

“Under His Eye”

by New Worker
correspondent

Donald Trump has won the American presidential race, defeating Kamala Harris in a stunning political comeback with unpredictable consequences for the world. It came on the back of one of the most vicious campaigns in US history and an unprecedented criminal conviction. Trump is the only person to be elected as a convicted felon. He will face sentencing in a New York court for fraud on 26th November. Trump is also on course to break another record as the oldest-ever sitting president during his four-year term. Now 78, he will surpass Joe Biden who is set to step down in January at the age of 82.

“It’s a political victory that our country has never seen before,” Trump told a victory party in Florida. That’s certainly true.

His threat of mass deportations of illegal immigrants has stirred deep concern throughout Latin America. His past threats to withdraw from NATO and his ongoing and unrestrained isolationist and nationalist “America First” stance is also deeply



• Anti-Trump protesters in Milwaukee.

unsettling for British and Franco-German imperialism.

Trump says he’s going to stop the war in Gaza, and he has also repeatedly suggested he would end the conflict in Ukraine by pressuring Kiev to make territorial concessions to Russia. That remains to be seen.

American communists have no illusions. The Freedom Road Socialist Organisation said: “The racist, reactionary fool Donald Trump is returning to the White House, and Republicans will dominate Congress. The polarisation of American political life is sharpening and deepening. Revolutionaries and progressives have some heavy lifting ahead of us.

“There is going to be plenty of time to analyse what happened in the election, but on the morning after, some things are clear. The leadership and wealthy backers of the Democratic Party have only themselves to blame for the outcome. The Harris/Waltz campaign was tone-deaf to the needs and aspirations of working people. In fact, the two words that they seemed

unable to work into any of their speeches were ‘working class’. Instead, they offered a sad mixture of genocide in Palestine, combined with an appeal to college-educated, ‘never Trump’ Republicans. And they failed.”

Workers World said: “The Democrats had absolutely no programme to address very real concerns – a top concern of many voters polled – about a stagnant economy and a cost of living that has gone through the roof. There has been no let-up in the US/Israeli genocide being committed against the Palestinian people under a Democratic administration. Why vote for four more years of this? Still, it is painful to ponder that someone as despicable as Trump was able to fill the void, seemingly with ease.”

And the CPUSA says: “Trump and the MAGA faction of the Republican Party are the vehicle for the country’s most right-wing capitalists. Collectively, anti-worker corporations, predatory hedge funds, and finance capital spent hundreds of millions to elect him and a GOP [Re-

publican] Senate. The names are familiar ones: Susquehanna Group, Koch Industries, Blackstone, Walmart, TD Ameritrade, Wynn Resorts, Home Depot, Energy Transfer Partners, Sequoia Capital,

Johnson & Johnson, and more.

“They put their guy back in the White House, and their paid politicians will be running Congress. Don’t think they won’t take full advantage of the opportunities that brings.

“The country is entering a period of intensified class struggle. And worse, unlike when he won in 2016, Trump won’t be winging it this time. He will enter the White House in January with a fully worked out billionaires’ agenda – Project 2025 – which targets the working class and unions, people of colour, immigrants, women, LGBT people, Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, climate change legislation, and more. Expect major tax cuts for the rich and public service cuts for the rest of us.”

FUND

This week’s post-bag brought in £648 thanks to a Suffolk supporter who sent in £200 and a Dagenham reader who gave us £48 – not to mention the standing orders that are the pillars of our monthly appeals. The grand total for the month came to £2,842. Sadly it wasn’t enough to hit our £3,500 target for October and we certainly need to make up the short-falls and boost the fighting fund to ensure our survival through the winter.

This month we remember the 10 days that shook the world in 1917 and ushered in a new era for working people all around the world. The Russian revolution showed that there is an answer to war and economic crisis – and that is socialism. And although the Russian revolution is no more, Lenin’s dream continues in China and Cuba and the other people’s democracies of Asia, and its spirit still haunts the world in the resurgent world communist movement that is leading the fight-back against austerity in Europe.

The *New Worker* is our communist voice on the street. We’ve got to keep it going. Your contribution, big or small, counts. Join us in the fight for peace and socialism by sending in your donations to the *New Worker* fund. All donations help keep our presses rolling. Please send yours to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here:

<http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

INSIDE

LABOUR’S NEW
BUDGET .. P2

USA IN S KOREA .. P5

STALIN & SOCIALISM
.. P6

FOR THE MANY .. P11

ISRAEL .. P12

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Trump redux

The Second Coming of Donald Trump has come as no surprise to many on the American left who warned that the Harris camp ignored their traditional core voters at their peril. Workers and the ethnic minority communities that had long supported the Democrats in the past wanted to see plans to curb unemployment, halt the slump in living standards and an end to the slaughter in Gaza. All they got were the usual platitudes – the dismal tune of the dying Biden administration that had nothing to offer apart from more misery and more war. Some just sat on their hands or voted for protest candidates on Tuesday. Some even voted for Trump.

Not that we can expect much from Trump judging by the people who surround him. More tax breaks for the rich, more curbs on the unions and civil rights in general and sweeping tariffs that could plunge the rest of the capitalist world into deeper recession.

Much of this will be approved by the ruling circles in the USA. Most are not at all troubled by the return of the maverick property speculator turned politician who will be back in the White House in January. Some, however, are concerned at Trump's 'transactional' foreign policy stand that they call "isolationism", even though this reflects a long-standing trend within the Republican party. During the Nixon era this type of diplomatic bargaining was called "reciprocity" at Soviet-American summits that traded-off nuclear arms limitations with spheres of influence in what was then called the 'Third World'. The Soviet Union and its allies were the 'Second World', but the 'First World' was never actually called that. It was the 'Free World' led by the USA, the "land of the free" and the home of the "American dream" that we were all supposed to aspire to.

The real American dream, world domination, was only spelt out after the fall of the Soviet Union. The most venal and aggressive sections of the American ruling class called it the "new world order". The deep state that pulls the strings across party lines in the USA launched a series of "regime change" wars and "colour revolutions" to bring down all those who stood in their way. But it didn't quite work out the way that they planned.

Yugoslavia has gone, Libya is in ruins, but the American attempt to overthrow the popular front government in Syria has failed. The Americans have been driven out of Afghanistan and they've lost control of Iraq. The wars in Palestine and Ukraine are going against them and the BRICs group, which includes Russia and People's China, is fast becoming the new focus for economic development throughout the Global South.

Kamala Harris's Democrats still believe in the 'new world order', although they now prefer to call it 'globalisation'. Trump, on the other hand, represents circles in the Republican Party who want to cut back US military expenditure in Europe and north-east Asia so that they can concentrate on controlling the global energy market by taking over the entire Middle East and restoring US imperialism's hegemony over south and central America.

Trump says he'll end the war in Ukraine at a stroke when he's back at the helm. But we've heard it all before over Korea. Although he promised much when he was last in the White House, he still remained a prisoner of the most aggressive elements of the American ruling class. No one knows if it's going to be different this time round.

Digesting Labour's New Budget

by Svetlana Ekimenko

Britain's new government is raising taxes by more than \$50 billion amid a widening budget deficit. Meanwhile the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, is allocating £120 million to Ukraine for military spending.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has delivered the new Labour government's first budget. So what's in it?

Plenty for the arms industry. There will be an increase of around £2.9 billion next year in the Defence budget. The UK will give Ukraine a new £2.26 billion military loan, Reeves announced earlier in October. The loan is to be repaid using profits on illegally frozen Russian sovereign assets.

"Ensuring the UK comfortably exceeds our NATO commitments and providing guaranteed military support to Ukraine of £3 billion per year, for as long as it takes," Reeves told MPs.

But boosted military spending was slammed as "an insult to all those strug-

gling during a cost-of-living crisis and diverts funds from underfunded public services" by Peace Pledge Union campaigner Geoff Tibbs. And Lindsey German from the Stop the War movement warned: "This government is addicted to war and yet again money is earmarked for weapons to continue wars in Ukraine and the Middle East."

What Else?

The budget will hit taxpayers with £40 billion in tax rises. The amount businesses will pay on their employees' national insurance contributions will increase from 13.8 per cent to 15 per cent from April 2025. The rise in taxes is the largest since John Major's Conservative government in 1993.

