

# The Winds of War!

by our Arab Affairs  
correspondent

## Soaring energy prices threaten to plunge the Western world into another slump.

Trump talks of ‘peace’ while his rockets pound Iran. Thousands of American marines are heading towards Iran as the Islamic Republic tightens its grip on the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the oil-fields of Western Arabia.

“The fact that the United States intends to take control of the international energy infrastructure is obvious,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday.

But in Tehran, Revolutionary Guard Corps leaders say Iran now controls the skies over Israel and the occupied territories with the daily retribution of deadly drone and missile attacks on military and economic targets across the Zionist entity. Iran has mobilised more than one million personnel for potential ground combat, while also seeing a surge in volunteers seeking to join the Basij militia, the Republican Guards and the army.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops are meeting fierce resistance as they move into south Lebanon in a renewed effort to halt Hezbollah rocket attacks on Haifa and other parts of northern Israel. An Israeli armoured column has been



knocked out by the Lebanese guerrillas in fighting that is now spreading through the south of the country. Since Israel expanded its military operations in the country earlier this month, more than a million people, or one in five, have been forced to flee their homes. And now continued American and Israeli escalation could eventually push the Palestinian resistance to open up a new front in the battle against US imperialism and Israeli aggression.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi slammed the USA and Israel at an emergency UN Human Rights Council session on Friday, convened to discuss the alleged US airstrike on a girls’ school in Minab that killed over 170 children. “The attack on the school in Minab was not a mere incident, nor a miscalculation,” Araghchi said, calling it “an atrocity crime and against humanity”. The USA is targeting civilians and infrastructure “with no regard for laws of war”.

On the diplomatic front, the Americans have presented a “15-point” peace plan that differs

little from previous demands for Iran to scrap its nuclear energy programme, abandon its Arab allies and accept American hegemony throughout the Middle East. It’s been dismissed out of hand by Iran and seen as totally unrealistic even in other parts of the Western camp, fearful of the grave consequences for their own economies if the war goes on any further.

The Iranians have countered with their own “five conditions” to end the war that includes war reparations and a new demand for formal recognition of Iran’s “natural, legal right” to control

maritime activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway

through which 20 percent of global energy supplies pass, and extract a toll, if it so wishes, on any vessel that passes through it.

Donald Trump says he’s talking to the Islamic Republic but at the moment the only exchanges are through intermediaries such as Pakistan and Oman. The deranged American leader tells the media that the Iranians are on their knees “begging” to end the fighting. But the only one he’s fooling is himself.

“The end of the war will occur when Iran decides it should end, not when Trump envisions its conclusion,” Iranian officials told the Tehran media. “Our first and last word has always been, is, and will be this: someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you – not now, not ever. Do not call your defeat an agreement. The era of your promises has come to an end.”

## FUND

Third week of the March appeal and the fighting fund now stands at £1,710 thanks to regular standing-order payments kicking in. But our target is still £3,500 and we’ve only got another campaigning week to hit it.

The oil crisis is already now upon us. Some suppliers are already imposing a delivery surcharge to cover the increased fuel costs. Others are bound to follow. That’s one of the reasons we need the help of our readers – to see us through the crisis and guarantee the continual production of the *New Worker*.

In Iran, Palestine and across the Middle East, millions are on the front-line against imperialism. Millions of others are on the streets in London and the other capitals of the imperialist rat-pack in support of the resistance and demanding an end to the fighting on just terms for the Iranians and the Palestinian Arabs.

The *New Worker* is part of that struggle. We rely entirely on our readers to ensure that our voice is heard. So please send a donation to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’.

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

## INSIDE

UKRAINE .. PP3,6

CLASS STRUGGLE..P5

DPR KOREA .. PP7,12

CHINA .. P10

CUBA .. P10

IRAQ .. P11

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# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## The edge of the precipice

**Guns blaze to the roar of drones and rockets as the flames of war spread across the entire Middle East. The Iranians are throttling the Western energy market with their blockade of the Persian Gulf. Americans and their Israeli lackeys are intensifying their attacks on a broader range of industrial and economic targets in Iran. The Islamic Republic is paying them back in kind with devastating missile attacks on Israel and America's feudal Arab puppets in the Gulf. And Trump's response has been a mixture of meaningless peace offers coupled with the usual threats that he thinks is what negotiations are all about, which has spiralled the price of oil and gas that has raised the spectre of an energy crisis not seen since the October 1973 oil crisis. No wonder there's panic in Westminster and the other chancelleries of Europe.**

Who is fanning the flames is clear to all. Whether the American president is senile or clinically insane is, of course, a matter for medical opinion. Whatever, those behind him – those sections of the American ruling class that represent manufacturing, Big Oil and the high-tech industries clearly thought they knew what they were doing when they gave the nod to the treacherous attack on Iran that has plunged the Western world into economic chaos.

Although grovelling to the Americans comes as second nature to the leaders of Western Europe, the Spanish have become outright opponents of Trump's war and the French, Germans and Italians are washing their hands of the American-Israeli onslaught.

The real opposition to the war, of course, is from masses on the street and the leaders of the Global South. As a responsible major power, People's China firmly stands on the right side of history. China's foreign minister has continued his diplomatic efforts to end the fighting and promote de-escalation and peace. The special envoy of the Chinese government on the Middle East crisis has visited the region to help ease tension. China has also voiced principled positions at platforms such as the UN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, defending international fairness and justice.

China has always advocated harmony and believes that strength of force does not equal strength of reason. It insists that hotspot issues should be resolved through equal dialogue and political solutions – a reflection of historical clarity and long-term vision.

Keir Starmer, to his eternal shame, however, wants it both ways. He aligns himself with Franco-German imperialism to get better terms for the UK's realignment with the European Union while crawling to Trump by allowing American warplanes to use British bases for their operations against the Islamic Republic. No-one's fooled by this. The Europeans take no notice as they don't think he will remain in office after the regional and local elections in May. Trump, on the other hand, with his strange and childish comments on social media, does little to mask his contempt for the Prime Minister.

