

# May Day issue

## Victory in Europe Day 2025

### Understanding the far right

Creative Commons



Workers of all lands, unite!  
Communist Party May 2025

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# Unity!

## May Day for socialism and working class power

Robert Griffiths

### MAY DAY

WE MARK the First of May 2025 and the anniversary of the victory over fascism with the working class movement facing an unprecedented series of new problems.

We have a Labour government in name but in practice (and theory) it is a neo liberal administration devoted above all to the common economic policy of the ruling class throughout our continent and in almost every part of the developed capitalist world.

This entails an exaggerated respect for the privileges of the rich and above all the super rich. It involves a complete submission to the demands of the City, to the banks and big finance above even the immediate interests of sections of capital, including manufacturing capital.

Where industry is privileged is in the area of advanced science allied to military production and aerospace where the integration of British and US capital is so advanced that we can almost speak of a collective ruling class.

The consequences of this is an almost insatiable drive for war profits allied to an imperialist foreign policy that presently actively encourages a confrontation in Ukraine between NATO and Russia.

In Britain the domestic consequences

of this policy of ramped up military spending and complete submission to the bond markets is Rachel Reeves' austerity budget allied to a renewed assault on the remnants of the welfare state while every public utility and service is contracted out to private profiteers.

The NHS is the main prize in this auction of the nation's family silver with US vulture 'health' corporations – advised by former Labour ministers – poised to profit.

Just last weekend Reform UK spelt out their support for the privatisation of the NHS blowing apart their pretensions to stand with working people against the elite.

It is a split in the ruling class, dramatised by Brexit, that has resulted in the traditional party of capitalist stability, the Tories, losing coherence with Labour the main beneficiary of an unrepresentative first past the post election system gifting it a majority out of all proportion to its dramatically falling electoral support.

With the left purged from the party, cowed in parliament and the affiliated unions, with too few exceptions passive, any remaining confidence that Labour could provide a progressive government is vanishing.

The division in the US ruling elite, dramatised by Trump's erratic policy

switches, represents a weakening of the USA as the global hegemon.

There are great dangers in these new developments but also opportunities that for the working class movement rest on winning political clarity of thought and unity in action.

The Communist Party sees the fight against the war danger, in solidarity with the Palestinians and all oppressed peoples; the defence of the social gains of our working class and trade union freedom as vital battles in the fight for working class political power and socialism.

With capitalist exploitation – expressed as rent, interest and profit – comes oppression. We see the fight for the full emancipation of women as a vital element in the collective struggle of the working class for full equality, against racism and discrimination and with all who experience oppression. In Britain's particular conditions we call for democracy, popular sovereignty and for a progressive federalism that tackles the national question.

Our party wishes all workers a May Day of celebration for peace, unity and socialism

ROBERT GRIFFITHS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## Keep Britain out of Trump's tariff wars

UNITY! reporter

### TRUMP

WORKERS AND CONSUMERS in Britain have nothing to gain from joining US-EU and anti-China tariff wars, the Communist Party has declared.

'Higher tariffs on exports and imports would jeopardise investment, jobs and living standards', general secretary Robert Griffiths told the party's April political committee, 'given Britain's trade deficit and a relatively small industrial sector dominated by private-sector and foreign ownership and blighted by chronic under-investment in high-tech, labour skills, education and training'.

He also warned that a TTIP-style US-UK free trade agreement would favour privatisation and slash labour and consumer standards, while a single market-style agreement with the EU could result in the same 'disastrous deindustrialisation experienced by Britain after joining the Common Market in 1973.

'President Trump's tariff wars aim to enrich his corporate supporters in the energy, real estate, manufacturing – especially armaments – and infotech sectors whatever the cost to workers, consumers and the poor at home and abroad, the Communist Party leader warned.

'To that end, Trump and his far-right and proto-fascist allies are prepared to rip up all the rules, trample over people's rights and the US Constitution and sacrifice the future of the planet'.

'The most reactionary circles of US monopoly capital are desperate to rescue profitability from the growing challenge posed by People's China and its BRICS allies and they mistakenly see tariffs, big business tax cuts and slashing social and welfare programmes as the solution'.

Continued overleaf



# LABOUR & CAPITAL

Comrade workers! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate Their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom. **VI Lenin On May Day 1904**



Victoria Holmes

## ELECTIONS

COMMUNIST CANDIDATES in selected English regions are making the case for socialist policies and a progressive route out of capitalist crisis for working class communities.

The party's national election organiser Will Dye said: 'While Reform UK works to divide communities and Starmer's Labour government continues to abandon its roots, the Communist Party proudly champions working-class unity. Our red banner representing hope in uncertain times with politics that prioritise people over profit.'

'We're powered by ordinary people who believe in a better Britain for ordinary people, not billionaires or corporations.'

The Communist candidates are community activists Peter Whelan (Market Harborough West and Foxton) who says: 'Many people are discovering the Communist Party is fighting for change, and I'm proud to share our anti-austerity message. We've distributed 3,000 leaflets so far to a positive response, and I'm feeling positive about our campaign.'

In East Tiverton Caio Whitmore brings fresh energy to the campaign, focusing on rural communities and offering a genuine alternative after decades of neglect.

Alex Hall challenges Reform UK directly in Kington with a message of working-class solidarity, emphasising the power of community action to protect rural services like buses, post offices and pubs from cuts.

In St Albans Central Mark Ewington is building momentum, resonating particularly with young voters facing housing insecurity. His campaign connects local housing struggles to the wider fight for economic justice and community power.

Will Dye argues that unlike Reform UK's empty promises, the Communist Party offer concrete plans:

- Quality, high-paying local jobs and apprenticeships: rebuilding Britain's

industrial strength with workers leading the way!

- Mass council house construction to address high rents and homelessness because safe and affordable housing is a human right.

- Guaranteed NHS funding and an end to privatisation that ensures healthcare remains free at the point of use, for all.

- A genuine National Care Service that provides dignity for elderly and disabled within our community.

- Affordable public transport through nationalised rail and locally owned buses to move Britain forward for people, not profit!

- Investment in education from nurseries through to colleges to build a better future for young people.

- Funding through fair taxation of the rich and ending military spending to ensure Britain's wealth benefits those who create it.

Urging a big turnout Will Dye says that every leaflet shared, conversation had, and vote cast for the Communist Party advances progressive politics.

'We're building momentum, changing perspectives, and keeping socialist ideals alive. Together, we can counter the continued rise of the far right and create a society that works for everyone'

**On 1 May, International Workers Day use your voice and vote for working class power and real change: #VoteCommunist.**

▲ East Tiverton communists and supporters campaigning to elect Caio Whitmore



## We hear him as a comrade



Maurizio Acerbo

## POPE FRANCIS

THE DEATH OF Pope Francis represents an enormous loss for humanity as a whole. Even those who are not believers have found in his words an ethical and political reference.

Pope Francis, a man of peace and justice, has fought with all his strength against the drift of a world dominated by the lords of money and war.

In the years of his pontificate we have heard him as a brother and comrade in the rejection of war, racism, and neoliberal capitalism.

Perhaps only from Latin America of the Church of the poor could come a pope 'communist like the Gospel' who openly encouraged popular movements, an ecologist pope whose book *Laudato Si'* – written with the collaboration of Leonardo

Boff – has proposed an integral ecology and the defence of common goods, an anti-racist pope who has fought the resurgence of Western white supremacism and defended common humanity. But above all he will be remembered as the pacifist Pope who was not afraid to use the word genocide in Gaza, to denounce NATO's co-responsibility in the genesis of the war in Ukraine, to condemn rearmament policies until the last day.

