



## Protect incomes, jobs, food and housing

### PANDEMIC

**T**HE PEOPLE'S Security is vital in the fight against Covid says the Communist Party.

The party has called for urgent action to guarantee employment, income, housing and food security in the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

'Millions of workers are facing cuts in hours or lay-offs and redundancies', the party's trade union organiser Andy Bain told the party's Political Committee. 'Unemployment is set to rise to at least 10 per cent by the end of this year on present projections, unless the Tory government takes the necessary steps to break the

circuit of infection with public support,' he added.

The Political Committee said that a short, sharp, all-Britain lockdown was now necessary in order to stop the spread of the pandemic and end the confusion created by nine different emergency systems operating in the three nations of Britain.

'But even a circuit-breaking lockdown may not succeed without widespread public compliance and participation – which is far less likely if people fear that they will lose income they need to pay their mortgage, rent and food and energy bills,' Andy Bain said.

Britain's Communists also urged workers and unions to stop the job in workplaces

that fail to comply with anti-Covid safety regulations.

'Governments in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff and workplace inspectorates must come down hard on employers who flout health and safety laws, which include the right of workers to refuse to work in dangerous conditions' said Andy Bain.

He urged workers to fight against closures and mass redundancies, pointing out that the right to picket, protest and demonstrate is protected under anti-Covid regulations, provided people abide by masking and social distancing requirements.

**Socialism, work, technology and the struggle for jobs.**

## LABOUR LEFT UNDER ATTACK

### CORBYN SUSPENSION

**T**HE SUSPENSION of Jeremy Corbyn from the Labour Party on the flimsiest of pretexts is not only a baseless attack on a longstanding fighter in words and deeds against all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism.

It is also the latest step in a longer and bigger drive to marginalise socialists and left-wing ideas in the Labour Party and the wider labour movement.

Make no mistake, the British ruling class was shaken by the June 2017 General Election result, when Labour under Corbyn's leadership increased its vote by 3.5m and won one of its biggest shares of the poll in more than 40 years. More than half a million new members had flocked to the party under his leadership and 13 million electors had voted for Labour's most radical manifesto since 1983.

The prospect of a left-led Labour government next time around, led by a socialist who opposes British imperialism's foreign and military policies, prompted the ruling class to intensify efforts to discredit Corbyn and his allies.

Those efforts succeeded, assisted by an unscrupulous smear campaign in the state and capitalist mass media, the sabotage of Labour's electoral prospects by numerous Labour MPs and central staff members, and by Starmer's successful strategy – in league with New Labourites and big business circles – to commit Labour to overturning the EU referendum result.

But the left-right battle in the Labour Party is a central part of the same struggle in the wider movement and in society itself. That is why socialists and the Labour-affiliated trade unions must unite in solidarity with Corbyn, demand his reinstatement and fight to reverse the drive to marginalise the left in the Labour Party.

One clear lesson of the past 100 years is that a bigger, stronger Communist Party can play a crucial role in building and strengthening such a counter-offensive.

Without this resistance, there is the growing danger that the British ruling class will engineer a 'national government' to rescue or a replace a divided Tory government and shore up crisis-hit capitalist system – with the support of the anti-socialists in a Starmer-led Labour Party.



## STATEMENT BY LABOUR-AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS

**As the general secretaries of trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party we seek to put on record our serious concerns about the manner of and rationale for suspension of the former party leader Jeremy Corbyn from the Labour Party.**

**The publication on Thursday of the EHRC report ought to have marked a moment of reflection and repair for our party. Instead, an ill-advised and unjust suspension has caused division.**

**We therefore call upon the leader, Keir Starmer, the general secretary David Evans and the NEC to work now with us as affiliated unions to repair this damage.**

**We speak as the leaders of unions representing working people who desperately need a Labour government. We cannot comprehend why the leadership would not only compromise the opportunity to unite our party behind the implementation of the EHRC's important recommendations so that they can be taken forward with the members' full trust and confidence, but also undermine our party's democratic processes and, ultimately, our party unity.**

**We therefore urge Keir to work with us on a fairer, unifying way forward.**

**ASLEF, Mick Whelan  
 Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union,  
 Sarah Woolley and Ian Hodson  
 (President)  
 CWU, Dave Ward  
 FBU, Matt Wrack  
 NUM, Chris Kitchen  
 TSSA, Manuel Cortes  
 Unite, Len McCluskey**

## Lockdown the coronavirus

**T**HE TORY government's SAGE panel of experts warned that urgent steps were needed to stem a second wave of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Top of their list of recommendations was a national lockdown to break the circuit of contagion. Since then, there have been four-and-a-half thousand Covid-related deaths and almost half-a-million new infections reported across Britain. These levels are many times higher than when, last month, SAGE first issued its recommendations, with our black and ethnic minority communities being hit particularly hard.