Starmer likes to wave the flag and claim he's 'standing up for Britain'. He could start by cancelling the King's visit to the USA in April.

# Is America slipping into another quagmire?

**The USA-Israel-Iran conflict has entered its fourth week. What began as lightning "decapitation strikes" against Iran aimed at quick victory is turning into a full-scale quagmire.**

Citing "productive" talks to halt war, the USA is postponing strikes on Iran's power plants. Yet observers remain cautious, viewing it as merely a temporary expedient – the White House simply doesn't want to blow up the war right now. So far Tehran has not confirmed any talks with the USA.

On Monday, mainstream American media outlets voiced deep concern that Washington is losing grip on the war. The Associated Press reported that the USA is cycling through an increasingly desperate list of options as it searches for a solution to the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, ranging from calls to secure the waterway to lifting sanctions, and now escalating to a direct threat against civilian infrastructure in Iran.

The *Economist* bluntly laid out the USA's "four bad options for the war in Iran". Negotiating is the least likely scenario as both sides have almost zero trust in each other and neither is in the mood to make concessions. Unilaterally declaring victory would leave Iran choking the Strait and pocketing enriched uranium. Pressing ahead with several more weeks of air strikes might lead to Iran's attacks on critical infrastructure in the Gulf. Escalating the conflict, including conducting amphibious landings to seize Kharg Island, would bring even greater peril. The conclusion is stark: None of the options may actually end the war.

Four weeks in, missiles are flying, oil prices are soaring, civilians are dying and no one knows how this war will end. Washington can threaten to obliterate Iran's power plants, then delay action by five days, yet somehow lacks a workable plan for a ceasefire.

The initial "decapitation strikes" against Iran on 28<sup>th</sup> February appeared at first to be a "decisive victory" for the

USA. By now, reality has turned upside down. Analysts point out the paradox: The strikes were "too successful" – they wiped out certain key Iranian figures to the point that it has become difficult to find someone to negotiate with; and "too unsuccessful" – Iran's Revolutionary Guard command structure has survived. This allows missile and drone counter-attacks to escalate from military bases, critical infrastructure, and now a de facto blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, dragging the USA and Israel into a war of attrition.

Even if Washington seeks an off-ramp, it still needs the other two parties – Iran and Israel – to be on the same page. Iran views this as an existential fight for national survival. After repeated assassinations and heavy losses, Tehran has lost trust in negotiating with the USA. Israel, meanwhile, is escalating strikes on Iran, which effectively blocks the possibility of a swift American withdrawal.

Discussions of a landing in Iran are now actively on the table in Washington. At least 2,000 US Marines, constituting the 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), headquartered in Japan, have been dispatched towards the Middle East. And 2,500 Marines from the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU in California and the USS *Boxer* amphibious ready group will go in April. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division is also reportedly preparing for a pre-planned Middle East deployment.

The USA reportedly has Kharg Island, a huge crude export hub of Iran, in its sights. "The Marines could seize the island so the US could use it as leverage

to reopen the strait, according to experts and former officials," reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

The idea has however, sparked internal pushback. Joe Kent, who recently resigned as the national counter-terrorism centre director, warned that it would "essentially be giving Iran a bunch of hostages on an island that they could barrage with drones and missiles".

Whether a limited amphibious landing in Iran, a nation vastly larger than Iraq, may yield the results Washington is hoping for – only time will tell. History, however, has already delivered a lesson: In 2003, the USA invaded Iraq under the pretence of "weapons of mass destruction". After a swift military "victory" no such weapons were found, yet the resulting chaos in Iraq lasted over 20 years. The Iraq War seriously undermined the Bush administration's public approval ratings and left an enduring stain on its historical legacy.

In Iran's case, the USA now finds itself caught between a rock and a hard place: On the front line, Iran fights back with fierce determination; in the rear, domestic support is eroding and allies are distancing themselves.

Worse, the USA is trapped in a profound strategic dilemma: terrified of sinking into a full-scale quagmire yet unwilling to give up dominance in the Middle East; desperate to defeat Iran completely yet reluctant to pay the enormous price that would entail. One can start a war, but ending it is another matter entirely.

*Global Times*



## Workers' Notes

### A Postman's Lot

by  
New Worker  
correspondent

A postman's lot is not a happy one as WS Gilbert might have said. The main union for postal workers, the Communication Workers Union (CWU), has a great deal on its hands. The major one is the Royal Mail's Optimised Delivery Model (ODM), which is a restructuring by the privatised business (presently Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský's EP Group) aimed at getting more work out of postal workers. The UK Government retains a "golden share", so it cannot wash its hands of Royal Mail's problems.

Royal Mail is legally obliged to deliver six days a week under the 'one price goes anywhere' model, something they want to wriggle out of and which CWU seeks to prevent. Other companies do not have such an obligation. Since privatisation in 2013 it has paid out over £2 billion in dividends. Privatisation did not result in any of the promised investment, many buildings were sold off and other have fallen into a state of disrepair, worsening working conditions. Expanding towns have not seen staffing improve. The £785 million profit during the COVID-19 pandemic was only spent on dividends.

Also unhappy are customers who have tales of receiving large batches of mail after days of never seeing a postie, of getting Christmas cards on Valentine's Day, and more seriously getting urgent notification NHS appointments a week after they were to take place. The latter used to be prioritised, but no longer. Things are so bad the House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee has come to life and on Tuesday quizzed Křetínský. MPs might like to note that postal ballots for the forthcoming elections are likely to be delayed. CWU warns that if they are prioritised, other vital mail will simply be delayed instead, given the state of the service.

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined other anti-fascist activists protesting opposite the residence of devoted Zelensky fan Sir Keir Starmer in Whitehall calling for an end to British military, financial and "advisory" support for the Banderite regime in Kiev. While some of those passing by were clearly unhappy to see our protest, many people gave thumbs up signs and vehicles beeped to show their support.

The protest was organised by International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity (IUAFS), which has campaigned since 2017 in solidarity with Ukrainian anti-fascists and democrats, both inside Ukraine and the millions living in exile.

