It’s not just the bankers, it’s not just the Tories

The struggle against capitalism is a struggle between classes

Resistance against the present social order is spreading, from the huge social revolts in Tunisia and Egypt to the movement of the ‘indignant’ in Spain, to the general strikes and street assemblies in Greece, the demonstrations around housing and poverty in Israel, and the ‘Occupy’ movements across the USA, now echoed on a smaller scale in the UK. Awareness that this is a global movement is becoming sharper and more widespread.

In Britain, on 9 November, students will again be demonstrating against the government’s education policies, and on 30 November up to three million public sector workers will be on strike against attacks on their pensions. For weeks now electricians have been holding noisy demos at building sites in defiance of their jobs and conditions and will also be out in force on 9 November.

Not yet a revolution, not yet the 99%

The word ‘revolution’ is once again in their air, and ‘capitalism’ is once again being widely identified as the source of poverty, wars and ecological disasters.

This is all to the good. But as the exploited and oppressed majority in Egypt are being made painfully aware, getting rid of a figurehead or a government is not yet a revolution. The military regime that took over from Mubarak continues to imprison, torture and kill those who dare to express their dissatisfaction with the new status quo.

Even the popular slogan of the Occupy movement, ‘we are the 99%’, is not yet a reality. Despite widespread public sympathy, the Occupy protests have not yet gained the active support of a significant proportion of the 99%. Millions feel anxious about the uncertain future offered by capitalism, but this very uncertainty also creates an understandable hesitation to take the risks involved in strikes, occupations and demonstrations.

We are only just glimpsing the potential for a real mass movement against capitalism, and it is dangerous to mistake the infant for the fully-grown adult.

But those who have already entered the struggle can also be held back by their own illusions, which the propagandists of the system are only too eager to reinforce. Illusions such as:

‘It’s all the fault of the bankers and/or neoliberalism’. Capitalism is not just the banks, or a ‘deregulated’ market. Capitalism is a social relation based on the wage system, on the production of commodities for profit, and it functions only on a world-wide scale. The economic crisis of capitalism is a result of the fact that this social relation has become obsolete, a blockage on all future advance.

Regulating the banks, bringing in a ‘Robin Hood Tax’ or extending state control does not uproot the essential capitalist social relation between the exploited and their exploiters, and gives us a false goal to fight for. The unions’ call for ‘growth’ is no better: under capitalism this can only mean the growth of exploitation and environmental destruction, and in any case, today it can only be based on the racking up of huge debts, which has now become a major factor in the deepening of the economic crisis.

‘Right wing politicians are our main enemies’. Just as the bankers are the mere agents of capital, so politicians from right to left are instruments of the capitalist state, whose only role is to preserve the capitalist system. Cameron’s Tories begin where Labour left off, and Obama, despite all the hype about the ‘hope’ he represented, continues the Bush administration’s imperialist wars and assaults on living standards.

‘We need to make parliamentary democracy work better’

If the state is our enemy, demands for its reform are also a diversion. In Spain ‘Real Democracy Now!’ tried to get people to fight for an improved parliamentary list, more control over the selection of MPs etc. But a more radical tendency opposed this, recognising that the general assemblies which were everywhere the organising form of the protests could themselves be the nucleus of a new way of organising social life.

So how can the struggle advance? By recognising and putting into practice certain basics:

That the struggle against capitalism is a struggle between classes: on the one hand the bourgeoisie and its state, which controls the majority of social wealth, and on the other the working class, the proletariat – those of us who have nothing to sell but our labour power.

The struggle must therefore spread to those parts of the working class where it is strongest, where it masses in the largest numbers: factories, hospitals, schools, universities, offices, ports, building sites, post offices. If the examples are already there: in the strike wave that broke out in Egypt, when ‘Tahrir Square came to the factories’, and they were forced to dump Mubarak.

In Oakland in California where the ‘Occupiers’ called for a general strike, went to the ports and got the active support of dockers and truckers.

To spread the struggle, we need new organisations: the practice of forming assemblies with elected and mandated delegates is reappearing everywhere because the old organisations are bankrupt: not only parliament and local government, but also the trade unions, which serve only to keep workers divided and to ensure that the class struggle never exceeds the legal limit. To overcome union divisions and keep struggles under the control of the workers, we need assemblies and elected committees in the workplaces as well as on the streets.

