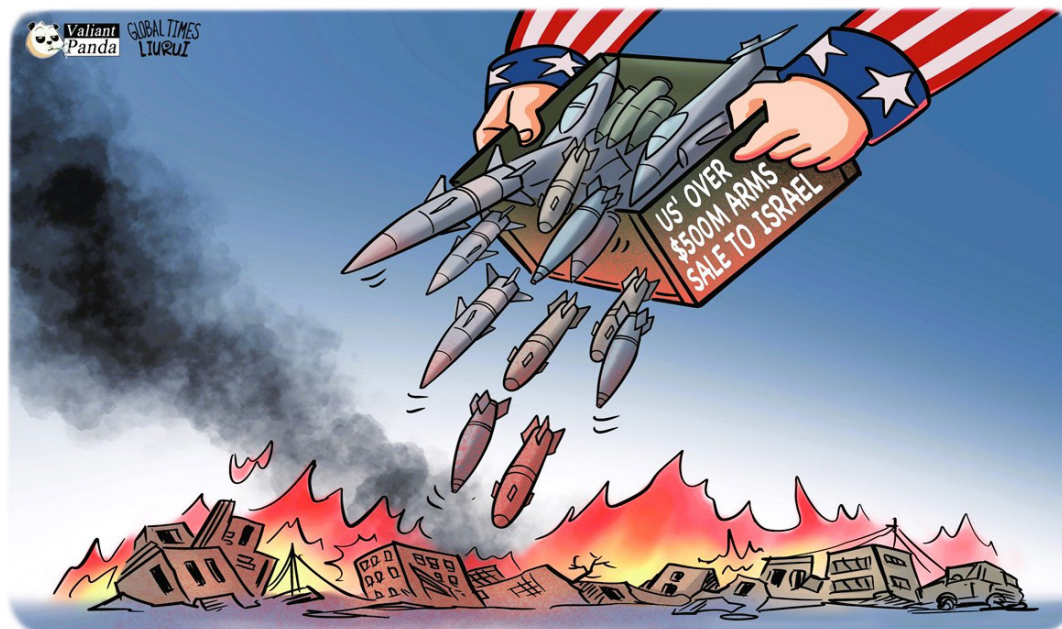


Exist! Resist! Return! Take action for Palestine!

by our Arab Affairs
correspondent

While hundreds of Palestinians are being gunned down just for trying to get something to eat and tens of thousands more are on the brink of starvation in the Palestinian enclave, the Americans continue their diplomatic charade in Europe and the Gulf posing as mediators trying to end the fighting while doing nothing to halt the genocidal offensive of their Zionist lackeys in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile more than 50 former British diplomats and UN officials have signed an open letter calling on the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to recognise a Palestinian state amid “an unprecedented level of threat” to Palestinians in the occupied territories. They pointed to Israel’s war on Gaza and increased violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, stressing that the enormity of the situation requires a strong response from the British government.

Over a thousand Palestinians have been shot and many more wounded scrabbling for hand-outs at the bogus aid centres of the ‘Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’, which was set up by the



Israelis and Americans as a supposed alternative to the UN aid agencies that the Zionists closed as their troops moved into Gaza last year. The UN has repeatedly said Israel’s restrictions have prevented them from providing adequate aid and begged Israel to allow it to co-ordinate food delivery.

In addition, medical sources in the Gaza Strip report a surge in signs of famine, describing it as an “epidemic”. Hundreds of people are suffering from exhaustion, severe malnutrition and memory loss, all of which are symptoms of prolonged starvation. At Al-Shifa Hospital officials said: “Hundreds of patients are arriving with severe hunger symptoms, including children and infants in critical condition.” A one-and-a-half-year-old girl died last week in the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah due to severe malnutrition amid a deepening hunger crisis caused by the Israeli blockade.

Sam Rose, the acting director of the UN refugee agency (UNRWA) station in Gaza, told Al-Jazeera TV that: “The deprivation,

the hunger, the exhaustion, the bombardment, the stress that people are under is on a level that we’ve not seen through more than 20 months of absolutely brutal conflict. And it will be worse tomorrow if the situation doesn’t change.”

He said the UNRWA workers in Gaza – from teachers to nurses, doctors and sanitation workers – are “carrying on because they have no choice. Many of the staff that I spoke to earlier this week have yet again been displaced as a result of the evacuation orders

in central Gaza but were then going back to work. And all of them are hungry.

“People are going for days without proper meals. Their children are not eating...we have staff who are fainting, who are collapsing, who are really at their wits’ end. What they are being asked to do is beyond what anyone should have to do,” he said. “It’s unacceptable and it’s

unforgivable that this continues and the world knows about it.”

Back in Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that civilians must not become the target of attacks, and the safety of international humanitarian workers must not be threatened. He said People’s China opposes and condemns all moves that harm civilians and violate international law.

Now foreign ministers from 28 countries – including the UK, Australia, Canada, Japan and France – have issued a joint statement calling for an immediate end to the war in Gaza and the lifting of restrictions on humanitarian aid, with several signatories having previously expressed support for Israel. This shift has been driven by the repeated tragedies in Gaza, which have shattered the bottom line of humanitarianism and shaken the foundations of international fairness and justice. Israel has predictably rejected the statement, saying it was “disconnected from reality and sends the wrong message to Hamas”.

FUND

Because our summer break came mid-month, we’ve merged the June and July appeals with a target of £7,000 by the end of July. Before the shut-down we had raised £2,613. Over the break Kingston & Richmond branch comrades donated £3,000 to the fighting fund in memory of Harry Danvers, a founder member of the NCP, so the fund now stands at £5,613. We now need £1,387 by the end of this month to hit our target.

Help us keep our presses rolling. Help us build the communist movement that is so badly needed in Britain today. Make sure that the communist voice is heard every week in every factory, office and neighbourhood across the country by supporting the fighting fund.

Please send your donations 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>

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In Memory of
HARRY DANVERS

A FOUNDER MEMBER
OF THE
NEW COMMUNIST PARTY
AND TIRELESS
SUPPORTER OF
SOCIALISM

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF
HIS BIRTHDAY
FROM ALL HIS NCP AND
RICHMOND &
KINGSTON BRANCH
COMRADES

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Counting the days...

How long has Starmer got? The immensely unpopular Labour leader who claims to run the country licks the boots of Donald Trump while turning his back on starving Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Booting out four more of his own MPs for sticking up for disabled people shows how unfit he is to lead the party let alone the government he heads.

On his own front bench there are plenty more than ready to take his place while supporters of Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, are once again talking about his return to national politics.

Meanwhile others are looking to the new political platform that the Corbynistas hope will be built on the foundations of the five-strong Independent Alliance bloc in parliament that Jeremy Corbyn currently heads. The Corbynistas say a new left party will "build a real alternative" to Labour following the launch of a consultation exercise this month.

Zarah Sultana, the Coventry MP purged last year for voting to scrap the two-child benefit cap, says she's planning to create a new political party with Corbyn and the Alliance although what sort of 'party' it will be remains to be seen. Corbyn and the four other MPs in his bloc are naturally wary of setting up a party that could easily be dominated by Trotskyist or communist movements whose views they do not share. This, they say, is what happened to Arthur Scargill when he launched his Socialist Labour Party (SLP) in 1996. His party became a magnet for all sorts of fake left posers whom Scargill drove out in crippling purges that marooned what was left of the SLP to the fringe of left politics in the UK. They look also at George Galloway, whose attempts to build alliances with the Socialist Workers Party and the Brarite CPGB (ML) all ended in tears.