With events in Venezuela, Cuba, and of course the horrific American-Israeli aggression against Iran and Lebanon, the ongoing struggle against Azov-Right Sector repression in Ukraine has been overshadowed, but members of IUAFS are determined to continue their campaign until the Ukrainian people are liberated from the Nazi plague.

Demonstrations were held across Western Europe in support of the Kononovich brothers who led the communist youth movement in Ukraine before their arrest in 2022.

The brothers say their elec-

Royal Mail workers provide ample evidence that senior managers have told them to hide post when there was too much for the depleted workforce to handle in order to meet targets for delivery. This is in order to prioritise the more profitable and competitive parcels business.

The BBC has confirmed that the phrase "take the mail for a ride" is a common phrase in 10 different delivery offices. Denials from Křetínský that this does not happen did not convince MPs or postal workers. For the 2024–25 financial year, Royal Mail delivered 77 per cent of first-class mail

and 92.2 per cent of second-class mail on time, below targets of 93 and 98.5 respectively. These figures worsened in the first two months of this year. In delivery offices signs have been displayed stressing that first class mail must be delivered, which only increases the suspicion that second class mail is being delayed.

Royal Mail is seeking changes to delivery rules so that second class mail can be taken out less frequently, every second day, indeed it has secured permission from regulator Ofcom to pilot this in a few areas so that by making the target easier to reach it looks

ground," the brothers said. "Dear comrades, please be vigilant during these tense days! We have information that the Zelensky regime is preparing another charge under Article 111 (treason, life imprisonment) against us; they could put us in prison. Anything could happen; the Zelensky regime will resort to anything, even murder."

The two brothers were last arrested in 2025 for "conscientious objection" to participation in NATO's proxy war against Russia.

In March 2022, they were arrested and charged with "acts

aimed at seizing state power" as well as the dissemination of "materials calling for the violent overthrow of the government". They were later transferred from prison to house arrest.

Mikhail Kononovich was the general secretary of the Ukrainian Komsomol, The Communist Party of Ukraine's youth movement.

The fascist regime banned both the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Komsomol in 2015, and all their assets were seized in 2022 following the Russian intervention to defend the people of the Donbas.

CWU makes it clear Royal Mail's failures are due to low wages and poor conditions, which have caused a recruitment and retention crisis. To make things worse for postal workers, irate members of the public are increasingly taking out their anger on staff over delayed deliveries.

Scottish CWU secretary Craig Anderson highlights the fact that new employees are given worse pay and conditions than existing postal workers. "Legacy" workers get £14.22 hourly, while new recruits start

*continued on page 4...*

# No British arms for Ukrainian nazis!



...continued from page 3

on £13.60, which is just above the real living wage. He also points out that new starts don't get paid breaks like legacy staff and can also be relocated "anywhere in the UK within 24 hours" – a sure way of dealing with any potential troublemakers. Discussions with Royal Mail about "equalisation", to bring new staff up to the same standards as legacy staff, have not brought any joy.

Of the 54,000 new recruits taken on since 2022 half have already left, most going after less than a year. While posties have never been among the labour aristocracy, it used to be a decent, secure job for unskilled workers as it trained on the job.

This lack of workers is the main reason for complaints by postal workers and irate customers. In rural areas staffing levels are so poor managers have been sent to deliver post. Nowadays there are no spare staff to cover sickness. CWU estimated seven per cent of offices are under-staffed, Craig Anderson even cited a case of a postman who returned from a fortnight's holiday to find a fortnight's worth

# Arms embargo now!

by  
New Worker  
correspondent

**Palestine solidarity campaigners were out protesting at Elbit Systems in Bristol last week. Elbit Systems is Israel's largest weapons manufacturer, supplying the Israeli military with armoured drones, bombs and missiles.**

The protest was organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), with other groups represented including Stand Up to Racism, Bristol Socialist Worker Student Society (SWSS) and Bristol Quakers.

Dr Eldin Fahmy, a University of Bristol academic, told the media that the demonstration was "one of five regional protests across the country against arms companies involved in and facilitating Israel's genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian

of mail waiting for him. CWU complains that ODM means that



people".

Elbit Systems describes itself as the "backbone" of the Israeli drone fleet, supplying parts for

drones that have been used in the Zionist genocide in Gaza. The company previously operated another site nearby in Aztec West

business park, which closed in September after numerous protests by the now banned Palestine Action campaign.

there are only three staff for every four rounds.

CWU has been involved in 37 pilots for ODM. Overall, the pilot ODM did not work, except in a few small areas. CWU has now balloted members involved in the pilots and they have overwhelmingly (98 per cent on a 76 per cent turnout) voted to reject ODM.

"The evidence from the pilots is crystal clear – the CWU does not believe that

the Optimised Delivery Model and its design of four into three duties is an acceptable or realistic proposal, and we have no confidence that it could be deployed successfully in the remaining 1,250 Delivery Units," said the CWU last summer.

CWU general secretary Dave Ward went on record to the House of Commons by saying: "Royal Mail and EP Group have made excuse after excuse over why Royal Mail's service has

been consistently poor over the past few years. Now it is time for the truth. The job of a postal worker has been devalued and shareholder profit has been prioritised over service to the public," optimistically appealing that: "Parliament must take real action to prevent this great institution from sliding even further into managed decline." Another CWU spokesman said that Royal Mail could collapse sometime between 2028/31. We have been warned.