Households won't be entitled to the Winter Fuel Payment from this winter (unless receiving Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits). Taxes on capital gains and inheritance are to be raised. The freeze on income tax

thresholds will end in 2028/29 (to be later uprated in line with inflation).

Fiscal rules will be tweaked to allow more space for borrowing. A broader measure of government finances, known as 'public sector net financial liabilities' (PSNFL), will reportedly include student loans and other financial assets. What has the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said?

"This budget delivers one of the largest increases in spending, tax and borrowing of any single fiscal event in history," says OBR chair Richard Hughes. The UK budget deficit was £49 billion in 2023/24, equivalent to 1.8 per cent of GDP. Britain's budget deficit is projected to be £26.2 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.

The budget will push up inflation and interest rates, while the pace of economic growth will peak next year at two per cent before falling back to around 1.5 per cent.

Average interest rates on the stock of mortgages are expected to rise from around 3.7 per cent in 2024 to a peak of 4.5 per cent in 2027.

Inflation will remain above the Bank of England's two per cent target until 2029.

Budget policies will increase UK borrowing by £19.6 billion this year and by an average of £32.3 billion over the next five years.

Both Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves have blamed the preceding Conservative government for all of the country's economic woes. During the election campaign, Reeves claimed that if victorious, Labour would get the "worst economic inheritance since World War Two". Last year, Reeves told the *Financial Times*: "Taxes are at a 70-year high – I don't have plans to be a big tax-raising Chancellor."

Sputnik



Workers' Notes

No nukes at Lakenheath

by New Worker correspondent

Campaigners, led by CND, gathered outside the RAF camp at Lakenheath last Saturday to protest at US plans to store nuclear missiles at the base.

The plan, which was revealed in US military announcements in January 2024, was agreed by the previous UK Tory Government led by Rishi Sunak, but the incoming Labour administration led by Keir Starmer has shown itself even more determined to escalate military tensions and conflicts around the world. Since the start of July, Starmer has pressed for the use of US and NATO weapons inside Russia itself, made a commitment to send money to Ukraine “for as long as it takes”, and doubled the number of RAF surveillance flights over Gaza, gathering information to assist Israeli forces in their ongoing genocide.

The RAF base at Lakenheath has been nuclear weapons free since 2008, and the news of their planned return mirrors the placement of Russian nukes in Belarus, threatening a return to the arms races of the Cold War period, which benefitted nobody except the weapons manufacturers.

Each bomb that the Americans plan to store at Lakenheath will have three times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb, as well as the deliberate heightening of military and political tensions. The possibility of accidents also increases, whereby each device has the potential to turn the neighbouring countryside into a nuclear wasteland.

On Saturday, CND were joined by other organisations such as Medact, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, and some Green Party representatives such as Dame Jenny Jones, their former candidate for London Mayor. Their messages were all in the same vein, the dangerous



• Kate Hudson at the protest.

and reckless ratcheting up of international tensions, the dangerous and immoral nature of the weapons themselves, the dangers posed to the people of this country by the deeper entanglement of the UK into the US war machine, and not least the dangers of accidents. More than one speaker mentioned the inappropriateness of British politicians sabre rattling and threatening wars when the state of this country is taken into consideration.

Kate Hudson, who is probably the best known anti-nuclear campaigner in this country, stood down from her role as CND president the day before this protest and is now the honorary president. The *New Worker* managed to get a few words with Kate, who said: “Why are Britain and the USA interfering in the AUKUS agreement for example, why are we getting involved in the so-called Indo-Pacific? Why are we sending war ships out there? It’s absolutely wrong, and it’s part of the US determination to remain the single superpower, and if they have to do it through military means, they will do it through military means, and that is the reality of the situation, and we in the peace movement are determined to stop that.

“We’re almost already at the brink of nuclear war in Ukraine, there’s a danger of nuclear weap-

ons use in the Middle East, because Israel is a nuclear weapons state, the only one in the region. Some of their ministers have talked about using nuclear weapons in Gaza, during the genocide; it’s a terrible, disastrous situation. And these are places that we have no business being in.”

Asked why Britain gives the appearance of being more aggressive than the USA regarding the Ukraine conflict, Kate attributed this to Britain’s determination to stick close to American strategic and policy goals, a determination that has existed since the 1956 Suez conflict, which dramatically and once and for all identified the USA as the senior party in the imperialist alliance. Britain has clung determinedly to the Americans’ coat tails since then, as their most loyal lieutenant and supporter.

Britain had entered the Korean War a few years previously to cement their alliance with the USA, the first time in centuries that British troops had been deployed in a conflict of no strategic interest to it but entirely to support US policy. Some British politicians including Churchill had hoped it would be a partnership of equals, with British know-how and experience supplementing US strength and power, but Suez revealed them for the pipe-dreams they were.

Down the Tube

by New Worker correspondent

Last minute talks on Tuesday have resulted in two planned 24-hour strikes on the London Underground by the drivers’ union, ASLEF, being cancelled. The decision by ASLEF came after RMT did the same last week. An overtime ban by managers which began at the start of the month has also been called off.

ASLEF’s London Underground official Finn Brennan said: “Following fresh talks, and an improved offer, ASLEF has agreed to suspend our planned industrial action on London Underground. Details of the offer will be discussed with our reps at a meeting on Thursday. We are pleased that this progress has been made and that strike action has been averted at this time.”

The major transport union, RMT, had earlier called off its own planned strikes on London Underground on the grounds that “London Underground have sensibly abandoned their proposed changes to pay structures which now means all our members will receive the same value in any pay award” allowing for the possibility of further discussions about the details of the offer. It is at yet unclear what exactly is in the “significantly improved offer”, which came after TfL said there was “no new money”. The cancelled action had been overwhelmingly supported with 98.8 per cent supporting the planned strikes, which showed TfL how determined the workers were.

Paying Peanuts

by New Worker correspondent

The festive season could see fights in supermarkets over the last packet of salted peanuts if workers at the KP Snacks plant at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire walk out over pay.

USDAW’s area organiser Ed Leach warns that: “The 2024/25 pay negotiations have so far failed to reach a satisfactory outcome. The company’s offer of 6.5 per cent fails to adequately

ly address the narrowing of the gap between the value of the National Living Wage and the consolidated rates of pay at the site”. He notes that “the offer was rejected by 87.5 per cent in the most recent ballot, which clearly demonstrates that the offer is unacceptable to our members. We regret that the company has flatly refused to increase the offer and we urge them to change their stance to avoid disruption to the business in the busy pre-Christmas period.”

The ballot will be a stately affair, running from 1st to 25th November and any strike action will not begin until 9th December.

The 171-year-old firm, the world’s largest buyer of nuts, also produces other foods such as potato crisps. It became part of United Biscuits in 1968 and was sold to the German company, Intersnack, in December 2012.

Last year in September KP workers called off a strike after the company coughed up an improved pay offer out of their £54 million profits.

Unwise Cuts

by New Worker correspondent

Last week we reported on the strange combination of long waiting times and unemployment among medical graduates seeking to become General Practitioners.

At one of London’s busiest hospital trusts, Guys & St Thomas NHS Trust, management are planning to cut a massive 58 per cent of their facilities and capital development division.

The Trust includes Guy’s, St Thomas’, Evelina London Children’s, Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals, as well as 100 community sites in Lambeth and Southwark.

These horrific cuts were the subject of an hour-long lunchtime picket at St Thomas’ Hospital, just across the river from the Houses of Parliament on Halloween.

The Trust plans to reduce fire safety, water quality, major projects, maintenance and minor construction jobs from 154 to just 64. To make matters worse, all the workers in the division will

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

be required to re-apply for their jobs and many of the new jobs are being downgraded despite involving the same work.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Guy's & St Thomas' is acting disgracefully towards its workers who are vital to keep its hospitals functioning. Its management should be ashamed. This so-called reorganisation is nothing more than a bonanza for consultants, with outsourcers hitting the jackpot, while the actual staff doing the work are downgraded or thrown on the scrapheap."

The union complains that what the Trust calls a "blended model" simply means the hospital will be increasingly reliant on outsourcing companies and consultants to undertake roles previously done in-house.

