Rulers can’t halt the slide towards the economic abyss

The question of ‘the economy’ — that is, rising unemployment, debt and inflation, diminishing pensions and wages and so on, ad nauseam — was at the centre of the recent local government election campaigns in Britain, just as it was in the French presidential elections and Greek parliamentary elections. All the parties who take part in these, and all other bourgeois elections, tell us to vote for them because they can deal with the economic crisis, while blaming the other parties for getting us into the crisis in the first place. They are all lying. Whatever policies they follow, this crisis can only get worse.

Britain is officially back in recession, although growth has been so sluggish in the last year most people probably won’t notice much difference. David Cameron blamed the ongoing Euro-crisis; Ed Miliband blamed David Cameron; Mervyn King wasn’t sure if the figures were right but decided to blame over-borrowed consumers for getting us into the mess in the first place. Naturally, no-one blamed capitalism. Despite the unprecedented austerity programme to bring down government debt, the weak growth may actually see borrowing rise: “Unveiling its non-economic outlook, the CBI said net borrowing would rise from £12bn to £12.2bn this year, compared with the official forecast of a fall to £12.4bn. The extra borrowing would more than offset the £18bn of fiscal consolidation planned in 2012.” (Daily Telegraph 3/5/12)

Britain is not alone in its economic difficulties: “Traders were rattled when the US Labor Department said fewer jobs have been created than analysts expected and the labour market as a whole had shrunk. The figures combined with alarming economic data showing that the services sector in France, Italy and Spain contracted last month.” (Telegraph 4/5/12)

Unemployment across the Eurozone is now 10.9%. In Spain, unemployment has now hit 24.4%, with over half (51.1%) of under 25s out of work. At the global level, the latest report from the International Labour Organisation, stated that “one in three workers worldwide — or an estimated 1.1 billion people — are either unemployed or living in poverty.” It estimates that, globally, 50 million jobs are needed just to return the world to pre-2008 levels.

While the ruling class attempts to present the crisis as a local problem, solvable if only we could get the right government in, the widespread nature of these problems shows they are the product of a global system in its deepest ever economic crisis — deeper than the Depression of the 1930s, and even more impervious to any solution, since the economic storms we have been through since 2008 are only the culmination of difficulties which have been mounting up since the end of the 1960s.

In spite of the trillions spent on rescue packages and the vast quantities of money pumped into the economy, the alleged ‘recovery’ is still standing on the edge of an abyss. The austerity programmes that were meant to rebalance the economy and pay off the debt are making the debt problem even worse. Yet more spending is unsustainable but the austerity programmes simply phase in the crisis.

In the end, it is the working class that pays the price for the crisis in the form of unemployment, wage cuts, increasing workloads and declining social services. As the economy continues its slow disintegration workers will be faced with a choice: remain passive and make ever more extreme sacrifices to keep a hopeless system going; or begin to defend their collective interests, resist capitalism’s demands and open the gates to a real solution to the economic dead-end: the revolutionary transformation of society. Ishmael 5/5/12

Downgrading the notion of economic recovery

After months of suspense, the verdict is in: Britain has suffered a double dip recession, after experiencing two consecutive quarters of economic contraction (0.2 per cent down in the first quarter of 2012, following a fall of 0.3 per cent in the last quarter of 2011).

Or, at least the verdict may be in, depending on who is writing the commentary. The differences of opinion on the interpretation of the figures are considerable. The Financial Times (25/4/12) has helpfully put together a compendium of the views being expressed: “A second consecutive drop in [gross domestic product] in the first quarter leaves the UK meeting the technical definition of recession….But we believe it is fairer to characterise the UK under-delivering on growth, rather than experiencing a double-dip recession.” (Allan Monks, an economist at JP Morgan). Continued on page 3
The attacks on workers’ pensions - the increase in contributions toward pensions, and the increases in the age for getting pensions - have been met with anger wherever they’ve been proposed or introduced. Unions have been loud in their criticisms of the attacks. In many countries there have been demonstrations and strikes over the issue, for example in Greece where there’s been a 25% cut in basic pension rates. However, the example of Britain shows that these union-led mobilisations have tended to divide rather than unite different sectors of the working class.

