All over the world has been responding with its two truncheon weapons: repression and mystification. In Tunisia, scores were gunned down in the streets, but now the ruling class proclaims the beginning of a transition to democracy; in Egypt, the Mubarak regime alternates between beating, shooting, gassing and running down demonstrators and issuing similar vague promises. In Cairo, Hamas arrests demonstrators trying to show solidarity with the revolts in Tunisia and Egypt; on the West Bank the PLO has banned “unlicensed gatherings” called to support the uprisings; and in Iraq protests against unemployment and shortages are fired on by the regime installed by the US and British “liberators”. In Algeria, after stifling the first signs of revolt, concessions are made legalising timid forms of protest; in Jordan the King sacks his government.

Internationally, the capitalist class also alters its language: some – especially those on the right, and of course the rulers of Israel – openly support Mubarak’s regime as the only bulwark against an Islamist takeover. But the key note is given by Obama: after some initial hesitations, the message is that Mubarak must go and go quickly. The “transition to democracy” is put forward as the only way forward for the downtrodden masses of North Africa and the Middle East.

The dangers facing the movement

The mass movement centred in Egypt thus faces two dangers. One is that the spirit of revolt will be drowned in blood. It seems that the initial attempts by the Mubarak regime to save itself with the iron fist have been stymied: first the police had to withdraw from the streets in the face of the massive demonstrations, and the unleashing of the pro-Mubarak thugs last week has also failed to sap the demonstrators’ will to continue. In both rounds of confrontation, the army has presented itself as a “neutral” force, even being on the side of the anti-Mubarak gatherings and protecting them from assaults by the regime’s defenders. There is no doubt that many of the soldiers sympathise with the protests and would not be willing to fire on the masses in the streets; some have already deserted. Higher up in the army, there are certainly factions that want Mubarak to go now. But the army of the capitalist state is not a neutral force. Its “protection” of Tahrir Square is also a form of containment, a huge kettle; and when push comes to shove, the army will indeed be used against the exploited population, unless the latter succeeds in winning over the rank and file soldiers and effectively女孩子 the army as an organised part of the state power.

But here we come to the second great danger facing the movement: the danger that resides in its widespread illusions in democracy. The belief that the state can, perhaps after a few reforms, be made to serve the people; the belief that “all Egyptians”, perhaps with the exception of a few corrupt individuals, have the same basic interests. The belief in the neutrality of the army. The belief that the terrible poverty facing the majority of the population can be overcome if there is a functioning parliament and an end to the arbitrary rule of a Ben Ali or a Mubarak. These illusions, expressed everyday by the demonstrators’ own words and banners, disarray the real movement for emancipation, which can only advance as a movement of the working class fighting for its own interests, which are distinct from those of other social strata, and which are above all diametrically opposed to the interest of the bourgeoisie and all its parties and factions. The innumerable expressions of solidarity and self-organisation that we have seen so far already reflect the genuinely proletarian element in the current social revolts; and as of the protests have already said, they presage a new and more human society. But this new and better society cannot be brought about through parliamentary elections, through putting it Barak and the Mubarak Brother-hood or any other bourgeois faction at the head of the state. These factions, who may be carried to power by the strength of the masses’ illusions, will not hesitate to use repression against these same masses later on.

There is much talk about ‘revolution’ in Tunisia and Egypt, both from the mainstream media and the extreme left. But the only revolution that makes sense today is the proletarian revolution, because we are living in an era in which capitalism, democracy or dictatorial, quite plainly can offer nothing to humanity. Such a revolution can only succeed on an international scale, breaking through all national borders and overthrowing all nation states. Today’s class struggles and mass revolts are certainly stepping stones on the way to such a revolution, but they face all kinds of obstacles on the road; and to reach the goal of revolution, profound changes in the political organisation and consciousness of millions of people have yet to take place.

In a way, the situation in Egypt today is a summation of the historic situation facing humanity as a whole. Capitalism is in terminal decline. The ruling class can offer no perspective for the future of the planet; but the exploited class is not yet aware of its own power, its own perspectives, its own programme for the transformation of society. The ultimate danger is that this temporary stalemate will end in “the mutual ruin of the contending classes”, as the Communist Manifesto put it – in a plunge into chaos and destruction. But the working class, the proletariat, will only discover its real power through engaging in real struggles, and this is why what is now taking place in North Africa and the Middle East is, for all the weaknesses and illusions that hamper it, a real beacon for workers everywhere.

