



- ★ General election now
- ★ Cost of living crisis
- ★ Cut profits, not wages
- ★ Tax wealth
- ★ Fund social care and social security
- ★ End fuel poverty
- ★ Nationalise energy, water, mail and rail
- ★ End Britain's low pay crisis
- ★ Tories out - Scrap anti-union laws
- ★ End the housing crisis
- ★ Build council homes
- ★ End outsourcing and the privatisation of NHS and public services

unity!

Their crisis is capitalist *Our solution is socialist*

Nick Wright
FIGHTBACK

THE TORY government is a crisis government living from scandal to mistake, from cock-up to conspiracy. Johnson's 'faked up' levelling up strategy and his self-made disaster-prone administration scared Tory MPs into thinking they would lose their seats.

When the Establishment coup deposed Tory backwoods' heroine Liz Truss it showed just where the deep power of our bourgeoisie lies and how ruthless our ruling class is when things get out of control.

We now have a government that big business and the banks, the security establishment and the markets want.

We have had three prime ministers and four chancellors without an election. The transfer of office from one administration to another was carried on in seclusion with the indulgence of two unelected heads of state over the heads of the people.

Rishi Sunak's government is not only led by parliament's richest man, it is run in the interests of Britain's super rich.

While the wealth of the few hundred thousand of the richest people balloons, millions of working people and their families face a chill winter of rising prices, runaway energy bills and price inflation.

The unaccountable Bank of England has pushed up interest rates and dashed the housing hopes of millions with a mortgage famine and mounting mortgage rates.

The big business media, the *Times*, the *Telegraph*, the *Financial Times* – backed up by the BBC – tell us that Sunak and Hunt plan spending cuts and tax rises of up to £50 billion year on year.

Of course these measures are presented as inevitable. The blame is placed on the tanglefoot economics of Kwasi Kwarteng and the arrogance of Liz Truss.

But this crisis is capitalism's long-time crisis

made out of austerity, privatisation, NATO's provocation and a decade of wage freeze and rooted in the inherent contradictions of a system that has been in perpetual crisis since the 2008 financial meltdown

Much blame is put on the costs of Covid but the example of China, Cuba, Vietnam and other South East Asian states shows the coronavirus crisis could have been managed without the immense human costs people in the Western capitalist world endured.

Our trade unions are beginning to put up a real fight for pay and are winning big battles. Our demonstration on Saturday 5 November will show solidarity with every worker on strike, the many working families enduring frozen pay and benefit cuts, the many on NHS waiting lists, the people, young and older trapped in housing insecurity or homeless.

It is not only for democracy that we call for a general election now but for a chance to fight for a better life than that imposed on us by capitalism's crisis.

The government want cuts in public spending that will degrade our already desperately under-funded public services, social security, health and education services.

It is planning to meet our inevitable resistance with a new batch of repressive laws including legal limits on trade union activity, strikes and protest with new police and public order laws.

With the Tories deeply divided and their 80-seat majority looking rather ragged it should be Labour's chance to challenge the Tory policies. But Labour's front bench doesn't disagree on the essentials of the Tory approach to public finance and stays mostly silent on these attacks on our freedoms and living standards.

The 5 November demonstration, the many strike movements, the rising tide of community action and protest, the threat of rent strikes and tenants action are signs that the fight back is gaining strength.

Phil Katz
GOVERNMENT

THE COMMUNIST PARTY has warned the labour movement against complacency after the Tory Party's slump in the opinion polls and the fall of Liz Truss

The Bank of England, the City of London and its financial markets sacked Truss because she had no coherent, credible strategy for subsidising big business profits from a fresh round of severe public spending cuts', young communists' leader Johnnie Hunter told the late October meeting of the Communist Party's political committee.

As Rishi Sunak moved into Number Ten, Johnnie Hunter said that the change of prime minister had showed who really runs Britain.

'Far from being wise, moderate forces for stability, these casino capitalists were prepared to create contrived chaos in the bond and currency markets in order to replace Britain's shortest-serving prime minister with its richest-ever one'

'As in the 1960s and 1970s, these same forces would turn ruthlessly on any Labour

government that puts the interests of working people and their families above those of monopoly capital and the super-rich.'

