



Unity!



TORIES OUT!

HYPOCRISY

JOHNNIE HUNTER POLITICS

THE THOUSANDS who thronged the streets of Manchester to tell Tory delegates that they were not welcome had no illusions that that in choosing Manchester as the site of their conference that the Tories had any regard for its people.

This suspicion was swiftly confirmed by Sunak's decision to abandon the HS2 link. Tory MP have already priced in the loss of the 'Red Wall' Northern seats they picked up from the ruins of Labour's Brexit betrayal. Even the window dressing of Johnson's 'levelling up' agenda is now abandoned.

The Tories face a wide-ranging cull of seats as Tory voters sense that the party they voted for is as indifferent to their cost of living crisis and housing costs as it is to Northern voters whose fleeting support looks likely lost.

Labour's lead looks impressive on paper and reflects a real sense that the Tories are a busted flush. But impressive though the numbers are the underlying logic suggests there is still sense in the new Tory strategy.

Labour's lead is more a rejection of the Tories than any real enthusiasm for anything Labour is offering.

In this climate – where an absolute majority of voters express distrust of all politicians – the festival of reaction played out in the Manchester Arena's smaller venues is aimed at mobilising a new reactionary core of voters. These are animated by a war on the 'woke', dog whistle racist calls, anti migrant sentiment, purile petrol head prejudice against speed and emission controls, climate change denial, crackpot criminology and plain misogyny.

The key component of this toxic package is a doubled-down demand for corporate tax cuts, deregulation and an intensified drive to turn every school, hospital, doctors' surgery and child care setting into a profit centre. And this accompanied by an interest rate policy designed to plunder the bank accounts of working people in order to boost bank

profits. This is allied to an energy policy similarly structured to ensure a constant flow of revenues and thus dividends to energy company shareholders.

Every river and coastline is turned into a sewer while revenue gouging water companies load our public utilities with debt, channel dividends abroad and surcharge customers to pay for the capital investment neglected ever since privatisation.

Sensing that they face a dramatic loss of seats Tory strategists are setting out, well in advance, an economic programme designed to make working people pay for the deepening capitalist crisis.

Even the dimmest Tory MP knows that the present Labour leadership has no intention or desire to offer a radical challenge to fiscal rectitude, Treasury orthodoxy or the kind of austerity economics that the Con Dem coalition pioneered.

Tories expect a spell in opposition and hope to profit from the inevitable despair and demobilisation that follows every Labour government that fails to satisfy the most pressing needs of working people.

Sunak has effected a costume change from mild mannered middle manager to *capo dei capo* of a corporate conspiracy. Attacks on benefit levels and a license extended to Suella Braverman to siphon off the racist swamp are added to the prime minister's almost gleeful abandonment of what are supposedly legally binding climate change commitments.

Where once Conservatives and Labour competed to build the most council houses now both accept an interest rate regime and a marketised housing system that leaves many homeless, more in pressing debt and millions burdened by unsustainable rents and mortgages.

Britain is broken and only a resurgence of working class action can change the politics of our nations and change the balance of class power.

JOHNNIE HUNTER IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

▲ **Above left**
Young communists take the lead at the Peoples' Assembly demonstration at the Tory Party conference in Manchester

▲ **Above right**
Gaza City apartments destroyed by Israeli bombs and missiles. *Palestinian Peoples Party picture*

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STATEMENTS
PALESTINIAN,
ISRAELI AND
BRITISH
COMMUNISTS

Kevan Nelson GAZA

OUR GOVERNMENT and all the parliamentary parties offer the Israeli government unconditional support even as its minister of war calls the Palestinians 'human animals' and initiates a ruthless bombing campaign that has killed over 2,000 Palestinian civilians and devastated Gaza City above.

In a flagrant breach of international law that forbids acts of collective punishment Israel is visiting the weight of its NATO-supplied ordnance on a people who have no means of defence and no refuge. Two and a half million people are now deprived of water, food and electricity while their flight south is bombed.

There can be no toleration for double standards and no justification for the killing of non combatants. Every attack on civilians is a reminder that the suffering imposed by the Nazi regime and its collaborators on Jews lay behind the international agreement that established Israel's borders.

Israel's capture of Palestinian land beyond these 1948 borders and its subsequent measures to contain and control Palestinian society whilst even more Zionist settlers take their land is what drives Palestinian resistance.

Gaza is a prison, in which Hamas is licensed by Israel to rule and is financed through their Qatari connection.

Netanyahu argues that all opposed to a 'two state' solution must accept this as a measure to undermine Palestinian unity. Likud, the Israeli right and Hamas feed off each other.

For Gazans Sderot, the garrison town a few thousand yards from the border is sited on the land of the Palestinian village of Najd, which was purged of its population in 1948.

Imagine the feelings of these Palestinians who gaze upon the land of their forefathers.

The hypocrisy of our politicians and media is unashamed. With rare exceptions the voice of the Palestinians is muted. The horrors inflicted on Israelis along this border in the

course of a grotesquely unequal armed struggle, and over a few days, is constantly referenced and rarely compared to the decades of deprivation, torture and imprisonment of Palestinians.

Only in death is there a rough equality.

But in the end, as the government of Israel lets loose the dogs of settler violence to pursue its policy of eclipsing the Palestinian nation, it is Israelis and Palestinians who pay the price of a peace denied in which their children can live side by side and in respect for each others sovereignty.

Talk of 'terrorism' brands the resistance of the Palestinian people as illegitimate while the bombing of Gaza is characterised as 'self defence'. We communists support the struggle of the Palestinian people, for a free and secular Palestine alongside.

We support the call of Israeli and Palestinian communists for two states side by side on the borders established in 1967, with Jerusalem as a shared city across all religious groups. Talk of any kind of state becomes irrelevant until Israel stops bombing and ends the occupation.