All the powerful in the world will pay homage to him today but in reality they will breathe a sigh of relief for having freed themselves of an uncomfortable voice. The poor of the Earth have lost a voice that has always been on their side.

Thank you Pope Francis.

MAURIZIO ACERBO IS NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTITO DELLA RIFONDAZIONE COMUNISTA – SINISTRA EUROPEA



## Tariff wars

Continued from Page 1

He contrasted Trump's reindustrialisation promises to China's phenomenal growth based on massive public investment in hi-tech, Green energy, education and training; state planning; and selective public ownership in key industries such as banking, construction and transport. 'The Labour government should take a leaf out of China's red book and invest in productive industry and Green energy,

funded from taxes on City speculation and the super-rich, while also renationalising the steel industry and directing the movement of capital', Robert Griffiths said.

Welcoming the hundreds of anti-Trump demonstrations across the US, he said that country's labour unions could play a major part in building a mass people's movement to block the road to authoritarian rule.

'Already the cracks are opening up in Trump's alliance of Republican Party opportunists, big business chiefs, tech moguls and top public officials'.

Britain's Communists agreed to send messages of solidarity to the Communist parties of the USA and Canada.

The Political Committee also supported the international call for an independent inquiry into the massacre of Palestinian aid workers on the outskirts of Rafah and demanded that UK citizens be brought to account for participating in Israel's war crimes in occupied Palestine.



# FROM WHERE IDEAS COME?

‘It is not the consciousness of men that determines their social being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness. At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come in conflict with the existing relations of production, or – what is but a legal expression for the same thing – with the property relations within which they have been at work hitherto.’  
**Karl Marx** *Preface to a Contribution to a Critique of Political Economy* 1859

## Unity and respect

Nick Wright

### OPINION

THE SUPREME COURT ruling brings some legal clarity around a question which divides families, is reflected in schismatic rupture between and within our unions, professional associations, in the NHS and every situation where our individual and collective rights are held to be important.

It seems sensible to take the Supreme Court at its own estimation that this decision clarifies what parliament meant when the Equalities Act was promulgated.

Lord Hodge, the deputy president of the court, made it clear that the Equality Act deals with biological sex at birth, and not with a person’s acquired gender, whether or not they held a gender recognition certificate.

When the Scottish National Party under its previous leadership brought gender self recognition to the Scottish Parliament its did so knowing that this would lead to conflict with the UK parliament. It did so less for the rights of trans people but rather to weaponise the issue in its claim to Scottish independence. In doing so it divided itself and intensified controversy among the Scottish people and wider.

After this final judgement the political reality is that any further change would require parliament to modify the law and the reality is that one of the parties of government are likely to do so.

Given the level of misinformation and anxieties it is important to make clear that trans people are our people in the sense that communists fight for the rights of all who experience discrimination and confront intolerance in their daily lives.

The Communist Party sees the present right wing attempt to weaponise identity politics to divide and divert our movement as an expression of its desperation in the face of the accumulating crises of capitalism. The right does so because identity politics is the antithesis of class politics and they sense a weakness to be exploited. Our task is to find unity in action and transform diversity into strength.

For all of us who challenge exploitation and oppression questions of ideology are vitally important. The basis of marxism lies in the materialist proposition that people’s ideas, like all other aspects of their behaviour, are the product of material causes and can only be properly understood when these causes are revealed.

The notion that binary biological reality can be trumped by an act of will and imagination falls firmly in the realm of an idealist philosophy that holds that the ideas in people’s heads exist outside of and independently of the world of matter.

Where biological sex and gender are conflated theoretical clarity on the material basis of women’s oppression in capitalist society is at risk with the consequent anxieties that underly the insistence that women’s spaces be protected.

Protection of the social gains of women under capitalism is non negotiable for communists no less than the rights of trans people to live their lives as they choose and free from discrimination.

When so much of what underlies our humanity and makes us social beings is subverted by capitalism’s profit-driven consumer culture and rampant individualism, questions of identity become vitally important and especially for young people.

Our futures rest entirely on strengthening working class unity among all exploited and oppressed people.

We must not allow ourselves to be herded into antagonistic camps when everyone’s ideas deserve respect and every issue should be discussed with concern for our common humanity and the need for an over riding unity around our common interests.

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!

## ‘Not a victory for one side or the other’

Unity Reporter

### EQUALITY ACT 2010

BRITAIN’S COMMUNISTS have welcomed the Supreme Court ruling that in the Equality Act 2010 that ‘sex’ means biological sex.

A joint statement was issued by the political committee of the Communist Party, the central committee of the Young Communist League and the women’s commissions of the two organisation on the ruling in the case *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*.

The Supreme Court judgement was decided on the basis that the only coherent legal interpretation of the provisions defined in the Equality Act relating to sex discrimination was by reference to

biological sex, upholding women’s legal right to single-sex provision in employment, education facilities, sports, prisons, etc

The communists said: ‘This materialist outcome corroborates our view that ‘sex’ must mean biological sex for the purposes of the Act and any other interpretations would negate its single sex statutory protections.

‘We reject any notion that the Supreme Court ruling was influenced by, or issued as a result of a transphobic political climate and note Lord Hodge’s remark when delivering the judgement - that it should not be seen as victory of one side over another.

‘We oppose misrepresentations of the ruling causing anxiety and division.’

The communists insisted that trans

people continue to have protection against discrimination and harassment that in ‘In the light of case law interpreting the relevant provisions, a trans woman can claim sex discrimination because she is perceived to be a woman.’

The communists called for improved resourcing within the current system for trans people to access the health and welfare services they need.

For Women Scotland were commended in winning their case against the Scottish government, have provided legal clarification for women and girls in the fight to assert and defend single sex provision in Britain.

THE FULL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.COMMUNISTPARTY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.COMMUNISTPARTY.ORG.UK)

**ROGER MCKENZIE'S**  
**THE REBIRTH OF THE**  
**AFRICAN PHOENIX:**  
**A VIEW FROM BABYLON**  
**BOOK LAUNCH**

**GLASGOW**  
**FRIDAY 2 MAY 2025 6PM**  
**STUC, 8 Landressy Street**  
**Glasgow, G40 1BP**

<https://tinyurl.com/africanphoenix>

**work/ class/ unions/**  
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**manifesto**

**a Manifesto Press X Morning Star project**

**Recollections of the Miners' Strike**  
 Hilary Cave

**Reminiscences of a Worker Correspondent**  
 Roy Jones

**The Communist Party and Empire**  
 Andrew Murray

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 Mike Squires

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# LABOUR & CAPITAL

'In proportion as the bourgeoisie, i.e., capital, is developed, in the same proportion is the proletariat, the modern working class, developed — a class of labourers, who live only so long as they find work, and who find work only so long as their labour increases capital. These labourers, who must sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market. **Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Manifesto of the Communist Party 1848**

**National Demonstration**  
**NAKBA 77**  
**FREE PALESTINE**  
**END THE GENOCIDE**  
**Saturday 17 May**  
**12.00 noon**  
**Central London**

The next national demonstration for Palestine will mark the 77th anniversary of Nakba Day. The march is the annual, globally observed occasion to mark the Nakba, in which 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes and 500 towns and villages destroyed in the foundation of the state of Israel.

In the commemoration of this day, Israel's genocide and mass destruction of the Gaza Strip is the darkest moment in the continuing process of dispossession, ethnic cleansing, occupation, and apartheid. Over 50,000 people have been murdered in the genocide by Israel's forces since October 2023. Our Party has consistently worked as part of the broad movement for peace and in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Gaza.

