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Unity!

Pandemic proof the future for workers

Anita Halpin previews this year's TUC conference

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

CONGRESS THIS month will, for the second year running, be a 'virtual' on-line event. The motions are very much as expected, reflecting the challenges and dangers working women and men face in a post-pandemic, Tory Britain. Areas of debate include responding to Covid19; rebuilding the economy; valuing and rewarding public sector key workers; ending 'fire and rehire'; and demanding respect and a voice in the workplace.

There is strong support for a New Deal for Workers (from the communications workers CWU) and the need to build collectivism as climate change and the fourth industrial revolution accelerate a growing sense of insecurity and anxiety. (The future of work - mobilising for a new deal is the subject of the *Morning Star* fringe on Tuesday 14 September)

The increased number of motions on climate change and green energy reflect the growing concern of the dangers of global warming though, alarmingly, there is a call from the GMB for the construction of new nuclear plants.

The vision of what workers want is best summed up for me by the PCS's demand for 'a pandemic-proofed future in which the interests of workers are protected and where safety comes first'.

There are two international motions on Columbia and one on Palestine which calls for the reaffirmation of the TUC's policy to 'boycott the goods of companies who profit from illegal settlements, the Occupation and the construction of the Wall'.

Congress debates will be available on line and open to all, not only trade unionists, and there are also over 30 fringe meetings. (Go to the TUC's website to register for the open debates and fringe meetings).

One thing we have learned in this Zoom-age is that on-line debates are much more intensive and this is reflected in the length of this year's Congress; one less day and shorter sessions resulting in just under 10 hours for delegates and invited speakers compared to over 20 hours in 2019.

So, how do you fit 'quart into a pint pot'? Congress House's solution to this is to prioritise composite motions, motions from the TUC's equality conferences and emergency motions (most probably on Afghanistan). Unions will be asked to nominate speakers and make the case why they should be given a speaker's slot - so much of the debate will have taken place even before Congress opens.

Traditionally, most TUC policy decisions are achieved by consensus and prioritising composite motions, which always take a lowest common denominator position, will make this

even easier than usual to achieve. If there is no clear majority there will be an electronic 'card vote' cast by each delegation leader. There will obviously not be enough time to take all motions, and many of the non-composited motions will be taken formally.

It will differ from last year's Congress in that it looks likely that policy decisions will be made in open sessions rather than in closed sessions of an extended General Council. The intention is to return to a full in-person Congress in 2022.

Undoubtedly, virtual arenas offer exciting opportunities to attract many more attendees than could ever be crammed into an average meeting room. I'm not sure that the TUC has optimised the possibilities that on-line events offer for more interactive meetings as there are only as many fringes as one would expect in a 'normal' year.

It's been interesting over the past 18 months to see how unions have managed their policy-making conferences during lockdown and under social distancing restrictions.

The 2020 TUC Women's Conference was the last 'live' trade union conference before the first lockdown. Delegates tried to act normally, everyone was a bit edgy, but the sisters got on with the business and got the job done.

For the rest of 2020 all unions cancelled their national policy conferences, except for my own union the NUJ which postponed its delegate meeting.

Most unions had some sort of on-line conference last year with themed debates rather than discussion and voting on submitted motions and used the opportunity to offer extra interactive events open to all members.

The education union NEU also held a special on-line conference in October to consider rule-change motions submitted for its Easter conference, while the CWU held a rule-change conference earlier this year. They are to be congratulated. Maintaining robust union democracy is the duty of the union's leadership at all times.

So far this year, unions have come up with a

variety of arrangements for their annual or biennial conferences. So far all have been online but TSSA and Unite have postponed their conferences until later this year in anticipation of being able to hold a 'real live' conference.

The conference I know most about is the NUJ's 2021 delegate meeting. The 2020 Final Agenda was picked up and all motions - other than those overtaken by events or already actioned by the NEC - were debated by the I believe the NUJ conference shows that virtual meetings can be fully democratic though this requires both a committed leadership and an efficient backstage team of 'techies'.

Experiences so far in this conference year would seem to suggest that possibly the best model would be a normal real conference (with electronic voting) complemented by a range of union- and industry-specific on-line workshops and seminars, as well as the usual fringe meetings available on line and open to all members and not just delegates.

The other thing we've learned is that, however well on-line conferences are organised, they lack the spontaneity of live meetings and the cut and thrust of debate is lost as speakers have to be notified well in advance of conference. A key element of any conference which can be lost when time is limited is that the wide range of topics on the agenda do not get aired.

And one final caveat, while new platforms open up new possibilities, the lack of computer expertise or access or proper training must that not become a hidden disadvantage in the 21st century. ★

ANITA HALPIN IS A FORMER CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL

PICTURE ABOVE shows TUC delegates voting in solidarity with Palestine.

UNITY! will appear in several editions during this year's TUC



AFGHANISTAN

THE COMMUNIST PARTY holds Britain, the US and other Western powers chiefly responsible for the latest tragedy in Afghanistan as Taliban Islamist forces secure their take-over of the country.

'These events expose the so-called humanitarian case for imperialist intervention as a travesty and vindicate the stance of the anti-war movement in Britain and internationally', Steve Johnson told the party's late August political committee meeting.

He declared that Western imperialism and NATO have long been the problem, not any part of the solution.

'Not just for the last 20 years', Steve Johnson explained, 'but from the late 1970s and 1980s, when the Western powers and their reactionary allies in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan financed, armed and trained jihadi insurgents in order to bring down the progressive People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan regime and its Soviet backers'.

As a consequence of US, British and French military intervention, he pointed out, countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria had been plunged into catastrophic chaos and slaughter, while sectarian religious fundamentalism had grown massively in strength.

The Communist Party's political committee called on the British government to provide generous refuge to people fleeing oppression in Afghanistan and urged the labour and progressive movements to stand in solidarity with women and others who are courageously defending democratic and human rights in defiance of the Taliban.

'These rights have never been the genuine concern of Western governments, whose real interests are in mineral resources, trades routes and military bases', Steve Johnson said.

'As the climate emergency and the unfair distribution of Covid vaccines confirm, capitalism means continual conflict, war, disease and environmental degradation', he concluded, 'Rosa Luxemburg's prophetic words that humanity's choice is "Socialism or Barbarism" are more relevant than ever'. ★

THE FUTURE OF WORK: MOBILISING FOR A NEW DEAL

SPEAKERS:

DAVE WARD
CWU GENERAL SECRETARY

BENCHACKO
EDITOR OF THE MORNING STAR

ROGER MCKENZIE
GENERAL SECRETARY LIBERATION

SARAH WOOLLEY
BFAWU GENERAL SECRETARY

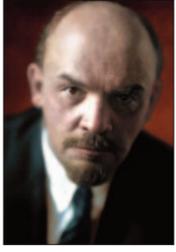
PLUS MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

CHAIR: BOB ORAM
MORNING STAR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

★ Morning Star

TUES 14 SEPT 2PM

Fringe at TUC
tinyurl.com/Mobilising4ANewDeal



POLITICS & NEWS

The Executive Committee of the Third International must, in my opinion, positively condemn, and call upon the next congress of the Communist International to condemn both the policy of refusing to work in reactionary trade unions in general (explaining in detail why such refusal is unwise, and what extreme harm it does to the cause of the proletarian revolution) VI Lenin Should Revolutionaries Work in Reactionary Trade Unions? 1920



Communists in East Anglia have taken the lead in organising a march and rally calling for an NHS dentist for everyone.

Building on the big impact of communist Steve Marsling's election campaign in Leiston which made access to NHS dentistry its centre piece the march will go through the centre of Bury St Edmunds and pass the the office of NHS minister Jo Churchill MP finishing at Abbey Gardens with a range of local speakers.

Sunday 17 October Assemble 11am Abbey Gardens

NHS in crisis – Fighting back

HEALTH SERVICE

Across the Eastern Region, hospitals are in crisis and NHS dentists are closing. Join our meeting to hear from our panel of experts and campaigners.

Every week campaigners – include Toothless in Suffolk campaign mascot, 'Flossy' are on high streets in Suffolk.

Norfolk and Suffolk Morning Star Supporters Group, has organised a meeting in response to the growing crisis in NHS provision.

