

Unity!

Celebrate May Day and the victory over fascism

▲ **MAY 1945**
Red Army soldiers raise the hammer and sickle flag over the ruins of the Reichstag in Berlin 1945 signalling the final defeat of Nazism

Health workers
★ **The Communist Party's Health Commission is reorganising under the new conditions created through the COVID-19 crisis.**
Contact Mary Adossides at northlondoncpb@hotmail.com

Coronavirus
★ **The William Paul Society is holding a virtual discussion on the Politics of Coronavirus on Sunday 3 May at 2pm.**

The discussion is led by Oliver Dodd, a doctoral political economy student at Nottingham University who set up the coronavirus fightback campaign. williampaulsociety@outlook.com

British left
★ **Following its successful public meeting Kent Morning Star R&SG has a few copies of Andrew Murray's book *The Fall and Rise of the British Left* available at the discounted price of £12 post free.**
email nickbwright@mac.com for details of payment

VICTORY OVER FASCISM

NICK WRIGHT

MAY DAY is mired in hypocrisy this year as the official Mayday Bank Holiday has been moved from International Workers Day May the First to Friday 8 May to mark the victory over fascism in Europe.

The Tory government said it was to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to "Remember and honour our heroes of the Second World War and reflect on the sacrifices of a generation."

Every year our ruling class finds a way to detach the Bank Holiday from its association with working class power. This year it is doubly mired in hypocrisy and deceit.

May Day falls months after British Members of the European Parliament – in almost their last act in that discredited talking shop – endorsed a resolution on Historical Remembrance which equates communists with the fascist and Nazi forces which plunged Europe and the world into war, led to the deaths of millions and the genocidal extermination of Jews, Roma and others.

The resolution, passed with only the communist and left wing MEPs in opposition,

identifies the so-called Ribbentrop Molotov pact as the cause of the Second World War.

In doing so it erases fascism from historical memory and whitewashes today's fascists, some in government in the EU.

British and French appeasement of Nazi Germany and the series of agreements reached with Hitler go unremarked. The dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, German and Italian intervention in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the fascist rebels, the fascist and collaborationist character of the regimes of Hungary, Vichy France, Italy, Finland, Portugal and Bulgaria is overlooked. The viciously anti-semitic dictatorship of Poland, which joined Hitler in dividing up Czechoslovakia passes without mention. Instead only German Nazism, twinned – for tortured political purpose with communism – is identified.

Rather than being the cause of the war, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was a last moment bid by the Soviet Union to gain a few extra months to prepare for a war which Stalin had predicted nearly a decade earlier.

The Soviet Union had failed to convince Britain and France to join an anti-nazi alliance with Czechoslovakia and, as the *Daily Telegraph* revealed last year, Stalin had offered to send a

million Soviet soldiers to defend Czechoslovakia only to be thwarted when the clerical fascist Polish regime refused to allow their transit across Polish territory.

The truthful history of this period shows how the conflict between the competing imperialism of Britain and France and Germany, Italy and Japan was transformed into an anti-fascist war in which communists in every European state formed the backbone of the resistance.

The Soviet Union was the main military, industrial and human force to defeat fascism on our continent and millions of communists died to defeat fascism. When Britain's wartime leader, the arch Conservative and imperialist Winston Churchill said the Red Army "Tore the guts out of the Nazi war machine" he spoke the truth.

The united ranks of fascist, Conservative, Christian Democrat, Liberal and social democrat MEPs –scandalously joined by the Labour Party MEPs – gave voice to a lie.

Far from honouring those who gave their lives to the defeat of fascism in Europe Labour's MEPs, by their class collaborationist act brought dishonour on the party and contributed to the whitewashing of actually existing fascism.

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!

Long live International Workers Day!

MAYDAY

ROBERT GRIFFITHS

ON THIS International Workers' Day, the coronavirus crisis has demonstrated, in stark and dramatic ways, that it is the labour power of the working class - whether by hand or brain - which makes our society function.

We could manage without the bankers, the speculators, the property tycoons, the wealthy shareholders but our society would collapse in one week without the workers who provide our essential industries and services.

Capitalism's bankers and financiers and billionaires like Richard Branson have their begging bowls out for public money when their system is in crisis – yet they take every opportunity to live as tax exiles overseas to avoid paying tax.