On 28 March for example (see RHR 341 “Why are we not united”?) teach unions such as the NUT and UCU retreated from the confrontations with a national strike, and the public sector PCS union actually called off a national strike. What was left was a London strike - involving just some from the education sector. For the strike and demonstrations planned for 18 April there has been met with anger wherever they’ve been proposed or introduced. The PCS and UCU are participating (but not the NUT, and Unite is also mobilising health workers) but the government continues to insist that the cuts will go on. The cuts to the education sector are, of course, just the beginning of a long-term cuts drive organized in the interests of the whole union apparatus and ideology. For others, such as the PCS and UCU, the cuts are the beginning of a new cycle of struggle against attacks on pensions that reveals a lot about the state of the economy.

Tanker drivers and workers cut off from public sector workers

Away from the campaign over public sector pensions, the UK electricity utility National Grid is involved in a struggle against the manoeuvres of the unions. In the tanker drivers’ dispute shop stewards from the Unite union have recommended that workers reject the “final offer” from fuel distributors. While this raises the possibility of future strike action it is very much hampered by the unions as an action against one small sector. One of the sticking points for the unions is on pensions. At the same time as others are pro-

ing work is inexpensive even for travelers, but much worse could happen because of the lack of funds made available by the state.

False leftist alternatives

When the PCS leadership called off a 28 March national strike leftists denounced the action as an admission that what they proposed instead was not an effective alternative. Socialist Worker (24/3/12) gave the example of the electricians’ strike saying that “The electricians had the confidence to strike independently of their union leaders—and thus force the unions into action.” While the struggle of the electricians took many ‘unofficial’ forms and expressed a great deal of militancy from the workers involved, it was still ultimately in the hands of the shop stewards. When the SWP and others put the struggle against the attacks on pensions that “We have to continue that fight in every union” it’s trying to conceal one of the most important acquisitions of the workers’ movement of the last hundred years. It’s not a matter of being independent of the unions, but fighting the whole apparatus of the whole union apparatus and ideology. For workers’ struggles to be effective they need to in-

Capitalism is heading straight for the abyss

The Middle East is a powder-keg and there are some who would be willing to put a match to it. The military means are already in position and even the most hawkish factions of the ruling class are ready to fight at the moment the benefit outweighs the cost. But in today’s de-composing capitalism the danger is that there will be the more openly ir-

rational bourgeois factions. The ‘messianic’ war-mongering of Netanyahu in Israel is perfectly typical of such thinking and does not indicate any systematic or momentum-reprieve. The tensions will remain and heighten and as long as capitalism remains the insane logic of the system will continue to drive us toward war. Tino April 2012 (adapted from an ar-

ticle in International Review 149)
Launch of ballistic missile by India
Another act in militarization in Asia

On the other hand: “Michael Saunders, an economist at Citigroup, said Britain was experiencing ‘the deepest recession and weakest recovery for 100 years’. It...”

The launch of ICBM Agni-V by India is just one expression of the frenzied arms race developing in Asia today. There are many players engaged in this game and India is one of the major players in it.

The figures recently released for the Spanish zone, released late last week, showed manufacturing to have fallen to 50.1 from 51.5 in March. In the Netherlands, the FT (24/4/12) reported a key development: The (Dutch) government’s collapse after far-right Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) failed to get enough seats in parliament to form a government. This failure is seen as a major setback for the euro project and could lead to a new round of austerity measures in the eurozone, in turn leading to a new round of recessions in Europe, which in turn would lead to a new round of recession and so on.