And above all it is a call to the proletarians of the more developed countries, who are also beginning to return to the road of resistance, to take the next step, to express their practical solidarity with the masses of the “third world” by escalating their own combat against austerity and impoverishment, and in doing so exposing all the lies about capitalist freedom and democracy, of which they have a long and bitter experience. *Workers of the world, unite!*
The attacks on capitalism are not ideological, but monetary and fiscal policy.

All governments are our enemy, not just this one.

What does this portend for the history of the crisis tell us? For one, it demonstrates that the crisis is historic in scale, a product of an entire social system in decline. The media usually blame the government for power in the crisis but it has been a constant cooperation of right and left-wing governments in every country, and so have the resulting attacks on our living standards. Whether it’s the wage freeze imposed by Labour’s ‘social contract’ in the ’70s or the mass unemployment under Conservative governments in the ’80s, the common denominator under all governments is that the working class are responsible for the crisis.

For all their flaws, once in power, every would-be government is confronted with the same economic reality which demands workers sacrifice their interests for the sake of ‘their’ country. From this perspective, all governments are the same and participation in elections or signing petitions begging the capitalist state to have mercy are all a waste of time. The only restraint on capital’s as- sumed superhuman power is in its own self-interest. If we can stop the war, the war on us.

But even the war on us is not the only point of attack. The crisis is the result of decades of deterioration, another aim of carrying out these debates is to stir the consciousness of politics to the very same condition.

The economic crisis didn’t start in 2007.

The shock contraction of 0.5% in the last quarter of 2007 was not a surprise to Britain. Labour government immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and started hyping its figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized on the figures as evidence that the Coalition cuts agenda was ill-advised and immediately seized 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Methods of infiltration by the democratic state

The real role of the TUC policing the class struggle

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Ireland: all the politicians agree on the need for austerity

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Revolution in Egypt and the Arab states: The spectre of the development of the class struggle

A ter Tunisia, Egypt! The contagion of revolution has spread to North Africa, which the ruling class has feared for so long, has arrived with a bang. Populations well aware of the hardships caused by the world economic crisis have also had to deal with ruthless repressive measures. And facing the crisis, the political and social movements and rulers have shown their true colours as a class which reigns through starvation and murder. The spectre of the development of the class struggle in Egypt is not only a projection of the maintenance of capitalism. The much-vaunted stability of these countries against the danger of revolution has for decades been built on police terror, and our good democrats have happily turned a blind eye to their tortures, their corruption, to the climate of fear in which they have lorded it over the population. In the name of stability, of non-intervention in internal matters, of peace between peoples, they have supported these regimes for their own sordid imperialist reasons.

The social revot in Egypt

In Egypt we have seen dozens, perhaps hundreds of people killed, thousands wounded, thousands more wounded or arrested. The fall of Ben Ali was the detonator. It stirred up a huge wave of hopes among the population of the Arab regimes. Within a week, the popular movements had brought a series of suicides in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, western Sahara, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, particularlly the latter, a country and army unbowed to protest. In Egypt, we heard the same slogans as in Tunisia: "Bread, Freedom, Dignity!" This was clearly a response to the impacts of the world economic crisis: unemployment (in Egypt it affects 20% of the population); insecurity (in Egypt, 4 out of 10 people believe that the revolutionary line in the international press has destroyed their security). The rise of these social movements has powerful documentary articles have been made about the people who live by sorting through the Cairo rubbish bins, and the rise of the youth movement in the country. The slaughter 'Mubarak, dejan' was taken directly from the Tunisians who called for the departure of Ben Ali. Dominators in Cairo proclaimed that they would not go, not us, we are the enemys! An Egyptian journalist said to a correspondent from Figure: "No political movement can claim to have started the social revotations. It's the street which is expressing itself. People have nothing to lose. Things can't go on any longer!" One person is on every street: "We are the attacked, the wounded, the dead."

In April 2008, the workers of a textile factory in Mahalla to the north of Cairo went on strike for better pay and against the forces of order. They were met with the police. In other parts of the country, the 'dictators' on the spot. Our own 'democratic' government delegation to the US for talks at the Pentagon and in the US, on the very day the protests in the country. The murder regime could result in a regional chaos that would have deep consequences. Mubarak is the US's principal ally in the region. If he fell, playing a preponderant role in Israel-Palestine relations as well as relations between Al Fatah and Hamas. This state has up until now been seen as a stabilising factor in the Middle East.

