

Global protests to stop Zionist genocide!

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

Hamas is calling for global protests to mark the 600 days of Israeli genocide and starvation as the partisans keep up the fight against the Zionist aggressors in the shattered buildings and streets of the Gaza Strip. International efforts to end the fighting continue but the Palestinian resistance movement has denied reports that it has accepted an American-brokered cease-fire plan, saying it failed to address their core demands.

This week Hamas renewed its call for “global voices to be raised in condemnation of the Israeli regime’s genocide and starvation against defenceless civilians, children, and women” and urged movements and institutions worldwide to “escalate all forms of global action, in cities and squares around the world, against the aggression, extermination, and starvation targeting our people...we call for global protests to immediately stop the Zionist Holocaust. May the coming days be days of global rage,” Hamas said.

Meanwhile a senior Hamas



were crushed to death and two others shot on Wednesday as thousands of starving Palestinians rushed a United Nations humanitarian aid distribution warehouse in Deir al-Balah, tearing open its metal walls in a desperate attempt to find food.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene as starving people clamoured for the supplies. Abdel Qader Rabie said: “I’m hungry, and I want to eat. There’s no flour, no food, no bread. There’s nothing at home. Every time I go get aid, I take hold of a box, and a hundred people crowd over me – 300. I couldn’t take anything. I just go home empty-handed. Before, the UN agency used to send me a message, and I would go, like any respected person. I’d take the aid, and I’d go back home. Now there’s nothing. If you’re strong, you get aid. If you’re not strong, you don’t.”

• Gaza’s children queue for food.

choose to allow to enter the Gaza Strip.

In Gaza, at least two people

official has told the media that they have rejected the latest US proposal for a new Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal. The plan, for a temporary seven-day truce and a prisoner exchange, had been brokered by Donald Trump’s special emissary, Steve Witkoff, and accepted by Israel. It also calls for formal negotiations to reach a lasting political solution to begin during the truce. These talks would include conditions such as Hamas pledging not to pose future threats to Israeli security and the establishment of a technocratic government in the Gaza Strip for post-war reconstruction.

Hamas said it would study the proposal “responsibly”, stressing its commitment to a deal that safeguards “the interests of the Palestinian people, provides relief, and secures a permanent ceasefire in the Strip”. But Hamas turned down the current proposal

because the Americans would not provide a guarantee that the temporary ceasefire would be extended to become permanent.

Bassem Naim, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, said Israel “in essence, seeks to perpetuate the occupation, continue the killing and starvation, even during a temporary truce, and fails to meet any of the Palestinian people’s core demands, especially the call to end the war and the humanitarian crisis”.

Meanwhile 10 starving Palestinians civilians were killed and 62 others were wounded after bogus “aid” workers lost control at so-called “aid distribution centres” in Rafah this week. These centres, run by the dubious “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” that was set up with the blessing of Trump and Netanyahu, were designed to bypass international aid agencies and give Israel total control of what little food they

FUND

Thirty-five pounds from Dagenham, £50 from Walthamstow and £20 from a supporter in Hereford. All in all the post brought in £532, pushing the running total for May to £2,956 We’ve now got to try and raise £544 in the next few days to hit our target for the month.

The despatch of this week’s paper was delayed due to a fault on the broadband line of our internet provider. Alternative equipment and a couple of emergency purchases enabled us to finish off production but printing was unavoidably delayed.

These are the problems all small print shops face. We have to maintain our equipment and keep our suppliers happy by paying their bills on time. That’s where the fighting fund comes in – without it we’d be long gone. But with the support and sacrifice of our readers we have maintained for 48 years what is now the only communist weekly in Britain.

Put the communist alternative back on the agenda and build the communist movement here in Britain. Speed the day!

Please send your contribution 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

STERIOD GAMES .. P2

THE JUCHE IDEA .. P5

CUBAN BIOTECH .. P7

UKRAINE .. PP10,12

TRUMP VS S AFRICAN PRESIDENT .. P11

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Knives out for Starmer

Smears, rumours and gossip. From the mainstream media to the murky corners of the dark web, it's clear that concerted efforts are being made by some of the Labour prominent to clear the decks for a challenge to Sir Keir Starmer's leadership later in the year. Angela Rayner and Wes Streeting are in the frame amid renewed speculation around Andy Burnham's return to the parliamentary arena.

The knives are out on the Labour street. Many in the Westminster bubble say any one of those three could do a better job than Starmer. The truth is that practically anyone in the Labour Party as a whole would be better than Starmer – the man who led Labour to landslide victory at the general election last year and is now leading them to an equally colossal defeat if the opinion polls are anything to go by.

Starmer is a cynical politician whose lodestar is simply to follow what he believes is the dominant trend within the British ruling class. Not an easy thing to do at the best of times – let alone in these fraught times of end days capitalism.

But there is no dominant trend within the ruling class these days – neither on the European Union, NATO nor, more importantly, on how to deal with the Trump administration.

Starmer's European "reset" enraged the Brexiteers but won him no favours from the Remainers who say, with some justification, that these token gestures to Brussels do nothing to swell the demand for a second referendum on the EU. His attempt to become a 'leader' in Europe by rallying Franco-German imperialism to stave off the collapse of the Zelensky regime is an equally pointless gesture because the fate of Ukraine is going to be decided by Washington and Moscow – regardless of the "special relationship" that supposedly exists between Britain and the USA.

Gone are the delusions of grandeur of the British ruling class who believed that the American sphere of influence across the globe constitutes the "free world" and that Britain was the second-in-command in policing it. The days when British imperialism could play off the USA against the Europeans by acting as a trans-Atlantic 'bridge' between US imperialism and that of France and Germany are long gone.

The "special relationship" that Winston Churchill believed went beyond the terms of the NATO alliance largely existed only in the imagination of Tory leaders and right-wing Labour politicians. Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair liked to pose as partners of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton but at the end of the day it was always the Americans who called the shots. Boris Johnson talked about "a new special relationship" and a trans-Atlantic free trade zone. But the 'Treaty of Washington' never saw the light of day and Trump's latest thinking – a one-sided tariff agreement and the annexation of Canada – is totally unacceptable to the British ruling class.

In the corridors of power some believe Britain should simply sit it out. Put up with Trump until his term of office expires and hope for better times to come. Others say time is not on their side – wary of the talk of a "new Yalta" in Washington and the Kremlin – a redivision of the world by the super-powers that would leave nothing but crumbs for Britain and the EU.

A change may well be as good as a rest but Labour needs more than a cosmetic reshuffle of the top table to revive its flagging fortunes. Starmer, of course, has to go. But whoever takes his place will have to dump the old imperialist agenda if Labour is to have any hope of winning the next election.

The Steroid Olympics

A sports event called the 'Enhanced Games' is scheduled to take place in May 2026 in Las Vegas in the USA. The event has sparked widespread criticism and condemnation for luring athletes with large cash prizes and allowing them to use long-term banned substances in the sporting competitions, such as steroids and growth hormones. A spokesman for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), James Fitzgerald, denounced the initiative as "dangerous and irresponsible" and World Aquatics condemned it as "a circus built on shortcuts". Last week China's Anti-Doping Agency issued a statement firmly opposing the glorification of doping as a form of "scientific advancements" and called on the global sports community to stand united in rejecting the event.

The 'Enhanced Games' was founded by Australian entrepreneur Aron D'Souza and is set to take place in Las Vegas with financial backing from several prominent figures in American political and business circles. The fact that this event is happening in the USA rather than elsewhere is not a coincidence – it is a concentrated reflection of the systemic failure of anti-doping regulation in the country. For years, the USA has been known for its fragmented and chaotic anti-doping oversight. Approximately 90 per cent of American athletes, particularly those in professional leagues and college sports, compete outside the jurisdiction of the World Anti-Doping Code.

In September 2024, the WADA called for "root and branch reforms" of the US anti-doping system. While the USA enforces its Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act with extraterritorial reach across the globe, it has ironically become a severely afflicted area for anti-doping violations, now even more so with the emergence of the 'Enhanced Games'.

