Austerity budget: the enemy steps up the class war

The latest budget was a very significant step in making the working class pay for the crisis. And it has been announced with great care to delay, divide and divert any resistance to it.

This was chancellor George Osborne’s “un-avoidable budget”, necessary to pay “the debts of a failed past…The richest paying the most and the vulnerable protected.” His coalition partner, Vince Cable backed him up: “The cuts in spending and the increases in tax will be felt by everyone, exonerated by some but understood, I think, by most” (Guardian 23/6/10). It’s not as if we weren’t warned that it would be painful in advance. The vulnerable are not being protected, despite what the politicians say. On the contrary the working class – the source of profit in capitalism – will have to pay.

All workers will have to pay the increase in VAT to 20% from next year, increasing inflation and lowering real wages, a measure that hits the poorest hardest, despite zero rating on food etc, since they have to spend the greatest proportion of their income on necessities.

Public sector pay is being frozen for those earning more than £21,000, a pay cut when inflation is taken into account. Even the £250 flat rate rise for those earning less is a cut in real pay.

The previous Labour budget envisaged taking 4% of GDP out of public finances over several years, two thirds of it from spending cuts. The new budget will increase this to 6.3%, three quarters of it from spending cuts yet to be announced. With the NHS apparently ring-fenced, this will amount to 23% of budgets on things like housing and transport, while they have promised to go easy on education and defence. This is an across the board attack on the whole working class. A briefing for UNISON and the TUC (‘Don’t forget the spend cuts’) has estimated that this is equivalent to a 10% cut in spending and the increases in tax will be felt by three quarters of all households and over 5% for the middle quintile in 10 years (Guardian 25/6/10).

For those in the public sector it will mean not just a ‘pay freeze’ but also job losses: 500,000 to 600,000 over the next 5 years according to a Treasury estimate, 725,000 according to the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development. The private sector will also suffer to the tune of 600,00 to 700,000 job losses according to the Treasury estimate due to the loss of government contracts (Guardian 29/6/10). As for the chancellor’s claim that the private sector will create 2.5 million new jobs – as John Philpott, chief economist at the CIPD, said, “There is not a hope in hell’s chance of this happening”.

For all the new government is boasting about its honesty, not hiding anything in the small print as the last Labour budget did, we have to wait for the spending review in October to hear what is being cut and who is losing their jobs.

In the meantime we hear lots about the pamped public sector and its unaffordable pensions, with former Labour secretary of state John Hutton brought in to examine how best to cut this cost. But as we can see, public sector cuts are attacks on the whole working class and not just those who work in it. As for pensions, this is not particular to this or that industry nor to public or private sector, since everyone faces the same attacks sooner or later, and the rise in the state pension age already announced by the last government is being accelerated.

And, of course, the new government wants to help people caught in the poverty trap of state benefits… by cutting benefits. Just like the ‘hand up not hand out’ and the New Deal brought in by Blair and Brown, it is claimed that this measure will prevent workers being stuck on benefits and force them into jobs on poverty wages. All benefits apart from the state pension will be linked to the Consumer Price Index instead of the Retail Price Index, which is likely to save £6bn over the next few years. Medical checks for people on disability living allowance and incapacity will be further tightened. Housing benefit is being limited. Nor should we fall for any notion that this is just about the unemployed and disabled, people the government and media can imply are scroungers – child benefit is frozen, maternity grants being completely cut, affecting families whether or not they work. Cuts in welfare spending are due to save £1bn in 2014-15, or about a third of the extra spending cuts.

The Liberal Democrats may be very pleased with themselves over the nearly £1000 increase in tax allowances, but this nowhere near makes up for what has been taken away. When even the Institute of Fiscal Studies has labelled last week’s budget ‘regressive’, there can be no doubt that this is an attack against the whole working class.

New scapegoats to take the blame

Gone are the days when politicians and media waved indignant about the greedy bankers who took the blame during the credit crunch. Now our economic woes are all due to Gordon Brown’s profligate spending and the ‘pampered’ public sector. Then the government, like those in all major economies, was pumping in money to prop up the banks in order to try and prevent a major depression. Now we have been through and technically emerged from the recession, and the government is more concerned about sovereign debt, epitomised by Greece’s problems, so it’s time to cut state spending and raise taxes even at the risk of a fall in the very small predicted growth rates (down to 1.2% from 1.3% this year and to 2.3% from 2.6% next) or even of a double dip recession. This is not just the policy in Britain and Greece but also Ireland, Rumania, Italy, Spain… and so on. Luckily for the British ruling class they have held an election which makes it easier to explain this U-turn. Although the difference between the Darling’s last budget and Osborne’s first is one of degree, we should make no mistake that this budget is a major step in attacks on working class jobs and living standards.