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20 years ago  
this week  
in the New Worker

24<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union deputy general secretary Jack Dromey, who is also the treasurer of the Labour Party, last week delivered a bombshell when he revealed that party leaders had accepted loans of millions of pounds from rich capitalists to fund last year's election campaign without telling him.**

Since then, a number of the chief lenders have been awarded peerages and the total sum involved has been revealed as over £14 million. But Dromey was

*not the only person in the dark. It seems that Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott was not told and nor was Chancellor Gordon Brown; only a tiny clique in the party had any idea where their campaign funds came from.*

*It has embroiled the Labour Party in the kind of sleaze scandal that sank the Tory party in the mid-'90s. The Tory party is no better. It borrowed even more from rich businessmen to fund its own campaign.*

*Both parties had found a way round the law passed by Labour not long after it came to power in 1997 that compelled all donations over £5,000 to be declared openly. The law had not mentioned loans.*

*Last year, the Labour Party was very short of funds. The unions, who had founded and funded the party to fight for working-class interests, were angry over continuing privatisation of the public sector.*

*Some unions had reduced their donations. Blair knew*

*that to get more money from them, he would have to make some policy concessions. He preferred to get the money from his big business friends.*

*The scandal has led to renewed calls to change the way that peerages are awarded and the way that political parties are funded. Tory leader David Cameron has seized the initiative and come up with a set of proposals that include a cap of £50,000 on the size of donations from single individuals or trade unions and that political parties should be at least partly funded by taxpayers.*

*This is an attack on the power of the organised working class. Trade unions are not individuals. They are composed of millions of members who have voted to retain the political levy – their contribution to Labour Party funding – so that the working class can have a voice in Parliament to defend the interests of labour against the capitalist ruling class.*

# Strategy for the class struggle

by John Maryon

**For the working class to successfully advance towards socialism it requires an understanding of most effective tactics for the class struggle. It is important to learn from the lessons of past generations but also, we must adapt to the reality of today's modern world. Arguments that took place over a century ago should not hold back the formation of joint actions and alliances. We must look at the world through the eyes of a new generation.**

The victory of the 1917 Russian revolution was followed by the active promotion of a Communist International. Initially the strategy aimed to ride the revolutionary wave by building communist parties worldwide. In Britain, the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) was established in 1920. Following the First World War the revolutionary wave abated and the strategy was changed to reflect the new conditions. It was an initiative that aimed to encourage joint action with other working-class parties. It was going to be a lengthy process to overcome the reformism and class collaboration of the social-democrats. This tactic became known as the United Front. By 1928 a new strategy was adopted to advance a more revolutionary struggle to take advantage of the severe capitalist crisis by advocating a more militant approach. It



• Back in the day.

encouraged the formation of strong trade unions. There was an attempt to expose the treachery of social democracy that had betrayed the workers and had increasingly co-operated with imperialism.

With the rise of fascism, it was the communists who led the struggle against the new menace and in doing so gained great respect. The Bulgarian communist leader, Georgi Dimitrov, realised the seriousness of the situation and proposed the creation of a new alliance, which he called the Popular Front. It reflected the new situation in which a number of communist parties had become mass movements. Communists with both right-wing and left-wing social democrats now often shared the same prisons. Unfortunately, a number of communist parties now

saw their role as taking the parliamentary option and the revolutionary road was abandoned. In Britain, the CPGB was to adopt this approach and in doing so abandoned its revolutionary vanguard role. It adopted an increasingly revisionist position under the illusion that participation in bourgeois democracy offered a way forward. It effectively denied a revolutionary approach in which the working class would seize power and take control of its own destiny.

As Western European communist parties, following the Second World War, adopted a left social-democratic position they started to lose respect and purpose. They failed to learn the lessons of history in which it had been the great revolutionary leaders such as Lenin, Mao and Kim Il Sung who had successfully

led their people to socialism.

For today we may look back at the strategies that have succeeded and those that have not. We cannot stick to one fixed tactic but must adapt and change as conditions alter. Social democracy no longer pretends to be socialist and in practice presents itself today as yet another bourgeois bandwagon that in practice cannot achieve anything.

No revolution can succeed without working class support. But the working class in Britain is demoralised and confused with limited aspirations. They have been conditioned into meekly accepting a few crumbs from the rich man's table. They vote for liberals, social democrats and reactionary populist parties.

The anomalously named 'Your Party' is left anti-democratic and contains many sincere well-meaning people who are opposed to Imperialist wars and see the need for a fairer society. They are not however, revolutionary, have not embraced the scientific teachings of Marxism and not grasped the essential concept that a class struggle is necessary to defeat the forces of reaction that blight all of our lives.

A so-called Popular Front alliance is full of dangers. There cannot be a successful alliance between communists and social democrats in a bourgeois parliament. History shows that communists may be used by the bourgeoisie and then dumped when it suits them. Bourgeois democracy is a cruel illusion. When the inevitable break comes it splits the working class. The Popular Front transfers the class battle from the streets and workplaces to a bourgeois parliament that is totally ineffective.

It is important to note that a popular front government may be in government but not in power. Lenin pointed out that an alliance implies that the bourgeoisie no longer have the ability to rule alone and that then is the time for revolution-

ary change. Social Democracy offers only tinkering with a failed system, based upon exploitation, which is well past its sell-by date. We need a radical change to challenge the power and oppression of Imperialism.

A true communist party is always to be found where the battle is the hardest. One that is committed striving for unity of the workers in the class struggle to achieve full state power rather than a sham bourgeois parliament. A United Front alliance between revolutionary and reformist parties remains the only viable policy until a revolutionary situation develops.

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# Ukraine: the fading dream of the European Union

by a Kiev observer

**Europe is slowly taking a stance against Zelensky while the USA continues to pressure Kiev to sign a peace deal with Moscow.**

Despite all the public statements in support of Ukraine, many European governments are trying to slow down military loans and donations. This cost-cutting process began at the beginning of 2025. According to the Swiss *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* newspaper, by 2025, aid to Ukraine has been reduced from €3.8 billion to €1.9 billion per month, a decline of more than 57 per cent. According to the *New York Times* on July of 2025 the EU reduced monthly military aid even lower to €1.7 billion. The *Guardian* also reported that Sweden and Germany continue to slash aid military budgets earlier given to Ukraine. Reuters and other media outlets mentioned that France, Spain and Italy also made significant reduction of military expenses to Ukraine.