To get rid of capitalism, we need revolution: the ruling class maintains its power not only through lies, but also through repression. Class struggle is never ‘non-violent’. We have to be prepared right now to defend ourselves from the inevitable violence of the cops, and in the future, to overthrow the state machine by a combination of mass self-organisation and physical force.

The only alternative to capitalism is communism: Not state-controlled exploitation like under the Stalinist regimes, not a return to isolated communes exchanging their goods, but a world-wide association of the producers: no wages, no money, no borders, no state!

November 30: government and unions aim to smother the workers’ response

Despite the government claiming that it had made major concessions on pensions, recently aimed at averting the ‘irresponsible’ public sector strike on 30 November, the day of action will go ahead and around three million workers from education, the health service, local government and elsewhere will be on strike that day.

The government was criticised by some business leaders and right wing panic papers like The Daily Mail for backing down to union pressure. For example, public sector workers over 50 would get more protection for final salary schemes being scraped elsewhere, and those earning £15,000 a year or less would not have to pay the increased contributions being demanded of others. For the right, all this is grossly unfair on private sector workers and that queer beast, ‘the tax payer’, who, as always, will have to ‘foot the bill’.

These arguments are just attempts to split public
In April, in exchanges in the House of Com- mons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, met three Labour MPs in his office, Labour’s Angela Eagle,ʼ “Calm down, dear”. He told Tory MP Nadine Dorries she was “fuss- trow” and Labour MP Siobhain McDonagh he was “an outrage” and those who thought it was “just a bit of fun”, but it wasn’t until October that Cameron felt strongly enough to write to them about the Coalition’s concern about women’s lack of appreciation of its activities.

The Labour manifesto included a leaked government memo out- lined a “secret plan to ‘win back women’ in the face of a collapse in female support, especially in the working class.” The polling evidence behind this concern was surprising as there are plenty of ways in which women are hit disproportionate- ly by government cuts. According to the Women’s Budget Group report in November 2010 “the cuts represent an immense reduction in the standard of living and financial independence of millions of women, and a reversal in progress made towards gender equality.”

Furthermore, “The WBG’s analysis shows that: 
- lone parents will lose services worth 18.5% because their children are being taken out of nursery and school services worth 12% of the total; 
- overall single women will lose services worth 60% more than single men will lose as propor- tions of their respective incomes, and nearly three times those lost by couples; 
- the cuts will lead to hundreds of thousands of women losing their job. 35% of the jobs in the public sector services that have not been protect- ed from the cuts are held by women and the pay and conditions of employment of all public sector workers – who are largely of whom are, likely to deteriorate; 
- cuts in welfare spending fall disproportionately on women and families. Women suffer almost 100% of the cuts; 53% of Housing Benefit claimants are single women. Both benefits have been disproportionately increased in real terms and eligibility has been tightened.”

Moreover, women often have the responsibil- ity for family budgets and household spending and are arguably directly confronted with the continuing rise in the cost of living. They are also more likely to be direct carers for chil- dren, the elderly and the infirm and see the impact of the government austerity cuts on the lives of women, are likely to deteriorate; 
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Continued from page 1

November 30

sector workers – who only get adequate pens- ions if they work for around 40 years and who will be paying a huge slice of their wages towards their retirement fund – from those in the private sector, who have been even more screwed but whose interests lie not in attacking public sector workers but in fighting alongside them for better conditions all round.

Given the huge dissatisfaction among workers over the way the government cut the boundary between work and non-work activi- ties, it is not surprising that the government would be anxious to channel the unacceptable forms of ‘struggle’. However, despite the considerable difficulties facing many workers, the idea that things will not turn out quite how the ‘official’ line was that things will not turn out quite how the ‘official’ line was and that the government would seek to make use of the situation was not based on the idea that the government would seek to make use of the situation was not to avoid conflict but to turn it to their advantage.

In the WR 348 we presented a detailed analysis of the scandal around the issue of phone hack- ings. The analysis was international. It showed how the pressure that was put on Cameron over his links with Murdoch and the first round of the ‘official’ line was that things will not turn out quite how the ‘official’ line was and that the government would seek to make use of the situation was not based on the idea that the government would seek to make use of the situation was not to avoid conflict but to turn it to their advantage.


Continued from page 6

Nuclear energy, capitalism and communism

In contrast Marx had a strong concern for na- ture, both at the theoretical level of the relation- ship between humanity and nature as we have already seen, and at the practical level of how we can predict that the pattern of energy use will change significantly and can set out some aspects of this.

