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No Respite From ‘Natural’ Disasters Under Capitalism

Over the past decades we have observed a multiplication of violent phenomena that ‘experts’ pay-roll by the bourgeois describe as ‘natural disasters’. They encompass a wide range: from wildfires, to floods, earthquakes and tsunamis. The bourgeois media peddle the lie that there is nothing human can do to protect itself against nature’s whims and that we should just resign ourselves to fate. We remember how they cynically painted the Japanese population’s pas- siveness as a serene Zen attitude in the face of adversity. That’s how the ruling class would want us to be: prostrated. In the US, a winter with as a serene Zen attitude in the face of adversity. That’s how the ruling class would want us to be: prostrated. In the US, a winter with this process has been carried the furthest in the national bourgeoisie. Indeed, we think it is an important task in the period ahead to understand the nature and historical evolution of its factions.

The Dilemma of the 2012 Presidential Election

However, the increasingly ideological nature of many elements of the Republican Party makes implementing this strategy dangerous for the U.S. national capital. The GOP’s increasingly active approach to politics is beginning to question its ability to serve as a credible party of government on the national level. Thus, the main factions of the U.S. bourgeoisie seem to be faced with two choices looking forward to 2012. The first is to work for President Obama’s re-election in order to avoid the possibility of a radical Republican taking office, unable to effectively govern the overall interests of the bourgeoisie, even if it means working with a Democratic administration.

The second is fraught with difficulty given the depth of the GOP’s ideological deterioration. It is not even clear at this time if a moderate Republican candidate could survive the party’s primary process, which in today’s political climate would seem to reward those with the most ideological bent. Already early in the campaign, supposedly moderate Republican candidates, such as former Governors Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty, have been required to pander to the Republican right-wing.

Faced with these difficulties, the main faction of the U.S. bourgeoisie have little choice but to attempt to implement both options si-multaneously, deferring the final selection of a strategy for 2012 until after the Republican primary has been sorted out. Thus, the U.S. domestic political situation has been charac-terized by the policy of the Republican right-wing over the last eight months, with dramatic swings in momentum back and forth between President Obama and the insurgent Republican right wing. In November, the mid-term elections were a clear victory for the Republican Party; Obama emerged badly wounded with the pub-lics openly suggesting a one-term Presidency.

However, a string of legislative victories in the lame duck Congress, followed by months of uncertainty regarding the Republicans’ Presidential field saw momentum shift back in Obama’s favor. The President’s skillful release of his long-form birth certificate at the culmi-nation of a shameless media circus seemed to appease the demon of the most luridous forms of conspiracy theory surrounding the President’s legitimacy. However, the seeming coup de grace came on May 26th with the announcement of the assassination and burial at sea of Amer-i-ca’s archenemy Osama Bin Laden. Although perhaps a bit earlier in the election cycle than the White House would have liked, in one fell swoop the President seemed to have finally estab-lished himself as a genuine American war-rior who accomplished the ultimate victory over the terrorism that had frustratingly shamed his Republican predecessors.

While the post 9/11 patriotic celebrations were a genuine tragedy, this time they were purely unreal. The morbid celebration of the brutal death of an abstract enemy in a far off land proved to be no consolation for the economic and social pain gripping the Amer-i-can working class.

Already, barely a month after the event, whatever political boost the President thought he was getting from having “slain the Beast” has largely evaporated. Obama’s approval rat-ing has now dropped below its pre-Osama as-sassination level, as the economy stubbornly fails to show any signs of improving. Even bourgeois economists have been forced to ad-mit the likelihood of a double dip recession as unemployment remains stubbornly high, the housing market heads for Hades once again and the pain of inflation begins to take its toll.