One time the political developments in Sudan, which is on the verge of splitting in two, makes a strong projection of the social changes in the region. It is therefore a very cog in the US strategy towards the Israel-Arab conflict and its destabilisation risks spilling over into the region of the northern neighbour countries like Jordan, Libya, Libya and Syria. This explains the anxieties of the US, whose close relations with Jordan are now that the US's 'dealings' don't go without adequate support. Obama and US diplomacy have been trying to put pressure on Mubarak while saving the face of the US. This is why Obama made it clear that he had spent half an hour talking to Mubarak and urging him to throw off more balast. Before that, Hilary Clinton had declared that the forces of order needed to show more restraint and that the government should very quickly restore the street of communications. The next day, and the movements of the 1st and 2nd of May in the capital, the government called for the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Soleiman, the head of the powerful military security forces, responsible for negotiations with Israel; was among the leaders of the 'social movements'. The US has gained in importance for having remained in the rear during the demonstrations and for having on numerous occasions taken a friendly attitude towards the crowds. This allowed it to argue in a number of cases that people should go back to work.

And in other Arab countries...

The Tunisian and Egyptian demonstrations appeared in Algeria, Yemen and Jordan. In the latter, 4,000 people gathered in Amman for the third time in two months to call for the resignation of King Abdullah. The government has responded to demands and economic and political reforms, in particular the resignation of the prime minister. The authorities made a few gestures, some small economic measures and some political consultations held. But the demonstrations spread to the towns of Irbid and Kerak. In Algeria, on 22 January, a demonstration in the centre of Algiers was brutally repressed, leaving 5 dead and over 800 injured. In Tunisia the fall of Ben Ali has not put an end to the struggle. In the prisons, summary executions are made up of the cabinets and chiefs of the Ben Ali regime. The anger has not gone away because the same old people are holding onto the reins of powe. A government reshuffle finally took place on 27 January, chucking out the most compromised minister but retaining the same PM. This still didn't calm things down. Ferocious police repression continues and the situation remains confused.

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...In Egypt, for example, the move to get rid of Mubarak now has the support of the army and US imperialism, so as a demand it is clearly no challenge to capitalist rule. Yet the leftists go along with the idea that a revolution is taking place. "Victory to the Egyptian revolution" is the front page headline of Socialist Worker (52/31). In the same issue the SWP say that "The overthrowing of Mubarak would fundamentally challenge the status quo in the oil rich region". In reality the replacement of Mubarak has become part of US policy which it is undertaking through its links with the Egyptian army.

...The CPGB claim that "A free Egypt, as part of a pan-Arab revolution that rages across the entire Middle East - is a fait accompli..." This shows where their position leads. The expression "challenge the hegemony" ultimately means 'go to war with'. This is where the leftists ideas lead. The CPGB's idea of a 'revolution' raging across the Middle East means plunging it into a war that destroys it. How can the CPGB's "Arab masses" will lose their lives. In the past support for the Palestinian 'revolution' by SWP founder Tony Wright meant support for Nasser's 'revolution' in 1967. Six Day War. Not only do leftists ideas hamper the real movement of the working class toward a real revolution, they also lead to imperialist war.

See ICC online
The Palestinian Authority – a fig leaf for naked imperialism

L ast month, when the proletariat and masses of large swathes of the Maghreb and the Middle East began rising up against their capitalist bosses, a Palestinian demonstration was mobilised in the West Bank to march behind the banners of Fatah to protest that their Palestinian Authority had been somehow wronged by the revelations that it was the “Third Israeli security arm” (US security co-operation for Israel and Pal- estine, General Keith Dayton). Or as World Revo- lution pointed out three years earlier, in December 2004 in fact, “Whereas the PLO was once an agent of the Russian bloc, (the) ‘Palestinian Authority’ was essentially created to act as an auxiliary force of representation for the Israeli army”.

The role of the PA, supported by the US, Britain and the EU as defenders of their imperialist needs and thus against the Palestinian masses, has been laid bare in 1600 documents leaked to al-Jazeera and published by The Guardian towards the end of January. The documents, some redacted in or- der to protect sources, have been authenticated by the newspaper and have been confirmed by recent Wikileaks’ cables coming from the US Consulate in Jerusalem and its embassy in Tel Aviv. They tell a story of the totally corrupt gangsters of the Au- thority, set up and funded by their American, British and Egyptian godfathers, begging their Israeli masters for a “fig-leaf” in order to give them some sort of “credibility”.

The documents detail the complete lies and sham of any “peace process”, a charade that was acted out for two decades now while the Palestin- ian masses have been going through humiliating misery, repression and war. Such is the nature of capitalist “peace”. The peace process in the Middle East has been nothing else except an expression of imperialism involving all the major powers and the local gangsters of the region. Amongst other things, the anti-working class nature of national interests have made the change of regime in the US, is shown not only to be a pipe-dream for Pal- estinians but an ideological attack on the working class of the world.