We will march in a red bloc for the upcoming demonstration on the 17 May in London, with an expected excellent attendance from Branches Districts and Nations from all over Britain. If you are able to attend or play an active role in the organisation for our bloc in the demonstration, message **07845677320**.

## The People's Press Printing Society



The PPPS will conduct its Annual General Meetings on the following dates across Britain:  
 ★ Thursday 29 May- London  
 ★ Friday 30 May- Glasgow  
 ★ Saturday 31 May- Salford  
 ★ Sunday 1 June- Cardiff

Every attendee shall be a shareholder for the Morning Star. Find more information at <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/support#shares>

Shareholders that have mislaid their share card can contact [shares@peoples-press.com](mailto:shares@peoples-press.com) to find out their membership number which makes it easier for registration at the AGM. Shareholders should keep their contact details up to date by emailing the shares address with details of any changes.

**Building working class power**  
**Changing Scotland**  
**Why we need progressive federalism**

Public discussion meeting with Robert Ross, former secretary of Cambuslang Trades Union Council and the local tenants federation who led the local campaign against the Poll Tax in the 1980s and Sam O'Neil who helped build resistance to the demolition of Wynford flats in Maryhill, will open discussion on how to reassert the power of Scotland's working class communities against the current attacks.

The meeting will mark the publication of the Communist Party's new pamphlet on progressive federalism.

Organised by Govan and South West Communist Party  
**Wednesday 7 May 7pm by Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://communistparty-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86295013870?pwd=IlENGmiaL4lMbnlU2h3efHHiCzatE.1>  
 Meeting ID: 862 9501 3870  
 Passcode: 760345

On the 80th anniversary of victory over fascism in Europe  
**PATRIOTS & PARTISANS**  
 Friday May 9, 7pm  
 Salford, Working Class Movement Library, HS 4WX  
 Free admission - Scan the QR to register

Talks on anti-fascist resistance and forces of the 1930s and '40s. British and Irish volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. The Italian partisans. The USSR's Great Patriotic War.

Speakers from:  
 • Communist Party of Britain  
 • Young Communist League  
 • Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia (ANPI)  
 • North-West International Brigade Memorial Group  
 • James Connolly League

**UNITY BOOKS**  
 Unity Books in Glasgow is Britain's largest socialist bookshop, home to over 5,000 books, pamphlets, and periodicals from across the worker's movement.  
[unitybooks.co.uk](http://unitybooks.co.uk)  
 Unit 15, Govanhill Workspace,  
 69 Dixon Road,

**MAY DAY**  
**YES TO WORKERS RIGHTS, NO TO THE FAR RIGHT**

March on May day for:  
 THE RIGHT TO DECENT JOBS | THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING  
 THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE AT WORK | THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

ASSEMBLE 12PM CLERKENWELL GREEN  
 1PM MARCH  
 RALLY 2.30PM TRAFALGAR SQUARE

LONDON MAY DAY ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Winston Pinder**  
 Winston, now in his 90s was for many years an active communist, anti racist and a popular youth worker. Journalist Angela Cobbinah and David Horsely plan to publish a tribute to his many years of activism. He worked closely with both Billy Strachan and Claudia Jones who he hails as his mentors. If you knew or worked with Winston get in contact [ukdavid.d@gmail.com](mailto:ukdavid.d@gmail.com)

**COMMUNIST PARTY**  
**BIG RED APPEAL**

The Communist Party is building and growing across Britain - but it needs your help. Donate to our £50,000 Big Red Appeal to help rebuild the communist movement in Britain.

Your donations will help build Party staffing and infrastructure, fund future campaigning and branch building, and fund strategic areas of growth.

Thanks for all the donations generously received so far.

Pay by bank transfer to Communist Party, S/C 60-83-01 A/C 50725694 or via online at <https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/donate/>

Please send cheques (marked 'CPB') to CPB, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Rd, Croydon CR0 1BD.

# HOW TO FIGHT FASCISM

'First it is absolutely clear to us in Britain that the main task is now to give leadership and organization to this wide, broad anti-fascist feeling. To bring in not only the working class but other sections of the population that are anti-fascist. To go ahead with this drive for local trades councils, to initiate united front conferences and demonstrations and also for the preparation of a national antifascist congress.'

**Harry Pollitt**, general secretary of the Communist Party at the 11 October 1934 meeting of the Communist International



**'What Reform UK supporters do have in common is their absolutely justifiable loss of confidence in, and contempt for the political establishment of capitalism, their feeling that they have "lost control" of their communities, their fear of everything they don't understand, and their desire for a new start with strong leadership.'**

Jay Veyess

## ELECTIONS

**M**ANY WORKING class people are in danger of losing their footing in the fast flow of the economic, social, environmental, military and political crisis. We voted to get rid of the Tories, but if we ever had confidence in Labour, Starmer has killed it. There is a demand for answers. Some find solutions in the simplistic, hate-filled politics of fascists and the populist far right. Many, recognising the political system is corrupt and designed to keep them in their place, seek something new that seems to hear them. Recent research shows a surge in support for Reform UK – a serious step forward on the rightward march visible seeing across Europe and USA.

(See *Morning Star* 12 March 2025.)

Reform UK's online policy document *Our Contact With You* cynically makes a point of recognising some of the very real challenges currently faced by working class people – particularly the dishonesty and political corruption of the Tory and Labour Parties, and the related crises across housing, benefits, the NHS, wage stagnation, energy costs, public services, tax avoidance.

It poses as the friend of the ordinary man in order to encourage support for their solutions based on division and oppression in our communities, on privatisation of our services including the NHS, on scrapping the hard won protection of employment law – to make it easier to hire and fire, on widespread cuts to social spending, on climate change denial and full support for the fossil fuel transnational monopolies, on reduced Big Business corporation tax, on a benefits system designed to force people into

low paid precarious work, etc.

Of course, the reality of their political intentions are not revealed at this stage of the game. There is no mention of our rights to organise in trades unions and communities although their policy for Britain to withdraw from the European Court of Human Rights and 'to legislate to stop left-wing bias and politically correct Ideology', with more powers for police and army, new prison building and life imprisonment sentencing... all this provides a glimpse at their plans

These are not just right-wing racist Tories. They are followed by fascists at home and across Europe and USA. left unchallenged their populist approach is a stepping stone further right.

Present day fascists think they can win through an exercise of their will. But fascism becomes necessary for a capitalist ruling class when the wired-in conflicts and crises of capitalism reach such a crisis that the ruling class finds it impossible to rule in the customary way and so turns to State coercion and open suppression of opposition.

This is when the foul pond of ultra-right, nationalist and fascist groups become useful and necessary to the maintenance of the system.

Reform UK's populist stance means it reaches very different audiences with often contradictory views on things from climate change to workers rights, public ownership to immigration, trades unionism to foreign aid, feminism to public services.. Each 'tribe' turns a blind eye to those policies with which they don't feel comfortable and focus on those – maybe quite few in number – that reflect their particular views and fears. Its an unstable and volatile mix.

So Reform UK's nationalism, racism and

xenophobia, its mutual support with US White House ultra-right politicians and billionaire capitalists, its leading members' connections with European neo-Nazis– all these facts need to be urgently and loudly brought to a wide audience.

What Reform UK supporters do have in common is their absolutely justifiable loss of confidence in, and contempt for the political establishment of capitalism, their feeling that they have 'lost control' in their communities, their fear of everything they don't understand, and their desire for a new start with strong leadership. Do these things make the average Reform UK supporter a fascist? Of course not. But do they mean that if their support is consolidated, that they become susceptible to ultra-right and fascist manipulation? Yes, it does – and that's why slogans and demos are not enough.