NHS Dentists in East Anglia are closing at an alarming rate and the few that remain have closed their books to new patients. The Tory Government couldn't care less about the severe pain and financial hardship this has caused.

Campaigns to restore NHS Dental Services and for a new hospital to replace the crumbling and collapsing QEH have received massive support from the people of East Anglia.

Speakers include Jo Rust from King's Lynn Trades Council and the QEH campaign, NHS dentist Helen Duncan, Johnbosco Nwogbo, the Campaign Officer for We Own It, and Steve Marsling from the Toothless in Suffolk Campaign. The meeting is to be chaired by Mark Jones from the Toothless in Suffolk Campaign.

Tuesday, 14 September 7pm

To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nhs-in-crisis-fighting-back-tickets-167436646517> ★

Shift to rail

RAILWAYS

BRITAIN NEEDS to shift freight from road to rail, returning to rail thereby reducing HGV traffic on the roads and providing well paid and high skilled, unionised jobs in a publicly owned railway industry says the Communist Party's political economy commission.

A tonne of freight transported by rail produces 76 per cent less carbon emissions compared to road says the commission.

Pointing to a recent report the commission says that with a freight train carrying the equivalent of as many as 110 lorries, an increase in rail freight will not only shrink Britain's carbon footprint but significantly reduce traffic congestion.

The capitalist solution to the global shortage of HGV drivers will be to grudgingly pay more, train workers (unless it can avoid it) and to import cheaper labour to exploit. This means more heavily polluting HGVs on the roads, at a time when we have moved from a climate crisis into a climate emergency.

In the 80s, communists and others warned of the dire consequences of shifting freight from rail to road. A conscious decision by the then Thatcher government, aiming to privatise rail and break the hold of the unions led to the present situation.

Scots communists warn against SNP/Green link

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

THE NEW SNP/Green Party tie-up gives little cheer to workers and their communities warns Scottish communists.

The Scottish communists said that the Greens have assisted Scottish Governments to get their cuts-based budgets through the Parliament for more than a decade thus little is changed by this partnership agreement.

Both support a so-called independent Scotland returning to the European Union, which has been a main driver of the privatisation agenda, the same EU that outlaw's comprehensive public ownership and economic democracy said the party.

'The SNP will now have the ability to say "look how radical we are, we have Greens in government". While the Greens appear to have abandoned any pretence of support for a new Green Deal in exchange for the whiff of leather in the ministerial cars.

'The independence offered by these parties is fake, it is independence in name only as Scotland would still be controlled by transnational corporations and finance capital.

'The Scottish National Party's Growth Commission makes it clear that our class would face at least a decade of severe austerity given that at both national and local government levels the Greens have happily supported cuts-based budgets which they appear as ease with.

'This deal will neuter the Greens parliamentary platform and let the SNP off the hook on their failures on Transport, Health, Industrial Policy, Local Government, Education and drug deaths and of course developing any Green initiatives.

'What our class requires is economic democracy with an urgent mobilisation of trade unions and their communities, building a political movement based on class organisation, aiming to redistribute wealth and power, rather than manage a capitalist agenda.

'Those Green supporters who are sceptical about the SNP – along with nationalist voters with a concern for their class – will assist in this struggle, which would be the start of transforming the Scottish Parliament into a workers Parliament which would intervene both economically and industrially'. ★

Social care: communists call for service reform and staff pay rise

TUC PREVIEW

In advance of the TUC annual conference pressure is building over the government's failure to reform and fund social care.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said this will be a dominant issue at the conference.

Communists are calling for reform of the service, a rise in staffing levels and a pay rise for those front liners who have held the line for all of us during the pandemic.

Premier Johnson said he would fix it back in 2019. The situation has worsened since then. Staff have been lost, pay barely reaches the minimum, hours are off the scale, funding cuts are worsening conditions with a failure

to oversee conditions across the service.

'Elderly care is being syphoned up by insurance and US-owned hedge funds. For them, it's a hugely profitable business. For us, it's a matter of the conditions of life' said the party.

The government increasingly uses the deficit and the size of the national debt to justify further rounds of planned austerity cuts. O'Grady has insisted that capital, not labour should fund a new social care system and fix staff pay. The government plans to raise taxes on working people to pay for social care. It's an either-or situation. Either we pay, or the capitalists do.

Don't be misled by government pleading says the CP political

economy commission, "Debt interest payments as a percentage of GDP are at historically low levels. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that they will remain so despite the increase in debt arising from the pandemic. The OBR expect: 'interest rates on new borrowing to remain low and the government to continue to benefit from the Bank of England holding around 30% of government bonds,' i.e. the wholly government-owned Central Bank owns 30% of government debt so the headline figure is exaggerated by 43%.

They can afford it. But they won't cough up structural change to the social care system, or the desperately needed pay rise unless we organise to make them. ★

Greek communists bid farewell to

KKE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE

WITH DEEP emotion and a relentless applause we say goodbye to Mikis Theodorakis, fighter-creator, leader and pioneer of a new, fighting art in music.

Impulsive, inspired and ignited by the passion of offering to the people, Theodorakis managed to fit in his majestic work the whole epic of the popular struggle of the 20th century in our country. After all, he was part of this epic.

From the age of 17 he organized in the EAM (National Liberation Front) and shortly after in the KKE, taking part in the National Resistance. In December 1944 he fought in the battle of Athens, which was drowned in blood and after the defeat of the partisan Democratic Army he shared with his comrades the savage persecution of the bourgeois state as an exile in

Ikaria and the martyrdom of Macronissos, where he was brutally tortured. He then fought through the United Democratic Left (EDA) and the Lambrakides for the cultural renaissance, while he 'paid' with new trials, prisons and exiles, his illegal action against the dictatorship of the colonels in 1967. Shocking were the concerts he gave abroad until fall of the dictatorship and then throughout Greece. In 1978 he was the KKE candidate for mayor in Athens, while in 1981 and 1985 he was elected MP of the Party. 'I lived my strongest and most beautiful years in the ranks of the KKE,' he said at the event organized by the KKE to honour 90 years of artistic and social contribution.

Indeed, Theodorakis never forgot the ideals of freedom and social justice, which remained unfulfilled. His work is a constant confrontation with injustice and defeatism, a trumpet of

struggle, new struggles, resistance, exaltation and hope. 'Do not weep for Romiosyni★... where he is going to crouch... to be thrown from the beginning' is his answer to the bitterness and frustration of a people whose dreams have not yet taken revenge.

This determination in life and struggle is not shallow and always easy. Sometimes it emerges through torturous reflection. Undoubtedly, Mikis, as well as he knew how to strike every small and big injustice, knew how well to establish the belief that love, happiness, peace and freedom are achievable things. But no matter how rudely and loudly he handled the 'double-edged sword', the 'shining sword' of his music, he easily knew how to soften his song, touching with tender sensitivity every good and beautiful in life and the world.

Mikis's music is fermented with all those



Mikis Theodorakis in East Berlin | 1980



REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH

“Give me just one generation of youth, and I’ll transform the whole world.”
There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen. VI Lenin

Britain’s Young Communist League triples in size

YOUNG COMMUNISTS

PETER STODDART

AS AUGUST came to an end over 100 young communists met in London at the headquarters of the Communist Party in Ruskin House. Certainly not the biggest meeting of young communists in British history, but perhaps the most important in our lifetime. Since the last Congress of the YCL, the organisation has nearly tripled in size, and its August Centennial Congress was the biggest for a generation.

Delegates came from branches and districts across the country, and are involved in work across the movement, working as trade union reps and organisers, in peace campaigns, tenants unions and in youth and community work. All crucial pillars of our movement.

Like all good Congresses, there was a great deal of discussion, on a variety of different topics. The full resolutions will be published shortly.

According to the Leninist principles of

democratic centralism, we have developed a united programme which will guide us forward over the next two years and beyond. It is only down to this principle of democratic centralism that we are able to act in the way that we do. There is no time for petty squabbles in the YCL — there are no factions, or plans for personal gain, no underhand organising or plotting.