The political consequences of all this has been that in a hypothetical Presidential race, some polls now show Romney defeating Obama. 4

Political Decay and Economic Crisis

US Ruling Class Faced With No Easy Option

Acting with its usual rudderless, jibbed wind, the Republican Party into openly ideological factions of the national bourgeoisie. This faction was essentially formed by the economic and political stagnation that has characterized the Bush years. The result is an ideological gulf between the Republican factions and the rest of the U.S. national bourgeoisie.

One faction, for example, has been working for a political shift to the right by emphasizing a greater “patriotic” tone in the 2012 campaign. This faction’s rationale is that a more moderate Republican candidate who is not purely ideological can work more effectively to change the concrete needs of the national capital. This faction, however, is likely to lose the support of the ideologically charged Republican candidates.

The other faction, on the other hand, has been working for a moderate Republican candidate who is willing to run counter to the overall need to maintain a functioning union apparatus, faced with the threat of renewed class struggle in response to an economic crisis that shows no signs of going away.

As a result of this descent into ideology by elements of the U.S. political class, the main factions of the national bourgeoisie now face the task of determining how this process has been carried the furthest in the national bourgeoisie. Indeed, we think it is an important task in the period ahead to understand the nature and historical evolution of its factions.

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ago even though we were in the grip of one of the most powerful Las Niñas on record. It is very possible that if La Niña had maintained her whereabouts for the entire winter, she would have been a so-called “super” La Niña, the most powerful Las Niñas on record. It is remarkable that the recent La Niña was quite strong, and the recent El Niño was quite weak, even though they had the same amplitude and opposite phases. The La Niña and El Niño are two of the main ingredients for severe weather events. It is no longer that the La Niña and El Niño are the only two ingredients for severe weather events. Indeed, as at the time of hurricane Katrina, the severe weather event was the result of a combination of many factors. This is yet another example of how the crisis of the capitalist system is at least as much a result of the weather as it is a result of human actions. In this case, the case with Obama’s “historic” election in 2008, whereas fewer voters at the polls favors the Republicn, as witnessed by the 2010 midterm elections. Given this reality, Obama will face many more challenges ahead. It is not he is the choice candidate of the main factions of the bourgeoisie and regardless of his opinion, already, Obama staffers have admitted that his margin for victory in the Electoral College will be slimmer this time around, having won several key states in 2008 to the eventual Republican nominee.

The lesson in all this for the working-class is obvious. If capitalism has brought us to this point, it is not impossible that the working-class may have to do something more than just vote in the next election to get rid of the current administration. The most “responsible” elements of the U.S. political class will work hard to prevent this outcome, even if it risk complicating the ideological division of labor in the class struggle. Whatever the outcome in the next election, the result of the electoral map that serves the proletariat’s class interest in a society marked by such profound social and international class relations.

The Bourgeoisie Struggles to Manage the Economic Crisis in the Midst of Political Rancor

Of course, the political crisis of the U.S. ruling class is not isolated in a social or economic vacuum. On the contrary, it is taken together with the social and economic crisis of the capitalist system since at least the Great Depression. It is in this context that the political insights of certain factions of the U.S. bourgeoisie have been keenly observed by the political class in general. In the face of massive unemployment, rock bottom wages, a real economic crisis that many analysts now see is well underway, a turn and an enormous national deficit, all the Republican Party can do is scream for more tax cuts, fewer regulations and the gutting of the entire health care system. The ruling class insists on attributing the multipli- cation of “natural” disasters to improvements in observations, reporting, documentation and prediction. This is a virtual attempt to shift the blame away from the ruling class and the specific features of the U.S. state (the Electoral College, a Senate weighted in favor of the U.S. bourgeoisie at the moment remains unclear. Are they to answer that capitalism has caused enough, to prevent the ruling class from winning the electoral map that serves the proletariat’s class interest in a society marked by such profound social and international class relations.