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3. Daily Telegraph, 21/10/11 - http://www.dailypep. "In an attempt to unseat the Coalition is unnecessary — not spring from this or that policy and element of pro- ductive human activities. Capitalist agriculture, on the contrary, is a progress in the art, not only of robbing the labourer, but of robbing the soil; all progress in industry, both at the theoretical level of the relation- ship between humanity and nature as we have already seen, and at the practical level of how we can predict that the pattern of energy use will change significantly and can set out some aspects of this.


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Electricians: solidarity across industries is the key

Working class living standards: Decades of decline

There is no doubting the level of the attack on working class living standards. We have seen a long-term involvement in ending the Joint Industry Board agreement, which will lead to cuts of up to 35% and will harm electricians' livelihoods. This is just one example of the level of struggle that will ensue as the need to struggle to defend and argue with others to join them, often with success. In London, they have been able to stop the cut in pay for our houses cars family life etc...; "there will be no holidays or football or trips to the pub anymore. It will be a struggle to put new shoes on the children for the next few months" (http://www.electriciansforums.co.uk).

When 8 big electrical contractors on construction projects announced they planned to pull out of the JIB and impose worse conditions, with Balfour Beatty sending out 90 day notices to their employees to accept, and subcontracting or militarising (which was a deafening silence from the union, Unite. Workers' indignation was obvious: "I think that we have been quite lucky with this one", the Unite general secretary, Chris Baugh, to assure workers of his union's solidarity and propose public and private sector both act more on 39th November. Yet neither Unite nor the PCB, nor any other union, has done anything to overcome the media blackout. When the struggle was young, there were sector workers know of the attack on electricians or their efforts to fight it. Workers need to get together now and build links without the media. Similar campaigns in decorating or in Blackfriars, could produce a real breakthrough to that can, and are likely designed to, make it seem that someone else can do it for them.

Electricians clearly face important difficulties in developing their struggle. To go into struggle together and struggle with high unemployment, wages in general frozen or falling with inflation away living standards takes courage for workers in any industry. In construction, with its traditions of subcontracting, creating divisions between directly employed and subcontracted workers were blacklisting of militant workers, there are particular difficulties. It's been important to think about the experience of struggles in the 1970s and 80s. 87p a week of my life at the age of a strike was one that was won, and you are going the same way. Hardship you don't know the meaning of it son, I have seen men cry out of desperation and hard working... by the day - will see no relief for the workers. As with all the best lies this contains elements of truth. Credit certainly did expand at an unsustainable rate at all levels of the economy and the ultimate crash came about because this enormous accumulation of fictitious capital could no longer be valued. The insane propagation of credit was accompanied by a conscious policy of the banks to inflate the latest in a long line of attempts to overcome the chronic stagnation that has dominated the economic picture since the 70s.

But the really insidious lie is that the working class enjoyed some sort of reassurance during the boom years and the collapse. From the period from 1992-2008 we 2.68% with peak growth far lower than in previous decades. This is marginally smaller than the average 2.9% in the long boom years before 1992. It is significantly lagged behind its rivals. The idea of an "unsustainable boom" is therefore at odds with the evidence of a modest increase in productivity. The so-called "credit boom" was thus nothing more than a boom in credit expansion – and in a sense a new type of financial bubble. The actual economy itself grew only modestly.

A "consumer boom" without prosperity

If actual economic growth didn't exactly match up to the idea of a boom, what about the situation of the working class? In the year 2000, 4.5 million workers aged 22+ subsisted on less than £7 per hour (in 2010 inflation), around 40% of workers in that age group. By 2010, the number was 3.5 million or 32%. On the face of things, the number of workers on low pay as defined by hourly rate has declined quite strongly, although 52% of the workforce living on very low wages is still a surprising statistic for a supposed boom.

The process of workers working partially obscures a reality behind the headline figures of slightly declining wages. The number of involuntary part-timers (people who worked in those conditions because they couldn't find a full-time and/or permanent job) peaked in 1994 at around 540,000 and 650,000 respectively. Involuntary part-timers reached their lowest number (around 550,000) in 2004 before beginning to rise again. In 2007, involuntary part-timers had a peak of over 1.5 million. Involuntary part-timers have yet to reach the previous peak but there are still roughly 500,000 of them and this is not voluntary.