Can 75 years of daily violence by the Israeli army and armed settlers be excluded from the counting when the violence ceases to be one-sided and Israel suffers a tactical defeat? Israelis have been shocked out of their sense of impunity. Buttressed by support from the West Israel has been able to do whatever it wants for decades. It has sabotaged every prospect of peace with justice and settled hundreds of thousands of settlers on stolen Palestinian land.

War is war and to stand with the Palestinian people in their resistance is not to endorse Hamas or approve of every act committed in war.

To characterise every act of Palestinian resistance to Israeli military force as terrorism stands in the way of understanding and justice.

KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY



NEWS & VIEWS

‘Photography has become an indispensable and outstanding means of propaganda in the revolutionary class struggle. Thirty or forty years ago, the bourgeoisie already understood that a photograph has a very special effect on the viewer. For an illustrated book is easier to read and more likely to be bought, and an illustrated paper is a more entertaining read than the lead article of a political daily.’ **Willi Münzenberg** 1931 Communist International propaganda chief



Straight Left Stewart McGill

What if Corbyn had won...



Likely resistance to a left-wing government

THE REACTION to Corbyn’s impressive election performance in 2017 indicated the extent of the ruling class’s fear about a genuinely left-wing government coming to power, even one as moderately social democratic as Corbyn’s Labour. The most anti-racist politician of the last 40 years was condemned as an antisemite, and videos were released of British paratroopers shooting posters of Corbyn.

What does this foreshadow if a serious left-wing government is elected in Britain? Let’s look at sources of the “bourgeois resistance,” with a focus on the Bank of England and the lessons deriving from the fall of Truss.

A crisis was provoked by the reaction to Truss’s policies but a major part of the crisis was actually down to a regulatory failure by the BoE and its refusal to fully support the Truss government.

Without defending Truss, but her policies would not have made such a serious dent in the structural government deficit as some suggest. The government debt:GDP ratio remains low by historical standards and compared to other advanced nations, particularly as 35 per cent of the debt is owned by the Bank of England – a 100% government owned subsidiary – itself.

There would have been adverse consequences from Truss’s policies but would have taken a long time to play out. So, why did her government fall in weeks?

The Establishment, including, the Tory Party grandees never thought she was up to the

job. She further enraged them by sacking the Treasury Permanent Secretary, only appointing ministers from her own Tory tribe and failing to get the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) to check Kwarteng’s budget.

The OBR was an austerity instrument instituted by the massively unsuccessful-by-any-standard George Osborne. The country survived for a long time without it. I found myself in rare agreement with Rees-Mogg when he asked “why is everyone making a fuss about the OBR? Most of their forecasts are massively inaccurate anyway.”

The markets – always inclined to magnify trends – over-reacted to the Truss budget. But over the three days following the pound fell by 2.2 per cent relative to the euro, and the FTSE 100 stock index declined by 2.2 per cent: significant, but hardly enough to bring a government down. The real problem came though the impact of falling UK government bond (gilts) prices on the pension market.

The big change came in the price of 30-year gilts which experienced a 23 per cent drop. This was down not to a cataclysmic collapse in investors’ expectations but to a technical problem deriving from the BoE’s failure to regulate pension funds properly. The funds had bought long-term gilts with borrowed money and entered contract positions that generated huge collateral demands when gilt prices fell. To raise the necessary cash, they had to sell more of their holdings of gilts, this sell-off created a downwards spiral in which declining prices and forced selling compounded one another.

This is a little technical and did not get any real coverage in the press. However, if the financial establishment, the Tory hierarchy and their media had been a little more inclined to support Truss, I think there would have been a lot more coverage and focus. As it transpired, there was a media pile-on about how the reified “markets” hated Truss and there was no confidence in her Britain. The pound collapsed to just over a dollar for a short while; despite there being very little change to the country’s underlying economic circumstances

The BoE of course did not offer to take the blame. But as a result of its regulatory failure it was forced into an emergency intervention to save the pension funds, buying gilts to put a floor on prices. But it arbitrarily refused to extend its support beyond 14 October even though its purchases of long-term government bonds were fully indemnified by the Treasury. This struck me as very odd at the time and wholly inconsistent with their mandate to ensure financial stability. However, it is consistent with provoking instability aimed at changing the composition of the government.

This extended the sense of crisis, and the market view came to be that Truss has to go to restore confidence. When she resigned, there was a serious hike in the value of the pound, again with no material change in the

capabilities of the underlying economy. There were major sell-offs in global bond markets in early October due to fears about inflation and interest rates, and gilts are at about the same level they were in the ‘dark days of the Truss regime.’ But there is no clamour to get rid of the government, it’s all seen in the context of ‘global market conditions.’

Lessons

We have no sympathy for Truss, and she deserves none, but we need to be worried about the power of the financial sector veto, however it is exercised, and secondly, the contrived fixation on the size of the government deficit that the Establishment uses to discipline and restrain governments.

Dealing with the climate emergency and building socialism, two sides of the same coin in my view, will require serious utilisation of government resources, including money.

The government raises money by selling gilts: the Covid emergency necessitated government borrowing between March 2020 and July 2021 of £413bn, the BoE’s total purchase of gilts for that period was £412bn, or 99.5 per cent of the total, showing the importance of the Bank in financing the government. If an independent BoE does not want to support a government, it will not, see above. This will provoke a run on the pound, increased costs of government borrowing, a withdrawal of investor funds and an investment strike by industry, all of which will be heightened by a hysterical bourgeois press.

Any leftist government needs to be prepared for this. The BoE’s independence of democratic control should be ended and alternative means of financing economic activity, not just government activity, should needs to be devised. The financial sector needs to be controlled as does the BoE: even before their independence they tended to act in the interests of the financial sector, particularly regarding tax havens and the establishment of the eurodollar market to circumvent exchange controls.

Prepare for government and a fight!