What use is a system that cannot protect the mass of people – the real wealth creators who even create a fine living for the big capitalists - when a major crisis strikes? It threatens to fall to pieces when faced with a banking crisis of its own making, or with a major medical or other civil emergency – unless the government, the public

sector and public money step in to rescue it.

This crisis should bring home to everyone how much we need and depend on one another. The COVID-19 virus knows no national boundaries. It doesn't discriminate on grounds of sex, race, nationality or religion. Neither does the NHS and its multi-ethnic, multi-national staff when treating the pandemic's victims. Reminded of our common humanity, we should resolve on this May Day to redouble our efforts to combat racism, sexism and narrow-minded bigotry of every kind.

Above all, let us honour all front-line workers in the health and other essential services and industries in deeds as well as words. Let's actively campaign for them to have the protection of every kind at work that they need and deserve. And when this crisis is over, our labour movement and unions must fight to abolish once and for all the category of the 'low-paid worker'.

The coronavirus should also remind us how useless our nuclear weapons system in Britain is when it comes to protecting the people against mortal danger. In the aftermath of the pandemic, how can Tory and Labour leaders justify spending a £100 billion and more on upgrading the Trident system of atomic mass murder when we have an

NHS which desperately needs more investment, and so many public sector workers need decent pay and pensions? Britain should immediately ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and stop blocking it alongside the US, NATO countries, most EU member states and other nuclear powers.

For all the honeyed phrases, this Tory government will lead a fresh ruling class offensive after this pandemic is over to make working people pay for overcoming this crisis. The labour movement, the People's Assembly, CND and other campaigning organisations will face a bigger onslaught than the austerity measures of the past decade. A bigger, more influential Communist Party will make a substantial difference to our prospects of turning back that offensive, bringing down the Tory government and replacing it with a government of the left. Our party is growing rapidly – come and join us.

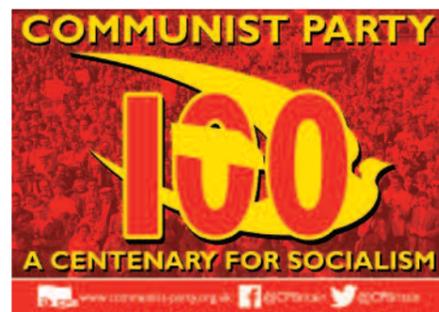
Long live International Workers Day!
Long live the working class!
Long live the Communist Party!

ROBERT GRIFFITHS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

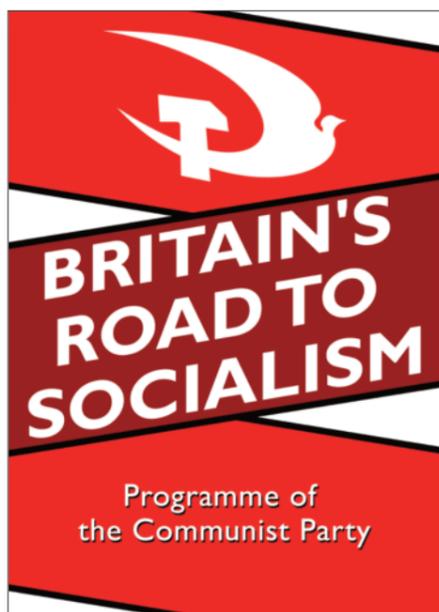


Workers of all lands, unite!

CP BRITAIN CP BRITAIN
www.comunist-party.org.uk
May 2020



How to take part in #redforkeyworkers on May Day
1. Put on your favourite something red
2. Write out your message of solidarity
3. Take a pic of you wearing red holding up your message
4. Upload your pic to social media using #redforkeyworkers
5. Encourage other co-workers to join in and share other #redforkeyworkers posts



THE CASE for socialism is needed now more than ever and so the Communist Party has launched a new up-to-the-minute revised edition of its programme, *Britain's Road to Socialism*.

Updated to take account of new developments in British and global capitalism, its arguments against capitalist ownership are compelling and its case for socialism has never in Britain been put with greater force or conviction.

Britain's Road to Socialism is not a dry compendium of slogans but a constantly evolving programme for the revolutionary transformation of Britain and a celebration of the human forces for change in the working class movement.

Read it and pass its message round, hold online meetings and education classes. The package costs just £3 and is available on order from Shop.comunistparty.org.uk. Multiple copies can be bought and if you agree with the revolutionary case for socialism, you can apply to join Britain's communists.