No matter how the organisers try to rebrand it, they could not deny the fact that the 'Enhanced Games' represent a blatant stain on the spirit of sport, a direct challenge to global athletic

norms, as well as a threat to the ethical values of human society. Cloaked in rhetoric about "scientific advancements" and "pushing the boundaries of human performance" the event is in fact driven by a deeply troubling industrial model targeting the human body – one where pharmaceutical companies, tech capital, entertainment media and political lobbying groups converge to create a testing ground for the 'legalised' use of performance-enhancing drugs. This is not a sporting event in the traditional sense, but rather a radical experiment born from the collusion of capitalism, technology and unrestrained liberalism. Rather than calling it "Enhanced Games", it would be more accurate to call it the "Doping Games".

As WADA spokesman James Fitzgerald has said, the 'Enhanced Games' seeks to promote the use of powerful substances and methods by athletes for the purposes of entertainment and marketing. Numerous studies have shown that long-term use of anabolic steroids and growth hormones can lead to liver and kidney damage, cardiovascular disease and even death. Yet the 'Enhanced Games' blatantly ignores these potential consequences, placing athletes' health at risk – an alarming level of indifference.

For a long time, many organisations such as the International Olympic Committee have upheld a global ban on substances like steroids, driven by a shared commitment to protecting athletes' health, preserving the spirit of sport, and ensuring fair competition. The emergence of the "Enhanced Games" is now attempting to challenge this global

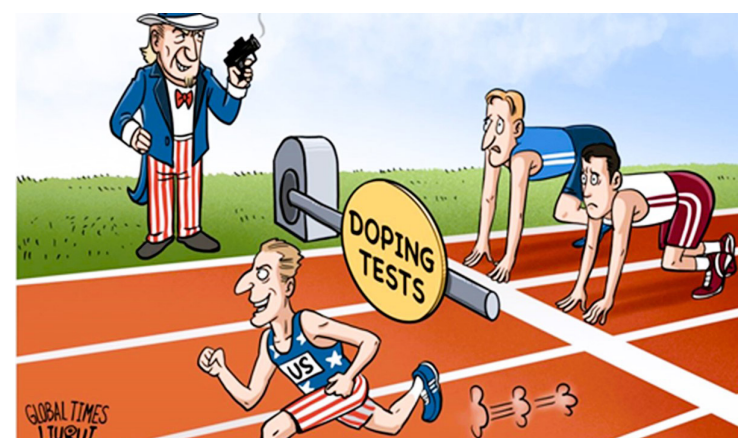
consensus.

Sport has never been merely about speed or strength; it represents fairness, justice and the resilience of the human spirit. The direction represented by the 'Enhanced Games' runs counter to these values. It outsources 'victory' to drugs and capital, turning competition into an arms race of an illicit technologies – whoever has the most aggressive 'enhancement plan' ends up on the podium. If that's the case, what meaning does sport still hold?

Relevant authorities in the USA have a responsibility to prevent this event from being held. This is not only a fundamental stance in defence of international norms, ethical principles and justice, but also a duty to the health of American society, especially its youth, and the spirit of sport, and to avoid turning the USA into a testing ground for controversial technologies that challenge ethical boundaries.

The underlying ideology of the 'Enhanced Games' aligns closely with certain trend of technological extremism present in American society. Behind this so-called sports experiment, what we see is not the dawn of humanity's future, but a clear manifestation of ethical breakdown caused by blatant capitalist desire and techno-extremism. Therefore, this is not only a provocation to global sports ethics, but also a reflection of a deeper, systemic loss of control rooted in a kind of acceleration within American society. Its influence goes far beyond sports itself. The world is watching to see how America responds to the 'Enhanced Games'.

Global Times



Workers' Notes

Back in Academia

by New Worker correspondent

This week we take a look at the state of Britain's universities and the struggles by staff to oppose redundancies and attacks on conditions. With very few exceptions at the top of the tree, they are not in a healthy financial state.

Universities UK (UUK), the trade body for the 141 institutions that call themselves universities, has said so, confirming what the University and College Union (UCU) has been saying for years.

Early in May, UUK published a survey directed at its members' chief finance officers which showed that the majority of the 60 respondents were undertaking "operational cutbacks to deal with growing financial pressures, including reducing investment in repairs and maintenance".

In particular, 49 per cent have closed courses, 55 per cent 'consolidated' courses, and 18 per cent closed whole departments in the last year alone. Nineteen per cent have reduced investment in research, while the vast majority of respondents will be doing so in future.

UUK reports that universities claim to be actively avoiding cutting student hardship and bursary funds, but almost half say they will need to reconsider this in the next three years.

Sixty per cent reported cutting back on repairs and maintenance to existing facilities. Half are cutting back on catering and IT. A quarter had to make compulsory redundancies. In all cases these cuts are double what was reported in the previous year.

Universities claim that despite the financial pressures they are doing all they can do to "to protect the overall student experience", citing the most recent Student Satisfaction Survey that shows 85 per cent of students were positive about the level of academic support.

The UUK says: "The reality

SWR returns to public ownership

by New Worker correspondent

South Western Railway (SWR) returned to public ownership last weekend, marking the first major move in the Labour government's plan to renationalise the rail system. The rail union RMT said that this was as a step in the right direction but warned that continued outsourcing of essential frontline services risks undermining the benefits of renationalisation. Key roles such as Cleaning, Security and Gateline remain contracted-out to private profiteers including OCS, STM Group, Carlisle Support Services and Adecco. These companies raked in nine per cent gross profits from public rail contracts last year while employing staff on poverty wages, without sick pay or decent pensions.

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander launched the first publicly operated SWR train from London Waterloo on Sunday,

for most universities is that they have had to make serious cuts. Falling per-student funding, visa changes which have decreased international enrolments, and a longstanding failure of research grants to cover costs are creating huge pressures in all four nations of the UK."

UUK's statement concluded by saying that it "will continue to focus on what can be done within the sector to reduce costs", which is a polite way of saying that more cuts will be on the way.

The main union involved, the 120,000-strong UCU, broadly agrees with this bleak diagnosis while arguing that in many cases the piggy banks are full enough to avoid cuts. Jo Grady, their general secretary, declared recently: "Over 10,000 jobs are already set to disappear from the sector as vice-chancellors attempt to bin courses and cut student provision to the bone."

The union warns that already it has won ballots for strike action at 16 universities so far this academic year, and reminds the Government that it has won



describing the transition as "a new dawn" for British rail. "This is a turning point," she said. "We

are leaving behind decades of fragmentation and poor performance, and building a railway

battles against compulsory redundancies at both Sheffield and Cardiff universities. At Dundee it forced a drastic cut in planned redundancies.

At its annual congress last week delegates overwhelmingly voted to prepare for industrial action over the issue of university funding, which could lead to an England-wide strike ballot. Getting approval for widespread action however, rather than in response to local emergencies, has proven difficult for UCU in the past as it failed to meet the turnout threshold. In all there are 246,000 academic staff in Britain, so UCU's membership density is not so strong as it often includes non-academic staff.

This vote is a departure from the union's previous approach that did not offer a direct challenge to the government's funding model, which expects universities to make up the shortfall in direct government funding following sweeping cuts through the recruitment of domestic and international fee-paying students. It is now targeting the Education

Secretary directly. Announcing the change of strategy, Jo Grady said: "What we are saying is that the government has the ability to intervene in this sector and to issue instructions ... Labour at the moment is sitting on the sidelines, watching a deepening crisis unfold. The model that we have is cannibalising the sector."

The union claims that November's £285 rise in university tuition fees, which are now £9,535 a year, has done little to stabilise university finances and will merely result in further increases in student debt.

Up and Down the Country

Industrial action at Edinburgh University has been overwhelmingly approved by UCU members in opposition to £140 million of planned cuts from the annual budget, which Management say could involve compulsory redundancies. Eighty-four per cent voted for strike action on a

that serves the public rather than private shareholders."

SWR, which connects London with major southern cities such as Reading, Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Exeter, became the first network to be nationalised under the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act 2024, which was passed shortly after the general election.

Under the new plan, all passenger services currently operating under contracts with the Transport Department will gradually return to public control by 2027 and be integrated into a new national body, Great British Railways, which will manage both operations and infrastructure. The government expects to save up to £150 million pounds per year, which will be reinvested in service reliability, capacity and passenger experience.