We need to be absolutely embedded in our communities, and tackling head on the issues that lead to some to listen to the far right and fascists. Our is not the easy, tempting but fraudulent 'Leave it to us' message of Reform UK to the alienated and fearful. Our message to those same people, is, of necessity, difficult, demanding and truthful. It's a living message expressed in words and in sustained practical action that has to be taken every day into every working class community via trades union councils, People's Assemblies, Communist Party and YCL branches and others – a full-on united front against monopoly capitalism, fascism and war.

The enemy of the working class is the capitalist ruling class that sees us only as the source of profit, that will use racist division and fascist oppression as necessary to maintain its wealth and power, and it will do so for as long as it is left in control of the

State

Anti fascism is achieved not principally by slogans and placards but by fighting back against the iniquities of capitalism; exploitation, the poverty/wealth gap, the degradation of our communities, the housing crisis, energy and cost of living price hikes, the sell-off of old people's homes and other services, the destruction of the NHS, bullying bosses, crushing work routines, punitive benefit systems, perpetual war and genocide, the risk of extinction. Through that fightback, we will learn how to organise to get rid of the whole rotten and corrupt system that creates these crises and crimes. The capitalist system that Reform UK 100% supports and defends - has to go.

JAY VEYESS IS THE PEN NAME A COMMUNIST FIRST BROUGHT INTO THE YCL 'AGAINST RACIALISM' CAMPAIGN OF OPPOSITION TO ENOCH POWELL'S RIVERS OF BLOOD PROVOCATION IN 1968

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/02/reform-uk-can-win-scores-of-labour-seats-in-england-and-wales-says-study>  
[https://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/blogs/ec\\_lepoll\\_20250314.html](https://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/blogs/ec_lepoll_20250314.html)  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/03/14/reform-uk-would-win-local-elections-but-for-angela-rayner/>



<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/meet-five-tribes-back-reform-uk-phnom-pen>  
 In this pamphlet, by Phil Katz and Nick Wright, the Communist Party turns the spotlight on Reform UK.

Even though Britain's mass media give huge publicity to Reform UK policy on one issue alone – immigration – the authors warn of the dangers of seeing it as a single-issue party.

Reflecting the split in Britain's ruling class the people who own and run Reform UK are committed to an anti working class policy agenda that would mean more privatisation, starving public services of funding and tying Britain's economy and foreign policy to a Trumpian agenda no less subservient to US imperialism than that of Biden and Harris.

**£2 from [www.comunistparty.org.uk](http://www.comunistparty.org.uk)**



■ **May** International Workers Day

# 8 May Victory over Fascism Day



# 8 MAY VICTORY OVER FASCISM



'Tomorrow our great Russian allies will also be celebrating victory and after that we must begin the task of rebuilding our hearth and homes, doing our utmost to make this country a land in which all have a chance, in which all have a duty, and we must turn ourselves to fulfill our duty to our own countrymen, and to our gallant allies of the United States who were so foully and treacherously attacked by Japan.'

**Winston Churchill** Victory in Europe speech, 8 May 1945



## The struggle for historical truth

Phil Katz argues that workers must retake their own history, before others make it for them



▲ Soviet troops raise the red flag over the Reichstag. Above right: Victory in Europe day celebrated in Britain

THE YEAR 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory over fascism and the warmaking axis of Germany, Italy, and Japanese militarist imperialism. For decades after 1945, representatives of the allied victors came together to mark the occasion, undeterred even by the Cold War. But the rise of Thatcher and Reagan changed that. Historical memory faded, contemporary politicking took precedence, and Russia was sidelined while capitalist West Germany was rehabilitated. This year, due to the war in Ukraine, Russia will be excluded entirely. Instead, Russia and China will mark the event together, while Britain, the USA, and France observe it alone. It remains to be seen whether Germany—now with a vastly expanded war budget and a reinstated Wehrmacht—will be invited.

The decision to send Taurus missiles to Ukraine—deployable only by German personnel—is a strategic miscalculation by Bonn's new regime, rushing into a conflict that has already run its course. German rearmament should alarm us all. Post-war West Germany had constitutional safeguards preventing its military from operating beyond its borders. The socialist GDR enshrined peace as a priority. Today, NATO's rigid alliances and scramble for arms contracts have erased those restraints. Where opposing war credits was once a left-wing principle, now social democrats, greens, and even some unions endorse funding weapons of mass destruction. Let's be clear: Britain, for example, is a country that since 1945 has invaded Egypt, occupied Ireland, slaughtered Kenyans, and bombed Serbia, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen, there is no 'defence



budget'—only money for mass murder in the name of 'humanitarian action', 'freedom,' and 'democracy.'

Victory in 1945 was secured by mass mobilisation—trade unions leading the home front, alongside the combined forces of the British army and her allies from across the Empire. This was a People's War. A Total War. Today's commemorations—a concert at the Albert Hall, a march-past in London, a Red Arrows fly-past—are stage-managed and lifeless. There are no genuine popular celebrations. The unions, whose wartime anti-fascism once defied employer hostility, now stand disorientated, some even joining the employers' camp, blinded by anti-Russian sentiment and well paid defence industry jobs. They forget that Britain and Russia fought side by side as the backbone of the anti-fascist alliance in World War Two. The British ruling class has turned its friends into enemies and enemies into friends.

At the Nuremberg trials, executive counsel Robert G. Storey declared the aim was 'the making of a record of the Hitler regime which would withstand the test of history.' The tribunal prosecuted three crimes: against peace (the supreme charge), war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Most defendants were convicted for conspiracy against peace rather than atrocities. In Cold War West Germany, many who should have faced trial for crimes against humanity instead became judges, police officers, and civil servants.

Post-war, Soviet influence with the people of Europe triggered panic among Western leaders, who enlisted far-right nationalist movements—like Ukraine's Banderites, complicit in the Holocaust and ethnic cleansing of Poles—to wage the Cold War. A newer phase of Holocaust research exposes the extent of local collaboration in the 'holocaust of bullets,' where more were

murdered than at Auschwitz. These forces later allied with the Nazis in the 'holocaust of the camps.'

In the USSR and Eastern Bloc, historical revisionism and Nazi apologetics were illegal. Many leaders in the German Democratic Republic, former resistance fighters and International Brigade veterans had often suffered horrifically under fascism. East German education systems taught anti-fascism. But by the 1960s, war crime trials in Eastern Europe ended, and the Soviets failed to grasp the Holocaust's unique character. Holocaust distortion soon became an anti-Soviet weapon.

When socialism was dismantled, historical revisionists rebranded as 'democrats' and 'dissidents,' became shock troops for privatisation, NATO expansion, and border revisions. Under 'democratisation,' they dismantled workers' post-war gains—state welfare, public ownership, living standards, but also freedom of the press and the right of association. The Prague Declaration (2008) turned historical revisionism into EU policy, with laws targeting socialism and workers' organisations. Statues of wartime victors were torn down, streets renamed, communist parties banned. Attacks on unions and women's rights followed. The Maidan coup turbocharged this process—fascists returned to power, and with them, war. Only in Britain, Belarus (which lost a quarter of its population in the war), Russia, China, and parts of Germany and the USA do people still challenge historical revisionism. Elsewhere, the Allies' victory is acknowledged—sometimes just barely. The BBC wavers between recognising and erasing the Soviet role. But battlefields don't vanish. The historical record remains for those willing to see it. Ominously in the Baltics and the eastern crescent, revisionist history which

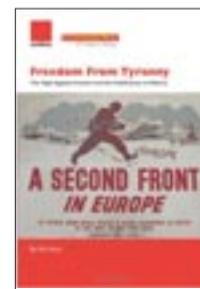
blames the USSR for the start of the war and its major impact, dominates the telling of history, its institutions, school curricula and museums.