The Establishment will give it all up without a fight. The soldiers filmed shooting Corbyn’s image were ‘disciplined’ not sacked. Was the videoleaked to send a message?

In 2015, a serving General told the *Sunday Times*: “The Army just wouldn’t stand for it (scrapping Trident, pulling out of NATO etc) The General Staff would not allow a prime minister to jeopardise the security of this country and I think people would use whatever means possible, fair or foul to prevent that. You can’t put a maverick in charge of a country’s security.”

Remember this, and how the security forces used a complicit media (and chorus of Labour MP) to cast Corbyn as a threat to national security. Ask whose security?

★ <https://www.declassifieduk.org/how-the-uk-military-and-intelligence-establishment-is-working-to-stop-jeremy-corbyn-becoming-prime-minister/>



Unity Reporter ENERGY

WITH THE COLD setting in once again the Tories have no plans to address fuel poverty and the right wing Labour leadership have ruled out public ownership or any meaningful plans to support working people. All the while the energy monopolies are making super profits.

The Communist Party is demanding that energy and fuel prices are cut to an affordable rate and frozen. This could easily be funded by a rise in corporation tax and an emergency tax on the obscene profits made by energy monopolies in the last two years.

The party is also calling for an above inflation rise in the Winter Fuel Allowance for the eight million citizens who receive it already.

These are measures to get us through the winter months. But the dominance of energy giants is the real issue.

All of these companies must be nationalised and the energy sector taken into public ownership to guarantee capped prices and the reinvestment of all profits for public good, not to line the pockets of shareholders.

JOIN THE PARTY’S COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Communists are fast approaching our Congress and what is certain to be a period of increasing activity and struggle.

The party’s communications team needs comrades across the three nations to come to the fore and improve our work at the local and the all Britain level.

If you have skills in the following areas or in other areas you think would be useful, we’d like to hear from you:

- ★ Photography ★ Film ★ Graphic design
- ★ Art ★ Text editing and layout
- ★ Leaflet and poster design ★ Social media management and content writing
- ★ Merchandise and fashion
- ★ Event planning and management

Please contact johnniehunter@communistparty.org.uk with some information about yourself, what work you are interested in and any questions.



POLITICS & ORGANISATION

Yet subservience to spontaneously developing forms of organisation, failure to realise the narrowness and primitiveness of our organisational work, of our “handicraft” methods in this most important sphere, failure to realise this, I say, is a veritable ailment from which our movement suffers. It is not an ailment that comes with decline, but one, of course, that comes with growth. **VI Lenin** *What is to be done?*



BUILDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS INFLUENCE

▲ Most lively contingent on the People’s Assembly demonstration at the Tory Party conference was the Red Block.

And the Young Communists caused a panic at the Tory press.

Executive Committee resolution

If our growing Party is to:

- expand further in numbers and influence; build its resources;
- efficiently and effectively implement the decisions of this and former congresses; analyse and respond to the intensifying challenges of the ruling class;
- engage fully in the class struggle in a fast-moving and complex environment and devise appropriate tactics in every area of its work, it will need urgently to address, strategic organisational issues at every level.

The Party’s strategic organisation will be rooted in the agreed political priorities of the Party, enabling it to deliver them and ensuring that the requisite resources — comrades, technology, finance, and space — are secured.

Recruitment and Retention

For this to happen, we will continue to be a ‘recruiting Party’. This will involve all BDNs, together with the all-Britain leadership. Our challenge is to build a party that reflects the communities in which we live and work. A particular focus will be on the recruitment of women, Black members, and young people. The Party centrally will ensure that its electronic and hardcopy publications speak to potential recruits and applicants.

We will regularly review the recruitment process to ensure that it is as streamlined and welcoming as possible, without compromising its necessary rigour. We will involve recently recruited members and branch recruitment officers in this process in order to take into account the strengths and weaknesses of current practice and develop procedures and practices accordingly.

We will work systematically to improve the experience of new members, ensuring that

branches support, and rapidly integrate them into their work.

We will work to retain members, providing mentoring, training and education and incrementally allocating tasks requiring greater responsibility and commitment. This will enable us to develop cadres of the future and address succession planning in branches and at every level of the Party.

Particular attention must be paid to retention, and engagement of people from minority communities, who are very under-represented in the Party. Districts and nations will review how they work on anti-racism and anti-fascism, and how they engage with the issues of major concern to minority communities. They will set up Black Members and Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism (ARAF) advisory committees as part of their work. All districts and nations will ensure they have representation on the all-Britain ARAF and Black Members’ Commissions and that an efficient two-way reporting system is in place.

The Party will make renewed efforts to encourage all women Party comrades to be active. All districts and nations will strengthen their links with the Party’s Women’s Commission. Districts and nations will bring together women comrades to strengthen our work on women’s issues arising in workplaces, the labour movement and communities and, crucially, will support the building of a strong, unified, and progressive women’s movement in Britain.

Work with the Young Communist League will be expanded and regular joint meetings at all levels of the Party will be organised in order better to address the recruitment, retention and development of young people; an understanding of issues of focal importance to them, and support for their campaigns and initiatives.

Strengthening CP branches, districts and nations

We will build stronger BDNs, able to organise campaigns and engage members, as well as undertake vibrant work at all levels. Work on ‘Communist Renewal’ will continue as a bottom-up approach supporting branches, districts and nations in their development, and we will develop digital tools to enable branches to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

We will review our all-Britain, district and nation structures to see if they are fit for purpose. We will increase the number of branches to enable more members to attend and participate at local level in the communities in which they live and/or work.

We will ensure that all BDNs have effective communication systems that tie in with the Party’s all-Britain Communications Strategy and reach every comrade on a regular basis. BDNs will organise online and in-person events on international and domestic matters to ensure party members are up to date and fully apprised of the Party’s analysis, campaigns, and activities. BDNs will promote *Party Organiser* and *Party Line* and encourage every comrade to engage with the Party’s website and social media. At the same time BDNs will ensure that all comrades understand and adhere to the Party’s Media Protocols and the demands of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation.

