific socialism and one of the classics of Western political thought". His work with Marx was "Western philosophy's greatest intellectual partnership".

Engels was a great enthusiast for science. In one of his letters he notes: "Darwin, by the way, whom I'm reading just now, is absolutely splendid." As a materialist and atheist, he knew that matter existed independently of, and before, any consciousness.

Hunt notes that "(Engels) always believed in a workers' party led by the working class itself (rather than intellectuals and professional revolutionaries)". He worked in the General Council of the First International and with Britain's trade unions.

Against colonialism

Engels opposed colonialism and supported the Indian and Chinese peoples' wars for independence. Hunt writes, "When it came to the raw politics of race, Engels was always on the right side." He exposed the ruling classes' exploitation of the colonies' raw materials, cheap labour and unprotected markets. In 1882 he forecast, "I would consider a European war to be a disaster; this time it would prove frightfully serious and inflame chauvinism everywhere for years to come."

Hunt concludes, "He remained that restless, inquisitive, productive and passionate architect of scientific socialism who first emerged in the 1840s. ... His critique speaks down the ages". For example, his insight that "the modern state was merely a front for bourgeois class interests", the growth of finance

capital, the instability of capitalism, its inevitable crises and its absolute decline.

THE SPIRIT LEVEL: WHY MORE EQUAL SOCIETIES ALMOST ALWAYS DO BETTER, by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, hardback, 331 pages, ISBN 978-1-846-14039-6, Allen Lane, 2009, £20.

LACKING THE CONCEPTS of class and class power, many academics are troubled by an unattainable ideal of equality – that is, of income – and the persistence of inequality. The authors of this book, Richard Wilkinson (Professor Emeritus at the University of Nottingham Medical School) and Kate Pickett (Senior Lecturer at York University) show how this inequality is at the root of many health and social problems in capitalist societies.

They write, "The evidence shows that reducing inequality is the best way of improving the quality of the social environment, and so the real quality of life, for all of us." A fine idealist sentiment – leave capitalism in place but try to put more of a squeeze on it! In other words, let's emulate Sweden.

They point out that more equal societies (those with a narrower gap between rich and poor) have lower levels of mistrust, illness, status insecurity, violence and other stressors. "Social structures which create relationships based on inequality, inferiority and social exclusion ... inflict a great deal of social pain", worsening all society's problems. Over and again, the USA does worst, and Britain next worst.

As they prove, health and social problems are more common in countries with bigger income inequalities. Sweden has lower death rates than England and Wales for working age men across all occupational groups, and for infants. The death rate in its poorest 20 per cent is lower than in our richest 20 per cent! Obesity rates are lower in more equal societies.

Women's status and child wellbeing are better in more equal societies, which provide more paid maternity leave. In

whose brilliant
clude to joint

partnership'

more equal societies, children experience less bullying, fights and conflict. More equal societies like Finland and Belgium have better educational levels across all social groups than Britain or the USA.

Drug use and mental illness are less common in more equal societies; so are teenage births and divorce. More equal countries have shorter working hours and more social mobility: of eight developed countries, the USA had least social mobility. US bankruptcy rates rose most in those states where inequality had risen most.

The consequences

If Britain were as equal as Japan, Norway, Sweden or Finland, we would all live a year longer, we would have seven more weeks of holiday every year, mental illness, teenage births, obesity, imprisonment rates and murders would all be halved.

The authors conclude, "If you want to know why one country does better or worse than another, the first thing to look at is the extent of inequality. There is not one policy for reducing inequality in health or the educational performance of school children, and another for raising national standards of performance. Reducing inequality is the best way of doing both."

How do we achieve this more just society? To their credit, the authors don't suggest by just voting for it, or waiting for the government to do it for us. They write that we must "stand up to the tiny minority of the rich."

Quite. But as capitalists they have the state acting on their behalf. As workers, for a start we need to recruit to our trade unions, because the more trade union members there are, the more chance of reducing income inequality. If we want a better society, we will have to work for it.

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1870, by Will Podmore, reviewed in the June issue of *Workers*, is now available from Bellman Books, price £10 including p&p. To order, send a cheque, made out to **WORKERS**, to CPBML Publications, 78 Seymour Avenue, London N17 9EB,

Continuing our series on aspects
of Marxist thinking

DEMOCRACY AND THE EU

We the working people of Britain created our own democracy. We had the advantage of living in an island, so there was no issue between ourselves and foreign countries over the definition of borders. We denounce and disown the traitor class who tried and try now to use Britain as a base for seizing other countries.

Countries' borders are always porous – ours as much so as any other. Daniel Defoe's hugely popular satirical poem of 1701, *The True-Born Englishman*, proved that no such person exists: we are all of mongrel stock and the stronger for it. But those who live here and feel they belong here, who work here and raise their families here, are British no matter where they were born.