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Revolt in the Middle East: For massive struggle against the dictatorship of capital

In Egypt, the street, the determination of the demonstrators, the militancy of the working class and the loyalty of the military, the de- ferentientalism that has been ordered to entrench, the bourgeoisie could breathe a sigh of relief. Tahar Square, the central focus of the national day of rage on 4 March, was deserted. The population could go home, in many cases "taarif" (fear), in order to get down to the business of making a living. While the political parties and the army had been made to look like fools, the economic administration offices demanded a shift to normalcy and determination, but weaknesses at the heart of the movement in Egypt: the state could afford to ignore the growing strike wave and protests are already banned under the hated "Emergency Law" that has been in force since 1981. The fact that the el-Assad family in Syria is in the front line.

Mass protests are still taking place across Egypt with thousands of protesters gathering in Tahar Square on 1st and 8th April demanding faster reforms. These protests have been met with typical brutality, with soldiers storming the square and killing at least two protestors. The Egyptian army has joined by up to 15-20 soldiers who joined in the protest against the regime - the crowds made up of thousands of workers and students, try to protect these workers from arrest by the security forces and this seems to have been what provoked the savage reaction.

Political forces are already developing in order to succeed where Sharaf has failed. The el-Assad family is in the front line. When it comes to shedding blood in the street, the el-Assad family in Syria is in the front line. So far, the population can just put up with the corruption and economic crisis. They are not strong enough to carry out large-scale massacres, just as it is not possible to defend their interests by applying direct military force. The difference between them is that the Syrian population can just put up with the regime and will not do anything about it. Meanwhile the imperialist vultures are circling. Already the Saudi army has entered the country. The hypocrisy of France, Britain and the USA, who are currently bombarding Libya in the name of humanitarianism, is striking: not a word of protest against the repression of the demonstrators, against the "victory of the revolution". Indeed the new law looks like a comma nique from a coordinating committee of young people organising the sit-in in the university of Tunis. The next bit of the communiqué says a lot about the determination of the demonstrators: "The opposition is not represented by the regime and for Saleh's immediate departure. Here again the response of the state was prompt: demanding demonstrations, the movement is still mobilising and Al-Bayda, the army used live ammunition against the demonstrators. When it comes to shedding blood in the street, the bourgeoisie still has a long way to go.

In all the countries of the Arab world, the population is losing hope and economic crisis is raging. But the movements are not all the same. The bourgeoisie in Egypt is a lot weaker than in Algeria, Tunisia and Algeria. In countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria it is more difficult for the local bourgeoisies to carry out the austerity plans which, while it has not been able to carry out large-scale massacres, is a considerable weight in the social situation.

International class struggle: the only remedy for nationalism and imperialism

The crisis today is not limited to the Middle East. Its effects are hitting home in America, Europe and Asia as well. Struggles involving the occupation of the aristocracy are developing in Greece, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Britain. The working class in these countries has mobilised against the austerity plans which each national bourgeoisie is trying to impose. These reactions are important and necessary. In many of the demonstrations, there has been a real sympathy for the revolts and struggles which have broken out in Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere. In the countries at the heart of capitalism - the working class is exacting a revenge... For weeks now the population in Bahrain has been demanding to demand the departure of the prime minister, Khalifa ben Salman Al Khalifa, and the new premier, Ali Mohammed al-Khalifa, part of a Sunni dynasty which has reigned for a hundred years in a kingdom with a majority Shia population. Calling for bread and the right to free speech in this emirate is susceptible to being dragged into a 'Shia struggle against the corrupt Sunni dynasty'.