Political education and training

The Party will develop and maintain a Marxist education programme at all levels of CP organisation.

Trade union work is vital, and this must be stressed to all recruits. Work must be done to improve our industrial work. This should include making a greater impact in the trade union and labour movement, through our positions in union branches, trades councils and the structures of the Scottish, Welsh and regional TUCs. However, the Party cannot assume that all comrades are equipped to take on responsible roles and leadership positions in mass organisations and will develop a skills programme which will aim to assist comrades in this vital work.

Our digital work underlies all our activities and campaigns. It is therefore a priority to ensure that the Party is able to harness the possibilities offered by information technology for its governance, management, organisation, communications, record-keeping, and database operations. We will train comrades to take on this vital area of work and ensure that staff and volunteers are up-skilled appropriately.

The Organisation Committee

The Party will audit and review role and function of the OC including its responsibility to and communication with the Party EC and elected lead officers; organisation of international diplomatic links with embassies and sister parties;

development of domestic external relations with the labour movement, the peace movement and left and progressive campaigns; strategic recruitment and membership arrangements; arrangement of communications; the practical organisation of Party commissions and advisory committees; employee and key volunteer management; the running of the central office; the finance and accountancy functions of the Party; fundraising; supplier contract management; resource management; and oversight of practical arrangements for events, meetings; campaigns and demonstrations. The OC will, in liaison with Party districts and nations, develop and promote its pro-forma for the Party’s organisation for — and participation in — all-Britain mobilisations.

The Executive Committee

In due course, the EC will work with the OC to update, publish, and promote the Party’s *Organisation Handbook*. This will reflect all changes made as a result of the reviews and developments agreed above.

The EC will ensure that, during the next inter-Congress period, all levels of the Party move forward on succession planning.

The incoming EC will provide an interim report on progress in respect of all of the above to an online meeting of Party districts and nations prior to their biennial congresses in 2024 and a full report to the all-Britain Congress in 2025.

The incoming EC will produce a Strategic Organisation Plan, taking the above forward, as quickly and effectively as possible.

CONGRESS NEWS

Sister Parties

International secretary Kevan Nelson reports that leaders of Communist and workers’ parties in South Africa, India, Ireland and Belgium will be guests at the party’s Congress over the weekend of November 3-5.

Congress procedures

Zoom sessions to familiarise participants at the forthcoming Communist Party congress are planned for 19 October at 6.30pm and 28 October at 10.30am, former party chair Anita Halpin is leading the sessions. Details: congress@communistparty.org.uk.

Help out at the congress

The party’s central organiser Judith Cazola is asking for branch, district and nation leaders to encourage volunteers to work at the congress. She is looking especially for First Aiders, safety specialists and comrades with technical skills. Accommodation and transport can be covered. Call her on 07736500398.



POLITICAL DISCUSSION

“Clearly, not uncritical apologetics but penetrating and thoughtful criticism is alone capable of bringing out the treasures of experiences and teachings. Dealing as we are with the very first experiment in proletarian dictatorship in world history

Rosa Luxemburg *The Russian Revolution*



▲ *La Discussione* by Renato Guttuso 1960
‘I was a child of ten or twelve years old and I remember, one evening, a procession with a red flag, the first red flag of my life.’
Guttuso on the birthday of the Sicilian poet Ignazio Buttitta



Society and culture

The Draft Resolution proposed by EC is for attention of members of CPB. It is not a document to be widely circulated among the population at large. However, once Congress has voted, the Resolution will inform the message in content and in style that comrades will take out into the world. Therefore the message, and more particularly the presentation of the message, matters.

The Draft Resolution is extremely narrow. It does not address the nature of the society and culture of the country we live in today as lived experience. It is as if the last sixty or seventy years never happened. After the second world war ended – the process had been developing during the war – this country changed massively. The immediate post-war years of Labour government Austerity politics also produced two innovations which changed the country out of all recognition. They also changed the fundamental nature of the working class, but maybe not the Labour movement. These two innovations are the welfare state and the consumer society. They appeared at the same time, both consequences of the same forces at work, albeit from very different directions; and of course they have dialectical relationships with each other – as well as everything else.

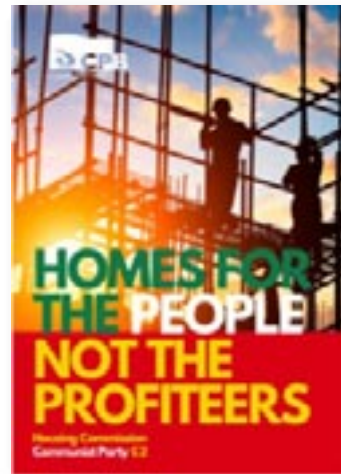
Of course the ruling class – our class enemy – adjusted its ideology to assimilate

these seismic changes. The working class has barely done so even today. Increasing commodification, mass-marketing and advertising, public relations, in a setting of political consensus on full employment, an immense house-building programme, and educational opportunity for all: this was unprecedented. I think we on the left have never fully understood how this affects ideology and class consciousness. EC Draft Resolution mentions ‘consumers’ a couple of times, casually and routinely, without any attempt to give it meaning. Similarly ‘class-consciousness’ and ‘political consciousness’ are mentioned briefly. Do they mean the same thing? There is no attempt at explanation. Is it assumed we all understand the meaning, and that there is consensus on that meaning? ‘Mental health’ is mentioned once, again casually, with no attempt at discussion. Many seem to think that there is a significant increase in instances of individuals suffering mental ill-health. So far so anecdotal, but do we all agree on what we mean by the term? We may vaguely have a notion that environmental – society, family, social and economic – conditions may be a factor, some strongly believe mental health issues have physical causes. Maybe there is validity in both approaches, and dialectical interaction between the two!! We can of course keep fudging it, or arguing that it should be left to the experts. Or, as a Communist Party, we could have a materialist discussion to sort out a clear position. I would be strongly in favour of that. We could perhaps relate it to ideology, class-consciousness, the increasingly bewildering state of our culture which is now allied to every kind of insecurity and threat of catastrophe: to being “customers” overwhelmed with “choice”: to the descending levels of nutrition in food while levels of toxicity rise: and while so much conflicting information from so many “experts” only confuse and divide us, and the very fabric of society disintegrates.