Despite all the talk of Thatcherism, despite the government blaming its predecessor, there is, in fact, perfect continuity between the £11bn cuts envisaged by Darling in March, the £6.24bn spending cuts announced by the new coalition government on 24th May, this emergency budget, and the spending review due in October. At each stage there is the announcement of new cuts and a reiteration of how important they are. At each stage we hear a little more about what we are facing, about what will be in store in a few months time. Last year the NHS had to make £15-20bn in ‘efficiency savings’, this time housing benefit is capped, public sector pay frozen, while in October we will hear more about which workers will lose jobs.
Bourgeois parties line up to impose the attacks

When the LibDems and the Tories agreed to form a coalition, the UK was in the grip of a financial crisis. The British government imposed strict austerity measures, leading to widespread protests and demonstrations.

The coalition government has been accused of being too soft on the banks, which were bailed out with taxpayer money. The government has also been criticized for cutting spending on public services and increasing the cost of living for ordinary families.

The government has faced opposition from both the left and the right. The Labour party, under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, has been critical of the government’s austerity policies and has called for more to be done to help the poorest people in society.

The Conservative party, led by Prime Minister Theresa May, has been accused of being out of touch with ordinary people and of prioritizing the interests of the wealthy few over the needs of the working class.

The coalition government’s policies have been met with resistance from trade unions and other groups. The government has been criticized for trying to cut the power of unions and for imposing strikes.

The coalition government has also been criticized for its handling of the crisis in Ukraine, where it has been accused of being too soft on Russian aggression. The government has been accused of being too focused on the economy and not paying enough attention to international affairs.

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How can workers defend themselves?

The need for unity across the working class

However, anger and militancy are not enough on their own. The BA strike may now be entering its final stages with a deal being put to the workers that will give the bosses the job cuts they want and the right to force new workers onto worse pay and conditions. The resistance of the workers, through the withdrawal of travel rights and the use of disciplinary action, which has now become the focus of the strike, is part of the struggle in the wider situation to take action. However, the deal being put to the BA workers has worse implications than the loss of pay and harsher conditions of work since it may create a divide between workers. As we argued in the article on the strike in the last issue of World Revolution, the efforts to divide and isolate the flight attendants has been a feature of the strike. This has been a deliberate strategy of the BA bosses who have created a climate of fear so that workers are not sure who they can trust.

The old lesson that unity is strength has been bitterly learnt and re-learnt by the working class. We have seen it recently with the postal workers who have gone from wildcat strikes that created real conditions of unity in the struggle to a state of isolation. The rate of action that dispirited their energy and undermined unity. This is not new. Some 25 years ago the miners’ strike ended in defeat because the miners, for all their inspiring courage and class solidarity, struggled alone. This tells us that groups of workers, even when as large and united as the miners were, cannot succeed on their own. This is all the more true in times such as the 1980s and today when the class war is intensified by the bourgeoisie as it makes the working class pay for the crisis of its economic system. In Britain, we have seen the oil refinery construction workers who had a successful struggle by extending the strike across sites and employers and across different nationalities, despite the nationalism expressed by some of the strikers.

Workers in the public sector face not only the prospect of 600,000 redundancies according to Treasury projections (and many more according to the comprehensive spending review). The ‘reform’ of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will savage redundancy arrangements for civil servants. The ‘gold-plated’ conditions of civil service workers is countered by the Mark Serwotka of the PCS saying these compensations for civil servants are far below what is paid to the private sector. Both sides are attempting to isolate and divide public and private sector workers when in reality they are part of the same struggle and the only way to resist is to unite.

This effort to extend the struggle is a feature of some of today’s struggles. Thus, in Spain workers at the shipyards in Vigo joined with unemployed workers (see WR 332) while in Turkey workers at the Tekel tobacco company tired to link with workers in sugar factories facing the same state-led attacks (see WR 331). Tekel workers also posed the question of the need to take control of their struggle away from the union, and since then a minority of workers have organised to discuss the lessons and how to take it forwards. More recently we have seen large strikes in Greece and demonstrations in other countries against the austerity measures.