In addition to an expected increase in costs that are the inevitable result of privatisation, the cuts will instantly "jeopardise patient and staff safety as critical estates compliance services, such as fire safety, water quality monitoring and engineering assurance would see decades of institutional knowledge lost".

Regional officer Tabusam Ahmed said: "These plans are bad news for workers, for patients and the local community. Rather than save money, it will result in NHS money disappear-

ing into the pockets of spivs and privateers." That is of course the whole purpose of privatisation schemes. Balloting for industrial action across the Trust is now more than likely.

Hiking-up student fees

by New Worker correspondent

On Monday Bridget Phillipson, the Secretary of State for Education, announced that students in England will pay higher fees for university courses in the next academic year.

This went down like a lead balloon with unions. UCU general secretary Jo Grady denounced the measure, the first in eight years, as "both economically and morally wrong. Taking more money from debt-ridden students and handing it to overpaid underperforming vice-chancellors is ill conceived and won't come close to addressing the sector's core issues", adding that the rise contradicted Sir Keir Starmer's earlier remarks that the present fees system "doesn't work for students and doesn't work for universities".

She also pointed out that higher fees will mean even more graduates will fail to pay back their loans, ultimately costing the

Exchequer millions.

From a different perspective, the Royal College of Nursing denounced the measure saying that students in England will have to pay £9,535 per year to join the profession as a result of the 2016 abolition of bursaries for trainee nurses.

The nursing union wants the government to introduce financial incentives, including loan forgiveness for nursing students who commit to working in the NHS following graduation, and provide funding for living costs. This is vital to ensure that future Florence Nightingales are still recruited into the profession.

The union notes that data from the university admissions service, UCAS, show the number of people taking up places on nursing courses has fallen by up to 40 per cent across England since 2020.

The implications for the NHS are clear. Nicola Ranger, RCN's General Secretary, said: "As student nurse numbers collapse in every English region, ministers decide to make a bad situation worse. The tuition fee model has proven to be an unmitigated failure for nursing education, punishing students with high levels of debt whilst driving down the numbers entering the profession. Yet again, there has been no increase in the maintenance grant for nursing students. Ministers were able to quickly

and effectively diagnose a broken NHS but have failed to do so with nurse education."

There are currently over 31,000 unfilled nursing posts in England's NHS. The NHS's Long Term Workforce Plan wants to increase the number of NHS nurses from 350,000 to 550,000 by 2036/37. The latest measure is clearly going to make that target a great deal more difficult to reach.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting defended the fees rise as a "proportionate and reasonable thing" to do, particularly as maximum maintenance loans would also rise to help students with living costs. That is a polite way of saying they will be allowed to have bigger debts.

Dodgy Figures?

by New Worker correspondent

The University College Union (UCU) recently announced that their members at five colleges in Cleveland, Redcar and Stockton-on-Tees had voted to accept a 16.5 per cent pay offer from their employer, the Education Training Collective (ETC). The agreement will also see car parking charges removed from all colleges and staff will get extra well-being days.

This came only after two

industrial ballots and 13 days of action over the last 17 months.

That sounds good – but on examining the small print it was not such a big deal. For the 16.5 per cent is for a four-year deal. It amounted to three per cent from August 2022, one from May 2023, 6.5 from last November and three from last August.

It appears that the 16.5 only applies to lecturers, course leaders and support staff for those at the top of their pay scales. Management has promised to revisit the 24/25 pay award if additional government funding be made available. But given the previous slow progress we should not hold our breath.

Regional UCU official Chris Robinson said: "After a period of significant industrial unrest our reps and members look forward to working productively with ETC and restoring effective industrial relations. Over the course of this dispute our branch has grown significantly in members and reps and this resolution is an example of what is possible when members stand up, organise and fight."

**JOIN US!
For peace!
justice! So-
cialism!**

**I would like to join the
New Communist Party....
I would like more info
about the NCP....**

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

postcode.....

phone.....

**Send to NCP, PO Box 73,
London SW11 2PQ.**



**20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker**

5th November 2004

AS THE USA went to the polls last Tuesday all around the world peace vigils were held to honour and name the thousands of people who have died as a result of the illegal Bush-Blair invasion of Iraq.

Ceremonies were held in Australia, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Iraq. In Britain there were mass ceremonies in London, Cardiff on Tuesday and in Glasgow on Saturday.

The dead who were remembered included around 100,000 Iraqi dead – according to the latest estimates from the medical journal The Lancet

– as well as over 1,100 American dead military personnel, 69 British and other victims from many countries.

At the London ceremony in Trafalgar Square, cosmologist Stephen Hawking joined London Mayor Ken Livingstone and TGWU general secretary Tony Woodley, former boxer Chris Eubank, writer Harold Pinter, actors Neil Pearson and Corin Redgrave, MPs Jeremy Corbyn and George Galloway and many others to take turns in reading out the names of the Iraqi dead.

Stephen Hawking, author of A Brief History of Time, told the assembled crowd, using his voice synthesiser: "The war was based on two lies. Both the claims of weapons of mass destruction and linkage to 11 September had proved untrue.

"It has been a tragedy for all the families. If that is not a war crime, what is?" Then he added: "I apologise for my pronunciation. My speech synthesiser was not designed for Iraqi names."

Tony Woodley said: "The civilian casualty toll

from this unnecessary conflict may now be as much as 100,000. We should remember these innocent victims of aggression and pledge to ensure that such a war is never fought again."

In Cardiff at a peace vigil at Cardiff City Centre, army veteran Michael Peterson, wearing his medals, read the names of members of the armed services who have died in the war.

He read out their names, their rank, the day they died and their country. Most came from the USA, followed by Britain, but there were others from Bulgaria, El Salvador, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Thailand and the Ukraine.

Retired nursing sister Beatrice Smith read the names of Iraqi civilians who have died. The youngest victim named was an eight-month-old baby boy, Aumar Mahamed Jeasem. He was killed by a bomb on 23rd March 2003 in Al-Bassra Dooer, Al-Nafuat Blooks.

Half the Iraqi civilians who have died were women and children.

America's occupation of south Korea: time to go home

How many troops do the Americans have in south Korea? Where are they? What are they doing there? Which US politicians have called for them to be pulled out and why? Sputnik explores.

by Ilya Tsukanov

The USA and south Korea are “deepening our nuclear and strategic planning efforts” and “increasing the regular deployment of US strategic assets on the Korean Peninsula”, DoD chief Lloyd Austin announced in a press conference with his South Korean counterpart in Washington last week.

The Pentagon began turning south Korea into its own regional military bridgehead from 1945 onward, with the roughly 25,400 American troops currently stationed there constituting the USA's third-largest permanent deployment abroad after Japan and Germany.

The US Army alone occupies about two dozen bases and nearly 140 command posts along the mountainous Kaesong–Munsan Corridor. This includes Camp Humphreys – America's largest overseas base, located about 65 km south of Seoul.

The US Navy operates bases in the strategic Korean coastal cities of Busan, Chinhae, and Pyeongtaek, with the Busan base capable of servicing up to 30 vessels at once, including Nimitz-class super-carriers and nuclear missile subs. American naval deployments in the region have been a constant source of consternation for north Korea – which has often staged large-scale artillery drills and tested missiles while US warships are present to let the Pentagon know Pyongyang is on guard.

The US Air Force flies its missions predominantly out of the Osan and Kunsan air bases in south Korea's



• Korean People's Army on attack!

south-west. During the Korean War of 1950–1953, US aviation bombed Korea into the Stone Age, dropping more explosives on the country than in the entire Pacific theatre during all of the Second World War (635,000 tons vs 500,000 tons, respectively).

US Marines operate their own base – Camp Mujuk in the southeast – but also have access to bases used by the Army.

The Pentagon requires an entire separate command to co-ordinate all these forces, known as the United States Forces Korea (USFK), headquartered at Camp Humphreys. USFK is currently commanded by four-star Army General Paul LaCamera.

Nukes and scandals

During the Cold War, the USA deployed as many as 950 nuclear warheads in South Korea – enough firepower to obliterate Seoul's neighbour and wreak havoc on the neighbouring Soviet Union and

China. The USSR and China did not put nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula during the Cold War.

The Pentagon's footprint in Korea doesn't come cheap. A 2021 report by the Congressional Government Accountability Office found that between 2016 and 2019 alone, the USA spent \$13.4 billion in the country on military salaries, base construction and maintenance. Seoul spent \$5.8 billion to support the American presence during the same period.