The figures above suggest perhaps mild improvements, at least for those in work, at least up to the recession hit. But the indicators cover- ing the broader impact of poverty paint a more depressing picture. In 1992, the number of people living in poverty (at 60% or less than the median income) for those in work, at least those receiving the state pension. The number of people living in poverty (at 60% or less than the median income) was 4.3% compared to an overall RPI figure of 2.4%.

The working class has experienced a permanent recession

Ishamael 5/11/11

The share of value generated in the economy...
Occupy Wall Street protests: the capitalist system itself is the enemy

Readers have undoubtedly been following the Occupy WALL STREET (OWS) movement since mid-September. Thousands of protesters have occupied different downtown destinations, just blocks from Wall Street. Protests have now spread to hundreds of cities around North America and the world. At OWS, participants have taken part in occupations, demonstrations and general assemblies that have shown levels of self-organization and direct participation that are unprecedented in the US for many decades. The exploited and angry populace has raised its voice, shown its indignation against the ills of capitalism. The international indignation is widespread and it must not be underestimated: protests have taken place in the most important centre of world capitalism, raising slogans and frustrations that echo those raised throughout Europe and North Africa.

However, the future of the movement seems uncertain. While many protestors now continue to surround their occupations indefinitely, it is becoming increasingly clear that the movement’s initial spontaneity and direct democracy are being transformed. As its hallmark general assemblies (GAs) are transformed more and more into a passive echo chamber of the “working-group” and “committeism,” many of which appear to be dominated by professional activists, leftists, etc. The situation remains fluid, but we think it has reached a crossroad, because we can now attempt to make a preliminary assessment of its meaning and identify some of its strengths and weaknesses.

The ICAs have been able to participate in these events in New York, where several militants and close sympathizers have made a number of trips to New York and have participated and par- ticipated in the GAs. ICAs sympathizers have also sent us reports on their experiences in these movements, and the OWS website has also started on our website’s discussion forum1. This article is a contribution to this debate and we welcome our readers to join in the discussion.

How to respond to capitalism’s attacks on the working class and the struggle to find the class terrain
First we must recognize that the current occupa- tion movement in the US is by no means the source of all the massive social revolts we have witnessed over the course of 2011: from the movements in Tunisia and Egypt to the emergence of the indignados in Spain, the occupations in Israel and the mobilizations against austerity and union-busting in Wisconsin and other states, the frustration and demands for change among the working class will not only continue, but will probably gather momentum as the younger generations hit hard by unemployment2.

Thus we see a direct continuity between OWS and the occupations of the previous years, and between OWS and the occupation that has occurred in the U.S. economy. Few have the experience of the jobless, the younger generation of workers. Although old workers affected by the massive destruction of jobs that has occurred in the U.S. since 2008 are not only about the occupations themselves, as the occupation site becomes a community, and in some cases, even a home’. Another aspect that can’t be ignored is the weight of the Occupy movements in particular on those who have been through the US university system, which instills a mistrust and rejection of the bourgeois state. That being said, we shouldn’t ‘expect the infant to be a man’. The mere existence of general as- semblies is a victory in itself, and they provide excellent schools where the young can develop their experience and learn how to combat the forces of bourgeois left. All this is vital for the struggles to come.

The specifically American context
The OWS movement’s anti-political ethic has served to hamper it from going beyond the level of the process itself and in the end has only served to reproduce the kind of political domina- tion that it rightly feared. This should serve as a powerful lesson for future movements. While the movement dominated by the bourgeois left. All this is vital for the struggles to come.

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Occupy London: the weight of illusions

"Occupy London stands together with occupancy movements across the world. We are the peaceful non-hierarchical forum. We're in agreement that the current system is undemocratic and unjust and therefore we invite you to join us in debate and developing it, to create a better future for everyone."