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International situation

We need to ask why this country is attracting so many refugees. The official story is that there is a war in Syria and that refugees are fleeing to save their lives. But the real reason is that these refugees are a valuable source of cheap labor for the multinational corporations that control the world economy. The imperialist powers are using the war in Syria as a means to expand their global empire and to boost their profits. The refugees are being exploited and oppressed, while the imperialist powers are enriched.


4. The international current affairs journal belonging to the Chinese Communist Party.

5. People's Daily


7. The West suffers from an economic recession, but its effect is outweighed by Western governments' attempts to manipulate and control currency.

8. China, as well as its neighbor North Korea, has shown high alert and adopted countermeasures if necessary.

9. China should not shrink before a possible showdown with the West but act so a solution favouring itself. China will adopt concrete measures to show its determination to take its own path. Such a move is important for China's interests.

10. If even a direct confrontation between the world's big imperialist powers can't be envisaged, then world peace campaign, such declaration how serious the situation is.

11. Workers of the world, unite! This is the truth that all workers must understand. If we want to protect our workers' rights and fight for a just society, we must stand in solidarity with workers around the world.
National bourgeoisie of disputing countries is everywhere in tension. Hundreds of thousands of workers in China launched wildcat strikes or demonstrations almost every day against their employers or foreign companies. A mass of problems are happening in Vietnam because of low-wages and absence of benefits. Filipino workers face experience the same challenges. The struggle of the proletarians facing the “third world” are nothing different from the handshords of their brothers/sis- ters in the “first world” countries, particularly the USA.

The main and central objective of each national capital is to fan the flame of tension in order to gain control over the colonies or to loosen tension that colonial nation “trampling upon our sovereign right.”

Class unity and struggle against the poison of nationalism and patriotism

Is it the capitalist class, local or foreign, that is the true proprietor and holds all the land of the nation? We need not support the calls of our national bourgeoisie for “national sovereignty” and “defence of our national dignity” or the Philippines. These are devices divisive for unity as a class!

We should not be persuaded by these sweet talks and smooth speeches, and by poisonous propagandas of our “own” governments. Let us continue our struggle against all attacks of capital upon our ranks within our countries. Let us continue to expose the oppressive and exploitative nature of the capitalist class, local or foreign. We need to strengthen our unity. Now is the time to strengthen the unity of the Chinese and the Filipino proletariats.

“National sovereignty” and “national unity” are chains that will keep us forever enslaved from this capitalist prison. These are devices divisive for our countries. Let us continue to expose the oppressions and stratifications of people who are relatively backward in their consciousness to overcome these colonial foundations.

The Philippines is to poison the minds of the toiling masses with nationalist fervor and ideology.

Comrades, Filipino and Chinese workers, let us not be persuaded by these sweet talks and smooth speeches, and by poisonous propagandas of our “own” governments! Let us continue our struggle against all attacks of capital upon our ranks within our countries. Let us continue to expose the oppressive and exploitative nature of the capitalist class, local or foreign. We need to strengthen our unity. Now is the time to strengthen the unity of the Chinese and the Filipino proletariats.

Filipino and Chinese proletariats is not in our interest and we have nothing to gain whoever win and own the Spratly islands. Our interest is to free ourselves from poverty, from being wage slaves. Our interest is to end capitalism and build a society free from oppression and exploitation. Our expenses are and will be for the Filipino and the Chinese, the Philippines, Imperialist China, and all Imperialist countries.

Capitalism is the root-cause of wars in the era of imperialism. The only guarantee for humanity to have lasting peace is the total destruction of capitalism.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! DOWN WITH THE CAPITALIST CLASS, LOCAL AND FOREIGN! OVERTHROW OUR “OWN” NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONALIST IDEOLOGY!

DOWN WITH IMPERIALIST CHINA AND AMERICA! DOWN WITH THE WORLD IMPERIALIST SYSTEM!

