A hundred years ago, in August 1914, the First World War broke out. The human balance sheet of this planetary slaughter is officially 10 million dead and 8 million wounded. When ‘peace’ was signed, the bourgeoisie swore with hand on heart that this would be the ‘last of all wars’. A lie, obviously. In fact it was only the first bloody confrontation marking the opening of the decadence of capitalism. The history of the 20th century and of this young 21st century has been riddled by incessant imperialist confrontations. The First World War was followed by the Second, the Second by the Cold War, and the Cold War by the numerous and ongoing theatres of conflict which have been spreading across the planet since the 1990s. This last period, if it doesn’t have the same spectacular aspect of a confrontation between two blocs, between two super-powers, contains no less of a threat to the survival of humanity because its dynamic is more insidious, leading not to world war but to the generalisation of wars and barbarism. The war in Ukraine, which marks the return of war to Europe, the historical heart of capitalism, is a qualitative step in this direction.

War returns to Europe

After the Second World War with its 50 million dead, Europe was straight away torn by the brutal rivalry between the eastern and western military blocs. During the long and murderous period of the Cold War, the slaughter took place at the peripheries of capitalism, through proxy wars between the USA and Russia. The bloody war in Vietnam was a clear illustration of this. But as soon as the Berlin Wall came down, a new period of conflicts began.

In 1991, the USA, at the head of a powerful but reluctant coalition, used the pretext of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to launch a war. The main aim was to stop the tendency towards the break-up of its old bloc through a demonstration of military force that would reaffirm its global leadership. The idea was to ensure the birth of a ‘new world order’. At the cost of a human and material disaster (more than 500,000 dead), above all through massive aerial bombardments and the explosion of depression bombs that destroy the lungs, this so-called ‘surgical war’ was to bring a new era of peace and prosperity. But this lie was very rapidly exposed. Almost simultaneously, a new war broke out at the very gates of Europe, in ex-Yugoslavia. An atrocious conflict a few hours from Paris, an accumulation of massacres, such as the one at Srebrenica, carried out with the complicity of the French Blue Helmets, where between 6000 and 8000 Bosnians were murdered.

And today, once again, the gangrene of militarism has reached the gates of Europe. In Ukraine the bourgeoisie is being torn to pieces. Armed militia, more or less controlled by the Russian and Ukrainian states, confront each other with the population as their hostage. This conflict, based on nationalism which have been cultivated for decades, is one for the vultures: the main actors, as always, are the great powers, the USA, Russia, France and other western European countries.

The dramatic situation in Ukraine clearly marks a qualitative step in the agony of this system. The fact that that this conflict is being pushed forward by divergent interests and is so close to Europe, the focus for the world wars of the previous century, shows the level of disintegration the system has reached.

The development of every man for himself

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the implosion of the USSR shattered the old bloc discipline and opened a real Pandora’s Box. Despite the short-lived illusions that followed the first Gulf war, the USA has been forced to carry on intervening, more frequently and in more places, and very often on its own: Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. This imperialist policy is the expression of a historic impasse and has clearly failed. Each new display of force by this declining super-power has resulted in an increasingly open loss of control over the war zones in which it has intervened. With the master in decline, we have entered a realm of disorder, of growing imperial appetites, exacerbated nationalism, spreading religious and ethnic conflicts. The centrifugal forces fuelled by these appetites have engendered conflicts which demonstrate the reality of social decomposition, resulting in the break-up of states, the rise of the worst kinds of warlords, of mafia-type adventurers engaged in all varieties of trafficking. This process has been incarnating for several decades. In the second half of the 1980s, a succession of terrorist attacks took place in major European cities like Paris, London and Madrid. These were not the work of isolated groups but of fully-formed states. They were acts of war which prefigured the 11 September 2001 attacks in New York. The darkest expressions of barbarity, previously confined to the edges of the system, had begun to return to the centres, to the areas where the presence and civilising potential of the proletariat stands as the only obstacle to a real plunge into nightmare.

Mounting barbarism

Every day, refugees fleeing from war-torn countries are dying in the attempt to cross the Mediterranean. Packed like cattle in unseaworthy boats, they are in desperate flight from the unpeachable. According to the UN’s Refugee Agency, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers, of people displaced within their own countries, has gone past 50 million for the first time since the Second World War. At the end of last year the war in Syria alone had produced 2.5 million refugees and 6.5 million displaced people. And all continents are affected by this.