Britain's Communists said the struggle facing the working class and peoples of England, Scotland and Wales was against not only the Tory government but against a vicious ruling class offensive to slash living standards, public services and trade union and civil liberties.

The Communist Party urged trade unions, the labour movement and the left not to underestimate the capacity of the Tories and their business and media backers to spread lies and divisions between now and the next General Election.

'Our response must be to support and spread industrial action, turn out in our thousands for the TUC-backed demonstration in London and local picket lines on 5 November and to demand positive left and progressive policies from the Labour Party leadership', said the Young Communists' leader.

PHIL KATZ IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Solidarity call in Cuba

Kevin Nelson in Havana
COMMUNISTS

DELEGATES FROM 73 communist and workers' parties from 57 countries – meeting in Havana – have adopted an anti imperialist action plan to strengthen the unity of the workers' movement.

A final declaration agreed by consensus focused on the global economic and political situation and proclaimed: "United we are stronger in the anti-imperialist struggle, together with social and popular movements, in the face of capitalism and its policies, the

threat of fascism and war; in defence of peace, the environment, workers' rights, solidarity and socialism"

In a well received speech British Communist Party chair Ruth Styles told the conference: "Today millions of workers in Britain are on the move in a strike movement of unprecedented scale and intensity."

What is distinctive in the present movement of the working class is the clear articulation – by the main leaders of this strike movement – that the issue is the contradiction between the interests of wage earners and the employers." >>>Page 2



Published by the
Communist Party
Ruskin House
23 Coombe Road
London CR01BD

communistparty.org.uk



THE RICH, THEN AND NOW

The National Government is not only a rich man's government, it is a government of rich men. It not only acts for, but consists of leading sections of the ruling class. Chamberlain himself has sprung from a rapacious family of Birmingham capitalists – a section of the ruling class that rivals even the Durham mine-owners in its aggressive and reckless search for profits.

Harry Pollitt Communist Party general secretary's speech to the Fifteenth Communist Party Congress, September 1938



Straight Left

Stewart McGill on tax and growth

Truss and Kwarteng have gone: the power of 'the markets' also has to go. Firstly, the basic premise of the doomed mini-budget budget, that tax cuts for rich people lead to economic growth, is garbage.

The rich want tax cuts for their usual venal reasons but let's bring in the US Congressional Research Service's report on the matter.

"...changes over the past 65 years in the top marginal tax rate and the top capital gains tax rate do not appear correlated with economic growth. The reduction in the top statutory tax rates appears to be uncorrelated with saving, investment, and productivity growth."

<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R42729.pdf>

Following the previous Tory administration's mini-budget the pound collapsed to record lows, but climbed back to its pre-budget levels very quickly on the back of the restoration of the 45% tax rate, despite this representing savings of only around £2 billion. Nothing fundamental had changed, this was just a correction after some market profiteering and overreaction.

Pressure on the gilt markets remained. The markets also don't buy this idea that tax cuts for the wealthy will give us growth. There is talk of further austerity spending cuts in order to placate these markets and reduce government debt as a percentage of GDP.

Apart from the obscenity of spending cuts to pay for rich people's tax cuts, we need to put this in context. Government debt as a percentage of GDP is actually around 63% when you strip out that which is owed to wholly government-owned bodies: historically this is low and much less than that which applies in other major economies, see the table below.

Remember that these markets demanding placating are part of the financial sector that took us to the economic brink in 2008: they didn't object to the spike in government debt necessary to rescue them from the consequences of their incompetent greed, these are not the people that you want to be deciding economic policy.

I don't often quote Bill Clinton, but when he was told in 1993 that if he pursued his full package of spending commitments, the Federal Reserve would simply raise interest rates to protect the value of government bonds even at the risk of recession, his response was trenchant:

"You mean to tell me that the success of the programme and my re-election hinges on the Federal Reserve and a bunch of fucking bond traders?"