In any event, the documents show that only a very minimal number of refugees would be al- lowed to return to the homes from which they were ‘cleansed’, and are still being cleansed, in the interests of Greater Israel and the wider needs of US imperialism. Even the so-called “good offices” of the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, a couple of years ago, echoing views from the west after World War II where Jews were asked to settle in disease-in- fested swathlands of South America, that Pales- tinians could be re-settled in “Chile, Argentina, etc.”. The lawyer, ex-Mossad agent and then Is- raeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, “negotiating” with the PA, says: “...I am against law – inter- national law in particular...” That’s what no peace process, that imperialism knows no law, interna- tional or otherwise, is also reflected in the law- yer Tony Blair being appointed as “Quarter’s Middle East Peace Envoy!”? Is there a law acting in the south much warmer (www.wired.co.uk). In other cases, the jet stream becoming fixed, making areas to the north much colder.

The contribution of climate change in all this... is not clear (www.thesouthernweekly.com). And this is without taking account of the effecting back relief supplies. Windows were smashed or broken and thousands of people have been found dead in a village in eastern Battalious district. Flood victims have told the BBC that some local politi- cal leaders have been giving food and other aid to their supporters rather than the most needy” (17/11, BBC online).

And this is what without taking account of the effect of these disasters on rising food price rises and economic disruption, spreading the resulting mis- ery far more widely.

The Guardian

Complaints about the fall of Ben Ali in Tunisia and Algeria: the bourgeoisie is a class of assassins!

Bloody repression in Tunisia and Algeria: the bourgeoisie is a class of assassins!

Campaigns against the fall of Ben Ali and the “Arab Spring” are supported by the bourgeoisie, especially in Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt. Most of the regime’s support is concentrated in transport workers, and in the military and security apparatus in the West Bank. As these are “the key to the survival of the regime”.

The future lies in the interna-

disturbance to study the history of art. As a printer, although more recently he went to uni-

The Palestinian Authority, itself open to corruption and rivalries which in turn are manipulated by the CIA, the secret service and the security forces of Israel and Egypt, was also advanced in advance of the Israeli invasion of Gaza, 2008/9. Further, as The Guardian notes: “The papers highlight the far-reaching official British involve- ment in building up the Palestinian Authority’s ‘security apparatus in the West Bank’.” They also show that M66 concocted its Security Plan for Pale- stine working with Egyptian intelligence in the British embassy in Cairo. It used EU funds and British development aid “to help bankroll these forces. There can be little doubt that Britain pro- vided arms and training as well. These forces are not only a tool of the Israelis and M66 but also “they are causing some problems... because they are torturing people” (General K. Dayton).

One of these leads us to give the least credibility to the ‘official’ claim of a co-negotiator of the ICC for 30 years. Whatever the new reform高尔夫 intelligentsia when needs must and a repressive and tortur- ing force in its own enclave. Its imperialist role is clear from its support by Iran and Syria. The whole “Partners for Peace” process has not only been a cruel joke on the Palestinian masses and
capitalism breeds disaster

The economic crisis in Britain

The Hungarian revolution of 1919: the example of Russia inspires the Hungarian workers

The Manifesto of the Workers’ Group of the Russian Commu- nist Party (part III)

In memory of Martyn Richards

Continued from page 8

The whole “Partners for Peace” process has not only been a cruel joke on the Palestinian masses and a defence of imperialism but an ongoing ideologi- cal attack against the working class world-wide.

But events are stirring and the pro-Palestinian, pro-Fatah demonstration mentioned above wasn’t the only one to take place in January. Human Rights Watch, 1.2.11, reports: “On January 20, a group of young people in Ramallah who wanted to demonstrate against Israel were thwarted by Palestinian Authority police”. A week or so later, it reports: “Hamas authorities last week accused Israeli security forces of preventing demonstrators in the Gaza Strip aimed at showing solidarity with anti-government protesters in Egypt”.

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1. http://www.bltinternet.com/~m.royden/mrlhp/

2. A very good account of the post-war mass strikes is to be found Bob Holton’s British Syndicalism 1900-1914 (Pluto Press, 1976), which forms the basis of this article.


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:

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Victims of flooding in Sri Lanka; the cyclone that struck Kangri, an island off the coast of Sydney, many new houses have been built in areas inundated in the 1974 flood.