Why does this matter? Because between 1945 and 1990, revisionism lied about history, reviving nationalism to undermine socialism. From 1990 to 2014, it became a movement—via the Prague Declaration—that rewrote laws, rehabilitated fascists, and criminalised left-wing politics. Today, the same forces promote war, not peace, in Ukraine.

Our workers' movement must reclaim its anti-fascist history—from Cable Street to the defence of Madrid, the Battle of Britain to the Arctic Convoys, El Alamein to D-Day. These struggles weren't just military victories; they birthed the NHS, comprehensive schools, and nationalised industry. Unions must lead again, uniting workers across divisions—the antidote to fascism's divide-and-rule tactics.

Winning this battle demands a united front—honest history, firm alliances, and a willingness to work with unexpected partners. Some may need to "holster their water pistols for the greater cause." But remember: revisionism isn't just about distorting the past. It's about reshaping politics today. And in that fight, neutrality isn't an option.

Phil Katz is author of *Freedom from Tyranny*





# INTERNATIONAL

'This organisation of the proletarians into a class, and, consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. But it ever rises up again, stronger, firmer, mightier. It compels legislative recognition of particular interests of the workers, by taking advantage of the divisions among the bourgeoisie itself.'

**Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels** *The Manifesto of the Communist Party 1848*



## GERMANY TODAY

The new government with likely chancellor Friedrich Merz will probably be formed by the CDU/CSU and SPD, as was the case in 2005-09, 2013-17 and 2017-21.

FIRSTLY, CDU/SPD is a practised constellation and secondly, there are only two parties in it – if we count CDU and CSU (the Bavarian branch of the Union) as one party. The elections drove the Greens out of government because the BSW party failed to enter parliament with just 4.98 per cent, meaning that the seats held by the CDU/CSU and SPD were then made up more than a half, enough to form a majority. The SPD received its worst result in over a hundred years, while the CDU/CSU continued its downward slide with its second worst result in its history. The Greens also lost many votes; as in 2013, the FDP is no longer in parliament (4.3 per cent). This means that the CDU, Greens and FDP, which are neoliberal in terms of domestic policy and reactionary and the most aggressive in terms of foreign policy, have got their comeuppance, while the SPD under Scholz was a weak leader of the Government and was unable to convince its core voters to support the war course of the Greens, CDU and FDP.

Of the usual governing parties, the SPD

still has the largest proportion of members who support peace in general and with Russia in particular - but they then elect a leadership that usually does the opposite (a phenomenon perhaps familiar to you from the Labour Party).

### The AfD

The AfD is in parliament, having doubled in size to around 20 per cent; this party is xenophobic and right-wing extremist in parts, but it represents large sections of a non-extremist population with a mixture of anti-migrant resentment, an anti-EU position and the demand for an end to the NATO/Ukraine war against the Russian Federation. Yet it is actually itself a party dedicated to militarism, which is in favour of massive rearmament and wants to see Germany lead the world.

Die Linke has also improved its vote. It benefited from a new media prominence that was directed against the BSW with Die Linke courted for this purpose. It benefited from a mass mobilisation against

the joint vote by the CDU and AfD against migration before the elections and a possible cooperation between these right-wing parties after. The SPD and Greens, on the other hand, criticised Friedrich Merz for the vote but wanted a coalition with him anyway, thus losing credibility.

With his close ties to BlackRock, Friedrich Merz stands for the closest possible proximity to big business. In terms of economic policy, he is likely to pursue an even more neo-liberal course, but could encounter opposition from both the SPD and parts of his own party. The SPD knows that it faces a fall into total insignificance if it does not at least appear to stand for social policies

### Foreign policy – EU and USA

After the elections, but even before the new Bundestag was constituted, the CDU/CSU, SPD and Greens pushed through an amendment to the Basic Law to weaken the so-called 'debt brake', disregarding the new balance of power since 23 of February. In the new Bundestag, they would not have had the necessary two-thirds majority due to the votes gained by the AfD and Die Linke. Now 500 billion in debt is being taken on to finance armaments projects aimed at Russia. On 21 March, the necessary approval of a majority of the Bundesrat (the body of the German federal states) was also obtained, with the two federal states in which Die Linke co-governs also speaking out in favour of the rearmament. In contrast, states co-governed by the BSW refused to give their consent for reasons of peace policy. The supposed turnaround in relations with the USA by a fickle President Trump, whose greatest 'crime' is the return to normal relations with Russia and the correct labelling of the Ukraine conflict as a NATO/Russia war, serves as a pretext for the biggest armament in Germany's history.

The EU, under the German von der Leyen, is playing the international background music to this. Of course, what is being labelled 'Rearm Europe' is not rearmament. The EU states plus Britain have always been bristled with weapons; even without the USA, the European NATO member states are three times superior to Russia in the various types of weapons. This will intensify in the coming years.

In order to consolidate its central leadership role in the EU – favoured by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom – Germany will probably focus more on cooperation with France and Poland, the 'Weimar Triangle', in the coming years. Merz is in favour of joining the French nuclear umbrella. It remains to be seen whether Germany will also assume a protective role for the Baltic states if the

USA actually withdraws from their protection. Germany already exerted influence in the Balkans, specifically in the former parts of Yugoslavia, in the 1990s until it was ousted by the USA. Open opposition to the USA had not yet been voiced at that time.

### Trump

With the Trump II administration, however, the traditional 'Atlantic' position of the CDU/CSU is now being called into question. It is not yet clear to what extent more 'European' orientated forces will be able to assert themselves in the government. The most pro-US party, the Greens, are no longer in government, which means that a policy that is more orientated towards European interests could gain more ground.

It should always be borne in mind that German imperialism only ever relies on the EU and NATO for tactical reasons – its aim is to regain sole leadership of Europe. The economic programme of the Nazi Party in the 1940s envisaged the creation of an economic area in Europe with a single currency and satellite economies around Germany. Germany, regardless of its various governments, has come closer to this goal with the Maastricht Treaties and the creation of the "euro".

### Ukraine war

Now only the military component is still missing. An ongoing war in Ukraine without a political solution is in the interests of German imperialism. Only the lie of the external threat from Russia, then the Soviet Union and now Russia again, which has been put forward for over one hundred and twenty years, provides a domestic political justification for aggressive armaments. This is the basis for the conflict with Russia envisaged for the 2030s - even without the USA, if the current Trump policy prevails in the U.S. as state policy, i.e. is also adopted by the Democratic Party. Either way, US capital has prevailed with its European policy, which was prioritised after 1945. The set goal was and remains to prevent Germany and Russia from joining forces politically. Under Trump, this is no longer done by making Germany dependent on the USA through military protection, but by abruptly ending this protection. The USA can therefore turn to aggression against China - Germany is trying to fill the vacuum in cooperation with France. It remains to be seen how Britain, as the main state representative of US interests in Europe, will react.

GUNTER POHL ISA A FORMER INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY DKP

These contributions by Gunter Pohl, Martin Hall and James Shannon were delivered at an extended meeting of the Communist Party's International Commission in April



# SHAPE SHIFTERS CUDDLE UP TO THE FAR RIGHT

Martin Hall

## EUROPE

**WHEN WE** look at the growth of the far-right across Europe, we see similar trends to the growth of our own far-right in Britain. By and large fascists that is, those who seek a political dictatorship of and over monopoly capitalism – do not make up the mass of the ranks of the far-right.