Despite the symbolic significance of Sunday's launch, the first scheduled SWR service under public control, the 05:36 from the British town of Woking, was replaced by a rail replacement bus due to engineering works!

turnout of 60 per cent, an even higher 93 per cent voted for action short of strike, which could include working to contract, not covering for absent colleagues, voluntary activities or a marking and assessment boycott.

UCU says these cuts are the worse ever in Scottish higher education and that the university has ample reserves to at least mitigate job cuts. UCU accuses Management of wanting to abandon its traditional academic reputation and switch to a "downsized, standardised and increasingly more commercialised university". More MBAs and less PhDs is the hidden agenda.

A less prestigious institution, the Liverpool Hope University, also plans to chop 39 staff before Christmas in the faculties of education and social sciences, creative arts and humanities, and human and digital sciences. Again, this comes at a time when it has healthy cash reserves and a Vice-Chancellor (V-C) on over £300,000. UCU warns that it will enter into a formal industrial dis-

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

pute if the threat of compulsory industrial action is not ruled out.

At Kingston University on the Thames, 300 UCU members are balloting for strike action in a dispute over a £20 million cuts programme that Management is forcing through. This will include closing the humanities department and courses in the department of criminology, sociology and politics. Having failed to get rid of sufficient numbers through a voluntary severance scheme, compulsory redundancy is likely. This comes against a backdrop of a £7 million surplus in 2023/24 and more than £400 million in the piggy bank.

Further down the Thames at the University of Greenwich things are much more serious. Here 319 staff, or about a quarter of the 1245 workforce, are facing the chop. This will fall on the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (FLAS), the Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) and the Greenwich Business School (GBS).

The plan is that every single hourly paid lecturer in FLAS (151 in total) and GBS (45 in total) will be sacked and replaced by a pool of 50 part-time workers, equivalent to just 17 full-time posts. At the same time, the university will create a bank of academics on zero-hour contracts with no guaranteed hours. UCU states that the contracts will leave them with no statutory right to

redundancy pay; maternity, paternity and parental leave; and no protection against unfair dismissal.

At the same time as putting academics on zero-hour contracts, the V-C's pay has increased from £299,000 to £374,000k since 2021, which no doubt he 'deserved' as the university made a £33 million surplus in 2023/24.

As Jo Grady says: "Students are having their fees hiked, yet the University of Greenwich wants to sack hundreds of their teachers and instead bring in a pool of zero-hour academics, all while the vice-chancellor's pay continues to soar. These are the actions of the very worst type of rogue employer."

In Wales, things are not much better.

The CEO of Medr, the quango for higher and further education in the principality, has been forced to reassure the Senedd that no university or college will actually collapse.

He noted however, that Welsh universities had a £61 million operating deficit in 2023/24 compared with a previous £21 million surplus, but with one-off restructuring costs it amounts to a £77 million deficit.

I'm All Right Jack

Needless to say, financial troubles

are very far the minds of some university staff. The V-C do very well, thank you. Making cuts and closing departments is very hard work so V-Cs naturally 'deserve' a raise to compensate for the stress of sacking staff.

Last year it was noted that of the 66 institutions which reported making redundancies or taking other cost-cutting measures no less than 43 gave their V-Cs a pay rise.

UCU deplored this, saying: "The public will rightly be appalled when they see the engorged salaries vice chancellors are raking in, despite presiding over a broken sector."

Among those in the UCU black book was the Teesside University V-C who had a 17 per cent rise from £312,139 in 2021/22 to £364,305 at a time when he was sacking staff. At Swansea University 200 staff were lost in a cost-cutting exercise by V-C Paul Boyle, who got a nine per cent pay rise at the same time.

Nottingham University's V-C rose by 8.4 per cent to £361,181 so that he could chop hundreds of fixed-term contracts. At Wolverhampton University the V-C got a 28 per cent rise to £443,000 to implement a voluntary redundancy scheme.

London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) lost 34 English language and study skills support staff in the same period as the V-C had a 26 per cent pay rise to £410,061.

It is clear the Government

approves of this practice. UUK wash their hands of this, saying that pay is the responsibility of the individual institution.

Staff at Coventry University are furious that their V-C, who got a bonus every year of his tenure since 2014, has been appointed to the Board of the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) board as a reward for firing-and-rehiring hundreds of university workers, despite Labour's pledge to abolish the practice.

At Coventry 92 full-time members of staff are to be made redundant and another 200 staff transferred onto a fake university subsidiary company ironically called "People's Future Limited" (PFL), of which James Harrison of the Institute of Employment Rights said: "It seems the biggest driver of this apparent fire-and-rehire, is to rob workers of their pay, pensions (deferred pay), terms, and conditions."

Staff transferred over to PFL will longer technically be university employees despite the subsidiary being owned by the

university. Terms and conditions are inferior, new contracts provide for longer hours and reduced annual leave and pensions. It also takes staff out of the National Framework Agreement, which has a pay scale negotiated by the UCU. In addition, the union is not recognised.

Many British universities have come to depend on overseas students as they bring in higher fees. Scottish universities in particular would probably collapse without them as native students get free tuition and so the money has to come from somewhere else. The search for foreign students gives senior managers an excuse to galivant off to foreign parts (usually sunny climes) in search of their fees. They have also been setting up campuses abroad at great expense to cash in on their alleged good name.

Coventry spent nearly £55 million in 2023 on fees to agents overseeing the recruitment of overseas students. As this has not been very successful, it is staff and not the boss who pay the price...

CONTACT US...

Post: NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, UK

Phone: 07497 393 263

New Worker National: www.newworker.org

email: party@ncp.clara.net

London District NCP:
<http://londoncommunists.blogspot.com/>

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

3rd June

A GROUP of Labour MPs supporting Gordon Brown's hopes to replace Blair in the not too-distant future called last week for the Labour Party to rediscover its left-wing roots and, at the next general election, to present the country with a clear choice between left and right.

The group included backbench MP Ed Balls, the former chief economic advisory to the Treasury, Douglas Alexander MP for Paisley South, Barking MP Margaret Hodge and former Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

Ed Balls called on the leadership to emphasise

"conviction politics" and said that they must ensure that "when we set out our positive agenda, it is based on values ... that are Labour values and a Labour programme in contrast with a Conservative programme".

Not a word about "New Labour" here – from people who not long ago were its most ardent supporters. These dedicated opportunists and careerists have clearly been watching the political weather forecasts and know which way the wind is blowing.

Balls went on to say: "There are 40-plus seats where the majority is less than 5,000. We must start planning for general election now rather than spend three years having an internal debate."

Margaret Hodge, probably to the astonishment of her constituents and local Labour activists, said: "It's not apathy that is turning people away from Labour but anger. They are cross because they think we're not listening to them, or responding to them."

She referred to the 16.9 per cent of the vote won by the

neo-Nazi British National Party in her own constituency: "We're culpable in allowing an atmosphere in which racism can flourish."

Lord Kinnock called on the party leadership to emphasise the links between its economic policies and its achievement in keeping unemployment down, saying: "It's not enough for Labour to claim credit keeping unemployment down. Labour must refer to unemployment as not just a waste, but as a social evil."

These are amazing remarks from a bunch of people who have backed Thatcher-style privatisations to the hilt, describing them as "economic reform". They begin to sound just a little like the genuine left MPs of the Labour Representation Committee.

Meanwhile Blair is becoming more and more isolated in his own party and Europe, as he promises to use Britain's presidency of the European Union to push the EU towards ever harder towards free market policies behind privatisation.

Korea and the Juche Idea

by Dermot Hudson

The Juche Idea or Juche ideology has been the guiding idea of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for many decades. But what does it mean?

Well, Juche is a Korean word of two syllables: 'Ju' meaning one's self, and 'Che' which means master. In other words, it means 'master of oneself'.

Juche is synonymous with the DPRK. Without understanding the Juche idea, it is impossible to have any understanding of the DPRK. Much of the media in the West and some so-called academic experts totally ignore the Juche idea in their discourse on the DPRK, others show a crude and distorted understanding of the Juche idea, which is essentially dismissive of it.

Juche is frequently described as meaning 'self-reliance'. Self-reliance indeed forms a core part of the Juche idea, but it has a far wider and deeper meaning.

