Considering and condemning the gross and systematic violation of human rights, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and summary executions... Considering that the widespread and systematic attacks currently taking place in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya against the civilian population may amount to crimes against humanity... Expressing its determination to ensure the protection of civilians... Authority/Member States that have notified the Secretary-General...take all necessary measures...to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack.”

From UN Resolution 1973, 17 March 2011

Once again, the great leaders of this world are full of fine humanitarian phrases, ringing speeches about ‘democracy’ and the safety of populations, but their real aim is to justify their imperialist adventures.

Since 20 March an ‘international coalition’ has been carrying out a major military operation in Libya, poetically named ‘Operation Dawn Odyssey’ by the USA. Every day, dozens of warplanes have been taking off from powerful French and US aircraft carriers, or from bases inside the UK, to launch a carpet of bombs at the all the areas containing the armed forces loyal to the Gaddafi regime. In plain words, this is war!

All these states are just defending their own interests. Obviously Gaddafi is a bloody dictator. After several weeks of retreat in the face of the rebellion, the self-proclaimed ‘Guide’ of Libya was able to reorganise his elite troops to make a counter-attack. Day after day, his forces were able to gain ground, crushing everything in its path, ‘rebels’ as well the population in general. And without doubt, he was preparing a bloodbath for the inhabitants of Benghazi when the Operation Dawn Odyssey was launched. The air strikes by the coalition took a heavy toll of Gaddafi’s forces and thus in effect prevented the massacre.

But who can believe for a moment that this use of force by the coalition really has the aim of ensuring the welfare of the Libyan population?

Where was this coalition when Gaddafi slaughtered over 1000 prisoners held at Abu Salim jail in Tripoli in 1996? The fact is that for 40 years this regime has been jailing people, terrorising them, making them disappear, executing them... with complete impunity.

Yesterday, where was the coalition when Ben Ali in Tunisia, Mubarak in Egypt or Bouteflika in Algeria were shooting at crowds during the uprisings of January and February?

And what is the coalition doing today when massacres are taking place in Yemen, Syria or Bahrain? Oh yes, it’s closing its eyes to Saudi Arabia’s intervention in Bahrain — to help the state repress the demonstrations there.

Sarkozy, Cameron, Obama and Co. can present themselves as saviours, as defenders of the widow and the orphan, but for them the suffering of the civilians of Bengazi is just an alibi to intervene and defend their sordid imperialist interests. All these gangsters have a reason for launching this imperialist crusade:

- This time, unlike in recent wars, the USA has not been at the forefront of the military operation. Why? Why is the American bourgeoisie playing a balancing act over Libya?

On the one hand it can’t allow itself to carry out a massive land intervention on Libyan soil. This would be seen by the whole Arab world as an act of aggression, a new invasion. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have greatly increased aversion to ‘American imperialism, the traditional ally of Israel’. And the change of regime in Egypt, a long-term ally of Uncle Sam, has further weakened its position in the region.

But at the same time, they can’t stay outside the game because this would risk totally discrediting their status as a force fighting for democracy in time.
A taxing budget for workers

S
ince the 1980s, the ruling class in Britain has been discussing how the various pensions schemes aimed at the working class have been too generous and unaffordable. Even the state pension (the ‘old-age’ pension) was generally only available to workers at the largest companies, leaving millions of workers dependent on the state pension or to be ‘mis-sold’ dodgy private pensions. In the years since, under governments of right and left, the state pension has been steadily eroded while ‘final salary’ schemes have been replaced with far less generous ‘defined contribution’ arrangements that reduced benefits to workers.

The efforts of the LibCon Coalition to tackle public sector pensions are thus in complete continuity with the previous Labour administration, which had presided over the more or less complete abolition of final salary pensions in the private sector. In the spirit of tying up loose ends, the Coalition are proposing to end National Insurance rebates that currently support final salary pensions schemes. This “will almost certainly see the end of final salary pensions” (Financial Times 24/3/11).