The neo-liberal counter offensive beginning in the seventies found traction in the population precisely because of the ideological priming of previous decades. Dialectical analysis might suggest that in class struggle advances also carry with them seeds of future reverses. We have been living the consequences of this for too many years, but not adequately explaining it either to ourselves or to working class people. Maybe the message has been good – maybe. The style needs to be customised, and the delivery needs to be a lot more relevant to a lot more people.

I recommend all comrades read *Chicken Soup With Barley*, the play by Arnold Wesker, written in the nineteen fifties. It has much to say about working class political activity, and about class consciousness. It is certainly educational. The EC Draft Resolution really should reflect some of this.

Malcolm Parker
Oxfordshire and Berkshire Branch



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A WORKER WHO READS

The young Alexander conquered India. *Was he alone?* Caesar defeated the Gauls. *Did he not even have a cook with him?* Philip of Spain wept when his armada went down. *Was he the only one to weep?* Frederick the 2nd won the 7 Years War. *Who else won it?* Every page a victory. *Who cooked the feast for the victors?* Every 10 years a great man. *Who paid the bill?* So many reports. So many questions. Lines from **Bertolt Brecht's** *A Worker who Reads*

GUIDES FOR WORKERS AND STUDENTS

INFORMATION AND AMMUNITION Manifesto Press launch new Workers' & Students' Guides series

Paul Macgee
RADICAL PUBLISHING

PUBLISHED EARLIER this month the Manifesto Press' *Workers' and Student's Guides* aim to provide a solid foundation for informed discussion that challenges the facile prejudices and myths imposed by bourgeois hegemony. Where ideological discussions spring from daily life, the mass media and the world of work the *Guides* aim to arm working people with the arsenal of ideas that serve the aim of winning working class political and state power. This series bridges the divide between the Zeitgeist discussion and the political and cultural reality. The information is applicable and relevant to the reader's everyday life as a worker, influencer, negotiator, and a participant in the cultural conversation. They will also provide a means of questioning the dominant narratives fed us by the media, a tool that can undermine the bourgeois hegemony at source.

MATERIALISM & IDEALISM

In Marxism & Philosophy in the 21st Century: Materialism & Idealism, C. Ritchie accessibly considers the history of philosophy in relation to Marxism. Ritchie describes the differences between Ancient Greek atomists, empiricism, 18th and 19th century idealists, metaphysics,

Descartes, materialism, and post-modernism. Ritchie considers the modern understanding of freedom, and the difference between choice and variety. He also examines Antonio Gramsci's concept of hegemony, and his views on the importance of intellectuals.

C. Ritchie has written on other aspects of Marxism, as well as, two books and many articles on comedy. He has had 30 jobs, was a lecturer for over a decade and worked extensively in the catering industry. C Ritchie now runs AVzounds.co.uk a spoken word/music production company, mixing 'radical speech with lo-life beats.' He lives near the River Tees.

THE TOP TEN ECONOMIC MYTHS DEBUNKED

The Top Ten Economic Myths Debunked by Stewart McGill discusses the most potent myths promoted in the capitalist world: the Luddites were thugs; the arrant nonsense about public finances and taxation; the exaggerated role of private capital in innovation; the value to the economy of the finance sector; the supposed benefits of free trade; the neglect of the importance of the manufacturing sector and the exaggerated reports of its demise; the 1970s being a time of economic disaster; capitalism "rescuing" billions from poverty and inflation being down to both natural economic laws, and working people daring to ask for a pay rise. McGill urges the reader to seek understanding beyond the myths the bourgeois media promotes, and provides people with the analytical tools and facts to do so.

STRAIGHT LEFTS ON INFLATION

In his monthly column for *Unity*, Stewart McGill revives the hard-hitting Straight Left column from the 1920s Communist Party's paper, the *Workers Weekly*, the forerunner of the *Daily Worker*. This book is a compilation of McGill's various writings on political economy since the start of 2022, with a focus on those dealing with inflation, the most far-reaching crisis of this period. His writing focuses on solutions that would limit the impact of inflation on the poorest, and forestall the damage inflicted by the inflationary cycle, particularly through limiting the profiteering ability of energy companies and others. This is an important compilation that exposes the myths about inflation perpetuated by a compliant and unthinking media.

SOCIALISM OR EXTINCTION

Sunak's abandonment of many of the government's commitments render *Socialism or Extinction* – originally written before the Glasgow COP26 Climate Change Conference and now revised – even more immediately relevant. It is being relaunched as (i) the planet's prospects have not improved since the autumn of 2021, and (ii) the sector-

by-polluting-sector analysis remains powerful in exposing the fundamental impossibility of real change under capitalism. *Socialism or Extinction* considers the climate crisis sector by sector focusing on energy, transport, agriculture, fashion, food retail, and steel.

McGill considers the laws of capitalism which govern those sectors and will continue to destroy the environment; unless we destroy capitalism and replace it with a more rational economy beyond the profit imperative.

Stewart McGill used to work in the financial sector. He now teaches martial arts for a living and writes on political economy and football.