Don't let the Tories' embarrassment, and the folly of Truss's belief in trickle-down economics, obscure the fact that the financial sector is exercising a veto over government policy; if you want real change, be aware that this sector is an enemy whose power will need to be confronted and destroyed.



▲ Glasgow young communists took to the streets to protest at the appointment of multimillionaire Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister. Protesters marched through Glasgow city centre, stopping to visit the headquarters of local big businesses.



▲ The first Harry Pollitt political school organised by Britain's Young Communists featured a packed programme of speakers from across the left and labour movement. Meeting in the People's History Museum in Salford the school was named after the legendary Manchester-born boilermakers' leader and communist Party general secretary Harry Pollitt

Young Communist League general secretary Johnnie Hunter said: "Our school aims to provide an opportunity for young communists, trade union militants and students with an opportunity to learn, socialise, exchange views and experiences and build the struggle for socialism with comrades from across Britain."

"This weekend has been an excellent start in building a new communist tradition in Britain, combining theory and practice and our dedication to strengthening Britain's labour, student and progressive movements through political education and practical organisation".

CULTURE MATTERS

Ex-teacher and writer and poet) Kevin Patrick McCann is the administrator of the popular Culture Matters Facebook page. He invites people to send in articles, poems reports about cultural activities e.g. poetry, writers groups, book launches, art exhibitions, drama groups...and of course critical pieces, and book reviews
hello@kevinmccann.co.uk

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Opening comments – made by the Cuban Comrade Morales Ojeda, organisation secretary of the Cuban Communist party – referenced the international and multi-dimensional crisis of capitalism, the unsustainability of the current world order, the unity of the Cuban party, state and people and the commitment to the Cuban party to the ideas of Jose Marti, Marx and Lenin.

Cde Morales Ojeda said "what unites us all: communists, socialists, revolutionaries and workers? We are united by anti-imperialism, which summarises the common effort to conquer a world of peace and greater social justice".

The closing ceremony was attended by Cuban president, Miguel Diaz-Canel. He spoke of the centrality of work and example to the socialist project; the importance of marxist ideas and of testing them in practice; resisting and standing up to imperialism worldwide; the value of Communists learning from and reflecting on each others experiences in unity.

KEVAN NELSON IS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

If not you, who? If not now, when?
Join the Communist Party
www.communistparty.org.uk



Trade unions and the crisis of capitalism

The present strike wave is reviving militant trade unionism in new and innovative ways.

Communist trade unionists are in the thick of these struggles and drawing on their experience and the history of the working class movement have set out the Communist Party's ideas on building and rebuilding the trade union movement.

A new pamphlet tackles the position of unions in Britain today and focusses on the battle for leadership and how left unity and organisation be built.

Giving priority to building unity in the workplace and the unions the pamphlet tackles the issues faced by Broad Left organisations

Drawing on more than 100 years of deep involvement in the working class movement and in particular, the 1970s class battles the pamphlet sets out the role of the Communist Party and argues the case for socialism and working class state power.

£2/£1 unwaged at www.communistparty.org.uk



Capitalist crisis and the road to socialism!

This report of the Communist Party's 56th Congress details the progress made by the party, analyses weaknesses and strengths, gives an account of the leadership's activities and reviews the political events of the preceding years.

It brings up to date the party's analysis of the present state of capitalism's crises and sets out the tasks of the party and labour movement for the next period.

£2.00 from www.communistparty.org.uk



Britain's Road to Socialism audiobook launched

The programme of the Communist Party – *Britain's Road to Socialism* – is now available as an audiobook. The first instalment was launched at the TUC on 20 October.

The audiobook is free, though donations to cover the cost and future productions are welcome.

The audio book is available at <https://www.communistparty.org.uk/listentosocialism> and on the Communist Party YouTube channel.

The audiobook is voiced in a full range of accents and dialects and plans are in hand to produce a Welsh language version. You can now listen to socialism, on the bus, in a train, in your car, while on your way to work or even while doing the shopping!

The audiobook is in a format that works effortlessly with all mobile devices and computers.



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