These people generally live above the law and cannot be brought to justice for the harm done. There is no way though on how to get it out of China. This is possi- bly where the Old-Harvian connections come in. China and the US have been using this againarium to keep their leadership’s wealth. The politically well-connect- ed have thrive in China and the country’s leaders, President Hua and Premier Jiang, have amassed staggering amounts of wealth. “… the families of the various members of the Politburo have very large stakes in the property. This was written on a special report on China: “The National People’s Congress 70 richest members added more to their wealth last year than the combined net worth of the chairman of the National People’s Congress and the US Supreme Court judges”. It estimates their average worth at $1.28 billion, making Mitt Romney look skint. With a projected over 40% of the population to be below the poverty line in 2020 (a result of the falling birthrate: “In 2000, there were 228 million children in China. By 2020, there will be only 154 million”. —China’s birthrate declined sharply after the parents has been smashed by the needs of the capitalist economy. Children may work far beyond the normal 8-hour working day. The inability to control the pace of work and of the work environment has an enormous impact on cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as on the mental health of employees. Health Organisation estimated deaths in China from respiratory diseases alone to be 750,000 a year. The era of cheap labour has finished and, along with massive economic expansion, there has been an enormous growth in social inequality. This latter alone will make the so-called “necessi- ty for reforms” all the more problematical. One of the striking aspects of the tens of thousands of re- ported “incidents” is how many were undertaken when the oldest generation was trying to maintain arrogant and corrupt land seizures and pollution. The whole “democratic” campaign, mostly engen- dered outside China, extends beyond Free Trade Agreements. The whole “democratic” campaign, mostly engendered outside China, extends beyond Free Trade Agreements.

First, a murder mystery – or a suspected murder – has been an enormous growth in social inequality. This latter alone will make the so-called “necessity for reforms” all the more problematical. One of the striking aspects of the tens of thousands of reported “incidents” is how many were undertaken when the oldest generation was trying to maintain arrogant and corrupt land seizures and pollution. The whole “democratic” campaign, mostly engendered outside China, extends beyond Free Trade Agreements. The whole “democratic” campaign, mostly engendered outside China, extends beyond Free Trade Agreements.

This is partly a response to these extremely mili- tant protests against the Party structures and the family of Bo before a reported falling out. Hey- wood, one of several ‘class’ of Old-Harvians resident in and around Beijing, with links to the higher echelons of the Chinese state, also worked for the corporate intelligence unit, Hikmati, set up by ex-M6 elements. The British security services have said that there are links between Bo and the Chinese security services.

Another factor it points to is the endemic corrup- tion throughout the regime, and the party has long warned that this corruption is a great threat to its grip on power. In contrast to the old party cadres and factions, the current individuals in the elite have made enormous monetary gains which have spread about through families and cliques.

The gravity of the situation facing humanity is fundamentally a capital-ist economy, after four decades of trying to deal with an open economic crisis, is breaking down the visual. The perspectives posed by the destruction of the environment appear more sombre with each new scientific study. War, starvation, repression and corruption are the daily lot of millions.

At the same time, the working class and the other oppressed layers of society are beginning to rethink Marxism’s methods for sacrifice and austerity. Social revolts, occupations, demonstrations and strike movements have broken out in a whole series of countries from North Africa to Europe and North and South America.

The development of all these contradictions and conflicts more than ever confirms the need for the active presence of an organisation of revolutionaryists, able to analyse a rapidly evolving situation, to speak clearly with a unified voice across borders and continents, to participate directly in the movements of the exploited and help clarify their methods of struggle.

There is no hiding the fact that the forces of the ICC are extremely limited in comparison to the enormous responsibilities we face. We are seeing the worldwide emergence of a new generation looking for revolutionary answers to the crisis of modernity. We need to look closely at those who sympathise with the overall aims of our organisation to connect with the ICC and make their own contribution to its capacity to act and to grow.