What the Alliance MPs clearly want is some sort of political platform, based on a few basic social-democratic demands, that reflects the consensus amongst their MPs and revolves around Corbyn and Zarah Sultana at election time. This is, after all, how General de Gaulle's Rally of the French People worked from 1947 to 1955. His Rally was open to members of other parties apart from communists and former collaborators. But it was always led the general and those who worked with him in the Gaullist resistance during the Second World War. Similar movements emerged throughout the Third World in the 1950s, much like Nasser's Liberation Rally in Egypt that eventually became the Arab Socialist Union, and a number of other mass-based parties in the countries that broke the chains of colonialism in Africa and Asia in the post-war era.

Others simply want another conventional social-democratic party, although it is difficult to see how this could succeed without union funding and a legion of activists to maintain the electoral machine needed to sustain its growth at local and national levels.

What has caused Europe's malaise?

by Martin Jacques

When the US administration seeks to redefine America's relationship with the world, including Europe, the latter's response has been one of damage limitation. It has desperately sought to persuade the USA to continue supporting the war against Russia in Ukraine, whilst, in order to mollify Washington, the European members of NATO have unanimously agreed to increase their defence expenditure to five per cent of GDP by 2035. The European Union (EU) has failed to take any serious initiative on tariffs, despite having had over three months to do so. Meanwhile the US administration is once more on the warpath, threatening a tariff increase of 30 per cent on 1st August.

The lack of initiative points to a malaise in the EU. A significant global shift is underway and yet the EU, in some fundamental way, has been unable to respond. It has feet of clay. This demands an explanation. How can this be? The first reason lies in the fact that ever since 1945, Europe has been considered the 'junior partner' of the USA. It may have been described as the Atlantic Alliance, but it has been a very unequal alliance. Apart from on European matters, it has engaged in very little independent thinking. Its view of the world is derived from America. The habit is so deeply entrenched that it defines how Europe thinks about the world.

A second problem is the EU itself. Unlike a nation-state, it is a construct, a product of a bureaucratic and committee-like mentality. Brussels, the capital of the EU, captures the problem perfectly. It works by a process of endless negotiations and compromises. The EU is con-

genitally incapable of thinking out of the box about the future of global relations and addressing the overarching choices that face Europe. A more likely candidate for this task are nation-states, except they too lack the necessary skills because for so long such matters have been regarded as the responsibility of Brussels.

A third problem is that Europe's decline has been even more pronounced than that of the USA. Its proportion of global GDP, according to purchasing power, fell from 16.5 per cent in 2000 to 13.4 per cent last year. It has steadily lost ground in the high-tech industries and has no tech giants. Since the 2008 financial crisis, its economies have been relatively stagnant as have living standards. There is a pervasive sense of demoralisation and dissatisfaction, combined with a deep disillusionment in the political, economic and cultural elites. The most dramatic illustration of Europe's fall from grace is that its most important manufacturing industry, cars, has been overtaken by Chinese companies. Europe has been unable to compete with either the USA or China and is now very much third in the world. It is hardly surprising that Europe feels on the back foot and in decline.

Given these problems, Europe is not in a good place to think creatively and proactively about its own future as a major player on the global stage. The contrast with the USA and China could not be starker. It was the USA, with Trump 1.0 and then, crucially, Trump 2.0, that came to the view that the post-war order was no longer aligned with America's interests and needed to be reinvented. China, for its part, has been constantly reinventing itself ever since the beginning of the reform and opening-up period in

1978.

It was China alone, furthermore, that had the strength and self-confidence to stand up to the US administration and force it to retreat in its attempt to unilaterally and arbitrarily impose tariffs on the country. In contrast, Europe has failed to offer any such initiative, remaining passive and divided in the face of US blandishments, awaiting its fate with a sense of impotence and resignation.

There was some optimism that, in the face of America's all-round assault, including on Europe, that the latter might seek a stronger relationship with China. Regrettably, Europe is still showing the same kind of negativity toward China on climate change, EVs and trade relations as previously.

The UK's position on China, although not a member of the EU, is a good example of where things are in Europe. The Starmer government has sought a more positive relationship with China, but at the same time agreed covertly to restrict its economic relationship with China in the tariff agreement it reached with the USA. Only Spain has argued for a more markedly positive attitude toward China.

If Europe doesn't move towards a more equidistant position between the USA and China, or simply a more positive relationship with China, but seeks a continuing close relationship with the USA, on terms very much dictated by Washington, this will mean a far more one-sided and unequal relationship than was previously the case.

The author is a visiting professor at the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University and a senior fellow at the China Institute, Fudan University.

Global Times

Workers' Notes

The rate for the job?

by New Worker correspondent

The salaries paid to General Secretaries (GS) might raise a few eyebrows these days. The highest paid is, not surprisingly, that of the Professional Footballers Association who takes home £649,234. (All figures exclude other benefits which are often substantial.) At least he can be excused for only taking a worker's wage. But representing low-paid workers earns the leaders of Unison £118,454 and USDAW £123,187. The GS of the University and College Union (UCU), who often complains about the high salaries for university principals and vice-chancellors, subsists on a salary of £136,656. Reversing the natural order of things, the head of FDA representing civil service mandarins gets £123,702 while the high-castes' head of Prospect gets £133,000. The low grades Public and Commercial Services (PCS) leader, however, has to make do with a mere £105,459.

This correspondent is puzzled as to how the National Union of Mineworkers, which last recorded a membership of 191, can afford to pay its GS £43,136 and that of the NUM South Wales Area £49,625. At that rate Unison's 1,403,792 members get a bargain.

At the other end of the salary scale we find the Chair of the Locum Doctors' Association, the PDA, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Staff Association and the mysterious WALGAS trade union all do the job for free, although the latter gets a motorbike.

Too Many Jobs

by New Worker correspondent

Work, it is said, is the curse of the drinking classes. But, a recent report from the Work

by New Worker correspondent

Tens of thousands of protesters defied sudden downpours on Saturday to march through the heart of London to demand an end to the genocide in Gaza. The Israeli terror campaign is reaching new heights as the Zionist army tries to starve the Palestinians into submission and exile. More than 900 Palestinians have been gunned down by the Israeli army and their US proxies just trying to get something to eat. These "aid sites" are death traps – and were designed to be such.

Jeremy Corbyn, the former Labour leader who now heads the Independent Alliance bloc in parliament, called for the halt of all British arms sales to Israel.

He later said: "The UK gov-

Foundation demonstrates the working classes have little time or money to indulge in mother's ruin. It notes that the level of workers with a second job is at its highest level since records began. It is therefore not surprising that one in six employees are struggling to pay their bills.

The report notes that despite a post-pandemic period of wage growth, wages for many workers are not keeping pace with the cost of living. It demonstrates that the Government's pledge to raise living standards across the UK has not been a great success.

The University of Leicester Foundation's survey of 3,796 UK workers shows 17 per cent struggling to pay or unable to pay monthly household bills with many more, 43 per cent, saying they have little or nothing left for savings or holidays after paying bills.

The Office of National Statistics figure that 1.35 million workers have second jobs is the most telling indicator of financial insecurity. Despite the recent rises in wages, low-paid workers are still in serious trouble. The number with second jobs rose by 121,000 in one year to the present record high.

Ben Harrison, the Foundation's director, said: "Raising living standards is not just about fig-

Stop the Genocide! Stop the War!



ernment says it is doing everything it can to alleviate suffering in Gaza. The UK government won't suspend the sale of F-35 parts to Israel.

"The UK government won't stop the use of RAF Akrotiri or end military co-operation.

"The UK government won't

accept the ICJ ruling that the occupation of Palestine is illegal.

"The UK government won't recognise a Palestinian state.

"The UK government won't impose comprehensive economic sanctions.

"The UK government won't conduct an assessment of geno-

cide, let alone fulfil its legal obligations to prevent it.

"The UK government won't even say that war crimes have been committed.

"Empty words cannot hide the truth: the UK government is complicit in crimes against humanity."

DEFEND
ALEX KENNY & SOPHIE BOLT
DEFEND
THE RIGHT TO PROTEST!