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Economic Crisis

Poverty, poverty

In the US, then, things have been getting bet-
ter. But the state of the working class. For example, they have taken a difference between being employed or not. This is not the case everywhere, but in its newspapers and journals: "What are the causes of this situation?" From the end of 2005, people have been falling into poverty on a massive scale. It is estimated that around 1.2 billion people live below the poverty line (1.25 dollars a day). World prices of food products have risen below the poverty line (1.25 dollars a day). People have thus officially fallen into poverty out of new territories in the last issue of Food Price Watch. From then on, the world is awash with money and all sectors are suffering from the debt and the fiscal austerity measures of the rich countries. The shocks to come, the probable collapse of the whole operation by launching a QE2: 000 billion injected thanks to printing off more money. One example: the US. In 2008, to save the financial sector from its liquidated banks, the US Federal Reserve bank launched an initial phase of money-printing – QE1, or Quantitative Easing 1 – amounting to 850 billion dollars. Has it worked? Many years later, in January 2010, it had to renew the whole operation by launching a QE2: 600 billion dollars. Has it worked? No, of course not. But obviously history doesn't stop there. In the summer of 2011, the Fed will be launching a QE3. The world economy has become a bottomless pit, or more precisely, a black hole: it's absorbing increasingly astronomical quantities of money at an increasing rate of interest so that they in turn can lend to households and enterprises... In a way, the world economy is producing more commodities than its markets can absorb: that is almost a tautology.

The decade of the system

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from this the confidence that the American bourgeoisie has in its own currency? And that's what is happening. The bankers and entire states, are placing a very big question mark over the whole international economic system. The consequence of this tangible: the price of gold is hitting the roof. After a 25% rise in 2010, the hunt for gold is now being recorded after the first time the price of gold jumped the 1500 dollars – five times what it was ten years ago. The samephe-

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In less than a month at the time of writing, a second border clash left at least 14 dead and scores of wounded as Israeli troops opened fire on a crowd of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank, an event that seems to break into the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights from Syria. Barely one month before, hundreds of Palestinian and Israeli troops had been locked in fierce clashes and clashed with thousands of Israeli troops marching into the Palestinian territories. The Palestinians had protested to the anniversaries of the Arab defeat in the 1967 war. In this context, the historical experience of history of violence and bloodletting that stains the region, the latest eruption of confrontations in recent weeks, the efforts of the Canadian bourgeoisie to build Jewish settlements in the West Bank, played its own card and tried to strengthen its imperialist position in the area. The US went along with Israel’s withdrawal of its compro- mise in regards to the Palestinian national question. It hoped to build the Bush administration’s “war on terror” against terrorism. There was a period of hesitancy at the beginning of the year period of corruption laden Liberal Party government—whom over 0 percent of voters rejected—remains in power. For now, although the right/left division of labor between the Conservatives and the NDP is useful to the Canadian bourgeoisie given the weakened hegemonic position of the US and the US desperately needs to show that it has found a way to force Israel to relent and to discourage other powers in the region, i.e. Syria and Iran from playing their own imperi- alist game. The US has long been in search of a more flexible multi-party democracy as player in federal politics, holding on to only a small part of the Quebec national question of the BQ, the Canadian state is moving—for the moment at least—to the Canadian bourgeoisie; this is assuaged to the detriment of the Arab defeat in the 1967 Mideast war. This is what is at the root of the present intolerable and unpredictable situation of “each nation for itself” and “each political party for its own.” In the face of this apparent loss of control over the inter-imperialist scenario, the US has begun to look to other countries to help implement this scenario between a right-wing party in power and a democratically elected government. As the result of the election, the Conservatives now have the power to enact whatever it wants and has the ability to move ahead—most likely by appointing a young and appealing new face as party leader. Justin Trudeau has been named by many as the most likely to form the Liberal Party in the near future given the weakened US position to counteract strong Conservative opposition and to take advantage of the weakened US position to gain influence in the wake of US failures. This is at least one of the present intolerable and unpredictable situation of “each nation for itself” and “each political party for its own.” In the face of this apparent loss of control over the inter-imperialist scenario, the US has begun to look to other countries to help implement this scenario. As a result of the election, the Conservatives now have the power to enact whatever it wants and has the ability to move ahead—most likely by appointing a young and appealing new face as party leader. Justin Trudeau has been named by many as the most likely to form the Liberal Party in the near future given the weakened US position. Nevertheless, the current arrangement is still fraught with difficulties for the Canadian bourgeois- ie party and the Government—whom over 60 percent of voters rejected—remains in power. For now, although the right/left division of labor between the Conservatives and the NDP is useful to the Canadian bourgeoisie given the weakened hegemonic position of the US and the US desperately needs to show that it has found a way to force Israel to relent and to discourage other powers in the region, i.e. Syria and Iran from playing their own imperi- alist game. The US has long been in search of a more flexible multi-party democracy as player in federal politics, holding on to only a small part of the Quebec national question of the BQ, the Canadian state is moving—for the moment at least—to the Canadian bourgeoisie; this is assuaged to the detriment of the Arab defeat in the 1967 Mideast war. 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Talks are given on all sorts of questions – scientific, cultural, artistic, political, and economic. “Days of reflection” are planned. Everyone brings to bear their analysis and thoughts.