That is not to say that fascist movements in Europe have not grown, just that the greatest successes are coming from the 'legitimate' far-right. Those who openly use the instruments, constitutions, and even ideology of liberal democracy for an extremely anti-working class politics. The sympathies of many on the 'legitimate wing' of the far-right with fascism, shown by the Meloni government's praise of the fascist colonisation of Libya, does not bely a desire, or rather a need, to institute political dictatorship in order to achieve their goals.

### So what are the goals of the European far-right?

Early in the 21st Century, following the fall of the Socialist bloc in Eastern Europe, we can see the origins of these politics through the rightward drift of the Fidesz Party in Hungary and the Freedom Party of Austria, and the founding of the Law and Justice Party in Poland. The rhetoric is a combination of social conservatism, economic nationalism, and euroscepticism. Tactically, this is a far-right for the era of liberal hegemony. They work tactically within the constitutional limits of liberal democracy – threatening to do away with the regulatory bodies that exist to manage state power, and rather to strengthen those bodies which enforce the power of the capitalist class. They use a combination of a strengthened police and the threat of the 'illegitimate wing' of the far-right – fascist thugs – to create difficult conditions for working class or social movements. They have succeeded where the left has largely failed in creating communities – this through the online worlds of gaming or social media, or through usurping existing social and community clubs – the few of those which have survived the EU's brutal

neoliberal agenda. None of this is new to us – we see the same tactics played out by Reform UK, and UKIP before it, here.

So with the successes of the far-right in many countries – the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Italy all having either ruling or very successful far-right parties – why has Britain alone mobilised enough support to leave the European Union? The answer is that the European Union itself provides the tools and political legitimacy for an even greater robbery of the European working class, and through its drive towards war with Russia and rapidly cooling relationship with America may provide greater opportunities than before for the stifled national bourgeoisies of its smaller members. As we saw in the Bundestag last month, long-held financial maxims, treated as religious dogma by German finance capital, can be dropped in a moment for the purpose of European re-armament. While the AfD loudly criticised the move for its fiscal imprudence, they welcomed the increase to military spending and the repercussions that this will have on the already-struggling German working class. For a party, as many on the European far-right are, that spins a bizarre dance of pro-Europe, pro-peace, pro-Russia, pro-America politics, the clear corruption of this decision – including having to push it through on the last day of the old parliament – is a gift to a party that capitalises on workers who feel betrayed by the centre and the left.

In power, the parties of the European far-right are as neoliberal as any – if not more so. Committed to deregulation, social austerity, and the European market in Europe, and against social welfare and economic protectionism at home, these parties could arguably be called 'populist' (a useless word), but hardly nationalist. In the international sphere, disagreement with the European leadership comes from a more Atlantacist point of view than that of the Von de Leyen, and a broad agreement with Trump's 'Reverse Nixon' – peace with Russia to prioritise war with China, and an inward looting of the state to the benefit of their national bourgeoisies, excluding those bodies of the state that facilitate the oppression of the working class.

Culturally, the far-right in Europe dances the same dance as on international issues.



## Why do we need to revisit the European question now?

James Shannon

### THE EU

**T**HE 2024 general election was the first since 2010 at which Britain's relationship with the European Union was not central to the debates.

The issue is far from put to bed. From regular lobbying in the *Financial Times* and other liberal media outlets, through to the review of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement scheduled for this year, much of Britain's ruling class is pushing for greater integration. The US ending the funding of the proxy war in Ukraine has led to an outbreak of militaristic fever not seen since 1914. Militarism is the key to understanding where we are.

The EU in 2025 is not the one that the UK voted to leave in 2016. The long crisis

in capitalism has led to a more naked display of what the EU is: a way in which capitalist states can pool sovereignty in order to reduce accountability at home, while functioning as a cipher for US imperialism. The context of this has been huge swathes of the European population being excluded from parliamentary politics, with the crisis itself deepening the depoliticisation of economic and social policies in favour of technocracy. All of this occurred within a larger neoliberal framework of the continued shifting of power from labour to capital, after the relative gains made by labour during the post-war period.

Part of this was the reduction of options available, with an attendant hollowing out of representation, in a world where parties of the centre left and right tended to follow

similar economic policies, all prescribed by the EU. Now, frightened by the US unilaterally amending the post-war settlement, it wants to destroy what remains of the welfare state and public services in its constituent countries in order to fund its own imperial ambitions and assuage its own irrational fears of Russia.

At a basic level, it does of course remain the institution we voted to leave as well: the Stability and Growth Pact enshrines a set of fiscal rules that prevent the growth of command economies and push austerity, while the Four Freedoms ensure, among other things, the right of capital to move freely across borders. What rights don't the Four Freedoms give workers? Democratic ones – including labour and trade union, economic, political, cultural and environmental.

### Militarisation

Here's one headline in the *FT*. 'Poland and UK discuss defence spending as Europe moves to re-arm'. Such articles are now ubiquitous.

The beginning of the increasing current wave of militarism can be traced to the setting up of the European Political Community, which Liz Truss signed the UK up to in September 2022. The group was proposed by Emmanuel Macron in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Nominally, it promotes greater co-operation over military, energy, climate and migration. It was set up as a way for the EU to bolster its security after Brexit and with the possibility of a more isolationist Trump around the corner, which of course has come to pass. Britain hosted the organisation's fourth forum last year. Today



**The EU in 2025 is not the one that the UK voted to leave in 2016. The long crisis in capitalism has led to a more naked display of what the EU is: a way in which capitalist states can pool sovereignty in order to reduce accountability at home, while functioning as a cipher for US imperialism.**

affiliate please by May 9. If you are not a member you can attend if you are invited by a member or affiliate

Rhetorically Eurosceptic, excepting the general invocation of 'European Democracy', they are the fiercest proponents of 'Fortress Europe', and support both the brutal treatment of migrants in the Mediterranean and in the Balkans, and the imperialist policy in the MENA which drives this migration. Seeing that the working class's honeymoon period with liberalism is over, and recognising the increasingly threatened petty-bourgeoisie's resentment of the European liberal project, they present themselves as an 'illiberal' alternative. Supportive of the fiscal policies that threaten the European worker and petty-bourgeois alike, they instead attack the cultural faces of liberalism, taking on a racial-religious politics of Christian Europeanism. In Italy, abortion rights are under attack, and in Sweden a new proposal requiring public sector workers to report undocumented individuals to authorities, based on the coalition agreement now running the country including the right-wing Sweden Democrats. They attack European capital's acceptance of immigration, women's rights, LGBT+, and religious freedom, as if they were attacking European capital itself. With the Trump administration's radical programme of cultural conservatism, these policies have been given a new kind of legitimacy, one that carries water to the more dangerous economic rapaciousness that is on the way. Already many European parties have called for Departments of Government Efficiency in Musk's model, a Thatcherism for a sadder, more online age. Whether the European Union stays on its current liberal path or gives way to Trump's call for peace with Russia and intensified war on the working class, it is clear that the decision is out of the hands of European workers and in the hands of an increasingly torn European monopoly capitalist class.

#### UK-EU relations

Again, let's begin with a headline from the FT: 'UK must be more ambitious in rebuilding EU relations, says business group' – the British Chamber of Commerce.

Here's more from the same piece:

'Shevaun Haviland, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, ...said the BCC would be looking to "apply pressure" on

shorn of US leadership, the EU is going down in flames, while having its version of Suez; it just doesn't know it yet.

#### War spending

Indeed, perhaps the most incredible moment in the last few weeks was when Germany announced it was applying to Brussels for defence spending to be exempt from the EU's fiscal rules. Imagine how Greece feels about this. Imagine how every country sold off its assets in order to comply with EU fiscal rules.