9am THURSDAY 31 JULY
WESTMINSTER MAGISTRATES COURT
181 MARYLEBONE RD, LONDON NW1 5BR



the impact of this prolonged period of inflation on those in or at risk of poverty". It presumably assumes that the Starmer Government cares tuppence about such matters. It also pleads that "employers should take an engagement first approach to financial wellbeing, working with employees and trade unions, prioritising at or above inflation pay increases". Do they really expect bosses to do that unless trade unions force them to dip into their profits?

Trouble in the Shires

by New Worker correspondent

The National Trust (NT), that worthy body founded in 1895 to acquire land for public access, is shedding hundreds of jobs. The NT, which performs the valuable function of maintaining

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

hard-up members of the aristocracy in the top flats of their country houses in return for allowing plebs to pay to view their Chippendale chairs and gardens, has launched a 45-day consultation about reducing staff.

It blames the Chancellor's rise in National Insurance and the rise in the National Minimum Wage, which cost it an extra £10 million, for the cuts that will affect custodians of 500 historic houses, castles, parks and gardens, 780 miles of coastline and 250,000 hectares of land. It comes at a time when annual visitors rose by five per cent to 25.3 million.

The main union of NT employees, Prospect, says: "Our members are custodians of the country's cultural, historic and natural heritage – cuts of this scale risk losing institutional knowledge and skills which are vital to that mission." Deputy general secretary Steve Thomas added that "we will be working with NT to try to minimise the negative impact of these cuts on both workers and on the operation of the trust".

In Gloucestershire, underpaid workers in a similar but smaller establishment are leaving their jobs due to low pay and an overbearing boss who has run the establishment, most recently as a charity (which helps with taxes), for 45 years but fails to

provide adequate equipment and micromanages them. No fewer than 11 out of 12 horticulturalists have left since 2022. Another worker failed his probation for not knowing about a particular flower.

But a spokeswoman for the boss, however, dismissed the claims stating that "we are proud to regularly report very high satisfaction rates in our annual staff survey", and that "our staff turnover is well below the national average, as is the number of formal grievances raised".

The boss in question is His Majesty the King and the workplace is his country house, Highgrove, which boasts of doubled profits since 2022 from visitors and teaching traditional heritage skills.

The King has also come under attack from the Christian Institute for holding a 'Harmony Summit' at Highgrove. Although the Institute is largely known through its campaigns against homosexuality and gay rights, Charles has incurred their righteous wrath because he was blessed by an indigenous Mexican group in a traditional "fire pit" tribute to "Mother Earth". This, says Christian Institute Director Ciarán Kelly, wrongly "celebrates paganism and conflicts directly with His Majesty's coronation vow to be the 'Defender of the Faith'". That's him told good and proper...

Behind the mirror of lies

by New Worker correspondent

A hotel in the west end of Glasgow was recently the venue for the first Korean Friendship Association (KFA) event in Glasgow for several years. Hosted by the Stand for Peace pacifist group who regularly hold vigils in Glasgow and other Scottish cities and towns, it was the occasion for KFA UK's Chair, Dermot Hudson, to address a packed audience on the theme of "People's Korea behind the Mirror of Lies". The audience, which included members of No to NATO, the NCP and other Scottish communist movements, was broadly sympathetic and genuinely curious about the DPR Korea, although one person seemed to



take the *Guardian* and BBC too seriously.

One of the lies that Dermot Hudson exposed was that the Western media often report that senior DPRK figures had been executed, only to have egg on their face when they reappear in public months later. This was just one small example of the lies constantly pumped out by the puppet regime in south Korea and their imperialist backers. On a lighter note, he caused amusement by citing an American who seriously claimed that while

in the DPRK a power failure stopped a train which meant that he and other passengers then had to get out and push.

The reality is that DPRK citizens enjoy free housing, free health care and free education. On his recent visit he noted a vast amount of construction work in Pyongyang and a vast programme of rural housing and factory building is underway.

After his speech a healthy discussion took place around such matters as landownership as well as all sorts of questions about the political and social structures in People's Korea. Hudson said the DPRK was an example of the Marxist-Leninist dictatorship of the proletariat. The impact of the recent deepening of relations between Russia and the DPRK was also discussed. To any doubting Thomases in the audience the speaker, while aware of the considerable expense involved, said that a visit would confirm his statements.

It is to be hoped that this resumption of KFA activity north of the border will be followed-up by future events.



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

22nd July 2005

"DON'T TRY to tell us that the United States war in Iraq played no part in the London bombings," said Labour MP John McDonnell, chair of the Labour Representation Committee (LRC), in his opening comments at its AGM and conference in London.

The conference, of left Labour Party members, MPs and trade unionists who want to restore the Labour Party to its socialist roots, began with a minute's silence in memory of those killed by bombs in London, Baghdad and Fallujah.

The New Communist Party is affiliated to the LRC as

an associate organisation and four NCP delegates attended.

The morning session, chaired by LRC vice chair Maria Exall, dealt with domestic policy as laid out in a policy document with additional motions on defending the Royal Mail from privatisation, fighting civil service job cuts, rail safety and an emergency resolution on the London bombings.

Debate was launched by platform speakers Michael Meacher, National Union of Journalists general secretary Jeremy Dear and Fire Brigades Union general secretary Matt Wrack.

Matt Wrack spoke of the need to find a way for those who have left the Labour Party to be able to work together with comrades inside the party for common goals.

There were many contributions from the floor and a great deal of general agreement on all of the issues being debated. One delegate from RMT warned that the Government is trying to cut down on the number of safety reps on the Tube and reverse the regulations

introduced after the Kings Cross fire. Risk assessment will be left to the discretion of station management "leading to cost-driven corner-cutting".

Paul Mackney of the lecturers' union NATFHE attacked tuition fees, introduced by a government that includes many former radicals from the National Union of Students, which will exclude the working class.

The afternoon session covered foreign policy and the structural organisation of the LRC. This session was kicked-off by Bob Wareing MP and veteran left Labour politician Tony Benn.

It covered nuclear weapons and NATO, support for Venezuela, and the occupation of Iraq and then the LRC organisational statement, all resolutions were endorsed.

New Communist Party delegates made two interventions – on the need for solidarity and respect for the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the face of US aggression, and on the need to work in trades councils.

Can Israel survive without the West?

by Ramzy Baroud

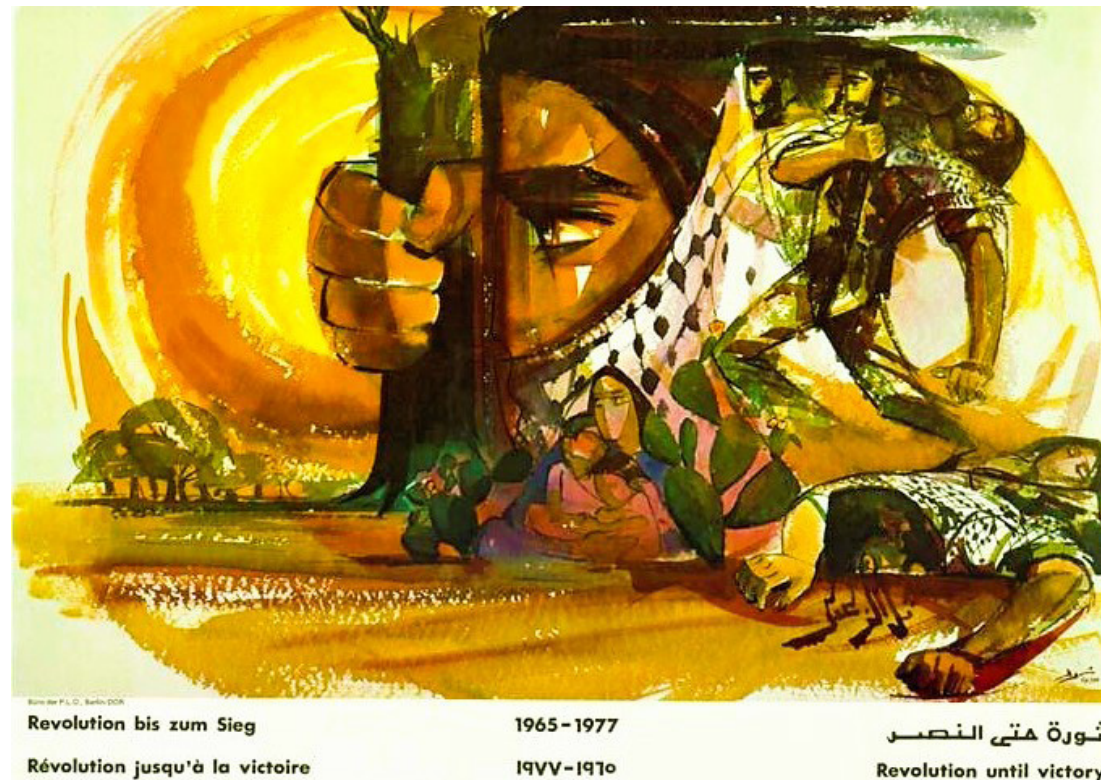
The Israeli genocide in Gaza, along with the escalating regional wars it has ignited, has brought two chilling truths into our focus: first, Israel is deliberately and aggressively undermining the security and stability of the entire Middle East, and second, Israel is utterly incapable of surviving on its own.