The main reason of this slowdown is the growing number of internal economic issues in Europe and the declining popularity of warmongering rhetoric among voters. Peace movements, rallies and demonstrations are starting to flourish in Europe. European politicians are constantly targeting populist statements and, in an effort to win votes, are beginning to use more pacifist slogans. Common people are not prepared to risk their peaceful and comfortable life in the EU, nor do they want to expose themselves to the danger of any war, neither to direct confrontation with the Russian Federation. The

words ‘Stalingrad’, ‘Eastern front’ and ‘Russian tanks’ are still well known and cause great anxiety in Germany, recalling how the Second World War ended in the rubble on the streets of Berlin in 1945.

Many politicians continue to speak out in support of Ukraine, while in fact ceasing and minimising any support of the Zelensky regime.

Polish President Karol Nawrocki in his first foreign interview stated that “I am against Ukraine’s entry to the EU at the moment...”. Polish People’s Party (PSL) leader, Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, who serves as deputy prime minister and defence minister, warned that Ukraine must meet the EU’s anti-corruption and rule-of-law requirements before being allowed to join. He also added that “Poland will not allow Ukraine to join the EU until the issue of the Volhynia massacres in WWII is resolved”.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Hungary’s Prime Minister Victor Orban stakes his re-election on anti-Ukraine messages.

Slovakian Member of the European Parliament, Milan Uhrik, who has joined the European Sovereign Nations Group (ESN Group) from the rostrum of the European Parliament, says “Enough is enough. This is why we oppose further support for Ukraine.” The ESN Group includes 25 Members of the European Parliament from Germany, Hungary, Czechia, Lithuania, France, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Poland, and this number continues to grow.

The Western media’s misleading rhetoric about providing Ukraine with



broad European support and with the EU’s armed forces quick accession – leads to nothing.

Some voices calling for continued aid to Ukraine demonstrate an inability to provide it and contain useless political statements of losers trying to calmly exit a bad game.

Under the influence of Trump’s policy of normalising relations with the Russian Federation, the European elite has begun to pay more attention to obtaining direct and immediate financial benefits. Many have begun to think practically, striving to preserve the Western part of Ukraine, and are ready to fulfil all of Russia’s demands to do so.

The large-scale military support earlier provided to Ukraine has so depleted Europe’s stockpiles of ammunition and weapons that Europe has completely lost its military potential.

To restore it, large financial investments, scientific research and industrial development are needed to produce new types of modern weapons. NATO’s dominance in the context of the European economic crisis however, as well as full energy dependence on the USA, make all European efforts to develop and produce more weapons highly unrealistic.

The multi-billion Ukrainian expenditures also hit the European industries and seriously undermined European finances. Major closures include BASF (Ludwigshafen, Germany), Arlanxéo (France), Trinseo (Germany/Italy), Solvay (Germany), Thyssenkrupp Automation Engineering (Germany), TDV Industries (France) and the Beko Europe (Hotpoint) plant in the UK, impacted the chemical and consumer goods sectors. Audi, Volk-

swagen, Stellantis and Ford are also closing their plants, with the motor vehicle sector alone cutting from 150,000 to 350,000 jobs. Significant industrial losses have negatively impacted the financial situation in Europe. Currently the European Union does not have funds that could be transferred to Kiev without causing financial harm.

At the same time due to the domestic crisis in the USA the Federal Reserve is unwilling to provide Ukraine with additional financial support. Apart from inflation, which is putting significant pressure on the dollar, the US balance of trade is greatly in China’s favour. The price of gold in dollars reached a record high. This suggests that the Fed is willing to target the euro or the pound sterling rather than the dollar in an attempt to correct this imbalance. The USA is pushing Europe to find

new alternative sources of funding, including revising existing spending on health, education and social security.

All European politicians who advocate maintaining and expanding social benefits are now contradicting calls to direct these funds to other needs, namely, the needs of the Ukrainian government. Zelensky acts and profits under the guise of fighting the Russians. He is also strengthening his position in Ukraine by purging all his political opponents.

Tension with the USA as de facto owner and leader of NATO also increases pressure on Europeans. Trump’s recent threat to takeover Greenland is provoking even more confrontations with Europe’s ruling circles.

The current situation in the Middle East also significantly delays all peace negotiations and military support for Ukraine. Zelensky openly declared his support for Netanyahu and Trump’s bombing of Iran. He also said that Iran’s nuclear research project is unacceptable. The West accuses Iran of working to develop nuclear weapons while at the same time intending to fulfil Zelensky’s demands for a radioactive “dirty bomb” from a “coalition of the willing”. If Ukraine acquires a nuclear warhead, it would also distance it from the Europe due to the associated nuclear risks. All in all, it seems that despite all of Ukraine’s bold statements, due to growing intra-European opposition, many remain highly sceptical about Ukraine’s ability to become a member of the EU and openly host European armed forces on its soil.

# Workers' Party of Korea marches on!

by Paddy Colligan

**The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) convened its Ninth Party Congress on 19<sup>th</sup> February in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Over the following week, the 5,000 delegates to the Congress reviewed the work of the WPK from the preceding five years and discussed plans for the next five years. The proceedings of the Ninth Congress of the WPK are a matter of interest to the world.**

Members were elected to national and provincial WPK leadership bodies. Commanding officers of the Korean People's Army were appointed. Kim Jong Un, who was re-elected Secretary General of the WPK, made an introductory presentation and a closing address.

Kim Jong Un, who is also the President of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, described the Congress as having "drawn great interest at home and abroad, as it was convened in a period when our socialist construction is being pushed ahead ... vigorously" in the midst of a "global political situation [that] is experiencing serious and rapid change".

The DPRK, with a population of about 26 million, is situated on the northern part of the Korean peninsula. It shares its southern border with south Korea, with a population of about 52 million.

From 1950 to 1953 Korea was engulfed in a brutal and bitter war.

US imperialism and its allies backed puppet forces in the southern part of the peninsula. People's China and the Soviet Union and fought on the side of the DPRK. There has yet to be a treaty officially ending the war; a Demilitarised Zone – the DMZ – demarcates a tense border between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea (also known as the ROK or south Korea).