ORGANISING IN OUR TRADE UNIONS

Nigel Flanagan in *Organising in Our Trade Unions* expands on his 2023 book *Our Trade Unions*. *Organising in Our Trade Unions* attempts to 'create a new debate and new energy, with inspiration from successful trade union struggles. These are in our own history and in the Global South in countries like Kenya and Morocco.' Flanagan considers union power in Africa and argues for a revitalised role for the trade union membership.

Nigel Flanagan is a long-standing activist and organiser, who has worked all over the world including Africa, Russia, India, and Palestine. He is the author of the book *Our Trade Unions* described as a 'bruising read' for trade union activists and a producer of the film biography of Jack Jones.

Each printed volume costs £10 and ebooks are priced at £5 with discounts of between 5-15% being offered when customers buy multiple titles from the series in a single transaction.

The official launch event will be held at Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School on 27 October 2023.

Tickets are free and are in high demand so book early to avoid disappointment. They can be reserved at the Manifesto Press Eventbrite page at <https://tinyurl.com/5duan8ps>.

Speakers on the night will include the authors, as well as leaders and organisers from across the working class movement.

Manifesto Press are committed to offering significant discounts on bulk orders for comrades, institutions and organisations in the movement.

Our authors are also happy to attend meetings and rallies to discuss the wide range of topics covered in the series.

PAUL MCGEE IS AN ARTIST AND DESIGNER AND IS BUSINESS MANAGER FOR MANIFESTO PRESS

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CAPITALISM & YOUTH

75 per cent of young people agree with the assertion that climate change is a specifically capitalist problem. 73 per cent agree that capitalism fuels selfishness, greed, and materialism, while a socialist system would promote solidarity, compassion and cooperation. 71 per cent agree that capitalism fuels racism. **Institute of Economic Affairs** survey July 2021

Georgina Andrews to lead Young Communists



▲ Georgina Andrews at the 2023 Young Communist League congress

NICK WRIGHT INTERVIEW

BITAIN'S BURGEONING Young Communist League has a new leadership. New general secretary of the communist youth is Telford-born Georgina Andrews.

Johnnie Hunter from Glasgow – who led the YCL through to its recent period of growth – has taken over from Phil Katz as director of the Communist Party's communications work with Georgina elected at the first meeting of the YCL's new central committee.

Typical of a new generation of working class youth taking to revolutionary politics, tough minded and practical, Georgina is in her final year studying psychology at Liverpool University.

Her ambition is to work in the NHS but she thinks the cost of fees and living expenses means post graduate study will need to be delayed.

One clear inspiration is her trade unionist family, her mother in the RCN working as a mental health nurse in the NHS, step dad a factory worker and her twin brother 'a bit of a commie'.

She says her development as a communist began during Covid with study and discussion but she was drawn into political controversy by the Brexit debate at school which she says meant you had to have an opinion, defend your ideas and learn how to handle argument, most

especially on social media.

Practical political action with the Midlands YCL following the standstill induced by the lockdown was a real bonus with food collections, in-person meetings and demonstrations giving her a taste for open public work.

In fact a majority of the present YCL leadership joined during the Covid period.

Showing a sharp observational instinct she says she finds routinised political action – especially on demonstrations and marches – a bit dull and urges a greater openness and spontaneity, more imaginative slogans and language that connects to people's emotions, anger and sense of class solidarity.

The growth of the YCL, she says, is the product not just of its political line, its sure grasp of the political moment but is intimately connected to its public face, especially the food collections highlighting the political questions of poverty and low pay but also the activity of its members in the workplaces and colleges where human contact over shared problems is critical.

She reckons the YCL has doubled in size over the most recent period with young workers and unemployed making up a majority of its members with an increasing number taking up positions of responsibility in the trade unions.

Student work she says has a different pace. It is intensive, episodic and cyclical with YCL student groups active in an increasing number of universities.

At 20 she is the youngest ever YCL general secretary and the youngest member of the present central committee. She has a real sense of the present moment for her generation – her affectionate characterisation of her predecessor – 'a real Millennial' – reveals a sure grip on the mood and language of her generation.

But this sensibility is allied to a real understanding of the needs of the hour.

Growing up in Telford – the cradle of the industrial revolution – as she describes it – and on the cusp of entry into the world of work – she sees the coming years as critical in development of the working class movement as the driver of revolutionary change.

In evaluating the Corbyn period which coincided with her entry into politics she is sharply critical of the weakness of the left in misjudging the mood of the working class. For her the referendum result was a clear expression of working class anger allied to a sure grasp of the opportunity presented to effect a real change.

The subsequent manoeuvres showed a real political weakness and while she admired Corbyn's leadership, she is unsparing in her criticism of the way the movement responded to the disloyalty of the Labour right and failed to tackle Starmer's sabotage.

She is no less critical of the student movement. Politics in the NUS she says is too individualistic, often undisciplined and childish. A certain appreciation of the political style and *elan* of groups like Extinction Rebellion is tempered with an understanding that the largely student base of such movements means they lack organisational stability. This, for her, is where a YCL based in the working class is a different kind of youth organisation.

Asked on her ideas for her period in the leadership she takes a firm line on the need for discipline and is hugely appreciative of the style of work developed by the YCL which prioritises study alongside open political activity.

She is absolutely determined to grow the number of women in the league. The YCL has a strong cadre of women leaders she says but not enough in the membership at large.

She is encouraged to see more student members of the YCL central committee and a wider range of young trade unionists. So far there are four dedicated industrial officers working in public services, education and the railways. Industrial work is a top priority for the next two years.

Quoting Lenin's advice to the youth: 'to learn' Georgina Andrews tells me that young communists have a lot to give to the Communist Party and in working with the party to learn from the experience of communists in the trade unions, in the workplaces and in mass movements.

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!



What the papers said then

The front page of the *Daily Express* (12 November 1938) gives an accurate account of the horrific events in Germany and Austria of what was to become known as 'Kristallnacht' writes Anita Halpin.