Workers can only unite across all the divisions imposed by capitalism if they take control of their own struggles, something we have seen workers struggle to do in several struggles. At the start of their struggle last year workers from Vestsan organised themselves without any union involvement, but when the union did come in they started to isolate the workers, preventing anyone else joining the occupation. Time and again unions keep workers divided. This is not because the unions have bad leaders who sell the workers out but because unions have become part of capitalism. In the miners’ battles workers were able to fight for their demands. From the First World War in the early 20th century unions were recuperated into the capitalist state apparatus.

From class unity to class consciousness

Ultimately, the unity that we must strive for goes beyond industries and sectors, beyond ethnic and national groups, to reach across the whole working class. This dynamic inevitably brings workers face to face with all of the forces that seek to divide them, both obvious enemies like the bosses and the state as well as supposed allies, like the unions and the parties of the left, the ‘socialists’ and ‘communists’. This requires workers to take the final step: to develop their understanding of what they are fighting against and what they are fighting for. To know who their enemies are and who their allies are. In short, to develop the class consciousness.

Austerity regimes like that gradually being reinforced in Britain are being imposed across Europe. The continuing strikes and demonstrations in Greece have been the most dramatic expression of a working class response, but they are only the most high-profile examples.

The truth is we have all the resources, all the technology, all the skills and knowledge and all the people necessary for every human on earth to have all the food and drink, shelter, education and healthcare necessary to lead a meaningful life. What stands in the way of this? Profits - and the economy and society that produce these profits. As workers struggle to develop the possibility of ending the profit-based world for one based on human solidarity gives a perspective for our struggles. As we win, unity and consciousness are necessary if we are to overcome the division and be confident in our class consciousness.

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Workers’ struggles across Europe face union manoeuvres

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The fact that the Greek workers’ struggle continues is important. By 8 July there was the sixth general strike this year. But the unions continue to strike on different days, the demonstrations are getting smaller in some places, but the government continues to bring in economic measures that extend the offensive on workers’ current and future living standards. This is being repeated recently, for example, against the latest pension ‘reforms’. And while bourgeois analysts suggest the Greek workers’ struggle not significant, what is significant is that everywhere that the capitalist state is isolating the workers, preventing anyone else joining the occupation. Time and again unions keep workers divided. This is not because the unions have bad leaders who sell the workers out but because unions have become part of capitalism. In the miners’ battles workers were able to fight for their demands. From the First World War in the early 20th century unions were recuperated into the capitalist state apparatus.

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T he impression that Russian imperialism is making a triumphant forward march is immediately called into question by a number of spectacular events recently: the rapid and unexpected fall of the former communist government in Ukraine and the signing of an accord allowing for long-term Russian military bases; the significant expansion of the territory of a Russian nuclear plant in Akkuyu in the south of Turkey; Medvedev’s ‘brotherly’ visit to Syria in May; and the conclusion of a new contract for the BAkiev government in Kyrgyzstan was entirely to the advantage of Moscow. But this is actually the case.

Without doubt, the situation we saw in the 1990s is long gone. Then Russia experienced a very significant enfeeblement. It had lost all its old satellite states and, on the domestic front, under Yeltsin, entered an era of openly Mafia style functioning. The Russian state was urgently compelled to put both its internal and external affairs under the control of its apparatus. The accession to power of the bourgeoisie faction around Putin in 2000 was a significant effort to restore the strength of the state in Russia.

But do the successes that Russia has achieved allow us to talk about a triumphant forward march of Russian imperialism? Not at all. In reality, Rus- sia today is faced with a desperate struggle against internal decay in the former eastern bloc. Instability and a loss of control are a general ten- dency, which most powerfully affects the USA, the world’s leading gendarme. But Russia, which is still a major power on the international scene, and to draw long-term advantages from the weak- ening of the USA, is itself not able to escape this international dynamic.