You're not allowed to do this to prop up your industries. You're not allowed to do it spend money on public services.

But the rules can be thrown out of the window because the turn in US foreign policy has thrown European leaders and their cheerleaders into a panic, and their response is to rearm the continent; and all over an entirely fictitious threat to European security.

How do the German public feel about

the government by hosting a meeting of UK and EU business and political leaders ahead of the EU-UK summit on May 19 that will formally kick off the reset process. "We absolutely want them to be ambitious... they need to set the ambition high and move quickly with a clear timeline."

#### What might that mean? And with what authority is she wishing to assert this pressure?

To return to the military question, this is an obvious point, but one that needs making: a rearmed Europe is the way in which the UK will try to do two things:

- Recentre itself in European affairs, prior to re-entering the EU at some point
- Keep itself useful to the USA, by playing its usual bridging role

Of course, Britain is one of only two nuclear powers in western Europe.

#### Why does the ruling class want closer ties with the EU?

Because it never wanted to leave. There was never a better deal on offer for the capitalist class than the one they already had, which, of course, gave the UK all the 'benefits' of membership while allowing it opt-outs, most notably regarding the Single Currency. The particular fear of the British ruling class during the period 2015-19 was a Corbyn government outside the EU.

The beginning of Labour's slide, which led to the disastrous defeat of 2019, was of course under Keir Starmer's watch as Shadow Brexit Secretary, when he announced just weeks after the 2017 election that a Labour government would seek a transitional deal with the EU that would keep the status quo.

#### Why does the government want closer ties?

At the most basic level, the EU is the neoliberal model in which Thatcher's Britain was in the vanguard writ large. The ideas of Friedrich Hayek are crucial to understanding the nature of the EEC and the EU. Hayek's 1939 essay, *The Economic Conditions of Interstate Federalism* argues that a reduction in national sovereignty is a structural necessity for the free movement

this? According to , Almut Rochowanski, '[i]t is .... a slap in the face of the German public, who have been told for 15 years that the debt brake written into Germany's constitution is an immutable law of nature, that spending on schools, bridges, trains running on time or healthcare would drive Germany into ruin.'

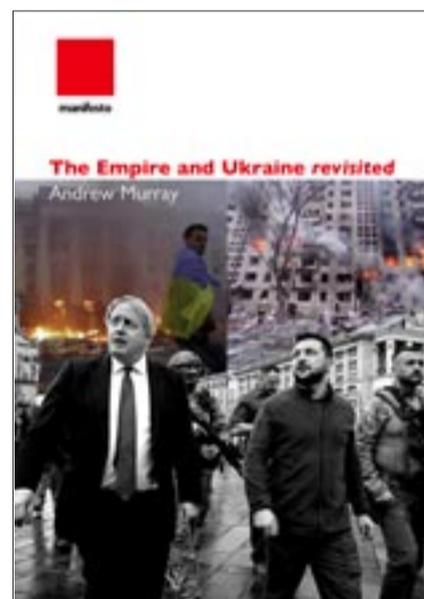
Furthermore, the war in Ukraine has been used by the USA to squash any idea that the EU could operate independently of American imperialism; here's , a leading liberal commentator on the EU, in 2022:

'In short, without a European international security arrangement that somehow includes Russia, the world is likely to end up in a bipolar confrontation between the United States and China, with Europe a subordinate of the United States (reconstituting the so-called 'West') and Russia dependent on China. In this world there won't be any place for European autonomy or sovereignty, for an independent Europe as a third global force

of capital. That, and particularly the City's financial instruments, is the principal reason that the majority of Britain's capitalists and its institutions want closer ties. Costas Lapavistas, writing in 2018, in a discussion of the importance of Hayek to the EU, makes the point that one of the reasons Hayek's model has not worked in practical terms is that the EU has not federated defence and foreign policy, while also going further than Hayek recommended in terms of monetary policy by creating the EMU, to which the latter objected when first proposed in the 1970s. Of course, we are now seeing the increased federation of defence and foreign policy, or at least the attempt at such.

Of course, the size of the British army – the fifth biggest in Western Europe at 138,000 – is one of the reasons that military cooperation is such a Trojan Horse for EU realignment; the same people who, to quote Peter Shore, argued that Britain could 'no longer totter about in the world, independent as a nation' are now arguing that it can't be safe as a nation unless part of a bolstered European defence policy.

Moreover, the current occupant of the White House is causing problems for Conservative Brexiters as well as for Labour remainers. While Badenoch, Johnson and even Farage might like to pretend they're at one with Donald Trump, the reality is that US isolationism throws the aims of a right-wing



Brexit out of the window, to a large degree.

And what of the 'leave left'? I use that phrase as the party was of course not the only part of the radical and revolutionary left that campaigned for leave. We are, though, it seems to me, the most consistent in doing so.

Primarily, we need a new analysis, which hopefully this discussion will kick start. There are some basic demands and approaches, though, that are worth repeating in the meantime:

- We need to emphasise the importance of a socialist, materialist analysis of the EU in political education work at every level of our parties and our movement.
- We need to call for public ownership, greater trade union rights, and a Europe of peace. Central to this will be the return of sovereignty to nation states.
- We need to call for the abandonment of market mechanisms in the fight against climate change.
- We need to continue to campaign for an immediate end to the funding of the wars in Ukraine and occupied Palestine and to fight against the growing alignment of the EU and the UK, and consequent militarisation.

MARTIN HALL CONVENES THE EUROPE GROUP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Andrew Murray's original 2015 book *Empire and Ukraine* set the Ukraine crisis in its global and local context and drew the lessons needed for the anti-war movement as great power conflict returned to Europe and threatened a new "cold war" or worse.

That New Cold War has arrived with the NATO expansion into central and eastern Europe – a principal factor in this present war – and an essential elements in the US drive to counter China's growing economic, commercial and diplomatic strength.

**Check out the Ukraine series at [www.manifestopress.coop](http://www.manifestopress.coop)**

or as a region of its own in the global context.'

And so are illusions dashed. Indeed, the recent public humiliation of Zelensky was clearly aimed at the leaders of France, Germany, the UK and other European powers. Moreover, Trump has got what he wants: less military involvement in Europe (at least potentially) for the USA and increased military spending in Europe.

#### Delusions

A question worth considering: to what extent should we see western leaders talking about a Ukraine victory as delusional or duplicitous? As we know, there is a part of the left – the same part that was fixated on remaining in the EU – that believes Ukraine is Spain in 1936, but that's not the position of serious bourgeois politicians, at least not privately. Furthermore, there is broadly speaking a north-south split regarding sending troops to the Ukraine and even the reducing of

social spending in favour of military.

Here's Rachonowski again: 'a new bellicism has swept up the continent's elites and gone into cataclysmic overdrive in recent weeks. Nowhere has this new martiality been, where political leaders and a new crop of "military experts" egg each other on.

The latter have been of Ukraine's certain victory and Russia's imminent collapse again and again, but nevertheless dominate the country's much-watched primetime debate shows. Last week, Germans were told that the coming summer, because will, under cover of war games in Belarus, invade NATO territory.'

Realpolitik was on display in the USA, however, even in the Biden era, regardless of what it was saying publicly. Now, Daddy's taking his toys away.