Far from weakening the general tendencies of decadent capitalism, decomposition has strengthened imperialist ambitions and exacerbated their increasingly irrational aspects. The doors have been opened to the least lucid factions of the bourgeoisie, fed by the putrefaction of society and the resulting nihilism. The birth of Islamist groups like al Quida, the Islamic State and Boko Haram are the result of this process of intellectual and moral regression, of unprecedented cultural devastation. On 29 June, IS announced the re-establishment of a “Caliphate” in the regions under its control and proclaimed the establishment of Mohammed’s successor. Like its counterpart Boko Haram in Nigeria, it has distinguished itself by the murder of captives and the kidnapping and enslavement of young women. These obscurantist organisations don’t obey anyone and are guided by a combination of mystical madness and sound mafia interests. In Syria and Iraq, in the zones controlled by Islamic State, no new national state has any viability. On the contrary, the main tendency is towards the disintegration of the Syrian, Lebanese and Iraqi states.

Continued on page 7

Inside this issue

Anarchism and imperialist war: Nationalism or internationalism? 2

The war in Spain in the 1930s 3

The first shop stewards’ movement: From proletarian response to trade unionist obliteration 4

Chancellor’s autumn statement: The stale is not being rolled back, it is leading the attack 6

From the I.C.C. online Forum: Police shootings 7

Life of the R.C. 7

Feminist analysis: xenophobia right and left 9

International Communist Current in Britain

Dec 2014/Jan/Feb 2015

N°368 £1

en.internationalism.org

On all continents, capitalism sows war and chaos

Workers of the world, unite!
Anarchism and imperialist war: Nationalism or internationalism?

The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.

Today the question of war is once again facing the world proletariat. Not a world war around ready constituted blocs, but a more general, more chaotic descent into military barbarism across imperialist conflicts: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family. The price for this failure to draw the real lessons of 1914 was paid in full in the new crisis which swept the anarchist movement in reaction to the events in Spain in 1936-37. Important elements of the anarchist movement which had not betrayed in 1914 – above all the Spanish CNT – now plunged into the inferno of the civil war. This was broadly in conflict between two capitalist factions, the Republic regime dominated by the bourgeoisie, and the right-wing forces led by Franco, was part of the imperialist peace settlement which had been born out of the social democratic parties, but who now went on to form a new and explicitly communalist front, the USSR, was a growth of anarcho-nationalist or “ethno-anarchist” currents. And in 1939, the price was paid by the CNT which published in the US group the RWL in September 1939, that there has been, as after the betrayals of 1914, a failure to draw any class line between the Internationalists and the anarchist-patriots: in many cases, the latter were simply re-integrated into the former which is the core of the CNT. The CNT once again went back to “normal” after the war. Behind this incapacity to defend class principles internationalist manner is its only professed intellectual weakness but also a lack of moral integrity: all is forgiven as long as you stay inside the family.
criticisms of the positions of the AWU on libcom (some of which, like the criticism of the “inerrant” view about the situation in the Middle East, individual comrades have argued forcefully against the pro-PKK position of the RWL) is a branch of the IWA (Solidarity Federation) who posts as AES. The collective that runs the libcom site has frequently responded to criticism written from a left communist perspective: the ICC’s “warning” against the PKK’s new libertarian face was issued by the Turkish state’s “Peoples Protection Units” or YPG. The AF also has been involved with positions of the DAF itself. The Party, and the Turkish state” such independent initiatives must free themselves from Trotsky’s International Left Opposition. This atmosphere is a product of the current international situation, and corrects it completely, it will be necessary to affirm the absolute incompatibility of class war and the imperialist war. It is obvious that power can be won (for it is a question of winning, not “consolidating” it) only by strictly revolutionary methods and habits of Trotskyism. It is necessary to fight at the front; class war and the imperialist war. (“...power is not consolidated in the rear ... the fight at the front is transformed into a fight to defend private property etc.”) Anarchism remains a family which can easily accommodate bourgeois and proletarian positions and in this sense still reflects the vagueness of the ARW. As can be seen from this thread on libcom (http://www.libcom.org/forum/history/ resolution-1930-1934), the comradely comrades are assessing the International “Bolshevik” group of the 1930s and 40s. 2. See. The events in Spain have put every organisation to the test. We have to admit that we have not stood it. Seeing this, our first and foremost duty is to study the roots of our failure; our second duty is to admit our failure in all frankness before the national and international proletarian. Only thus can we hope to re-establish ourselves as a Marxist vanguard organisation. The following resolution is very far from being a sufficiently searching analysis of the real significance of the events in Spain from our point of view, and which the whole organisation must at this late hour begin immediately. The evolution of the position of our organisation with respect to the events in Spain has followed on the whole a line which seems to indicate that underlying all our mistakes there is a healthy and solid Marxist base; that line of evolution has steadily, although hesitatingly, moved away from our initial position and has progressively approached a correct one. But this process has been exceedingly slow and to a large extent shame- faced or even unconscious. Not once during the past seven months, the most crucial months not only in the recent history of the proletariat, but of the whole of the international working class, has there had from the very beginning fundamental differences between the majority of the PCI on this question, this will not make this the center of a principled struggle for a different line, have failed to carry out one of our most elementary duties of a leading member. The world noticing it. To achieve its end, the bourgeois- minded society had to fight against those who were fighting for the belief of the workers that they were fighting for their own class interests, i.e. that it was a civil war.
The first shop stewards’ movement
From proletarian response to trade unionist obstacle