Kyrgyzstan: the extension of the Cold War in the new millennium

At first sight, the overthrow of the government of Kyrgyzstan in April 2010 seems to mark a point for the triumph of the forces of Russia. But it is clear that the new government clique around Bakiev had broken its promise to Russia to close the country’s American military bases, which would have made Russia’s security far more dependant on its gengarmes in Kyrgyzstan. In Kyrgyzstan, with its deeply divided bourgeoisie, does not represent a stable partner and the Ukrayepov government would guarantee the national security of Russia. If the faction around Timochenko gets back into government, new frictions won’t be long in folowing. For the Ukrainian bourgeoisie, which is motivated fundamentally by its own national inter- ests, its current political orientation is not the expression of a love or hatred for Russia. The weakness of the European Union means that a rapprochement between Ukraine and the EU is not an option for the former. It is an economic necessity and the need to find the cheapest source of energy which is pushing Ukraine into a path so typical of imperialism today: immediate, unstable and violent, supported by the ‘every man for himself’ philosphy.

After the war in Georgia: no stability in sight in the Caucasus

Even though in the war against Georgia in 2008 Russian imperialism did gain ground by occupy- ing new geographical zones, and even though the USA was unable to intervene on behalf of its friend Georgia because it was bogged down in Iraq, Rus- sia has in no way consolidated its position in the Caucasus. Russia has not really been able to take advantage of the USA’s weakness. This was basi- cally due to the US’s intervention in the question of Georgia and the representat- tions, since for the first time since the collapse of the bloc in 1989 the old rivals America and Russia were brought face to face. In the end this war only produced losers. Not only from the point of view of the working class (which always loses control, long-term relationship with- out profit) but also among the imperialisms involved in it. Georgia has been weakened, so the USA has no real influence in the region but Russia can be confronted with an aggravation of the cushion in the Caucasus which is proving impossible to calm down. The USA is a major player in the region of the Caucasus, and the new partner of the USA, the EU, is a quite significant partner for Russia. The US has no strategic interest in the region of the Caucasus, but this is another matter. The United States is engaged in a global struggle against Russian imperialism.

Kyrgyzstan pogroms organised by the capitalist state

S ince the fall of the Kyrgyz president Bakiev, exiled from the country followed- ing violent riots in the capital city Bishkek, the country has become even more unstable, cul- tural and political nationalism leading to the killing of people of a different ethnicity to the round the town of Osh, where the Uzbek minority was subjected to murder, rape, robbery and arson.

What lay behind these pogroms?

The majority of the people carrying out the attacks were recruited from among the most radical elements of a very small and impoverished people. But the operation was directed by a well-oiled ma- chine, involving at least a part of the armed forces and many many peoples. In this poisoned atmosphere, “some people began, in Osh for example, to mark out the homes of the sarts (a pejorative term for non-Kyr- gyz)” (“Courrier International no.1025). Then, on the basis of growing political tensions between the former opposition parties and the Bakayev clan, “the ‘horrors committed by groups of provocateurs transferred from Chechnya to the region of conflict’” (Libération, 26 and 27 June 2010). The green light for this bloody offensive was given by many elements in power carrying out these actions. The Uzbek homes previously marked out by zeal- ous vigilantes were then burned down by hyste- rical crowds. It was due to the hatred that had been carefrely fuelled by the bourgeois cliques that these crowds became uncontrollable, ready for any act, from simple pillage to rape and murder. One testimony brings to mind the worst moments of the conflict in the Balkans in the 1990s: “An Uzbek friend told me that a little girl of five had been raped in front of her father and mother by a gang of fifteen men. The father begged to kill him and he was. The sister went mad” (ibid.).

Victims of imperialism

In Kyrgyzstan, as in most countries in this region of central Asia, the ruling class is torn by con- frontations between different gangster clans, and don’t free such problems in their own territory, or do to a lesser degree, like China. Even if Russia is struggling manfully to overcome the historical crisis it entered with the collapse of the Stalinist form of state capitalism, the development of cen- trifugal forces in its historical sphere of influence is continuing and getting worse.

The whole situation in Russia’s sphere of influ- ence is one example more of the total irrationality of capitalism today. Even if the ruling class aims itself to the terror, it still can’t control its own system.

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Capitalism’s bankruptcy is more and more obvious

The only future is the class struggle!