Hundreds of thousands of families are painfully divided by the border and remain unable to visit or even maintain contact. Reunification was long a goal of the DPRK, of many political groups in south Korea, and millions of Koreans on both sides of the border and in the diaspora.

In the last five years, however, a significant political shift has occurred. This was reviewed by the Ninth Congress and summed up by Kim Jong Un as putting an end to the policy of seeking reconciliation and reunification. The Report of the Congress explained the switchover in its line towards south Korea in the following way:

"During the period under review, the WPK put a historic end to the abnormal relations with the ROK, which had existed on the Korean peninsula for nearly 80 years since the founding of the DPRK, and made a final crucial decision to define these relations as the most hostile state-to-state relationship and clarified the invariable principled stand of our Party and government."

Noting violations of airspace and other



• The Congress at work.

hostile acts, the Report on the Ninth Congress continued its assessment of relations between the two countries on the peninsula: "From the very beginning, the successive ruling forces of the ROK did not want genuine reconciliation and unity with us, but have worked hard to spread their culture within our country by abusing the opportunities for reconciliation and co-operation in a sinister attempt to bring about its change and the final collapse of its social system..."

"The ROK's ultimate ambition is to turn the whole Korean peninsula into ... one under the capitalist reactionary system of 'liberal democracy'. While outwardly advocating deceptive 'reconciliation' and 'peace', it is seeking to disarm the DPRK under the signboard of the 'denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula'."

The Report discussed development projects that were carried out during the previous five-year period and are planned for the future as well. Socialist construc-

tion projects prioritise improvements in living conditions that "clearly show the advantages of the socialist system in our country, which attaches importance to the popular and people-oriented ones, and prove the truth and vitality of our Party's people-first politics".

There is an ongoing focus on increasing and improving housing and implementing a new child-care policy to provide children with dairy products and nutritious food every day. There are plans to improve education and modernise conditions in rural areas "where centuries-old backwardness lingered".

The national economic plan includes clarifying production goals and applying scientific methods to developing agricultural production, growing vegetables in greenhouses, fish farming, sea culture, mining and sustainable management of natural resources and land. The Report also suggests that there are plans for developing the information technology, artificial intelligence, space and

tourism industries and external trade.

In addition to socialist construction and improving people's lives, the WPK is concerned about party building, which is explained as the desire to "further develop our Party into the general staff of the revolution with a high leadership position and guiding ability". Ideological understanding, "voluntarily observing discipline" and "building a good working manner" are goals.

The DPRK views its development and possession of nuclear weapons as an essential right. The Ninth Congress Report states that the Constitution of the DPRK takes the position that its nuclear arsenal is necessary to "ensure the country's rights to existence and development, deter war and defend regional and global peace and stability by rapidly developing its nuclear weapons". It must continue to be "a full-fledged nuclear state".

The DPRK is also committed to turning its armed forces into the strongest army in the

world, including politically and ideologically. Nuclear weapons are the "legitimate defence pertaining to our right to self-defence," and the DPRK will continue to bolster its nuclear force "as long as nuclear weapons exist on earth, and the US imperialists and their followers remain unchanged in their moves against the DPRK."

Kim Jong Un analysed the "great changes that took place in the international political and security structure, balance of forces and trend of the situation during the period under review", according to the report. It is "completely different from the one five years ago, and international relations have been plunged into the vortex of chaos and upheaval".

The Report continues describing the aggression "the infringement of state sovereignty, wanton violation of international law, the global security crisis ... the political and economic chaos and disorder in different countries" that characterise today's world.

The world situation as described in the report from the WPK Ninth Congress could be copied from today's headlines and news analysis. And in this context, France24 reported on 12<sup>th</sup> March that the DPRK test fired rockets from several missile systems – coinciding with joint American-south Korean military exercises. With a touch of irony, Japan and the south Koreans claim concerns about regional security.

*Workers World (USA)*

## LETTERS

A few years into the Vietnam war the US independent journalist IF Stone wrote the following: “We have long been an imperialistic people. The Truman Doctrine and the Johnson Doctrine are the only extensions of the Monroe Doctrine, new embodiments of that Manifest Destiny to which our expansionists appealed in a less cautious day. Bolivar once said that we plagued Latin America in the name of liberty, today we do it to a growing sector of the world. Everywhere we talk liberty and social reform but we end up by allying ourselves with native oligarchies and military cliques – just as we have done in Vietnam. In the showdown, we reach for the gun.”

Despite all the changes in the Western mainstream media since IF Stone wrote the aforesaid, the filtration process remains crucial for imperialism in general. For example, economic pressure for conformity at times of nationalistic fervour and military action. Fears of alienating the public and sponsors, especially in wartime, serves a real, often unstated tether, keeping the capitalist press tied to accepted ‘wisdom’. The constraining fears by journalists in the newsrooms of the USA and other capitalist countries are apt to revolve around peer approval, financial security and professional advancement.

The attitudes of reporters covering the foreign policy of the USA’s officials are generally similar

to the attitudes of those officials. Most journalists who get ‘plum’ foreign assignments already accept the assumptions of an American imperialist empire. Money, prestige, career options and ideological predilections, combined with downsides of filing stories unpopular with the government of the USA, all cast their influence on foreign correspondents.

In addition, far from restraining the reliance on war as an instrument of foreign policy, the widespread media support for corporate capitalism boosts the view that the government of the USA must strive to bring about favourable conditions in international affairs. The connection between military might and the global capitalist commercial market share is solid.

Of course, the hidden hand of the capitalist market will never work without the ‘hidden’ fist, McDonald’s cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas, the designer of the USA’s Air-force F-15, etc. And the ‘hidden’ fist that keeps the world safer for Silicon Valley’s technologies to flourish is called the US Army, Air force, Navy and Marine Corps.