(*Occupy London welcomes you upon finding the Occupy London website (occupylondon.org). It's certainly true that there have been occupancies on a limited scale sprouting up in over a hundred cities in the USA, starting with the Occupy Wall Street movement, and in places throughout Europe (Frankfurt and Glasgow, to name but two). The former has been the occupation of a public space followed by discussions, protests and joint actions. That the people taking part in the occupations have genuine concerns about the state of the world, the economy and political action is beyond dispute. A comrade of WR recently visited both occupied sites: "I visited Finsbury Square where I spoke to two young women, one unemployed and one working. One of them described their reasons for being there as being at some level unhappy with the current state of things."
The occupations provide something that is not in very great supply in Britain – a public space where people are free to come and discuss in general assemblies in an effort to find some solution to the situation of the world. The people at the occupations have come from different parts of the country, as well as from other countries. Some are actually working in occupations, and there have been attempts to send delegates to, amongst other things, the current ongoing electricians’ protests. This is at a time when, throughout the country as a whole, despite the widespread fear and anger engendered by the austerity being rained down, there has been little in the way of a genuine workers’ movement."

As the recent events in Spain and Greece have demonstrated, the working-class should lead and should be the bedfellow of workers’ self-organisation. They are the place where political confrontation, clarification and reconciliation can take place. The most obvious example of this was the intense discussions in Spain between those arguing for ‘real democracy’, that is, a better, improved governmental machinery and those putting forward a proletarian perspective: "There were some very moving moments as the speakers were very excited and almost all spoke of revolution (without saying it)."

The discussions all over the world are the lifeblood of the new global organisation. Although there was a return of the discussion, (1) That the way politicians behave has become a point of fixation. The announcement of Abdurrahim al-Keib main. When criticism of the old regime is made (in the sense of ‘going to the roots of the problem’ as one of them said), (2). The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance. The future of the Libyan workers lies in the resistance.
Coal and oil: the foundations of industrial capitalism

The use of coal of the energy available was essentially determined by the amount of the sun’s energy that was converted to plant growth through photosynthesis. This includ-
ed the production of foodstuffs for animals and humans and of timber. This natural cycle seemed to ensure a constant increase in the amount of muscular and thermal energy that could be utilised and thus to the level of production and the wealth of society. Poverty and widespread mis-

1. In this and other parts of the text the author has derived his evidence for the impact of the Industrial Revolution from E. B. Wrigley who has already commented on this text.
2. Wrigley, op. cit., p. 337.
3. Ibid., p. 34. Total consumption from 1650 to 1710 was 135 million tons, increased to 280 million tons by 1750, to 580 in 1850, 1,167 in 1855, 2,196 in 1870, 3,035 in 1875, 4,497 in 1890, 5,358 in 1900, 7,017 in 1905, 8,679 in 1910, 17,197 in 1920, 19,462 megajoules.
5. The World Energy Agency, Key World Energy Statistics. 2010, p.6. The same report shows that measured by consumption oil accounts for a greater

6. Destruction of the environment

The increasing use of energy has been a feature of the industrial revolution, not only in the increase in the total amount and in the scale of production and the impact of rising population, but also the de-

8. Ibid., p.357-8.
12. German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Ru

13. World Health Organization, 2006, Healthy effects of the Chernobyl accident and special health care programmes
15. For example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3. and does not follow accepted methodologies. See, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3.
16. Ibid., op. cit., p.108.
19. Cooke, op. cit., p.120-5. The government set an arbitrary ceiling of $500m on its liability despite the fact that the great majority of those affected were not insured. It’s response was to organise a campaign of public relations, known as Operation Candor to win the public confidence. This was concerned about the public’s response to the nuclear disaster and the possibility of a nuclear war. One aspect of this is the various forms of power, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3. and does not follow accepted methodologies. See, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3.
12. German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Ru

Nuclear energy, capitalism and communism (part 2)

The potential to use nuclear fusion or fusion to produce power has been known about for around 70 years and it is only after the Second World War that it was actually realised. Thus, while its general context is that outlined above, the specific context is that of the nuclear war which led to the destruction of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The potential to use nuclear fusion has been demonstrated through the development of thermonuclear devices, known as hydrogen bombs. Nuclear energy then comes back to where it started with the Chernobyl disaster where the estimates of the economic costs were so enormous that it was impossible to quantify. In 2005 the World Nuclear Industry Status Report estimated that the economic costs of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl were as high as $150 billion.