Tribute to our comrade Jerry Grevin

What are workers’ counsils? (Part 2)

The theory of capitalist decline and the struggle against revisionism

ICC internal debate on economics (Part 5)

Chronic overproduction – An unavoidable fetter on capitalist production

The Free Association of German Trade Unions on the road to revolutionary syndicalism
The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico highlights the complete absence of care and the incredibly dangerous character of the search and use of natural resources by businesses. A great part of the global oil of the world has been exploited from fields found over 60 years ago – so problems in this area are already known, with long-term risks to the aquatic surrounds and beyond. We can also fear that this chemical cocktail can only damage the aquatic spheres and beyond. We can also fear that this chemical cocktail can only damage the aquatic spheres and beyond. We can also fear that this chemical cocktail can only damage the aquatic spheres and beyond. We can also fear that this chemical cocktail can only damage the aquatic spheres and beyond.

Greater costs, bigger risks

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can you explain this?
The communist left and internationalist anarchism: What we have in common

For a few years now, certain anarchist individuals or groups and the ICC have overcome a number of barriers by daring to discuss in an open and fraternal way. Mutual indifference or rejection between anarchism and Marxism have given way to a way to talk, to understand the positions of the other, and to honestly define points of agreement and disagreement.

In Mexico, this new spirit made it possible for a joint leaflet to be signed by two anarchist groups (GSL and PAM)7 and an organisation of the communist left, the ICC. In France, recently, the group 1er Fevrier Toulouse made an attempt to make a presentation at one of its public meetings8. In Germany as well links are being made.

On the basis of this dynamic, the ICC has begun working seriously on the history of internationalism in the anarchist movement. During the course of 2009, it published a series of articles under the heading ‘Anarchists and imperialist war’. Our aim was to show that with each imperialist conflict, part or other, the anarchists had to avoid the trap of nationalism and defend proletarian internationalism. We showed that these comrades cobbled together the banner of the ‘worker’ for the world-wide working class despite being surrounded by chauvinism and the barbarity of war. In the same time, the ICC attacked to internationalism, which is a real frontier separating revolutionaries who genuinely fight for the emancipation of humanity from those who have as their first priority the maintenance of a particular national state. These articles were not only an intransigent critique of the pro-war anarchists but also and above all a salute to the anti-imperialist anarchists.

However, our intentions were not always well perceived. For a while this series met with a frosty reception in some quarters. On the one hand, some anarchists saw the articles as an outright attack on their movement. On the other hand, some syndicalists and supporters of the ICC did not understand our efforts to find a “rapprochement with the anarchists”.

Aside from the small circle of comrades in articles which may have irritated some people, these apparently contradictory criticisms actually share the same roots. They reveal the difficulties in seeing the essential elements which bring revolutionaries together, above and beyond their disagreements.

Going beyond labels

Those who identify with the struggle for the revolution have traditionally been classed in two categories: the marxists and the anarchists. And there are indeed important divergences between them:

- Centralism/federalism
- Materialism/idealism
- Revolution/transition or ‘immediate abotion of the state’

Recognition or denunciation of the October Revolution and the First International.

All these questions are certainly very important. It is our responsibility not to avoid them, and to discuss them in an open and fraternal way. We do not demarcate “two camps”. Concretely, our organisation, which is marxist, considers that it is fighting for the proletariat on the same side as the ‘workers’ internationalists’ of any kind. We oppose to the ‘Communist’ and Maoist parties which also claim to be marxist.

Why?

In the history of the working class, there are two basic camps: the camp of the bourgeoisie and the camp of the working class. We denounce and combat all those parties which belong to the former. We discuss, often in a sharp but always a fraternal manner, and seek to cooperate with, all those parties which belong to the latter. But under the label of ‘marxist’ there are genuinely bourgeois and reactionary organisations. The same goes for the ‘anarchist’ parties.

This is not just rhetoric. History is full of examples of ‘marxist’ or ‘anarchist’ organisations who have claimed with hand on heart to be fighting the proletariat, while in reality stabling it in the back. German social democracy called itself ‘marxist’ in 1919 when it was assassinating revolutionaries in Berlin and smashing up the syndicalists. The Stalinist parties bloody crushed the workers’ uprisings in East Germany in 1953 and the Maoists murdered the ‘proletarian’ in ‘nationalism’ and ‘marxism’ (in the interests of the imperialist bloc led by the USSR). In Spain, in 1937, when the CNT was participating in the government, served as a cover for the Stalinist murderers who repressed and massacred thousands of anarchists and other revolutionaries. Today, in France for example, the same CNT ‘covers’ two anarchist organisations, one which defends authentically revolutionary positions (CNT-AIT) and another which is purely ‘reformist’ and reaction (the CNT ‘Vignoles’)

Identifying the false friends who hide behind false labels is an essential part of the communist work.