In this context, it must seem strange that the Coalition is actually considering putting up the state pension, even if it is only to £155 per week. In practice, it means little more than abolishing the hated means-testing (which was so many seniors simply didn’t bother) which largely pays for itself by cutting the state’s administration costs. But what capitalism gives with one hand, it takes with the other. For those pushed over the edge by the tax allowance thresholds by the change, taxation will eat up the gains. Also to be taken into account is the acceleration of raising the pension age to 66. Previously planned for 2026, this is now happening in 2020.

The ruling class have been trying to promote the idea of working longer as a positive for some time. For example, the ending of mandatory retirement ages has been presented as an attack on age ‘discrimination’. Whatever the ruling class may plan for the future, the ‘working pensioner’ has already been hit by some big blows. In 2006 more than half the jobs created were filled by people above the state pension age. But while certain supermarchet chains present us with the image of the plucky olderly happier conti

ning with his exploitation, the reality for many is that ill-health will eventually spoil this pretty picture. Another inconvenience is that while public

A penny off petrol duty, paid for by a windfall tax on North Sea oil companies. A rise in the basic rate income tax allowance (i.e. a tax cut). A freeze in council tax. And a new tax on property values to take the heat out of the advice of the leftists and began to change the balance of the tax burden?

The popular movie in the budget are no doubt an attempt to soften the pain of the previous emergency budget last year which unveiled a historic restructuring of the “social state.” It goes without saying that even were we to take the measures at face value, they really go nowhere on ameliorating the most brutal assault on workers’ living conditions since the Great Depression. It’s already clear that the cut in the petrol duty has had little effect on actual prices, which were raised even before the measure was announced. And the increase in the tax allowance allowed the government to disguise another measure around taxation: the annual increase in personal allowances will now be calculated from the CPI as opposed to the RPI. In the long-term, the CPI generally runs at 1 percentage point below the RPI, meaning that tax allowances will rise much more slowly relative to the cost of living. Some analysts have suggested that the package of measures, supposedly designed to benefit low-paid workers, will ultimately hit them the hardest.

The economic crisis in Britain

Earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents in Japan: capitalism is a horror show

8. The remarks made by someone in one of our forums in France during the discussion of this disaster: http://en.internationalism.org/forum/312/630193/science-au-japon

A taxing budget for workers

Pensions put out to pasture

Struggles of Uttar Pradesh road transport workers, defeated by unions

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The Manifesto of the Workers’ Group of the Russian Communist Party (part III)

Continued from page 8

Earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents in Japan: capitalism is a horror show

People are forced to migrate every year for reasons connected to crisis-ridden capitalism’s brutal impact on the front line of crisis-ridden capitalism’s brutal assault on the working class. Hardin 14/11

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The TUC’s false alternative

Maybe half a million people were on the TUC’s March for the Alternative on 26 March. From demo veterans to those on their first ever protest, all were shepherded from the Embankment to Hyde Park by a combination of police and union stewards.

In the wake of the militant student struggles in the autumn, and before and after the massive TUC demo of 26 March, there were growing signs of an effort by radical minorities to get together and discuss the lessons of the struggle and how to take it forward. Two recent examples: a discussion group in London which came together following the perceived failure of the ‘Network X’ initiative in Manchester, and a recent meeting on fighting the cuts organised by the Anarchist Federation in Whitechapel and attended by comrades from different political tendencies: both raise the possibility of more regular ‘physical’ forums for discussion in London.

The article that follows is an account of a further expression of this phenomenon: the general discussion meetings that took place in a weekend of activities aimed at preparing for the TUC’s 26 March demo and held at the University of London Union.

I n the recent period ICC comrades have been to some of the many meetings relating to the demonstration against the cuts. No one could go to them all. Some of course, focused on practical arrangements. Others have posed essential questions about the aims of the struggle against the cuts – basic points that underpin any discussion about what we should do. What does it mean to win? What is the nature of austerity? What was the role of organisations in the student protests and occupations? What do we know and what can we find out about other struggles going on in the world?