A typical example of the Western mainstream media dismissal of Juche can be found in Reuters on 14th September 2017. The article, written by Jack Kim and Kiyoshi Takenaka and syndicated in other publications, such as the *Daily Mirror*, claimed that "Juche is the North's ruling ideology that mixes Marxism and an extreme form of go-it-alone nationalism". This is, of course, a caricature of the Juche idea.

At no point did any of the DPRK's leaders ever say that the DPRK would or should "go it alone" – although at different moments in its history it has had to 'go it alone' in order to survive.

An example of the latter was in 1962 when the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suspended co-operation with the DPRK and imposed sanctions on it.

Worse are those who claim that Juche is a form of 'ethno-nationalism' or a 'state



• Kim Il Sung addresses the crowd in Pyongyang after liberation.

religion' or even a 'cult'.

A lot of misinformation about the Juche idea has been spread by American and European academics based in south Korea. Among them are BR Myers and Andrei Lankov, who are held up as 'Korea experts' but actually know very little about the DPRK.

Even on the left in Western Europe and North America there exists a lot of ignorance and misunderstanding about the Juche idea.

The Juche idea was the brainchild of the DPRK's founding father, Kim Il Sung, who led the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle.

The term 'Juche' was first used publicly and explicitly in 1955 in a speech Kim Il Sung made to party ideological workers – titled *On Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism and Establishing Juche in Ideological Work*. In his speech Kim asked: "What is Juche in our Party's ideological work? What are we doing? We are not engaged in any other country's revolution, but solely in the Korean revolution. This, the Korean revolution, determines the essence of Juche in the ideological work of our Party. Therefore, all ideological work must be subordinated

to the interests of the Korean revolution."

At the time Kim Il Sung made the speech, there was an urgent need to clear away dogmatic and formalistic attitudes that were hindering the advance of the Korean revolution.

The DPRK was blazing a new trail in the construction of socialism; ready-made formulas, therefore, did not fit.

Some dogmatists in the ruling Workers' Party of Korea wanted to do everything according to old Marxist textbooks or to copy the experiences of the USSR.

The DPRK's situation was different from other socialist countries however, it was a divided country that had emerged from the ruins of Japanese colonialism and feudalism.

It was really impossible for the DPRK to follow the path of other countries. There was a need for independent and creative thinking and for the DPRK to assert its independence.

The assertion of the DPRK's independence became more important than before because the Soviet Union, after the death of Stalin in March 1953, became revisionist and dropped its an-

ti-imperialist stance and, later, the socialist camp and international communist movement was split into pro-Soviet and pro-Chinese wings. President Kim Il Sung pointed out that "in 1955, therefore, our Party set forth the definite policy of establishing Juche, and has been persistently urging an energetic ideological struggle to carry it through ever since. The year 1955 marked a turning point in our Party's consistent struggle against dogmatism. It was also at that time, in fact, that we started our struggle against modern revisionism that had emerged within the socialist camp. Our struggle against dogmatism was thus linked up with the struggle against modern revisionism."

Moreover, establishing Juche was essential because Korea was sandwiched between great powers and menaced by the US imperialists who had occupied southern Korea after 1945. In the past, Korea had lost independence due to the idea of relying on and fawning to big powers (known as flunkeyism in Korea).

The flunkeyist or sycophantic mentality had been deeply ingrained in the old feudal ruling class. In the clos-

ing years of the 19th Century and the early 20th Century, Korea's feudal rulers had done virtually nothing to organise the work of defence against the menace of Japan.

The ruling class was split into pro-Russian, pro-Chinese, pro-American and pro-Japanese factions. Different big powers – such as Japan, the USA, China, Russia, Britain and France – all coveted Korea. In the end, however, Korea was occupied and annexed by Japan.

The nationalist movement in Korea was also captivated by flunkeyism, the mentality of relying on big powers. Some wanted to rely on the Americans, believing in Woodrow Wilson's doctrine of "self-determination", while others looked to Nationalist China or to the Soviet Union. Some even believed that the colonial suzerain Japan would grant independence to Korea if they begged hard enough.

Although Juche was first explicitly mentioned in 1955, it actually goes back much further. It was first outlined in an embryonic form by Kim Il Sung when he addressed a meeting of the leading activists and cadres of the Young Communist League of Korea and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League at Kalun, China, in June 1930 (many Koreans had been exiled to China in those days and many Korean independence activists were based in China). At the time, the Korean people were looking for a new way to successfully conduct the revolutionary struggle for independence and national liberation as well as for social justice.

The young Kim Il Sung keenly realised that a new path for the Korean revolution needed to be charted. He stressed that the Korean revolution should be carried out independently and by relying on the ordinary people, the popular masses.

In his speech, titled *The Path of the Korean Revolu-*

continued on page 6...

...continued from page 5

tion, he explained his ideas and put forward an independent line for the Korean revolution. He castigated those who believed in relying on big powers or splitting into many different factions:

“Experience shows that in order to lead the revolution to victory, one must go among the masses of people and organise them, and solve all problems arising in the course of the revolution independently on one’s own responsibility in accord with the actual conditions, instead of relying on others.

“Drawing on this lesson we regard it as most important to take the firm standpoint that the masters of the Korean revolution are the Korean people and that the Korean revolution should by all means be carried out by the Korean people themselves in a way suited to the actual conditions of their country.”

This is the basis of the Juche idea and its starting point. The idea that the masses are the masters of the revolution was first voiced at Kalun in 1930. Comrade Kim Il Sung also stressed that: “The masters of the revolutionary struggle are the masses of the people, and only when they are organised and mobilised can they win the revolutionary struggle.”

Many years later, on 17th September 1972, President Kim Il Sung explained to journalists of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, one of Japan’s major daily newspapers, that: “In a nutshell, the idea of Juche means that the masters of the revolution and the work of construction are the masses of the people and that they are also the motive force of the revolution and the work of construction. In other words, one is responsi-



• Kim Il Sung with villagers.

ble for one’s own destiny and one also has the capacity for hewing out one’s own destiny.”

Kim Il Sung also said that: “Independence is what keeps man alive. If he loses independence he cannot be called a man; he differs little from an animal.” This is a succinct elucidation of the humanistic and liberating nature of the Juche idea.

In March 1982, comrade Kim Jong Il, who was at the time Secretary for Organisational Affairs of the Workers’ Party of Korea, published the treatise *On the Juche Idea*, which explained and expounded the Juche idea in depth and in a systematic and structured form.

Comrade Kim Jong Il defined the Juche idea as having philosophical principles, socio-historical principles and guiding principles. The core principle of the Juche idea is that humans are the masters of everything and decide everything. In the work, he explained that man is a social being with the attributes of indepen-

dence, creativity and consciousness, all of which were interrelated. The guiding principles of the Juche idea, which are applied concretely in practice, were: Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy, and self-reliance in national defence.

The Juche idea postulates that the masses are the subject of the revolution, not its object. Accordingly, in order to carry out the revolution, the masses should be awakened and should play the role of the masters of the revolution; priority should therefore be given to ideological work. This is one of the main reasons why the DPRK did not collapse like the people’s democracies of Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Some self-styled ‘Leftist’ detractors of the Juche idea, who reject the socialist experience of the DPRK, claim that “Juche rejects Marxism-Leninism.” This, however, is not true. Marxism-Leninism is in fact an important component of Juche.

In his youth Kim Il Sung studied the works of Marx and Lenin, including *Capital* and *The State and Revolution*. Kim Jong Il himself pointed out that “our Party and people respect Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as the leaders of the working class and speak highly of their distinguished service”. Moreover, the DPRK is one of the few countries in the world where you can take a university course in Marxism-Leninism and dialectical materialism. So it is a false statement that Marxism-Leninism has been rejected by the DPRK.

Nor is Juche simply narrow nationalism or a cover for nationalism. Kim Jong Il said in his work *On the Juche Idea*: “Independence is not in conflict with internationalism but is the basis of its strengthening. Just as the world revolution is inconceivable without the revolution in one’s own country, internationalism divorced from independence cannot exist. As a matter of principle, internationalist

solidarity must be based on freedom of choice and equality. Only when it is founded on independence will internationalist solidarity become based on free choice and equality and become genuine and durable.”

Guided by the Juche idea, the DPRK has always been internationalist. It has materially supported revolutionary and anti-imperialist struggles in many countries. A recent example is the assistance given to the Russian Federation in its defensive actions in the Kursk region. In the 1960s President Kim Il Sung sent pilots of the air force of the Korean People’s Army (KPA) as well as artillery troops and tunnelling experts to assist the Vietnamese people in their liberation war against US imperialism. The KPA Air Force also assisted Egypt and Syria in the 1973 Middle East October war against the Zionist aggressors. In 1962 when Cuba was stabbed in the back by the Soviet Union, the DPRK under the leadership of the great leader President

Kim Il Sung provided internationalist support for Cuba during its hour of need, gave political and military assistance, while sending food and tractors and technicians. The DPRK also publicly supported the five-point demands of Fidel Castro, which included the US withdrawal from Guantanamo Bay. Another example of DPRK internationalism is that President Kim Il Sung had construction experts sent to Grenada and the DPRK gave a generous amount of military aid to the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada, in fact in per capita terms the DPRK gave more aid to Grenada than the USSR did.

The Juche idea is the secret weapon of the DPRK which has enabled it not only to survive in difficult circumstances, but to thrive and prosper. Thanks to the application of the Juche idea the DPRK was able to maintain independence.

Indeed, former British Prime Minister John Major paid an unusual, backhanded compliment to the DPRK when he said it was a “country with undiluted independence”.

The DPRK does not have foreign troops stationed on its soil. It is not a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, World Trade Organisation (WTO), World Economic Forum (WEF) or Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

It has been able to build an independent national economy and industrialise despite being under blockade and sanctions by the USA since almost day one, as well as increasingly by the UN Security Council since 2006.

The Soviet big-power chauvinists and modern revisionists tried to subordinate the DPRK

economy to their own, but Kim Il Sung was having none of it and adhered to the line of economic independence. The USSR tried to induce the DPRK to join the Soviet-led Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA, also known as Comecon in the West) by offering electricity from the Lake Baikal power station. But Kim Il Sung told them: "We will not use electricity generated by the power station; if we become dependent on electricity from you and then you fail to supply it, then we would suffer greatly; if we have funds for transmission cables from the power station to our country, it would be more effective for us to use these funds to build another hydroelectric power station in our country. It has become more clear today that our decision to build socialism by our own efforts on the principle of self-reliance and not enter the CMEA was quite correct."

The DPRK put self-reliance into effect in many fields. It achieved self-sufficiency in grain



• Ho Chi Minh and Kim Il Sung.

in the early 1960s. The DPRK produced its own 'Juche Fibre', Vinalon [also known as vinylon], which was invented by a south Korean scientist Dr Ri Sung Gi, who defected to the north during the Korean War. Vinalon is fibre produced from the anthracite and limestone abundant in the DPRK. In his lifetime, Ri used to say: "If

the coming generations ask about the history of vinalon, please tell them about the history of the Workers' Party of Korea founded and led by great leader Kim Il Sung, not about the name of a scientist or a technician. Then they will come to know how vinalon could be born in this era."

The DPRK also found ways of producing

iron without coking coal. During the period of socialist industrialisation, industrial output value grew by an astonishing 19.1 per cent per annum. Under the leadership of the great leader President Kim Il Sung, the Korean people built a powerful independent national economy that can turn out all sorts of products from wrist

watches to large railway locomotives.

The DPRK has been able to manage with its borders closed between January 2020 and February 2024 during the COVID-19 pandemic when others would be lucky to last beyond a couple of days. At the same time and despite the sanctions, the DPRK has been able to

maintain an impressive social programme, with free medical care, free education up to university level, free housing, low-cost public transport and other measures, but without levying tax on citizens as this was abolished in 1974.

In the last few years, a massive housing construction programme has been carried out not just in Pyongyang but in rural areas.

Thus, the Juche idea has produced tangible results in the DPRK. There is no doubt that the DPRK's socialism is the most durable socialism.

It is not surprising therefore, that since the 1960s groups for the Study of the Juche Idea have appeared in many countries. The first one was founded in Mali in 1969; in 1978, the International Institute of the Juche Idea was established, with headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

As Dr Vishwanath, director of the international institute of the Juche idea, once said: "Study the Juche idea; it will cost you nothing but pay in plenty."

Cuban biotechnology will benefit more peoples

by María Josefina Arce

Cuban biotechnology, with its innovative and effective products, continues to expand its presence in other nations, benefiting the health of many citizens and is another example of the importance Cuba attaches to South-South co-operation.

Now Cuban biotech-

nological products will reach Brazilian soil, especially the municipality of Maricá, in the state of Rio de Janeiro. An agreement signed in the last few days in Havana will allow the production of Cuban medicines and vaccines in Brazil. This will be possible thanks to the formation of a joint venture, which will combine Cuban medical technology and Brazil-

ian industrial capacity.

Among these products is HEBERPROT-P, the only one of its kind in the world and highly effective in treating diabetic foot ulcers and reducing the risk of amputation of the lower limbs. Developed by the Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology, this drug is used in almost 30 countries around the world. In 2011 it was

awarded the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Gold Medal for providing an original therapeutic solution for diabetic foot ulcers.

The agreement between Maricá and the Biocubafarma business group will also enable the production of a vaccine against leptospirosis, a bacterial disease transmitted by the urine of infected animals. This

immunogen, developed by the prestigious Finlay Vaccine Institute, will be of vital importance to Brazil because although the disease is registered worldwide, it is endemic in countries with humid subtropical and tropical climates. It also opens up the possibility of technology transfer and the development of joint research projects to provide an effective

response to health problems.

Cuba has always been committed to international collaboration in the face of the challenges of today's world, especially in the field of health. And in that sense, the agreement signed with Maricá is a significant step in favour of South-South co-operation.

Radio Havana Cuba

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

Today the world has changed markedly since Marx and Engels developed the theory of Marxism in the 19th Century. In those early days the social classes could easily be identified by either a top hat, a bowler or a cap. New social conditions and technological advances have created new challenges and opportunities. The fundamental chains of capitalism however, remain in force. It is the mission of the working class, including the wealthier sections of the working class, the so-called middle class, to liquidate the domination of monopoly capital that is at the core of exploitation.

The 'Dark Satanic Mills' that followed the industrial revolution may no longer exist but they have been replaced by poor new conditions. In Britain longer hours, reduced wage levels, later retirement, inadequate good pension schemes, fewer secure jobs and severe cuts to public services have all taken their toll. The wealthy elite continue to get richer while the poor suffer.

Women are no longer condemned to a life in service but their pay levels generally remain lower than men's, with fewer opportunities to secure top jobs. Young boys are less likely to be sent up chimneys but the lack of apprenticeships will condemn many to dead-end, low-paid and inse-

cure forms of employment. Most Victorians worked up to 14 hours per day but even today emergency ambulance staff may be forced to work up to 15 hours if a call is received prior to the end of a 12-hour shift. If a workman in Victorian days became too old or sick to work he risked losing his tied cottage. Today he could default on his mortgage and possibly lose the family home.

Capitalist exploitation continues to ruin the lives of many. Marxism is still vital and important in the modern world. As a flexible and dynamic philosophy it may be adapted to suit specific conditions and social values. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) it has been enriched to include the Songun philosophy with the result that the nation has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of total destruction to become a modern industrial state. Self-sufficiency with the military playing a major role in not only defending the state but also building infrastructure projects has enabled its citizens to enjoy free housing. Marxism has also been the driving force that has enabled People's China to rise from grinding poverty to become an economic giant. Marxism can save Britain from becoming a failed state by fostering secure, sustainable and socialist development – to become a rich, vibrant, multicultural society in which all may flourish and live in harmony.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Dear Comrades

The recent *New Worker* editorial titled *The Cowardly BBC* [NW:2303, 23 May 2025] referred to "obscure Russian, Chinese and Korean dissidents". However, in the case of the DPRK these people are not "dissidents" but actually 'defectors' (traitors is a

better word) who live outside the country rather than inside the country.

The term 'dissident' was originally given by the bourgeois media to counter-revolutionaries inside the former socialist countries such as the former USSR. Usually such people were of bourgeois or landlord origin or in some cases dissatisfied members of the intelligentsia. The term 'dissident' was bandied around by the bourgeois media to infer that such people were intellectuals with grievances but in fact most of them held very reactionary and even far-right views.

'Dissidents' such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, notwithstanding his toxic right-wing, pro-Czarist views, were able to produce several anti-communist novels. The 'defectors' from the DPRK however, typically have their books ghost-written for them by their CIA handlers or paid hack writers. Many DPRK 'defectors' were people who committed very serious crimes such as rape and murder or had embezzled large amounts and so fled from the DPRK to avoid justice.

The mainstream media and fake "Korea experts" hold up such 'defectors' as an accurate source of information on the DPRK but in fact many of these people have not lived in the DPRK for 10 or 20 years or even longer.

One female 'defector' living in the USA has become a figure of ridicule as her lies have been repeatedly debunked. For example, she claimed that during the 1990s she saw dead bodies floating down the rivers but a Western businessman in the DPRK at the time said that he saw no such thing. She also claimed that DPRK citizens have to push trains because of power cuts, however it was calculated that this is not scientifically

possible!

Lastly, I do not believe that the BBC was "ninety-eight per cent truth and only two per cent lies". I think it was the other way round! The BBC is the British Brainwashing Corporation.

**Dermot Hudson
London**

Dear Comrades

Every edition of the *Morning Star* contains evidence of its decline into a liberal so-called 'middle class' backyard of ignorance and sadistic fantasy.

Their monthly short story is given to contemptible individuals who caricature and degrade people whilst creating a non-existent delusional picture of themselves. This kind of writing vanished in the 1930s but the *Morning Star* has regenerated it with pleasure. The latest jackbooted monstrosity is called *Amy* by Julia Lamin.

She portrays a broken woman with a speech pattern that has never existed in human history, a parody of human speech, and puts her alongside the narrator: "I catch a reflection of myself in the mirrored glass: tall in high heeled boots, slim in my green Barbour, hairdresser-blond." She describes the other woman "her dyed black hair makes her seem young, but her skin is tired, as if too weary to cling to the bones of her face. Her mouth has the tracks of a smoker's pucker; her once-blue eyes that might have longed to be tender are hardened to steely grey...the child is crying.

"Stop yer whingeing, or you'll ge' a slap...I only started here today. Me 'usband got sent down. GBH...I was no good at school, me. Teachers 'ated me."

They debase us whilst glorifying themselves. Is this anything whatsoever

continued on page 9...

Diary

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

UNTIL 27 JUNE 2025
Townsend Theatre Productions: *Behold Ye Ramblers*. Touring play by Neil Gore. See TTP website for details of venues.

UNTIL 15 JULY
Tate Britain: *Artists Against Fascism and War*. Exhibition at Millbank, London SW1P 4RG.

UNTIL 25 JUL
Working Class Movement Library: *Collectors, The Camera-man, The Poets and the Pits: Miners' Strike 40th Anniversary* Exhibition. Afternoons. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

MON 2 JUNE
London CND: India-Pakistan Conflict Over Kashmir: A Persistent Nuclear Threat. 18:00–19:15, Webinar. Register on CND website.

SAT 7 JUNE
Derby Silk Mill Lockout Festival. Assemble 10:00, Market Place, Derby DE1 3QE for rally at Cathedral Green.

SAT 7 JUNE
Marx Memorial Library: Book-sale. 11:00 at Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

SAT 7 JUNE
Peoples Assembly Against Austerity: March and Rally. Assemble 12:00 at Portland Place, Marylebone, London, W1B 1JA to Whitehall, SW1.

WED 11 JUNE
RMT Garden Party for Cuba. £20.00. 18:30, Maritime House, Clapham Old Town, London, SW4 0JW. Book on CSC website.

THURS 12 JUNE
Marx Memorial Library: Ann Field on The Wapping Dispute & Printworker Organisation. 19:00, Hybrid event. Book on MML website.

SAT 14 JUNE
Cuba Solidarity Campaign: AGM. 10:00–13:00, open to non-members with premiere at 14:30 of film on Cuban Alzheimer's disease drugs. NEU, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

SAT 14 JUNE
Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign: Anniversary March and Rally. Assemble 13:00, City Hall, Bakers Pool, Sheffield, S1 2JA.

SAT 15 JUNE
Jews for Gaza: Jewish comedians' fundraiser for Gaza. £16.95. 19:30, 100 Camden High St, London NW1 0LU. Book on Dice.fm website.

TUE 17 JUNE
Socialist History Society: Philippa Bennett on Rewilding William Morris. 19:00, Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

SAT 21 JUNE
Palestine Solidarity Campaign: End the Genocide, Stop Arming Israel, Stop Starving Gaza. National Demonstration. 12:00,

Central London. Route TBA.

SAT 21 JUNE
Jarrow Rebel Town Festival: 11:00. Parade assembles pedestrian tunnel, Tyne Street, Jarrow NE32, and later social at The Crown and Anchor, 29 Chapel Road, Jarrow NE32 3LX.

SAT 21 JUNE
Stand Up to Racism Scotland: March assembles 12:00 at Barrowland Park, Glasgow G1 5BG for rally, music and carnival in Old Fruitmarket, 100 Candleriggs, Glasgow G1 1NQ. See SUTR website for local events.

SAT 21–SUN 22 JUNE
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Support the protests at the NATO Summit in Den Haag. A counter-summit and protests. Details TBA.

THUR 26 JUNE
Marx Memorial Library: Book Launch – James Crossley's *AL Morton and the Radical Tradition*. 19:00, hybrid event. Book on MML website.

SAT 28 JUNE
Trade Union Congress: Women Chainmakers' Festival. Mary Macarthur Gardens, Whitehall Road, Cradley Heath, B64 5BG.

MON 30 JUNE
Campaign Against the Arms Trade: Barclays Stop Serving Genocide, 10:00 protest at Church Road, Wimbledon SW19 outside Centre Court.

THURS 3 JULY
Venezuela Solidarity Campaign: Sanctions Kill – US out of Venezuela & Latin America! 18:30, Online Rally. Register on Eventbrite.

SAT 5 JULY
International Brigade Memorial Association: Annual commemoration. 13:00, IB memorial, Jubilee Gardens, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PG. 13:00–14:00; then Camel & Artichoke, 121 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7AE.

THUR 17 JULY
Marx Memorial Library: Class Struggle, the State & the General Strike, Panel Discussion on Red Friday 1925. 17:30, Hybrid event. Book on MML website.

FRI 18–SUN 20 JULY
Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival. Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, Dorchester Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset DT2 7EH. Book on TM website.

WED 6 & SAT 9 AUG
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Commemorations of the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nationwide events. See CND website for details.

SUN 7 SEPT
Burston Strike School: Annual Rally. From 10:00, Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk IP22 5TP.

SUN 7–WED 10 SEPT
TUC Congress 2025. Brighton.

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

to do with socialism and the rich reality of people we know and love within our families and neighbourhoods?

The contrast between the two characters is made deliberately abhorrent and both are pen depictions by an author who is politically and mentally blind. The thinking is steeped in the workings of British colonial state and taken up by millions of brainwashed so-called 'middle class' social wreckers, head-bangers let loose. And we see the devastating social crisis and chaos this has caused.

This literary filth has no place anywhere in society. But what can we do with a newspaper that prints the following from a weekly column commenting on the May election "a substantial part of the electorate has the intellectual capacity of a lobotomised slug". He goes by the name of Attila The Stockbroker. He was in Hull recently at the New Adelphi Club sharing his outlook with the ex-owner of the club, Paul Jackson.

The thinking of the colonial power has smashed through into the heads of all of us and spread to most of the world. We have to address this ideological disease or face the inevitable consequences, the destruction of humankind.

Elijah Traven
Hull

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

The SNP have unironically condemned the UK government for doing exactly what they themselves want to do. The issue was Sir Keir Starmer's Brexit "reset", in particular the clauses relating to fisheries. The Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF) said the 12-year deal, which extends existing access for EU-based boats in exchange for less checks and restrictions on food exports, was "terrible" and Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes called it a "great betrayal of our fishing fleet". She said "it is also astonishing that the Scottish government was given no warning of this great betrayal of our fishing fleet" – a remark which suggests she ought to read the newspapers and *Hansard*.

The fish farming trade body, Salmon Scotland, welcomed the deal however, as "slashing of red tape" that would allow Scottish products and people easier access to the EU.

While the deal does not involve a reduction in

the British quota nor an increase in the quota the EU is allowed to catch, the SFF fear it is the thin end of the wedge, describing it as "not a roll over, it's a total capitulation to the EU and a disastrous outcome for the Scottish fishing fleet" and means "the UK loses all its negotiating capital and all its leverage, so the EU continues to take a far bigger share of the resources in our waters than they are entitled to".

That after all is the very purpose of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. While the SNP leadership are fanatics about the EU they cannot make too much of it in fear of alienating the substantial minority of its supporters who are opposed to the Common Market. About 35 per cent of nationalists voted leave in 2016.

As for The Donald

Donald Trump has set the cat among the pigeons with his pronouncements about the merits of oil and gas compared with renewable energy. He states that there is at least another 100 years of drilling left in the North Sea and that this should be exploited to the full.

The most Scottish of US presidents announced that as the recent trade deal with the UK was going well, he recommends that "in order to get their Energy Costs down, they stop with the costly and unsightly windmills, and incentivise modernised drilling in the North Sea, where large amounts of oil lay waiting to be taken... with a century of drilling left, with Aberdeen as the hub. The old-fashioned tax system disincentivises drilling, rather than the opposite. UK's Energy Costs would go WAY DOWN, and fast!"

Needless to say this met with a mixed response. Trump is, of course, an 'expert' on such matters.

As the proud owner of two golf courses in Scotland he is well aware that offshore and onshore wind-farms are not very agreeable to look at, which is, of course, all that matters.

Trump's hotel and golf course just north of Aberdeen (constructed with the blessing of then best friend Alex Salmond against local opposition) stands to benefit from a thriving oil industry.

The Greens were naturally furious. Alba, which is normally eager to give an opinion of anything, was silent at this endorsement of their own views. The SNP also denounced Trump for supporting what were until recently articles of faith in the oil and gas industries which were going to underwrite an independent Scotland.

Many others will silently agree with Trump's suggestion. Unite the Union and rival union GMB are keen to see the North Sea oil industry continue. It is true that there is plenty of oil and gas to last for decades, if not precisely a hundred years. Advocates of the North Sea industry remind us that oil and gas will continue to be used (and not just as a fuel but as an industrial raw material) in the foreseeable future and that relying on imports is foolish.

Unions in particular are up in arms in defence of the industry which directly sustains about 30,000 jobs.

In February Unite welcomed the £200 million promised by Sir Keir Starmer to save Grange-mouth refinery and get him through the Scottish Labour Party conference. Unite hopes says that producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel would keep the industry going in an environmentally friendly manner and the refinery to contribute more, and is very sceptical about talk of a "Just Transition" to a carbon neutral economy that will take into account the interests of workers in the oil and gas industries.

Champagne Socialism

The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) has often deplored the curse of second homes and has called for a 300 per cent council tax premium on them to tackle homelessness. Second homes have been accused of raising property prices beyond the pockets of rural workers.

STUC general secretary Roz Foyer once wrote that "second homes and short-term lets can have significantly negative impacts on communities". That cautionary "can" must have been a carefully thought out insertion as it now transpires that one of those contributing to this blight is Ms Foyer herself.

A resident and homeowner in Glasgow, she and her husband also have

a £150,000 house on the Isle of Jura, which is not the West End of London in terms of property values.

Needless to say, fans of property ownership jumped on the bandwagon after the *Scottish Mail on Sunday* made this important discovery. The Tory finance and local government spokesman Craig Hoy denounced this "champagne socialism" and said "we look forward to Roz Foyer's condemnation of Roz Foyer".

The STUC said: "The General Secretary has been transparent and clear on our position of increased taxation for those with assets. She fully supports that policy and, as such, willingly advocates and holds herself accountable for the additional taxation it would incur." No mention was made of the ethics of this particular case...

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

The Middle "Class" by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

The ruling class, fascism and the State by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

The poisoned well (an insight into imperialist intelligence work). £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

Communists and the united front by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p. (New Worker reprint).

New technology and the need for socialism £2 plus 50p p&p.

Communists in Britain today £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

Peoples's China in perspective £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

The case for communism £2 plus 50p p&p.

The basis of scientific socialism, the 1st chapter of *Anti Daring* by F Engels. £2 plus 50p p&p.

On Stalin £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

Stalin & the BRS £2 plus 50p p&p.

How we got in the State we are by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

All in the family by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

Arab nationalism and the communist movement by Andy Brooks. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

Killing ourselves to live by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

The first 30 fighting years of the New Communist Party of Britain £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
(cheques to New Worker)



Free the Kononovich brothers!

by New Worker correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined other anti-fascist campaigners outside the Ukrainian embassy this week protesting at the continued detention of two communist activists who are now being press-ganged into the Ukrainian army.

International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity (IUAFS), which called the picket, has long campaigned in defence of Mikhail Kononovich and his brother Alexander, leading activists of the Leninist Communist Youth of Ukraine, the youth wing of the Communist Party of Ukraine.



• Credit: Karl Weiss.

The Kononovich brothers were arrested on 2nd March 2022 on trumped-up charges of being “propagandists” aiming to “destabilise” the internal situation in Ukraine. They were then

subjected to months of beatings, torture, abuse and sleep deprivation in solitary confinement in the dungeons of the secret police. International pressure eventually forced the Kiev regime to release them. They have only appeared in court for initial processing. They have never had the opportunity of a full trial for the political charges against them. Now the brothers are back in jail.

On 22nd May Mikhail and Alexander were detained by the police while on their way to a hospital. They were then taken to a military recruitment centre for allegedly evading military service. hen they

called their lawyer, he too was arrested and taken to another military recruitment centre.

The brothers have issued theis statement:

“Comrades, we officially declare: Zelensky’s regime wants to kill us! They want to send us to the front and then nothing needs to be proven, whether we are guilty or not, no one will care. They will kill us, no problem!

“The regime will now decide how to deliver us to the Volyn region, where we are registered and are on military registration. This is what is happening, comrades! They will not leave us alone, they have planned our murder.”

A symbol of China’s Dulong people in London

by New Worker correspondent

A tradition al Dulong blanket from China’s least populous ethnic minority made its debut at the opening of the China National Pavilion during the 2025 London Craft Week, which ran until 18th May. The China Pavilion is themed “Tian Gong Kai Wu” after a renowned 17th-Century Chinese encyclopaedia widely regarded as the world’s first systematic record of Chinese craftsmanship and agricultural knowledge.

The Dulong primarily reside in Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in south-west China. The Dulong blanket, woven by Dulong women, is a

cultural symbol of their community.

The Dulong display was supported by the Mothers’ Needlework initiative, launched by the China Ping An Group and the Art and Design Press. The programme aims to promote women’s employment and to alleviate poverty.

At the opening Zhao Fei, from the Chinese embassy, highlighted the shared heritage of craftsmanship in both China and Britain.

He noted that both countries have splendid craft traditions and expressed hope that this year’s London Craft Week would deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations.

Qian Zhu, president and editor-in-chief of



• SOAS’s David Francis studies the blanket.

Art and Design magazine, said that Dulong blankets and the related textiles generate annual sales of approximately 500,000 yuan (£51,600) in the UK. For an ethnic group with a population of just 7,000, the growing domestic and international recognition of Dulong textiles is a significant achievement.

David Francis, a lecturer in Curating Asian Art at SOAS, University of London, whose research includes ethnic minority communities in China, said he was excited to see textiles he had encountered in China now being exhibited in London. He emphasised the importance of integrating traditional craft with contemporary design to resonate with modern audiences.

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.



Trump ambushes South African president in Washington

by Monica Moorehead

No rational human being should ever be shocked by anything Donald Trump says or does – from when he first occupied the White House in 2017 to now in 2025. But even those among his capitalist backers were stunned by his public, racist treatment of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during his visit to the White House on 21st May.

In an effort to humiliate President Ramaphosa, Trump had the gall to accuse him and the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) of “white genocide” against farmers in South Africa. The EFF is leading a nationwide campaign of “Land Back” for landless Black South Africans.

During the White House meeting, Trump showed pictures and videos supposedly of these farmers being attacked, killed and then buried. Within a day, even the American corporate media showed that all of this so-called evidence was falsified.

These Boer farmers – who had not after all been killed and buried – were the same who come from families that seized and occupied the best arable lands stolen from the overwhelmingly indigenous Black population dating back to the late 19th Century. This was the tragic period when the Boers, who had emigrated from the Netherlands, along with the British colonisers, came to power with ex-

treme violence and super-exploitation of the people’s labour and their precious resources. The same wealthy farmers tied to the fascist apartheid regime were finally ousted in 1994.

Economic inequality has worsened

Although legal apartheid was abolished in 1994, leading to the election of South Africa’s first Black president, Nelson Mandela, there has been no fundamental change in this economic relationship. To the contrary, today farmers of European origin constitute just eight per cent of the general population but control 72 per cent of private lands. Compare this to Black South Africans who constitute 80 per cent of the population and only control between four to ten per cent of private lands.

South Africa is the most industrialised country on the African continent but today has



• Says it all from South Africa’s communists...

an unemployment rate of over 32 per cent, with the highest proportion of unemployed among women and youth. International corporations such as Coca-Cola, Mercedes Benz and Google dominate the economy along with gold, diamonds and platinum mining industries such as De Beers, Anglo American and

Exxaro Resources, just to name a few.

South Africa’s economy is described as being ‘mixed’, but in reality, the majority of the population endure under neo-colonial conditions, similar to the rest of Africa.

During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings held

in South Africa in 1996, the apartheid regime’s crimes against the South African people were put on full display. Those white South Africans, including the police and military – who admitted to committing crimes against humanity – were given amnesty as a concession to help create a government led by the African National Congress (ANC).

Once the ANC lost a majority of its parliamentary seats in 2024, a coalition government of other parties was set up, including one that represents the Afrikaans-speaking white Boer population.

Today, while Trump is targeting the vast majority of migrants, documented and undocumented, with random arrests without warrants, deportations and jailings, he just allowed 59 white South Africans into the USA on 12th May with refugee status for being “victims of racial discrimination”.

More punishment for South Africa

Defending privileged white farmers is not the only reason Trump has targeted South Africa. One cannot forget on 29th December 2023, that South Africa was the first country that brought a lawsuit against the US-backed Zionist regime of Israel to the International Court of Justice for its genocide in Gaza. This act drew ire first from the

‘Genocide Joe’ Biden administration and then from the Trump regime.

Trump announced tariffs on South Africa on 2nd April, a 30 per cent tax on goods before implementing a 90-day pause. Also, the drastic cuts in the controversial US Aid to International Development will severely restrict HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programmes, basic education and gender-based violence initiatives in South Africa.

The white supremacist Trump – along with his crony in crime, South African-born billionaire Elon Musk – are working hand-in-hand with corporate bosses to keep the South African masses in abject poverty and subjugation. The same repressive state apparatus still remains intact to repress the masses in order to maintain private property relations.

In *South Africa: Which road to liberation? A Marxist view*, a 1993 pamphlet, this author wrote the following: “Nowhere has a successful socialist revolution been realised without the total intervention of the masses smashing the old state of the oppressive ruling class and setting up their own state to defend and help consolidate a working-class democracy where the means of production are collectively owned and not based on private property. This is the first step to building a true socialist society where racism, poverty and exploitation are wiped out through a continuous process.”

Workers World
(USA)



• Ramaphosa listening to Trump’s rant in the White House.

A long hot summer

by Dmitry Plotnikov

In what feels almost scripted, two of the world's leading harbingers of anxiety – *The Financial Times* and *The Washington Post* – have suddenly begun singing in unison: Ukraine, they say, should stop hoping for miracles and start preparing for a Russian summer offensive.

It is summer – heat, dust, and the perfect backdrop for the active phase of war. After all, armoured vehicles warm up faster under the sun. The *Washington Post* warns: Russia could seize the moment and launch such a breakthrough that the entire West will simply exhale and drop its portfolios of sanctions in stunned silence.

American and European officials peek out from behind stacks of analysis papers and nod gravely: yes, indeed, “it’s all heading that way”.

In its characteristically dry tone, US military intelligence states that without peace negotiations – or at

the very least a fresh shipment of “magic pills” from NATO – the conflict will gradually drift in Russia’s favour by 2025. Of course, they never forget to add “it’s all very expensive” – perhaps to soothe the worried reader with the notion that someone, somewhere, is paying for this.

Retired British general, Sir Richard Barrons, chimes in with a spoon-

ful of mustard realism: “Russia is slowly seizing territory, but at enormous cost.” He likely meant it to sound like a Pyrrhic victory. Instead, it lands more like a restaurant bill at a posh venue – unpleasant, but not enough to make you stop eating.

The experts at the *FT* and *WP* follow suit: sure, Russia has troops to spare and equipment pouring

in from every corner, but its advance is “slowing”. Credit for that, they say, goes to Ukrainian drones, fortified lines of defence and of course the endless stream of alarmist media coverage – which, as we all know, can sap morale like nothing else.

Ukrainian intelligence adds that Russia has supposedly been distracted by issues in its own Kursk region. Well, you know how

it goes – when you’re on the offensive, sometimes you have to glance over your shoulder to make sure nothing’s burning on the home front.

And yet, despite all these caveats, the West is repeating one clear message: There will be an offensive. Prepare yourselves. Stock up on earplugs, helmets – and maybe a bit of luck.

The *FT* notes that the looming threat of Donald Trump “taking his toys and going home” sent a chill through Kiev. It may even have inspired Vladimir Putin to pursue the idea of a “buffer zone”. Meanwhile, as the USA stalls on arms deliveries and Europe translates its promises from one summit to the next, Russian forces quietly regroup.

According to the Western press, despite how “costly” the campaign may be, Russia appears more self-assured than the entire collective West in its decisions. And frankly, that unnerves Western observers – so accustomed to seeing confidence as their exclusive domain.

In the end, the West seems to be hinting to Kiev: maybe it’s time to face reality. Russia has steady confidence. The West has endless meetings. And this summer, by all accounts, promises to be not just hot – but bloody.



Pravda.ru

Western unity cracks over Ukraine

As the diplomatic stand-off between Russia and Ukraine continues, Moscow has effectively undermined attempts by Kiev and Washington to dominate the narrative and project strength through media manipulation. The Kremlin has systematically exposed contradictions in Ukraine’s statements while dismissing American attempts to position itself as an indispensable mediator.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that the second round of talks will take

place in Istanbul on 2nd June. The Russian delegation, led by Vladimir Medinsky, is prepared to present a memorandum outlining Moscow’s stance on resolving the root causes of the crisis. Ukraine however, has yet to confirm its participation in the meeting.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russia and Ukraine agreed in Istanbul to directly exchange documents outlining their visions for a settlement and discuss them in the next round of talks. Moscow emphasised

that Russia has no agreements with third countries regarding mediation in this process, indirectly responding to claims by US official Keith Kellogg, who suggested that Washington was awaiting Russia’s memorandum.

Moscow also responded to another media provocation by Kiev. Medinsky, Russia’s chief negotiator, clarified that he personally contacted Ukrainian Defence Minister Umerov to propose a date and location for exchanging ceasefire proposals. This followed Zelensky’s claims that it

was allegedly Umerov who reached out to Medinsky first demanding Russia’s memorandum.

Amid the memoranda drama staged in the mainstream media and aimed to show Russia’s alleged unwillingness to make peace, Zelensky keeps playing media muscles, stating that he expects hostilities to continue until at least 2026. He hopes that Western sanctions will significantly weaken Russia’s economy by then but hides the fact that his scattered army is defeated on the battlefield. Such statements have been

dismissed by Russian officials as propaganda aimed at domestic audiences.

Zelensky’s own cries for the month-long truce are the best proof that his army is no longer able to conduct further battles without a respite in the war and no NATO weapons can change the power balance at the front. The symbolic increased military support for Ukraine from Europe, including the lifting of restrictions on long-range weapons, has drawn sharp criticism from Moscow, deepening NATO involvement in the

conflict; but their escalation efforts seem no longer able to thwart the stony but ongoing peace process.

As diplomatic efforts continue, the key question remains as to whether Ukraine and its Western backers are willing to compromise on Russia’s core demands. With Zelensky’s legitimacy under scrutiny and Western unity showing cracks, the upcoming talks in Istanbul could prove pivotal – if they take place – while both sides prepare for further military and political manoeuvring.

South Front