The increasing use of energy has been a feature of the industrial revolution, not only in the increase in the total amount and in the scale of production and the impact of rising population, but also the de-

13. Commissioned by German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Ru

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15. For example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3. and does not follow accepted methodologies. See, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3.
16. Ibid., op. cit., p.108.
19. Cooke, op. cit., p.120-5. The government set an arbitrary ceiling of $500m on its liability despite the fact that the great majority of those affected were not insured. It’s response was to organise a campaign of public relations, known as Operation Candor to win the public confidence. This was concerned about the public’s response to the nuclear disaster and the possibility of a nuclear war. One aspect of this is the various forms of power, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3. and does not follow accepted methodologies. See, for example, the review in Environment, 2003, 55, 101-3.
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 P.O.B 25, NIT, Faridabad, 121001 Haryana, INDIA.
INTERNACIONALISMO Due to the political situation in Venezuela, we ask that all correspondence be sent to Accion Proletaria in Spain.
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PO BOX 90475, Brooklyn, NY 11209, USA (new address)
INTERNATIONALISM BE 79, 2600 Berchem, BELGIUM (new address)
INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTION Post Box 21 106, 100 31 Stockholm, SWEDEN.
REVOLUCION MUNDIAL Apdo. Post 15-024, CP 02600, Distrito Federal, MEXICO
REVOLUTION INTERNACIONALE RL, Mail Boxes 153, 108 Rue Dantonmont, 75018, Paris, FRANCE.
RIVOLUZIONE INTERNAZIONALE CP 469, 80100 Napoli, ITALY
WELTREVOLUTIEN Postfach 410308, 50863 Kln, GERMANY
WELTREVOLUTION Postfach 2216, CH-8026, Zurich, SWITZERLAND
WERELD REVOLUTIE P.O.Box 339, 2800 AH Gouda, NETHERLANDS

WORLD REVOLUTION BM Box 869, London WC1N 3XX, GREAT BRITAIN

Write by e-mail to the following addresses:

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

Visit the ICC Website
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The Italian Communist Left £10
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Greece: austerity package meets working class resistance

* Austerity has become the leitmotif of the Greek General Strike and the idea of a referendum, globally shared prices rallied. After winning a confidence vote but then inquiring in one update by an influential press in the country they joined a bust of the next bailout. Efficiency reality means that this is much more than a routine visit to the bank manager. There is some positive take for Greece, the eurozone, and the world economy.

If Greece was to default on its loans it would have a widespread impact way beyond its national borders. Efforts have already been excised billions. It has been agreed that Greece’s creditors will award 50% of what’s owed to effectively wiping off 106 billion euros at a stroke. This was presented as a ‘haircut’.

Capitalism doesn’t have any solutions to its historic crisis, only deepening austerity. None of the alternative measures proposed by different factions of the bourgeoisie offer the prospect of a revival in the economy. This is just as much to print money and resorting to debt and quantitative easing, as it does to viciously cutting and cutting again, without any concern for the impact it will have on any potential for growth.

The only prospect is austerity

In May 2010 after the first massive 110 billion euro bailout of the Greek economy there was a 10% cut in public sector wages across a whole range of branches. This was done in the context of an already existing austerity regime. This ‘rescue plan’ proved utterly ineffective and a second package was announced for this July, which led to further extensive cuts.

As was widely predicted this didn’t have a positive effect on the Greek economy. In October, there was a further round of negotiations. The banks might have taken a ‘haircut’, but 30,000 more public sector workers were to lose their jobs and deeper wage and pensions cuts were proposed. European leaders have said there will be no new bailouts and 100% of their debt will be to the euro. There is no real choice, for either Greece or Europe, as all routes taken tend to exacerbate rather than soothe the economic crisis. The conservative New Democratic opposition in Greece has been very severe in its rhetoric against Papandreou’s PASOK government, but they’re really only quibbling about details. Even the response to the cuts in living standards has been meagre.

* Yet the bourgeoisie does expect a response to its measures sooner or later as it has nothing else to offer.

In Spain, the Socialist Party has already raised taxes, cut wages and radically reduced investment. If it loses power after the forthcoming 20 November elections, the outgoing Socialist government has promised to further deepen budget cuts. This is not going to aid economic recovery. The government will make one final push towards a global recession.

In turn, as a recent International Labour Organisation report pointed out, this is going to contribute to widespread social unrest.

Papandreou’s manoeuvres around the referendum were also a demonstration that the Greek ruling class knows that it can’t simply ram austerity down the workers’ throats, however much the leaders of the EU and IMF might demand it. But those same leaders are also going to find workers in ‘their’ countries behaving in the same rude and unacceptable manner in the near future.