JAMES SHANNON IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPE GROUP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

**Liberation's Annual General Meeting will be held May 17 at 12 noon, online.**





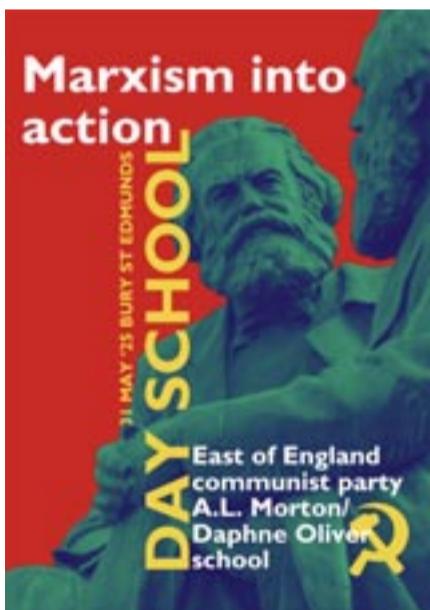
# REVOLUTIONARY ACTION & IDEAS

'There is likewise no doubt that the weakness of the British Communist Party was of no small importance in the defeat of the General Strike. It should be said that the British Communist Party is one of the best sections of the Communist International. It should be pointed out that its policy throughout the time of the strike in Britain was perfectly correct. It must, however, also be admitted that its prestige among the British workers is still weak. And this circumstance could not fail to play a fatal part in the course of the General Strike.' **Joseph Stalin** speaking to Tiflis railway workers in 1926.



▲ National museums, libraries, archives, and history groups are joining together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1926 General Strike. In partnership with the trade union and wider labour movement, the project aims to develop an interactive map of sites open to visit in 2026.

Accompanying the interactive website, the groups plan to distribute a printed passport, encouraging public participation in visiting these sites and collecting stamps from each organisation they visit. This will provide discounts on related merchandise and foster a desire to visit as many sites as possible



Bury St Edmund's Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate St, GB IP33 IRH  
 Chair **Maise Riley**  
 YCL & Communist Party East of England political education officer  
**A.L. Morton & the English Tradition**  
 Prof James Crossley  
**Marxism into action** Lorraine Douglas  
**William Morris and Marx on alienation** Phil Katz  
**Lenin and Gramsci on the State**  
 Gawain Little  
**Reparations and Revolution**  
 Tony O'Hara  
**Marxism and Machinery - from The Grundrisse** Simon Brignell  
**The Future of women's liberation**  
 Jennie Dellow & Lorraine Douglas  
 1pm-5.30pm Lunch 1-1.45pm  
 Free to members and supporters by invite



## Understanding and combatting anti-semitism

The Communist Party is again running the five week online educational on Understanding and combatting anti-semitism, April 27, 2025 6pm  
 May 4, 2025 6pm  
 May 11, 2025 6pm  
 May 18, 2025 6pm  
 May 25, 2025 6pm

Mary Davis, James Crossley and Steve Silver will deliver the programme. To register, please go to:  
[https://communistparty-org-uk-zoom.us/j/meeting/register/t377cNRIRPSOFxSjVO3CTA](https://communistparty-org-uk.zoom.us/j/meeting/register/t377cNRIRPSOFxSjVO3CTA)

## Women and Class

Six week online course starting 1 June 2025  
 The Party's Women's Commission claims the dates Sunday 1 July to Sunday 6 July 7pm to 9pm for a national Women and Class online course led by Mary Davis, open to both women and men comrades.

## Events

Send details of your events to [billgreenshields@outlook.com](mailto:billgreenshields@outlook.com)

- 1 May – London May Day – International Workers Day  
<https://www.londonmayday.org/>
- 1 May – Marx Memorial Library Open Day  
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/502>
- 1 May – West Midlands – Wolverhampton – International Workers Day  
<https://wolverstuc.org.uk/wolverhampton-workers-day-may-day-thursday-1st-may-2025/>
- 2 May – TUC Women – Mary MacArthur lecture  
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/events/2025-mary-macarthur-lecture>
- 3 May – West Midlands - Coventry – International Workers Day  
<https://www.facebook.com/coventrytuc/>
- 3 May - South Yorkshire – Sheffield - International Workers Day  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064742224742>
- 3 May – Yorkshire – Barnsley – International Workers Day  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1812372095998887/>
- 4 May – Glasgow – International Workers Day  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/4130668327258464/>
- 4 May – East of England - March for Peace - Festival - International Workers Day  
<https://www.facebook.com/psc.ipswich.southsuffolk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pswichMayDay/>
- 5 May – Chesterfield May Day – International Workers Day  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chesterfield-may-day-gala-and-rally-2025-tickets-1243371400329>
- 5 May – Marx Memorial Library – “The World Crisis & Imperialism Today” – Andrew Murray & Ben Chacko  
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/501>
- 7 May – PSC Webinar: Trade Unionists against the ongoing Nakba  
<https://palestinecampaign.org/events/psc-webinar-trade-unionists-against-the-ongoing-nakba/>
- 12 May – GFTU & MML – “The Wapping Dispute & the Printworkers  
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/503>
- 10 May – Working Class Movement Library – Lecture – The Making of the British South Asian Working Class  
<https://wcml.org.uk/event/frow-memorial-lecture-the-making-of-the-british-south-asian-working-class/>
- 11, 18, 24 May – Palestine Action Training Days  
<https://palestineaction.org/training/>
- 13 May fortnightly to 8 July – MML Course Capitalism, Crisis & Imperialism  
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/education/current-and-forthcoming-courses>
- 15 May - GFTU - Working Class History - Miners' Strike 1974  
<https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/trade-union-and-working-class-history>
- 15 May – WCML – Miners Strike poetry workshop  
<https://wcml.org.uk/event/miners-strike-poetry-workshop/>
- 15 May Nakba Day Workplace Day of Action for Palestine  
<https://palestinecampaign.org/events/nakba-day-workplace-day-of-action-for-palestine/>
- 17 May – TUC & Royal Historical Society – Levellers Festival Day  
<https://levellersday.wordpress.com/whats-happening-2025/>
- 17 – 18th May – Radical Stroud – Chartist Festival  
<http://radicalstroud.co.uk/counter-heritage/>
- 17 May Palestine Solidarity Campaign- Nakba 77 – Central London  
<https://palestinecampaign.org/events/national-demonstration-nakba-77/>
- 21 May – GFTU Strategy – Worker to Worker Organising  
<https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/>
- 22 May - GFTU Courses – Political System and Process  
<https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/political-course>
- 28 May – Bristol's Alma Theatre – The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists  
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/almaheatrecompany/1622850>
- Every Monday lunchtime – MML - Tours of Marx Memorial Library  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-of-the-marx-memorial-library-tickets-395777510187>
- 3- 4 June – TUC – Disabled Workers Conference  
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/events/tuc-disabled-workers-conference-2025>
- 7 June – Marx Memorial Library - Book Sale  
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/497>
- 7 June - People's Assembly & Stop the War - No More Austerity March  
<https://www.stopwar.org.uk/events/no-more-austerity-march-rally/>
- 7 June – Derby People's Assembly & Trades Union Council - Silk Mill Lockout: March, Rally & People's Festival  
<https://www.facebook.com/DerbySilkMillRally/>
- 7 June – Ella Baker School of Organising, Defeating Narratives of Division  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVcVio1bn1UjjuTFpDr6cHStfStgZQx5Om7BbUrQr127zpQ/viewform>
- 11 June – CPB Wales Cymru – ‘The Anti-Fascist Battle of De Winton Field... and the lessons for today’ NUM Club, Llwynypia Road, Tonypany CF40 2ES  
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Welsh-Communists-100064728397043>
- 12 June – GFTU Solidarity – Justice for Colombia  
<https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/solidarity-series-justice-for-colombia>
- 12 June - GFTU - Working Class History - The Wapping Dispute & Printworker Organisation  
<https://gftuet.org.uk/courses/trade-union-and-working-class-history>
- 14 June – Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign – March and Rally Justice for the Miners

# Unity!

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