From the reputational standpoint as well, the US presence in Korea has had its consequences, with American soldiers both historically and today regularly implicated in crimes ranging from prostitution and human trafficking to rape, abuse of minors and drug-related offences.

Time to Go Home?

There are a few proponents of an exit from Korea in Washington. “How long do we

have to stay in Korea? We were there since I was in high school,” then-76-year-old GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul quipped at a campaign event in 2011.

In 2022, former Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Donald Trump had proposed the “complete withdrawal of US forces from south Korea”, which Esper said had prompted him to pacify the president into reneging on the idea.

Earlier this year, Trump said in an interview that the USA might withdraw troops from “wealthy” south Korea if it doesn't pay its share for defence. “I want south Korea to treat us properly,” Trump said, adding that the current US commitment to the country “doesn't make any sense”.

North Korea has often cited the US troop presence, and provocative exercises of American forces alongside their south Korean counterparts near the Demilitarised Zone frontier, as one of the reasons for its heightened security posture, and development of nuclear weapons.

During the Trump administration and the presidency of South Korean leader Moon Jae In, important steps, including a series of historic, high-profile meetings between north Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his south Korean and US counterparts, were taken to try to defuse regional tensions.

But tensions ramped back up again under President Joe Biden, with the US leader opting not to meet with Kim, as well as resuming and expanding military drills in the region, including exercises incorporating forces from Japan, and signing a trilateral security pact with Seoul and Tokyo in 2023. The measure prompted north Korea to ink the historic Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty with Russia.

“Now the situation and security of our country due to the machinations of the United States and its satellites, all this is in a very dangerous and unstable state...the military alliance of the United States and South Korea is turning into a military alliance with a nuclear component. This shows that the situation on the Korean Peninsula can become explosive at any moment. This is very dangerous for the security of the Korean Peninsula and for the North-east Asian region as a whole,” north Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said at a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow last week.

“Very close co-operation has been established between military and security services of the two countries. This also allows us to effectively address important issues related to the safety of our and your citizens,” Lavrov said.

The contributions of Stalin and the struggle for socialism today

This paper, by Political Secretary Mick Kelly of Freedom Road Socialist Organisation, was presented to the international conference entitled *Stalin: The teachings for the fight of today's communists*. The October 15th conference took place in Milan and was organised by Partito dei CARC (Carc Party), Resistenza Popolare Milano (Popular Resistance Milan) and the Associazione Stalin (Stalin Association). The Communist Party of Cuba and the Communist Party of the Philippines also participated. The paper was delivered to the conference by FRSO National Organiser Andy Koch.

by Mick Kelly

On behalf of Freedom Road Socialist Organisation, I extend our warmest greetings to the participants and organisers of this important event on the teachings of JV Stalin and the struggle of communists today. Conferences such as this one are vital for the international communist movement as they provide a venue for Marxist-Leninists to deepen our understanding of the world and how to change it. We are also glad to hear about the publication of Stalin's Collected Works in Italy – as everywhere, spreading the thinking and contributions of Stalin help to illuminate the path to revolution and socialism.

The class enemy hates Stalin. When his name comes up, they lie and – just when you think they are going to wrap it up – they lie some more. They do so because Stalin led a vast movement of working class and oppressed peoples that spanned the globe, with the capacity to mount a serious challenge to world

capitalism. Like Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao, he frightened them.

Revolutionaries have one view of things, and those who serve as mouthpieces for monopoly capital have another. How could it be

of Stalin's thinking and practice.

We appreciate the many contributions Stalin made to the theory of Marxism-Leninism. In practice, he was an outstanding proletarian revolutionary who helped

into a land that was truly modern in the best sense of the word. The five-year plans developed industry at a pace that was until then unknown. In the vast rural areas, production relations were revolutionised –

culture was nurtured.

The USSR was a country encircled by hostile capitalist countries that wanted to destroy it. Stalin proved to be a master at utilising contradictions in the enemy camp, and when

movements around the world. The theory and practice of Stalin, as it can be applied to the situation we find ourselves in today, will be the focus of the rest of this paper.



• Stalin.

Monopoly Capitalism and “American Exceptionalism”

In 1929, the American Commission of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International was rocked by a debate that was taking place inside the Communist Party of the USA. Stalin addressed the commission at length, making two major points that are of real importance to communists today. The first was the danger of factionalism and how factionalism undermines the unity that is required by a communist party to act effectively. Stalin spoke of a potential developing revolutionary crisis and stated: “For that end the American Communist Party must be improved and bol-

otherwise?

Mao made the point that every idea without exception is “stamped with the brand of a class”. This same applies to how one evaluates Stalin. Communists have a positive summation

lead the revolution in Russia and in the establishment of what would become the USSR. Stalin led the process of socialist construction, transforming a country that had a backward, rural-centred economy

the old property relations which bore the marks of serfdom were swept away by the movement to collective agriculture. Simultaneously, a revolution was conducted in the societal superstructure and new socialist

the time came, he provided able leadership to the Great Patriotic War against fascism.

JV Stalin was a great proletarian internationalist who took a keen interest in the workers and national liberation

shevised. For that end we must work for the complete liquidation of factionalism and deviations in the Party. For that end we must work for the re-establishment of unity in the Communist Party of America. For that end we must work in order to forge real revolutionary cadres and a real revolutionary leadership of the proletariat, capable of leading the many millions of the American working class toward the revolutionary class struggles. For that end all personal factors and factional considerations must be laid aside and the revolutionary education of the working class of America must be placed above all."

Stalin went on to state: "Let us take any factory or plant. Let us assume that the majority of the workers of that factory show an inclination to go on strike, whereas the minority, on the plea of their convictions, declare against a strike. A war of opinions commences, meetings are held, and in the end the vast majority in the factory decide to strike. What would you say of 10 or 20 workers, representing a minority in the factory, who declared they would not submit to the decision of the majority of the workers, since they were not in agreement with that decision? What would you call them, dear comrades? You know that such workers are usually called strike-breakers."

The fact that factionalism is poison to a revolutionary communist organisation is well known and must be dealt with accordingly. Less well known was the underlying debate among US communists that was helping to fuel the factional battle – that is the problem of "American exceptionalism". Long before it became a buzz word in bourgeois

political circles and US presidential campaigns, in the lead-up to the Great Depression the issue of exceptionalism was a topic of debate among communists.

A group of right opportunists inside the Communist Party, led by J Lovestone, made the argument that the general laws of capitalism – including crisis theory – did not really apply to the USA, which would be immune from the crisis engulfing the capitalist world. Stalin responded: "It would be wrong to ignore the specific peculiarities of American capitalism. The Communist Party in its work must take them into account. But it would be still more wrong to base the activities of the Communist Party on these specific features, since the foundation of the activities of every Communist Party, including the American Communist Party, on which it must base itself, must be the general features of capitalism, which are the same for all countries, and not its specific features in any given country."

The point Stalin is making here is that we must understand the laws of capitalism and that these laws apply in all places you find capitalism.

Today the issue of "American exceptionalism" still comes up. In the USA and some other developed capitalist countries, there are those who argue that the laws of change – which are in fact, the laws of society's development, and which were laid bare by Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Mao and many others – do not apply anymore (if they ever did). So, they say things like the working class is "bought off" and unable to serve its historic role as the grave digger of the capitalist system, ascribing that

role instead to social movements. Or take for example the modern revisionists, who remove all that is revolutionary from Marxism. They negate the need for the dictatorship of the proletariat and make the silly argument that it is possible to have a peaceful transition to socialism, or they deny the inevitability of wars being waged by the imperial powers.

Decline of US imperialism

Monopoly capitalism is a law-governed system, and revolutionaries can understand those laws. Imperialism is a dying system, and the decline of US imperialism is accelerating. In 1960, the US economy represented about 40 per cent of the world economy. Today, it is about half that. In his work, *Foundations of Leninism*, Stalin states: "Lenin called imperialism 'moribund capitalism'. Why? Because imperialism carries the contradictions of capitalism to their last bounds, to the extreme limit, beyond which revolution begins."

The decline of monopoly capitalism is a real phenomenon that is shaping every social contradiction within the USA. The contradictions within the ruling class are sharpening, and Trump is an ideal political representative of an imperial power in decline.