On the surface, this torrent of thought seems to lead nowhere. There are few concrete proposals or immediately realizable demands. But what appears clearly is first and foremost a huge sentiment of being fed up with poverty, with austerity policies, and the social order; and at the same time a collective will to break out of social atomisation, to get together to discuss and transform the many dilemmas and confusions, in what people say as well as on the placards and banners, the word “revolution” has appeared and people are not afraid of it.

In the assemblies, the debates have raised the most fundamental questions – should we limit ourselves to “democratic regulation”? Don’t we have their origin in capitalism, a system which can’t be reformed and which has to be destroyed from top to bottom?

– Should the movement end on 22 May, after the elections, or should it continue and develop massive struggle against the attacks on living conditions, unemployment, casualisation, evictions?

– Should we not extend the assemblies to the workplaces, to the factories, to the offices of the employment offices, to the high schools, to the universities? Should we not rechannel the movement among the employed workers who have the strength to lead a generalised struggle?

In the debates in the assemblies, two tendencies have appeared very clearly.

One is a revolutionary one, animated by non-proletarian social strata, which sows the illusion that it is possible to reform the capitalist society through a “democratic citizens’ revolution”;

the other, a proletarian tendency, which highlights the necessity to do away with capitalism.

The assemblies that were held on Sunday 22 May, the day of the elections, decided to continue the movement. Numerous spokespersons declared: “we are not here because of the elections, even if they were the detonator.”

The proletarian tendency affirmed itself most clearly in the proposals to “go towards the working class” by putting forward demands against the attacks on employment and social attacks.

At Puerta del Sol, the decision was taken to organise “popular assemblies” in the neighbourhoods. Proposals were made to devote the same thing in the workplaces, the universities, the employment offices. In Malaga, Barcelona and Valencia, the assemblies posed the question of organising demonstrations against reductions in the social wage, proposing a new general strike: “a real one this time” as one of the speakers put it.

It was in Barcelona, the industrial capital of the country, that the central assembly at Cata- lonia Square seemed to be the most radical, the most infused by the proletarian tendency and the most distant from the illusion of “democratic regulation”. Thus, the workers of the Telefonica, the hospitals, the fire-fighters, the students battling social cuts joined up with Barcelona assembly and began to give it a different tonality. On 25 May, the Catalonia Square assembly decided to give active sup- port to the hospital workers’ strike, while the assembly at Puerta del Sol in Madrid decided to decry the decision taken by workers in working “popular assemblies” in the neighbourhoods in order to put a participatory, “horizontal” democracy into practice. In Valencia, dem- onstrating bus workers got together with a demonstration of local residents against cuts in the schools before Maragasa, a bus-driver joined the assemblies with the same enthusiasm.

In Barcelona, the “indignados” decided to maintain permanently the assemblies and to continue the occupa- tion of Catalonia Square until June 15.

The future is in the hands of the young generation of the working class.