**A McKerl Fife**

As the tension in the region intensifies, the Khalifi regime of Bahrain has escalated its repression against the natives. The regime has already landed the country into trouble by allowing the Americans to use it as a launching pad for their attacks on Iran. So far, there has been a mute response from Iran with attacks on the oil refinery, desalination plants and LNG units. This is the result of the Khalifi regime’s bad policies. The people bear the brunt of the consequences of these policies.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March, Human Rights Watch issued

a statement titled: *Bahrain: Sweeping Arrests Amid Conflict: Unlawful Detentions; Prisoners at Risk*. It said that the “Bahraini authorities have arrested dozens of people for exercising their right to peaceful expression, seeking the death penalty in some cases, amid the conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran”. It further added that “at this critical moment, Bahrain authorities should be expanding their efforts to protect people, not arresting them for peacefully demonstrating or posting on social media”. Niku Jafarnia, Yemen and Bahrain researcher at Human Rights Watch, said: “Bahraini authorities should stop detaining people, unconditionally release all those arbitrarily detained, and temporarily release others on humanitarian grounds.” Human Rights Watch spoke to nine people, including detainees’ family members and members of Bahraini civil society and reviewed and verified information shared online, including statements, social media posts and videos.

There is a wave of indignation in America that their country was pushed into a war with Iran. “Saudi Arabia’s de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has been urging US President Donald Trump to continue

the war against Iran”, the *New York Times* reported, citing people briefed by American officials. Bin Salman has spoken to Trump several times over the last week, pushing the president to keep fighting until the regime in Iran is toppled, according to the report. The Saudi prince sees Iran as a long-term threat that will persist as long as the Islamic Republic exists. He also believes that Iran could continue to target Saudi Arabia and threaten shipping after the war, the newspaper says. According to the *New York Times*, bin Salman fears a failed Iranian state, with military factions continuing to strike the kingdom.

Yesterday Donald Trump said: “Saudi Prince MBS is encouraging us to do a lot of things with Iran. He is with us in the fight.” Later, Saudi officials said that “our leadership isn’t encouraging Trump to prolong war against Iran”. It is clear that confusion is the order of the day in Washington and Riyadh. It is also clear that the Americans have landed themselves in a quagmire. Iran has, so far, proven to be a formidable state with long and strong military arms. Miscalculations are sometimes disastrous.

**Saeed Shehabi  
Bahrain Freedom Movement  
London**



**Lakenheath Alliance For Peace**  
**International Peace Camp**  
1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**'RAF' Lakenheath, Suffolk, UK**  
**Time To Take Action Against The US (nuclear) Base**  
24hr presence outside the base, protests, workshops, music, networking. Highlights given below but more being planned. See website for more information.  
**Saturday 4 April: Give Peace a Chance**  
12noon - 3pm: People will be arriving from various parts of the country including coaches from London. We will have various speakers, music, poetry and protest.  
**Thursday 2 April: Outreach**  
Leafleting in nearby towns.  
**Friday 3 April: Environment**  
The impact of militarism of the environment.  
**Sunday 5 April: Rising Up**  
Making the links between different campaigns.  
**Monday 6 April: Grand Finale**  
With networking during the camp we will turn ideas into action.

## Diary

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

### UNTIL 14 APRIL

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

4SQ. Details TBA.

### SAT 18 APR

National Housing Demonstration, central London. Details TBA.

### UNTIL 18 APR

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.

### SUN 19 APR

Musicians for Peace and Disarmament: Jazz on a Spring Day. 19:00–22:00. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, London N6 5HG. Book at <https://mpdconcerts.org/>

### MON 20 APR

Labour & Palestine: Mustafa Barghouti on Justice for Palestine or never-ending Nakba? 18:30–20:00. Online event. Book on Eventbrite.

### TUE 28 APR

Workers Memorial Day. Nationwide events.

### WED 1 APRIL

London People’s Front: Olaf Pirol’s *The Workers International Militant Party 1912-1949* book launch. 19:00–21:00. Carlton Club, 69 St James’s St, London SW1A 1PJ.

### THURS 30 APR

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: Day Nurseries & ‘British Restaurants’: Women Workers in WW2. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

### WED 1–MON 6 APR

Lakenheath Action for Peace: Peace camp. Details TBA. Includes demonstration noon on Saturday.

### FRI 1–MON 4 MAY

May Day events nationwide.

### WED 8 APR

Queen Mary University of London. Steven Salaita on Palestine and the World: Struggle and Solidarity 17:45–19:45. In person, venue TBA. Book on Eventbrite

### SAT 2 MAY

Stand Up To Racism: Unite the People Against Racism and the Far Right. Demo, rally and festival. Chamberlian Square, Birmingham B3.

### SAT 11 APR

*Morning Star*: 1926–2026 Organised Labour 100 Years From the General Strike. 09:30–17:30. Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

### WED 6 MAY

Marx Memorial Library: *Capital* Reading Group, Free Taster Session. 19:00–20:30. Introduction to an online fortnightly course lasting until March 2027. Book on MML website.

### SAT 11 APR

Scottish CND: Break with Trump. Demonstration. 11:00–15:00. Glasgow details TBA.

### THURS 7 MAY

Electoral Commission: Elections at a polling station near you. 07:00–22:00.

### SAT 11 APR

Korean Friendship Association: Characteristics of Korean-style socialism and its success. 14:00. Vida Walsh Centre, 2 Saltoun Road, Brixton, London SW2 1EP.

### THURS 7 MAY

Peggy Seeger ‘Songs for the Workers’. One-off concert. 19:30–21:30. Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent’s Park Rd, London NW1 7AY. Book on website [www.efdss.org/whats-on](http://www.efdss.org/whats-on)

### SUN 12 APR

East End Walks: From Yiddish to Bangla: Street Life and Culture from Whitechapel to Brick Lane 1880s–1980s. 10:30–13:00. Book at <https://www.eastendwalks.com>

### SAT 9 MAY

Levellers Day. Includes commemoration in churchyard and march round village. 10:30–16:00. Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RY.

### THURS 16 APR

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Merseyside Cuba Solidarity fundraiser. 19:00. The Casa, 29 Hope St, Liverpool, L1 9BP.