“From capitalist crisis to cuts…to revolution? compartmentalising the March 26 demonstration as the start of a new movement that goes beyond both the capitalist economy and the state.” The first presentation at this meeting at the ‘Arts Against the Cuts March Weekend’ from Endnotes certainly posed the essential questions. First of all the nature of the crisis. Second, the role of bailouts and sovereign debt – which can only be paid back by the state squeezing us dry, whoever is in government, since the Labour Party also favours cuts. It is not easy to defeat the state, and the TUC slogan “Jobs, Growth, Justice” was entirely without meaning. The revolutionary alternative is not easy, and the presentation went on to put the speaker’s view that the crisis requires going beyond 19th Century ideologies and in particular the notion of the working class as one pole of society leading a form of transition to communism, because that carries within itself seeds of betrayal and counter-revolution. In his view what is needed is the immediate abolition of all capitalist categories. Posing the nature of the capitalist crisis we face today and the nature of revolution, the key questions at stake today, was certainly very ambitious for a 90 minute meeting. And indeed, related oppositions that followed the presentation of The Commoner did not want to start with the crisis but with the lack of working class reaction and how we can get the working class to see the struggle against the cuts say what we want, such as how we want public services run. David Graeber introduced more points, such as the way our day to day interactions often follow principles of solidarity rather than capitalist exchange, that capitalism is not a creative force. Discussion from the floor raised many more points such as the contribution of anthropology and understanding of hunter-gatherer societies; the need for an international revolution, the importance of strikes going on in Egypt… the importance of struggles for jobs… and one speaker rejected the whole framework of trying to understand the crisis and revolution, which he characterised as being soft on the bourgeois, in favour of simply condemning the cuts propped up by the current government. Overall the lack of time and lack of focus provided by the different emphases in the three presentations inhibited a useful debate.

Beginning to discuss the issues

Two more presentations followed. David Broder, from the Embankment, introduced the anti cuts discourse introduced by Mute, took up the key questions. A very brief presentation pointed out that the predominant opinion on the left is the idea that there is no crisis, that it is simply a pretext for austerity. This misconception of the crisis and of what the struggle involves leads to the idea that it is our job to propose an alternative for capitalism. G, from the Hackney Alliance to Defend Public Services, disagreed with this. Capitalism is always in crisis, this is how it develops as shown by looking at any decade in the last 150 years. He disagreed with the notion of a terminal crisis of capitalism necessary for communism. Besides European companies hold lot of cash, and capitalism is growing in India and China – and could here if the working class could be forced to accept the same low level of wages. Several contributions recognised the importance of the crisis: this is the biggest crisis since 1929, it is secular, not cyclical, and 2-3 years into the crisis we are still seeing fallout from it. Capitalism cannot find productive investment opportunities as greater productivity disequilibrium system. 19th Century crises came every 10 years or so, but since 1914 the problem has been on a different level. Keynesianism would make no sense without the Second World War.

What is the implication of this for struggling against the cuts? For G it is simply important to say “no” to the cuts. David Graeber, who also sceptical about the crisis which he described as artificial, thought we should use it to put forward radical proposals. But there is a crisis, which is causing the imposition of austerity all over the world. We can hope that the crisis will still develop and no cuts. One contribution called the idea that cuts are unnecessary, as put forward by UKuncut, a social demo analytical, and their idea of ‘tax the bosses’ a dead end, while the fight to keep services has the potential to go beyond that. For another, the TUC cannot admit the crisis because of the no answer within capitalism they are redundant. Others pointed to the nationalism of the left with its British solutions for British problems, despite the start international nature of the crisis, and to the importance of the international struggle of the working class.

This effort at discussing and understanding the situation faced by the working class today, one which we have seen from Exeter to Edinburgh, is an essential contribution to the development of the class consciousness we need.

The ‘alternative’ offered is one “in which rich individuals and big companies have every right to enjoy unregulated profi-

tas, that the banks pay a Robin Hood tax and … in which we strain every sinew to create jobs and boost … sustainable economic growth.”