The *Express*, which by 1937 had a daily circulation of 2,329,000, was owned by Lord Beaverbrook and promoted Neville Chamberlain's appeasement policies to the very end and, as late as 4 August 1939, ran the headline: "Not at this war".

But back to November 1938, the Kristallnacht report suggested that the violence was carried out by uncoordinated 'gangs drunk with destruction', and that the Nazis tried to maintain order. 'Not even the proclamation of Dr. Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister – broadcast this afternoon and again tonight – ordering the stoppage of pogroms could curb the madness of the mobs.'

In reality, the violence and destruction was planned from the top of the Nazi regime. The assassination in France of Nazi diplomat Ernst vom Rath, a few days earlier, was used as an excuse for the actions, and detailed instructions were given to the secret police on how to carry out the pogroms.

Just a matter of days after the violence, it was demanded that the Jews themselves pay one billion Reichsmarks for the damage caused on Kristallnacht. 91 Jews murdered and more than 1,400 synagogues in the new 'greater Germany' which had been were torched.

international bulletin

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE



BRITISH COMMUNISTS SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of Britain expresses solidarity with the Palestinian people at this time of an escalation of resistance to the criminal occupation of Palestinian land by the state of Israel.

The events occurring from 7 October are the entirely predictable response of a people to military occupation, apartheid and constant attack and humiliation.

The full responsibility for the current situation rests not only with the current far-right Netanyahu government, and with the increasingly cruel strangling since 2007 of Gaza and of all occupied territories, but with all the historic injustices inflicted upon the Palestinian people.

The deaths of civilians and crimes against them on both sides must be avoided and condemned. However, it must be clearly understood that horrific crimes are perpetrated against the Palestinian people daily by the Israeli military and state backed settlers, armed and funded by the USA and other imperialist powers including Britain. Collective punishment of the people of Gaza is a war crime and must cease immediately.

It is clear, now more than ever, that the only solution can be an end to the criminal occupation, an end to racial apartheid and crimes against civilians and the implementation of a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The Communist Party rejects the actions and statements by the British government to criminalise solidarity actions with the Palestinian people, including the measures in the Anti-Boycott Bill.

We call on all Party members, trade unionists and socialists to support and attend solidarity actions with Palestine taking place across Britain and to step up support for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel. 8 October 2023

PALESTINIAN COMMUNISTS URGENT APPEAL

THE PALESTINIAN Peoples Party has made an urgent appeal 'to the Left and progressive parties and forces, solidarity movements, and the free people of the world.'

The PPP called for an end to the occupation, Israeli terrorism and its brutal aggression against the Palestinian people

In its Urgent Appeal, the Palestinian People's Party calls on all the Left and progressive parties and forces, solidarity movements, friends of our people, and the free people of the world, to make timely response and advocate the governments of your countries and their decision-makers, and all international bodies, through demonstrations, protest sit-ins and all possible means, for:

★ Urgent intervention to stop the war and bloody aggression waged by the Israeli occupation state with all its army and military machinery since last Saturday against the besieged Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

"The Israeli warplanes, battleships and artillery continue their widespread and intense indiscriminate bombardment of residential neighbourhoods and all civilian facilities, including hospitals and health centres, food supplies, places of worship and education, and the medical, service and media teams. It has so far resulted in the killing of more than a thousand Palestinian civilians, and the wounding of more than five thousand others with various injuries, including hundreds in critical conditions. Most of these victims are children, women

and elderly. Entire families have been wiped out.

"Widespread destruction and devastation have affected a huge number of buildings, facilities and civilian infrastructure, including many suburbs and neighbourhoods that were levelled to the ground. More than 250 thousand people have been displaced as a result of this continuing aggression which is implementing scorched earth policy, genocide and forced displacement of the population. This is in addition to the crime of tightening the siege on more than two million and two hundred thousand people living in the Gaza Strip, cutting off their supplies of water, electricity, fuel, food, medicines, and medical supplies.

While issuing this Urgent Appeal, the Palestinian People's Party calls upon you and urges you to expose this open and systematic war against our people in all the occupied Palestinian territories - the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem - which Israel is carrying out as an occupying power, with open and explicit incitement and support from the United States. The latter has devoted its military and intelligence capabilities, and its various media means, to mislead the world public opinion about the reality of what is happening in Palestine and the Middle East, and to cover up the war crimes committed by Israel and its terrorist and racist practices against our Palestinian people.

"We call upon you to act urgently to curb all of Israel's policies and practices and oblige it to adhere to international laws and conventions to protect human rights, and to implement the UN resolutions."

NETANYAHU GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE

ISRAELI COMMUNISTS GAZA

IN A STATEMENT concerning the rapid escalation of military confrontation between Hamas and Israeli forces, the Communist Party of Israel (CPI) and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) blamed the criminal occupation policy of the far-right Netanyahu government, underlining the grave dangers that it poses for the peace in the region.

"The fascist right-wing government's crimes to perpetuate the occupation are leading to a regional war that must be stopped. Even in difficult days like this - we repeat and voice an unequivocal condemnation of any harm to innocent civilians, and call for their removal from the bloodshed. We send our condolences to all the families of the victims of the occupation, Arabs and Jews alike", the statement reads.

The CPI and Hadash put the full responsibility on the fascist right-wing government for the sharp and dangerous escalation of the last few hours, that costed the lives of many innocent citizens. "At the end of a shocking week in which the settlers ran

amok throughout the occupied territories under the auspices of their government, desecrated the Al-Aqsa Mosque and carried out another pogrom in Huwara, we woke up this morning to a very serious escalation, which endangers the entire region in a regional and dangerous war - which the right-wing government has been fueling since its first day."