It is therefore necessary for our organisation to increase our contacts with our organisation, although we will come to that. We value any kind of support and assistance that all those who are in agreement with our politics can offer.

How can you help?

First, by discussing with us. Write to us by letter, email, or take part in our online discussion forums, public meetings and meetings organised for contacts. Raise questions about our positions, analyses, the way we work, our way of understanding things.

Write for our website and papers, whether reports on meetings you have attended, what’s happening in your workplace, sector, or neighbour-hood, or more developed articles, theoretical contributions, etc.

Help us translate from/to into many different languages in which we write: the ICC has web pages of varying size in English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Hungarian, Swedish, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino. There are always too many articles to translate into all the languages, so we are looking for some of the most basic texts of our organisation. If you are able to translate into these or other languages, let us know.

Participate in our public activities: setting the press on the street, speaking and distributing our press and leaflets at picket lines, demonstrations, occupations. Help us to intervene at political meetings, go along to them yourselves and argue for revolutionary ideas; contribute to the internet discussion forums in which we participate regularly, such as www.libcom.org or www.relevant.com (in particular the left communist forum on the latter) and www.red-mars.com, etc.

If you are particularly interested in talking about revolutionary politics and the class struggle, set up discussion circles, class struggle forums or similar groupings, which we would be more than happy to help you get going and to take part in ourselves.

Provide us with practical skills and resources: photos, artwork, computer skills…

Help increase our very restricted finances by making a donation. Send us back copies of our publications, and each extra copy we sell means that we can produce more copies or, in some cases, also contribute to the organisation to a higher level by becoming members.

While not every sympathiser will join the organisation, we think that becoming a member means taking part in the world capital-ist economy, after four decades of trying to deal with an open economic crisis, is breaking down the visual. The perspectives posed by the destruction of the environment appear more sombre with each new scientific study. War, starvation, repression and corruption are the daily lot of millions.

First before joining the ICC, it is essential for any comrade to have an in-depth discussion about our fundamental political positions, which are linked to a general Marxist coherence and contain our platform (which can be found online) so that those who become members do so out of genuine conviction and are able to argue for our political positions because they have a real understanding of them. It is equally important to discuss our organisational structure and agree on its basis: principles and rules which guide our functioning: how we collectively organise at the local, national, and international level, the role of congresses and central organs, how we conduct our internal debates, what is expected of members in terms of their participation in the life of the organisation, and so on.

In this sense, we are in the tradition of the Bolshevik party, for whom a member was someone who not only agreed with the party’s programme but aimed to actively defend it through the activities of the organisation, and was therefore ready to be part of the method of functioning as embodied in its statutes. This is not an overnight process and takes time and patience. Unlike the left groups, Trotskyist and others who falsely claim descent from Bolshevikism, we do not seek to ‘recruit’ at any price, and therefore end up with members who are no more than pawns in the games of a bureaucratic leadership. A real communist organisation can only flourish if its members have a profound understanding of its positions and analyses and are able to take part in the collective effort to apply and develop them.

Revolutionary politics is not a hobby. It involves both an intellectual and an emotional commitment to facing the demands of the class struggle. But neither is it a monastic activity, cut off from the lives and concerns of the rest of the working class. We are not a cult, seeking to regulate every aspect of our members’ lives, turning them into fanatics incapable of critical thought. Neither do we expect every member to be ‘experts’ in all aspects of Marxist theory, or to enter our ranks with highly developed skills in writing or public speaking. We recognise that individual comrades will have varying capacities in different areas. We work on the assumption that everyone contributes according to their means – that it is the task of the collective to harness all these individual energies to build a living organisation.

The decision to enter a revolutionary organisation is not one to be taken lightly. But joining the ICC means becoming part of a world-wide fraternity struggling for a common goal – the only goal which really offers a future for humanity. Welcome to the new ICC sections in Peru and Ecuador

We are very pleased to announce the formation of two new sections of the ICC, in Peru and Ecuador.