T

he aim of this article is to clarify the revolu-
tionary experience of the proletariat in rela-
tion to the trade unions. One of the crucial political positions of the International Communist Movement (ICM) is that the epoch of capitalist decadence, have amply proven their re-
actionary, anti-working class nature. Their support for imperial war and their sabotage of rev-
olutionary upsurges, and other genuine struggles of the class, has made plain their place as a wing of the bourgeoisie.

In Britain, the shop stewards’ movement, com-
posed of rank and file trade union delegates may seem to represent a progressive alternative to the union leadership. However, the understanding of the real nature of the shop stew, we must lay the basis for examining the apparent contradiction between them and the rest of the trade union apar-
atus.

We can best do this by looking at the growth of the shop stewards’ movement out of a com-
deeve Movement (SS&WCM) during World War I, when it played a part in the waves of revolution-
ary struggle. The shop stewards in the early years of the twentieth century the impasse of the trade unions to achieving any real reforms on behalf of the workers. The unions were, as institu-
tions, forced more and more to identify their in-
terests with those of the bourgeoisie, and to the heightening revolutionary aspirations of the proletariat. The growing bureaucratisation of the shop stewards, as a response to capitalist decadence, accelerated the divorce between the trade unions and the proletariat. The mass workers’ parties, which were an expression of revolutionary aspirations to reformism, as expressed in the minimum pro-
gramme, represented the proletariat within the existing trade union structure. The new organisa-
tions of the shop stewards, by contrast, the old par-
mament, support to the declining capitalist sys-
tem against the deepening struggle of the working class.

In Britain, this capitulation to capitalism by So-
decree was definitely and irrevocably linked with the trade union, and the Labour Party and the TUC called for the trade union movement to end and the prevention of any future strikes. The union leaders, as representa-
tive of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, for exam-
ple, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
tives of the bourgeoisie, capitulated with little trouble to the war effort. The SS&WCM's consciousness and organisa-
tion was based on the furtherance of the inter-
mestic and international interests with those of the bourgeoisie. The union leaders, as representa-
representatives of the unions as a whole were defenders of bourgeois interests against those of the proletariat. Without understanding the class nature of the unions, the rank and file miners were reacting to bureaucracy within the context. The trade unions. As an indi-

ect result they were also rejecting the inherent ability of the working class to elect and mandate their own leaders. The shop stewards and workers’ council's reforms were designed to separate the workers from their leaders, and to ultimately assist in the abolition of the wages system.

The SS&WCM’s consciousness and organisation, in essence, remained within the boundaries of trade unionism. It was essentially a militant, proletarian reaction to the capitulation of the trade unions to capitalist barbarism, but it was severely limited. It did not fully appreciate the class forces and historical change in the capitalist system which had caused the degeneration of the old workers’ movement, and which required new, directly revo-

olutionary tactics and forms of organisation by the proletariat.

Confusion about the trade unions
The problem of the trade unions was not funda-
mentally that they were based on trade and craft rather than on the level of the whole class, al-
though this did express the backwardness of the unions. The amalgamation of existing unions, for example, could not change their reactive con-
tent, it rather expressed the tendency of capitalism to centralise and bureaucratisethe trade unions; the amalgamated Society of Engineers, for exam-
ple, could not change its reactionary character even if it was adopted to the war effort. The industrial union idea that the industrial or-
organisation of the class could gradually prepare for the socialism of the future, and which would then burst the political shell of the state, was a complete misunderstanding of the character of union organisation. The function of the unions had been to defend the workers’ immediate interests, not to engage in an economic attempt to dis-
rupt and ‘mobilise’ the workers. The attempts to give the unions, or rank and file trade union organisations, a revolutionary content occurred in a revolutionary period when the proletariat was to seize political power, not to ultimately assist in the abolition of the wages system.
tions. The above-mentioned pamphlet by Gallacher spells out the content of attempts at encouraging control over capitalist industry — a workers’ man-
appliance of the commodities theory of political and military power in the hands of the bourgeoisie, to be used whenever it became necessary to sup-
pport the continuing war.

Without fully understanding the reasons for the degeneration of the trade unions, the SS&WCM reduced itself to the state of a passive bystander of the reasons preventing the SS&WCM from escaping the framework of unionism. The essence of the union leadership was not that they had been torn out with the rank and file, because of their different surrounding- s to those of the international proletariat. The union le-

The miners did not develop any independent rank and file unionistic organs, and although they militantly defended their living standards, their struggle was confined within the miners’ union. This helped prevent any linking up between min-
ers and other sections of the class. An attempt to unify the SS&WCM and the rank and file commit-
tees in the miners’ and railwaymen’s unions at a March 1919 conference proved unsuccessful. The committees in the latter unions were content to work within the union structure, unlike the en-
gineering shop stewards.