The Congress was a core pillar of our centenary celebrations, much of which has been disrupted thanks to the Covid-19 Pandemic. At the Congress we had an exposition of YCL artefacts from throughout our proud 100 year history. Dozens of *Challenge* newspapers, Cogito journals, badges and WFYS memorabilia was submitted and displayed to show to YCLers and fraternal guests. And of course, I hope you all saw the special 16 page supplement that was promoted free in the *Morning Star*. If any branches require additional copies of this, please contact office@ycl.org.uk and we can arrange.

But this Congress was as much about the

next century, as it was about the last. YCLers from across the country have taken ownership in their organisation and this is crucially important. As we enter our own Party’s pre-congress period, our entire movement is better off for the experiences that YCLers from across the country have gained this week.

The YCL is the pinnacle of our party’s activity and it is crucial that we learn from each other to develop our strategy going forward. It is only through this unity that we will be able to deliver the programme our class so desperately needs.

Our Party has been through a number of difficult periods, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has presented new issues. If we are to overcome them, we have to be united and steadfast in our actions. We are not a legacy movement, and, while we are proud to honour our past, we must be mindful that we are always fighting for a better future.

Long live the Young Communist League! Long live the Communist Party!
100 years, 100 more! ★

London young communists were out on the bank holiday alongside Extinction Rebellion and other environmental protestors, shutting down central London to highlight the climate crisis that’s beginning to ravage our planet.

Our choice is no longer that of socialism or barbarism – as the world heats up, we now face the inevitable choice that is Socialism or Extinction

See the YCL video at
<https://www.facebook.com/YCLBritain/videos/38866230933317> ★



Thanks to all the fraternal speakers, volunteers and staff at Ruskin House who made our Congress a success. In particular, we would like to thank Liz Payne, for her address on behalf of the Party; James Rodie for his help with the *Challenge* Supplement in the *Morning Star*, Phil Katz for his help with the exposition; and David Pettifor for all his help with printing and admin support.

The following comrades were elected to the YCL Central Committee
Daniel Lambe *Lanarkshire* Daniel Roantree *Edinburgh*
Hannah Phillips *Manchester* Holly Morcos *Lanarkshire*
James McLelland *Birmingham* Jem Knight *Lincolnshire*
Johnnie Hunter *Glasgow* Joseph Weaver *East of England*
Josh Morris *Glasgow* Judith Carzola *London* Shea Stewart *London*
Laura Dickinson *Manchester* Matthew Waddell *Edinburgh*
Morgan Horn *Glasgow* Michael Quinn *Lanarkshire*
Pierre Marshall *Midlands* Robert Daw *London* Robin Talbot *London*
Nathan Czapiak *London* Peter Stoddart *Glasgow* ★



50th Anniversary of the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act

MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fifty years ago, in September 1971, the Trades Union Congress voted to defy a Conservative Government. It instructed all unions to refuse to implement the Tory’s Industrial Relations Act and to resist its restrictions on the right to strike.

Within a year this defiance, climaxing with the declaration of a general strike, resulted in the abandonment of the legislation.

Join John Hendy QC and Carolyn Jones, Director of the Institute of Employment Rights, for an online event with a panel of contributors examining the implications of this victory, and the solidarity that secured it, for the trade union and labour movement today.

Thursday, 9 September 2021 7pm

Email: info@marx-memorial-library.org.uk

composer Mikis Theodorakis

materials that make the great art, the art that captures the pulse of its time and anticipates the coming. The feeling, the mind, the memory and the experience of the people who are struggling, are the source of their inspiration. ‘What we made we took from the people and we return it to the people,’ he said, and this was not modesty. Theodorakis was deeply aware that his time played an important role for his personal artistic achievement. He was fully aware that the special way and the dynamism of his art were reflected in the actions of the people and that his own participation in popular action, although it distracted him to some extent from its creation, was its oxygen. ‘The artist who lives and creates in the struggle, secures a special place for his work,’ he said. His work is a brilliant proof that great art is always political, whether its creator seeks it or not.

Theodorakis also had confidence in the people. He believed that the people have the power to conquer the highest and most beautiful man in their history. That is why, with sacred devotion, he cultivated an art that elevates the people. Mikis not only exquisitely set to music the poetic discourse without betraying it, he recreated it and delivered it in that form that enters directly into the popular heart. ‘He brought poetry to the people’s table, next to his glass and bread’, as the poet Ritsos wrote about him. It is not only the unrepeatable conversation of his music with the poetry of Ritsos in ‘Epitaph’, which through the shocking interpretations of Bithikotsis and Chiotis became a timeless folk mourning and hymn to death that fertilises the future. Theodorakis succeeded in speaking with the lofty poetry in the popular soul, even through musical forms

demanding and unusual to the popular ear.

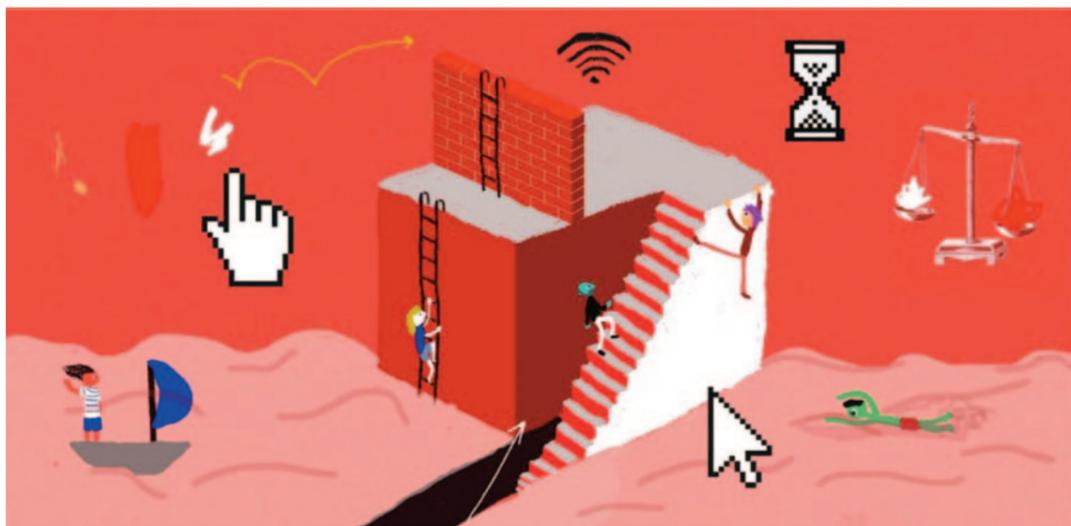
In the stream of his work coexist almost all kinds of music: Folk song, but also the ancient tragedies, the Byzantine tradition, the classical song, the symphonic music, the oratorios. Versatile and multi-talented, intellectual as he was, he also had a rich literary work. In the case of Mikis Theodorakis, the artistic genius met with a restless, alert and creative personality, who always felt the need to overcome herself. His music broke the boundaries of space. ★
★ For Yiannis Ritsos, the EAM/ELAS partisans in the Second World War were the heroic heirs to the *romiosini* of the mountain *klephtes*, the medieval epic hero Digenis Akritas, and the revolutionaries who fought against the Turks in the 1820s. First published in 1954, the poem *Romiosini* was later set to music by Mikis Theodorakis and is immensely popular.



STRUGGLE

In 1848 and in 1871 Marx said that there are moments in a revolution when surrendering to the enemy without a struggle has a more demoralising effect on the masses than defeat in a fight.

VI Lenin 1910 *The Historical Meaning of Inner Party Struggle in Russia*



SOCIAL MEDIA PROTOCOL FOR ALL PARTY MEMBERS

1 Most Party members use the internet for information and communication purposes. This protocol is for Party members so that their use of websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, blogs, etc. does not conflict with the interests and rules of the Party.

2 The internet is an invaluable tool for the Communist Party and its members and supporters to help us inform, educate, organise and mobilise. But its immediate impact and potential effectiveness can sometimes mean that something is posted more in haste than good judgement.

3 The problems that this can cause are often made worse by the unavoidable reality that posting is done from behind a screen, rather than being said in person. This not only means that some of the restraints that usually apply in face to face and telephone contact are missing. Posts on the internet also leave a permanent record, even after the sender has made every effort to delete them later.

4 How comrades conduct themselves on social media is as much a matter of proper concern to the Party as what they write in a newspaper or how they behave at a public or trade union meeting.