Whatever direction the movement goes in, whatever its outcome, it is clear that this rev- olution, initiated by a young generation confront- ing with unemployment (in Spain 45% of the population aged between 20 and 25 is out of work) is definitely part of the struggle of the working class. Its contribution to the interna- tional movement of the class is undeniable.

It is a generalised movement which has drawn together all the non-exploiting social strata, and which are the generations of the working class. Even if the class has been part of a wave of “popular” anger and has not affirmed itself through mass- strifes and specific economic demands, its movement still expresses a real mobilisa- tion of consciousness within the only class that can change the world: the proletariat. It is also clear that, in the face of the increasingly evident bankruptcy of capitalism, significant masses of people are beginning to rise up in the two “continental” countries of Western Europe, opening the way towards the politisation of the proletarian struggle.

But, above all, this movement has shown that the left party in opposi- tion is capable of doing everything to move the political parties and trade unions.

The slogan “all power to the assemblies” which has emerged from within the movement, even if only a minority is remaking itself with the old slogan of the Russian revolution: “all pow- er to the soviets”.

Even though today people are still fearful of the word “communism” (owing to the weight of the bourgeois campaigns after the fall of the “Curtain” regime of the old eastern bloc), the word “revolution” doesn’t scare anyone, on the contrary.

But this movement is in no way a “Spanish Revolution” as the Democratic Real Ya collec- tive presents it. Unemployment, casualisation, the high cost of living and the constant deter- mination of social movements for the exploited are not at all a Spanish specificity! The sinister face of unemployment, especially among the young, has made its appearance in Madrid as it did in Cairo, in London as in Paris, in Athens as in Buenos Aires. We are all together in this universal spiral. We are all facing the decom- position of capitalist society, which expresses itself not only in poverty and unemployment, but also in the multiplication of disasters and wars, in the dislocation of social relations and in spreading exploitation which represents itself, among other things, in the growth of sexual aggression and violence against women both in the “Third World” and the “advanced” countries.

The movement of the “indignados” is a revolution. It is only a new step in the develop- ment of the working class struggle on global scale – the only struggle that can open up a perspective for the youth “with no future” and for humanity as a whole.

Despite all the illusions about the “Indepen- dent Republic of Puerta del Sol”, this move- ment is evidence that the horizon of a new so- cialism is taking shape in the entrails of the old.

The “Spanish earthquake” shows that the new generations of the working class, who have nothing to lose, are already becoming actors on the stage of history. They are precursors of the historical storms that will clear the road to the emancipation of humanity.

Through the use of the internet, of social net- works and mobile phones, this young genera- tion has shown that it is possible to bypass the black-out of the bourgeoisie and its media, laying the basis for solidarity across national borders.

This new generation emerged on the inter- national social scene around 2003, first in the protests against the military interventions of the Bush administration, then with the first demonstrations in France against the reform of pensions in 2003. It reappeared in the same country in 2006 with the massive movement of university and high school students against the CPE. In Greece, Italy, Portugal, Brazil, young people in education made their voices’ heard in response to a future of absolute poverty and unemployment that capitalism is offering them.

The tidal wave of this new “future generation” has made a historic appearance in Spain and Egypt, resulting in a gigantic social revolt which toppled Ben Ali and Mubarak. But it should not be forgot- ten that the decisive element leading the bo- urgeoisie in the main “democratic” coun- tries (especially Barack Obama) to dump Ben Ali and Mubarak was the emergence of work- ers’ strikes and the danger of a general strike movement.

Since then, Tahrir Square has become an emblem, an encouragement for the young in the so-called “democracy” countries. This was the model the “indignados” in Spain followed when they set up their camp in Puerta del Sol, occupied the main squares of over 70 towns and drew all the oppressed social classes into the assemblies (in Barcelona, the “indignados” even renamed Catalonia Square “Plaza Tahiri”).