The idea that changes in the taxation system (plus the straining of every sinew) can create jobs and economic growth denies the reality and the depth of the capitalist crisis. There is no way of organising capitalism that will make its deepening crisis stabilise, let alone vanish, and there is no way that capitalism can be made to benefit the exploited rather than the exploiters.

Capitalism means the domination of the bourgeoisie, not only with the richest individuals and businesses having their interests protected, but as a society in which the accumulation of capital is the driving force for the ruling class. Capitalism means workers working for wages, as much as feudalism meant working for a feudal lord and slavery meant working for your owner. They are all forms of exploitation, not means for satisfying human needs (except those of the ruling class). And, speaking of defenders of exploitation, it came as no surprise to hear Ed Miliband in Hyde Park saying that some cuts were actually needed and not to be opposed. After all, the last Labour government set in motion the cuts that the LibCon coalition is continuing with, and its thirteen years in power left the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Against Miliband’s claims to speak for a “majority”...
What can we learn from the blockade of the oil refineries in France?

We are publishing here an article written by our French section in Revolution Internationale 420 in response to the very widespread debate about the tactic of the oil refinery blockades during last autumn. These blockades have tangibly imposed some revolutionary forces outside France. Brighton Solidarity Federation, for example, recently published a text “The paradox of reformism: a call for economic blockades” which contains the following words: “It’s all about the balance of class forces. It’s primarily a power struggle, not a moral argument. We might have right on our side, but might will determine the outcome. For the fight against the bourgeoisie to succeed in the long run, the working class must seize the initiative.”

Some strikers adopt the blockade as a means of achieving more than what the strike as a whole is capable of. The blockade of the refineries was only a gust’s bite on the back of the working class. It was not part of a general strategy. In fact, behind this pretend victory of the blockade is the hidden contrary: a real defeat for the working class. Of course, the bourgeoisie is capable of using the blockade to isolate the most combative workers and divide the proletariat.

Some workers and the unions, notably the CGT, resting on the absolute control that it exercised over operations, used it to isolate the refinery strikers and to threaten them with restructuring and are thus particularly militant, from the rest of their class. Their justified anger was not the point of departure for an extension of the struggle: to open up the new front of fighting picking away at the heart of the economy, as if that made the least sense. This movement growing in power, the decline started somewhere, couldn’t the blockade of the refineries worked and produced, at a slower rate, the massive scale of its struggles. When the working class appropriates the false route: the oil refinery blockades, a relatively small number of nerve centres. To block the productive forces of society, the working class must take the initiative. The ruling class draws its force from the central place that it occupies in production. The proletariat produces, from above, etc., as if that made the least sense. To block the oil deports – whether the state or the private companies – is effectively a strategic sector for the working class. When the working class appropriates some refineries. The movement spread quite naturally and factories closed one after the other in this period. In mid-October, 12 French refineries were all blocked. Faced with the provocations of the CRS and the government, the workers of oil refineries, some strikers adopt the blockade as a means of achieving more than what the strike as a whole is capable of. The blockade of the refineries was only a gust’s bite on the back of the working class. It was not part of a general strategy. In fact, behind this pretend victory of the blockade is the hidden contrary: a real defeat for the working class. Of course, the bourgeoisie is capable of using the blockade to isolate the most combative workers and divide the proletariat.

The refinery blockade – a Pyrrhic victory

A few days of an occupation of the refineries was thus enough to demonstrate the weaknesses and problems in transport generally.

At the end of September, strikes broke out in 200 French cities, from Chalon-sur-Saône to Besançon; “A new society is born tomorrow” (Class on strike, n°116, Nov. 2010 (CNT- Vigneules).)


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Syrian bourgeoisie follows Gaddafi's example

Continued from page 4 of the union leaderships. One feels that the latter have been overwhelmed by events and don’t quite know what to do with all this ‘support’. This situation is spreading and these are unionists who are really isolated and controlled. But reality was exactly the opposite. It’s sufficient moreover to carry on reading the article for this illusion to jump out of the opposite. It’s sufficient moreover to carry on reading the article for this illusion to jump out of the article...