"We have literally been swamped with orders for the print and PDF version of the Communist Party programme *Britain's Road to Socialism*" says the launch project leader Phil Katz.

"In fact we ran out of the first print consignment, selling 250 copies in the first 48 hours. It is now back on the press. Keep ordering, keep promoting, now is the time to put the boldest case for socialism out to working people and the whole labour movement"



COMMUNIST PARTY WEBSITE

The Communist Party's website has been built anew to meet heightened demands placed upon it firstly by the fast-changing political situation and a big increase in applications to join the party and secondly, from people keen to know more about its policies, activities and programme. The launch is set for Friday 1 May. As well as outward-facing features including

political education tools and agitational materials an expanded shop features centenary merchandise, publications including *International Bulletins* and dozens of publications to buy and download. It hosts a secure back operation that allows party members and party organisations to communicate directly with the party centre, hold open and closed meetings, online education and handle organisational tasks.

Protect the health and rights of the peoples
joint statement of the world's communist and workers' parties
<https://tinyurl.com/stghk79>

Communist Environment Commission starts work

ENVIRONMENT

STEVE ANDREW

EARLIER THIS year, more than two dozen communists gathered in Sheffield at the first meeting of the party's Environment Commission. Although the best way of tackling climate change understandably took centre stage, the lengthy and wide ranging discussion examined areas such as agriculture, public transport, energy policy and animal welfare.

It's fair to say that, historically, the relationship between the left and green organisations has been a contested and problematic one. Environmental degradation was widespread throughout the Soviet Union and critics continue to associate the Communist Party with hyperindustrialised models of economic development. In recent years, however, communists have started to examine past mistakes. A reevaluation of the works of, for example, both Marx and Engels, has begun to demonstrate an acute sensitivity towards ecological questions that previously had little, if any, acknowledgement.

Communists throughout the world have participated in struggles aimed at building a socialism of the 20th century, a project particularly advanced in Latin America where enthusiasm for what recently deposed President Evo Morales termed, *La Buena Vida* (The Good Life) places far greater emphasis

on culture, direct democracy and sustainability. As the United Nations has long noted, Cuba has managed to create the world's most successful totally organic agricultural base whilst Chinese communists aim to reforest 26% of their land area by 2035.

A greater awareness amongst the general public that capitalist greed, waste and pollution is about to bring the planet itself to the very point of extinction, means that the communist emphasis not only upon social ownership and a planned economy but on the centrality of political consciousness, popular education and mass mobilisation remains as relevant as ever.

Of course, communists don't pretend to have all the answers. Part of the role of the party's Commission is to not only develop party policy on environmental questions and to encourage their dissemination within the wider movement but to join friends in the Green movement to see what we can learn from them in joint discussion and campaigning.

At time of writing, a range of educational materials has been drawn up and an agriculture working group has been established and whilst the commission is only open to party members all interested parties are welcome to get in touch with ideas for discussion and plans for future activity. For further information contact me at Spartacusrising1918@gmail.com.

STEVE ANDREW IS CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Challenge, the magazine of the Young Communist League has been redesigned and launches its new website on 30 April. www.facebook.com/challengeycl

Stay shut until safe

SCHOOLS

COMMUNIST EDUCATION workers have called on Westminster and all devolved governments and assemblies to ensure that schools only reopen when it is safe for teachers, pupils and support staff.

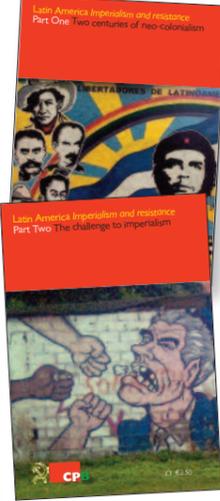
In a statement issued for International Workers memorial day the Communist Party education commission said: "Regular testing of children and staff with all PPE needed must be in place to ensure the safety of all in our school communities. Schools cannot reopen with current social distancing regulations in place. Westminster and all devolved governments and assemblies need to listen to the voices of the profession in planning any returns to school."



A ground-breaking pamphlet by the late Vishnu Sharma, published 1979, has been reissued with an introduction by Tony Conway convenor of the Communist Party's Anti-racist, Anti-fascist Commission.