5 What a comrade does on the internet may reflect on the Party in the eyes of anyone who sees it. Obviously, this is even more the case when the comrade concerned is known as a Communist, or the website or Facebook page is linked to the Party.

6 It is important that nothing is posted on social media by CP members that damages the Party's name for honesty and fair dealing or lays it open to action in the courts for defamation, breach of copyright or other civil or criminal prosecution. This applies to personal, closed and members-only social media sites as well as more open and public ones.

7 This protocol is produced to provide guidance in such matters.

MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

8 All members involved in the management of political but non-CP websites (including FB pages and blogs) should use their control or influence to ensure that these are not hostile to the CP, its strategy or its policies. This does not preclude criticism and debate in which different positions may be expressed. But should the site or blog take on an anti-communist character that cannot be changed, Party members should cease involvement in organising or managing it.

9 All members involved in managing CP and /CP supporters' sites must have the permission of the appropriate Party body (whether at branch, district/nation or all-Britain level) to use the Party's name for the site, and must be accountable to that body for their management work.

10 All CP sites must project the strategy, policies and activities of the Party. Materials which undermine this general approach should not be carried. Items critical of the Party from non-Party members may be carried if the intention is to engage in constructive discussion and debate. In such a case, every effort should be made to ensure that the Party's policy is explained and defended. Posts and sites connected to people who have been expelled from the CP for intentionally damaging or threatening to damage the Party should not be published or promoted.

POSTING COMMENT AND MATERIALS

Duties of Party members

11 As in their other public political activities, when posting on the web all Communist Party members are bound by Party rules. These include the principle of Democratic Centralism, the essence of which is explained in Rule 3 of our Aims & Constitution: 'To conduct organised activity, and to give leadership in all circumstances of the class struggle, the Communist Party bases itself on them theory and practice of Marxism- Leninism and must be able to act as a single unified force. Therefore the

Communist Party bases its organisation upon democratic centralism, which combines the democratic participation of the membership in Party life with an elected centralised leadership capable of directing the entire Party'.

12 Furthermore, Rule 15 sets out the duty of all Party comrades to:

- Win support for the aims and policy of the Party.
- Fight for the decisions of the Party.
- Observe Party discipline.
- Fight against everything detrimental to the interest of the working class and the Party.

13 It is not acceptable, therefore, to use public forums or sites that are publicly accessible on the web to criticise or attack the Party's programme, policies, decisions or activities. The same applies in relation to Party organisations or members. Matters of individual or collective concern about any aspect of the Party should be raised internally, with the relevant body.

14 During the Pre-Congress Discussion Period, which begins when the EC issues its draft resolutions for the Congress, Party members are free to criticise Party policies, activities and officers. However, this should be done in the forums that the Party specifically provides on its own social media platforms, in Party publications and in response to Congress-related items in the Morning Star.

15 The Communist Party has more experience than most when it comes to exposing and opposing ruling class policies. However, we do so on the basis of verifiable and proven facts, evidence and rational argument. The CP uses Marxism to analyse, understand and explain significant events and trends. We do not construct or promote 'conspiracy theories' based on unverifiable claims, tenuous connections, chance occurrences, bogus documentation and the like. Our class enemy is the ruling capitalist class, not some secretive sinister cabal of Freemasons, Zionists, the Illuminati or the Bill Gates Foundation. Party members promoting absurd theories and claims risk bringing the CP into disrepute. Posting anything online which 'normalises' or endorses anti-Semitic conspiracy theories - including Holocaust denial in any form - is incompatible with Party membership.

16 Care should be taken when following Facebook, Twitter and other accounts, when accepting and requesting new friends and when liking or reposting material from other sites. Research is advisable: check their links, posting histories, previous comments, etc. For example, a comment or illustration attacking some action or policy of the Israeli government may be perfectly reasonable in itself, but it could have anti-Semitic and even neo-Nazi connections and so should not be 'liked', endorsed or reposted. Similarly, it may be tempting to repost a humorous cartoon; but it could come from a site which, on closer inspection, also carries sexist, racist or homophobic material (whether intended to be humorous or not).

17 There are areas of interest and concern where the Party may have a general outlook, but where there is also space for inquiry, research and discussion. This includes significant questions of science, culture and history. Communists are active in such work, rightly. However, this is not a licence to attack or undermine well-

established Party positions reflected in our policies and *Britain's Road to Socialism*. Thus, for example, research and debate continues on the reality of major events in the Soviet Union during the 1920s and 1930s; but adulation of Stalin and support for the substantial abuses of state power which occurred under his leadership is not compatible with our Party's judgment of these matters as reflected in BRS.

Abusive and aggressive conduct

18 As in Party meetings and at other events, Communists should conduct themselves at all times in a way which does not reflect badly on the Party. On the web, that means not posting comments or materials that they know to be untrue or which could reasonably be regarded as bullying, sexist, racist or otherwise grossly offensive. Personal abuse and vulgar or obscene language should not be used. Remarks in relation to other Party members should be comradely and respectful. Attacking other Party members in public is unacceptable and will be considered as grounds for inquiry and possible disciplinary action.

19 It is usually best not to engage with posters or sites which tend to deal in personal abuse. While a salient point of information or humour can sometimes puncture an aggressive attack on the CP or a Party member, online argument with hostile elements frequently takes a nasty turn. Party members should rise above abuse, which often means ignoring it and moving on to activity which is more positive, constructive and productive.

Aliases and anonymity

20 As a general rule, Party members who post anything political should not use aliases or anonymous accounts. Doing so risks being seen as dishonest and even cowardly, especially if the posts attack other people. This could then reflect badly on the Party. Of course, there may be circumstances where posting activity has to be disguised for reasons of personal or employment security. Such subterfuge is usually best avoided or undertaken only after consultation with other comrades of relevant experience or sound judgement.

Confidentiality

21 Most internal Party proceedings and documents (minutes, reports etc.) are confidential. Only the appropriate Party body or officer with the necessary authority can publish internal documents more widely. Individual Party members wishing to post inner-party information that has not already been published by the Party itself should consult the relevant Party body or officer for advice and permission. The names of comrades participating in Party organisations, committees and commissions must remain confidential unless authorised by that particular body or a higher one in the Party.

22 When working in solidarity with workers engaged in industrial action, or alongside other campaigners in the labour and progressive movements, confidentiality regarding names, internal proceedings, activities, etc. must be strictly observed unless agreed otherwise.

Recording

23 Conversations and meetings on Zoom and other platforms should NOT be recorded and reproduced without the explicit agreement of all those participating, whether in relation to the Party or other activities.



REVOLUTION

..the Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things... They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions **Karl Marx Manifesto of the Communist Party 1848**

Security

24 Personal security, both individual and collective, must also be a major consideration. Extreme anti-Communist elements have been known to use information divulged online to harass CP and YCL members and to threaten and try to disrupt our activities. Such instances are rare but real. While we will not be intimidated, basic precautions can minimise any risk. Except in clearly agreed cases, details of Party members (names, home addresses, contact details, date of birth, employment information, medical and bank details, etc.) should not be published on the internet. Venues for internal Party meetings should not be revealed publicly.

25 To minimise the risk of state intervention and prosecution, care should be taken when publishing any accounts or photographs of actions that may be against the law, such as fly-posting and slogan painting; personal identities should not be divulged and direct claims of responsibility should not be made.

26 Comrades should also bear in mind the dangers that arise from writing or publishing items on the web that could lay them or the Party open to legal action for libel or defamation (even if the allegations are true), incitement, or conspiracy to commit any of a wide range of possible offences.

27 State surveillance (whether or not assisted by Google or Facebook) and anti-terrorism legislation make it essential that the Party and its members do not publish or post anything that could be interpreted as support for the possession of weapons in Britain or for armed struggle at home or - except when explicitly endorsed by our party - abroad. Party members should make themselves aware of the Home Office list of proscribed terrorist organisations (which include some Irish, Kurdish, Palestinian, Turkish, Basque, Tamil, Kashmiri and Islamist groups including Hizballah), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version>.

DISCIPLINE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

28 Communists over four generations have won respect and admiration in wide sections of the labour and progressive movements, and internationally, because of the way they conduct themselves in public. We use analysis, reasoned argument and evidence. Wherever possible, we seek to persuade and unite the broadest range of left and progressive forces on a principled basis; and we conduct ourselves in a united, collective and disciplined way. The tremendous possibilities for projecting the Communist Party and its politics, now opened up by the internet, must be used to strengthen and not weaken our approach and reputation.

29 We understand that self-discipline is the best form of discipline. As a revolutionary party, we expect all CP members to exercise it. Those who cannot practice it are in the wrong party.

30 Rule 23 of our Aims & Constitution provides for disciplinary action to be taken against members who breach Communist Party rules or whose conduct is detrimental to the Party. This applies to conduct on the web as much as anywhere else. In serious cases of misconduct on social media, the Party and the Executive Committee have shown that the result will be expulsion.

Communist Party August 24, 2021

CONGRESS

Congress fees and finances The Congress fee for full voting delegates will be £99 per person. This covers food (lunch and dinner on Saturday 6 November and breakfast and lunch on Sunday 7 November) and some - though not all - of the costs to the Party of putting on the Congress.

Consultative delegates (non-voting but with speaking rights) will be charged a reasonable price for food and all delegates will have to pay a small amount for each tea and coffee.

Travel costs for full delegates will be reimbursed by the Party on submission of a claim by each delegate. This will be funded from an element of the universal £99 Congress fee and is therefore similar to the 'pooled fare' concept. However, our 'travel fund' system absolutely depends on two factors: (1) that delegates share cars or book advance travel wherever possible (it is not acceptable to buy a ticket on the day for £128 when an advance ticket would have cost £52, for example); and (2) that Districts and Nations take up their full allocation of voting delegates and ensure - together with their Branches - that they pay their full quota of Congress fees.

Accommodation Accommodation costs must be met by the organisation sending the delegate rather than the Party centrally. Again, early booking is advised. There may be places available with comrades who live within reasonable travelling distance of Ruskin House, Croydon, and the Party is negotiating with local hotels and guest houses for any discount that may be available. Please contact Party Centre with any requests: congress@communistparty.org.uk.

Amendments to Rules and Standing Orders

The following additional amendments have been received for consideration at the 56th Congress:

K. RULE 2 (Birmingham Branch)

Amend para (c) to read:

(c) work for the removal of all discrimination based on race, colour, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability.

L. RULE 6 (Birmingham Branch)

Add new para:

(g) publish the structures as outlined above in (a)-(f) on the Party website (members section), with contact details for Commissions; include links to Party Rules; and ensure all details are kept up to date.

M. RULE 13 (Birmingham Branch)

Add new para:

(g) A Branch may decide, by a majority vote, to constitute a sub-branch group covering a geographical area or employer within the Branch, District or Nation, that could meet regularly to discuss issues relevant to them, and report back to the Branch.

N. RULE 14 (West Yorkshire Branch)

Insert new para (b) and re-letter accordingly:

(b) Job descriptions for branch officers shall be included in the Branch Handbook which is issued to all new members. Subsequent editions of the handbook, either updated or re-written, shall be issued to all members.

O. RULE 18 (West Yorkshire Branch)

In para (a) insert after 'Party Rules': and Social Media Protocol

International guests Plans are being made to invite delegates from the Communist parties of Ireland, Portugal and Germany and the People's Party of Palestine to attend our 56th Congress. We will also host representatives from the embassies of China, Vietnam and Cuba and show video messages from the Communist parties of Venezuela, South Africa, India (both major ones) and Israel. Tudeh Party international secretary Navid Shomali will attend on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Communist Parties in Britain. Some of our guests will address the congress and others will speak at a fringe meeting.

Nominations for the EC, Appeals Committee and Auditors

Each Branch, District and Nation may nominate comrades from any area of the Party for election at the congress to the new EC, the Appeals Committee or as an Auditor. These nominations should be notified to Party Centre by October 1 on the forms supplied to Branch, District and Nation secretaries. Please note that a nomination must receive a vote from the majority of all those attending the relevant meeting. Thus, for example, Comrade A who receives 5 votes in favour and 3 against, with 2 abstentions, has not received majority support and so has not been successfully nominated. ★

DOCUMENT

1957 REPORT ON INNER-PARTY DEMOCRACY

Introduction

Following our Twenty-Fourth Congress, and stimulated by events in other Communist Parties, there developed a widespread discussion on inner-Party democracy. The Executive Committee appointed a commission to examine the problems and to present proposals for discussion.

Congress has before it the Majority Report of this commission, together with many proposed amendments.

The proposal is that from the Congress discussion and decisions, and the work of the Congress Commission, there will emerge a statement which will be a guide to the Party.

This statement will need to define and explain our organisational principle. Our practice will be more effective if the principle is thoroughly understood. Such an explanation, made with the authority of Congress, will be a contribution to the educational material of our Party.

The main political requirement for the development of the united action of the working class and the advance of the struggle to Socialism in Britain is that the Communist Party shall steadily grow in numbers and influence. Therefore the statement will need to help all Party organisations further to develop the initiative of our members and to advance our public work.

Following the decision of this Congress it will be necessary to prepare the proposed Memorandum on Discussion, the draft Standing Orders and Procedure for Congress, and the re-draft of the Party Rules, and to examine the position and status of City, Borough and Area Committees.

The discussion has raised the question of what kind of Party is required by the working class.

One trend has questioned the conception of a revolutionary working class Party of a new type, based on Marxism-Leninism. Proposals have been brought forward which would mean a retreat from this conception and from the principle of democratic centralism. This trend finds expression in the Minority Report.

The other trend considers that for Communists there cannot be any retreat from the conception of the Party of a new type, ideologically united on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist theory, and accepting democratic centralism as its organisational principle; that our task is to persist in our efforts to build such a Party in Britain, to correct our mistakes, to train and educate the whole of our Party in the midst of the class struggle. This trend finds expression in the Majority Report, endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Congress has to take a decisive stand in relation to these two trends.

To maintain and further develop our Communist Party as the militant political party of the working class, it is necessary to reject the trend to abandon or revise the principle of democratic centralism. The more clearly and decisively this is done, the more it will be possible for the Party to concentrate on the correction of mistakes and removal of shortcomings in our inner Party life.

The Communist Party and the class struggle

Why we need democratic centralism

The Communist Party exists to lead the working class and the working people in class struggle against capitalism.

The purpose of Party organisation is to ensure that the collective effort of all our members is directed in the most effective way to the achievement of the Party's aims. The inner life of the Party is the discussion of experiences and problems arising in the struggle to achieve these aims; the formation of policy and the making of decisions necessary for this achievement; and the help and encouragement to all members continuously to improve their abilities to strengthen the struggle for the aims of the Party.

The Communist Party is the vanguard of the working class. Its members are prepared to devote their political activity to the achievement of Socialism and Communism, and know that to do this it is necessary that political power should be in the hands of the working class and its allies.

To realise our aims it is necessary that they should become the will of the people. The people can be won for our policy only through the organised activity of the members of our Party. This activity determines the fate of our political decisions.

Because our policy expresses the class interests of the workers, it can only be realised through the struggle of the working class against the capitalist class.

Our Party has to be organised so as to be able to convince the workers that our policy expresses their interests, to help to bring them into action for their demands and to help them to victory.

The nature of this struggle necessarily imposes certain requirements upon the organisation of the Party.

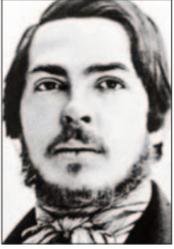
The Communist Party has to be a unified political force, able to give leadership in all circumstances of the class struggle. Such unity and militancy are only possible if all members and organisations of the Party work together within the discipline of the Party.

The Communist Party needs a single leading centre, with an Executive Committee able to lead the whole Party and to influence the workers and the Labour movement.

The Communist Party needs strong and numerous cadres, responsible comrades continually growing in their experience of struggle and their understanding of Marxism-Leninism. Our cadres have to stand resolutely with the Party, and even in the most difficult situations, rally the whole membership for the struggle.

The Communist Party needs scores of thousands of members who are politically active and in close contact with the workers, knowing their views and needs, and able to explain our policy. Communists need to serve the working class in many ways and to win their confidence while at the same time clearly explaining the policy and aims of our Party.

A long and persistent struggle is necessary to build such a Party.



YOUTH

What is genuine is proved in the fire, what is false we shall not miss in our ranks. The opponents must grant us that youth has never before flocked to our colours in such numbers, ... in the end, one will be found among us who will prove that the sword of enthusiasm is just as good as the sword of genius. Engels, Anti-Schelling (1841)

In this struggle has evolved the principle of democratic centralism, which combines democracy and centralism, both essential in our organisation. Democratic centralism is centralism supported by democracy, and democracy with centralised guidance. Democratic centralism is possible and effective because the Party adheres to Marxism-Leninism and does not tolerate alien ideology in its ranks.

Democratic centralism means:

(i) That all members have the right to take part in the formation of policy and the duty to fight for the policy on which the Party decides.

(ii) That all members have the right to elect and be elected to the leading committees of the Party, and to be represented at the National Party Congress, the sovereign authority of the Party. It decides policy, determines the Rules, and elects the Executive Committee, which between Congresses leads the Party.

(iii) That all members have the right to contribute to the democratic life of the Party, and the duty to safeguard the unity of the Party.

(iv) That the elected leading committees have the right to make decisions which are binding on the lower organisations. The duty of higher organisations is to consult to the maximum possible before making such decisions, and fully to explain the reasons for them. The duty of the lower organisations is to express their views before the decision is made by the higher body and to carry it out when it is made.

(v) That all organisations and members abide by the Rules of the Party. That the obligations of membership and the discipline of the Party, voluntarily accepted on joining, apply to all members whatever their position.

(vi) That decisions are reached by the majority vote, and the minority accepts the decision of the majority.

(vii) That during discussion there is freedom of criticism and self-criticism, and that when a decision is taken it is the duty of all to carry it out. That higher organisations pay attention to the views and experiences of lower organisations and of the members, and give prompt help to solving their problems.

(ix) That lower organisations report on their work to the higher organisations, present their problems and ask for guidance on matters requiring decision by the higher organisations.

(x) That all Party organisations combine collective leadership and individual responsibility.

(xi) That factional activity of any kind is not permitted because it destroys the unity of the Party.

Some people suggest that Britain is different—here things are done in a peaceful and democratic way, Parliament decides, there is a strong organised Labour movement, so that the working class does not require an ideologically united revolutionary party organised on the principle of democratic centralism.

But the necessity for ideological unity and for democratic centralism arises from the character of the class struggle and does not depend upon whether there is peace or violence, or whether capitalist power is maintained by open dictatorship or screened by democracy. To defend its interests, the capitalist class has developed a centralised state power over which the working class has no control. Against this power the strength of the working class is in its numbers. To gain the victory the millions of workers have to exert their full political strength in a mass revolutionary movement, with a united and resolute leadership. To prepare and lead such a movement the working-class party must itself be revolutionary, united, resolute and centralised.

To examine realities in Britain is to leave no doubt that the British capitalists have done more than any others to establish their centralised state power for use in defence of their profits and privileges and for aggressive action against their enemies, at home and abroad.

The employers of every major industry are linked in national federations and are unified as a class in the Federation of British Industries. The five big banks are centralised through the bankers' bank, the Bank of England. The financial, trading and productive interests are linked with the Tory Party and the state machine by thousands of cadres, trained in the public schools to think in terms of maintaining the exploitation of labour by the propertied class. The Tory Party is a political machine, financed and controlled by big business, without even the fig leaf of a democratic constitution.

Parliament is the national forum for discussion, but the seat of power is in the state machine, now a regulating force in almost every sphere of the national life.

Democratic rights won by the people in generations of struggle can be suspended by the declaration of a state of emergency in which the Government of the day exercises dictatorial powers to do anything it thinks fit, including arrests and detentions without trial, and the prohibition of meetings and assemblies.

The workers have won the right to strike, but the Emergency Powers Act gives the Government the right to use the whole state machine, including the armed forces, and new organisations which it can set up, to break strikes.

Under the guise of security a secret and powerful machine is in action today against those who oppose capitalism. It spies, threatens and bribes. Opening people's post and tapping their telephones are included in its everyday routine. It stores up many thousands of dossiers for the day when it can use them in a big way. Meanwhile, it perfects its technique of blacklisting and witch-hunting.

In the field of propaganda the British capitalist class excels all others. It has developed a press and radio technique of suggestion, distortion of fact and downright lying for the purpose of moulding the minds of the people and persuading them to accept policies against their own interests. Every day millions of capitalist newspapers go into the hands of the people. Every day millions listen to the radio. Every day this enormous propaganda machine is at work to confuse and divide the people and prejudice them against Socialism and Communism.

Undoubtedly the working class has built powerful mass organisations. But from the moment the capitalists were compelled to concede the right to organise, they set out to ensure that the key positions of control in the workers' organisations were held by men whose minds were dominated by capitalist ideas. The technique of dealing with the leaders thrown up by the working class was summed up in the famous remark of Lady Warwick—"You train them and we'll buy them".

If we recall the betrayal of the General Strike of 1926, the desertion of Ramsay MacDonald and his formation of a National Government, the failure of the Labour Government in 1945-50 to use its parliamentary majority to introduce a Socialist policy, we must admit that the Tories have had considerable success in securing Labour leaders who are loyal to capitalism. Such recent events as the speech of Gaitskell at the time of the Suez affair, in which he committed Labour to being satisfied if there were a change of Tory Prime Minister, thus disrupting the growing movement to end Tory Government, or the betrayal of the solid strike of the engineers and shipbuilding workers,

compel us to admit that the political loyalty to capitalism of many Labour leaders is today a major obstacle to the advance of the interests of the working class.

The bans imposed by the right-wing Labour leaders to prevent the full participation of Communists in the trade unions and to exclude Communists from the Trades Councils and from the Labour Party, are a major service to capitalism.

Today the capitalists are further developing their efforts to control the Labour movement. The capitalist press and the radio, together with special organisations formed for the purpose, openly intervene in trade union elections. Under the flag of anti-Communism they campaign to win votes for candidates who satisfy the Tory conception of what a trade union leader should be.

All this makes the work of the Communist Party more difficult and complicated. The British capitalist class is more experienced, stronger and more subtle than Russian tsardom with its crude brutality. Yet some people want to persuade us that we are less in need of Party unity and discipline than were those who fought against tsarism. The very contrary is the case.

The British working class therefore requires that its political Party be a Marxist-Leninist Party. Democratic centralism is the only organisational principle on which such a Party can be built.

The Communist Party can only acquire the qualities it needs through the experience of struggle. We have been through many struggles, political mass movements, strikes, tenants' struggles and other forms of united action. Everyone with any such experience knows perfectly well that if the Party is not clear in its policy and is not united it cannot give an effective lead, it cannot promote unity, and it cannot gain the confidence of the workers. What sort of use to those engaged in struggle could a Party be which allowed one section of its members to say "Forward", another section to say "Backward", and yet another to say "Stay where you are"? The workers would turn in derision and contempt from such a Party, and they would be right.

If this lesson can be learnt in the kind of struggles we have experienced, how much more necessary will be the unity and discipline of the Party in the course of the struggle for power which lies ahead.

At critical moments in big struggles decisions have to be taken as rapidly as events move. What kind of a Party would it be which prevented its Executive taking any decision until there had been a prolonged discussion in which every possible objection had to be fully debated, or in which members could dissociate themselves from decisions with which they did not agree so that the Party would never pull its full weight? Such a Party would be no use in times of crisis.

A Communist Party cannot be rapidly improvised. Leaders and cadres able to guide a mass movement do not appear spontaneously. That is why, from the very beginning, our Party has to be built on ideological unity and democratic centralism in order that it can become experienced and steered for the great tasks it has to undertake. ★

The above is part of a report at the 1957 congress of the Communist Party and was written by the then London district secretary John Mahon.

Mahon was a militant trade union leader, editor of the national Minority Movement's paper, *The Worker*, delegate to the Profintern, attended the Comintern, party industrial organiser and political commissar to the British Battalion of the International Brigade.



CONGRESS DISCUSSION

DEADLINES

October 1 Deadline for send-in of Branch, District and Nation resolutions and amendments to the EC resolutions and of nominations for the Executive, Appeals Committee and auditors.