The miners still had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated.

The most significant symptom of such structural backwardness was the control of the SS&WCM to the war along revolutionary lines, in order to ex-
press the need of the class to use the war to take the Social Democratic Parties, and the trade union question was not, as Murphy asserted, that the “memorandum” of the workers’ movement. ‘Democracy’ has never existed independently from material conditions; it always has a content which represents a particular class interest. The workers’ movement has never did not need to be mixed up with the employers.

The purpose of our analysis is not to dismiss the SS&WCM. WF Watson, a shop steward, who was very critical of the failure of the SS&WCM to take action in 1918, was the member of the Communist Party, and the Stalinists. The original ideological foundations and political organs which grouped the class to challenge the bourgeois state machine, the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proclamate the vital inter-
ergists of the class in a systematic and effective way.

The miners remained at work. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated they had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file.

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary, this nail had been ham-

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary.

It is true that the shop stewards’ movement was not, as Murphy asserted, that the “memorandum” of the workers’ movement. ‘Democracy’ has never existed independently from material conditions; it always has a content which represents a particular class interest. The workers’ movement has never did not need to be mixed up with the employers.

The purpose of our analysis is not to dismiss the SS&WCM. WF Watson, a shop steward, who was very critical of the failure of the SS&WCM to take action in 1918, was the member of the Communist Party, and the Stalinists. The original ideological foundations and political organs which grouped the class to challenge the bourgeois state machine, the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proclamate the vital inter-
ergists of the class in a systematic and effective way.

The miners remained at work. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated they had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file.

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary.

It is true that the shop stewards’ movement was not, as Murphy asserted, that the “memorandum” of the workers’ movement. ‘Democracy’ has never existed independently from material conditions; it always has a content which represents a particular class interest. The workers’ movement has never did not need to be mixed up with the employers.

The purpose of our analysis is not to dismiss the SS&WCM. WF Watson, a shop steward, who was very critical of the failure of the SS&WCM to take action in 1918, was the member of the Communist Party, and the Stalinists. The original ideological foundations and political organs which grouped the class to challenge the bourgeois state machine, the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proclamate the vital inter-
ergists of the class in a systematic and effective way.

The miners remained at work. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated they had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file.

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary.

It is true that the shop stewards’ movement was not, as Murphy asserted, that the “memorandum” of the workers’ movement. ‘Democracy’ has never existed independently from material conditions; it always has a content which represents a particular class interest. The workers’ movement has never did not need to be mixed up with the employers.

The purpose of our analysis is not to dismiss the SS&WCM. WF Watson, a shop steward, who was very critical of the failure of the SS&WCM to take action in 1918, was the member of the Communist Party, and the Stalinists. The original ideological foundations and political organs which grouped the class to challenge the bourgeois state machine, the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proclamate the vital inter-
ergists of the class in a systematic and effective way.

The miners remained at work. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated they had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file.

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary.

It is true that the shop stewards’ movement was not, as Murphy asserted, that the “memorandum” of the workers’ movement. ‘Democracy’ has never existed independently from material conditions; it always has a content which represents a particular class interest. The workers’ movement has never did not need to be mixed up with the employers.

The purpose of our analysis is not to dismiss the SS&WCM. WF Watson, a shop steward, who was very critical of the failure of the SS&WCM to take action in 1918, was the member of the Communist Party, and the Stalinists. The original ideological foundations and political organs which grouped the class to challenge the bourgeois state machine, the dictatorship of the proletariat, to proclamate the vital inter-
ergists of the class in a systematic and effective way.

The miners remained at work. And paradoxically when the Clyde work-
er strike was defeated they had leaders who were out of touch with the rank and file.

The absolute victory of the counter-revolution can only be genuine outside of and against the abstract, but of proletarian democracy, which existed independently from material conditions, it could only become, in a period of counter-revolutionary.
The first shop stewards’ movement

Thus the re-emergent shop stewards’ movement was not primarily a modern form of the political mobilisation of the class for its bloody defeat, behind the mystification of anti-fascism. The shop stewards are thus in an extremely good position to develop its own revolutionary organisations: workers’ councils and communist minorities.

The shop stewards are dangerous today precisely because they are embedded in the working class. They are usually elected by workers on the shop floor, they shape out day-to-day grievances of workers, work in the same surroundings, and even lead strikes. But their task is to ‘represent’ the workers within the framework of trade union and legal relations, and they are the agents of capital. The shop stewards are therefore the state policy of the capitalist state and expropriates the bourgeoisie. It is the state裡 the whole class smashes the capitalist state and expropriates the bourgeoisie.