Britain is for the British working class – to own and to run.

It has not always been so. There were still slaves in Britain when the *Doomsday Book* was compiled (1086). The king was a tyrant even when forced to sign *Magna Carta* and concede the right to trial by a jury of one's peers. The peasants were still serfs after 1381, when their revolt was put down. But the hunger for democracy was stirring over these centuries, and the tide began to turn with the Civil War and Commonwealth of the 1640/50s, which saw the end of absolute monarchy in Britain and the assertion of the mass in the New Model Army.

When, a century later, the greedy land-owners began to enclose the common land, and capitalists opened factories in the towns with offers of work (14-hour days) for dispossessed villagers, people flooded into the towns and, out of the depths of despair, invented a new twist on democracy: trade unionism. Organised in unions, workers won the 10-hour day and then the 8-hour day, and could stand up and face the employer and the world, with pride in their trade, money in their pockets and affirming this country as their country.

This has been the root from which real British democracy, British rule over Britain, began.

But now we find ourselves with our laws made by a foreign body, daily asserting extra powers for itself, trying to force us into a single economy with a single currency, soon to establish a single armed force, already attempting to impose its Constitution and Head of State upon us.

We fought off Napoleon and Hitler and their would-be pan-European dictatorships. We the people demand rule by the people (true democracy). Not rule by professed "representatives" – they don't represent us. Cut out the middlemen. We demand a referendum: Britain out of the EU now!

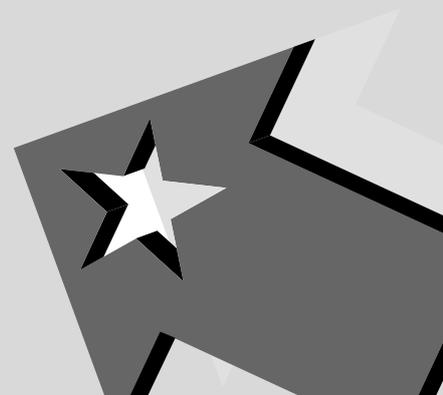
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Back to Front – Looking after ourselves

‘Capitalism pursues its interests – we as workers must pursue ours...’

CAPITALISM IS hell-bent on destroying any structure, society, nation state, or people who get in the way of its unrelenting pursuit of profits. Its devouring of the seed corn of future survival, of people, of any principle or remnant of human dignity has brought it to its present economic debacle.

Capitalism pursues its interests – we as workers must pursue ours. Every use of language, every question posed should be prefaced: who is this from? Who is it for? Whose interests does it serve? Every defining question throughout society runs down that class fissure which is so deep and fundamental in this the oldest and first capitalist nation.

When they talk of social cohesion they mean segregation and apartheid.

When they talk of truth they lie.

When they talk of peace they mean war.

When they talk of equality they mean inequality.

Their war on terrorism means a police state against us all.

Our workers’ nationalism is different from nationalism of the imperialist, the racist or non-socialist nations. Workers’ nationalism is based upon class. We are for the unity of all in our nation. Division on grounds of race, of colour, of gender, of age, etc, weaken and undermine our reaching out for the building blocks for the future.

Capitalism is not going to perish of its own accord. The **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO** spoke of the working class as the gravediggers of capitalism. So now is the time to get our hands dirty then? To do that we must assert the unified interests of the working people of Britain.

For example: if you want to resolve issues of climate change then deal with its source – capitalism. Stop blaming

industry. If you want to resolve the misnomer globalisation then stop proclaiming powerlessness, the victim culture, in the face of supposed unbridled globalised capitalism. Recognise that this problem was analysed and explained over 150 years ago in the **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**.

If a survival plan for Britain is desperately required, then all the things capitalism promotes for its survival – free movement of capital, free movement of goods, free movement of labour, freedom to exploit, freedom to rob, steal, loot – we should oppose.

What would our survival plan be? Stopping the export of capital, re-establishing import controls, re-establishing control of our borders, rebuilding our industries and services, re-equipping, re-training, planning a future to meet the aspirations, hopes and expectations of future generations. And how that simple cry of ‘British jobs for British workers’ has set such a frenzy and clamour among those who supposedly rail against capitalism but are terrified of genuine working class action to defend itself.

Some in a developing nation might accept such a call, but not us in Britain. But Britain needs to develop its strategy of national liberation and withdrawal from the European Union to become a liberated nation. Let all of Europe follow suit as the EU implodes and takes its fascist origins with it to hell.

There is no place for subservience or fatalism in this period. There are no universal human rights other than those you fight for, nothing is given at birth. There is no one other than ourselves to take responsibility for solving our own destinies.

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