These two assertions, although seemingly distinct, are inextricably linked. For if those who relentlessly sustain Israel – militarily, politically and economically – were to finally withdraw their support, the Middle East would not be the powder keg it has been for decades, a situation that has catastrophically worsened since 7th October 2023.

Although no over-simplification is intended, the brutal reality is that all it would take is for Israel to withdraw from Gaza, allowing the devastated, genocide-stricken Strip the faintest chance to heal. Over 56,000 Palestinians, including more than 17,000 children and 28,000 women, have been brutally slaughtered since the commencement of this war, a horrifying tally expected to surge dramatically when comprehensive investigations into the missing are finally conducted.

Only then could the process of returning to some semblance of normalcy begin, where the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people must be fiercely championed within an international system built, at least theoretically, upon unwavering respect for basic human rights and international law.

The abhorrent ‘might makes right’ maxim would have to be utterly expunged from any future political equation. Middle Eastern countries, both Arab and Muslim, must finally rise to the occasion, stepping up decisively



to aid their brethren and to ensure that Israel is powerless to divide their ranks.

For Israel, this demand is simply impossible, a non-starter and understandably so, from its colonial perspective. Why?

“Invasion is a structure, not an event,” the influential scholar Patrick Wolfe has famously asserted. This profound statement unequivocally means that Israel’s wars, commencing with the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, the Nakba, of 1948, and all subsequent wars and military occupations, were not random historical coincidences, but rather integral components of an enduring structure of power designed to eliminate the indigenous population.

This renders as simply false the notion that Israel’s behaviour after 7th October was solely driven by revenge and devoid of strategy. We are perhaps excused for failing initially to grasp this distinction, given the grisly, unspeakable nature of the Israeli actions in Gaza and the palpable sense of perverse pleasure Israel seems to derive

from the daily murder of innocent people.

Yet, the language emanating from Israel was chillingly clear about its true motives. As Benjamin Netanyahu declared on 7th October 2023: “We will turn Gaza into a deserted island.”

That has always been an intrinsic, unchanging part of Israel’s colonial structure, and it will remain so unless it is decisively reined in. But who possesses the will and power to rein in Israel?

Israel operates through a network of enablers, benefactors who have long viewed Israel’s existence as an indispensable colonial fortress serving the interests of Western colonialism.

“The connection between the Israeli people and the American people is bone deep...we’re united in our shared values,” Joe Biden declared with striking conviction in July 2022.

Without even bothering to question those “shared values” that somehow permit Israel to perpetrate a genocide while the USA actively sustains it, Biden was undeniably honest

in his stark depiction that the relationship between both countries transcends mere politics. Other Western leaders blindly parrot the same perception.

The unfolding genocide, however, has spurred some Western – and a multitude of non-Western – governments to courageously speak out against the Israeli war, Netanyahu and his extremist ideology in ways unprecedented since Israel’s very establishment. For some of these countries, notably Spain, Norway, Ireland and Slovenia, among others, the proverbial ‘bond’ is demonstrably ‘breakable’ and their support is most certainly not ‘unequivocal’.

There are various theories as to why some Western governments dare to challenge Israel while others stubbornly refuse. That important discussion aside, shattering the bond between Israel and the West is absolutely critical, not only for a just peace to finally prevail, but for the very survival of the Palestinian people.

The nearly 21 agonising months of unrelenting Israeli genocide have taught us a bru-

tal lesson: Israel is, after all, a vassal state, utterly unable to fight its own wars, to defend itself or even to sustain its own economy without the direct, massive support of the USA and others.

Prior to the war, there were occasional outbursts from Israeli officials proclaiming that Israel is an independent country, not “another star on the US flag”. These voices have since been largely silenced, replaced by a constant stream of begging and pleading for the USA to come to Israel’s rescue.

While Palestinians continue to stand with legendary courage to resist the Israeli military occupation and apartheid, those who genuinely care about international law, justice and peace must take decisive action by directly confronting governments that persist in helping Israel sustain the genocide in Gaza and the destabilisation of the Middle East.

Governments such as Spain and others are doing what many had not expected only years ago: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is powerfully advocating for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, an extensive trade deal in place since 2000, due to “the catastrophic situation of genocide”.

If more such governments were to adopt a similar, uncompromising stance, Israel would be choked off, at least from acquiring the very murder weapons it uses to carry out its barbaric genocide.

It is our collective responsibility to march in lockstep behind such courageous voices and demand uncompromising accountability, not only from Israel but from those who are actively sustaining its Israeli settler colonial structure.

People’s World
(USA)

Our future is communist!

by John Maryon

From the first glimpses of primitive communism in Stone Age family groupings to the growth of feudalism and the emergence of capitalism into imperialism, now in terminal decline, humankind has passed through a number of historical epochs. Today a new stage of development is underway in certain countries to build socialism, which will in turn make the qualitative advance to communism.

Change is very necessary. Everywhere we look in the imperialist world we see crisis. Its symptoms are economic stagnation, industrial decline, inflationary pressures, job losses and stock market volatility. Workers with falling standards of living are being made to carry the burden of its failure.

Full socialism means the public ownership of the means of production, transport, financial institutions and the land. All would be owned and utilised by the people for the people. Then, as full masters of their own destiny, their work and creativity would be employed for the common good. The greed, speculation, exploitation and corruption of the bourgeoisie would be relegated to the history books.

Monopoly capitalism, the final phase of capitalist failure, is no longer competitive. Increasingly it adopts economic warfare and physical threats to maintain its hegemony. It is a system based upon exploitation of the masses while the rich become more wealthy every day. According to the Office

of National Statistics (ONS), the top one per cent of families, with an average wealth of £3.6m, own over 230 times that of the poorest 10 per cent.

Following the Second World War many people thought that socialism was just around the corner. Inspired by the achievements of the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin's leadership they were no longer prepared to put up with the conditions that had existed in the 1930s. The mood was for change. A Labour government, led by Clement Attlee, was elected in 1945. Basic industries and public transport were nationalised, the NHS established and a full programme of social care initiated. The slums were replaced with magnificent new council houses; homes for the people.

One may well ask what has gone so badly wrong and what can be done about it. Looking back we can see that the socialist programme did not go far enough. Those industries and

utilities taken over were in a poor financial position and required heavy investment. Profitable companies should have been added to the list to provide funds. The NHS should have been allowed to make its own drugs and equipment. The banks and financial institutions were left untouched. On balance, the steps taken were half-hearted social-democratic measures that left bourgeois state power unchallenged.