...of all the disturbances were ineffective, we must not deduce that the workers or the unions?

4. Let’s not forget that France is also changing its tune towards the ‘stabilisation’ and, perhaps even more, towards the ‘insurgents’ or the ‘rebels’ of Libya. It is trying to polish up its tarnished image in the world. But, at the same time, French troops are being used by the so-called ‘Peoples’ Committees’ in the so-called ‘rebels’ bastions. This is a huge chessboard on which the great powers are trying to advance their pawns.

5. Here again the weakness of the working class makes itself felt. It has been reduced and isolated and forced into the subcontracting of the tasks corresponding to the development of workers’ struggles and class combat. It is trying to polish up its tarnished image in the world. But, at the same time, French troops are being used by the so-called ‘Peoples’ Committees’ in the so-called ‘rebels’ bastions. This is a huge chessboard on which the great powers are trying to advance their pawns. 

In the first days, the tide of revolt originating in Tunisia and Egypt hit Libya. The same anger, the same frustration, the same despair. The result was that the Libyan situation is like a model of the kind of fight that we are seeing in other countries.

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Revolutionaries and the mass strikes, 1910-1914: the strengths and limits of syndicalism

In WR 341 we described the wave of strikes that began in 1910 as ‘The Great Labour Unrest’ that hit Britain and Ireland 100 years ago. We showed that these struggles – which were accompanied by near-riotous levels – were in fact a spectacular expression of the mass strike analysed so far. In this section we will form an integral part of an international wave of class struggle that culminated in the 1917 Revolutions.

In this article we look at the impact of the mass strikes on the British and Irish working class, and the attempts of militant workers and revolutionaries to evade the limitations of these historic struggles.

The mass strikes were a product of the growing class consciousness of the British and Irish workers, and an enormous stimulus to their understanding of capitalism and of the changing conditions for the class struggle on the eve of its decadent phase.

The broadening of the mass strikes in the broadening of class consciousness – the spreading of revolutionary ideas among the masses of workers thrown into struggle – and in its deepening: the growing understanding of the clearest minorities of militant workers and revolutionaries about the need to unite in a revolutionary worker’s struggle against capitalism. We can also see the historical limitations of this understanding.

The growth of syndicalism

Policy: “I The old policy of identity of interest between employers and ourselves is abolished, and a policy of open hostility instituted.” (The Miners’ Next Step, 1912)

The most significant expression of the broadening of class consciousness in Britain and Ireland in the period from 1910 to 1914 was the growth of syndicalist ideas among the most militant workers.

We have written before about the rise of syndicalism (see WR 232). As a distinctive strand of ideas it emerged in the years after 1900. But it was in the mass strikes that syndicalism played a significant role in the workers’ struggles. In fact we can see the mass strikes as an expression of the growing realization of the working class of its own strength and significance.

One of the strengths of the Next Step was its emphasis on involving all the workers in the practical organization of the struggle. Political action was not rejected but defined as parliamentary action because relevant legislative measures would de- fuse the power of exploitation and enable workers to directly represent, and are amenable to, the wishes and instructions of the workers.” The URG’s ultimate objective was “…to amalgamate all workers” and “to work for the taking over of all industries, by the workmen themselves.”

The central problem of this vision was that, in emphasizing the economic power of the working class, it underestimated the political power of the capitalist class; there is no mention of the fact that the bourgeoisie might oppose this process of the gradual take-over of industry by the workers or of the political action that would inevitably come up against the entrenched power of the capitalist state in order to achieve revolutionary change.

The two strong points of syndicalism were that the leaders believed the struggles of the workers to be a revolutionary assault on the power of the capitalist state, and the leadership wanted to work towards the establishment of direct democracy.