But we should not fall into the opposite trap and believe that we are alone in the world, the exclusivists and the ‘revolutionary’ truth. Communist militants are still very thin on the ground today and there is nothing more harmful than isolation. We therefore have to fight against the tendency to stand up for your own ‘chapel’, your own ‘family’ (whether marxist or anarchist), against the shopkeeper’s spirit which has nothing to do with the politics of the working class. Revolutionaries are not in competition with each other. Divergences, disagreements, however profound they may be, are a source of enrichment for class consciousness when they are discussed openly and sincerely. In the same way, the ICC does not identify with the戴着 ‘communist’ label. Who are these comrades? A list of the ICC’s most recent pronouncements can be found on the ICC website.

What unites marxists and internationalist anarchists

For the ICC, there are fundamental criteria which distinguish bourgeois from proletarian organisations:

Supporting the combat of the working class against capitalism means both fighting exploitation in an immediate way (during strikes for example) while never losing sight of what’s at stake in this struggle on the historical level: the overthrow of this system of exploitation by revolution.

To do this, an organisation must never give its support, even in a ‘critical’ or ‘tactical’ way, or to forms of action that are not an authentic part of the proletariat – whether the ‘democratic’ bourgeoisie against the ‘fascist’ bourgeoisie, or the left against the right, or the Palestinian bourgeoisie against the Israeli bourgeoisie. Such an approach has two concrete implications:

First, all political support or cooperation with parties which manage the capitalist system or defend this or that form of this system (social democracy, Stalinism, Chauvinism, etc.) is thus condemned.

Second, a group which manages to maintain an intransigent internationalism, refusing to choose between this or that imperialist nation, the first truly human community.

In the debate which is slowly developing between all the various revolutionary groups and organisations, the ICC is the only group which has managed to overcome a number of barriers by daring to discuss in an open and fraternal way debates, clumsy formulations, misunderstandings and real disagreements. But the needs of the proletarian struggle against a capitalism which is becoming increasingly unbearable and barbaric, the indispensable perspective of the world proletarian revolution, a precondition for the survival of humanity, make this a vital and necessary effort, a duty in fact. And today, as we are seeing the emergence of revolutionary proletarian minorities in many countries, who refer either to marxism or anarchism (or who are open to both), this duty to discuss and cooperate should meet with a determined and enthusiastic response.

Future article sin this series will deal with our difficulties in debating and the way to overcome them. We will also look in more detail at the Anarchist Federation in Britain, which we have mistakenly labelled as a leftist group in the past.

ICC, June 2010

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1 GSL: Grupo Socialista Libertario (http://www.gsl.org): “La conjuntura d’un creuset de reflexion dans le milieu internationaliste”

2 1er Fevrier Toulouse: “La constitution d’un creuset de réflexion dans le milieu internationaliste”

3 1914-1919: la constitution d’un creuset de reflexion dans le milieu internationaliste’

4 Trotskyist Fourth International

5 Some anarchist comrades rightly pointed out certain essential elements which bring revolutionaries to the heading ‘Anarchists and imperialist war’.

6 In the Trotskyist Fourth International

7 There were even efforts to develop an organised and internationalist approach has two concrete implications:

8 To cite a more recent example, in many parts of the world today there are anarchist groups and currents of the CIA who not only maintain an intransigent internationalism, but have also rejected the autonomy of the proletariat against all the ideologies and currents of the bourgeoisie.

9 For example the ‘lesser evil’, to a sector of anarchists who have claimed with hand on heart to be differentiating against the Israeli bourgeoisie, etc. Such an approach has two concrete implications:

10 For the ICC, there are fundamental criteria which distinguish bourgeois from proletarian organisations.

11 For example) while never losing sight of what’s at stake in this struggle on the historical level: the overthrow of this system of exploitation by revolution.