"Today's events show in what dangerous direction the Netanyahu government and the settlers are leading the entire region, and emphasize once again that there is no way to manage the conflict or resolve it militarily - there is only one solution: strive to end the occupation and recognize the legitimate demands and rights of the Palestinian people.

"The end of the occupation and the establishment of a just peace are a distinct and common interest of the two peoples in this country".

CPI and Hadash express "deep concern about the use of recent developments by the Netanyahu government to carry out a vengeful attack on the Gaza Strip and call on the international community and the countries of the region to intervene immediately to silence the drums of war and initiate moves that will lead to the promotion of a political

solution."

CPI and Hadash warn of revenge activities against the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, and especially the residents of the mixed cities and the unknown villages in the Negev - who have already paid a high price due to the neglect of their lives by the state and the lack of infrastructure in the settlements. In this reality, it is the duty of the sane forces in Israel, Jews and Arabs alike, to raise a sharp and clear voice against any attempt to incite against entire populations or to take the law into one's own hands, and to promote joint activity, which signifies the aspiration for a normative life without occupation, discrimination and supremacy - a life of peace, equality and true democracy for all."

Saturday evening, MK Ofer Cassif (Hadash) posted a video to social media: "Nothing justifies crimes and massacres as committed today in the south of Israel. But the writing was on the wall, as I warned for a long time: We will pay a heavy price for the crimes of the occupation, the siege on Gaza and the arrogance of the racist) Kahanist government.

"There is no military solution, only a political one - the end of the occupation and Palestinian independence."



EVENTS & IDEAS & ACTION

'Revolutions, accelerated radical social changes, are made of circumstances; not always, almost never, or perhaps never can science predict their mature form in all its detail. They are made of passions, of man's fight for social vindication, and are never perfect. Neither was ours.' **Ernesto Che Guevara** 1964 *On the Cuban revolution*



London Jonathan White



Glasgow Tam Morrison



Manchester Eddie Redmond



Sheffield Wendy Emmet



Liverpool Cad Jones



Newcastle Martin Levy



Cambridge

▲ **Unity!** readers from every part of Britain joined Palestine demonstrations in every city and many towns and sent us these pictures. Send your stories and pix to nickbwright1917@gmail.com

End all complicity, stop arming Israel



Join us on Saturday 21 October for a national demonstration in London as we march in solidarity with Palestine and call for end to the brutal bombardment of Gaza. We demand Israel end its occupation of Palestinian land and apartheid rule over the Palestinian people.

Organised by: Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Friends of Al-Aqsa, Stop the War Coalition, Muslim Association of Britain, Palestinian Forum in Britain, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

ANDY BAIN PALESTINIAN UNIONS

PALESTINIAN TRADE unions have made an urgent call to action. From every sector of Palestinian society, every federation, every sector of industry, in Gaza, in the West Bank and in the refugee camps trade unions representing industrial and agricultural workers, professionals like doctors, teachers and journalists, academics and domestic and catering workers, health professionals and public service workers have appealed to sister unions throughout the world.

Their statement reads
Israel has demanded that 1.1 million Palestinians evacuate the northern half of Gaza, whilst subjecting them to constant bombardment. This ruthless move is part of Israel's plan, backed by unwavering support and active participation from the US and majority of European states, to carry out unprecedented and heinous massacres against 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza and to ethnically cleanse it altogether. Since Saturday Israel has indiscriminately and intensively bombarded Gaza, and cut off fuel, electricity, water, food, and medical supplies. Israel has killed more than 2,600 Palestinians – including 724 children – leveling whole neighbourhoods, wiping out entire families and injuring more than 10,000 people. Some international law experts have begun warning of Israel's genocidal acts.

Elsewhere, Israel's far-right government has distributed more than 10,000 rifles to extremist settlers in '48 Palestine and the occupied West Bank to facilitate their escalating attacks and pogroms against Palestinians. Israel's actions, massacres, and rhetoric point to its intention to implement its long promised second Nakba, expelling as many Palestinians as possible and creating a 'New Middle East' in which Palestinians live in perpetual subjugation.

The response by Western states has been one of complete and total support for the State of Israel, without even a cursory nod towards international law. This has amplified Israel impunity, giving it carte blanche to carry out its genocidal war without limit. Beyond diplomatic support, Western states are supplying Israel with armament, sanctioning the operation of Israeli weapons companies within their borders.

As Israel escalates its military campaign, Palestinian trade unions call on our counterparts internationally and all people of conscience to end all forms of complicity with Israel's crimes - most urgently halting the arms trade with Israel, as well as all funding and military research. The time for action is now - Palestinian lives hang in the balance.

This urgent, genocidal situation can only be prevented by a mass increase of global solidarity with the people of Palestine and that can restrain the Israeli war machine. We need you to take immediate action - wherever you are in the world - to prevent the arming of the Israeli state and the companies involved in the infrastructure of the blockade. We take

inspiration from previous mobilisations by trade unions in Italy, South Africa and the United States, and similar international mobilisations against the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in the 1930s, the fascist dictatorship in Chile in the 1970s and elsewhere where global solidarity limited the extent of colonial brutality.

We are calling on trade unions in relevant industries:

- 1 To refuse to build weapons destined for Israel.
- 2 To refuse to transport weapons to Israel.
- 3 To pass motions in their trade union to this effect.
- 4 To take action against complicit companies involved in implementing Israel's brutal and illegal siege, especially if they have contracts with your institution.
- 5 Pressure governments to stop all military trade with Israel, and in the case of the US, funding to it.

We make this call as we see attempts to ban and silence all forms of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We ask you to speak out and take action in the face of injustice as trade unions have done historically. We make this call in the belief that the struggle for Palestinian justice and liberation is not only a regionally and globally determined struggle. It is a lever for the liberation of all dispossessed and exploited people of the world.

To get involved, contact:
workersinpalestine@gmail.com
X: WorkersinPalesI
Instagram: workersinpalestine