The test for revolutionaries

The popularity of syndicalism and the spread of ideas among militant workers were due at least in part to the desire of revolutionary workers to break away from the trade union bureaucracy, and its lack of influence among militant workers. The political role was not so much its size as its ability to break the bloc of the whole workers’ movement by this time. The hardening opportunist tendency which dominated the mass socialist organizations was firmly wedded to parliamentary and reformist tactics, and viewed spontaneous, violent mass action as a serious threat to its position rather than as any kind of opportunity for advancing the cause of the revolutionary proletariat. Tom Mann, for example, believed that the working class to emancipate itself through an army of despotic union chiefs who are interested only in the economic power of the working class into one national and international union, to directly represent, and are amenable to, the wishes and instructions of the workmen.”

The most significant expression of the broadening of class consciousness in Britain and Ireland in the period from 1910 to 1914 was the growth of syndicalist ideas among the most militant workers.

The biggest strength of revolutionaries in Britain was their recognition of the reactionary nature of the trade unions and the need for a working class struggle. For example, the 1913 platform of the syndicalist Industrial Democracy League identified the trend towards the centralization of capitalist state power and denounced the Liberal Party’s social welfare legislation as “the extension of the tomahawks of the state into the vats of organised labour.”

The clearest revolutionaries extended this analysis to the trade unions. In 1911 the Durham miners’ leader George Harvey, a leading SLR member, warned that “the trade union movement is tend- ing to create a sort of organ of oppression within the masters’ organ of oppression – the state - and an army of despotic union chiefs who are interests only in the economic power of the working class...”

The syndicalist movement in Britain was their recognition of the reaction- ary nature of the trade unions and the need for a working class struggle. For example, the 1913 platform of the syndicalist Industrial Democracy League identified the trend towards the centralization of capitalist state power and denounced the Liberal Party’s social welfare legislation as “the extension of the tomahawks of the state into the vats of organised labour.”

Conclusion

The mass strikes in Britain and Ireland were inevitably overshadowed by the even greater revolutionary wave that ended the first world war which culminated in the seizure of political power by the working class in Russia. But today, when we are seeing the spectre of class struggle return to haunt the decrepit capitalist system, again led by younger generations of workers anxious to fight back for their jobs and homes, we can find in these struggles – in their immense mili- tancy, their capacity to organise and extend the movement, and willingness to take on the capitalist class – a rich source of lessons and inspiration.

One key lesson is the central importance of the revolutionary minorities of the working class in clarifying its historic tasks and the methods and tactics needed to achieve them. MH 26/3/11

References


On line forum

1”My opinion Baboon was right to enchant about the mass dissent in Libya -even if it only had an apocalyptic truth "for 72 hours. Equally I believe that if the so-called rebel leadership had rapidly descended into the masses drawn into a bourgeois blood bath because it was never a ‘proletarian’ revolt in the first place.”

From the ‘Are muslims and non-proletarians excluded from the struggle against capitalism’ thread.

en.internationalism.org
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:

ACCION PROLETARIA Apartado Correos 258, Valencia, SPAIN.
COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALIST POB 25, NIT, Faridabad, 121001 Haryana, INDIA.
INTERNACIONALISMO Due to the political situation in Venezuela, we ask that all correspondence be sent to Accion Proletaria in Spain.
INTERNATIONALISM 320 7th Avenue #211, Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA.
INTERNATIONALISME DP 94, 2600 Berchem, BELGIUM (new address).
INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTION Box 21 100, 100 31 Stockholm, SWEDEN.
REVOLUCION MUNDIAL Apdo. Post. 15-024, CP 02600, Distrito Federal, MEXICO
REVOLUTION INTERNATIONALE RI, Mail Box 153, 108 Rue Dantonmont, 75018, Paris, FRANCE
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Earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents in Japan: capitalism is a horror show