The fact that Biden/Harris have retained many of Trump's policies concerning the international financial architecture – including policies that limit the functioning of the World Trade Organisation, protectionism, and the "delinking" the economies of the USA and People's China – are indicators that broader

economic forces are at work, leading the US ruling class to some points of agreement about what to do in a world where US power is slipping. But on a host of issues, especially those that involve inter-imperialist rivalry such as NATO or the war in Ukraine, there is anything but a consensus.

In US society, the contradictions along class and national lines are also growing sharper. There is a notable uptick in major strikes by US workers, most recently at Boeing by 30,000 members of the International Association of Machinists.

The National Question

Among Stalin's most important theoretical contributions to scientific socialism was his work on the national question. Starting with his path-breaking 1913 work *Marxism and the National Question*, Stalin studied and wrote about the movements for national liberation his whole life. In *Foundations of Leninism* Stalin notes: "Formerly, the national question was regarded from a reformist point of view, as an independent question having no connection with the general question of the power of capital, of the overthrow of imperialism, of the proletarian revolution. It was tacitly assumed that the victory of the proletariat in Europe was possible without a direct, alliance with the liberation movement in the colonies, that the national-colonial question could be solved on the quiet, 'of its own accord', off the highway of the proletarian revolution, without a revolutionary struggle against imperialism. Now we can say that anti-revolu-

tionary point of view has been exposed."

What is being said here is that those facing national oppression, and the working class of the oppressor nation, face a common enemy, and that movements for national liberation should be actively supported. Under Stalin's leadership the Soviet Union actively supported the national liberation movements.

Today, the importance of this approach stands out in sharp relief. Palestine is currently the pivot of the revolutionary process in the Middle East, where the heaviest blows are being landed on US and Western imperialism. Likewise, the USA itself is a jail-house of nations. National oppression and systematic inequality are visited upon the African American nation, which has its national territory the Black Belt South, and on the Chicano nation, which has its national territory in the Southwest portion of the USA.

In the context of imperialism's rapid decline, the issue of national oppression inside the USA is playing an important role in defining the contours of struggle – for example, the 27 million people who came out into the streets after the murder of George Floyd. Or the massive demonstrations in support of Palestine over the last year. Understanding the national question has allowed our organisation, FRSO, to play an important role in these events.

**Lessons from
the past,
and looking
towards a
bright future**

Above all else, Stalin was a revolutionary who never hesitated to point the way forward for the international communist movement, and never hesitated to correct errors when he found them.

For example, in the USA, during the later period of the popular front, especially during the Second World War, revisionists within the Communist Party went so far as to liquidate the Party. It was the world communist movement, headed by Stalin, which called attention to the problem and demanded that the mistakes be addressed.

We are now in a period where large scale radicalisation is underway in the USA. There are more people who view themselves as Marxist-Leninists than at any time since the 1970s. The situation for building a new communist party in the USA is excellent.

Marxism-Leninism is a science, and Stalin contributed a lot to our understanding of that science. And we will learn still more by applying it to the concrete conditions we face.

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Long live the international communist movement!

We have a world to win!

**The NCP
badge**



**£4.50 inc P&P
from New Worker,
PO Box 73, London
SW11 2PQ.**

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

The Israeli occupation state continues, for the 395th consecutive day, its open aggressive war and daily acts of genocide against our Palestinian people and their institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip.

This war, along with accompanying crimes against humanity, has left over 149,000 people in Gaza alone either martyred or injured with varying degrees of wounds, most of whom are women and children, with around 10,000 missing, since the start of the Israeli occupation's aggression on 7th October 2023. The devastation is unimaginable, and a famine has claimed the lives of hundreds of children, elderly and sick individuals as a result of the occupation forces' targeting and destruction of supply centres, closing of crossings, prevention of food and medical aid access, and implementation of organised starvation, dehydration and forced displacement against Palestinian citizens.

Furthermore, the deliberate targeting of residential homes, shelters for displaced people, water and electricity networks, hospitals and all medical teams has been carried out through artillery shelling, air strikes and various military destruction mechanisms.

In this context, and as an example among many, the northern Gaza Strip has been subjected to a wide-scale military assault

for the last 30 days, which is still ongoing. During this assault, the occupation forces have committed numerous massacres, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing against civilians, especially in the cities and camps of Jabalia and Beit Lahia. Later, the assault was expanded to central Gaza, where further massacres were committed.

In addition, the occupation forces and their intelligence agencies have been committing daily and egregious violations and crimes across all occupied Palestinian territories, with increased intensity in the Gaza Strip, occupied Jerusalem and the northern West Bank. These include field executions of Palestinian citizens, as well as pursuit, detention, torture and forced disappearance. They have also engaged in the bombing and demolition of homes, displacing their residents.

The brutal, open genocide inflicted on our people by the state of Israeli occupation, terror and fascism has, since its very beginning, been conducted in full partnership with and under the absolute support of the United States and its Western allies, aiming to eliminate all of our people's human and national rights through overwhelming force.

In an additional escalation of the war crime of genocide, the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, has officially approved a law that legalises the ban on the activities and presence of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem. This move is part of ongoing Israeli and American efforts to delegitimise the status and role of the international agency in providing aid and services to Palestinian refugees and to eliminate

their cause.

The current and immediate objective of this decision is to undermine any remaining possibility of providing relief to the Palestinian people, particularly the refugee population. This is especially critical at a time when 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have become displaced and are in dire need of the agency's services. Furthermore, it paves the way to deprive more than two million other refugees who benefit from the agency's educational, health and relief services in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, including occupied Jerusalem and its suburbs.

The aforementioned decision also serves as a prelude to expelling UNRWA from its headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Jerusalem, preventing it from operating and providing humanitarian assistance. It poses a direct threat to the status and situation of the Shuafat refugee camp in the holy city and to all the agency's facilities and services there. Thus, it is an integral part of the official Israeli policy and the broader consensus of Zionist national policy, which aims to starve, dehydrate, besiege and destroy all means of life in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In addition to Israel's blatant and ongoing violations of all UN resolutions and international covenants and laws for more than 76 years, this dangerous decision and the insane escalation against UNRWA represent a de facto annulment of the Comay-McLemore Agreement of 1967, which allowed the UN agency to operate within the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore, it specifically targets UN Resolution 194, which establishes the right of return

for refugees. This decision also constitutes an unprecedented and reckless challenge to all treaties and agreements and to the collective of member states in the United Nations. It reflects the continued colonial and fascist policies of the entire Israeli occupation system in Palestine. Through this message, we appeal to you to leverage your esteemed position, resources, relationships and influence to urgently accomplish the following objectives:

1. An immediate cessation of the aggressive, bloody war and genocide that Israel continues to wage against our Palestinian people, with full support and cover from the United States. This includes achieving a ceasefire, withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, lifting the blockade, facilitating the return of displaced persons, allowing all forms of aid, and initiating reconstruction efforts.
2. Expelling the Israeli occupation state from membership in all international bodies, particularly the United Nations, as it is a state of occupation and terrorism that operates outside the framework of all laws. This includes compelling Israel to rescind its decision to ban the operations of UNRWA and condemning and rejecting attempts to demonize and prohibit its activities.
3. Working towards ensuring the freedom and independence of the State of Palestine and the right of return for Palestinian refugees in accordance with international covenants and legitimate resolutions.

Achieving these objectives represents the immediate goals of our Palestinian people's legitimate

continued on page 9...

Diary

Check the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stop the War Coalition websites for emergency Gaza protests across the country.

UNTIL 30 DEC

People's History Museum: Banner Exhibition, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER.

UNTIL APRIL 2025

Townsend Theatre Productions: *Behold Ye Ramblers*. Touring play by Neil Gore. See TTP website for details of venues.

UNTIL 15 NOV

PCS: 40th anniversary of the ban on trade unions at GCHQ Cheltenham. Exhibition 09:00–16:00 weekdays. PCS headquarters, 160 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LN.

SAT 9 NOV

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Discussion on 'Public support and governmental obstruction: differing British responses to the struggle of the Spanish Republic'. 14:00–15:30. MML in person and online. Book on IBMT website.