12 For the ICC, there are fundamental criteria which distinguish bourgeois from proletarian organisations.

13 The communist left and internationalist anarchism

14 The communist left and internationalist anarchism

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20 The communist left and internationalist anarchism

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Kashmir - workers assert their class identity

daily killings, terror and barbarism; the working class at the very minimum was able to combine together of workers of different religions and regions fighting together, in solidarity, for their class interests.

The setback that the strike suffered goes to show that next time the J & K state workers take up the fight, they will have to reject both the separatist and repressive unitarian ideologies, as they did this time. In addition they will have to see through the illusion that the solution lies in an agreement of the occupiers with the separatist and chauvinist forces. For the ICC, the possibility of joining the Third International, although it rejected this in the end.

The recent events in many parts of the world today there are anarchist groups and organisations which have gone over to the bourgeoisie, for example the Maveraus group or the group which gave rise to Socialism ou Barbarie (the group which gave rise to Socialisme ou Barbarie in the Trotskyist Fourth International).


4. In particular, some comrades were initially uneasy about the ICC’s project to discuss and explain our approach in a Spanish article entitled “What is our attitude towards comrades who are part of the anarchist tradition?” (http://es.icc-internationalism.org/node/2715)

5. Some anarchist comrades rightly pointed out certain essential elements which bring revolutionaries to the heading ‘Anarchists and imperialist war’.

6. In the Trotskyist Fourth International

7. However, there were groups and elements who were able to develop an authentic and reformist internationalist anarchism, the first truly human community.

8. For the ICC, there are fundamental criteria which distinguish bourgeois from proletarian organisations.


10. 15th International

11. 26th International

12. International Review

13. International Review

14. International Review

15. International Review

16. International Review

17. International Review

18. International Review

19. International Review

20. International Review

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Akbar 10/5/10

Continued from page 8

Kashmir - workers assert their class identity

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Contact the ICC

Debate is vital to the revolutionary movement. One of the most important elements of our activity, defined in our Basic Positions, is the “Political and theoretical clarification of the goals and methods of the proletarian struggle, of its historic and its immediate conditions”. This, we are convinced, is only possible through the confrontation and discussion of differing views and positions within the revolutionary camp.

For this reason, we urge our readers to write to us with their comments, opinions and disagreements on the positions and analyses that we defend in our written press, including our web site. We will do our best to reply to all serious correspondence as quickly as possible, although given our limited resources we may not always be able to do so immediately. Should the subject matter be of general interest, then we may publish both correspondence and our reply in our press.

While debate amongst revolutionaries is vital, it is equally necessary not to fall into the trap of thinking that our activity is something anodyne and acceptable to the bourgeois dictatorship disguised under the trappings of the democratic state. We will not under any circumstances publish our correspondents’ real names, nor their home or e-mail addresses.

Write to the following addresses without mentioning the name:

ACCIÓN PROLETARIA Apartado Correo 258, Valencia, SPAIN.
COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALIST P.O.B 25, NIT, Faridabad, 121001 Haryana, INDIA.
INTERNACIONALISMO Due to the political situation in Venezuela, we ask that all correspondence be sent to Acción Proletaria in Spain.
INTERNATIONALISM 320 7th Avenue #211, Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA.
INTERNATIONALISME D.P 94, 2600 Berchem, BELGIUM (new address)
INTERNATIONELL REVOLUTION Box 21 106, 100 31 Stockholm, SWEDEN.
REVOLUCION MUNDIAL Apdo. Post. 15-024, CP 02600, Distrito Federal, MEXICO
REVOLUTION INTERNATIONALE Rl, Mail Boxes 153, 108 Rue Daunoumont, 75018, Paris, FRANCE.
RIVOLUZIONE INTERNAZIONALE CP 469, 80100 Napoli, ITALY
WELTREVOLUTION: Postfack 410308, 50603 Köln, GERMANY
WELTREVOLUTION Postfack 2216, 80-826, Zurich, SWITZERLAND
WERELD REVOLUTIE P.O.Box 339, 2800 AH Gouda, NETHERLANDS
WORLD REVOLUTION BM Box 869, London WC1N 3XZ, GREAT BRITAIN

Write by e-mail to the following addresses:

From Great Britain use uk@internationalism.org
From India use India@internationalism.org
From the rest of the world use international@internationalism.org
(Addresses for other countries will appear in the near future.)

