

WORKERS

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BUILD A BRITAIN FIT FOR THE YOUNG

A LEAFLET FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY SEPTEMBER 2020

WHAT KIND of system turns its back on the young? Only one where the short term reigns, where planning for future generations is an unaffordable luxury. That is capitalism at the start of the 21st century.

The A-level grades fiasco, so damaging to many tens of thousands of young people, is also a symptom. It shows carelessness in every sense – not just slipshod, but lack of care, abandonment of care.

Even before Covid young people were bearing the brunt of capitalism's decline – priced out of housing, deep in debt from higher education, working for free for months just to have a chance of a paid job, forced by financial pressure to delay having children themselves.

Then came Covid. Swift to close schools and universities, slow to open them again once the low levels of risk were known, too many involved simply didn't care that a whole generation was missing half a year's education.

And not just education. Young people's physical and mental health have also been hit.

Who will pay?

We face huge job losses and deep cuts in public spending. Who will pay the bill for slump, for the furlough, for the bailouts? All of us, but mainly the young.

That doesn't have to be their fate, our fate. From 1 January 2021 we become an independent country once more, free of the shackles of the EU. Free to invest in our own future, to build a country fit for young people.

This is no time to be passive, to allow the interests of profit to continue to dominate. We can't allow subservience to the



Student protest against the A-level grades fiasco, Parliament Square, 16 August 2020.

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free market of the EU to be replaced by subservience to the untrammelled global market.

Take Back Control was one of the slogans of Brexit. But we need to do more than take control back from Brussels: the people of Britain must take that control for ourselves.

We can do this. This is the same working class which asserted itself by spurning the EU in the 2016 referendum, which refused to be cheated of its decision by the ensuing overwhelmingly pro-EU parliament and establishment. Which

showed its care for the young by fighting for a decent future.

It is the same working class which has shown its intellect, courage, skills and knowhow in dealing with the Covid crisis when government floundered.

Big changes are coming. There will be a great struggle between the forces both for and against progress. Whether workers were for Brexit or not, it's now time to pull together.

Courage is needed. Let's put the interests of the young at the heart of our plans for the future.

TAKE CONTROL: BUILD THE NEW BRITAIN

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Real jobs for a real future

WIDESPREAD JOB losses are inflicting great damage, especially given the high levels of personal debt in the country. But what kinds of new jobs must be created? Where will young people find work?

The services sector, particularly financial services, dominates our economy. Yet financial speculation creates no new value at all – it just moves money around, mostly into the pockets of the very few.

Let's redirect the economy into real production which creates the goods and services which people need.



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The provision of essentials – the primary responsibility of any government – has failed miserably during the Covid crisis, most obviously with the dire shortage of PPE and ventilators. “Just buy it in on the global market” didn't work at all, exposing the unplanned and dangerous just-in-time practices they relied on. We need instead the just-in-case security of planning for future needs.

And the importing of cheap, often shoddy, goods, like the importing of cheap labour, is not what we need. It's not just environmentally wasteful. Eventually, it leads to the importing of the same wages and conditions that produce the cheap imports.

Reliance on foreign companies to provide

our energy needs, materials, trains, cars – the list goes on – must end. Our national security depends on it.

We must increase our capacity to feed the nation. A farming policy which emphasises food production equally with protection of soil and environment. They are interdependent. An end to the increasing reliance on food imports!

We still manufacture many things here. Britain currently trades with 111 countries under WTO rules. As we leave the EU we do not need a trade deal or to be part of any trade bloc or US-led trade war. Rather we need to invest in existing and new necessary industries.

Make it here!

Plan for long-term industrial expansion. End reliance on importing what we need. Stop being at the mercy of long overseas supply chains. Make it here! Why encourage a cycling “revolution” but neglect that bicycles are hardly made here at all?

Significant money must be put into the training and skills required to achieve expansion. Industrial unions are calling for this, seeing the benefits that Brexit can bring. Crucially, we need high-quality apprenticeships – the present system is largely a low-paid going-nowhere joke.

Only workers know what we need. Only workers have the interests of their country, their communities, at heart.

The employers and their masters, the finance capitalists of the City, have dragged this country down to where it is now. They are hardly the ones to bring it back up.

Brexit is nearly done. We must turn our attention to the fight to forge an independent country which alone can provide a future as part of a real economy for our young people. The fight will be long and hard, but if we want a future, we are going to have to create it ourselves.

WORKERS

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YEARS TOO LONG

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ABOUT US

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

stands for an independent, united and self-reliant Britain run by the working class – the vast majority of the population. If that's what you want too, then come and join us.

All our members are thinkers, doers and leaders. All are expected to work to advance our class's interests. All must help to develop our understanding of what we need to do and how to do it.

We distribute *Workers*, leaflets and pamphlets online and in our workplaces, union meetings, communities, market places, railway stations, football grounds – wherever workers are, that is where we aim to be.

What do we do? Rooted in our workplaces, communities and trade unions, we use every opportunity to encourage our colleagues and friends to embrace the Marxist practice and theory that alone can lead to the revolution that Britain needs.

We have no paid employees, no millionaire donors. Everything we do, we do ourselves, collectively.

We hold public meetings online and (Covid permitting) around Britain, in-depth study groups and less formal discussions. Talking to people, face to face, is where we have the greatest impact and can learn from other workers' experience.

Interested in these ideas?

• Get in touch to find out how to take part: email info@cpbml.org.uk

Worried about the future of Britain? Join us!