Over the following years the Tories sold off and privatised everything they could lay their hands on. Industry, utilities, council houses and local authority care homes were all sold off. Brainwashed by the mass media, people were conditioned to accept these moves. And Labour, firmly in the hands of the right-wing, did almost nothing about it. Now, of course, they have all gone and we are left to pay through the nose for falling standards of service. The Labour Party had again betrayed the working

class, allowing those early gains to be lost.

This betrayal was not the only one that set back the first stages of building socialism in Britain. The political line of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB), at a time when it should have been adopting a vanguard role to inspire the masses, degenerated into a revisionist party replacing real socialist objectives with a social democratic approach. In relation to the world class struggle they also abandoned proletarian internationalism.

Setbacks within the UK were matched by the collapse into revisionism in the Soviet Union that led to its fall and along with it the hopes and aspirations of millions of workers worldwide. One of the basic causes of the breakdown of the socialist system in the Soviet Union was the failure to appreciate the importance of moral incentives, as opposed to personal gain, as the fundamental lever for building socialism in human society. Another was

the widespread belief that once socialism was achieved it was irreversible. This led to complacency and a failure to address important issues. Since 1955 Stalin, who had played a major role in building and defending the Soviet Union, was never mentioned in text books. Thus his warnings in relation to the market and private property were ignored.

For the sake of peace, justice, equality and a sustainable future we need socialism and we need it now. A vanguard party equipped with a Marxist-Leninist understanding is an essential feature for this to be achieved. Lenin said that for a revolutionary situation to be transferred into a full revolution the following factors are necessary:

First: an acute crisis situation with widespread discontent with the ruling class being unable to manage in the old way.

Second: when the suffering of the oppressed classes have grown acute.

Third: when there is a considerable increase in the awareness and activity of the masses.

The first two conditions exist in Britain today. It is the task of communists to explain what is wrong and show that it is the bourgeoisie who are the villains, not poor immigrants.

Today socialism in various forms, suited to specific local conditions, is again on the march. The social progress and economic might of People's China has been amazing. Measured in terms of what I would call 'Real GDP' (the real value of goods and services without such American features as exorbitant medical fees, high rents and legal costs) is on a par with the USA. Its mixed economy does have certain risks but it is a cardinal task for the Communist Party of China to ensure that no-one is left behind. A prosperous society is being created for everyone to enjoy.

The other socialist countries, in the face of threats and harsh sanctions, are all making excellent progress. Cuba has endured a blockade by the USA for over 60 years and Democratic Korea, Laos and Vietnam, who took on and defeated the might of American imperialism in their fight for freedom, have all recovered from almost total destruction.

As socialism rises to become communism everyone's needs will be met fully. Money, the lifeblood of capitalism and its mechanism for exploitation, will disappear. Under capitalism, income dominates people's existence. When communism arrives in Britain it will transform society. Socialism, the




• Chinese bullet train racing across the countryside.

first stage of advancement, implements the principle ‘from each according to their ability to each according to their work’. Communism, the higher phase of socialist development, adopts the greater principle, ‘from each according to their ability to each according to their needs’.


Anxiety and fear will be replaced with harmony and mutual co-operation. Everyone will have an equal chance of opportunity to develop to their full potential. Human civilisation will flourish as never before.

If we want a better tomorrow within a new and beautiful society we




**Members of the
Communist Party of China**

1921



Less than 60

2025



100 million+

have to struggle for it. With communism, class and race discrimination, bigotry and sects will disappear. Women will be able to play a full role in society. Communists, socialists and all progressive people need to come together for an essential class struggle.

The Labour Party continues to betray the working class as do other so-called communists who are in reality a fake left. We need to be on our guard. We need to build the New Communist Party of Britain, a party that has stuck to its principles, as a vanguard party for true social and economic progress.

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The falsification of history

The address by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of foreign states and the peoples of the world on the inadmissibility of falsification of the history of the Second World War and rehabilitation of Nazism

The 9th May 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the historic victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War. The war unleashed by Hitler’s Germany and its satellites claimed the lives of 27 million Soviet citizens. Millions were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, lost their homes, and were subjected to forced labour in Germany and the countries under its control.

The Great Victory is owed to the perseverance and bravery of the Soviet people, their resolute determination to defeat Nazism, which became a threat to humankind.

The allies of the USSR in the anti-Hitler coalition made a significant contribution to the defeat of the Third Reich.

The International Military Tribunal for the Trial and Punishment of the Major War Criminals of the European Axis Countries (Nuremberg Tribunal) convicted Nazi regime leaders of crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The facts of deportation and extermination of the civilian population of the USSR by the Nazis and their accomplices, as established in the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal, must be recognised as genocide of the

peoples of the Soviet Union.

Owing to the victory of the USSR and its Allies over Nazism, the conditions for the formation of the present-day system of international relations were created and the United Nations (UN) was established.

The principles of international law recognised by the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and reflected in the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal, were re-affirmed by UN General Assembly resolution 95(1) of 11 December 1946.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation supports the annual

adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution “Combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, as well as resolution 79/272 “Eightieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War” of 4 March 2025, co-sponsored by 54 States.

The Senators of the Russian Federation express concern about the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, accession of non-aligned European States, militarisation

of the European Union and its support for the neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine. It was in Europe where the two world wars started. Therefore Europe bears a special responsibility to humankind for preventing a new global confrontation.

The denial of the USSR’s decisive contribution to the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition over Germany and its satellites, glorification of Nazi criminals and their accomplices, demolition and desecration of monuments to Soviet soldiers liberators are immoral and sacrilegious.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

appeals to the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to oppose any attempts at falsification of history, rehabilitation and glorification of Nazism, fascism and militarism, condemn the encouragement of the neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine, incitement of a new world war, as well as demand bringing to justice those who dishonour the memory of the fighters against fascism and liberators.

Only through joint efforts can we protect the truth about the Second World War, counter the rise of neo-Nazism, and prevent the recurrence of atrocities against humanity.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

It is 80 years since Labour won the general election at end of the Second World War. Demobilised troops and a war-weary population were demanding a better future. Workers were determined not to go back to the poverty and poor housing and health that they had to endure in the 1930s. Churchill had mis-judged the mood. He said Labour would have to “fall back on some sort of Gestapo”.

In the event, Labour romped home and Attlee formed what proved to be the most radical reforming Labour Government ever. Key industries were nationalised. Many council homes were built. A comprehensive welfare state was established and the NHS was set up.

Labour stayed in power until 1951. Even then it lost narrowly to the Tories on seats but had more of the popular vote. Of courses there were limitations, deficiencies and mistakes.

Nationalisation was a top-down affair. Often state industries were headed up by the former bosses of private firms. Austerity continued as did rationing and there were public expenditure cuts in particular in 1947 when Stafford Cripps was Chancellor.

Britain also joined the Korean War at the behest of the USA in 1950. And the Attlee Government secretly developed nuclear weapons. Yet even now – 80 years on – the

1945 Government is seen as a high water mark for Labour. It showed what a left-of-centre government with a big majority can achieve.

**Alan Stewart
Wakefield**

Dear Comrades

Your report from Scotland in the 4th July edition crystallises the level of discourse in the so-called national parliament whereby toilet provision and seagulls’ status is deemed worthy of taking up valuable time.

Surely it’s time to reconfigure the governance of Scotland by reinstating powerful all-purpose regional authorities. Thirty-two local authorities for a population of five million makes no sense. It’s time for real devolution away from Holyrood back to the grass-roots and some semblance of joined-up thinking and focus on what really matters to local people.

**Ian Fraser
Aberdeen**

Dear Comrades

Recently, because of extortionate and unfair service charges on my flat I have been forced to sell it and probably move out of London, which I do not want to do.