A week behind Wales, the government in London introducing a lockdown throughout England. This is typical of the shambolic betrayal of the people by a government which has fought hard to put the interests of big business first.

The Communist Party has been clear from the beginning that supporting the NHS and care homes for the elderly, and protecting people's jobs, incomes, homes and vital supplies must come before shareholders' profits.

That is why it said on 28 October not only that a second, short, sharp, all-Britain lockdown was long overdue – but also that its success might well depend on the mass of people, including the self-employed and small businesses, seeing the kind of

government measures that will secure their incomes, homes, food, medicines and essential services.

We also made the point that action must be taken to clamp down on employers in low-paid sweatshops and elsewhere who break the Covid protection rules. The best protection of all, of course, is that all workers join a trade union and exercise their right in law to stop the job wherever conditions are unsafe. But there are three even more profound lessons that can be learned from this pandemic.

Firstly, Britain has one of the worst Covid-19 death rates in the world because ten years of Tory under-investment and privatisation have undermined the ability of our NHS, local government, the emergency services and the privatised elderly care system to cope with a crisis this big.

Secondly, there should be no doubt anymore about who does the vital work upon which our whole society depends – the workers who staff our medical, caring and public services; the workers who produce and distribute our food, medicines and other essential supplies; the workers by hand and brain who develop and sustain the very infrastructure of a modern economy. Not the financial gamblers in the City of London, nor the bankers and big business shareholders who cream off a

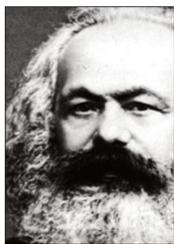
large share of the wealth created by working people's labour.

Thirdly, in order to meet the challenges of this and future deadly pandemics, we cannot rely on multinational corporations to produce the hospital and protective equipment, the medicines, the track-and-trace systems and the vaccines that will be so desperately needed.

Their overriding priority is the profits of a few, not the health of the many. The big pharmaceutical companies have grown fat on public money and the NHS for long enough – they should be nationalised and made to serve the public good.

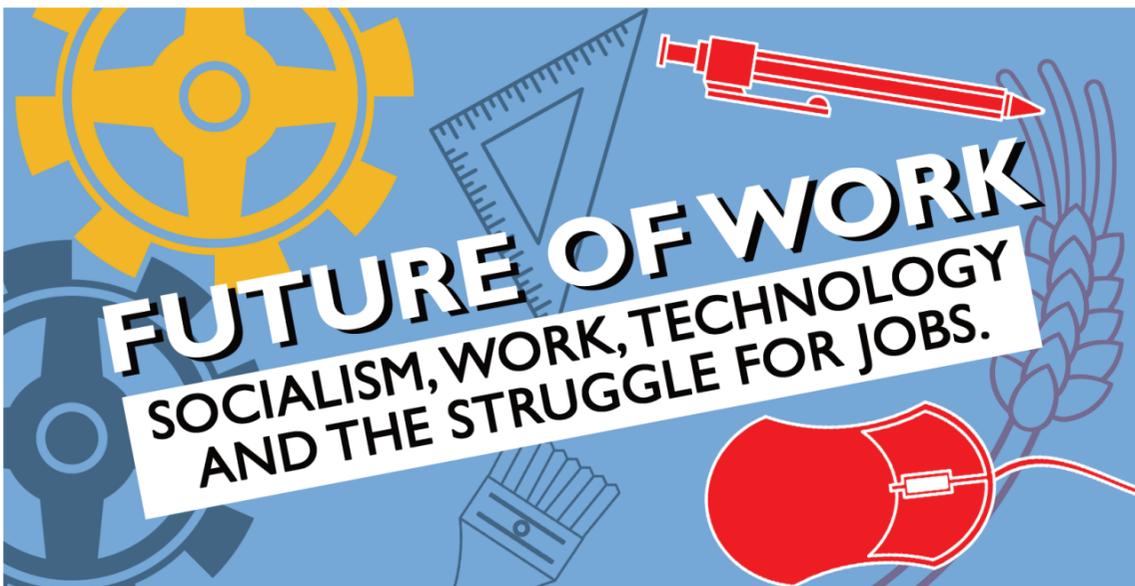
We will emerge from this crisis, albeit with scores of thousands of dead in England, Scotland and Wales and millions more around the world. But even before then, we must fight to protect every job. And we must campaign against Tory government plans to make us – the people, the real wealth creators past and present – pay the bills for this crisis.

That's why the Communist Party says:  
 ● Let's stop wasting more than £100 billion on a new nuclear weapons system that will protect us from nothing!  
 ● Levy a Wealth Tax on the super-rich and close down their British-run overseas tax havens!  
 And we need socialism – the alternative to the greed, waste and pollution of capitalism's big business profit system.



# MACHINES

The “greatest possible negation of necessary labour”, wrote Marx, is the “necessary tendency of Capital... [and the] transformation of the means of labour into machinery is the realisation of this tendency”.