The constitution of a new section of our organisation is always a very important event for us. First because it is further evidence of the capacity of the world proletariat, despite its difficulties, to give rise to revolutionary movements on an international scale; and secondly because it means that our organisation is able to strengthen its global presence.

The formation of two new sections of the ICC is taking place in a situation where the working class has, since 2003, begun to recover from the long period of retreat in its consciousness and its militancy that followed the events of 1989. This recovery has been expressed by a whole series of struggles which show a growing awareness of the impasse facing world capitalism and by the emergence, on an international scale, of internationalist minorities looking for contact among themselves, posing many questions, searching for a revolutionary coherence and debating the perspectives for the development of the class struggle. Part of this milieu has turned to the positions of the communist left and some of these elements have joined our organisation. Thus in 2007 an ICC n
Russia 1917: Start of the World Revolution 1.00 1.50 £0.30 £1.00 $1.00

The Decadence of Capitalism 3.00 4.50 £0.30 £1.20 $1.25

Nation or Class* 1.25 2.00 £0.30 £0.75 $0.75

AUSTRALIA
October Books
News From Nowhere
Tin Drum
Word Power

OUTSIDE LONDON
Housmans
London

LONDON
Bookmarks 1 Bloomsbury St, WC1.
Housmans 5 Caledonian Rd, Kings Cross, N1.

OUTSIDE LONDON
Word Power 43 West Nicholson St, Edinburgh EH8 9DB
Robinson’s Newspagets The University, Lancaster.
Tim Drum 68 Nuffnagel Rd, Leicester LE3 0BR
News From Nowhere 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY
October Books 243 Portswood Road, Southampton S017 2NG

AUSTRALIA
Gould’s Book Arcade 32 King St., Newtown, Sydney

Discussions with the ICC and others on our online forum

From a thread about the position of art in decaying capitalism

“How shouldn’t art, music and literature, and the artists who produce it, suffer under decadence as does everything else?”

Yes this is one of the crucial political issues in this debate isn’t it? Our basic argument is that decadence does not mean the full halting of the productive forces but rather their progressive blocking. As Trotsky says somewhere art is more vulnerable and more sensitive to the effects of decadence than any other area of culture, so we can say without a doubt that art today is blocked, staled, impotent, but clearly creativity, as a productive force, still attempts to flourish within increasingly impossible restrictions and contradictions. All this helps to confirm our analysis of decadence.

But I think it’s really difficult to then make judgments about exactly how things are blocked, and in exactly what way, and point to the evidence for it in individual artists, composers, musical genres etc. Personally I just don’t know enough about music theory etc to be able to judge one way or the other. Some of the arguments on this thread (allowing for it to be not all 100% serious) are more questions of individual taste than anything else – kind of questions that will no doubt still be hotly debated in a future communist society...

But to come back to our understanding of decadence, one of the really interesting things for me is to look at the period around the turn of the 20th century, on the very eve of decadence, which is also an incredibly creative and innovative time in the arts as well as science; Fauvism, Expressionism and Cubism in art, Schoenberg in music, Joyce in literature, not to mention psychoanalysis and relativity theory... This proves the final stage of progressive capitalism was also in many ways its highest stage, in terms of ideas, creativity etc. But it also means that these kinds of artistic developments often have a very complex, contradictory character, containing both progressive and reactionary elements. I guess as decadence continues you can say that the progressive element tends to diminish, although it doesn’t disappear completely...

MH

From a thread about the fundamental economic contradictions of capitalism

First I need to make an apology to comrades, the following post is rather long but I have not been able to participate until now. I have tried to limit the post but brevity is not one of my strong points.

This is a very positive discussion on the question of the causes of the crisis, which has drawn out several important questions: is the fall in rate of profit the causes of overproduction or is it the limit of the market? What is meant by the extension of the market? How does the extension of the market impact on the rate of profit? How do we understand Marx’s concept of the mass of profit and its importance in relation to the crisis of overproduction? The question of the contradiction between the constant process of the development of the means of production under the pressure of competition, the fall in prices and the rate of profit.