Since the first world war, capitalism has been a decisive factor in the generalisation of class consciousness within the proletariat. Its role is neither to ’organise the working class’ nor to ’take power’ in its name, but has had to divert some aircraft needed for reconstruction of the lift and the building of new houses in Christchurch, due to properly built buildings in the Australian state of Victoria, with Cyclone Yasi battering Queensland, and a murderous mudslide in Portugal.

In order to advance its combat, the working class must always be a fertile soil for manipulation by the bourgeoisie, they divide workers and lead them to mass suicide, while capital makes the profits. Lives of workers go into the ’cost-benefit’ analysis along with any other capital investment.

The aftermath – lies, hypocrisy, neglect

A ’humanitarian crisis of epic proportions’ is unfolding in Haiti. ’It is a disaster to equal or exceed of Sri Lanka where malnutrition rates rival those of African countries affected by famine, according to the United Nations. In Sudan province, where some villages are still under water six months after the floods, almost one quarter of children under five are malnourished. So severe is a Floods Assessment Needs survey has found. ’We haven’t seen malnutrition this bad since the worst of the famine in Ethiopia, Darfur and Chad. ’The floods are 30% higher than the size of England, sweeping away 2.2m hectares of farmland’ (Guardian 27/01/11).

Throughout the period of the floods, the Pakistani ruling class appeared completely impotent, unable to competently organise relief and aid for the millions of people affected. Disaster consistently ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world and the vast scale of corruption in daily life has been well-documented elsewhere. However, the cynicism and hypocrisy are clear when it was reported that ’The Pakistani military has kept up pressure on militants in the west despite the devastating floods that have required major relief efforts, a top US officer said on Wednesday. Vice Admiral LeFever, who oversees US military aid in Pakistan, said that the last 20 years has resulted not so much in relief of the population as in a 25% increase in the debt that will be servicing the expense of that population (http://en.internationalism.org/wr/2010%252F331/Haiti).’

So used to disaster are we becoming that if you mention a natural disaster the first thing the media will mention is the man-made factor. Drought, floods, mudslides, heatwaves, earthquakes. Once built, even prestigious buildings have been abandoned, not preceded by scientific or clinical scrutiny. For example if we look at the earthquakes that took place in 2010 and compare the death toll and level of destruction, we can see the effects of a totally irresponsible policy of building cheaply and thought of what the buildings have to withstand. The earthquake in Haiti is one of the Richter scale killed none, not taking place close to the city of Christchurch, due to properly built buildings in the Australian state of Victoria, with Cyclone Yasi battering Queensland, and a murderous mudslide in Portugal.

These follow on from the huge number of disasters in 2010:

- the oil platform and devastating the ecosystem; the Mexican Gulf oil spill following the Deepwater Horizon, killing 11 workers on the oil platform and devastating the ecology of the area and the livelihoods of fishermen;

- the Hungarian aluminium spill causing 4 deaths; the spill having run off, making it difficult to deal with;

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The aftermath – lies, hypocrisy, neglect

A ’humanitarian crisis of epic proportions’ is unfolding in Haiti. ’It is a disaster to equal or exceed

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

* Since the first world war, capitalism has been a decisive factor in the generalisation of class consciousness within the proletariat. Its role is neither to ’organise the working class’ nor to ’take power’ in its name, but has had to divert some aircraft needed for reconstruction of the lift and the building of new houses in Christchurch, due to properly built buildings in the Australian state of Victoria, with Cyclone Yasi battering Queensland, and a murderous mudslide in Portugal.

1. The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first attempt by the proletariat to carry this revolution, in a period when the conditions for it were not yet ripe. On the contrary, capitalism was on the ascent, with the outbreak of capitalist 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 for several years after that. The failure of this revolution, particularly in Germany in 1919-23, condemned the revolution in Russia to isolation and to a rapid degeneration. Stalinism was not the product of the Russian revolution.

* The stabilized regimes which arose in the USSR, eastern Europe, China, Cuba etc and were called ’socialist’ were, in fact, capitalist dictatorships. They were nothing but a particularly brutal form of the universal tendency towards state capitalism, itself a major characteristic of the period of decadence.

* Since the beginning of the 20th century, all wars are imperialist wars, part of the deadly struggle between states large and small to conquer or retain a place in

Drought, floods, mudslides, heatwaves, earthquakes

Capitlism breeds disaster

8 Decomposition

The aftermath – lies, hypocrisy, neglect

A ’humanitarian crisis of epic proportions’ is unfolding in Haiti. ’It is a disaster to equal or exceed