## SOCIALISM

### Marxism and technology

#### Nationalisation in the hands of working people, state direction and planning would ensure quality jobs for all

MARC ASENSIO BILBAO  
& LEONARDO IMPETT

##### I. Production and the Physical

Certain aspects of the economy of a country tend to concentrate, until a monopoly is created by natural means. This is the case, for instance, in energy production and distribution, infrastructure construction, education, and health-care. We know from experience how the free-market privatisation of our public transport, our water, our energy companies, and increasingly our NHS, has led to inefficient and unreliable services: ever less able to support a dignified life.

As such, we find that education and scientific research are both fundamentally tied to state planning. Indeed, the smartphones we all carry in our pockets could not exist without state investment and research in most of its components. The GPS, the touch screen, and the internet itself are all technologies produced by publicly funded labour.

A democratisation of these fundamental sectors, their nationalisation under the hands of working people and state direction, would allow for a more efficient planning and restructuring of the production and distribution sites, ensuring quality jobs, low

and high skilled, all along the geography of our country.

Upon the elimination from the equation of the present need for private gain, the democratisation of our state will also open the door for increased options to accept and adapt foreign technology to our needs and capacity. The case of the 5G network serves as a notorious case of a technology that has been set back by international conflict. It is unavoidable to establish healthy friendly-minded international relations from which the peoples of each of the countries involved can benefit both as producers and consumers. Britain will indeed need to adapt to the shifting of patent and technology production towards the gravitational pull of the enormous Chinese and Indian economies, for which it is imperious to refrain from the imperialist character that emerges from its capitalist foundation.

##### II. Automation and the Virtual

When media outlets or business reports today refer to Artificial Intelligence, the chances are they're talking about Machine Learning. In its broadest form, Machine Learning is the ability for machines to “learn” from previous examples (known as “training data”). The birth of the particular explosion in in-

terest and investment in Machine Learning we're currently living through can be traced to around 2012, when Alex Krizhevsky used a Deep Convolutional Network (often referred to as “Deep Learning”) to solve the ImageNet Image Recognition Challenge, in which a computer must automatically recognize the objects depicted by a set of images.

In the same decade, the 2010s, that saw the Deep Learning revolution and enormous advances in Machine Learning research, a number of self-styled “disruptors” – large technology companies – grew enormously in economic and political power. These large technology companies purposefully conflate their own rise with Artificial Intelligence and the Deep Learning Revolution.

But very few of the “disruptions” witnessed in the past decade rely on any Machine Learning or Artificial Intelligence whatsoever. Uber's secret ingredient was a combination of dumb technology (a phone app that shows where taxis are on a map) with old-fashioned corporate cost-cutting: counting drivers as companies, thus off-loading investment and risk whilst under-cutting wages. AirBnB and Amazon follow a similar recipe: combining relatively low-tech websites with a creative trick to get around taxes and regulations. Spotify and Netflix rely on speedy home internet connections, hard bargains with rights/holders, and half-decent laptop screens. In short, almost no industry-disrupting technology of the past decade can be primarily put down to AI. Right now, Big Tech is almost always Low Tech.

And yet, this conflation – between tech “disruptors” based on slashing wage-bills, and AI research – might become a self-fulfilling prophecy. In 2015, Uber launched a corporate

takeover of an important machine learning research lab at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Uber's takeover of the CMU lab was not just useful publicity: it is now one of the leading forces in driverless car development, which depends heavily on image recognition technology and Deep Learning. Driverless taxis, already rolled out in Shanghai, are to be made available in Phoenix, Arizona this year through Waymo, the self-driving division of Google. The first round of disruption involved deskilling (replacing taxi exams with mobile satnav), wage-slashing (by counting employees as contractors), and the usual tricks of monopoly Capitalism. The second round of disruption, driverless cars, seeks to remove labour from the equation completely.

As ever, this removal of labour is really just a displacement. Two important sources of labour remain: that of the thousands of computer-programmers, and that of the drivers producing the “training data” from which AI algorithms learn. In both cases, the intention is to quite literally permanently incorporate the labour (computer programs, driving recordings) into the machine (driverless car algorithms), so that those workers – programmers and drivers – are eventually no longer needed. The “greatest possible negation of necessary labour”, wrote Marx, is the “necessary tendency of Capital... [and the] transformation of the means of labour into machinery is the realisation of this tendency”.

The high-tech disruptions of the next two decades will look nothing like the low-tech disruptions of the past two. A Marxist analysis of the labour embedded into AI machines points to two immediate, necessary steps. Firstly, workers who are asked to produce training-data for their own algorithmic replacements (often, as in the case of UK bus drivers, through surveillance-at-work apps installed on their personal smartphones) must organise to protect their own intellectual property. Even under the productive logics of Capitalism, these workers are now content producers – with the right to claim a commission each time their training-data is reused in the form of a trained algorithm. This right must be protected contractually through negotiation. Secondly, to protect against mass computational deskilling, workers must be able to read, write, and understand computer programming languages, and the concepts behind them. Behind the Socialist and Marxist tradition of mass literacy campaigns (and their successes in Russia, Cuba and elsewhere) stood a political ambition: and Marxists today must call for a campaign of mass computational literacy.