The way that the contradictions of capitalism flow and move through the relations of production, and what is the relationship of this dynamic to the crisis and development of the crisis?

Ernie

~Out soon~
International Review 149

Massacres in Syria, Iran crisis...
The threat of an imperialist cataclysm in the Middle East

Massive mobilisations in Spain, Mexico, Italy, India...
The union barrier against the self-organisation and unification of the struggles

Contribution to a history of the workers’ movement in Africa (V):
May 68 in Senegal

Critique of the book Dynamics, contradictions and crises of capitalism Is capitalism a decadent mode of production and why? (II)
Decadence of capitalism Reaction and regressions

Solidarity with the oil workers of Kazakhstan in the face of state repression
Mali: a coup that will worsen chaos

Contact the ICC

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Islamophobia, Jihadism, capitalism: same enemy!

Anders Breivik’s minute by minute account of his massacre of hundreds of people who were no longer alive in the international arena. These wars bring nothing to humanity but death and destruction on an ever-increasing scale. The working class can only respond to them through its international solidarity and by struggling against the bourgeoisie in all countries.

* All the nationalist ideologies – ‘national independence’, ‘the right of nations to self-determination’ etc. - whatever their pretext, ethnic, historical or religious, are a real poison for the workers. 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 exploiters.

* In decadent capitalism, parliament and elections are nothing but a masquerade. Any call to participate actively in them is a call to mislead the exploiters and to help them that presents these elections as a real choice for the exploited. ‘Democracy’, a particularly hypocritical form of domination of the bourgeoisie, does not differ at root from other forms of capitalist dictatorship, such as Stalinism and fascism.

* The working class is the only class which can carry out the communist revolution. 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 as a world scale form of popular power of the workers’ councils, regrouping the entire proletariat.

* The replacement of capitalist relations of society by the workers’ councils does not mean ‘self-management’ or the nationalisation of the economy. Communism demands abolition of the state, that is, of all forms of capitalist social relations: wage labour, commodity production, national frontiers. It means the creation of a world community in which all people are united towards the full satisfaction of human needs.

* The revolutionary political organisation constitutes the vanguard of the working class and is an active factor in the generalisation of class consciousness within the proletariat. Its role is neither to ‘organise the working class’ like the Social Democrats, nor to participate actively in movement towards the unification of struggles, towards workers taking control of their factories, nor at the same time to draw out the revolutionary political goals of the proletariat’s combat.

Our activity

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

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

Our origins

The positions and activity of revolutionary organisations are the product of the past experiences of the working class and of the lessons that all political organisations have drawn throughout its history. The ICC thus traces its origins to the successive contributions of the Communist League of Marx and Engels (1847 and the three Internationals (the International Working men’s Association, 1868-72, the Social International, 1889 and the Third International, 1919 and the left factions which detached themselves from the degenerating Third International in the years 1920-30, in particular the German, Dutch and Italian Lefts.

Political positions of the ICC

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 decadent social system. It has twisted humanity into a barbaric cycle of crises, 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 over this revolution, in a period when the conditions for it were not yet ripe. Out of the ashes of the Paris Commune and the defeat of capitalism's October, the 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 revolutionary wave, particularly in Germany in 1918-23, condemned the revolution in Russia to isolation and to a rapid degeneration. Stalinism was not the product of the Russian revolution but of defeat of the world revolution.

* The statified regimes which arose in the USSR, eastern Europe, China, Cuba etc and were called ‘socialist’ or ‘people’s democracies’ by the international bourgeoisie (and the centre) were only the formal equivalent 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

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

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

The reproduction of revolutions with the aim of constituting a world revolutionary party, which is indispensable to the working class for the overthrow of capitalism in all its forms of existence and decay.