

Manchester resists

Tories hold their conference behind a security screen and a small army of cops and private security. Its pure performance for the Tories to hold their bean feast in the North. Even with Labour's laggardly opinion poll performance Tories are set to shed much of their prized 'Red Wall' seats. But it is a studied insult to working people says the Communist Party's North West secretary **Les Docherty**.



"Manufacturing has been stripped back. The local productive economy is dead on its feet. The auto industry is stripped back. The main sectors are public services – with many jobs privatised, with zero hours and precarious working. Much of the surviving work is in hospitality or logistics around the M6 corridor but too much is temporary, low paid and insecure," he says.

Les Docherty says working class politics are reviving the traditions which made it a centre of militancy. There is a definite sense of revival with the unions on the move, an active peace and solidarity movement, the Communist Party is doubling in size every year with a many young people and especially young women joining.

"The last year has seen a fall back with Labour, perhaps with the exception of Salford and much of Merseyside. Manchester mayor Andy Burham's ambitions are clear to all and with his challenges to Boris Johnson he is popular and goes down well but much of the Labour Party is paralysed with Starmer stasis."

"We are preparing for the Tories not just for this weekend but to defeat them and elect a government committed to working class power," he says.



Manchester tenants' activist **Alison Fewtrell** says rents are out of control in the private sector. "But," she says: "the so-called social sector has some bad practice over repairs and service."

The Greater Manchester Tenants' Union worked with students to win a £17.5K award against a local housing provider to make the accommodation secure and rectify leaks.

"The union works on the trade union collective disputes principle to target decision makers and the people with power when negotiations stall," she says. The union works across the board backing tenants and runs training in tenants' rights, housing law and negotiation along side political education.

This, she proudly says, includes studying the pre-war Stepney tenants' movement led by Phil Piratin which worked with all tenants oppressed and exploited by slumlords including winning over many influenced by fascist ideas and anti-semitism. And, she says, we will be with the Red Block protesting at the Tory conference.



Cad Jones, director of the Institute of Employment Rights says that workers capacity to resist deindustrialisation and attacks on wages and conditions would be greatly strengthened if the anti-union laws were repealed. The Status of Workers Bill introduced into Parliament by Lord Henty QC would replace Britain's overcomplicated employment status system with a universal status of 'worker' to provide all people in employment with the same rights and protections at work.

The pandemic has hit the region's economy hard says **Kevin Nelson**, who chairs the North West TUC Public Services Committee.



Government cuts to local authority budgets combined with the collapse of the consumer-driven city economy has seen jobs in services, hospitality and construction hit. This is offset somewhat by big Chinese capital investment, including with universities but airport income has dried up.

The wheels have come off the neo-liberal economic strategy that the Johnson government shares with US and EU capital. We need a new deal based on sustainable jobs and investment in productive green industry.★



Heat or eat?

ENERGY PRICES

Gas and electricity prices are going up just as inflation bites into working class incomes and Universal Credit is cut for families on poverty pay.

The Bank of England warns that inflation is due to rise to 4%. Meanwhile the capitalist media claim that it is wage rises that fuel inflation. But wages have been static for near a decade and the monopoly energy companies have increased their prices by four times the rate of inflation for the last twenty years.

With these price rises monopoly profits will go through the roof while millions of workers are skint from unemployment, furlough or short time.

As far back as June 2014 the TUC said the big six energy companies were taking consumers for a ride. That was when the monopoly energy giants were refusing to pass on falling wholesale prices to workers in the form of lower energy bills.

Today these same companies look set to dump rising prices onto our heating bills in the run-up to Christmas. And the fly-by-night energy speculators that privatisation has spawned are going

but as they failed to hedge against rising wholesale prices.

The Communist Party says all energy production and distribution, gas and electricity must be publically owned with profits ploughed into green energy.

Privatisation has been a disaster for Britain. Oil revenues were squandered by Thatcher with prices let rip to super charge monopoly profits. And the North Sea energy bonanza was frittered away.

The source of our privatisation problems is capitalism's increasingly brutal drive to plunder public services for profits with the price paid by workers suffering, pay freeze, price increases and austerity cuts. Communist Party general secretary Robert Griffiths says, 'For millions of workers its a choice between heat or eat.'

The government must quickly:
 ★ Extend furlough pay to all off work
 ★ Cancel the Universal Credit £20 cut
 ★ Ban zero hours contracts
 ★ Raise the minimum wage to £10
 ★ Raise statutory sick pay to the Living Wage and make it available to all
The Communist Party says repealing the anti union laws would strengthen the fightback against corporate power and this government of big business ★



**#UnitedAgainst
TheTories**

PROTEST AT THE **TORY PARTY CONFERENCE
National Demonstration Sunday 3 October 12PM**

MANCHESTER

**Assemble Oxford Road
Near Whitworth Park M14 4PW**



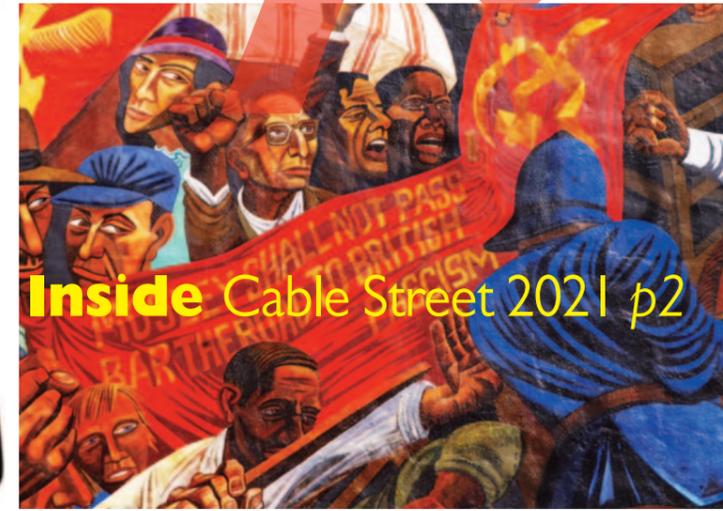
Workers of all lands, unite!

Communist Party

October 2021

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Unity!



Inside Cable Street 2021 p2

City of struggle

EVAN PRITCHARD

MANCHESTER COMMUNISTS welcome all those have come to our city to join the Peoples Assembly protest against the Tories. Like so many in the local working class and progressive movements we are proud of the history of our City and surrounding areas.

Friday 1 October marks the 90th anniversary of the battle of Bexley Square in neighbouring Salford when the local branch of the National Unemployed workers movement organised a march of thousands against the effects of means testing on those on unemployment benefit, leading to many arrests including Eddy Frow, a leading member of the local Young Communist League.

Manchester was the birthplace of the Trade Union Congress, site of the infamous Peterloo massacre of working people fighting for the extension of basic democracy, the place where Friedrich Engels lived and where he researched his famous depiction of working class living conditions and home to some of the main leaders of the women's suffrage movement.

It was a key city in the movement to abolish slavery in Britain, and along with other cotton towns in Lancashire where workers made huge sacrifices in solidarity with the struggle against the pro slavery South in the American Civil War.

It's the city where the famous boxer Len Johnson fought to break the colour bar, took part in the historic Pan African Congress and stood as a candidate for the Council as a member of the Communist Party. It was the birthplace of Communist Party general secretary Harry Pollitt, who led the party through the depression and the Second World War. And a place where many of those who fought against fascism in Spain hailed from, a fair few never to return.

And Manchester is proud of Alan Turing whose code breaking work helped defeat Nazi Germany and was rewarded with persecution for being gay, and for being one of the first places in Britain to host a gay pride event. And it's the city to which, in spite of having no councillors or MPs, the Tories keep coming back every other year to hold their conference!

Communists are proud to play our part in the events which are being organised by the People's Assembly to show the Tories that they really are not welcome!★



CABLE STREET 1936

On the morning of 4 October there was a feeling of impending battle. Loudspeaker vans organised by the Communist Party and the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's movement were touring all morning. The Young Communist League band, led by Harry Gross (later killed in Spain) marched round the streets with with slogan-banners. **Phil Piratin MP**

Red Commander

CABLE STREET 2021

ROB GRIFFITHS



IF THERE was a 'commander in chief' at the Battle of Cable Street, it was Phil Piratin. He would not have described himself as such, preferring to say that 'the working class had won the day'. But his house in New Road was the centre of operations on that Sunday, 4 October, 1936. Piratin and his team were in constant touch with a large network of messengers and informants, including Dr Hugh Faulkner who had infiltrated the Blackshirts and discovered their plans for the day

Piratin was born in 1907, the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia. He grew up in Stepney, East London, one of Britain's poorest areas. After spells in the fur and other trades, and a period at sea, he began his own small business.

In June 1934, he protested outside the Olympia arena where Sir Oswald Mosley and his British Union of Fascists were holding a mass rally. As the Blackshirts brutally attacked hecklers inside, the police battled to hold back thousands of anti-fascists outside.

Piratin heard one of the mounted police officers shout at the crowd: 'Get back to your slums, you Communist bastards!' So Phil went home to Stepney and joined the Communist Party.

His own organising skills played a central role in stopping Mosley two years later. But he also argued strongly that violence alone would not end the appeal of fascism to working class people.

As Stepney Communist Party branch secretary, he drove local communists and their allies to take up the problems of the poor and unemployed. His fearless work among tenants – many of them fascist party members or supporters – led directly to the formation of the Stepney Tenants' Defence League. Its militant campaigning against slum landlords inspired similar developments across London and beyond. It also led to his election to the local council in 1937, the first of what became a group of 12 Communist Party councillors in the borough.

During the Second World War, he threw himself into the party's huge campaign for Air Raid Precaution measures to defend the working class from aerial bombing, becoming an ARP warden himself. When the blitz began, the rich and powerful took refuge in underground shelters, while the rest of the population remained on the surface.

Piratin led a legion of East Enders to occupy the deep luxurious shelters used by the Mayfair and Savoy Hotel 'parasites', making world-wide news. The liveried hotel staff served the squatters tea and refreshments, free of charge. Other local communist leaders broke open the gates to five London Underground stations.

It came as no surprise to Piratin when he was elected MP for Stepney Mile End in 1945 (below). He then worked with communist MP Willie Gallacher and a group of left-wing Labour MPs – most of them soon expelled from their party – to oppose the Cold War drive against the Soviet Union, communism and socialism.

Almost alone in the Commons, Piratin exposed the massacre carried out by Scots Guards in the Malayan village of Batang Kali in December 1948, showing how the Labour government had lied in an effort to deny and then cover up the atrocity.

Cold War anti-communism contributed to his defeat in the 1950 General Election, although merger with the neighbouring constituency was the main factor. He subsequently became business manager with the *Daily Worker*, rebuilt his own enterprises and raised funds for the Communist Party and – almost certainly – for the African National Congress with its armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe ('Spear of the Nation').

Piratin's memoir of Stepney and Cable Street, *Our Flag Stays Red*, first published in 1948, remains a text-book for today's anti-fascists and tenants' activists. ★

ROBERT GRIFFITHS IS CO AUTHOR, WITH KEVIN MARSH, OF GRANITE AND HONEY, THE STORY OF PHIL PIRATIN, COMMUNIST MP



Memory wars are class wa

FIGHTING FASCISM

PHIL KATZ



THE BATTLE of Cable Street was preceded by four years of street-by-street skirmishing, particularly intense around Hanbury and Leman Streets, extending westward from Bethnal Green, along Old Ford Road and Gunmakers Gate in Bow and around Victoria Park. Even after the Battle of Cable Street it did not disappear. Many who participated in the Battle went on to serve in the International Brigades. Later, as Phoney War turned to hot war, the same streets around Stepney, Poplar and Bow faced saturation bombing for 74 nights in a row.

And it was from this area that the core of Montgomery's legendary Eighth Army was recruited. From Cable Street, young workers found themselves in north Africa, in Sicily and on the beaches of Normandy. They fought their way across western Europe, to the very centre of Berlin. Many had never travelled abroad before.

Leading against fascism Throughout the 1930s the Communist Party was the motivating force in the labour movement, leading campaigns at home and abroad against fascism and the collusion of the Chamberlain government, under the twin guises of appeasement and non-intervention with Hitler. With consistent mass campaigning, the Party educated generations of workers to the political threat to democracy that fascism posed. There were hints of worse to come – the bombing of civilians in Guernica and the torpedoing of merchant ships off the east coast of Spain and the phosphorous bombing of the brave defenders of sovereignty in Abyssinia.

Fascism = barbarism It was after 1941 that the true genocidal character of Hitler fascism was revealed as hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered in what is known as the 'Holocaust of Bullets'. This took place in the Baltic countries and the Ukraine, in

a vacuum spanning the time after the Germans launched Barbarossa and as the Soviets retreated but before the Nazis reached the border of the USSR. Nearly three quarters of a million were clubbed to death, starved in ghettos or shot, often by local gangs.

This is especially the case of countries such as Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia and also in Poland and the Ukraine.

Soon local death squads were enrolled in the German army as it advanced and were given a specific role in aiding the rounding-up, overseeing the transportation and annihilation of Jews, Poles and Communists.

It was during this time that the Jews of Vilna, once known as the 'Jerusalem of the North' for its extraordinary and rich Yiddish culture and scholarship going back centuries, were murdered *en masse*, in the Ponary massacre between July 1941 and August 1944. Seventy thousand were murdered in one episode. The three Baltic countries on average saw the murder of 95 per cent of their Jewish citizenry.

This is the true face of fascism. Fascism in practice The defenders of Cable Street knew well the political threat that fascism posed to democracy and freedom. But they could not have known of what would happen at Babi Yar in the Ukraine, Lidice in Bohemia and Oradour-sur-Glane in central France.

Babi Yar and Ponary were crucibles of the Holocaust. Through such actions the fascists came to understand that they could not complete their genocide using existing methods, and following the Wannsee nazi summit in 1942, switched to industrialised mass slaughter by gas and starvation.

We might be tempted to think that the victory in May 1945 sealed a world consensus on the character of fascism, made even more graphic by the Nuremberg trials and the discussions at the UN which was forming laws on genocide and later, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But this is wrong. For the defeated, the collaborators, the architects of the Holocaust, those who thought of other humans as *untermenschen* (subhumans) and dreamed of *Lebensraum* (land grab), 1945 was unfinished business.

Origins of historical inversion During the immediate post-war period, many pro-fascist forces began to refer to their fellow fascist collaborators as 'patriots' and invented a history of local opposition to the advance of the Red Army.

Across the eastern crescent, in countries that have freshly signed up to membership of the EU and are enthusiastic members of NATO, society has become divided over its war record and the collective memory.

Each country including Hungary and Rumania, Croatia and the Ukraine are engaged in 'statue wars', 'street name wars', 'school curriculum wars', 'legal wars' 'religious wars', 'martyrdom wars' and political struggle. This goes a step beyond butchering the Jews, it butchers history too.

Holocaust denial and inversion In the 1950s and 60s the falsified version of the war was kept alive by revanchist and extreme right wing forces, allied to a few Holocaust deniers. In the 1970s some of these became what the West called, 'dissidents', linked to the Catholic church (which had its own very dodgy war-time record to erase) and Orthodox churches in Rumania and Hungary.

The demise of the USSR, where historical revisionism was illegal (but also where the Holocaust was not separated out from the general and terrible death toll of 27 millions), allowed such forces to emerge.

Revisionist forces were sponsored by a range of Western NGOs, with a core going on to participate in post-Soviet governments across the East. Havel in Czechoslovakia and Landsbergis in Lithuania became darlings of the illiberal bourgeoisie and 'freedom loving democrats'. They, along with Thatcher and Sarkozy of France, formed the Prague Declaration movement in 2008.

This Declaration sought to draw an equivalence between fascism and communism, 'Red=Brown' and the theory of 'Double Genocide'. They did this by distorting the notion of genocide (now redrawn to include physical relocation of citizens even where none perished, those killed by famine and the confiscation of property) and massively inflating the scale of events.



FASCISM IN SPAIN

The atrocities, foul murders and attempts to wreck Spanish democracy are carrying to its logical conclusion the bloody creed of Fascism. There can also be no doubt that there are many circles of the British ruling class equally hoping for a Fascist victory. **Harry Pollitt** General Secretary of the Communist Party



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Phil Katz argues that the left is lagging in its grasp of historical and Holocaust inversion

At the same time they sought to obscure the nature of the Holocaust, saying that it was just one genocide amongst many and had no unique ownership.

Genocide is the 'crime of crimes' and we need to use the term sparingly and with pinpoint accuracy.

In recent years historical revisionism has developed into something much worse. *Historical negation* (which asserts only the Germans conducted the Holocaust) and *competitive martyrdom* (there is no difference between the mass slaughter of Jews, Roma, gay men and lesbians, Soviet POWs in the Holocaust and supposed similar actions by occupying Red Army troops, which were apparently, actually worse!) has given way to *historical inversion*.

The new approach is that the Communist 'Holocaust' is worse than the Nazis and that the Nuremberg Trials should be reopened and extended to Communists. In this way, history is stood wrong side up. It becomes inverted.

Results of historical inversion In many countries in Eastern Europe, communist parties are being outlawed, their publications and symbols banned, labour movements are being driven underground as the local capitalist classes consolidate their shift from 'post Soviet' policies to enthusiastic standard bearers for a 'pro-EU/NATO' programme. It's still as much a vassal existence as it was in 1939.

In the same way as historical revisionism has become historical inversion, denial of the Holocaust has also changed. The Lipstadt case in 2000, where self-publicist pseudo-historian David Irving was exposed and defeated, made it nigh on impossible to deny the existence of the Holocaust or Hitler, as fascist supremo, as culpable in it.

In place of denial has come obfuscation (Holocaust is just a form of genocide, which happens day in day out) and now a form of inversion (the Holocaust was a side show during the war, not the essence, a logical outcome of fascism and much worse was done by the Communists variously between 1945 and 1991.)

Conspiracy theory Put together, historical inversion and holocaust inversion have become powerful ideological themes, amplified and extended to include conspiracy theory. These interact and feed off each other, and have found new audiences via social media. Conspiracy theory feeds on the idea that tiny self-appointed elites plot to take over the world and manipulate specific events to that end.

The German Soviet Pact of Non Aggression is considered a part of this world conspiracy. But the parallel pacts signed by various Western powers including Britain, the appeasement policy and the sell-out of Czechoslovakia at Munich by Chamberlain are a closer fit!

Conspiracy theory seeks to evade class, both structures and struggle. It treats workers as people easily fooled and therefore easily led. Historical and holocaust inversion and conspiracy theory were made for each other.

Inversion and ideology History and philosophy always play a vital role in ideology. The new and emerging variation of capitalist ideology in these countries is aggressive, pro neo-liberal, representing the interests of big oligarchs, some NGOs, the Church and State. There are neo-Nazis in the mix too, as the Maidan coup in the Ukraine demonstrated.

This is the nest of vipers that Labour



Above: Factory workers celebrate the construction of tanks to aid the Soviet war effort
Left: Anti fascists at the Cable Street barricade celebrate their victory

MEPs allied with when, in the EU parliament in August 2019, forces of the Prague Declaration sought to pass a motion replacing Holocaust Memorial Day with a day of 'common memory' to coincide with the signing of the German-Soviet pact of Non Aggression.

This motion was passed, and the EU turned history on its head. It was one of the all-time low points of social democracy in Europe. Emboldened, the 'Prague' forces will now push on. Social democracy will continue its disintegration.

Memory wars It is fitting that the struggle around historical and Holocaust inversion now centres on the establishment of 'Museums of Memory'. I term these, 'memory wars'. Such centres are often given the title of Holocaust museums. Yet they do not mention the murder of the Jews and other victims of the actual Holocaust.

An organisation has been formed in Britain – a country that signally refused to sign up to the Prague Declaration, thanks to a powerful campaign led by MP John Mann and the all-Parliamentary Committee Opposed to Anti-Semitism – to establish a 'Museum of Communist Crimes'. It can legitimately seek EU funding as a result of the vote in August 2019. The latest Museum in the chain has been funded with €50 million and is set for Brussels. It is modelled on the 'House of Terror' in Budapest.

Coming this way to Britain Britain, rightly, has plans to establish a Holocaust Museum and Learning Centre as we have to take account of the passing of the last of the survivors. Communists welcome this. Equally we reject any notion that historical and holocaust inversion forces might be allowed to set up a centre of subversion and disinformation in London. We will back that with active public campaigning and calls on construction workers to boycott the sinister project.

In the Labour movement we accept the general position that the Second World War had a broadly anti fascist character, that the Holocaust happened as an exceptional and unique event flowing directly from the inner ideological core of fascism and that the right side won.

Building a broad front Communists are faced with an uphill task of forging a wide front against attempts to whitewash fascism. The issues of 'museum wars', 'struggle in the law courts', opposition

to the rightward drift of the EU, publishing the truth and challenging the unholy trinity of historical and holocaust inversion and conspiracy theory online all feature in our forthcoming 56th Party congress in London.

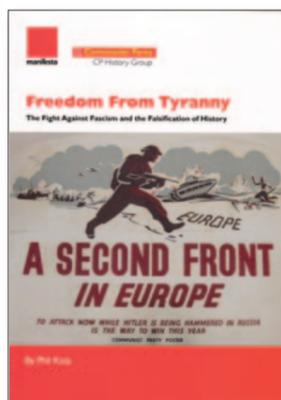
What we choose to remember and what we forget and what our rulers urge us to remember and forget are the stuff of ideological struggles that impact on what is taught in classrooms and how we view the history of our nations.

The Right know this. The Prague Declaration called for the support, not of historians, but of 'memory-makers'. To know, yet allow ourselves to forget is a dangerous path and poorly serves the memory of those who built their barricades in Cable Street.

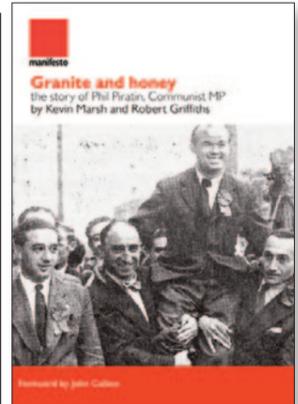
Mutation and a rise in tempo Historical revisionism is now set to mutate again. It is the rationale for violent action in Greece, Hungary and in the Ukraine. It will extend to Asia as China, Korea and Japan seek to come to terms with events in that theatre during WW2. And it will extend beyond WW2 – it was a major feature of recent commemorative events marking the 150th anniversary of the Paris Commune.

London, in the form of THAT so-called Museum of Communist Crimes. ★

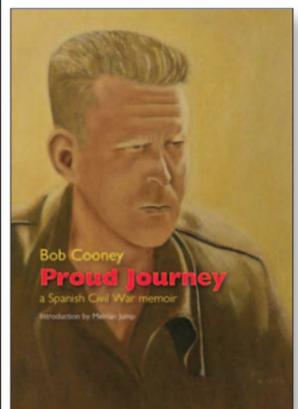
PHIL KATZ IS COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AUTHOR OF *FREEDOM FROM TYRANNY - THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM AND THE FALSIFICATION OF HISTORY*.



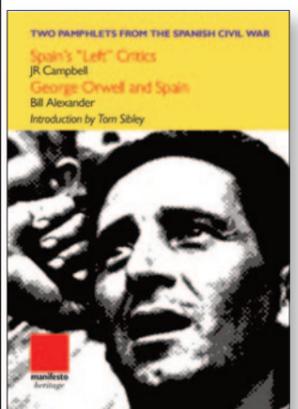
Freedom from Tyranny Phil Katz draws the connections between the pre-war fight against fascism, contradictions in the Allied confrontation with the Nazi and fascist regimes and the origins and course of the post-war falsification of history
www.manifestopress.org.uk



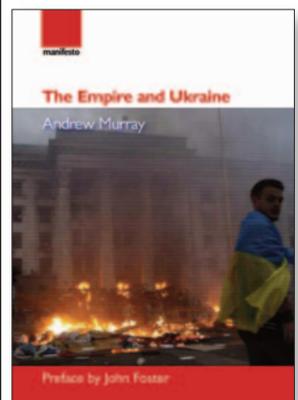
Granite and honey the biography of the Cable Street hero Phil Piratin Communist MP by Kevin Marsh and Robert Griffiths



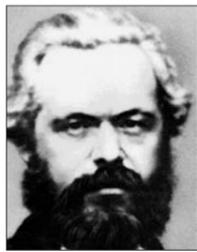
Proud Journey a Spanish Civil War memoir is by Bob Cooney, Aberdeen anti fascist and International Brigade fighter with an introduction by Marx Memorial Library's Meirian Jump



Two pamphlets from the Spanish Civil War includes a 1930s repudiation, by *Daily Worker* editor JR Campbell, of ultra left critics of the antifascist strategy in Spain and a critique of George Orwell's politics and writing by Bill Alexander, commander of the British Battalion of the International Brigade with an introduction by Tom Sibley.



The Empire and Ukraine Andrew Murray analyses imperialism's strategy and spells out the fascist origins and history of the reactionary forces unleashed by the restoration of capitalism and NATO and the EU's expansion eastwards
www.manifestopress.org.uk



MARX AND ENVIRONMENT

...all progress in capitalistic agriculture is a progress in the art, not only of robbing the labourer, but of robbing the soil; all progress in increasing the fertility of the soil for a given time, is a progress towards ruining the lasting sources of that fertility. **Karl Marx, Capital vol 1**

On the environment

At the last Congress no resolution from the Executive was presented on the environment. However, below is the composite resolution from branches and districts that was passed unanimously by Congress. Some but not all parts have been implemented following congress. Comrades might find it useful to evaluate the progress made since the last congress in the light of the current discussion:

THE ENVIRONMENT 55th Congress: Draft Composite: (R20,R21,R22,A14)

Congress recognises the scale of the global environmental crisis that threatens to undermine life and civilisation on our planet; and the importance of this arena of struggle in the fight for socialism.

The environment in which we live is fundamental to life and capitalism not only exploits labour but also nature, or the environment, in ways which are harmful to the future of humankind.

Unsustainable use of resources and land use, pollution and loss of habitats and species

are becoming critical, but one of the most pressing issues is climate change, now almost universally acknowledged to be mainly the result of human activity. The impact of this is felt all over the world and will quickly increase over this century. Increased strength and frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms, global warming, changes in rainfall patterns causing drought or flooding, and sea level rise are all manifestations of climate change. These changes lead to relocation of coastal communities, climate refugees, and food shortages and these impacts are felt the greatest by poor countries and communities.

The overproduction and inherent wasteful practices of capitalism are now becoming self-evident and Communists must start to answer how socialism can be built without destroying the planet.

The building of a socialist society must be seen to be both planet and worker friendly and we have to construct policies to address this with a global outlook. The issues of travel, food, decent housing, access to work and access to energy must all be addressed to ensure sustainable communities.

We are committed to supporting accelerated research into renewable energy technologies to replace carbon dioxide-producing fossil fuels. In addition to this, whilst fossil fuels are still being used, there is an immediate need for increased research into

carbon capture technologies.

However, the Communist Party also needs to develop policies to take into the trade union movement that are about long-term development and not short-term gain; we need to start campaigning for the conversion of many industrial jobs into green jobs and not defending growth at any cost. This will require the control of development by central governments in collaboration with their neighbours as we have to make the distribution of income more equal as we manage the resources of the planet more equitably.

The future has to be one of nurturing the planet whilst allowing human development to continue.

In Britain this means an integrated and cheap public transport system using clean energy that discourages people from using and owning private vehicles. This will mean more buses, trams, trains and bikes being built and fewer cars. The capitalist promotion of self-drive cars is not the answer.

This also means a sustainable home-building programme that is about social housing using recycled materials with up to date technology that looks at social integration of communal spaces and resources. It also needs to look at the use and reuse of water and a variety of methods for heating and cooling the housing provided.

All of this will require co-ordination and co-operation, and this can only be delivered through state intervention, at least a Left Labour government as a start and in the longer term within a socialist society.

Congress resolves that Marxist education throughout this party will include analysis of the political economy of environmental crises and the need for the replacement of an economy based on capitalist accumulation by one devoted to the development of a socialist ecological civilisation.

Congress also resolves to re-establish an Environment Commission, or to commit to include these issues into an active science commission, and through this to encourage party members to become active in local and national campaigns against activities harmful to the environment and to humankind, such as fracking – being imposed on communities without proper consultation and consent – while calling for alternative employment for those currently engaged in such work. The Commission could establish working groups with allies to develop appropriate policies, and work with sister parties on developing more sustainable policies for the world movement.

**Yorkshire District Committee
West Yorkshire Branch
Birmingham & District Plus Branch
North West District Committee**

DISCUSSION

BEIGE, BITTY & BLUNT

The domestic Congress resolution is beige, bitty and blunt. It follows an identical formula from previous resolutions with more than two thirds devoted to background and reflection. It lacks any sense of where, in practice, the Party's heading. It's passive and projects a lack of confidence in ability to deliver.

It lists issues including gender, race, orientation and disability but, offers no call to arms, repeating what's been in previous resolutions. Maybe the EC thinks doing the same, can lead to different results. It refers to the Party's Housing Charter but offers no ideas on tackling the housing situation. Progressive federalism is a fudge, containing conclusions with no explanations and excuses for taking a position on national self-determination that contradicts Party principles.

The resolution contains few actions, just more alliances, co-operation and another convention where the Party will be in an echo chamber talking to ourselves and those that agree.

It bangs on about crisis of capitalism, takes up a position on the sofa to tackle it, avoiding hard issues. The crisis is within the working class. They are disempowered, disillusioned and deceived. Labour has turned its back on them, they have no trust or belief in the establishment and are fed fake news and a misleading social and political narrative. This crisis requires our Party to re-connect with the working class. This won't be achieved by zoom, social media nor revelling in our history. We are an activist Party, not history boys. We need inspiration. This demands energised leadership and leading by example. This resolution feels tired and academic.

Congress offers an opportunity for the Party to spell out what it is going to do to become a party of influence. The resolution should focus on what we are going to do, not what we think.

**Philip Street
Midlands District**

DEFEND CHINA

I wish to encourage maximum solidarity to the People's Republic of China and upholding the historic success of the Communist Party of China. Throughout 100 years of revolutionary experience, the CPC has overthrown feudal rule, won socialist revolution, eliminated poverty and won unparalleled victories for Chinese workers. Under the two centenary goals, China has realised a moderately prosperous society in 2021 and as it heads towards 2049 aims to create an advanced socialist country.

I urge all Communists to send maximum solidarity to the CPC and PRC in realising their goal. It is important to educate communist, cadres and class conscious workers on the theory and practice of the CPC. Far from 'taking the capitalist road', the CPC is adhering ever closer to Marxism by recognising, as Marx did, that socialism is developed on the basis of the advanced commodity economy first and not out of backwards conditions. The ownership, distribution and exchange system will match the existing stage of development, as Engels noted in Anti-Duhring, socialism is not a matter of pure will but objective conditions. As China is still a developing socialist country we should understand the necessity of their path. As the Manifesto states, the first duty of the proletariat in power is to develop the productive forces to the maximum. The CPC is doing just that and the benefits for the Chinese people has never been clearer. As Xi Jinping has stated on several occasions, the highest goal of the CPC is to realise communism on the basis of a generational struggle that occurs along an entire historical epoch.

I wish to encourage the vanguard party of the British workers, the CPB, to promote even further the fraternal ties with the CPC and encourage greater understanding of the CPC and combat the imperialist propaganda from the US and incorrect ultra-leftist distortions promoted by certain quarters. The CPC is the world's largest and most successful Marxist Leninist Party, their success holds lessons for us all in adapting Marxism to national conditions.

Joshua Jackson

ON MODERN MONETARY THEORY

Domestic Resolution, on Modern Monetary Theory (line 650 – 655):

It is true that there is a tendency on the left to view MMT in an escapist manner, that we can simply pump money into public services, directly into the worker's pockets, and even that we don't even need to tax!

If we were to expand the money supply without levying tax on the capitalist class, we'd eventually end up filling the pockets of the upper echelons of that class – the monopolists and oligopolists – as wealth tends to filter upward. Funnily enough, this is exactly what has happened during the pandemic!

Proponents of MMT say the state controls the money supply, and they're right, but it is the capitalist sector that controls technology, labour conditions and the level of skills and intensity of the workforce and hence, controls the flows of wealth.

MMT could potentially be used as a framing device, to illustrate that the capitalists as a class have managed to acquire substantial wealth from the government gravy-train and that it is only after the fact that the government is raising taxes on the working class to pay for it. It could be used to demonstrate that the constant printing of money without taxation on the capitalist class leads to the tendency for wealth to filter upward as we saw during the pandemic. The unyielding printing of money in general leads towards other crises: inflation, currency devaluation, higher interest rates etc.

In other words, our current situation framed through MMT should be enough to reject the utopian understanding of MMT wholesale.

It is a state under the control of workers that's needed. When the workers have control over technology, automation, labour conditions and intensity of the workforce, there'd be no need to print money constantly because at that point, they'd have control over the flows of wealth.

**Simon Brignell
Eastern district**

POLITICAL AWARENESS AND WORKING CLASS POWER

If the problem is Capitalism and the solution is Socialism, we need to be clear that socialism involves the seizure of state power by the working class. This will, of course, include the building of alliances with any groups who can be drawn into a common front against the class enemy, but only the workers can lead a successful revolution and only the workers can liberate themselves. We cannot compromise on the essential nature of the class struggle. The workers, led by the party, have to take power, both through the ballot and in the streets, and use it to defeat the enemy – the bourgeoisie – by all means necessary.

The task of the Communist Party is to educate, agitate and organise the working class, most importantly at the place where class struggle is taking place all the time – the workplace. There is no substitute for building the unions (including unionising workers in the new casualised and gig economies and unionising community workers) and building a culture of class struggle within them. Only once there is a self-conscious working class can there be any hope of defeating Capitalism.

The current situation of labour shortages should be ruthlessly leveraged for maximum advantage by workers to seek, not only better wages and conditions but also a restoration of the rights taken from them by successive governments since 1979 – to represent, to recruit and to bargain, to be recognised and accorded facility time and office space, to picket effectively, to take sympathy action and to establish closed shops. In the course of that struggle they will not only become stronger but also more politically aware.

**Will Barton
Wales**

Point of accuracy

Gerald Sables says that: Line 158 of domestic resolution gives 6% as the percent of GDP for financial services. It is 80%. See <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/researchbriefings/sn06193/>

Having read the HoC Library briefing above – he is incorrect. The figure is actually 6.9%.

**Gordon Scobie
Scotland**



STATE POWER

And there is only one way of smashing the resistance of those classes, and that is to find, in the very society which surrounds us, the forces which can—and, owing to their social position, must—constitute the power capable of sweeping away the old and creating the new, and to enlighten and organise those forces for the struggle. **Lenin 1913**

THROUGH EXPERIENCE, TO THEORY AND STRATEGY

Concerning the discussion about our strategy of developing a broad, popular democratic anti-monopoly alliance. I think some of the wording could do with a bit of tightening up certainly. But really there is no contradiction between developing an alliance led by the working class against State Monopoly Capitalism, and the need to identify and mobilise people against the specific monopoly corporations – both in productive and financial capital – that blight working class lives, and destroy small businesses and the livelihoods of the “self-employed”. Unless we successfully demonstrate their nature and get organised against them we are unlikely to see workers organise against the whole system.

Remember our steps – educate, agitate and organise – from the practice of real life experience... to theory and strategy.

Expose and fight the monopolies to develop the anti-monopoly alliance – and a mass understanding of, and opposition to State Monopoly Capitalism..

Bill Greenshields
Midlands District

GREETINGS FROM OUR SISTER PARTIES

FROM SWITZERLAND

56th Congress of the CPB
Dear comrades,
On the occasion of the 56th Congress of the Communist Party of Britain we are honoured to express our best wishes for good work and an internationalist greeting to all militants and to the working class of your country.

We have read the documents that you are going to discuss. With particular interest we have taken note of your analysis of the new cold war which is combined with a rampant and dangerous Sinophobia. In our view, the primary contradiction of our historical phase is that which divides Atlantic imperialism and Chinese-led multipolarism, and it is on this basis that we also note a division of the bourgeoisie itself in our country.

We also appreciate the reference to the struggle of our people against the institutional framework agreement with the European Union, which we too have opposed together with the Swiss trade union movement, and we share your view of the essentially imperialist character of the EU.

For our part, we are also preparing to enter the period of our 24th Congress, and certainly the theme of anti-imperialism and peace will be deepened. Our Party, made up above all of young people, must now make a qualitative leap from the point of view of organisation and territorial roots, and also from the point of view of exchanging experiences we will be happy to be able to build more intense relations of friendship and cooperation with British communists.

We are confident that the 56th Congress of the CPB will be a success that will give renewed impetus to the British workers' movement and we send you our solidarity. With best wishes and socialist greetings.

Communist Party (Switzerland)
General Secretary
Massimiliano Ay

CLIMATE EMERGENCY NEEDS CHANGE ALL-ROUND

I believe Comrade Phil Clegg is right to point out that the treatment of the environmental emergency in the draft resolutions is inadequate. I sense that many comrades are reluctant to talk up measures that might halt further global warming and mitigate the consequences of climate change. This reluctance no doubt results from awareness that such measures raise difficult and delicate issues in trade unions struggling to protect the jobs and livelihoods of their members.

But we can't avoid facing the fact that conquering climate change will require many workers to change the nature of their output. The party needs to be spelling out in some detail realistic green alternatives, and how they can be achieved.

The same issue has arisen in the campaigns against nuclear weapons, especially Trident. We can perhaps take inspiration from the work that our late comrade Alan Mackinnon did for Scottish CND to show that more and better jobs could be created in non-nuclear occupations.

David Grove
Midlands District

FROM UKRAINE

Communist Party of Britain
Dear comrades delegates and guests of the Congress!

Dear Comrade Robert Griffiths!
Please accept warm and cordial greetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine and me personally to the delegates and guests of the 56th Congress of the Communist Party of Britain – the leading proletarian party, which, with its revolutionary and practical deeds since its founding in 1920, has proved its social and political singleness of purpose;

the Party at the forefront of the class struggle of the British working people against the capitalist exploitation of man by man, globalization, terrorism and the revival of fascism;

the Party that protects the democratic rights and freedoms of workers and actively fights to maintain peace on the planet

We wish the participants of the congress fruitful work, comradely understanding, political firmness and decisiveness in developing on the basis of a principled and creative understanding of Marxism-Leninism the modern social and political tasks of the Party, making wise decisions, remain worthy of our History and apply every effort to fulfill its role as the revolutionary, ideological and political vanguard of the working class.

Please also accept our sincere comradely gratitude to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Britain, to you, comrade Griffiths, to the editorial staff of the *Morning Star*, to other comrades for your international solidarity and support of our Party.

We, the communists of Ukraine, are convinced that our international solidarity with you in the face of the most acute challenges of our time, as never before, passes the test of strength, that the guarantee of our common victory over the world of capital!

We wish you all political optimism and new achievements for the good of the working people of Britain!

Long live the Communist Party of Britain!
Long live Marxism-Leninism! Long live socialism!

Workers of all countries unite!

With communist greetings,

Petro Symonenko
First secretary Central Committee
Communist Party of Ukraine

WORKING CLASS STATE POWER

Communists work in complex conditions – in states where communists form the government – to deep clandestinity, semi-legal conditions or, as here, with a relative freedom to organise.

One consequence of the growing crisis of capitalism is the intensification of ideological forms of struggle. This is no less true in the existing socialist states than in bourgeois democracies like Britain.

This very complexity compels us to abandon dogmatic approaches that entail a forced common strategy for achieving working class power that it both eternally true and applicable in all situations.

This applies equally to 'national' roads to socialism which constantly need to be tested against new global economic realities.

The events of the last few years show that the slow accretion of contradictions in society will find new and innovative ways of expressing themselves. This is as true of the Corbyn breakthrough as much as it is for the subsequent reimposition of an even more openly neo liberal Labour right wing. Our ruling class also passed through a great convulsion before reaching its new

FROM BANGLADESH

Message of Greetings from the Communist Party of Bangladesh to the 56th Congress of the Communist Party of Britain.

Dear Comrades,
We are pleased to know that the 56th Congress of the Communist Party of Britain will take place on 6-7th November 2021. Indeed it is a big challenge to hold this Congress aftermath of Covid-19 Pandemic. The Communist Party of Bangladesh sincerely believes that Comrades in the Communist Party of Britain will be able to cope up with current situation and will hold a successful party congress.

The Communist Party of Britain has a long glorious history of building communist and progressive movement in British Society. Also it has a historic and traditional linkage with the communist movement of undivided India, which is a root of the Communist movement of Bangladesh.

Your Congress meets at a time when the pandemic has exposed the bankruptcy of global capitalism. Presently capitalism is confronted with its inherent decay and thus trying to rescue itself by using the policy of 'privatization of profit and socialization of the burden of crises'. It has embarked on a cruel policy of austerity and privatisation in an all-out manner. The recent aggressiveness of imperialism, specially the US imperialism and its allies are reflection of the crisis of capitalism. For this reason, freedom is being trampled underfoot and nations are being harnessed to the global geopolitical strategy of imperialism to accentuate economic exploitation and social-political domination. The crisis of Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and Palestine have again proved that the US imperialism has practically embarked on the mission of 're-colonization'.

Indeed the global assault of capitalism-imperialism calls for a new global coalition of all anti-imperialist forces of the world, for raising to a qualitatively new level of unity, cohesion, cooperation and coordination of the struggles of these forces all over the world. The Communist and Workers parties of the world have a crucial role to play in building up this coalition and spearheading the struggle for peace, democracy and justice.

Communist Party of Bangladesh firmly believes that the Communist, left-progressive

compromise with the EU.

Our party is distinguished from both social democratic and ultra left formations by its serious programmatic approach which insists on the potential of Britain's distinctive Labour Party to be both site of struggle and vehicle for working class advance.

The Labour right – the personification of capital in the Labour movement – fear both the potential of a mass membership to impose progressive policies and the capacity of trade unionists to mobilise to the same aim.

While the right naturally wants the left and unions to abandon this fight (and finds an echo on the frivolous left) our task as a party is to work to transform the battle for a sustainable planet, democracy and popular sovereignty into the struggle to win working class state power.