## register

<https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/future-of-work>

Alongside health, there can be no bigger, nor more pressing subject, than the future of work. Capitalism is a failed system, seeking to maintain itself by a greater drive to concentrate capital, introduce job replacing technology and degrading Labour. No job is immune to restructuring and ever greater intensity of exploitation, with the threat of unemployment hanging over all.

The future condition of workers has never been more under threat. The Communist Party has made the struggle against unemployment and for an industrial strategy of high quality work for all, its number one priority.

This conference is a step in that campaign. Alongside the organisation of such struggles will go the ideas, to guide the workers of Britain. You are invited to participate, to hear leading activists and researchers, to question fundamentals and to find out how your activism can have an impact. Saturday 5 December 2020

SESSION ONE 1130-1pm  
Socialism, technology and the future of work

SESSION TWO 1.30-3pm  
The struggle for Jobs and an industrial strategy

##### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

**GAIL CARTMAIL**  
President of TUC  
**MICHAEL ROBERTS**  
Blogger and Marxist economist, author of *Marx 200* and *Engels 200*  
**LEONARDO IMPETT**  
Assistant Professor Computer Science  
**URSULA HUWS**  
Hertford Professor of Labour and Globalisation, author of *Labour in Contemporary Capitalism: What Next?*  
**ANDREW MAYBURY**  
Chair Midlands District CP  
**CAROLYN JONES**  
Director of Institute of Employment Rights  
**ROGER MCKENZIE**  
UNISON assistant general secretary  
**TONY BURKE**  
AGS Unite the Union  
**KEITH EWING**  
Institute of Employment Rights  
**ANDY BAIN**  
Communist Party trade union organiser.

All speakers, except for CP members, appear in a personal capacity and new names are being added as we go to press.

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## YOUNG COMMUNISTS

### Johnson, Sunak and Tories show their true colours over school meals

The Young Communist League has condemned as ‘shameful’ the rejection by the Tories of an opposition motion to guarantee holiday free school meals to over two million children in England.

The YCL said: ‘This is typical Tory anti-working class policy. This is the same party which has mercilessly enforced its right-wing austerity on Britain for over a decade now. The same party which has created the conditions where 1 in 4 children in this country grow up in poverty.’

An estimated 25% of state-educated

pupils and their families will go hungry or live in hardship as a result of this criminal decision said the YCL.

Pointing out that the money exists Britain's young communists highlighted the funding provided by both the Scottish and Welsh governments to provide meals over the holiday period.

‘The amount that this would cost in England is nothing compared to the amounts that have been squandered on the £12 billion track and trace system that doesn't work – that is now in its worst

performing week – or the hundreds of millions being handed out in government contracts to dodgy firms ran by friends of Dominic Cummings and the Tory cabinet.’

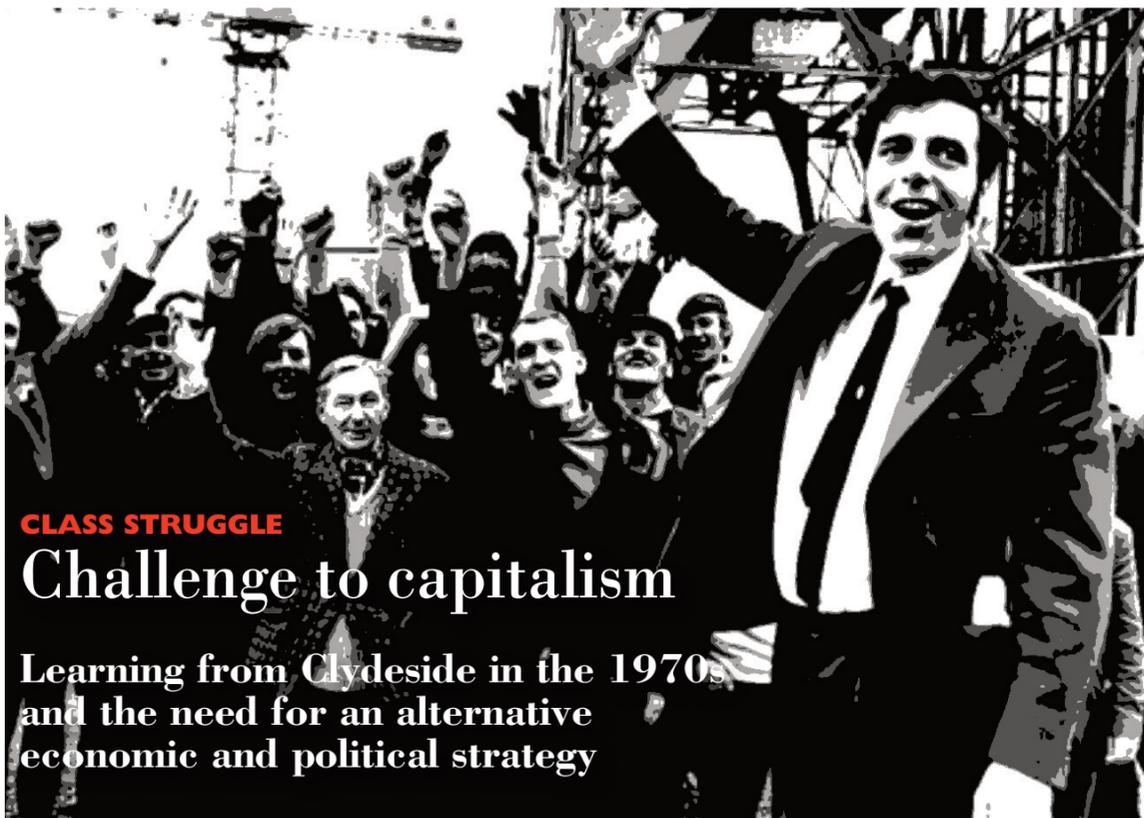
This should be a wake up call to anyone who had illusions about the priorities of the government during this pandemic. For them, it has always been about ensuring corrupt corporate handouts keep flowing while the youth, working people and their families are left destitute said the YCL.