The shop stewards are embryonic precursors of the workers’ council and communist minorities. Temporary committees can therefore be potentially embryonic revolutionary organisations.

The proletarian way

In the present deepening crisis of world capitalism, the emerging class struggle is forcing the revolutionary proletariat into the forefront of the struggle. The shop stewards’ movement today is not a mistake but brazen capitalist mystification.

The shop stewards and the Left

Leftist factions of the bourgeoisie also try to, in vain, to limit what was once a proletarian movement, by创设 the ‘shop steward’, the ‘rank and file organiser’, the ‘liber-tarians’, and utopians of all kinds fawn on the shop stewards, and attempt to recruit and influence them, sensing their importance and power within the class. The International Socialist, for example, a neoliberal Trotskyist organisation, bases its main strategy within the class on recruiting shop stewards, and forming ‘rank and file movements’ within the trade unions. It grounds its policy on a false analogy with the S&N movement during World War I. For IS the problem of this movement resided not in the consciousness and activity of the S&N/WCM but rather in the lack of organisation. This is too much to expect that, without the guidance of an interventionist revolutionary (sic) party, an interventionist revolution, not a revolution led by the working class, can lead a revolutionary struggle to the point of changing society.

For such Trotskyists, the fact that the shop stewards remained within unionism was very accept-able, for the shop stewards’ movement can be used to develop manipulative tactics of the working class, and their services are often paid for or topped up by the unions. Our interest is in the working class movement itself, and its inherent, potential, revolutionary class consciousness. Such committees are embryonic precursors of the workers’ coun-cils, the historically discovered organisational form through which the content of autonomous struggle and the state, the state are the state policy of the capitalist class faced with the current economic crisis.

OE, 6.12.14

So is Osborne rolling back the state? Changing the nature of local government which can help divert and contain the struggle. Leaving aside the very pertinent question of whether the state changed beyond recognition in the 1940s, let us look at the nature of the cuts that have been announced. Of course as the IFS points out, the chancellor has not explained how the cuts should be carried out beyond the next fi-nancial year. If the NHS, education and overseas aid remain protected, other departments will have to make cuts over the next 5 years. But in any case, protected spending in the NHS, for instance, does not mean it is spared ‘efficiency savings’ or cuts, since it is required to provide increased services for the ageing population out of the same funds, and staff are currently required to look at what can be done to reduce hospital attendances and look after more sick people at home. In relation to this we can look at the one area of spending which has increased, that is for the new cities, created by the government over the next 5 years. In any case, if cuts are going to be made over the next 5 years, are on sub on sub minimum wages once their travel is taken into account; they are limited to a ridiculously short time to spend with each client, and therefore obtaining their earnings from the clients themselves. This is a cut in living standards, for both care worker and client, not a change in the nature of local government which will continue to carry out the same functions, including collecting council tax, even if there is a substantial risk of some of them finding financially or being unable to carry out all their current statutory functions.

The army has been cut from 120,000 to 82,500, but this does not mean the British state is going to cease to defend its imperialist interests abroad. On the contrary, not only is the MOD trying to build up the Territorial Army of part-timers, it has also just announced the first British base in East of Suez since the 1970s, a naval base in Bahrain. Cuts to the Justice department do not mean an end to state repression. So far they have meant a swelling cut in legal aid, in other words greater difficulty for those who aren’t well off to get access to the courts. In line with the increased use of the TAs the Policy Think tank has recommended a re-arming of the public to help fight crime – it is not clear whether they have in mind specialist constables or Stasi-style informers.

Cuts to living standards are the only option for the ruling class. How quickly the new cuts are brought in may be an issue after the next election. But one thing is certain, whatever the new cuts are, the state, the state policy of the capitalist class faced with the current economic crisis.

OE, 6.12.14

Chancellor’s autumn statement

The state is not being rolled back, it is leading the attack

Continued from page 5

C hanges to stamp duty, making it cheaper to buy the right house, are very popular but do not mean buying one or buying in excess of £2 million, provides a little cover for the cuts announced in George Osborne’s autumn statement. We should have no doubt that the proposed spending cuts are an attack first and foremost on working class living standards, and continue the policies carried out by governments of left or right since the credit crunch, and before.

Let us briefly look at the affect on pay. Of course the Chancellor’s only direct announce-ment on pay concern the public sector, the 2 year freeze on pay we have already seen, followed by a 1% rise “in line with inflation” in real terms. In addition the cap on benefits makes lower pay feasible for employers. The success of this policy has led to workers in certain suffering a continuous fall in real wages since 2008 and the largest fall in real wages of all G20 countries since 2010. New jobs have been mainly self-employed, part time or low paid to such an extent that there is a shortfall in expected tax receipts leading to the government having to issue a report in charge of the problem, the problem occurring at least partly in the relative size of the state pension for providing a minimal living level in retirement being higher than expected. Result: more cuts are called for.