Fears the worst? That’s the message now spreading on the waves, in all the media, and on the lips of the world’s leaders too. But it can’t get any worse! Because from the endemic tsunamis, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, and it’s not finished there, it means the current predicament of the Japanese population is horrific. And because now there are millions of people on the planet living under the Sword of Damocles of the nuclear cloud released by the reactors at Fukushima, around, it is not a poor country like Haiti and Indonesia. It’s being hit hard but the heart of one of the most industrialised countries of the world, one that has experienced decades of nuclear successes and disasters. It’s a country that has first-hand experience of the devastating effects of nuclear energy, having suffered atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Capitalism makes humanity more vulnerable to natural disasters

Once again, the madness of capitalism and ir- responsible and inhuman policy is revealed in the page news. Now only is the world finding out that millions of people have been crammed into wooden houses, along coastal shores, permanently threat- enedly the risk of earthquakes and giant waves that can consume all before them. And this in a country that has the world’s strongest nuclear power! As if this were not enough, they have also built nuclear power stations, which are all real time bombs, at the mercy of the earthquakes and the tsunamis. And the shelf life of the reactors that were built 40 years ago, not only in densely popu- lated areas but also near the coast. They are there- fore dangerous not only to the Japanese people, but of the 55 Japanese reactors spread over 17 sites, 11 have been affected by the disaster. As a direct consequence, these reactors have been exposed to radiation levels that have officially risen to more than 40 times the norm as far as away as in Tokyo, 250 km from Fukushima, a radiation level which the Japanese government nonetheless declared to be of “no risk.” And it’s not only nuclear power stations that are under threat, but also petrochemical plants built by the coast, and some of these have set fire, which will only make the disaster worse.

1. And experience shows that we can’t give much credit to the official figures in general and to those concerned with nuclear especially: lies, manipulation, and for us here the dangers are here the golden rule for every country.

The bourgeoisie tells big lies

Today, comparisons abound with previous ma- jor disasters, earthquakes, eruptions with the mel- down of the reactor at Three Mile Island in the United States in 1979. Officially no-one died in that one. In comparison, all the political leaders are saying that the current disaster is not “for now” as serious an incident as the explosion of the Three Mile Island reactor. Why should it be be reassured by this outrageously optimistic re- mark? How do we assess the real danger to the populations of Japan, Asia, Russia, the Ameri- can world and that of the world? This is a question us in no doubt: the consequences will be dramatic in every sense. There is already major nuclear pollution in Europe. In the book, “TEPCO officials who warned the Japanese government...” The scale of the nuclear plants can only deal with the risk of an explosion by flooding with the problem day by day and shamelessly exposing hundreds of employees and fire-fighters to fatal levels of ra- diation. Here we see the fundamental difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. On the one hand there is a ruling class that has no hesitation in sending “its” people to their deaths and, more generally, endangering the lives of tens of millions of people in the name of its sacro- sanct profits. On the other hand, there are workers ready to sacrifice their lives and to suffer the slow and unbearable agony of exposure to radiation on humanity’s behalf. Today, the impotence of the bourgeoisie is such that after a week of desperate attempts to cool the damaged reactor, its special- organisation, whether official or “rank and file”, serve only to discipline the working class and sabotage its struggle.

* In order to advance its combat, the working class has to unify its struggles, taking charge of its ex- tensions, and operate through the mechanisms of the major regional and international organisations and assemblies and committees of delegates elected 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 and political tradition 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 with small intimacies, it is in complete opposition to class struggle, which derives from conscious and organised mass action by the proletariat.

* The working class is the only class which can carry out the communist revolution. Its revolutionary struggle will inevitably lead the working class towards the class struggle, and therefore to the destruction of capitalist states, and that will lead to over- throw all existing states and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat on a world scale, within the framework of the international power of the workers’ councils, regrouping the entire proletariat.

The bourgeoisie is the only class which can carry out the revolutionary struggle. Its revolutionary struggle will be really important for the working class towards the class struggle, and therefore to the destruction of capitalist states, it will inevitably lead to the working class towards the class struggle, and therefore to the overthrow of all existing states and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat on a world scale, within the framework of the international power of the workers’ councils, regrouping the entire proletariat.

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