SAT 9 NOV

Society for the Study of Labour History: Natalie Thomlinson, Remembering the 1984–85 Miners Strike in popular memory. 14:00, Huddersfield. Register on SSLH website.

TUES 12 NOV

Korean Friendship Association: Picket of British Brainwashing Corporation. 15:00, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London, W1A 1AA.

THUR 14 NOV

Palmusic UK: 10th Anniversary concert for young Palestinian musicians. 19:00, Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA. Book on Palmusic website.

THUR 14 NOV

Musicians for Peace and Disarmament's Concert for Peace. 19:30–21:00, St James's Piccadilly, 197 Piccadilly, London, W1J 9LL. Details and booking on CND website.

THUR 14–TUE 26 NOV

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Speaking Tour: Keith Bolender on What will the next US president mean for Cuba? London, Norwich, Liverpool and Kew. See CSC website for details.

FRI 15–SAT 16 NOV 2024

Havana Glasgow Film Festival. CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 2JD. Book at: <https://hgfilmfest.com/>

SAT 16 NOV

Stand Up To Racism: Summit against racism and the far right. 11:00–17:00. Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. Register on STWC website.

SAT 16 NOV

Climate Justice Coalition: Demonstration against reliance on fossil fuels and complicity in Israel's genocide. Assemble 12:00 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.

SAT 16 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Boycott Barclays – Day of Action. Nationwide events. See PSC for local actions.

SAT 16 NOV

Liberation (formerly Movement for Colonial Freedom) 70th Anniversary commemoration. Cypriot Community Centre, Earlham Grove, London N22 5HJ. Register on Liberation website.

SUN 17 NOV

Stop the War Coalition: Anti-war convention 12:00–17:00. The Atrium, 124 Cheshire Street, London E2 6EJ. Book on STWC website.

SUN 17 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Marx Mayo on Engels as Popular Educator: Making Marx Accessible. 19:00, In person and online. Book on MML website.

SAT 23 NOV

New Communist Party: Commemorate the Great October Russian Revolution. Reception, 18:30 Party Centre, Clapham Junction, London SE11.

WED 27 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Lobby of Parliament 14:00–17:00. Register on PCS website.

THUR 28 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Workplace Day of Action. Organise events in your workplace.

THUR 28 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Trade Union Strategies in Post-Tory Britain. 19:00, Online and in person panel discussion. Book on MML website.

SAT 30 NOV

Scottish TUC: Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism march. Assemble 10:30 at McLennan Arch for 12:00 indoor rally at Adelaide Place, 209 Bath St, Glasgow G2 4HZ.

SAT 30 NOV

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against US nuclear weapons returning to Britain. 12:00–14:00, RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 9PS.

SUN 1 DEC

Metropolitan New Worker Supporters Group: Screening of *Evita* and discussion on Peronism, 14:00 TBC, NCP Centre, Clapham Junction, London SE11.

THUR 5 DEC

Marx Memorial Library: Defending Local Services & Democracy: Popular Mobilisation and the Working-Class Movement. 19:00, Online and in-person panel discussion. Book on MML website.

5 DEC UNTIL 25 JUL

Working Class Movement Library: Collectors, The Camera-man, The Poets and the Pits: Miners' Strike 40th Anniversary Exhibition. Afternoons.

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday.

You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

...continued from page 8

struggle, aligning with the relevant United Nations resolutions regarding the Palestinian cause. This necessitates intensifying all efforts on every level to end the Israeli occupation according to a clear timeline and to ensure the independence and freedom of the State of Palestine over all the territories occupied in 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital. This state must be recognised as an indivisible geographical, legal and political entity. Furthermore, it is essential to guarantee the rights of Palestinian refugees in accordance with Resolution 194. This mission cannot be delayed or postponed by the United Nations or the international community; it is imperative to implement international laws and resolutions to safeguard our people's rights and to protect global stability and peace.

Central Committee
Palestinian People's Party

Dear Comrades

Under Muammar Gaddafi there were 40 years of independence and progress in Libya.

The government he led spent the financial fruits of its considerable oil reserves on bettering the lives of its own people.

Education was free and literacy rates increased from 25 per cent to 90 per cent. Healthcare was free also; it was the best in Africa and Libya came to have the highest average life expectancy on the continent. Everyone was provided with a home and householders did not have to pay for electricity. Plus newly married couples got a one-off payment of \$50,000 to kickstart marital life.

An expert on Libya, Ronald Bruce St John, argues that "a socialist revolution clearly occurred in Libya after 1969 and most especially in the second half of the 1970s". He

notes that the "management of the economy was increasingly socialist in intent and effect". Private enterprise was virtually eliminated and "largely replaced by a centrally controlled economy".

Plus Libya gave fraternal support to anti-imperialist struggles across the globe. He backed the Palestinians and also republicans in the north of Ireland.

Gaddafi did make mistakes. There were zig-zags in policy. But his death on 20th October 2011 at the hands of NATO-backed militias has proved a disaster for the country. Since then Libya has been mired in civil war with at least two separate malfunctioning governments. The dam failure at Derna last year shows that the basic infrastructure has collapsed. People smuggling and sexual slavery are now rife.

Alan Stewart
Wakefield

Scottish
Political
News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

Alex Salmond's funeral at Strichen Parish Church in Aberdeenshire was billed as a private affair but it was nothing of the sort. It was actually attended by numerous political figures, including former Commons Speaker John Bercow. Senior Alba figures were present, but the only present-day members of the SNP figures attending were those who spend their time decrying the recent leadership including the Ewing dynasty.

The eulogy was delivered by another former MP, and now acting leader of Salmond's Alba Party, Kenny MacAskill. He had previously announced that he hoped Salmond's court case against the SNP Government would continue. Salmond's targets would be relieved not to be in the kirk and squirming with embarrassment at MacAskill's glowing words about the deceased.

Former minister Fergus Ewing tastefully put the boot into the present SNP leadership by describing Salmond as the finest leader Scotland produced "arguably in this century", adding that: "He did so much for Scotland that he will be missed forever. But his memory will live on forever."

While the minister said the service would be a "dignified and fitting tribute to his life" that is "shielded from the public gaze", that did not last. No sooner was Salmond safely buried than further allegations about less than gentlemanly behaviour emerged. Alba's General Secretary responded by accusing the anonymous complainants of being in-

volved in a campaign of "conspiracy and smears against the beloved deceased when 300 people were interviewed as part of that investigation in a search for allegations".

He was responding to the revelation that new complaints were made to the SNP in 2022 (well after Salmond was tried and cleared) but have only recently been passed to Police Scotland.

The complaints came from six women and date back to the 1980s. The SNP point out that they did nothing because Salmond was no longer a party member subject to its discipline in 2022. It is worth observing that the accusers did not go to the police either at the time or when the SNP sat on the claims two years ago. One might speculate as to why they have suddenly come to light as this point in time.

Needless to say, Police Scotland will not be taking any action, but it is clear that Salmond is going to be as controversial in death as in life. This time round his bitterest enemies will be from within the ranks of the SNP.

SNP Sound
the Retreat

Recently the SNP have been dropping long-cherished policies like hot potatoes. Plans announced in the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill to introduce juryless, judge-only trials in rape cases have been abandoned in the face of united opposition by the legal profession. The lawyers' threats to boycott such trials prevented even a trial period in 2028.

The proposal would have seen a single judge decide whether people are guilty of rape and attempted rape in an attempt to increase conviction rates. The Scottish Solicitors Bar Association (SSBA) described the decision by

Justice Secretary Angela Constance as an "humiliating U-turn". The SSBA said it was a fundamental threat to the presumption of innocence.

The measure managed to unite almost the entire Scottish legal profession from Senators of the College of Justice downwards against the move. Even some normally loyalist SNP MSPs were against it. The only organisation in favour was the Rape Crisis Scotland centre, which gets the bulk of its funding from the SNP Government.

While some lefties supported the measure on the grounds it would increase the low conviction rate for rape, they should remember that recently juries have effectively let-off people clearly guilty of damaging the offices and factories of arms manufacturers and environmentally damaging businesses.

In another about-turn Equalities Minister Kaulkab Stewart was forced to admit that in Scots law there are only two genders – male and female. This startling announcement came after issuing much mocked advice to statisticians collating data from the 2022 Census that listed no less than 24 of the most common responses to the open census question on gender identity.