Cuts in welfare are a constant concern for the Chancellor – and for the whole ruling class – and it is no surprise that they feature prominently in the programme to further attack the working age benefits. “The welfare-budget has al-
On all continents capitalism sows war and chaos

This frightening barbarism, embodied in particular by the jihadists, is now serving as a pretext for new military crusades and western bombing campaigns. For the big gunners, this makes it possible to terrorise the population and the working class at low cost to themselves while posing as civilising agents. But Islamic State was at the outset partly armed by the US and factions of the Saudi bourgeoisie, not to mention the complicity of Turkey and Syria. This Islamist organisation has now escaped the control of its masters. Today it is besieging the town of Kobane in Syria, a few kilometres from the Turkish border, in a mainly Kurdish region. Unlike the first Gulf war, the great powers, with the US at the forefront, are running after events without any long-term political vision, simply reacting to immediate military imperatives. A heterogeneous coalition of 22 states, with very differing interests from each other, has taken the decision to bombard the parts of the town taken by IS. The US, the top gun in this pseudo-coalition, is today incapable of sending in ground troops and of forcing Turkey, which has a deep fear of the Kurdish forces around the PKK and PYD, to intervene militarily.

All the hot spots of the planet are burning into flame. Everywhere the great powers are being drawn blindly into the fire. The French army is bogged down in Mali, the US and its allies in Afghanistan, the Chinese and the Americans in Cameroon and of Nigeria, where Boko Haram has its hunting ground, armed conflicts and terrorist actions have multiplied. If we take into account the growing power of China in Asia, we can see that the same tensions, the same mafia methods are spreading across the entire planet.

Imperialist wars are more and more irrational

In the 19th century, when capitalism was flourishing, wars to form national states, colonial wars or imperialist conquests had a certain economic and political rationality. War was an indispensable means for the development of capitalism. It had to conquer the world; its combined economic and military power enabled it to achieve this result, as Marx put it, in “blood and filth”.

With the First World War, all this changed radically. The main powers in general emerged considerably weakened from these years of total war. Today, in the phase of the decomposition of the system, a veritable danse macabre, a plunge into madness, is pulling the world and humanity towards utter ruination. Self-destruction has become the dominant feature in the zones of war.

There is no immediate solution in the face of this infernal dynamic, but there is a revolutionary solution for the future. And this is what we have to patiently work towards. Capitalist society is obsolete; it’s not just a barrier to the development of civilisation but a menace to its survival. A century after the communist revolution in Russia and its reverberations in Germany, Austria, Hungary and elsewhere put an end to the First World War, in the present historical period, it is still only the struggle of the proletariat which can finish with this rotting world system. Antonin 5.11.14

ICC Pamphlets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prices</th>
<th>Postage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices in dollars applicable only to orders from the USA/Canada placed with INTERNATIONALISM, in New York.

*Out of print pamphlets will be photocopied which may take a little longer to supply.

Subscriptions to World Revolution

Readers will be aware that we have reduced the frequency of the publication of World Revolution.

On the positive side, our website is now our main publication, which we can update as necessary between publication dates giving a proletarian view on significant events in the world. It is also able to reach readers in parts of the world that our papers cannot.

At the same time, the rise in postal charges means that producing and selling papers is increasingly expensive.

From this issue we will be producing World Revolution quarterly, 4 issues a year. Our new subscription prices will appear soon. All existing subscribers will get the full number of issues they have paid for.

I ICC books on the history of the workers’ movement

The Italian Communist Left

Dutch and German Communist Left

The Russian Communist Left

Communism is not a nice idea but a material necessity

The British Communist Left

International Review 153

Main articles: 1914: how German social democracy came to betray the workers 1936-37: the war in Spain reveals anarchism’s fatal flaws (part one) Gauche Communiste de France 1948: on the function of the political party of the proletariat

Donations

Unlike the bourgeois press, revolutionary publications such as World Revolution have no advertising revenue, no chains of news agents and no millionaire backers. We rely on the support of our sympathisers, and those who, while they might not agree with all aspects of our politics, see the importance of an intervention of a communist press.