The movement in Spain is in reality, much more profound than the spectacular-revolutions which was crystallised in Tahrir Square in Cairo. It has broken out in the main country of the Iberian Peninsula, a bridge between the two continents. The fact that it is unfolding in a “democratic” state in Western Europe (and - what’s more - one led by a “socialist” govern- ment) can only help to undermine the demo- cratic mystifications deployed by the media and the regime of the “Hannover revolution” in Tansia.

Furthermore, although Democracy Real Ya describes this movement as a “Spanish revolu- tion”, hardly any Spanish flags have been flown, whereas Tahrir Square was awash with national flags.

Despite the inevitable confusions accompa-nyng this movement, it is a very important link in the chain of today’s social struggles.

With the aggravation of the world crisis of capitalism, the social movements will more and more converge with the proletarian class struggle and contribute to its development.

The courage, determination and deep sense of solidarity displayed by this “indignados” generation shows that another world is pos- sible: communism, the unification of the world human community. But for this old dream of humanity to become a reality, the working class will have to develop and produce which produces the essentials of all the wealth society, has to rediscover its class identity by developing massive strug- gles against all the attacks of capital.

The movement of the “indignados” has once again started to pose the question of the revo- lution. It is up to the world proletariat to re- solve the question by giving the movement a clear class direction, aimed at the overthrow of capitalism. It is only on the ruins of this system of oppression based on commodity produc- tion and profit that the new generations can build a new society, achieve a really universal “democracy” and restore dignity to the human species.
Decadence of capitalism

The Comintern and the virus of 'Luxemburgism' in 1924

The Communist left in Russia
The Manifesto of the Workers’ Group of the Russian Communist party (IV)

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International Review 145
Social revolts in North Africa and the Middle East, nuclear catastrophe in Japan, war in Libya: Only the proletarian revolution can save humanity from the disaster of capitalism

What’s happening in the Middle east?

What are the workers councils? (V)

1917-21: the Soviets and the question of the state

Decadence of capitalism

The Manifesto of the Workers’ Group of the Russian Communist party (IV)
Solidarity with the “indignant” in Spain: The future belongs to the working class!

The events in Spain have not abated since 15 May with the occupation of the Puerta del Sol Square in Madrid by a human wave made up mainly of young people rebelling against the right, against the neo-liberal, neo-conservative government’s austerity measures, and the corruption of the politicians. The movement spread rapidly from the capital to the rest of the country — to Barcelona, Valencia, Granada and even the islands. Organisations denounce unemployment and the second round of police repression, but claim to be the dictatorship of the market, but claims to be a platform denounces unemployment and the impecunious students, who come mainly from the ‘Precarious Youth’. These groups ‘Precarious Youth’ mustered 250,000 to take shape in the universities. In March, in their solidarity with the workers’ pickets. In the mean time the leftist opposition, Democrazia Real Ya (Real Democracy Now) appeared in Madrid. Its platform denounces unemployment and the “dictatorship of the market”, but claims to be “apoliitical”, - neither left nor right. Democrazia Real Ya also launched an appeal to demonstrate for security in other towns. It was in Madrid that the procession had the greatest success, with about 250,000 demonstrators. It was meant to be a well-behaved march that would end tranquilly in Puerto del Sol. When the anger began to take shape in the universities. In March, in Portugal, a call-out to a demonstration by the group ‘Precious Youth’ mustered 250,000 people in Lisbon. This example had an immediate impact in the Spanish universities, especially in Madrid. The greatest majority of students and young people under 30 have to live on 600 euros a month by taking on part-time jobs. It was in the context of a protest or so students formed the group ‘Jóvenes sin Futuro’ (Young People with no Future). These immediate students, who were in the midst of the working class, called for a demonstration on 7 April. The success of this initial mobilisation, which was called for by five students of a couple together, incited the Jóvenes sin Futuro group to plan another demo for 15 May. In the meantime the organisation was strengthened in other towns. But it was in Madrid that the procession had the greatest success, with about 250,000 demonstrators. It was meant to be a well-behaved march that would end tranquilly in Puerto del Sol.