Warning that this move is a sign of things to come as the Tories work to enforce

even harsher austerity after the pandemic ends Britain's young communists called for:

- An immediate reversal of the government policy in England.
- Guaranteed free school meals across Britain for all children who apply, without means testing.
- Guaranteed central government funding for local council support for foodbanks.
- A public inquiry and criminal investigation into government contracts which have been issued during the pandemic to firms with clear links to government politicians.

“A rat race is for rats. We’re not rats. We’re human beings. Reject the insidious pressures in society that would blunt your critical faculties to all that is happening around you, that would caution silence in the face of injustice, lest you jeopardise your chances of self-promotion and self-advancement. This is how it starts. And before you know where you are, you’re a fully paid-up member of the rat pack. The price is too high. It entails the loss of your dignity and human spirit.” **Jimmy Reid**



**CLASS STRUGGLE**

# Challenge to capitalism

## Learning from Clydeside in the 1970s and the need for an alternative economic and political strategy

**JOHN FOSTER**

**T**ODAY THE economic grip of big business is intensifying as, amid Covid, we face a new and deeper economic and financial crisis. Just 2,000 billionaires now control \$10.2 trillion of the whole world's capital assets – a total of around \$100 trillion. This year, the year of Covid, their wealth has grown by 15 per cent.

How can this have happened? Real wealth has been destroyed not increased. Most economies have shrunk by over 10 per cent in a decline almost unparalleled in the history of capitalism. Thousands of smaller firms have gone to the wall and we are only beginning to see the carnage in terms of jobs. Other things being equal, we face a long-term step-change in unemployment.

Paradoxically, however, it is precisely this that supplies the explanation. Billionaire wealth has grown through rocketing stock market valuations. Built into these valuation is the expectation that intensifying monopoly control and long-term unemployment will enable big business to secure both a bigger share of profits and higher rates of exploitation. And the massive expansion of credit that has pumped up these share prices will, in time, also enable an inflationary redistribution of income to those who control markets and prices.

Globally the current beneficiaries are the owners of Amazon, Facebook, Google and the big US tech companies. In Britain it is the Dysons, Ratcliffes and Westons and those who control London real estate like the Duke of Westminster. Who pays? You will - unless something is done about it. That is why we need an alternative economic and political strategy that can challenge their power.

However, you might well ask, in current circumstances, what's the point? Corbyn's gone, the Labour Party is broken and trade unions on the defensive, so who could possibly enact it?

A little history might help here. Almost fifty years ago, in 1971-1972, workers in Clydeside's shipyards forced an aggressive Tory government into reverse and, at the same time, helped transform the political fortunes and policies of the Labour Party.

They did so because they had an analysis and a strategy. The policy of the

Communist Party at the time was to build an 'anti-monopoly alliance' in order to mobilise mass opposition to what they described as 'state monopoly capitalism'.

The shop stewards did not directly use these terms when winning mass meetings of shipyard workers to defy the law, take over the yards and resist defeatist proposals from right-wing trade union leaders.

But their strategy depended on this analysis. The Communists among them had helped refine these terms, and think through their application, at party congresses and committees.

The 'anti-monopoly alliance' was about how to take the war into the camp of the class enemy and rupture the political base of the Conservative Party. Rather like today, the early 1970s was a time of rising unemployment, intense pressure on small and medium business, especially in the regions, and, additionally, of rampant inflation.