Donations at the day of discussion on ‘World War One: how the workers were mobilised for war and how they put an end to it’ £13.00

Contact the ICC

Write to the following addresses without mentioning the name: COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALIST POB 25, NIT, Faridabad, 121001 Haryana, INDIA. WORLD REVOLUTION BM Box 869, London WC1N 3XX, GREAT BRITAIN

From great Britain use uk@internationalism.org From India use india@internationalism.org From the rest of the world use international@internationalism.org

http://www.internationalism.org

Bookshops selling ICC press

LONDON
Bookmarks 1 Bloombury St, WC1. Housmans 5 Caledonian Rd, Kings Cross, N1. Freedom Bookshop Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

OUTSIDE LONDON
Word Power 43 West Nicholson St, Edinburgh EH8 9DB
Tin Drum 68 Narborough Rd, Leicester LE3 0BR
News From Nowhere 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4YW
Ocean Estados 243 Fortwood Road, Southampton, UK

AUSTRALIA
New International Bookshop Trades Hall Building, cnr. Lygon & Victoria Sts., Carlton, Melbourne

From the ICC online forum

Police shootings

Here are some extracts from the opening post on a recent thread on our discussion forum (http://en.internationalism.org/forum/1056/jamal/11572-hands-don-t-shoot-right-where-they-want-us) initiated by Jamal, a sympathiser in the USA. It’s a first reaction to the latest wave of protests against police brutality in the USA. The media and politicians use the confusion within the movement to hide the class element that is always contained in the question of state repression.

“Hands Up, Don’t Shoot”: Right Where They Want Us

The video of unarmed father and grandfather Eric Garner being choked to death is terrible and horrific, just like the death of the unarmed teenager Mike Brown…

However there have been serious problems with the response by the general public to these events. For those in America who even do consider it an injustice and aren’t taking the side of the police, their position can be summed up by the soundbites and tag-lines “black lives matter”, or “we need justice.” What we need to do is destroy capitalism, smash the state, and bury racist police forces with them… It’s tragic the majority of people still have not recognized that the role of the police, and the state in general, is and has always been to separate the haves from the have-nots, in the interests of the ruling class.

That should be the main take away; poor people are the victims under capitalism. And instead of sobbing and rioting, the reaction should be focused and conscious. But instead what we hear is “we need justice”, go easy on us, “hands up”, we surrender.

Meaningful resistance to these situations can only come from one place: an awakened, united and revolutionary working class. However, the slogan “hands up, don’t shoot” is representative of a working class which is none of these things. It is instead reflective of a class that does not know itself, that doesn’t know it alone has the power to carry out meaningful social revolution that can stop the police, the greedy bankers, capitalism itself and create a new society.

We say this: a communist future is the only future worth fighting for. Question what you have heard and start to realise this reality. Or keep getting murdered by the cops.

Life of the ICC
Immigration: xenophobia right and left

A cross the globe there is a ‘great debate’ about immigration. Many of the arguments about how to restrict it. Immigra- tion is presented as having a harmful effect on various economies of the world that put the interests of a country’s culture, as making our lives worse. Against these arguments are those who say that economics always get a net benefit from new- comers, that cultural diversity is enriching, and that in more affluent countries, there is a respons- ibility to welcome those who are fleeing from persecution and seeking a better life. Every day you can read news headlines that play with these themes.

In Switzerland, a referendum rejected proposed measures to severely reduce immigration – the op- ponents of the restrictions arguing that it would be ‘bad for the economy.

In the Mediterranean there are regular reports of rescues and drowning of refugees and migrants in boats on their way to Italy and Greece. But the left and the official anarchists have criti- cised the ‘brutal’ response of the wealthiest coun- tries in the resettlement of the millions of refugees from Syria to Europe.

The ideological campaigns of the bourgeoisie are dominated by the idea of a foreign threat and the need to strengthen frontiers and deterring invaders. As a form of nationalism it promotes the idea of a foreign threat and the need to strengthen frontiers and deterring invaders. Sometimes this takes the form of the ‘national interest’, sometimes the ‘national security’ and sometimes against the threat posed by other religions.

The arguments that point out the benefits of im- migration have been drowned out in the debate on the basis of nation- al economy. Immigrants are not a burden; they are useful to the capitalist economy.

As a result of this the bourgeoisie’s campaign is the trick of ethnicity. While denouncing the nationalism of the capitalist state and its support- ers, it is an ethnic one who encourages other ethnic groups to take refuge within ethnic groups. In practice, most na- tional censuses have questions about ethnic back- ground, showing an appreciation that, while peo- ple will not necessarily declare their identity to the capitalist state, they are often prepared to declare an identity that separates them from others.

Anti-racism is another phenomenon that the bourgeoisie uses against the development of class consciousness. Anti-racism constantly calls on the state to curb racism, tackle racists and uphold justice. Look at the protests in the US against the killing of black people by white cops. The call is always for justice. And yet the state remains the apparatus or the ruling capitalist class and it’s the ruling working class that can confront and destroy it.