October 23-24 First meeting of Congress committees – Elections Preparation Committee and Conference Arrangement & Resolutions Committee.

DISCUSSION

This discussion is open to both party members (who are identified with their branch/district) and non party comrades.

Go to <https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/56th-congress/> to submit your contribution.

Wealth and democratic control

I would like to reply to a small part of John Hemp's comments on Congress EC Domestic resolution, in which he recommended the, very worthy, Richard Wolff's approach to ways forward for beginning to redistribute some wealth and to restore some democratic control, and to create, consequently, a growing popular appetite for both in real conditions, in the USA. Actually, Richard Wolff has taken his practical ideas, and said so, from practices in Germany and in France, and most significantly - ideas from our Labour Party 2017 and 2019 manifestos. All ideas and proposals for increasing working class democratic control and to start redistributing wealth and winning the 'battle' of ideas are important to consider, and adopt if they fit our conditions, and not least, practices in China, Cuba etc. should be considered too.

Diane Randall

Additional words on Wolff

I believe the EC Domestic Resolution sets out an excellent strategy for the party in the short and medium term. In particular I commend its strong commitment, described in lines 438 – 457, to defending the rights of women on the basis of sex, which have come under increasing attack from both successive Tory governments and more surprisingly from the mainstream parties, which seem to be competing with each other to discard decades if not centuries of women's hard-won rights.

The CPB is almost alone in this regard and along with its revolutionary socialist programme was a major reason I recently joined the party. Women are half the working class and central to the fight for socialism and I hope that this section of the resolution is not watered down or compromised when Congress comes to debate the resolution.

Sonya Andermahr

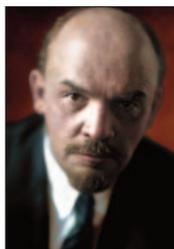
Midlands

Unions, class and unity

Prior to the pandemic more people were employed than ever before and yet union membership remained at historic lows. Many of these workers are employed via agency contracts, zero hours contracts or other short term arrangements. Many see unions as irrelevant. Additionally documented and undocumented labour are often outside of organised labour. Unions must organise outside of traditional structures and with workers not currently organised. To do this they must be flexible and go where the workers are. We must unify our class.

Tony Conway

Midlands



MATERIALISM

For the sole 'property' of matter, with whose recognition philosophical materialism is bound up, is the property of being an objective reality, of existing outside of the mind.
VI Lenin Materialism and Empirio-Criticism 1908

Socialism with Chinese characteristics

I have been a member of the CPB for about a year now. And I would like to commend this party's work towards helping the most vulnerable people in this country and being a party that TRULY represents the working people of Great Britain. The vast majority of the party line I agree with.

However, there is one major grievance I have with the party line. The endorsement of Dengist China. The process of market reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping, initially to try and boost the productivity of China's bureaucratically-deformed socialist system, has led to the restoration of capitalism in China.

Nationalised industry has been privatised, social services rolled back and the majority of the country's GDP is now produced in the private sector. The vestiges of state planning that remain serve the generalised interests of capital, not the working class. The new capitalist class is deeply entrenched within the Chinese state bureaucracy and its HR department, the CPC.

The idea that China is presently on a course of socialist development is not taken seriously at all by class conscious workers in China, especially the youth. And I urge the party to challenge China's so called "Socialism with China's Characteristics".

Daniel Williams

Party, science and response to Covid 19

We have to question how the EC determined the Party's attitude toward the pandemic. Was there serious consideration of the range of scientific opinion? Why was one particular strand of scientific opinion considered to be the correct one? It appears that Party line has been decided on the basis of a set of assumptions. Widely shared among the membership though they probably are, assumptions do not constitute analysis.

CPB has long claimed a close association with science. We can cite the names of Haldane and Bernal, and we can arguably trace it back to Marx and Engels. The way EC decided Party policy on the pandemic looks to be anything but scientific. Adherence to a line has become increasingly dogmatic, and discussion of alternatives positively discouraged. Domestic draft resolution, 1.94 "others have strayed into conspiracy theories": either follow the line as decided by EC, or be considered a crank: nothing in between. Then we have this at 1.96 "persuaded against them by scientific evidence and reasoned argument". It is beyond ironic.

We also have to question the prominence – seemingly with the approval of EC – of behavioural psychology in leading the response to the pandemic. We should be looking on this with great consternation. It intensifies alienation, it operates remotely through mass-media manipulation, it approaches people on an emotional rather than rational level – the antithesis of open and reasoned discussion, which is supposedly the scientific approach. And it is the approach most likely to breed cynicism and suspicion.

Deciding policy on the basis of unchallenged shared assumptions is not scientific. A period of self-reflection is needed. We need to remind ourselves how to do political analysis.

Malcolm Parker
Midlands

Independence for the Disabled is a Human Right

I believe that independence for the disabled is a human right and that we, in the Communist Party, should apply our talents to enable disabled people to live independently. I am sure that our under-graduates, graduates and apprentices are capable of creating products that would revolutionise disabled life. The disabled are a group of tax payers, consumers and talented individuals and enablement would allow them to contribute more to society. They are one section that are under-valued resulting in a lost generation of talented people.

There are products on the market but most are limited. For example even the fittest wheelchair user can be defeated by a modest ramp or badly laid pavement. Why not invent an extremely lightweight wheelchair that can travel over every terrain and used without assistance? The blind can have the assistance of a guide dog but they are expensive, so why not invent a hand-held product that would ping like sonar and enable them to get a view of the world. We have driverless cars in the pipeline which should be prioritised for the blind as their need is greatest. I am sure that our talented young people could think of better items to enable disabled people.

It is no good changing the laws in Parliament if we do not change our view of the disabled. We must and should demand independence for them. I want the Communist Party to put all our talents to good use and show the world that we are a forward looking party where all members of society are included and valued.

There is no mention of the Disabled in the policy documents and this is a great omission.

Dina Groden
Eastern

Take the road to socialism!

In reply to Dan Ross and his question on support/endorsement for independent election candidates in 2024. Not sure this will be the answer you are looking for but for me the answer lay within the ground work we all do now to build sustainable anti-monopoly alliances in our communities ahead of that election, how well we can build broad support for a left agenda locally and through working with a range of allies, the impact this struggle has on the issues of the day.

It will be from this that we assess what support / endorsement can be directed to any independent candidate should no CP candidate come forward.

I am pleased you would be enthusiastic about working with the CP we have a healthy and active branch in Manchester that would welcome your views on Britain's Road to Socialism as a starting point to building on this approach to your question.

You should still have my details if you want to follow this up further.

Les Doherty
North West District

Re Resolution format

Firstly, can I make a heartfelt plea for future Draft Resolutions to have a clear structure and format with "issues to be resolved" in the Preamble clearly laid out and Reasons and Actions highlighted. There should be fewer preambulatory clauses than operative ones, ie more solutions listed than problems.

Secondly, operative issues should be numbered (making them easy to identify) and should present a logical progression to the Resolution.

I found the current draft resolution far too unnecessarily wordy making it very difficult to find specific issues buried therein. Also, the goals were not clearly laid out.

Brenda Brown
North West

The role of financial services

Line 158 of domestic resolution gives 6% as the percent of GDP for financial services. It is 80%. See

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06193/>

Gerrard Sables

South West district

Climate change

The domestic resolution states: 'Line 555 As the UN International Panel on Climate Change proposed in its 15th Report, 'rapid and far-reaching transformations' in the world's energy, transport and food systems are vital by the year 2030.

This is the political analysis that needs to be won in 'green' movements such as Extinction Rebellion, whose unelected leaders appear to be reluctant to draw the necessary anti Line 560 monopoly capitalist conclusions from their campaigning.'

Am I alone in finding these comments woefully inadequate?

The fact that 'rapid and far-reaching transformations' are required tells us virtually nothing. A search of the IPCC site made me none the wiser; perhaps I missed something but the fact is that these far-reaching transformations need to be spelled out together with their implications for political change. The rather supercilious tone concerning the drawing of 'necessary conclusions' is unlikely to win us many friends in the environmental movement. As to the 'political analysis' referred to, apart from a list of practical common-sense suggestions on various topics, I could find no political analysis worth the name in terms of ecological economics, the causes of the ecological crisis, and its historical roots in the capitalist system. Because of this I feel that we have no cause to be snooty about Extinction Rebellion. True the document points raises the question of how achievable is the Green New Deal but criticism of this essentially Keynesian approach should be made more sharply to emphasise the need for an approach which goes beyond the merely pragmatic.