It occurred to me that I should apply for a council flat, which would mean that I could stay in London. Of course rents for council flats are not as cheap as many people imagine. It was reported that in the London borough of Lewisham that the average rent for a council property was £120 per week or £6,240 per year.

I filled in a lengthy, complicated and bureaucratic form. After several emails I was told by the housing department of the council that my application would be likely to be rejected. They told me as a leaseholder I was expected

to sell my home at a loss and if I could not purchase another property with the proceeds then I should rent privately!

Frankly, the response of the council disgusted me in the extreme! Surely after living in the borough for nine years and paying council tax as well in the past income tax and national insurance you think that they would be able to help me but apparently not!

It is just the kind of thing that leads to racism because people in my situation, less politically educated and less ideologically advanced, would probably blame this on immigrants etc.

What it proves is that those who prattle about the “welfare state” and “the social safety net” are talking nonsense. There is no such thing. Under capitalism there is only exploitation and injustice. We should fight for socialism!

**Dermot Hudson
London**

An open letter to the Foreign Secretary:

Dear David Lammy

On the 24th June this year Defence for Children International Palestine in collaboration with Doctors against Genocide published a report *Starving a generation: Israel’s famine campaign targeting Palestinian children in Gaza*. The report was written to “spur world leaders to finally, and decidedly, take every action necessary to save Palestinian children’s lives”.

There has been no mention of the report in our media and no sign of any government response. That is why I am writing to call on you to act on this report. Some direct quotes from the report:

“Palestinian children in Gaza are starving. This declaration has been shared repeatedly, with growing urgency, by Palestinian human rights organisations

since the very early days of Israel’s campaign of genocide. As of June 2025, the daily intake of food in Gaza has fallen below a survivable level. Now, since no one has stopped Israeli forces and authorities from carrying out genocide, Palestinian children and families continue to suffer from starvation as the world watches. At least 58 Palestinian children have died of starvation since the beginning of the most recent blockade on 2nd March 2025 according to records from the Ministry of Health.

“We must acknowledge this number is a colossal undercount: In fact, we must assume that every child in Gaza is suffering from malnutrition and dehydration as Israel continues to block safe and abundant access to humanitarian aid and basic essentials. Due to the scale of Israeli aerial and ground attacks, repeated forcible displacement orders, and siege, it is impossible to document each case of child starvation. Defence for Children International – Palestine staff have put forth their best efforts to ensure as many children’s cases as possible are thoroughly documented, even as field researchers themselves seek safety for their families.”

The report goes on to document the clear intention of Israeli leaders to cause starvation in Gaza and the measures they have used carry out that intention. The report’s key findings are as follows:

- Famine has been present in the Gaza Strip since at least early 2024, when the first Palestinian children died of starvation due to Israel’s closure of north Gaza.
- Starvation of children is a key mechanism in Israel’s campaign of genocide and has been

continued on page 9...

Diary

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

UNTIL 14 SEPT

Peace Museum: Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp exhibition. Thursdays–Sundays 10:00–16:00, Salts Mill, Victoria Road, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3LA.

UNTIL 14 NOV

Prince Charles Cinema: Films of Andrei Tarkovsky season. (Soviet film director 1932–86). PCC, 7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY. Details and tickets on PCC website.

TUES 29 JULY

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: All Guantanamo is Ours. 20:00, Sands Cinema Club, 82 St Marychurch Street, London SE16 4HZ. Film showing in person and online. Book on CSC website.

THURS 31 JULY

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Defend Alex Kenny & Sophie Bolt and the right to protest. Demonstration. 09:00–11:00, Westminster Magistrates Court, 18 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5BR.

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 10 AUGUST

South Yorkshire Festival. 11:00–17:00, Wortley Hall (The Workers’ Stately Home), Wortley, Sheffield S35 7DB.

MON 18–THURS 21 AUG

Stand Up To Racism: Solidarity with Anti-racist campaigner Kwabena Devonish. 10:00, Bristol Crown Court, 9 Small Street, Bristol BS1 1DA.

SAT 30 AUG

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

SAT 6 SEPT

Society for the Study of Labour History: Chartism Day: Heritage Quay, Queensgate, Huddersfield HD1 3DH. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 6 SEPT

Abortion Rights: Counter-protest. 14:00, Millicent Fawcett statue, Parliament Square, London SW1.

SUN 7 SEPT

Burston Strike School: Annual Rally. From 10:30–16:00, Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk IP22 5TP.

SUN 7–WED 10 SEPT

TUC Congress 2025. Brighton.

SAT 13 SEPT

Stand Up To Racism: Central London demonstration. Details TBA.

SAT 13 SEPT

Wigan Diggers Festival. 11:00–18:30, Gerrard Winstanley Gardens, The Wiend, Wigan WN1 1YB.

TUE 16 SEPT

Socialist History Society: Book launch for Mark Shaw’s *The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*. 19:00, Online. Register on SHS website.

SAT 27 SEPT

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

SUN 28 SEPT

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Hands Off Cuba: North West Rally and Fundraiser. 17:45, The Casa, 29 Hope St, Liverpool, L1 9BP

FRI 3–SUN 5 OCT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: AGM weekend. Belfast. Details and bookings on IBMT website.

TUE 7 OCT

Socialist History Society: Michael Braddick on *Christopher Hill: the life of a radical historian*. 19:00, online Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

SAT 18 OCT

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: No new British nukes. Protest: RAF Marham, Main Gate, Woodview Road, Upper Marham, King’s Lynn PE33 9NP. Time TBA.

SAT 25 OCT

Scotland Demands Better march and rally, Edinburgh. Details TBA.

SUN 1 NOV

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Len Crome Memorial Conversation. Panel on the Toxic legacy: the lasting impact of Francoism on Spanish Democracy. 14:00, In person, Marx Memorial Library.

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

from the beginning, targeting existing and future generations of Palestinian children and families.

- Refusal by the international community to declare famine, acknowledge Israeli officials' genocidal intent, and break Israel's siege has paved the way for the starvation of more children.

- Palestinian newborns, infants, and children with chronic illnesses are among the most vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition and dehydration.

- Starvation occurring in Gaza now will negatively impact Palestinian children and families for generations to come.

You have denied that there is genocide in Gaza, I hope you do not deny that there is a famine caused by Israel. I call on you now to publicly acknowledge that there is famine in Gaza and demand that Israel end the blockade of food into Gaza and restore the United Nations program that delivered food safely and effectively at scale. There is more that you should be doing.

Brendan O'Brien
London

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

The Scottish Parliament is on its summer holidays (three weeks more than Westminster) until the beginning of September. That does not however, mean that political warfare has ceased.

First off was Alba's Kenny McAskill who put the boot into his old party. He declared that after the next Holyrood elections he would not rule out working with the SNP but warned that "I will not forgive the behaviour of Nicola Sturgeon towards Alex Salmond. And, indeed, the lies told by others." He also called on the Crown Office to investigate those senior SNP figures he accuses of lying in Sturgeon's case against Salmond. One wonders how that will help him in his strategy to win over SNP supporters to his cause in the future...

One of those he hopes the Crown Office

will take an interest in is Peter Murrell, the ex-CEO of the SNP and former husband of Nicola Sturgeon. 'Mr Sturgeon' has been charged with embezzling from the SNP. Despite his £80,000 annual salary in recent years he was awarded legal aid to fight the charges. Labour's Deputy Leader, Jackie Baillie, spoke for many when she said that "taxpayers will be scratching their heads at why they should have to foot the bill for Peter Murrell".

New lamps for old

Last week First Minister John Swinney announced what he called a "renewed" three-pronged strategy for achieving independence. First, he wants to see a campaign seeking "the highest levels of support possible for independence". Secondly, he wants to build "public pressure around Scotland's fundamental national rights". Thirdly he wants people to vote SNP to put pressure on Westminster.