Nick Wright
Southern District

and all truly patriotic forces ready to fight imperialist aggression will build up united struggle at the national, regional and global level at this critical time.

We believe your Congress will contribute in overcoming the present crisis and consolidating the achievements of the glorious struggle of the peoples of Britain.

Wish you further success in the struggle for peace, freedom, democracy and Socialism.

With solidarity and revolutionary greetings-

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.
Mujahidul Islam Selim General Secretary
Md. Shah Alam President



COMMUNIST REVIEW
THEORETICAL AND DISCUSSION JOURNAL
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY
Autumn 2021 Number 101

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EVENTS & IDEAS & ACTION

No, fascism is not a power standing above class, nor government of the petty bourgeoisie or the lumpen-proletariat over finance capital. Fascism is the power of finance capital itself.

Georgi Dimitov General Secretary of the Communist International



RENTS ARE RISING and tenants who have faced long months in lockdown, on restricted income or furlough wages are finding that landlords are keen to maximise income irrespective of tenants' ability to pay.

The private rental market is a minefield of exploitation and uncertainty for tenants says Newcastle Acorn activist **Jade Welburn**.

Rents are relatively lower in Newcastle, people are moving there from various Southern cities where the cost of living is higher. The lockdown moratorium on evictions ended but the truth is that evictions never ceased throughout the pandemic. Acorn organises tenants and communities, supports them in disputes with their landlords, intervenes legally and physically to prevent evictions and works with tenants to secure their housing rights. At any one time Newcastle Acorn has six or seven actions underway. Where advice on housing rights and the limits of landlord power prove insufficient we mobilise our members, our member defence and eviction resistance teams and target landlords, or agents acting on their behalf, where they are visible and vulnerable to exposure.

During the pandemic Acorn has doubled in size nationally and continues to grow. The organisation stands for an organised and united working class and sees itself as a national community organisation along the lines of a trade union; organising in working class communities and fighting for a better quality of life. It is a source of power for our class. ★

JADE WELBURN IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY HOUSING COMMISSION

Toothless in Suffolk

Communists have taken a leading role in organising a march and rally for the NHS and the restoration of NHS dental services, gaining widespread union support and media attention. The march is on 17 October in Bury St Edmunds, assembling at 11am. All are welcome to attend. www.facebook.com/events/380286903619747

The East is Red

The Eastern District of the Communist Party will hold a celebratory dinner to mark the anniversary of the Great October Revolution on 17 October in Bury St Edmunds following the demonstration for the NHS.



Arms fair exposed



YOUNG COMMUNISTS who work in the live events sector signed on for work at the biggest arms fair in the world – and staged a smoke grenade protest as

more young communists protested outside the Excel centre. **Nathan Czapnik**, editor of the YCL magazine *Challenge* and a live events crew worker himself takes up the story. For over 20 years *Defence and Security Equipment International*, the largest arms fair in the world, has blighted east London. Protests have raged, even London Mayor Sadiq Khan has publicly opposed the event, but nothing seems to stop the Excel centre being taken over by groups like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin to sell guns and bombs to countries like Saudi Arabia and Israel.

DSEI is far more than a supermarket for weapons: it is the beating heart of Britain's military industrial complex, part of the fading Empire's current co-ordinating role in Western imperialism. DSEI is state aligned — its chair is

the Navy's Rear Admiral Simon Williams, who via UK Defence and Security Exports, a government body, invites delegations from 61 nations, territories and bodies, including delegations from Australia, NATO, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan.

DSEI allows the British government to host a co-ordination of weapons technology with its imperialist allies, bringing in weaponry developed by companies such as BAE Systems, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman.

Six of the nations invited to DSEI, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, are on the Foreign Office's own 'human rights priority' list — nations of 'particular concern' over breaches of human rights — unless of course they want to spend millions on Britain and the US's latest military tech, then apparently there are no particular concerns.

Generating millions for a billion-dollar industry, opposition has been ignored by those willing to be bought off. ★

ABOVE: Watch the video online with **Shea Stewart** speaking at <https://tinyurl.com/kr4hwx4c>

Time for action

UNIONS AND THE TUC ANDY BAIN



THE COMMUNIST PARTY welcomes the determination of Britain's unions and the TUC to rebuild union strength in workplaces and local communities. Workers need unity and solidarity

as much as ever in the face of a fresh ruling class attack on pay, conditions, pensions and benefits.

Communists welcome the TUC decision last month to reaffirm support for a New Deal for Workers, but fine words must be turned into action in time for a working-class fightback next spring.

Communists want a return to workplace balloting, whether for industrial action or elections, as a way to increase the participation of workers in trade union and workplace democracy.

The stakes are high and workers must guard against any tendency to step back from political analysis and action.

Government and company policies — backed by the state and the law — are unavoidably political as are the increase in National Insurance contributions, the withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, the recent rash of 'fire and rehire' attacks by employers on pay and conditions and the second hike this year in people's gas and electricity bills. We need a combination of trade union and political action including mass demonstrations and pressure on MPs.

The Tory government's austerity cuts hit at working people but there is no let up in costly war-mongering policies to increase Britain's nuclear weapons arsenal and boost military spending by £16 billion over the next four years.

The new UK-US-Australia military pact is a dangerous provocation intended to whip up support for the new cold war against the People's Republic of China.

Congratulations to the Young Communist League for their media savvy disruption of the Defence and Security Equipment International arms fair in London, infiltrating the exhibition and setting off red flares. We need a mass, militant anti-war movement more than ever. ★

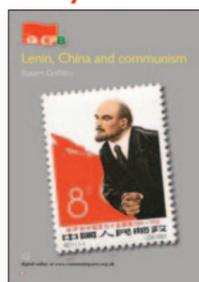
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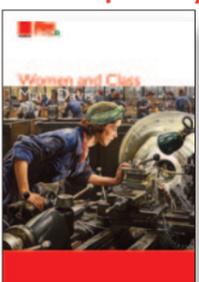
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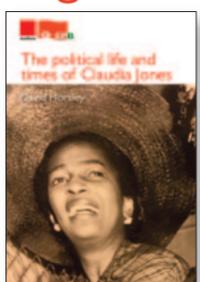
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