The stewards therefore widened the battle front. They did not just talk about jobs in the yards. Their appeal was to rescue the wider regional economy of Clydeside and to defend the general principle of 'the right to work' against a return to the unemployment and dereliction of the 1930s. In their statements to press and TV they made it clear that, in taking over the yards, they were also seeking to defend the entire regional economy, the hundreds of shipyard supply firms that faced bankruptcy and even the local banks that supplied credit.

Their battle was against big business centralisation, against monopoly capitalism and a government that did its bidding.

Jointly with the STUC they organised a public enquiry which called as witnesses representatives of local business and Chambers of Commerce. Also jointly with the STUC, they organised a Scottish Assembly, the first in a series that ultimately led to a Scottish Parliament, which drew in local authorities as well as many sectors of business.

In face of this the regional base of the Conservative Party split apart. The 'Progressive Party' (Conservative) leader of Glasgow City Council declared support for the work-in. Worse still for the government, the movement against closures spread through England and

Wales. Under the slogan 'the right to work' workplace occupations began in Yorkshire, Merseyside, the Midlands and London.

Faced with this opposition, and desperate to get union support for its Industrial Relations Act, the government abruptly reversed policy, threw money at the yards, restored regional subsidies and set up a commission to examine the needs of small and medium business. However, the government itself also split and lost direction.

At the same time the victory itself increased the momentum of the shop stewards movement – going on to defy and destroy the Industrial Relations Act – and, in doing so, transforming the political balance within trade unions and hence the Labour Party. By 1973 the Labour Party programme called for 'an irreversible shift of wealth and power in favour of working people' including an alternative economic strategy with widespread nationalisation.

So here we see working people under Left leadership, with an analysis and a programme, defeating a Tory government and transforming the political balance in the trade union movement and the Labour Party.

Today and looking back, we know now that this advance did not last. Only parts of the programme were implemented before the right-wing counterattacked from within the Labour Party and the Conservatives prepared for a root and branch assault on trade unions.

And this memory is important. It should remind us that an alternative 'economic' policy is not enough. It must also be 'political' in the real sense of understanding the balance of class forces and how to change it.

It is why today we need an alternative economic and political strategy – targeted at the state power of state monopoly capitalism, a strategy that consciously exploits its greatest weakness, that it represents the interests of only a minute minority and does so at the expense of the rest of humanity and the planet on which we live.

PROFESSOR JOHN FOSTER IS AUTHOR OF *CLASS STRUGGLE AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION* (1974) AND WITH CHARLES WOOLFSON, *THE POLITICS OF THE UCS WORK-IN* (LONDON, LAWRENCE AND WISHART, (1986).

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28 NOVEMBER  
6-7.30pm  
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AT 200!**

Joint chairs Liz Payne and Allison Fewtrell (Manchester CPB) Speakers include: John Foster - International secretary of Communist Party Renata Koppe - International secretary German Communist Party Special guests to be announced. Includes presentation of a special commemorative banner struck by Manchester communists for comrades in Wupperthal, Engels place of birth in Germany.

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FRIEDRICH ENGELS BICENTENARY**

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Unit's **Len McCuskey** on why and how our movement can put justice on top of the agenda: p16

TUC's **Frances O'Grady** tells David that the pandemic has exposed terrible inequalities: p4

Salon's **Clifford Smith** 'Working people's' Bethany Shelly about the importance of unions: p18

Unit's **Doger McKenzie** on Black Lives Matter: every day and not just when it's fashionable: p23

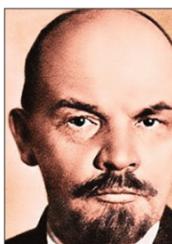
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# STOP THE JOBS MASSACRE

TUC challenges government to stand by working families

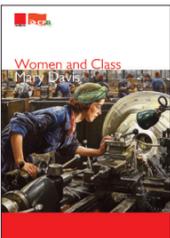
By Peter Leamy

...with the largest end of the jobless queue...  
...the Government...  
...the Chancellor...  
...the Treasury...  
...the Bank of England...  
...the City...  
...the Labour Party...  
...the Trade Union Movement...  
...the Working Class...  
...the People...  
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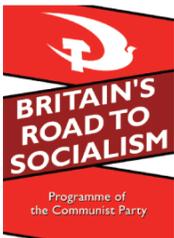
# AGITPROP

“... revolution is impossible without a change in the views of the majority of the working class, a change brought about by the political experience of the masses, never by propaganda alone.”  
*'Left-Wing' Communism—An Infantile Disorder* (May 1920), LCW 31:84



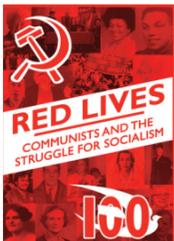
## Women & Class

A new and updated edition, for the first time in book form, written by Professor Mary Davis. This book is essential reading for activists in the women's and trade union movements. 80 pages. £4.50



## Britain's Road to Socialism

With capitalism in crisis and its champions in disarray what better time could there be to launch an updated, edition of the Communist Party's programme *Britain's Road to Socialism?* £3.00