The pamphlet, by the leading Indian communist in Britain, who resigned from the Commission for Racial Equality in protest is a scorching condemnation of the racist immigration and nationality policies of the Tory and Labour governments of the period.

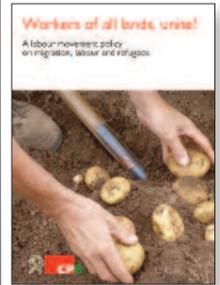
AGITATION & PROPAGANDA FOR SOCIALISM FROM THE PARTY OF WORKING CLASS POWER & LIBERATION



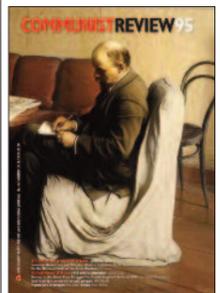
Topical from the Communist Party
Latin America
Imperialism & resistance
Two pamphlets: 1 Two centuries of neo-colonialism 2 The challenge to imperialism.
£3 each+p&p



On guard against fascism
Fascism analysed and exposed. £2



Workers of all lands, unite!
A labour movement policy on migration, labour and refugees. £2



150th Anniversary of the birth of Lenin
Leninism Lives
R Palme Dutt
Leninism, Democracy and 'Britain's Road to Socialism'
Martin Levy
On the National Pride of the Great Russians
VI Lenin
75th Anniversary of VE Day 1945 and its aftermath
David Grove
Victory in the Great Class Struggle/The 1943 Danish Peoples' Strike
Lars Ulrik Thomsen
Soul Food: Epic poetry for an epic struggle
Review *Paul Simon*

www.communist-party.org.uk

COVID crisis and Labour's right-turn

COMMUNIST PARTY

THE CORONAVIRUS exposes the fundamentally anti-social nature of capitalism with its corporate greed and market anarchy", Steve Johnson told the Communist Party's political committee online. "Yet, at this very time, the pro-capitalist forces in the Labour Party are triumphant behind new leader Keir Starmer, determined to push the party back to the mushy middle-ground and marginalise the left", he warned.

Steve Johnson who is secretary of the party's London district committee – said the recent internal report on anti-Semitism in the Labour Party recounted a 'horror story' of abuse, sabotage and betrayal of the party and its former leader Jeremy Corbyn and his team.

"Staff misconduct would normally be a purely internal matter", Steve Johnson said, "but this was on a scale which – together with Starmer's disastrous anti-Brexit policy – fatally undermined Labour's General Election chances last December, robbing the people of Britain of a government whose values and priorities would have been fundamentally different in the current COVID-19 crisis".

While reaffirming solidarity with the left in the Labour Party, Steve Johnson said the period during and since the 2015 EU referendum and the defeat of the left resurgence under Jeremy Corbyn had highlighted a vital lesson for the labour movement. "Without a much stronger, more influential Communist Party, with its revolutionary strategy for socialism based on the organised working class leading mass campaigning for a left-wing programme, there will be no breakthrough to socialism".

The Political Committee received reports on an upsurge in applications to join the Communist Party, including 50 in the past three weeks, with the first print-run of an updated edition of its programme *Britain's Road to Socialism* selling out online in less than 48 hours. Britain's communists also approved statements on trans people's rights and the incarceration of dissident journalist Julian Assange. It was also agreed to recommend the creation of three new central posts to deal with a substantial increase in the party's communications, recruitment and Marxist-Leninist education work.



Available now to celebrate the anniversary of the Kinder Scout Trespas
Benny Rothman and the Kinder Scout Trespas
Our History 1 (New Series)
Originally published in April 2012.

The first in the new series of the Communist Party's *Our History* pamphlets, it covers the role of Benny Rothman and the other communists in organising the infamous Kinder Scout mass trespass of 1932 which opened the way for subsequent access to countryside laws
Free view at <https://tinyurl.com/y9y3stwn>



Live streamed lecture to celebrate Lenin's 150th

2020 marks 150 years since the birth of Lenin, one of the great theorists of Marxism and pivotal revolutionary leader during the Great October Revolution. The first lecture is available to stream at the Library website. Thursday 2 May part 2 is streamed at <https://marx-memorial-library.org.uk/events-archive/lenins-state-revolution-jonathan-white> Jonathan White examines the challenges facing the working class movement in Britain today. What are the issues we face and to what extent can Lenin's life and work guide our actions?



Lecture starts at 7pm on Zoom

Marx Memorial Library
www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk