

# Standing up for Palestine!

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

American warships pulled back from the Iranian coast last week as indirect talks between US and Iranian officials begin in Oman amid reports of an Iranian drone downed by the air-defences of the US navy's *Abraham Lincoln* aircraft carrier and that the Islamic Republic is bracing itself for an imminent Israeli-American attack. The Israelis continue to stall on the implementation of the second stage of the Gaza truce. Campaigners who organised a Gaza-bound aid mission that was seized by Israel last year are planning to send an even bigger flotilla to the besieged Palestinian enclave in March. And Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has stunned the Zionists in the world of football by publicly voicing his support for the people of Palestine.

The Global Sumud Flotilla says that it will send more than 100 boats carrying up to 1,000 activists, including medics and war crimes investigators, to Gaza in a "co-ordinated humanitarian intervention" for Gaza next month. Thousands more will be



• "End the War, end Occupation", peace campaigners demonstrate in Israel.

supporting a land convoy across nearby Arab countries to help the Palestinians.

Meeting at the foundation of the late South African leader Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg, the campaigners said this would be the largest ever civilian-led mobilisation against Israel's actions in Gaza. "It is a cause... for those that want to rise and stand for justice and dignity for all," said Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, who was one of activists arrested by Israel during last year's voyage. Last October hundreds of international volunteers in the Global Sumud flotilla, including Mandela, Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg and European Parliament member Rima Hassan, were interned after their vessels were seized in international waters by the Israeli navy. Although they were all eventually released several of them said that they suffered physical and psychological abuse

while in Israeli custody.

Meanwhile Pep Guardiola, the former Spanish international who now runs Manchester City FC, told the media that he supported the people of Palestine, saying he will continue to speak out on Israel's genocidal war on Gaza to help bring justice and peace. On Tuesday, the Manchester City manager used the pre-match news conference for his team's League Cup match against Tottenham Hotspur as a platform to highlight the plight of people

affected by wars across the world, especially in Gaza. "Never, ever in the history of humanity have

we had the information in front of our eyes watching more clearly than now," Guardiola told reporters in Manchester.

"The genocide in Palestine, what happened in Ukraine, what happened in Russia, what happened all around the world – in Sudan, everywhere," he said.

Guardiola also talked about the two fatal shootings by ICE officers in the USA that have led to a broad backlash against Trump's crackdown on undocumented immigrants. "Look what happened in the United States of America, Renee Good and Alex Pretti have been killed," said Guardiola, who asked what would happen if a nurse like Pretti was shot in the UK in those circumstances. "Imagine [someone from] the NHS – five, six people around him, go on the grass and 10 shots. Tell me how you can defend that?"

## FUND

Saved by the bell – or rather the comrades from Richmond & Kingston who donated £2,000 to the fighting fund last week in memory of Harry Danvers and Peter Geddes. The January appeal ended with a grand total of £3,892 – hitting our £3,500 target with more to spare!

We fight on – and we need to – as our country, led by fools and crooks, staggers on from crisis to crisis. It makes no odds to the rich whose lives are unaffected by rising prices and failing services. They can pay for anything they want from the money they get from the backs of the millions of working people they exploit to make their fortunes. But there is an answer to the crisis – in fact, it's the only one that works – and that is socialism. Help us put it back on the agenda of the working class by keeping the *New Worker* going. The voice of the *New Worker* is heard. Make it a roar!

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# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## Goodbye Mandelson

Peter Mandelson has at last left the Labour Party. Brought down by the Epstein dossier, his reputation in tatters, his departure follows his earlier resignation as British ambassador in Washington and his more recent departure from the House of Lords. This week's finale was an inevitable but grudging acceptance by Tony Blair's chief henchman that his political career is over. No one cares.

No one is going to miss this venal schemer who wore his corruption as a badge of honour throughout the Blairite days when he was known as the "Prince of Darkness" by friend and foe alike.

His enemies, and they are legion, rejoice at his downfall. His 'friends', such as Starmer who relied on Mandelson and the other ageing Blairites to keep him in office, now disown him. Mandelson was an icon for the right-wing social democrats that hounded Corbyn, Livingstone and thousands of others out of the Labour Party.

Now Starmer claims he didn't know the extent of Mandelson's dealings with Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted brothel keeper who supplied young girls to prominent politicians and businessmen on both sides of the Atlantic and died in unusual circumstances in a New York jail in 2019.

Starmer thinks he can weather the storm if he can hold on to Gorton & Denton in the by-election this month. But he's got the Faragists and the Greens snapping at his heels while the Tories clamour for a vote of no confidence in the House of Commons to bring down his floundering government. Starmer, of course, must go. And the sooner the better. But who will replace him?

Starmer's cohorts, who dominate the Parliamentary Labour Party, are in a dilemma. They argue that the only alternative to a Labour government is one led by Nigel Farage – who is certainly no friend of the labour movement. They liken the Corbynistas and the Greens to the 'lunatic fringe' and still believe in Blair's 'New Labour' mantras of 'new world order' capitalism and crawling to American imperialism – even though capitalism doesn't work except for the immensely rich and the Americans neither need nor want their "special relationship" these days.

Their chosen successor, Wes Streeting, was a protégé of the disgraced Mandelson. And none of the others in Starmer's faction are capable of holding the highest office in the land.

Angela Rayner and Andy Burnham wait in the wings to pick up the pieces when Starmer inevitably goes. But though they can campaign on the street – unlike the totally useless Starmer – their outlook differs little from the general right-wing Labour milieu they came from in the first place. They pay lip-service to the trade union bureaucrats who run the TUC and most of the unions in the country. But that's as far as it goes – and as far as it will ever go as long as the careerists and time-servers remain in charge. That's where the struggle for socialism must begin anew – and it must start now...

# Britain and China: Co-operation matters in a turbulent world

*From an ice age to renewed engagement Sir Keir Starmer's visit to China delivered major trade deals, bold diplomatic signals, and sparked a backlash at home and in Washington. Starmer was thus beating an already well-trodden path and chose to position his approach in terms of pragmatism and common sense.*

**Co-operation between China and Britain stands at a pivotal moment, as the two countries seek to deepen dialogue and expand practical collaboration in a world marked by growing uncertainty and fragmentation.**

Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to China was widely expected as an effort to refocus bilateral relations on win-win co-operation and open a new chapter in engagement.

During the visit, the first trip to China by a British head of government since 2018, Starmer was accompanied by senior officials and executives from major British companies, underscoring the importance London attaches to ties with China.

On the Chinese side, the message is clear: China stands ready to take this visit as an opportunity to enhance political mutual trust with Britain, deepen practical co-operation, open a new chapter of sound and steady development of the China-Britain relationship and together make due efforts and contributions to world peace, security and stability.

Starmer has been forthright about why engagement with China matters, calling disengagement from China "a dereliction of duty" and acknowledging China as a defining force in technology, trade and global governance. This signals a shift from ideological apprehension to pragmatic realism. For Britain, especially post-Brexit, strategic isolation from one of the world's most dynamic and influential economies is no longer an option.

Starmer said it would be foolish for Britain not to engage with China, rejecting the assertion from US President Donald Trump that it was dangerous to get into business with Beijing. Starmer also added in a casual tone that Trump himself was also

set to visit China in April. And in London trade minister Sir Chris Bryant told the BBC that Trump was "wrong" and it would be "bonkers frankly for the UK to ignore the presence of China on the world stage". The UK has to be "clear eyed" about its relationship with China.

Starmer highlighted French President Emmanuel Macron's recent visit and a planned trip by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. "For the UK to be the only country that refuses to engage would not be in our national interest," he said. Starmer also noted the smoothness of the discussions during this visit to China, saying: "This trip has been a big success and you only need to spend five minutes with the business delegates on the trip to get a sense of what it means for our economy back at home."

"It's been a big success in the sense of the opening up of markets and (it has) also given us the opportunity to raise the issues that people would have expected me to raise", Starmer added.

Recent experience shows that co-operation with China delivers real benefits. Since last year, ministerial visits to Beijing have helped secure market access worth billions of pounds. Sectors such as finance, pharmaceuticals, creative industries and luxury goods continue to benefit from China's vast demand. China remains Britain's third-largest trading partner in goods and services and co-operation with China supports hundreds of thousands of British jobs, boosting the nation's global competitiveness.

With a population of over 1.4 billion, including more than 400 million in the middle-income bracket, China offers a consumer base unmatched by most economies. For British companies seeking long-term growth, embracing China means embracing

opportunity and investing in the future.

Historically, China-Britain relations have been characterised by strong co-operation and mutual benefit. As one of the first Western countries to officially recognise the People's Republic of China, Britain has been a key early partner in fostering diplomatic and economic ties with China. Over the decades, the two nations have cultivated a mutually beneficial partnership, strengthened by major trade agreements, vibrant educational exchanges and deep cultural collaborations.

Since Starmer took office, China-Britain relations have shown signs of steady improvement. High-level exchanges have resumed, including the restart of economic, financial and trade talks. A series of agreements in different fields demonstrates the Labour government's willingness to develop relations with China in a consistent, long-term and strategic way.

For China and Britain, the priority should be building a resilient relationship that is not easily swayed by external pressures or third-party interests. In an increasingly interconnected world, sustained co-operation offers the most reliable path to stability and shared prosperity.

As the global landscape undergoes profound change, China and Britain have every reason to keep communication open and co-operation steady. By managing differences through dialogue and expanding areas of common interest, China and Britain can contribute to international stability and development, demonstrating that co-operation, not confrontation, remains the more durable answer to a turbulent world.

# Workers' Notes

## Palestine will be free!

by New Worker correspondent

Braving the dismal weather thousands of demonstrators marched through central London in support of the Palestinian cause last weekend. Over 100,000 protesters took part in what has now become a monthly feature in the capital's calendar to rally for justice for the Palestinian Arabs and oppose war in the Middle East amid escalating tensions between American imperialism and its lackeys and Iran.

Labour MP John McDonnell praised the Palestine activists recently on hunger strike in prison as “people with a heart-rending conscience that could not stand by to watch the suffering of the Palestinians...so one action we should take is to demand that they are released. No one should be held on remand for over nearly two years. Protests should not be made a criminal act in this country.”

A few days later the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) was welcoming the news that six Palestine direct-action campaigners have been cleared in the Israeli arms factory trial.

The six – who are part of the Filton 24 group of activists – were charged over breaking into an Israeli arms factory in Bristol in August 2024. The jury acquitted or failed to reach verdicts on charges faced by campaigners who took action against Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems. PSC said “We’re so relieved for Clare Hinchcliffe and all the families and loved ones of those cleared of charges for now. We call for the immediate release of all of the defendants who have been remanded in custody far beyond the legally permitted maximums on charges that are now proven to be unwinnable in court. The real criminals are not those taking direct action against Israel’s genocide – it is those arming it.”



• Anti-fascists on the Palestinian march.

## Epstein scandal an offspring of capitalism

by Nikos Mottas

**The Epstein scandal is persistently described as a ‘dark anomaly’, a moral rupture inside an otherwise functioning system. This description is false. What it conceals is more important than what it reveals. The affair did not expose a deviation from capitalism but one of its normal, if usually less visible, operations. By treating Epstein as an exception, bourgeois discourse shields the system that made him possible.**

Jeffrey Epstein was not an outsider who infiltrated elite circles. He operated comfortably within them, because capitalism systematically produces both extreme vulnerability at one pole and extreme impunity at the other. Where wealth is concentrated, power follows; where power follows, accountability retreats. This is not corruption of the system. It is the system functioning according to its own laws.

Capitalism rests on exploitation presented as free exchange. The worker ‘chooses’ to sell labour-power only because material conditions leave no alternative. Marx described this contradiction with precision when he noted that the sphere of exchange appears

as “a very Eden of the innate rights of man” while in reality it conceals relations of domination. Formal equality masks material coercion. As Marx put it bluntly “between equal rights, force decides”. In capitalist society, that force is economic necessity, socially organised and legally protected.

This coercion extends far beyond the workplace. It penetrates education, housing, healthcare and personal relationships. When higher education is transformed into an individual investment rather than a social right, capitalism does not merely abandon young people – it actively pushes them toward market solutions for survival. The outcome is not accidental. It is systemic.

In recent years, advertising campaigns in European cities (Paris, Brussels, Stockholm etc) openly promoted the idea that students could solve their financial problems by entering ‘relationships’ with wealthy older men who would cover university costs. The message was explicit: financial relief in exchange for intimacy, presented as personal choice and empowerment. This was not criminal underground activity. It was publicly advertised, legally defended and normalised. Here the ethics of capitalism reveal themselves not as abstract principles but as concrete practice: when social provision is dismantled, the market advances – even into the most intimate spheres of life.

This phenomenon is not separate from the Epstein affair. It is its everyday, legalised expression. In both cases, inequality produces dependence, and dependence is converted into access. What differs is scale and visibility, not substance. The student pushed toward transactional intimacy and the victim exploited by elite trafficking networks occupy different positions within the hierarchy, but both are shaped by the same social relation: vulnerability confronting power under conditions falsely described as choice.

Engels observed that bourgeois society dissolves human relations into cash relations. When everything becomes a commodity, the human body is not exempt. Capitalism does not invent predatory behaviour, but it organises society so that predation is facilitated by wealth and protected by impunity. The Epstein network did not endure because institutions were absent but because class power neutralised them. Law, media and politics operate selectively, disciplining the powerless while shielding the powerful through delay, silence and controlled exposure.

For this reason, liberal outrage leads nowhere. By reducing the issue to individual depravity or ethical failure, it obscures the social relations that reproduce exploitation. Calls for better regulation, transparency or moral accountability do not touch the core. Exploitation cannot be regulated away because it is structural. A system built on inequality cannot eliminate predation; it can only manage its visibility.

Epstein was not a glitch. He was a function. Those who insist on seeing an ‘aberration’ are not misunderstanding reality; they are actually defending it. The real scandal is not that such crimes happened – but that capitalism makes them possible, profitable and repeatable.

IDoC

## In the Galleries

by New Worker correspondent

**Staff at the London Museum are taking strike action over a pay claim originally submitted last March but not responded**

**to until September. The museum is closed to the public pending a move to greatly expanded premises in the old meat market at Smithfield but it will re-open later in the year.**

At the museum the workers’ union, Prospect, says Management is making misleading statements about the offer when they claim it was worth 5.5 per cent. But this only applied to a small number of low-paid workers on the London Living Wage, which in any case rose by 5.3 per cent. This and two other subsequent offers were rejected. Management then imposed their final offer, which led to the ballot. Some 88 per cent of Prospect members voted for strike action with more, 94 per cent, also voting for action short of a strike.

Deputy General Secretary Steve Thomas said: “The museum has behaved poorly throughout the course of these negotiations with unacceptable delays and stalling tactics, leaving staff increasingly out of pocket due to inflation. Our members have worked tirelessly for the museum as it seeks to open its new flagship site later this year. The offer which has been imposed is poor reward for such dedication and demonstrates how undervalued by their employer London Museum staff truly are.”

At the Tate Gallery (that’s where a pile of bricks and an unmade bed count as art) members belonging to PCS have declared victory after taking part in strike action in late November and early December. The action affected the two London venues and its Liverpool and St Ives branches.

The PCS union rejected a three per cent pay offer that was lower than the Civil Service Pay Remit. Access to the civil service pension scheme was also withdrawn for new starters and replaced with an inferior plan. Further action planned for the first three weeks of this month was called off at the last minute however, meaning that an exhibition including the famous unmade bed will open uneventfully.

On Monday PCS announced that the struggle, which saw up to 200 people on the picket line, had resulted in a 125 per cent increase in membership at the Tate. We hope this is maintained.

Just before the latest round of strike action was due to start,

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Management made some final alterations to its offer, including a consolidated pay offer which is 50 and 80 per cent higher than the original offer. They also agreed to restore subsidised staff canteens. Promises have also been made for further consultations on matters such as improved installation schedules and better rest provision.

General secretary Fran Heathcote said: "Our members were prepared to take further strike action, and that pressure forced the employer to come back with a far stronger offer than was originally on the table.

"Crucially, this dispute has delivered major, tangible wins for our members, including the return of subsidised hot meals in Tate canteens, something that was wrongly taken away last year and had a real impact on staff well-being.

"No deal is perfect, but PCS will hold the Tate to every commitment made and continue pushing for further improvements in future pay talks."

Up north, what history might recall as the last miners' strike in Britain continues at the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield where 40 museum guides have been on strike since late August 2025 over a pay rise of £1 per hour that was later retracted and reduced to 80 pence by the museum, and even this was reduced to 62 pence per hour in October.

The museum refuses to negotiate – not even through con-

ciliation service ACAS. Unison says it would only take £10,000 to restore the original offer.

In November the local Labour-run council recently withheld grants to the Museum in solidarity with the striking workers, which meant a further loss of £15,000. Recently workers voted to extend their strike until June after being threatened by Management that they could be investigated and potentially disciplined over their behaviour on the picket line after returning to work.

Seemingly as part of the dispute a former miner employed as a health and safety manager was sacked allegedly due to a lack of flexibility, but he claims it was due to him raising awkward questions as part of his job. Unison also accuses Management of "spending thousands of pounds on abusive private security guards, at a far greater cost than simply settling the dispute".

## A Holocaust Memorial for London

by Marie Lynam

Last week the government announced that it intends to build a National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens near the Houses of Parliament in London. This memorial – first proposed in 2021 – will

**"honour the victims of the Holocaust" and "help combat anti-Semitism". The Memorial will also pay tribute to the Romas, gays, disabled people and others who were victims of Nazi terror in the Second World War. Sadly, it will not mention that the Soviet Union was the primary liberator of the Nazi death camps.**

And some survivors and those whose close relatives died in the Holocaust say the phrase 'never again' also means nothing without action against Israel's genocide in Gaza today.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1945 Soviet troops liberated prisoners of the Auschwitz concentration camp – the largest death camp

of the Third Reich. That day is now recognised by the UN as Holocaust Memorial Day. Last week a group of Holocaust survivors from various countries held a simple street ceremony and demonstration on that day to remember all the victims of genocide in the heart of the capital.

Holocaust survivor Agnes Kory told the left-wing *Canary* news outlet: "It was the Russian army that liberated the Jews of the Budapest Ghetto in 1945. It was a Russian soldier that liberated my mother and myself. At Memorial Day events I say this as loud as I can, making sure that the people around me can hear it."

Another survivor, Israeli peace activist Haim Bresheeth-Žabner,

said: "I am deeply shocked about the total denial of the events in Gaza by the wide variety of Holocaust memorial institutions. All such institutions are run mostly by Zionist Jews, and all share an unwillingness to mention a genocide in real time..."

And Chris Romberg said: "The Holocaust was not the only massacre committed by the Nazis and their collaborators: the genocides of the Roma and Sinti (Porajmos) and of the Slavs took place in parallel, as did the murders of disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, political opponents and many others. They too should not be excluded from our memory, nor from the call Never Again! It applies to everyone."



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

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

**CORPORAL Gordon Pritchard of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards last Tuesday became the 100<sup>th</sup> British soldier to die in Iraq, a victim of imperialist greed for oil that led to an illegal invasion and a war which continues to bring tragedy.**

*Pritchard, a father of three, was with a Land Rover convoy hit by an explosion. He died instantly. He had met and was photographed with Tony Blair in December*

*when the Prime Minister paid a lightning visit to the troops in Basra.*

*The 100<sup>th</sup> death of a British serving soldier had been tragically predictable and was followed swiftly by protest demonstrations throughout Britain, calling for the troops to be brought home to safety and the Iraqi people to be left to determine their own future.*

*On Tuesday evening, in a Naming of the Dead ceremony, organised jointly by CND, Military Families Against the War and Stop the War, took place in Parliament Square. The names of the 100 dead soldiers and 100 dead Iraqis were read out.*

*A statement from CND and the Stop the War Coalition said: "The 100<sup>th</sup> British soldier has been killed in Iraq – victim of an illegal occupation and war. It is a sadly significant statistic for this country to be added to the many tens of thousands of other victims of Tony Blair's blood price – Iraqis, Americans, British and others. We must stop this madness now before these Bush wars*

*spread any further."*

*Rose Gentle, whose son Gordon was killed in Basra in June 2004, said: "Soldiers out in Iraq have told me they don't want to be there. They want to come home. They have told us to step up our campaign of resistance to this government's war policies. We must act now to bring the troops home and end the illegal occupation."*

*The morale of British troops in southern Iraq now is said to be very low and their prospects of being withdrawn are low.*

*On Wednesday Foreign Secretary Jack Straw hinted at a possible withdrawal within the next 12 months. But he said a timescale was not yet available – indicating that he was merely responding to the bad news with platitudes meant to dampen the growing opposition.*

*Indeed, Britain is now sending 6,000 extra troops to bolster the US-British axis occupation of Afghanistan and an extra £455 million per year for the occupation.*

# Being Green is Not Enough

by John Maryon

One must applaud the principled stand taken by those caring and concerned people who are determined to defend the delicate balance of nature on our home world. People who recognise the importance of restricting carbon emissions, preventing pollution and the destruction of vital habitats. Urgent action is necessary to preserve the rich ecosystem of plant and animal life, including ourselves. Sadly there are others, who through greed and ignorance, blindly carry on along a road that can only lead to the possible extinction of the human race leaving a dead and toxic planet to drift in space.

There are many important battles to be won, but in order to achieve a lasting effectiveness it is necessary to understand the reasons for and deeper implications of any course of action. Under a socialist system there is no reason or excuse to destroy the environment. With capitalism however, where quick profits and market forces dominate, the well-being of the people is frequently of lower priority than the need to make more money. Hence the polluted rivers, deforestation, dumped rubbish, radioactive discharges and poor air quality in many places today.

Many energy systems still rely upon fossil fuel, presenting a difficult problem that will take time and investment to overcome. In Britain and other countries, we face particular challenges for both domestic heating and transport. To cut carbon dioxide emissions it is desirable to replace home heating boilers fired with natural gas with a green alternative that could be electricity, heat pumps or green hydrogen. All three alternatives require green electricity as the primary energy source. Carbon-free electricity can be produced



by wind turbines, solar panels, hydro power, tidal power or nuclear. All come with their own challenges. Wind turbines won't work if there is no wind. Solar panels are unproductive during the night. Hydro and tidal opportunities are limited, and nuclear power has its own risks. A major question is could the national electricity grid cope with the new demands without enormous investment?

So the solution is not simply a question of banning this or that. It requires long-term investment and planning as opposed to the operation of market forces. It requires socialism.

Similar problems are encountered with transport. We are encouraged to buy electric cars, but preferably not the cheaper and technically advanced Chinese ones. Again, how will the national grid and local networks cope with the big new demand for electricity. If you live in a house with room to charge the car on your driveway an electric car offers a good choice. If, however, you live in a flat or congested urban area you have to find a

charging station, which could be a more expensive option. The government dithers and has put the target date for fossil-fuelled cars back again. Contrast our situation with that of socialist China. They have an integrated transport system with over 50 km of high-speed rail and are the largest producer of electric vehicles. The infrastructure necessary to support their ambitious plans is being built now as an investment for the future and to meet their objective of hitting carbon neutrality before 2060. Clean energy, high-tech innovation including AI and committed leadership from the Communist Party of China will combine to achieve these goals.

In Britain today the disastrous privatisation of the electricity industry has created serious challenges and resulted in some extraordinary situations. Drax power station near Selby was built to burn Yorkshire coal. Today a power company receives billions in subsidies for the burning of wood pellets sourced from the USA and Canada. The process is classified as a renewable

one, but documents show that some of the wood was obtained from old woods that were rich in wildlife habitats. In another example of farce, wind turbines connected to the national grid are able to supply electricity when the wind blows. The problem is that for approximately one-third of the time that power is not required and the grid struggles to cope. It is estimated that £1.3 million was paid by the government to temporarily switch them off. Such occurrences cost the taxpayer dearly and when taken alongside the imperialist sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines contribute to making Britain's energy costs soar.

It is the policy of the New Communist Party of Britain (NCP) to take both the gas and electricity utilities back under full state ownership. To be owned and operated for the benefit of the people and also to expand their scope to cover the production of green hydrogen. The planning, construction and operation of energy systems would be placed into the hands of engineers who could plan long-term for

future needs free from short-term get rich quick scams. A return to sanity would soon see energy costs start to fall. Workers would be represented on the Energy Board and lots of apprenticeships created.

Energy cannot be considered in isolation. A fully integrated public transport system fully owned by the people is essential along with more investment into high-speed railways. Only a state-owned system can look ahead to balance needs with resources and avoid a short-term approach that does not build for the future. It is also the aim of the NCP to restore water supply and storage to full public ownership. Jeremy Corbyn's proposals for free broadband to all homes and business by 2023 could be achieved with public ownership of essential parts of the Telecom industry. Banking and financial services need a shake-up. Whole communities are often left without a bank as local closures continue. We need a secure state-owned bank to provide a full range of services, at competitive rates for domestic customers and small businesses.

There are many people in the green and conservation movements who see the problems that we all face today as simple single issues. The threats and challenges are appreciated but they may only have a vague idea of why things are going wrong and what can be achieved to move forward. Only a socialist approach that tackles the root causes of a growing crisis can provide a lasting solution. We have to rid society of greed, disrespect and an obsession with profits. The dreams of those who seek a sustainable future within a caring society are values that we share. Their struggle requires a political element to enable society to move forward. Come and join the NCP and help us in the class struggle to turn those visions of a beautiful new world into reality.

# Motown: Lessons from 50 years of struggle

by Chris Mahin

This is a moving account of one of the most important organisations in the USA during the late 1960s, written by Jerome Scott and Walda Katz-Fishman. Scott was a leader of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers (LRBW) who helped organise a walk-out to protest unsafe conditions at Chrysler Corporation's Detroit Forge plant. That wild-cat strike at a strategic factory shut down Chrysler production throughout the entire world for one week. Walda Katz-Fishman is a revolutionary and scholar who received her PhD in sociology from Wayne State University in Detroit. Since the late 1970s she has worked closely with veterans of the LRBW and she helped co-ordinate the League's oral history project.

*Motown* is the product of 50 years of struggle and almost a decade of preparation. In December 2015, veterans of the LRBW began planning a history of the organisation. The need for such a history became increasingly urgent as some of the LRBW's most important leaders began to die. In 2016 and 2017, the authors took part in videotaped interviews with more than 40 people. *Motown* includes extensive excerpts from those interviews.

The result is both an extraordinary collective memoir and a detailed history of Detroit. This book recounts how the leaders of the

*Motown and the Making of Working-Class Revolutionaries: The Story of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers* by Jerome Scott and Walda Katz-Fishman. University of Georgia Press, September 2025. Pbk: 216pp, rrp £31.95. Hbk 216pp, rrp £124.95.

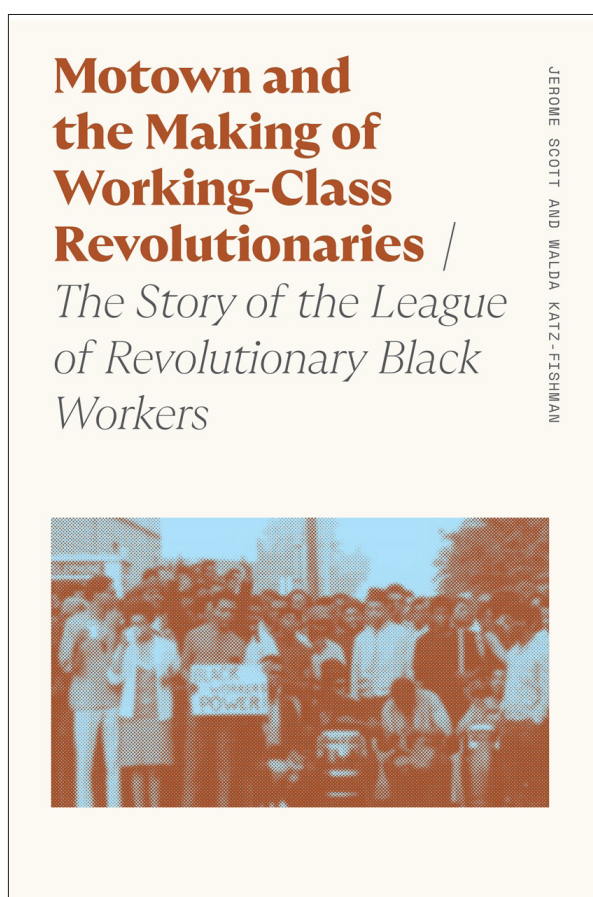
Black workers' insurgency in Detroit in the 1960s found their way to Marxism and how they used it as a guide to understand the profound changes that have swept the world since.

In the interviews, former members of the LRBW recount the horrific conditions in the auto plants, the challenges the League faced, and the long struggle to build other revolutionary organisations after the LRBW split in 1971. To their credit, the people interviewed do not simply reminisce – they reflect deeply on what the hard-fought battles of the 1960s mean for today. They are frank and self-critical about mistakes that were made – particularly about the way women were treated in the LRBW. They are brutally realistic about how different the economic and political conditions are today,

## The Motor City

Part One includes a detailed historical materialist analysis of the auto industry and Detroit.

From the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century until the 1970s, Detroit was the leading producer of motor-cars in the entire world. The city earned its nickname – 'The Motor City' – or simply 'Motown'. Detroit's diverse proletariat included Black workers whose families had fled the Jim Crow South;



white workers who had travelled up the 'Hill-billy Highway' from the Appalachian Mountains; workers from Mexico; Arab workers from Palestine, Yemen and other parts of the Middle East; and workers from many other parts of the world.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Black auto workers were concentrated in the most dangerous and difficult jobs, enduring racist mistreatment and unsafe conditions. The car workers' trade union in the USA – the United Auto Workers – was run by a clique of right-wing social-democrats who had conducted witch-hunts against communist trade unionists during the 1950s.

In July 1967, police brutality against

Black workers sparked the massive Detroit Rebellion. In 1968, Black workers walked out of Dodge Main – a factory of 10,000 workers. They created the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM). Soon, Black workers at other factories were forming Revolutionary Union Movement (RUM) groupings. Eventually, these formations combined into one umbrella organisation – the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

In mid-1971, the LRBW went into crisis. Some of its top leaders wanted to expand into other cities. Many LRBW members in the factories questioned that approach. They wanted to deepen the LRBW's

involvement in the day-to-day struggle in Detroit.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1971, the LRBW split in two. After some of the most prominent leaders left, the members who remained – workers based in the factories – discussed what to do next. Resolved to continue the struggle, they knew they needed to step back and assess – and study. In the LRBW, the top leaders had read some Marxism, but there had never been a full-fledged education programme for the entire membership. Determined to change that situation, the LRBW cadre who remained after the split reached out to revolutionaries in California. They ultimately established contact with veteran Marxist-Leninists who had taken part in the fight against revisionism within the Communist Party USA during the 1950s and were now part of the Communist League.

What followed was a year of intense discussion and study. At first, some of those from the LRBW were wary of joining a multi-ethnic organisation. Detailed discussions of Lenin and Stalin's writings on the national colonial question were extremely helpful. The revolutionaries from the LRBW ultimately joined the Communist League. That decision helped set the stage for a Congress of Marxist-Leninists which founded the Communist Labor Party of the United States of North

America in 1974. Later, former LRBW leaders were also instrumental in creating the League of Revolutionaries for a New America in the 1990s.

## Today...

...Detroit is no longer the epicentre of world auto production. Globalisation and automation have changed that. Today, former LRBW members are involved in the fight against homelessness and poverty and against the growth of fascism in the USA.

Part Four of the book looks to the future. One key lesson is the dialectical relationship between theory and practice. Every person interviewed for this book spoke with great feeling and gratitude about the education they received in the LRBW and the organisations that succeeded it – Marxist political education. All stated emphatically that they would never have been able to continue as life-long revolutionaries without that education.

Ultimately *Motown* is about how revolutionaries adapt without betraying their principles. It's the story of how young people were forged into revolutionaries while working in the crucible of a very dangerous industry. At a moment of crisis, those revolutionaries had to step back to study and assess – in order to return to the practical movement and fight with greater clarity in a changed environment.

Since its publication

in September 2025 *Motown* has attracted considerable attention from

young revolutionaries in the USA. Hopefully, the hard-won lessons in this

collective memoir will help that new generation as it steps forward to

continue the fight for a new world.

*Motown* is available on the Liverpool University Press website at:

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/>

# The popular resistance in Venezuela

*Carlos Aznárez, editor of Resumen Latinoamericano, talks to Robert Longa, a seasoned Chavista fighter and a leader of the grass roots Commune movement in Caracas, about life on the street following the American attack and abduction of the Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro.*

**Robert Longa:** There are indeed psycho-emotional injuries among our people. We are now experiencing a glimpse of what the peoples of the Middle East are going through. We said that if this was something that shocked and traumatised us, I can imagine what the children are going through, what the peoples of the Middle East are going through when their buildings are being destroyed.

What we have experienced first-hand has shocked and surprised us, but it was, as Gabriel García Márquez would say, a chronicle of a death foretold. They told us it would happen.

If our people now hear the noise of a motorbike and our children are frightened, I don't want to imagine how traumatic it is for the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people and all these peoples who have been victims of imperialism. As Ernesto Che Guevara said, imperialism is the great enemy of humanity. They have created a mess to cause an explosion, seeking to create civil war amongst the people of Venezuela so that they and some 'saviours' could then intervene.

**Carlos Aznárez:** *But they encountered the resistance of an entire people ...*

**Longa:** I have to tell you that, in the midst of all this pain ... in the midst of the escalating war-



mongering that the people of Venezuela, as our working-class president Nicolás Maduro said, remain firm and disciplined. There has been no looting here, there has been no outbreak of popular violence. Here there is cohesion with the political-military leadership of our Revolution, and that is not going to change.

Wage all the cognitive warfare you want. Wage all the communication warfare you want. We stand firm with the Bolivarian Revolution, firm with the leadership of Acting President Delcy Rodríguez and our captain Diosdado Cabello. We are becoming more radical in the process of the Bolivarian Revolution. The only transition that will take place here is the tran-

sition to the communal state and the consolidation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century socialism.

This is not a war of the Venezuelan people; this is a war of the world and mainly of the popular movement of the Patria Grande [South America]. It is time for the popular movement to begin to build its own face and fill the world with hope. The dignity and solemnity of our president give us the confidence that we are on the right path.

And that solemnity of our President and First Lady, comrade-in-arms Cilia Flores, gives us motivation. If the President is resisting within the clutches and jaws of the empire, as José Martí would say, we who are here have no other

option but to resist and prepare the resistance with intelligence: more production, more popular mobilisation.

The empire is afraid of the people in the streets. Here we are not preparing for adventurism. Here the dialectical analysis is "we are not in a Leninist phase" because we are still the government; we are not going to seize power. We are in an organic, Gramscian construction, with conscious leadership cadres who are in tune with popular sentiment.

As the Vietnamese general Von Nguyen Giap would say: class consciousness and patriotic hearts in tune with the Bolivarian Revolution. In this process of radicalisation, we cannot fall into political infantilism, but rather

we must maintain the entire design and political programme that our president had already outlined in this 2026 offensive: of course, guaranteeing life and liberty, a battle that the president is already winning in the very jaws of the Empire with public opinion, its judges, and its justice system.

It pains them that in Venezuela, at this time, we have fought a multi-faceted war and emerged victorious; that our communes are already producing; and we are in a process of radicalisation and industrialisation of the commune under a class-based conception.

**Aznárez:** *The interesting thing is that from day one, the people have been on the streets, hold-*

*ing countless marches.*

**Longa:** Without a doubt. Our President has been consistent with all his speeches of nerves of steel. The dignity of our President and our First Combatant Cilia has demonstrated the mettle of which we are made and has boosted the morale of the Venezuelan people. We are still here, mobilising with our people, because we must fight with great intelligence to have our President back soon and continue organising the popular offensive.

The empire boasts of its political narcissism, its arrogance, its neo-fascist logic in saying that they control everything, but they are only fooling themselves. Because they know that if they go to direct and total war against Venezuela, the continent will rise up in insurrection. Because we have full confidence in the revolutionary political sentiment of the peoples of the Patria Grande, who will undoubtedly come with brigades to fight, and we will set the Amazon on fire.

We are sure that solidarity, public opinion, our brothers and sisters around the world, our Latin American brothers and sisters will be present, as Fidel Castro says, to raise an empire of public opinion and popular mobilisation. The resistance will not come from Caracas alone but from the Rio Grande to Patagonia.

## LETTERS

Some on the left are getting excited about the riots and protests in Iran. They should think carefully. Iran is in the cross-hairs of US imperialism in its war against the peoples of the world.

While there is legitimate concern in Iran regarding inflation and other economic concerns (often a result of sanctions imposed by the USA and Western imperialists) the violence and chaos unleashed bears the hall mark of CIA- and Israeli-sponsored agents for the purpose of regime change. Remember mysterious snipers in Kiev in the 2013 demonstrations? Or the attempts by student leaders to provoke the authorities in Beijing in 1989? All in an attempt to cause death and chaos. The CIA and Mossad are old hands at this.

Let us look at another analogy. There were protests in 2024 in Britain that were quickly manipulated and whipped up into violent racist attacks by the far-right. It is not hard to deduce that the far-right in Iran (the supporters of the former monarchy) are whipping up the disgruntled by the huge CIA-Mossad intelligence/NGO network to cause violence and chaos.

The left should be asking whose interests does this serve? Clearly US imperialism, which is attempting to undermine Iran's sovereignty by threats of invasion or actual invasion.

**Oliver Coxhead  
London**

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

An American armada heading towards Iran. It's time for the new world order to put a stop to a country that acts way beyond its true capacity as it is no longer the pre-eminent singular world power. It doesn't know yet that its incarnation as world number 1 has passed away into history.

Iran has been described as Russia's underbelly, the map shows this to be true. The US move against Iran is a move against Russia. China has maximum interest in its broad-front relationship with China. Their militaries are ever more entwining. China has Russia's back covered. The threat to Iran is a direct threat to Russia and an indirect threat to China.

Surely we will see some shipping exercises out in the Middle East by Russia and China. What is needed to protect the new world order is a recognition move by India that the rigged Western game of centuries' duration is over. Why be afraid of phantom power?

We live in the most dangerous of times but also the most promising of times. In Britain, in my opinion, the New Communist Party acts as the conscience of the Communist Party of Britain. Join these two up and the working class will like a mighty earthquake shake the foundation of what can only be described as a robber settlement. They loot our labour whilst treating us as dirt beneath their feet. And yet they have no empire to give substance to their extraordinary delusions of grandeur about themselves. We are far better than them and we will prove this in a country that is ideologically disintegrating. Our time has come. Let's unite the working class by uniting our two communist parties. Together we can smash our ancient foe to pieces on this nightmare island and declare an eternal republic.

This land belongs to us, let's serve notice on the unholy squatters to quit. Let's boot them out as they were booted out of India!

**Elijah Traven  
Hull**

Today's major geopolitical conflict is between US hegemony and the desire of emerging nations to be free. To be able to establish their own sovereign rights in regard to trade and currency, working alliances and forms of government. An engagement that is complicated by the irrational behaviour of US imperialism's vassal states. It is also the battleground for the international class struggle between aspirations of the working class and the desire of imperialism to continue its colonial style exploitation.

The Imperialist strategy for regime change treads a familiar path. First impose harsh sanctions in order to create economic chaos and then foster dissatisfaction by paid agitators with the aim of provoking violence and unrest. This creates a smokescreen to hide the real intentions as the bombers and missiles from the so-called free world do their dirty work. The Star Spangled Banner drowns out the Martyrs' cries.

Efforts for regime change are attempted throughout the world and include easy pickings in the Western hemisphere and also a number of key states that stand in the front-line against the expansion of NATO. These include Belarus, Iran, Georgia and the Russian Federation. Their fall could trigger World War Three as imperialism plans and prepares to destroy both Russia and People's China.

All these countries have one thing in common. The fake left opposes them. And by doing so exposes itself in the process of assisting imperialism's dire objectives. Social prob-

lems and issues of alleged injustices are elevated as being of greater importance than the total destruction of a country by imperialism. One may well ask the *Morning Star* whose side it's on.

**John Maryon  
Suffolk**

February is LGBT+ History Month and this year in particular we should remember Harvey Milk.

Harvey Milk was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1930 in Woodmere, New York. He came from a small middle-class Jewish family. He and his brother Robert worked in 'Milks', the family department store.

He knew that he was gay by the time he went to Baymore High School. There he liked opera and to play American football. From there he went to New York State College for Teachers to study mathematics and history. He graduated in 1951 and enlisted in the Navy. After attending the Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island he was based in San Diego and served as a driving instructor. In 1955 he resigned at the rank of lieutenant junior grade. He had been officially questioned regarding his sexual orientation.

After that he taught for a time in a state school on Long Island. He was a stock analyst in New York City. And he was a 'production associate' for Broadway musicals.

At the time his politics were on the right. He backed the Vietnam War and campaigned for the conservative republican Barry Goldwater in the 1964 General Election.

The late 1960s were a time of political tumult, however. In June 1969 there were the Stonewall riots. There was a nascent Gay Liberation Movement. Plus, the anti-war move-

*continued on page 9...*

## Diary

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

### UNTIL 26 MARCH

Imperial War Museum: Emergency Exits: The Fight for Independence in Malaya, Kenya and Cyprus. IWM, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, London SE1 6HZ.

### THURS 12-SAT 14 FEB

Glasgow Artists for Palestine: The Watermelon and the Olive: Art Exhibition and Sale for Gaza. 11:00-17:00. Al-Furqan Mosque, Carrington Street, Glasgow G4 9AJ.

### THURS 12 FEB

Marx Memorial Library: Book launch: Andy Friend's *Comrades in Art: Artists Against Fascism 1933-1943*. 18:30. Hybrid. Book on MML website.

### THURS 12 FEB

Protest at Google HQ against provision of AI to the Israeli military. 08:30-12:30. Lewis Cubitt Park, Handyside St, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4UZ.

### THURS 12 FEB

Workplace Day of Action for Palestine. 12:00. Organise your workplace.

### FRI 13 FEB

Ipswich *New Worker* Group: Eyewitness account of life in the DPRK by Dermot Hudson. 19:30. Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich IP1 3JH.

### SAT 14 FEB

Friends of Socialist China: Book launch: Jenny Clegg's *Storming the Heavens*. 15:00. Marx Memorial Library and online. Register on Eventbrite.

### MON 16 FEB

Working Class Movement Library: Book launch: C Ritchie's *Friedrich Engels in the 21st Century*. 18:30-20:00. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

### THUR 19 FEB

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: How the US is fuelling the nuclear arms race. 18:00-19:30. Webinar. Register on CND website.

### SAT 21 FEB

TUC/Stand Up to Racism: Workers Against the Far Right. Organising conference. London. Details TBA.

### SUN 22 FEB

International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity: International online seminar. Lunchtime, precise time TBC.

### SUN 22 FEB

*Battleship Potemkin*: Eisenstein's 1925 film with live music. 20:30. Prince Charles Cinema, 7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY. Book on PCC website.

### MON 23 FEB

Stop the War Coalition: Defend

Ben Jamal & Chris Nineham - Defend the Right to Protest. 09:00. Westminster Magistrates Court, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5BR.

### TUES 24 FEB

Socialist History Society: Lyndal Roper on The German Peasants' War of 1524-6 and why you should care about it. 19:00. Online on Zoom. Register on SHS website.

### 25 FEB-18 APRIL

Townsend Theatre Productions: One-person Magic Lantern show of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* adapted by Neil Gore. Touring show at venues up and down England. See TTP website for details and tickets.

### WED 25 FEB

Marx Memorial Library: The Archive Exposed at the London Museum. Exhibition. 16:00. First Floor, Studio Smithfield, London Museum Studios, 1 East Poultry Ave, London EC1A 9PT.

### THURS 26 FEB

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: The 1918 Equal Pay Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

### SAT 28 FEB

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Stop British Nuke Jets, national demonstration. Assemble at RAF Marham, Upper Marham, King's Lynn PE33 9NP.

### SAT 28 FEB

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Manchester Jarama Commemoration. 11:30-16:20. Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

### TUES 3 MARCH-14 APRIL

Marx Memorial Library: Introducing Marxist Classics. 19:00. Online fortnightly classes register on MML website.

### THURS 12 MAR

Marx Memorial Library: Valentin J Hemburger on Wilhelm Liebknecht - Soldier of the Revolution. 19:00. Online. Register on MML website.

### SAT 14 MAR

Stop the War Coalition: Time to Stop Militarism, War & Islamophobia. Annual Conference. 11:00-17:00. Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

### SAT 14 MAR

Scottish CND: Anti-nuclear weapons demonstration: Faslane, Helensburgh G84 0EH. Details TBA.

### SAT 15 MAR

New Communist Party: Karl Marx Commemoration. 18:30. Party Centre, London SW11.

...continued from page 8

ment was massive.

Milk himself was radicalised and in 1972 he moved to San Francisco. There he opened a camera store on Castro Street, which was at the heart of the city's now thriving gay quarter. He also helped set up the Castro Village Association to promote local – mainly LGBT – businesses and organised a Castro Street Fair that brought more customers.

By now Milk also had political ambitions. In 1974 he tried for the first time to win on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors – this was essentially the City Council. Milk lost in 1974 and also again in 1975. Milk had, however, impressed Mayor George Moscone and he was appointed to the City's Board of Permit Appeals.

Milk and Moscone also campaigned to have at-large elections for the Board of Supervisors with district elections. And finally, in 1977, Milk won easily in his third bid. He was inaugurated on 9th January 1978 and there were headlines round the world. San Francisco had America's first openly gay public official.

He had an ambitious reform agenda including an anti-discrimination bill, day centres for working mothers,

converting military facilities in the city into low-cost housing and reforming tax codes in order to attract industry to "strong, safe neighbourhoods". Plus, he was to the fore in campaigning to thwart Proposition 6, which was a "ballot initiative" in California by Senator John Biggs that would have mandated the firing of gay teachers in state schools. But not everyone was appreciative. Milk reported that he received daily death threats.

There was one particular enemy, supervisor Dan White. His 1977 campaign brochure talked of "radicals, social deviates and

incorrigibles" and of the need to "eradicate the malignancies which blight our city". On 10th November 1978 White quit as a supervisor. Almost immediately he regretted his decision but Moscone blocked his reappointment.

On 27th November 1978 White broke into City Hall and shot both Moscone and Milk. At his subsequent trial White's attorney resorted to the "twinkie defence". He claimed that White had diminished responsibility as a result of his depression, a symptom of which was a change in his diet from healthy food to "twinkies" and other sugary products. White was acquitted of murder and convicted instead of voluntary manslaughter.

On 21st May 1979 he was sentenced to less than eight years in prison. The lenient sentence caused outrage, igniting the 'White Night' riots which saw citizens storm City Hall and set rows of police cars on fire.

Harvey Milk's political career had been short. Since his death however, he has become a gay icon and martyr.

There is a Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro neighbourhood. A terminal at San Francisco airport is named after him. He was given a posthumous Presidential Medal by Barack Obama. A film, *Milk*, starring Sean Penn was released in 2008, and a Harvey Milk Foundation helps keep his ideas and values alive. We should remember and celebrate his legacy.

**Alan Stewart  
Wakefield**

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# Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

**In theory the Leader of the Opposition at Holyrood is Russell Findlay of the Scottish Conservative Party. Labour leader Anwar Sawar sometimes makes a reasonable stand-in, but more often misses open goals when confronted by government incompetence or dodgy doings. Instead, Information Commissioner David Hamilton seems to be taking up the job. He has taken the unusual step of launching a full-scale broadside in the *Herald on Sunday* against the SNP Government. He is the man responsible for ensuring that central and local government conforms to Freedom of Information requests promptly.**

There are of course always those who clog up the system with fanciful demands to know what preparations have been made to deal with a zombie attack, an alien landing, or how many chocolate biscuits are served to Orkney councillors. It is however a vital matter, particularly with the SNP being so determined to keep the details of their glorious achievements under wraps.

Among the issues he has been pursuing are the detail of Nicola Sturgeon's attempts to bring down her predecessor, Alex Salmond, and the massive legal expense racked up by NHS Fife. On the latter issue he wondered who on earth was advising the NHS or indeed was actually running it. "Is it the Scottish Government or is it the boards. It's still not clear to me" says Hamilton, pointing out that at Westminster "you never get long-running disputes about these things".

So that he does not get

sacked Hamilton blames the lawyers rather than officials and politicians, but it is ministers who give the orders. Critics blaming the king's wicked advisors rather than the king himself has a long history.

Hamilton points out he is the first Commissioner who has had to launch a contempt of court case against the Government at the Court of Session to force the release of information. He boasts that his own department publishes full details of its costs and argues that it can be expected of other departments.

He says he's banned from discussing matters with the Auditor General, who has also done good work in revealing dodgy and incompetent doings. But he also said of many public bodies that "if some of these organisations had proper, hands-on chief executives, I wonder if they might not have ended up in some of the situations in which they find themselves".

All in all, that is a damning indictment coming from a guarded public official.

## Elections Preset and Future

The Tories received an unsurprising drubbing in the most recent council by-election, coming fifth. It did not help that the voters on the posh Bearsden South ward (where sex is what they keep coal in) in East Dunbartonshire had to go to the polls when the incumbent Tory and former Co-leader swapped the council chambers for a prison cell.

He had been convicted of a variety of frauds which were so badly carried out that he was bound to be caught. The main one was defrauding his older lover of £188,000 which he used to buy a house for them to rent out, but he put it in his own name and boasted about it. Even worse he

lived in Glasgow, rather than in East Dunbartonshire.

The respectable and horrified bourgeoisie had a massive 42.7 per cent turnout to elect the Liberal Democrats with the SNP in second place, just ahead of Reform. Labour slumped to fourth place with the Tory fifth on 6.2 per cent.

A few days earlier a YouGov opinion poll for the Holyrood election put the SNP nationally in the lead, but with only a third of the vote. Reform on a fifth, Labour crashing to 15 per cent, just above the Greens on 12, the Tories and Liberal Democrats on around 10 per cent just above the Greens on nine. The SNP's chances have improved with the announcement that their Green allies will contest very few constituency seats.

## And finally...

...a notable historic building in Glasgow has been listed and saved from demolition and replacement with yet another block of flats thanks to a three-year campaign by Scottish Labour Glasgow MSP Paul Sweeney, the city council and Historic Environment Scotland.

The City Sawmills at Port Dundas was founded by James Brownlee in 1848 and became the largest firm

of timber merchants in Scotland. The building was designed in 1893 and was later taken over by a jeweller. After it had been saved Sweeney declared that "I am pleased that an important piece of Glasgow's rich industrial heritage has been preserved for future generations to enjoy".

He was less pleased however, to discover that the building was being already being enjoyed by a more select group of Glaswegians. It is occupied by 'CJs' – a swingers' club which organises parties that are noted for their strict "no tracksuits or jogging trousers" dress code. The club has eight "playrooms", including a fully equipped dungeon and a female-only room with love swing. Towels & condoms are also provided along with tea, coffee, soft drinks and a buffet.

A blushing Sweeney was therefore forced to declare at the moment of triumph that "when I first heard that the building was to be knocked down to make way for flats, I wasn't aware that there was a so-called adult club operating in there". Sweeney admits there is nothing he can do about the operation of the sex club, which remains open for business. One wonders why former MSP Tommy Sheridan was not involved in the campaign to save the building...

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# Chinese and Scottish museums join hands in Shanghai

by New Worker correspondent

Museums from Scotland and China have agreed to jointly host an exhibition on European art in Shanghai in 2027, showcasing works spanning nearly seven centuries. The National Galleries of Scotland has signed a letter of intent with Art Exhibitions China and the World Expo Museum in Shanghai to organise the exhibition, scheduled for the summer of 2027. The partnership, announced on 30<sup>th</sup> January during

Keir Starmer's visit to Shanghai, underscores the continuing cultural exchange between China and the UK.

Established in 1850, the National Galleries of Scotland boasts a collection spanning from the Renaissance to contemporary art, highlighting both Scottish and European masterpieces.

Tan Ping, the director of Art Exhibitions China, said that the exhibition will mark the National Galleries of Scotland's first touring exhibition in China and help to deepen cultural exchange and people-to-people exchanges.



• Representatives of the Scottish and Chinese museums at the signing ceremony.

Featuring more than 60 precious works from the National Galleries of Scotland, the exhibition will

cover the period from 1350 to 2021, spanning major artistic movements from the Renaissance, Baroque

and Rococo eras to modern art. Visitors can expect a journey through works by artists including Rubens,

van Dyck, Renoir, Degas, Matisse and Lichtenstein.

Anne Lyden, director-general of the National Galleries of Scotland, said she hopes the core belief that art is for everyone can be spread around the world and bring people closer to art. This initiative comes at a meaningful moment and reflects efforts to deepen ties through exhibitions and works of art. And Liu Wentao, the director of the World Expo Museum said "we look forward to offering Chinese audiences deeper insights into the sweeping historical transformations in European art and society".

# A Mersey beat in Vietnam

A Liverpool cultural festival was held at the Youth Culture House in Ho Chi Minh City last week to celebrate the partnership between the Vietnamese and British cities. It was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> January in the Vietnamese city by the municipal People's Committee and Liverpool City Council, marking the upgrading of Vietnam-UK relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

The two-day programme featured joint cultural performances by artists from both countries, virtual reality experiences of Liverpool, football-themed activities inspired by Anfield Stadium, a digital exhibition showcasing both cities, and development and a musical performance featuring outstanding performances from both nations including songs by the *Beatles* performed by the Ho Chi Minh City Symphony Or-



chestra.

Addressing the event the Vice-Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, Nguyen Loc Ha, said that the UK remained one of Ho Chi Minh City's leading partners across a wide range of fields, including trade, investment, education and training, healthcare, finance, culture and transport infrastructure. He highlighted that 2025 marked a milestone as Ho Chi Minh City became the

first Vietnamese city to establish a twinning relationship with a British city.

Ho Chi Minh City and Liverpool shared notable similarities as creative and people-centred urban centres where tradition and modernity co-exist, and where historical heritage goes hand in hand with aspirations for future development, he said, affirming that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was seen as a reflection of political

trust, consensus and determination to build a model of local-level co-operation between Vietnam and the UK.

The city leader expressed his desire to implement the MoU through concrete projects, not only in healthcare, education, and science and technology, but also in ports, industry, culture, sports and green growth, which are Liverpool's strength.

Harry Doyle, the Liverpool Labour councillor

for Knotty Ash & Dovecot Park and cabinet member for health, well-being and culture, said: "We are proud to stand alongside Ho Chi Minh City as a partner in health, well-being and culture, and we are looking forward to working together to bring joint benefits to the people in both of our communities. The relationship between Liverpool and Ho Chi Minh City is not just about individual projects, it is about a long-term partnership of

equals."

This was going to be a long-term partnership rather than a collection of isolated projects Doyle said. He underlined the role of culture in enhancing community well-being, promoting inclusive economic growth and inspiring younger generations. Impressed by Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant cultural life, he said Liverpool looks forward to sharing experiences while also learning from its Vietnamese partner.

And Alexandra Smith, the British consul-general in the city, said: "The ... partnership ... marks the first time a UK City Region has established a formal city partnership with a Vietnamese city. It is a bold, pioneering step that reflects the highest ambitions of the UK-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the highest level of diplomatic relations."

# America regards the EU as expendable ‘servants’

by Jorge I  
Aguadero Casado

The classics of ancient Greece hold life lessons that resonate throughout history, like the waves that have come and gone since the days when they kissed the warships in the three harbours of Piraeus. I imagine the poet Euripides one morning writing the verses of the satirical drama *The Cyclops*, in which Polyphemus mocks the Achaeans and prepares to devour them, defying the laws of the gods. This, in my opinion, reflects the same untamed nature of the USA violating international law.

The question isn't whether the Americans will take Greenland, but how it will do so. We either fight to the death, paying a heavy price, or humiliatingly sign territorial exploitation agreements, sacrificing our dignity for the sake of interest. This so-called European ally, a superpower, behaves in a truly chilling manner. What is the role of NATO and the EU in this matter?