## Red Lives

Read *Red Lives* the amazing and true story of communism in Britain, through the life stories, of the party's extraordinary rank and file membership. 252 pages, with photos. £9.99



Ground-breaking 1979 pamphlet by the late Vishnu Sharma, now reissued with an introduction by Tony Conway convenor of the party's Anti-racist, anti-fascist commission. £2

## CENTENARY

# A century of class struggle

## Working class internationalism is the hallmark of the new one-volume Communist Party history

LIZ PAYNE

Our new one-volume Communist Party history, published to mark the centenary of the Communist Party – which we will launch on Saturday 14 November – shows that working class internationalism, in which our Party is steeped, is the hallmark of the communist movement worldwide. What do we mean by that? What did the internationalism of the Communist Party look like during its first hundred years and what forms will it take in the future?

The autumn months in Britain are an especially good time to think about internationalism, with a number of anniversaries and events of far-reaching significance falling within October and November.

In 11 towns and cities, wreaths and bouquets were laid in ceremonies organised by the Communist Party with the support of the International Brigades Memorial Trust to mark with deep gratitude the selfless contribution of the international brigades and medical volunteers to the fight in defence of the Spanish Republic against the long-planned fascist assault of the combined forces of Franco, Hitler and Mussolini, an onslaught which, if unchecked, would unleash a reign of tyranny against lands and peoples far and wide.

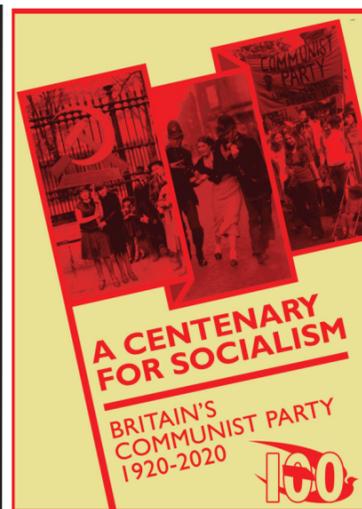
On 17 October, in 1938, Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria, made her famous speech to the departing brigades. She honoured those who had died and would forever lie “shrouded in Spanish earth” and those now leaving, who stood before her. She told how, for the first time in the history of people's struggles, international brigades had been formed to help save a threatened country's freedom and independence. Those who came offered themselves unconditionally. “They gave us everything...and they asked us for nothing,” she said. Thousands went from Britain. Hundreds died.

Every 4 October we marked the great victory at Cable Street on that day in 1936. United and concerted action by the people of east London not only halted the Black-shirts and secured the local streets. The defeat prevented fascism from creating a mass base in Britain and another ally for the Nazis and other Axis powers. It was an act of true internationalism.

October was Black History Month in which we unravel and expose the tyranny of colonial and post-colonial oppression and exploitation and the tools of racism and fascism employed to sow the hatred and disunity on which capitalism and imperialism depend for their continued existence. The legacy runs deep in Britain and Black Lives Matter is doing much not only to shine a light on history but to lay down a marker. Things cannot continue as they are.

Each November, we celebrate with progressive people everywhere the victory of the Great October Revolution in Russia in 1917 which, against all the odds overthrew the Czarist dictatorship and established a workers' state which withstood an attack from a reactionary coalition of the most reactionary forces in the world and later against the full force of Nazi-fascism.

On 12 November we mark the 70th



anniversary of the Sheffield Peace meeting, the second congress of the World Peace Council, when thousands, including Pablo Picasso, gathered in and outside Sheffield City Hall dedicated to the cause of peace as the Cold War threatened a new global conflagration. The Labour government of the day blocked proceedings which were transferred to Warsaw but the movement went from strength to strength.

It goes without saying that we are not focused on internationalism only at a certain time of year. Our Party's internationalism must be, and is, not just a part of what we do but is the essence of our identity.

The internationalism about which we, as communists, speak is the organised and concerted action based on recognition that the unity of ‘workers of all lands’ is essential for the defeat of imperialism and the success of the struggle for peace and socialism.

For us, internationalism means only two things – and they are inextricably related. Firstly, we make the greatest contribution to working class internationalism by weakening and finally defeating our own ruling class and all its allies at home and abroad. Given the ruthless role of our government, financial institutions, monopoly corporations, and military forces across the globe and especially now in the promotion of a new Cold War against China with all its catastrophic consequences, the eyes of the peoples of the world are on us. Secondly, at the same time, we must support the principled struggle of communist and workers' parties and peoples everywhere in their struggle to defeat imperialism and their own capitalist classes.

Our new party history, together with our *Red Lives* book of vibrant communist biographies, show how as a Party and as individual members we have understood and fulfilled our internationalist obligation, as Pasionaria said, “unconditionally”. This is class struggle. The term internationalism was first used to describe the relationship between capitalist nation states. Still the most reactionary forces of capital are organised internationally to deepen and extend their control of the resources, labour and markets of the world. Only working-class internationalism will defeat them and build for tomorrow a people's future.