One would have thought that building support for independence is what a nationalist party ought to be doing as a matter of course, but the SNP have got bogged down on matters such as ferry building and who is allowed to use NHS changing rooms. Swinney's demand for another referendum might rally existing nationalist supporters, but even within these ranks it is not a priority. Cruel cynics think that the last thing Swinney wants is for Westminster to actually grant another referendum as the result would be the same as last time.

His call to vote SNP rather than Alba or Green

is also to be expected from a leader of the SNP. In response, Alba deputy leader Neale Hanvey accurately pointed out that: "The First Minister's three-point plan is utterly hollow. There's no strategy there, just the same old song of waiting for the right moment, hoping for a miracle." He also accurately lamented that "The independence movement is fragmented and crying out for leadership and unity". His problem is that Alba does not have a great bloc of supporters to throw behind the cause and the SNP is not going to even think about calling on SNP voters to support Alba or the Greens on the List vote to increase the number of nationalist MSPs. The Bath-based nationalist website *Wings Over Scotland* summarised it well as "please vote for the same people who've failed for the last decade again".

Industrial News

The SNP were left with red faces when their favourite shipyard, Ferguson Marine Engineering, was rescued from impending bankruptcy. The week before Holyrood's Public Audit Committee reported that Ferguson's was a basket case with inadequate leadership, boardroom squabbles, weak internal audits, and "governance failures around exit packages for senior staff", before concluding it needs extra investment to avoid closure.

The Seventh Cavalry speedily rode to the rescue however. As this came in the form of a new contract from the Royal Navy that will keep the yard afloat, the SNP were unable to rush to the yard for a photo-opportunity. The

new contract involves making three sections for HMS *Birmingham*, the first of five submarine-hunting ships being built in BAE's Glasgow yard.

This came just after the SNP-run Scottish Enterprise agency refused a £2.5 million grant for a specialist submarine welding facility led by Rolls-Royce, which will now be established elsewhere in the UK. The SNP refuse to provide public money to support "munitions" but this vague definition leaves them with plenty of wriggle room to support more ambiguous job-creating projects. Weapons are bad but the ships to launch them from are good.

Meanwhile, the likely closure of the Scottish

base of bus manufacturer Alexander Dennis has been blamed on local authorities and private bus companies buying cheap buses from abroad. Now it has been discovered that Public Finance Minister Ivan McKee has private investments in eastern European factories building such buses through Excel Assemblies Holdings Ltd, of which he was formerly a director.

On a more positive note on the industrial front, we can report a notable success announced by the Scottish Government Just Transition fund. In the first two years of operation it saved 120 jobs in 25 energy industry projects. This came at a cost of £43 million, or a mere £358,300 each.

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The world today through Marxist eyes

REVIEW

Revolutionary Democracy: Volume Two, No 2 (New Series), April 2025.
£7.50 including p&p from NCP Lit, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

by Robin MacGregor

Once again lucky *New Worker* readers have a chance to purchase another issue of *Revolutionary Democracy*, which has arrived from New Delhi. The tried and tested three-part format of articles on contemporary India and surrounding countries, statements of parties belonging to the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations (ICMLPO) and material from Soviet and other archives remains unchanged.

This issue opens with a self-explanatory piece on *Emergent Fascism and People's Resistance in India*, particularly the high-caste Hindu chauvinism promoted by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that is related to that party's neo-liberal economic policies. Next is a timely reprint of the Communist International's December 1933 thesis on *Fascism, The Danger of War and the Tasks of the Communist Parties*, which has all too many parallels for today.

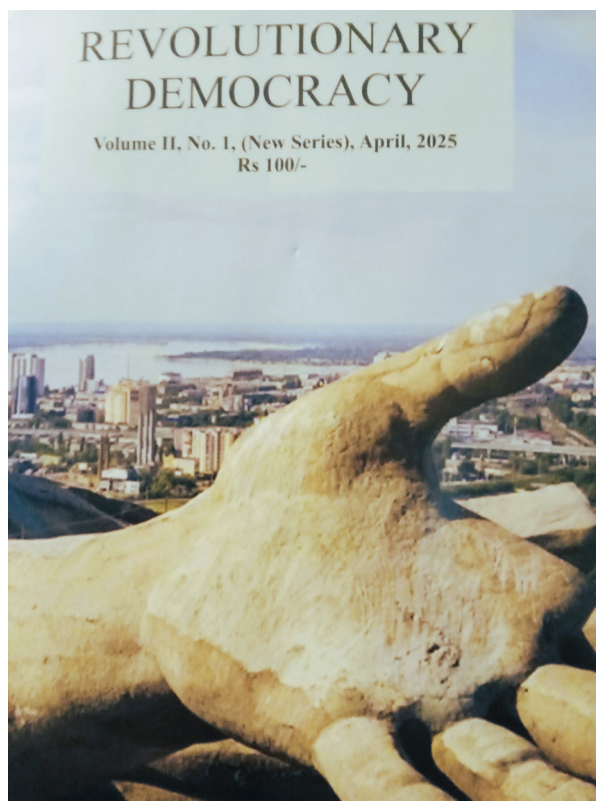
A short article describes a police crack-down in late January on peaceful demonstrations by workers at the Maruti Suzuki plant in New Delhi, where temporary workers staged a massive protest against the Japanese-owned car factory demanding permanent jobs at greatly improved rates of pay

and an end to fire-and-rehire.

The huge dispute, involving around 4,000 workers, was significant for securing support from a new union and from other workers at supplier plants. At the plant 83 per cent of the workforce are employed on short-term contracts. "Only 5,713 permanent workers out of the total workforce of 34,918 enjoy the benefits and high salaries that the company claims to provide its workers." This has become very common in recent years in India. The protest was met by a violent police charge and the uprooting of tents belonging to the workers who were perfectly entitled to make their protest. As a tail-piece, the final piece in this issue is a book review dealing with the broader question of Japanese companies in India.

A similar piece deals with the continuing war against the tribal peoples in central India whose lands contain great mineral wealth. Here the false claim of needing to fight against the Maoist Naxalite movement gives the Indian state an excuse for mass murder to pave the way for mining companies.

From the specific to the general we have a detailed analysis of the dire state of agriculture that involves 93 million households, the vast majority of which are very small and thus unable to take advantage of machinery. While in



theory farmers are now less likely to be under a landlord's thumb, they are now more likely to be tied to moneylenders. Despite the vast number of small farmers, "1.1 per cent of rural households own about 20 per cent of land and it is they who produce for the market and call the shots".

Next comes an account of the RG Kar Movement that started with protests against the brutal rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, which snow-balled in mass protests across Bengal, involving many more than the medical profession.

The July 2024 uprising in Bangladesh that saw the collapse of the brutal Awami League

government is fully recounted by a regular *Revolutionary Democracy* contributor Badrudin Umar.

From the archives we have a 1957 article on *Commodity Production and the Law of Value Under Socialism* by Soviet economist K Ostrovityanov, which editor Vijay Singh states was an important step in establishing a market economy under Khrushchev. This is followed by another instalment of *Lenin's Criticism of Bogdanov's Reactionary Sociological Views*, first published in 1937 by AV Shchegolov.

Afterwards there are some declarations by ICMLPO parties on Palestine, Syria and about the Kurdish PKK laying down their arms. There is also more archival

material.

From 1946 we have a document reflecting on Communist Party of India policies on the question of the formation of Pakistan and its implications for India's national unity. Similar issues are also covered in a 1952 correspondence between the Indian and Soviet parties where the question of Kashmir loomed large.

Nearer to home for British readers is a brief 1947 discussion between Zhdanov from the Soviet Union and Nicos Zachariadis of the Communist

Party of Greece concerning the civil war.

All in all another interesting collection.

Revolutionary Democracy is a half-yearly theoretical and political journal published in April and September from India. It contains material on the problems facing the communist movement, particularly relating to Russia, China and India, the origins of modern revisionism, the restoration of capitalism in the USSR and developments in the international communist movement.

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).

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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)

In the footsteps of George Hogg

by New Worker
correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined other communists, academics and friends of China to recall the life of George Hogg, who went to China in 1938 to help the Chinese people in their struggle against Japanese imperialism. George was a young man, a teacher and a journalist, who told the West about the Japanese army's atrocities while setting up schools for communist-led co-operatives and helped orphans who lost their parents and relatives during the war. He joined the communist resistance to the invaders but he never lived to see the defeat of Japan let alone the Chinese people's victory in 1949 that led to the establishment of the people's republic in 1949. He died from an infection in July 1945 only weeks before the surrender of Japan.

In London on Saturday the memorial event brought together family members, scholars and representatives from both Chinese and English organisations gathering to mark his contribution – not only to the Chinese people's war of resistance but also to the mutual understanding of the two nations.

The event was jointly held by the Chinese Embassy, the China Global TV network (CGTN Europe) and the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU).

Earlier this year, a SACU delegation, including members of the Hogg family travelled across China, following George Hogg's footsteps eight decades ago. The



delegation shared their memories of the visit and spoke of the warm welcome and hospitality they received from everyone they met.

CGTN Europe journalists also shared their experience of producing a documentary about Hogg.

Their digital team members talked about the filming and editing of the production. Without much archive video of Hogg, it is mainly through his writing that readers today can imagine

his life and work in China – so applying AI-generated content helped to fill in the gaps.

Based on Hogg's writings, alongside a biography authored by his nephew Mark Thomas, the AI technology recreated scenes of Hogg's tour, work and life among the Chinese people back in the 1930s and '40s, providing an immersive experience for the audience, especially the younger generation.

Also premiered at

the event was a trailer for *Witness to War: George Hogg in China*, a documentary which is expected to be released in August.

Michael Wood, the well-known historian who is president of SACU, said it brought war-torn Shanghai to life.

It reminded him of a poem by Chinese poet Du Fu. "I can remember a Chinese guy who belonged to a book club in America, he'd lived through that Japanese

destruction of Shanghai," Wood said. "And 'I remember when I was a child, the buildings were all burning, and the great factories were burning, and across the wall somebody had painted *'the state is destroyed, but the people remain'*", which is a line from Du Fu.

"And I'll never forget that. You just watch those pictures in that film and that's exactly what I saw. I saw the Du Fu poem come alive again. So I'm very im-

pressed."

He said that Hogg's story provides Western audiences with a good angle of China's role in the Second World War. "You can tell people that China was so important in World War II, and you can give them facts and figures, but this is a real personal story of somebody who was so moved by the sufferings of the Chinese people," he said.

"He could have gone home at any time, but he decided to stay and help the Chinese people, and in the end he died. So that's a very human story, a very powerful story."

In the final segment of the programme Andy Brooks and Peter Higgins from the Workers Party of Britain discussed George Hogg's Legacy.

The NCP leader said George Hogg, an outstanding man who left our shores to help the people of China in the 1930s is, naturally, remembered in books, films and commemorations in China for his dedication and sacrifice, but he is not so well known in his home country. That is sadly often the case where genuine heroes are routinely ignored by bourgeois scholars and the mass media alike in a country where corruption is flaunted like a badge of honour by those who claim to lead us and whose highest virtue is greed and selfishness. But all of us here believe in what we are doing – we wouldn't be here otherwise. Let us hope that when the time comes we can show the courage and determination of a man like George Hogg who dedicated his life to serving the people.



• Professor Michael Wood pays tribute to George Hogg.

Understanding Moscow's Fury

by Nancy
O'Brien Simpson

From promises broken to missiles on doorsteps, Russia's grievances span decades. They shaped the Kremlin's path to war.

Let me say this clearly: I do not support war. I lived through Vietnam as a teenager, and peace is embedded in my soul. But I also know this: wars are often born of wounds. And if we want to stop the next war, we need to look – not just at the fire – but at the dry grass and the forgotten matches that came before. This is a story of grievance. Of betrayal. Of memory. And fear. From Russia's eyes, not ours.

In 1990, as the Cold War was winding down, US Secretary of State James Baker reportedly told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that NATO would expand “not one inch eastward”. It was said in the context of German reunification. No treaty was signed. No formal pledge was inked. But sometimes history isn't shaped by contracts – it's shaped by trust.

And Moscow trusted that NATO – the military alliance built to contain the Soviet Union – would not keep creeping closer after the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Yet creep it did. In 1999: Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. In 2004: the Baltic states – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia – once part of the USSR itself. Over time, NATO



swallowed up 14 new countries, moving closer and closer to Russia's heart.

To Americans this expansion was called defensive. Voluntary. Protective. But to the Kremlin, it looked like betrayal dressed in diplomacy. And betrayal, once felt, is not forgotten.

The first cuts

In 1999, NATO bombed Serbia – Russia's close ally – without UN approval, claiming it was to stop genocide in Kosovo. Maybe it was. But to Russia it felt like another rule rewritten by the West. Another war waged without global consensus. Another example of ‘might is right’.

When Kosovo declared independence in 2008 and the West recognised it, Russia remembered. They filed that moment away. Years later [when the Crimean autonomous republic

seceded from Ukraine and joined the Russian Federation] they would invoke Kosovo as a precedent. “You set the rules,” they seemed to say. “Now don't cry when we follow them.”

In the early 2000s ‘democratic’ uprisings swept through Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The West celebrated these ‘colour revolutions’ as victories of freedom. But to Russia, they looked like CIA puppets flipping over governments along their borders.

They saw orange- and rose-coloured revolutions not as grass-roots yearnings, but as Western encroachment wrapped in idealism. In their eyes America wasn't spreading democracy. It was spreading regime change – and getting closer.

In 2008, NATO made an open-ended promise that Ukraine and Georgia would one day become members. That was a turn

ing point. Putin warned George W Bush then: Ukraine is not just a neighbour – it is part of us. Culturally, historically, emotionally. To Russia, it was like watching a stranger try to adopt their child.

The mirror cracks

In 2014, a revolution in Ukraine ousted pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. Western leaders cheered. But to Moscow, it was the final straw. They saw it as a coup, orchestrated and supported by the USA and Europe. They feared losing Crimea, home to their Black Sea Fleet. Within weeks Russian troops moved in and Crimea joined the Russian Federation.

Sanctions followed. Condemnations poured in. But Putin didn't flinch. From his point of view, he wasn't starting a new war – he was responding to one that had been coming for

decades.

The final shove

In 1962 the USA nearly went to nuclear war over Soviet missiles in Cuba – 90 miles from Florida. The American government called it an existential threat. It demanded the missiles be removed. They were.

Now imagine Russia watching NATO place missile systems in Poland and Romania. Imagine them hearing Ukraine's leaders plead for NATO membership. Imagine how that looked through the lens of Cuba – except now the missiles would be on Russia's border, not 90 miles off its coast. Is it paranoia? Maybe. But American history says we'd feel the same.

By late 2021, Russia issued an ultimatum: NATO must not

admit Ukraine. The West refused. In February 2022 the tanks rolled west. It was regrettable... but it was, in Russian eyes, inevitable.

To see the world through someone else's eyes does not mean you agree with them. It means you understand them. And understanding, even in the darkest hour, is what gives birth to peace.

We live in a time of slogans: “Unprovoked war”; “Evil empire”; “Freedom fighter”. But life doesn't happen in slogans. It happens in the shadowlands – in the quiet betrayals and broken promises and desperate miscalculations.

Russia's actions in Ukraine are not about Putin's ego or imperial nostalgia. They are the fruit of seeds planted in 1990, 1999, 2008 and 2014. Seeds the West helped scatter – some carelessly, some arrogantly and some with good intentions that bore bitter fruit. We must reckon with all of it. Not to assign blame, but because understanding is the only soil where peace can ever grow.

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