Phil Clegg
Yorkshire

China

In response to Daniel Williams' assertion that the majority of 'class conscious workers, particularly youth' in China reject the idea that China is a socialist country, rather than getting into a discussion as to whether the current CPB position of concurring with the Chinese Party in its characterisation of their country is correct, I would mainly be interested to know the basis for Comrade Daniel's assertion. Firstly his definition of class conscious workers in China and secondly how he arrives at the view that this is indeed what they think.

Evan Pritchard
North West

The first green revolution wasn't green

Socialism with a market economy like China, Vietnam and now Cuba?

The Labour Party is not socialist who will fill the anti – capitalist void ?

Where is the Popular Front? Britain needs a Socialist Brexit Alternative and Agricultural Revolution?

The Green Revolution is the term used to describe the transformation in agricultural practices in many parts of the developing world between 1940 and the 1960s. And the Green Party are not about greening but creating a wilderness of the countryside,

When they talk about sustainability they mean the opposite from what the Green Revolution did to food production but with the same results.

To sustain life we must grow more food and that food will be from ruminants who eat grass as much as other green food, because 80% of Britain's farmland only grows grass. The Green Revolution was a disaster for food production and as a result of it most countries produced less food.

In the 1980's, 490 million were classed as seriously undernourished and another 800 million as merely undernourished. One example was the Philippines where paddy fields supported fish until the miracle rice plants needed fertilizer and pesticides which killed the fish, produced more rice and less protein. In agriculture it is all according to the weather what can be grown.

In the UK traditionally dairy and livestock rearing in the wetter but warmer, poorer lands of the North and West and corn, roots and vegetables in the better lands of the South and East. Even so the markets dictated results so "Up Corn Down Horn" and vice versa

Today British farms are sustainable. They have to be, to have succeeded for 300 years. Those that adopted the Green Revolution methods soon discovered the problems, including "organic" farming where productivity depends on lower yields and higher retail prices.

Today the issue is all about 'market gardens' which are small farms, allotment or back gardens, which produce for self sufficiency or sells vegetables, salad or fruit directly to consumers and/or restaurants. A variety of different plants are grown, with the emphasis on continual production throughout the year.

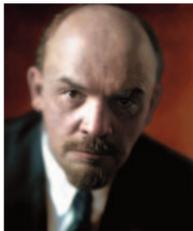
This sort of production complements the large farms supplying the supermarkets who bulk buy. The next Green Revolution must not only deal with improved seed varieties, fertilizers and herbicides but pests and pesticides as well.

A reduction in productive land as a result of the world population reaching 7.7 billion with more mouths to feed on less acres. What Britain needs is a British Brexit Agricultural Policy for Britain instead of the lunatic scheme to pay farmers to remove livestock from the uplands and allow it to become a wilderness.

Giles Wynne



What we stand for £2 £1 Unwaged the politics and organisation of the Communist Party



EVENTS & IDEAS

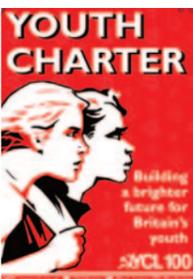
Politics begin where the masses are, not where there are thousands, but where there are millions, that is where serious politics begin. **VI Lenin**

Stop the War!
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with music, performances and speeches from...
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Tariq Ali ■ Andrew Murray
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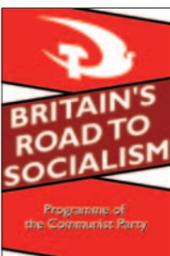


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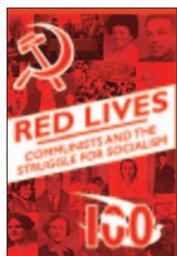


Youth Charter at www.ycl.org.uk & www.comunistparty.org.uk

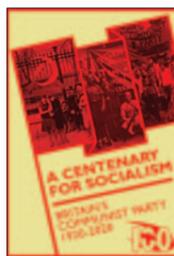
WHAT NEXT?
PAY PROTEST PANDEMIC
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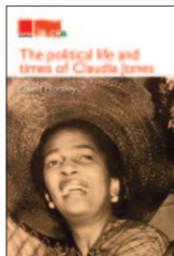
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COMMUNIST PARTY EVENTS

Progressive Federalism Commission
8 September at 7pm

Eastern district & branch officer training school in Bury St Edmunds, September 12 from 1-4pm

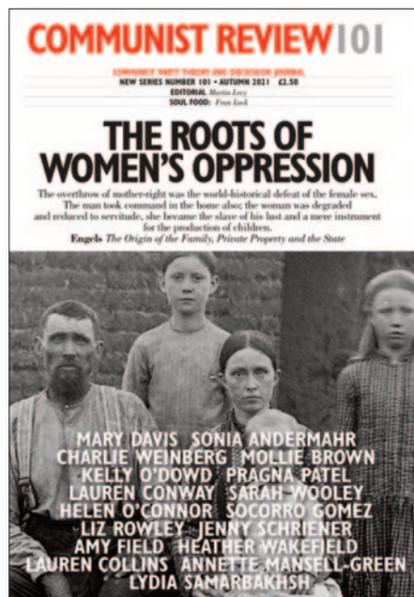
Anti-Austerity Commission
September 18 Time TBC

Anti-Racist-Anti Fascist commission (ARAF) September 25 at 10.30am

Culture Commission
If you are active through work or in your own time on the culture front, consider getting involved with planned activities of the Culture Commission.

Projects include "developing a detailed set of policies in the arts, sport, the media and other cultural activities, applying socialist principles of ownership and control." Developing these policies – based on the programme Britain's Road – into a left wing cultural programme, and a pamphlet.

The Commission is also working on an International Brigade music collection to be cut to CD and streamed. If you have music or album artwork you want to propose, contact info@communistparty.org.uk. ★



COMMUNIST REVIEW

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

Editorial *Martin Levy*
THE ROOTS OF WOMEN'S OPPRESSION
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Marxist economics

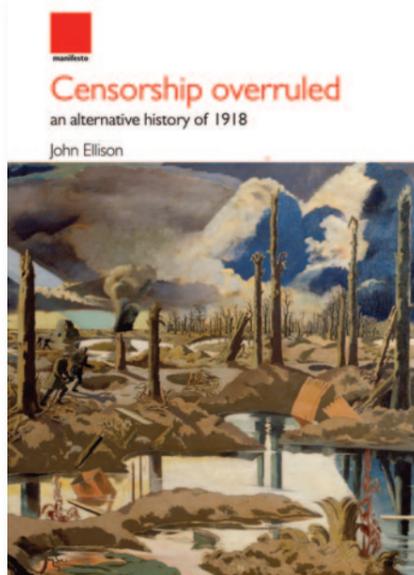
MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Whether you are new to Marxism, or are familiar with the theory or simply enjoy a lively debate with people from a variety of progressive backgrounds, this eight week online course aims to provide a challenging and enjoyable experience.

It is taught primarily through written interactions between tutors and students, and is therefore available 24/7, supplemented by fortnightly zoom tutorials on a Tuesday evening. It is supported by access to a rich variety of readings and videos. It begins by explaining how Marx came to develop his 'labour theory of value' and why it is still relevant to trade union struggles. The second class looks at the social and political conditions required for capitalist exploitation and how these have changed.

The third class examines why capitalist economic systems are inherently crisis-prone and the fourth and final class looks at the tendency for the rate of profit to decline and its implications for today's world of monopolies and piratical investment companies. ★

ONLINE COURSE
an introduction to marxist economics
Tuesday, 28 September 2021 - 7:00pm



November 1918 brought imperial Germany's defeat, accelerated by uprisings, while Allied rulers, whose own empires grew larger with victory, were bent on revenge. But as the year began, discontent over food shortages and prices in Britain was magnified by calls for peace, stimulated by Russia's socialist revolution, which the Lloyd George government was already seeking to reverse. With a close look at the Establishment, popular and anti-war press, John Ellison revisits this year of change, in which war resisters and the rising socialist movement stood proud.

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