These included cisgender, trans man, trans woman, non-binary, trans (not otherwise specified), genderfluid, genderqueer, demigender male, demigender female and demigender, but not actually male or female.

All is now cleared up, but not before the Deputy Opposition leader at Holyrood said: "It is ridiculous for this to be the focus of the Scottish Government. Why is the Scottish Government wasting so much time and resources on fringe obsessions?"

Job Creation

SNP and Green-run

Glasgow City Council have embarked on a job creation scheme that has brought a large number of specialist information technology workers to the city. Unfortunately, they are only here temporarily. This is due to the fact that they are being trained by the Council's own staff to take over the jobs of council workers before heading back home to India where they will perform the same jobs while in the service of Canadian-owned CGI.

The *Sunday Mail* reports that 90 skilled workers have been offered early retirement or redeployment after they have taught the Indian workers how to do their jobs.

Unsurprisingly they are not entirely delighted at this state of affairs. The paper quoted one worker as saying: "Many of the IT staff are furious about what is happening, they are highly skilled well paid professional programmers and technicians who take pride in the job."

The existing workers are employed directly by the council but are seconded to CGI to work on an outsourced IT contract. Now, with the contracting being renewed, CGI announced "they don't need the seconded council staff, but before they go they have been asked to train up Indian workers to do their jobs". About 70 have already taken early retirement or accepted redeployment at a similar grade, but 20 are still waiting to see what jobs will be offered.

There is no mystery as to why CGI is taking these steps. IT programmers and analysts in India are paid between £5,000 and £12,000 per year, while the council IT workers taking early retirement and being redeployed are being paid between £40,000 and £60,000.

No protest rallies have been held however, as "early retirement" for many often means just a change of job to supplement their existing pension pots.

JOIN US!
For peace!
justice!
socialism!


I would like to join
the New Communist
Party....
I would like more
info about the NCP....

Name.....
.....

Address.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

postcode.....

phone.....
Send to NCP, PO Box
73, London SW11
2PQ.



Palestine will never surrender!

by New Worker
correspondent

In a powerful display of solidarity, hundreds of thousands gathered in London on Saturday to demand justice for the Palestinians and an end to Zionist terror in the Middle East. Demonstrators also staged a “die-in” outside 10 Downing Street and left toys in memory of the Palestinian children butchered by the Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

At the rally Maysara Ibrahim, representing the Palestinian Forum in Britain, told the protesters: “I have run out of words, as we repeat the same agony



• Outside the American embassy in Nine Elms.

and the same pain, while the darkness before us threatens the very existence of our values, our princi-

ples and what remains of our humanity.

“Yet seeing you all today brings hope. We must

not stop until we see Palestine free. We will not bow, we will not surrender, and we will continue our fight

until our land is free, until Palestine is free from the river to the sea.”

The march stretched

from Whitehall to the American embassy in Nine Elms, sending a clear message to global leaders about the urgency of addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

There, protesters were still at the peace camp set up some weeks ago to draw attention to the US role in the genocide. The local response was heartening with residents providing supplies, such as chairs, blankets and food – including hot meals for the camp in the evenings. The camp finally closed this week to allow the local campaigners to “take stock and build up energy” for their next action following the presidential election in the USA.

Peace Call in Berlin!

by New Worker
correspondent

Around 60 peace activists gathered at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin last Saturday, which happens to be exactly adjacent to the US embassy.

The rally called for solidarity with Venezuela and Cuba and the Global South, Peace with China and Russia, and Palestinian freedom, with speakers from the United Front for Latin America, Cuba Si, and the Communist Party of Chile.

Theo Russell spoke about the history of the current war in Ukraine on behalf of the International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity campaign, saying: “The war in Ukraine started in 2014 and not with the Russian military intervention in 2022. The NATO-backed coup on 22nd February 2014 ushered in a tragedy for all the people of Ukraine.

“Over six-million Ukrainians went into exile,



• At the Brandenburg Gate.

with four million finding a home in Russia.

“The forces that allied with NATO in Ukraine have started two wars in Ukraine. The first was the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) that was launched on 15th April 2014 with the full support of NATO, which claimed that Russia had invaded Ukraine.

“That claim was a barefaced lie based on satellite images and old pictures of Russian tanks on exercise.

But Kiev’s army was defeated by the Donbas anti-fascist militias in 2015.

“Since 2014 we have the Western media collectively censored all reports on the deaths of thousands of civilians in the Donbas Republics at the hands of Ukraine’s forces and the Nazi military battalions.

“We now know that the eight-year-long Minsk peace talks were used by NATO to secretly re-arm Kiev’s army, and even

while the peace talks continued, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky declared in 2021 ‘We will re-occupy the Donbas’.

“NATO used the talks to secretly re-arm and train Ukraine’s military, with the participation of the USA, Britain, France, Germany, Poland and Canada.

“The US military expert Scott Ritter has described how these countries brought the fascist battalions into Ukraine’s

armed forces and trained them to use NATO military equipment.

“Several days before the Russian intervention on 24th February 2022 a 60,000-strong Ukrainian force launched the second all-out military offensive against the Donbas People’s Republics, the first being in 2014.

“In February–March 2022 Russia and Ukraine negotiated a deal to end the war, but the NATO

Council met and decided that Ukraine must continue fighting with NATO weapons and money.

“This was the second great tragedy for Ukraine. About 180,000 Ukrainians have died since then as NATO’s cannon fodder. Their deaths could so easily have been prevented.

“After this war ends, perhaps in six months or a year, a new government will emerge, with the participation of Ukrainian anti-fascists and democrats. But our media will then tell us that this new government is a Russian colony, worse than Nazi Germany, and will no doubt label it a ‘Stalinist dictatorship’.

“Even now they are very likely laying preparations for future terrorist attacks and sanctions to destabilise and isolate a new Ukraine. So a genuinely democratic Ukraine may need our solidarity for many more years to come. I want to end with the words: No Pasaran! Sie werden nicht durchkommen! Nyet fascismu!”

REVIEW

Not just for the few

***Poetry for the Many* by Jeremy Corbyn and Len McCluskey. OR Books: New York & London; hardback 2023, softback 2024; 224 pp; RRP: hardback £17, softback £12, print+e-book £20.**

The book can be purchased direct from the publishers: <https://www.orbooks.com/catalog/poetry-for-the-many/>

by Jenny Farrell

This is a truly remarkable publication by two of Britain's most outstanding socialists, whose public profile does not bring the publication of poetry books immediately to mind.

Jeremy Corbyn and Len McCluskey, former leaders of the Labour Party and Unite the Union respectively, are prominent figures in British politics. They are highly respected not only by the political Left in Britain but also among working-class communities and all those who support their struggle for genuine democracy around the world.

Both men have a long history of public service, fighting for workers' rights and social justice. They are proud trade unionists and committed socialists, with a strong internationalist perspective. Their careers have been marked by a steadfast commitment to the values of fairness and justice.

Jeremy Corbyn, the Independent MP for Islington North, is known for his tenacity and incorruptibility. As Labour Party leader from 2015 to 2019, he significantly expanded the party's membership and gave hope to a new generation of politically engaged young people that real change and a better life for all were possible.

Len McCluskey, the former general secretary of Unite, is celebrated

for his industrial and political acumen. Under his leadership, Unite became the most influential British union. Growing up in Liverpool, Len was shaped by the city's vibrant cultural scene and its strong sense of community. His leadership style is known for being both combative and confidence-inspiring, championing workers' struggles both at home and abroad.

Together, Jeremy and Len represent a powerful force for change, dedicated to the fight for fairness, justice, peace, and a better life for all.

The motto "For the Many" was popularised within the Labour Party during the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. It featured prominently in the party's 2017 general election manifesto and became closely associated with Corbyn's tenure as Labour's leader to encapsulate the party's commitment to social justice and equality.

The phrase is borrowed from Shelley, specifically from his *Masque of Anarchy*, where the poet calls on the working people of England to become aware of their strength, when he wrote "Ye are Many, they are Few". Shelley was enthusiastically embraced by the working class, and his convictions live on to this day. They are expressed in the central beliefs enshrined in the work of Jeremy Corbyn and Len McCluskey.