LIZ PAYNE IS CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## SOCIALISM

# Join the battle for power

NICK WRIGHT

The Communist Party is growing. An increasing understanding on the left and in the working class that the depth of the capitalist crisis – overlaid with the Covid-19 pandemic – means millions want Britain to change course.

Hundreds have applied to join the party in recent months with a distinct uptick since the new leadership of the Labour Party began to roll back the policies that brought hundreds of thousands inspired by Jeremy Corbyn to join.

Labour grew with people enthused by the socialist vision that Jeremy's election signified. Following Labour's 2017 massive increase in votes a vicious right-wing counter attack has brought home to many people that there is no quick and easy path to win a left-wing Labour government.

A big majority of the British people back policies that Corbyn stood for. Renationalisation of public transport, rail and utilities - gas, water, electricity – wins even a majority of Tory voters.

Millions want an end to austerity and for the rich to pay for rebuilding Britain's industry, education and social services, our NHS and child care.

The battle for these policies continues despite Labour's leadership change.

The Communist Party was formed a hundred years ago from a merger of existing socialist and workers

organisations. Its main component was the British Socialist Party which was a founding organisation of the Labour Party.

Ever since then the left-right battle in Labour has been something communists take very seriously.

Our political activity is designed to strengthen the anti-austerity and anti-war tendency in Labour and despite the right-wing counter attack our general approach hasn't changed. We are not calling for people to leave the Labour Party and certainly not to set up another fragile and fractious socialist sect.

At the same time we say to comrades and friends that where you think you can make a better contribution to the battle for working class power in a democratic, organised and centralised party of socialist power and liberation then we welcome you to active membership.

The Communist Party is not a mini-Labour Party. Along with the Young Communist League it works in a disciplined and organised way with a united leadership and combines a strong internal democratic culture with political education.

Unity! is growing with a strong online presence while continuing special print editions for demonstrations and labour movement events and we invite your active support. You can find us at:

<https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/unity/>

NICK WRIGHT IS EDITOR OF UNITY!

Becoming a Communist is a serious commitment. Communist Party members are actively involved in the struggle for socialism in their trade unions, local communities, campaigns for education, health, housing and rights at work and in the women's, anti-racist, anti-fascist and peace movements. You can discuss with your local CP branch how best to apply your activism. The Communist Party does not accept dual membership with other political parties. As a CP member you have rights and duties and can access our Party rule book and activist handbook once your full membership is confirmed.

# RED APPEAL

Despite Covid restrictions, we have had a great celebration of the first hundred years of the Communist Party

Thousands of people have joined our online Gala Day, Pandemonium and Cable Street events.

New books, poster, campaign leaflets, films and *Morning Star* supplements have been produced.

Leading allies in the labour and international communist movements have taken part in our celebrations.

Hundreds of people have applied to join the Communist Party with new branches established.

## £100,000 'Centenary for Socialism' Appeal

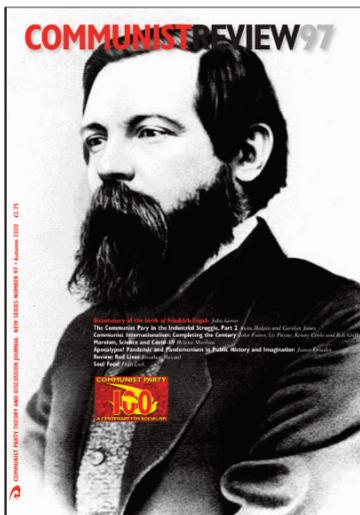
We need your help to invest in:

- ★ new digitalised IT infrastructure at Party Centre
- ★ bulk email and phone bank facilities
- ★ Renovation of party and YCL premises
- ★ an election fund for English local, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd contests
- ★ a new campaign against mass unemployment

Please give what you can by bank transfer to Unity Trust, Communist Party of Britain, 60-83-01 account number 50725694; by cheque (CPB) or p/o to CPB (Dept CFS) Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD or online at [www.comunistparty.org.uk](http://www.comunistparty.org.uk)

## Autumn 2020

- ★ Bicentenary of the birth of Friedrich Engels  
*John Green*
- ★ The Communist Party in the Industrial Struggle, Part 2  
*Anita Halpin and Carolyn Jones*
- ★ Communist Internationalism: Completing the Century  
*John Foster, Liz Payne, Kenny Coyle and Rob Griffiths*
- ★ Marxism, Science and Covid-19  
*Helena Sheehan*
- ★ Apocalypse! Pandemic and Pandemonium in Public History and Imagination  
*James Crossley*
- ★ Review: *Red Lives* Jonathan Havard
- ★ Valediction *Mike Quille*
- ★ Soul Food *Fran Lock*



To join the Communist Party go to <https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/join>