Visit the ICC Website http://www.internationalism.org

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Unlike the bourgeois press, revolutionary publications such as World Revolution have no advertising revenue, no chains of news agents and no millionaire backers. We rely on the support of our sympathisers, and those who, while they might not agree with all aspects of our politics, see the importance of the intervention of a communist press.

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Subject to be announced.
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Life of the ICC
Despite the nationalist conflicts, half a million workers assert their class identity

Political positions of the ICC

World Revolution is the section in Britain of the International Communist Current which defines the following political positions:

* Since the first world war, capitalism has been a deca-
dent social system. It has twice plunged humanity into a bar-
duck cycle of crisis, world war, reconstruction and new
crisis. In the 1980s, it entered into the final phase of this
decadence, the phase of decomposition. There is only one alternative offered by this irreversible histori-
cal decline: socialism or barbarism, world communist rev-
uolutionary socialism.

* The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first attempt by the proletariat to carry out this revolution, in a period when the conditions for it were not yet ripe. Our positions are founded on the historic fact of capitalism's decadence, the October revolution of 1917 in Russia was the first step towards an authentic world communist revolution in an international revolutionary wave which put an end to the imperialist war and went on to a whole new level in the years that followed.

* The state and separatist gangs, clashes between the
police and striking workers there were no doubt repres-
sion. This they did under the garb of contributing to
the cause of 'national unity'. This may seem touching to a
number of union activists, but it cannot pay years of accumu-
ated COLA [Cost of Living Allowance] and regularisa-
tion of ad hoc and temporary workers. From 3rd April public transport was shut down, class rooms were closed and there were lockouts. Even district govern-
ment offices were closed. Even district govern-
ment offices were closed. Even district govern-
ment offices were closed.

Real face of the state exposed

The workers were not only the ones try-
ing to resist the attacks of the bosses. Although SRTC workers' agitations expressed an effort to fight back, other sections of the state workers have been facing same attacks. All government workers have back pay accumulating from years of unpaid salaries, better wages, and regularisation of tem-
porary and different state governments have shown equal

workers' strike

The April strike by 450,000 J & K government workers was the largest workers struggle in the state in many years. Situated amidst the global spread of worker militancy, it was a product of accumulation of anger among different sections of state workers over the years. Its way was paved by repeated short strikes and struggles by Transport workers, bank workers and others sections.

Conflicted by the totalitarian and violent ide-
ologies of the Indian state and the separatists, the
strike was a powerful assertion of working class
identity and class unity. Despite its major weak-
nesses, this strike showed a different perspective than that represented by the bourgeoisie. While all factions of the bourgeoisie in Kashmir represent a perspective of hatred, violent divisions, Continued on page 6

F or many decades two contending gangs of the world have been shedding
the bloody of the exploited population of Jammu and Kashmir in the name of 'national unity' and 'liberation of Kash-
mir on the other. This has turned this ‘valley of roses’ into a valley of death, devastation, poverty and despair. The people have been violently uprooted and forced to flee Kash-
mir either through a process of ethnic cleansing or through the systematic demolition of the Muslim population in search of subsistence. The separat-
ists and the Indian state have always tried to ne-
gate the very existence of the working class and state workers. Their justification is that there is only one struggle in Kashmir, the one that these two bloody gangs are waging.

Workers try to fight for their rights

The current cycle of workers struggles in Kash-
mir can be traced to their combat in 2008. In March 2008, the state government-initiated JK-
SRTC (Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation) declared that it is making losses as it is not able to meet the required level of services. They declared their intention to reduce the number of workers and declared a VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme).

* The working class is the only class which can
organise, whether officially or 'rank and file', serve
only to discipline the working class and sabotage its
struggles.

* In order to advance its combat, the working class has
to unify its struggles, taking charge of their ex-
tension and organisation through their own feder-
assemblies and committees of elected delegates and
revocable at any time by these assemblies.

* Terrorism is in no way a method of struggle for the
working class. The expression of social strata with no
historical future and of the decomposition of the petty
bourgeoisie, when it's not the direct expression of the
permanent war between capitalist states, terrorism has
always been a fertile soil for manipulation by the bour-
geoisie. Advocating secret action by small minorities, it is
to transform into class struggle an idea which derives from conscious and organised mass action by the proletariat.

The working class is the only class which can
carry out the revolution. Its communal confusion will inevita-

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