Poems for the Many is an extension of this

core political stance. The title is a challenge to the establishment, which seeks to forever enforce its hegemony of culture and the arts to represent its interests. Working-class people are frequently made to believe that high culture has nothing to do with them and that they cannot understand it even if they try. Nothing could be further from the truth,

Blake's hymn *Jerusalem* about the fight to establish a humane world, replacing "dark Satanic mills" with a "green and pleasant" here and now. Len writes: "We must remember that *Jerusalem* was a call to arms, for all nations and working people, and reclaim the poem of a great radical." A version of the song became an unofficial anthem of England adopted

vocating for environmental sustainability." Both Jeremy and Len do something else that we are not taught at school: they highlight the radical potential of the poets who have made it onto the school curriculum.

As a collection, many of the poems presented focus on resistance, class struggles, colonialism and oppression. To mention some of these: the US author Langston Hughes' *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* connects the Black experience with the long history of human civilization. British Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est" and Isaac Rosenberg's "Dead Man's Dump" are among those poems that expose the horrors of war and how the working classes are sacrificed for the interests of the ruling elite. The *Peat Bog Soldiers*, a song of resistance, was written by Germans Johann Esser and Wolfgang Langhoff while prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp, as a direct expression against fascism and for the fight for freedom. Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish's *In Jerusalem* addresses the experience of colonised, occupied Palestine.

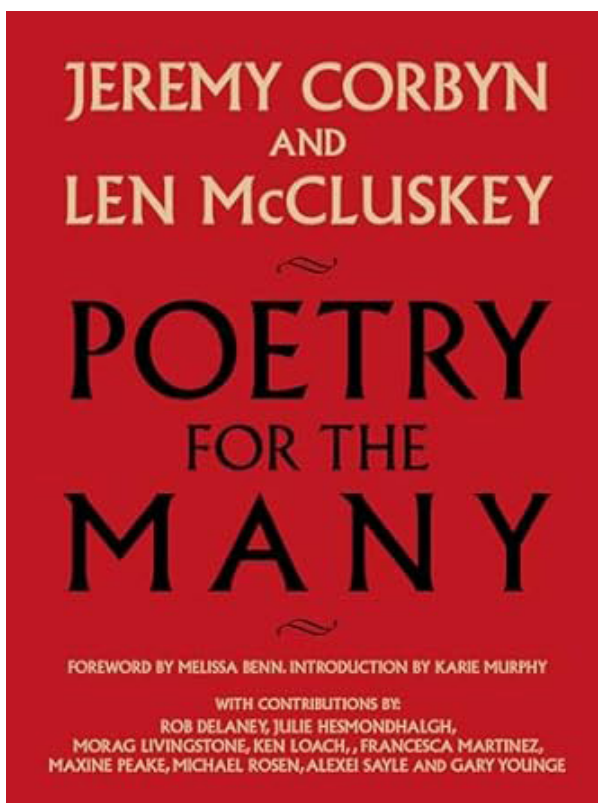
Many of the poems collected here by Len and Jeremy, however, are less well known and often stem from the canon of writings by the oppressed. They describe the experience of poverty, repression, racial, sexual or religious discrimination, displacement, prison and wars.

It is hardly surprising therefore that we are so much less familiar with them, as they directly challenge Establishment cultural hegemony. They speak of the experiences of the Many, and for two people who have put all their efforts into furthering the cause of the Many by fighting for the rights of the working people to a fair share of the wealth they produce, it makes complete sense that the authors highlight the expressions of this experience in poetry. These are the voices that need to be heard.

This poetry collection reflects, among many other things, Jeremy and Len's democratic approach to collaboration in their work. Fellow fighters who have been involved in their struggles were invited to contribute and comment on a poem of their choice. What emerges is more than a book of poetry, it is the embodiment of joint effort in the interest of and collaboration with the Many.

Poetry for the Many is a resource for people looking for solace and encouragement in difficult times, people who need to feel that they are part of a global movement against war, repression and deprivation. The poems come from different epochs and parts of the world. They celebrate internationalism, solidarity, the working people and their lives. They deepen our own humanity and will to change the world.

People's World (USA)



and this is what Jeremy and Len have set out to show.

They have collected here a very fine selection of poetry that has been meaningful to them in their lives and in their struggles. Some of the poems are well known, however Len and Jeremy give their particular take on these. Among such famous poems is, for example, William

by the Labour Party.

Jeremy comments on another poem many of us know, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, that it is a reminder of how being in tune with nature's beauty is a powerful motivation to do what we can to preserve it. Jeremy writes: "By simply describing daffodils in his famous poem [Wordsworth] conveys a strong message ad-

Israelis beaten back in Lebanon

The Israeli military has so far failed to “capture even a single village” in southern Lebanon despite deploying over 50,000 soldiers for the ground invasion, an Israeli paper has lamented.

“After a month of ground operations involving five divisions and reserve brigades – exceeding 50,000 troops, three times the force used in the July 2006 war – Israel has been unable to establish a presence in southern Lebanon,” the *Yedioth Ahronoth* (Latest News) daily reported this week.

“Despite support from firepower and air support, the Israeli military still hasn’t managed to capture a single village in southern Lebanon.”

The report attributed the failure of the Israeli forces to Hezbollah’s



“effective tactical strategies”, which include multiple defensive lines equipped with munitions capable of accurately targeting Israeli armoured vehicles, tanks and soldiers.

Additionally, it not-

ed the Israeli army’s difficulties in mapping Hezbollah’s positions and countering the threat posed by small, hard-to-detect drones.

Hezbollah issued a statement on Friday, saying that in the last 45

days, it had destroyed a large number of Israel’s military vehicles, including 42 Merkava tanks, four military bulldozers, two Hummer vehicles, one armoured vehicle and one troop carrier. More than 95 Israeli of-

• **Hezbollah at the ready...**

ficers and men have been killed and 900 others wounded since Israelis started their ground invasion against Lebanon, the statement added. Resistance fighters also downed three Hermes-450 and two

Hermes-900 drones.

In an interview, Colonel Jack Neriya, a former advisor to Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, explained that Hezbollah fighters are deliberately allowing Israeli forces to advance, only to trap them in ambushes. This tactic has created a dire situation for Israeli troops, including elite units like the Golanis and other commandos, he said.

Neriya also warned that the human cost of any advance for Israeli forces could be severe, potentially surpassing Israel’s total casualties since the late 1940s.

Since October 2023, Israel has killed over 2,700 people in Lebanon. Most of them have lost their lives in the last month amid the intensified airstrikes and a ground offensive.

Radio Havana Cuba

Malaysia working to expel Israel from United Nations

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Anwar says his country is part of a core group drafting a resolution, which, among others, proposes that Israel be expelled from the UN General Assembly following its human rights violations and genocidal crimes.

Anwar told the Malaysian parliament on Monday that the draft resolution is in the negotiation process and is expected to be present-

ed to the UN General Assembly for approval “soon”.

“Strong measures, including Israel’s removal from the United Nations following Israel’s human rights violations and genocidal crimes, must be enforced as soon as possible,” he noted.

“Malaysia will ensure that the agenda is heard and given attention so that the atrocities of the Israeli regime can be stopped, besides allowing critical aid to reach the Palestinian

people at a time when the massacre continues to worsen.”

Once approved, Anwar said, the resolution is expected to be a legal basis for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to continue providing basic services, including education, health treatment and humanitarian aid.

Last week, the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, passed a bill banning UNRWA from operating, which would eventually

affect its work in the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. The legislation will take effect in 90 days.

Israel alleges that Hamas resistance fighters have infiltrated UNRWA.

The UN agency denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

UNRWA on Monday said Israel’s ban on its operations would lead to the “collapse” of humanitarian work in the war-torn Gaza Strip. “If this law is implemented, it would

be likely to cause the collapse of the international humanitarian operation in the Gaza Strip – an operation of which UNRWA is the backbone,” UNRWA spokesman, Jonathan Fowler, said.

The UN agency has been providing education, healthcare and other basic services to Palestinian refugees following the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and creation of the Zionist regime.

Palestinian refugees

now number nearly six million. Refugee families make up the majority of Gaza’s 2.3 million population.

The UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, has already urged the suspension of Israel’s UN membership, citing repeated violations of international law and the occupation of Palestinian territories.

Radio Havana Cuba