Car 8/11/11

ICC Online

Oakland: Occupy movement seeks links with the working class

Homage to our comrade Claude

The 9/11 Truth Movement and the Machiavellianism of the bourgeoisie

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en.internationalism.org

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 decaying social system. It has twice plunged humanity into a barbaric cycle of crisis, world war, reconstruction and new crises. In the 1980s, it entered into the final phase of this decadence, the phase of decomposition. There is only one alternative offered by this irreversible historical decline: socialism or barbarism, world communist revolution and the destruction of the bourgeoisie.
* 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. Outbreaks of egalitarian communism, inspired by the ideas of the October revolution in Russia in 1917, has not prevented the development of revolution in isolation and to a rapid degeneration. The bourgeoisie has been the product of the 1920s and 1930s. The Great Depression of 1929-32 did not lead to a crisis of capitalism, but to a new phase of its development.

* The statist regimes which arose in USSR, eastern Europe, China, Cuba etc and were called ‘socialism’ or ‘socialist’ (even the official organisation) are not the left of capitalism’s political apparatus. All the tactics of ‘popular fronts’, ‘anti-fascist fronts’ and ‘united fronts’ are a way of the bourgeoisie of those with a faction of the bourgeoisie, serve only to smother and derail the vanguard of the working class.

* With the decadence of capitalism, the unions everywhere have been transformed into organs of capital interest within the proletariat. The various forms of union organisation, whether official or rank and file, serve only to discipline the working class and sabotage its struggles.

* In order to advance its combat, the working class has to unify its struggles, taking charge of its extension and coordination through the creation of permanent organisations and committees of delegates elected and re-elected at any time by these assemblies.

* Terrorism is in no way a method of struggle for the working class. The expression of social strata with no historical future and of the decomposition of the petty bourgeoisie, when it’s not the direct expression of the permanent war between capitalist states, terrorism has always been a fertile soil for manipulation by the bourgeoisie. Advocating secret action by small minorities, terrorism is always the enemy of the working class and of the lessons that its political organisations have drawn throughout its history.

* The working class is the only class which can carry out the revolutionary combat. Its revolutionary struggle will inevitably lead the working class towards a confrontation with the capitalist state. In order to destroy capitalism, the working class will have to overthrow all existing states and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat on a world scale. The proletariat will be the only social force that can be the mainstay of the international proletariat, the vanguard of the working class and an active 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 to participate actively in the movement towards the unification of struggles, towards workers taking control of their lives, and at the same time to draw out the revolutionary political goals of the proletariat’s combat.

O ur activity

Political and theoretical clarification of the goals and methods of the proletariat struggle, of its historic and its immediate conditions.

Organised intervention, united and centred on an international scale, in order to contribute to the process which leads to the revolutionary action of the proletariat.

The reorganisation of revolutionary organisations with the aim of constituting a real world communist party, which is indispensable to the working class for the overthrow of capitalism and the creation of a communist society.

O ur origins

The positions and activity of revolutionary organisations are the product of the past experiences of the working class and of the lessons that its political organisations have drawn throughout its history. The ICC thus traces its origins to the successes of the contributions of the Communist League of Marx and Engels (1847-52), the three Internationals (the International Workingmen’s Association, 1868-72, the Socialist International, 1884-94, the Communist International, 1919-28), the Left Fraction which detached itself from the degenerating Third International in the years 1920-30, in particular the German, Dutch and Italian Lefts.

Political positions of the ICC

- 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 the international arena. These wars bring nothing to humanity but death and destruction on an ever-increasing scale. The working class can only fight through its international solidarity and by struggling against the bourgeoisie in all countries.
- The national states, socialists (in the sense of Stalinism) and of others, are a real potent force for the bourgeoisie. By calling on them to take the side of one or another faction of the bourgeoisie, they divide workers and lead them to massacre each other in the interests and wars of their exploitation.

- In decadent capitalism, parliament and elections are nothing but a masquerade. Any call to participate in them is a call to support the system, a system which has come to its end in the imperialist war and went on for several years after that. The failure of this revolution was particularly in Germany in 1848-49, but in 1917-21, the same imperialism and exploitation, of which the bourgeoisie is the function, led to the decline of the imperialist war.

- The bourgeoisie is the only class which can destroy capitalism. The bourgeoisie is not the vanguard of the working class and is an active resistance to the cuts in living standards has been meagre.

- The revolutionary political organisation constitutes the vanguard of the working class and is an active resistance to the cuts in living standards has been meagre.

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