Regarding a potential NATO implosion in the event of an invasion, it's worth remembering that the USA is its main architect and financial backer, so it could effectively end the partnership. It would be legitimate for NATO to raise its voice in defence of Denmark's territorial integrity, but it has never been known for its egalitarian democratic values; everyone in the pact knows who's in charge.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen refused to confirm that Greenland is covered by Article 42.7, the EU's mutual assistance clause. She stated that Greenland-



Valiant Panda  
GLOBAL TIMES  
LIVELINE

ers can count on Brussels “politically, economically and financially”. As you may have noticed, she did not use the word “militarily”. These statements highlight the EU's current geo-political position as it remains neutral in the face of a direct confrontation with a superpower.

As a Southern European, I find this posture deeply unsettling, yet I can hardly fault it – we simply lack the substantive leverage to sustain a hardline stance. Coupled with the EU's persistently tense relations with Russia, this has only reinforced my belief that in recent years Europe has been drawn into confrontation with Russia at the deliberate instigation of the USA, whose aim is to pit the two sides against each other and let them bleed each other dry.

Moreover, what exactly does so-called “political support” mean?

Many Europeans have long grown weary of those grandiose condemnations and no longer take them seriously. Our generation witnessed the disintegration of the Balkans at the

end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, an experience which has left me perpetually sceptical of the EU's capabilities. Although EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius recently emphasised in Sweden that the bloc needs to enhance its military autonomy from the USA, replacing the 100,000 US troops stationed in Europe would require logistical resources that the EU can hardly muster.

As for economic and financial support, witnessing Germany's energy crisis this winter makes it difficult to imagine the EU rallying substantial unity for Greenland. In early January, Berlin experienced a five-day blackout in sub-zero temperatures, demonstrating that Europe's ability to cope with adversity is far more fragile than expected. Can such an EU realistically counter the US presence in Greenland?

Many Europeans are deeply sceptical, just as the USA confidently claims that European military deployments in Greenland “would not affect” the American goal.

Although Greenland's

mineral resources are undeniable, their profitability lies more in the future than in the short term, which contrasts sharply with the US haste in this matter. Yet the commercial value of the Arctic shipping route is rapidly emerging. In October of 2025, a Chinese container ship arrived at the port of Felixstowe via the Arctic-China Route in just 20 days. This brand-new commercial route greatly saves fuel costs and transit time. But this obviously does not sit well with the Americans – they are even willing to sacrifice NATO to keep control over the Arctic shipping lanes in their own hands.

Many Europeans are now reflecting on whether it was wise to place our trust in such an ally – one that regards us as ‘servants’ who can be discarded at any time. In my opinion, the EU should assert itself through the free trade agreement with Mercosur, signed on 17<sup>th</sup> January in Paraguay.

It must be admitted that Europe's military capabilities have fallen behind, resembling more the

legacy of the last century. Militarily, Europe cannot contend with the USA; diplomatically, our so-called

‘moral superiority’ is like turning on the heater in the middle of summer – utterly useless. At present, the only leverage we have left is to make use of the EU's advantage as a massive market.

A Chinese diplomat once told me that “China faces tremendous challenges but also possesses concrete solutions”. Applying this thinking to the EU's current predicament, my advice is clear: strengthen ties with China – a partner which has consistently demonstrated through practical actions its willingness to share the future of the world with all humanity.

*The author is a Spanish writer.*

*Global Times*

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# Victory depends on resistance!

We live in an era of global tensions where conflicts have transcended traditional battlefields. Today, the struggle is being waged on two main fronts: the control of economic resources – through subjugation and strangulation – and, even more decisively, the realm of ideas. The latter seeks to colonise people’s minds, sowing fear and despair, and suppressing logical reasoning until truth is confused with falsehood. The objective is clear: whoever controls an individual’s thoughts, controls them completely.

This scenario is not new. As early as 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Fidel Castro warned about these strategies in the University of Havana. Two decades later, the Trump administration has taken a dangerous step:

the recent Executive Order signed on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, declaring a “National Emergency” and imposing sanctions on any country that supplies oil to Cuba. This measure is not an isolated event; it is the tip of an iceberg designed to escalate aggression against the island.

The pretexts used – that Cuba constitutes a “malign threat”, promotes destabilisation or maintains hostile international ties – are baseless. The American security establishment itself knows that Cuba does not represent a danger to its national security. Its military is defensive, its foreign policy is based on multilateralism and solidarity, and it has never promoted aggressive actions against the USA. If real evidence existed, it would have already been presented. The

lack of evidence exposes the falsity of these accusations.

What does exist is a reinforced economic blockade, an undeclared war that seeks the slow extermination of a people. As Gandhi warned, economic warfare is a prolonged form of torture, whose ravages are just as terrible as those

of armed conflict. Today, children, the elderly and the sick in Cuba suffer from shortages of medicine, medical equipment and fuel due to these sanctions. It is, in essence, an act of genocide.

This Executive Order not only attacks Cuba but also dictates to third countries how they should interact with the island, violating

its sovereignty. If allowed, it will set a dangerous precedent for the international order.

In the face of this, Cuba maintains its willingness to engage in dialogue – always on equal terms – and its right to engage freely with other nations. The majority of Cubans have ratified their

political and social system in successive constitutional processes, a system that today includes the recognition of private property and a process of economic modernisation, whose main obstacle is precisely the blockade.

The final battle, however, is not decided on the economic or military front, but in the mind. If we lose our conviction, if we give in to fear or despair, we will have lost everything. History shows that the path of surrender brings not happiness, but humiliation and suffering. As Fidel warned, the worst enemy is not external, but internal doubt. Today, more than ever, victory depends on believing in our capacity to resist, create and overcome!

*Radio Havana Cuba*



## Peaceful Finland? Think again...

The Western-spun fake image of Finland as a peaceful nation reluctantly dragged into wartime alliances is a “deliberately constructed myth” says Bair Irincheev, historian and director of the Karelian Isthmus Military Museum.

Immediately after gaining independence in 1918, the Finnish leadership launched an attack on Soviet Russia with clear economic goals. The failed attempt to annex Eastern Karelia was “straightforward expansionism – an attempt to seize forest-rich territories”.

For Finland in those years, timber was a veritable ‘green gold’, and “whatever was said about tribal brotherhood and similar things, the primary motives were economic” Irincheev states bluntly.

Finland was already

integrated into Hitler’s Operation Barbarossa before the Great Patriotic War [Second World War], and its entry into the war in 1941 was “pre-planned”.

Finland’s leadership believed Europe was being completely redrawn and chose to pursue the idea of a ‘Greater Finland’ alongside the Third Reich.

Under the pretext of merely reclaiming lost territory, Finnish forces crossed the 1920 border and occupied parts of the Karelian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Leningrad region, advancing almost to the Vologda region.

“No one forced Finland in 1941 to let German troops onto its soil for an offensive on Murmansk. That was a deliberate decision by Finland’s top leadership.”

When Finland failed to make significant military



• Hitler meets the Finnish Commander-in-Chief, General Mannerheim in 1942.

gains their troops vented their rage on Soviet civilians. Thousands of residents of occupied Russian territories were herded into concentration camps where many perished.

Everything Finland did during the Second World War as an unofficial ally of Nazi Germany “demolishes” the notion of a reluctant, defensive warring side.

When Finnish forces launched their offensive in the summer of 1941, they broke through Soviet defences on the Karelian Isthmus, captured Vyborg, and halted at the main line of the Karelian fortified zone.

In doing so, the Finnish army “became an active participant in the blockade of Leningrad from the north” he said, noting that it “had the technical capability to

shell Kronstadt”.

The high – roughly 30 per cent - mortality rate among Soviet prisoners of war and the civilians interned by the Finns dispels the myth of a supposedly “benevolent” Finland.

Finland’s relations with Russia today are effectively destroyed – and Finland itself bears responsibility for that.

The country portrays itself as having emerged victorious from every conflict: the 1939–1940 war (despite losing 10 per cent of its territory and its second-largest city) and the 1941–1944 war as well.

“Finland’s current leadership appears to be revisiting the 1941 scenario, hoping for revenge and access to resources” and this logic underpins Finland’s NATO accession and its frenzied militarisation.

*Sputnik*