A classic example of the reality of state anti- racism was the UK Labour government of the late 1960s. People came into the period think of Enoch Powell and his 1968 ‘rivers of blood’ speech foreseeing future ethnic conflict. In real- ity the Labour government had come to power in 1964 with a manifesto commitment saying that “the number of immigrants entering the United Kingdom must be limited” – and showed what this meant in 1968 with draconian restrictions on Kenyan Asians fleeing persecution. Another com- mitment in the 1964 manifesto was to “legislate against racial discrimination and incitement in public places” which led to the 1965 Race Rela- tions Act and the setting up of a Race Relations Board (subsequently the Commission for Racial Equality). The state could say that it was committed to dealing with racism, while at the same time practising racist policies against different groups of immigrants attempting to settle in the UK. The state could have its cake and eat it too.

Labour and the trade unions are also xenophobic

The idea that xenophobia is somehow natural goes against the actual experience of humanity. If you examine the tens of thousands of years of hunter-gatherer society before the advent of farm- ing and social classes, it is clear that relations based on mutual solidarity were at the root of survival in primitive communist societies. Further- more, humanity would not have gone beyond the stage of the horde if particular communities had not developed group/humanistic relations with other hu- man groups.

But while a social instinct is at the heart of what makes us human, the fragmentation of humanity, the alienation, individualism and nationalism fed by the capitalist system have brought to the fore the other aspects of the human personality. Marxists have rightly shown what capitalism is responsible for: a system of exploitation that has led to impe- rialist wars and genocide. While we can show how the revolts, revolutions and wars against capitalist class rule, we also have to recognise the weight of conformity, obedience and acceptance of capitalism and its ideologies. The propaganda campaigns around immigration do have an imp- act; people often do believe that there is a threat that must be confronted, and the ‘foreigner’ in our

Continued on page 7

8 Bourgeois Ideology

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 deca- dent social system. It has twice plunged humanity into a barbaric cycle of crisis, world war, reconstruction and climbing anew. 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 communism or the destruction of the world.

* The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first attempt by the proletariat to carry out this revolution, in a period when the conditions for it were not yet ripe. Outbreaks of this kind had been provided by the onset of capitalist decadence, the October revolution of 1917 in Russia was the first step towards an authentic world communist revolution in an international revolutionary wave which put an end to the imperialist war and went on for several years after that. The failure of this revolu- tion, in particular the defeat of the B-23, condemned the revolution in Russia to isolation and to a rapid degeneration. Stalinism was not the product of the failure of the Russian revolution.

* The states that remain or are in the process of a union, in the USSR, eastern Europe, China, Cuba etc and were called ‘socialist’, were states dominated by the bureaucrat- ical form of the universal tendency under state capitalism, itself a major characteristic of the period of decomposition.

* 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-increas- ing scale. The working class can only overcome them through its international solidarity and by struggling against the bourgeoisie in all countries.

* All the national idealists – ‘national in- dependence’, ‘the right of nations to self-determination’ etc - whatever their pretext, ethnic, historical or religious, are a red flag 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 in them cannot change what takes place. The only way to present these elections as a real choice for the elected. ‘Democracy’, a particularly hypocritical form of the domination of the bourgeoisie, does not differ from root other forms of capitalist dictatorship, such as Stalinism and fascism.

* The struggle to change the bourgeoisie are equally- important. All the so-called ‘workers’, ‘Socialist’ and ‘Communist’ parties (now ex-Communists), the left or right, are part of the bourgeoisie, they do not differ from the actual communist organisation. All the parties of ‘popular fronts’, ‘anti-racism’ and ‘anti-fascism’ etc - which mix up the interests of the proletariat with those of a faction of the bourgeoisie, serve only to smother and derail the real communist organisation.

* With the decadence of capitalism, the unions every- where have been transformed into organs of capitalist order 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 ex- tension and organisation through sovereign general 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 historic 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 bour- geoisie. Advocating secret action by small minorities, it is in complete opposition to class violence, which derives from conscious and organised mass action by the proletariat.

* The working class is the only class which can carry out the 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 over- throw all existing states and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat on a world scale: the international power of the workers’ councils, regrouping the entire proletariat.

* The communist transformation of society by the workers’ Councils does not mean self-management or the nationalisation of the economy. Communism requires the conscious dissolution by the working class of capitalist social relations: wage labour, commodity production, national frontiers. It means the creation of a world community in which all activity is oriented 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’ nor to ‘take power’ in its name, but to participate actively in the movement towards the unification of struggles, towards workers taking control of them for themselves, and 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 its 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 regroupment of revolutions 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.

Our origins

The positions and activity of revolutionary or- ganisations are the product of the past experiences of the working class of the ICC. The ICC’s 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 (1847-52), the three Internationals (the International Working- men’s Association, 1868-72, the Socialist International, 1884-1914, the International Communist, 1918-28), the left frictions which detached themselves from the degenerating Third International in the years 1920-30, in particular the German, Dutch and Italian Lefts. 1