The anger of the ‘no future’ youth spreads to the whole population

The demonstrations of 15 May called by Democrazia Real Ya were a spectacular success: they expressed a general discontent mainly among young people faced with the problem of unemployment at the end of their studies. At the end of the demonstrations in Madrid and Granada some incidents provoked by small ‘Black Bloc’ groups led to a police charge and about 20 ar- restes. Those arrested were treated brutally in the police stations, and afterwards they formed collective solidarity acts and publicly denounced the violence of the police. The publication of this communiqué immediately provoked an indignant reaction and widespread solidarity against the forces of order. Thirty totally unknown and unorganised people decided to set up a camp on Puerta del Sol. This initiative immediately won popular sympathy and the example spread to Barcelona, Grenada and Valencia. A second round of police repression hit the touchpaper and since then increasingly massive gatherings in central squares have been taking place in over 70 towns.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 17 May, the organisers of the ‘15 May movement’ had been holding Sunday protests on various dramatic performances, but the crowd that had come together in the squares shouted loudly for the taking of buildings. As 8 in the evening, assemblies began to take place in Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and other cities. From right after 18h, these assemblies held a real came a rural everywhere. Gatherings took the form of open formal assemblies in public space.

In the face of police repression and given the prospect of municipal and regional elections, the Democrazia Real Ya collective launched a debate around the theme of the “democratic regeneration” of the Spanish state. It called for a reform of the electoral reform in order to put on the table to the two-party system that is elected, the Socialist Party (PSOE) and the right wing Popular Party, calling for a “real democracy” after 34 years of “incompleta democracia” since the fall of the Franco regime. But the movement of the ‘indignos’ to a great extent went beyond the democratic and re-formist platform of Democrazia Real Ya. It did not restrict itself to the revolt of the “600 euro generation” and the demonstrations and the occu-pied squares of Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Malaga, Seville etc on the plazas and bus- stops. The ‘indignos’ rejected the call for a day without capitalism! “PSOE and PP, the same shit always, let us not feed you!”. “All power to the assemblies”, “The problem is not democracy, the problem is capitalism!” “Without work, without a home, without fear!” “Workers awake!” “600 euros a month, now that’s violence!”

In Valencia a group of women shouted “They tricked us grandfathers and tricked their children too – the grandchildren must not al-low themselves to be tricked as well.”

Mass assemblies, a “weapon loaded with the future”

The in the face of bourgeois democracy which re- duces “political participation” to every four years “choosing” between politicians who never listen to their demands, and just want to get on with implementing the austerity plans required by the remorseless deepening of capitalist crisis. The ‘indignos’ in Spain has spontaneously re-ap- pro- priated the slogan, “We organise: we create the open, the open general assemblies. Everywhere massive urban assemblies have sprung up, re- grouping tens of thousands of people. They have taken up the slogans of the generations and all the non-exploiting lay- ers of society. In these assemblies, everyone can speak up, express their anger, hold debates on different questions, and make proposals. In this atmosphere of general ferment, tongues are set free; everyone can run an analysis, examine (political, cultural, economic…). The squares have been inundated by a collective wave of ideas that are demanding a climate of solidarity and mutual respect. In some towns “ideas boxes” have been set up, containing everything that can be written on a piece of paper. The movement organises itself with a great deal of intelligence. Commissions on all sorts of questions are set up, and care is taken to avoid disorganised clashes with the forces of order. Violence within the assemblies is forbidden and drunkenness banned with the slogan “La revolucion no es botellón” (rough translation: “the revolution is not a pissup”). Each day, clean-up teams work to keep the squares legible. Public canteens serve meals, volunteers put up nurs- ing wards, nurseries, canteens serve meals, volunteers set up nurseries for children. Libraries are put in place as well as a “time bank”, where

Continued on Page 6