### SAT 9 MAY

Ipswich New Worker Group Meeting: The Socialist Alternative for a Stable and Peaceful World. 14:00–16:00. Ipswich Institute, 15 Tavern Street, Ipswich IP1 3AA.

### FRI 17 APR

TUC Midlands: Mary Macarthur Lecture. 19:00–22:00. Workers’ Institute, Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley DY1

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](mailto:party@NCP.clara.net)

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## Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

On Thursday the 'Shortbread Senate', or the Scottish Parliament to give it its Sunday name, closed down for its Easter holidays. It will formally come back on the 8<sup>th</sup> April – but only for it to be dissolved the following day for the elections.

No less than 42 MSPs, one third, are departing from Holyrood, including a number of former wannabe First Ministers as well as a couple of has-beens including Madame Sturgeon, who incurred the wrath of many when she made a rare appearance at Holyrood to make a valedictory speech to complain that "politics and political discourse change almost beyond recognition, and not always for the better", more positively adding that "politicians should "make

friends in other parties". This united nationalists and unionists in disbelief. Nicola Sturgeon ran the SNP with a rod of iron and was brutal to lesser mortals who asked awkward questions about the state of party finances, and rivals such as Joanna Cherry (whose memoirs we look forward to) and her predecessor, Alex Salmond.

Her successor Humza Yousaf (pronounced Useless) is also giving up. He admitted that his brief reign would have been only slightly extended as the SNP defeat in the 2024 General Election would have brought his career to a halt. He piously lamented that: "The toxicity of social media commentary is putting women in particular off politics." That could be read as an attack on what the SNP have been up to for years, but he probably did not mean it that way.

Three former SNP ministers are also throwing in the towel: Finance Secretary and Sturgeon crony Shona Robison, Transport Secretary Fiona Hyslop and Business and Employment Secretary Richard Lochhead – all MSPs from the foundation of Holyrood.

Several bright young things including Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes are also seeking pastures new. She cited the difficulties of bringing up her daughter as did one-term MSP Natalie Don-Innes, the children's minister.

Three Labour MSPs are leaving under a cloud, such as disabled MSP Pam Duncan-Glancy who had an unwise choice of friends, while Foysoyl Choudhury and Colin Smyth have been accused of being less

than proper gentlemen, the former facing serious charges. In contrast, Sarah Boyack, Lothian MSP and Transport Minister under Donald Dewar, is leaving comparatively spotless.

Tragically John Mason, the former SNP MSP who believes that creationism should be taught in schools, will not be returning, as he was always good for a quote. It is sadly farewell to Kilmarnock SNP representative Willie Coffey who in 2022 secured his 15 minutes of fame when he demonstrated the high standards of debate typical of Holyrood. At the last minute he was forced to give an introductory speech to a Bill. Rather than ad-lib, he simply read out in its entirety his prepared winding-up speech that included references to points colleagues were expected to make in the course of the debate.

The departees also include former Green Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone (the equivalent of Speaker of the House) and 81-year-old Christine Graham, who was apparently a Deputy Presiding Officer but the highlight of her 27 years as an MSP for Midlothian South, Tweeddale & Lauderdale was to gain TV publicity for herself by sitting directly behind the SNP First Minister.

Former Labour leader Richard Leonard and his one-time Tory equivalent Douglas Ross are also heading off; the latter optimistically hopes to return to Westminster where he previously served until the voters booted him out two years ago. He correctly pointed out that "part of the role of an opposition politician is not to make it easy for the government", advising that Holyrood's "committees here need to up their game a bit".

That some of these individuals were unknown to this correspondent until their departure was announced tells us much about their impact and achievements.

## More Auld Faces

It is highly unlikely but two colourful former parliamentarians hope to be in the Holyrood Chamber in May. Undeterred by the collapse of the Alba Party, Tommy Sheridan hopes to win a seat on the Glasgow regional list where he and his wife Gail are standing for the 'Alliance to Liberate Scotland', which was founded last month and is putting up no less than four candidates. Guess who is number one?

With characteristic modesty, Sheridan declared that: "Glasgow has never been a city that waits for permission. From the Govan shipyard work-in led by Jimmy Reid which shook British capitalism in the early 1970s to Republican socialist John Maclean's unyielding demand for Scottish self-determination and a workers' republic in 1920, this city has always shown the way...the Alliance to Liberate Scotland is picking up that torch." Needless to say, neither Maclean nor Reid visited Manchester swingers' clubs.

Sheridan has been in Labour, Scottish Militant Labour, the Scottish Socialist Party (which he represented at Holyrood), his own Solidarity movement and Alba, so his options will be somewhat limited when he fails this time round...

Also hoping for a comeback is George Galloway, whose Workers Party of Britain has entered the fray. The former MP for Glasgow Hillhead, Glasgow Kelvin, Bethnal Green & Bow, Bradford West and Rochdale now lives in People's China. But he is contesting the constituency vacated by Nicola Sturgeon and will be engaged in a titanic struggle with Sheridan for a place on the Glasgow Regional list.

In the 2014 indepen-

dence referendum Galloway fought on the unionist slogan of 'Just Say Naw'. In the last Holyrood election, he stood on the 'All For Unity' ticket, deploring the fact that: "If we don't get off this hamster wheel, this neverendum, we'll never have normal politics in Scotland."

He has now, belatedly, changed his mind. "As Marx – Groucho – said, 'when the facts change, so do my opinions.

"As a former opponent of independence I have changed my opinion. I will support Scottish independence at the next referendum," Galloway told the media.

To cover his tracks, he said that demanding a new Referendum had always been his policy. "From my first speech in Aberdeen at a Labour conference in 1974, I was clear about one thing: 'Scotland is a nation. As such it possesses the inalienable right to self-determination'."

Needless to say, he could not resist putting the boot into the SNP, saying: "John Swinney, whom I once described as a 'Lang Streak o' Misery' and said he was 'so wooden the birds are trying to nest in him', is no lodestar of ours." Instead: "We stand for a different future for Scotland than him. We reject Scottish membership of NATO."

It is too much to expect these egos to actually unite on a single platform to advance their cause?

The answer is obvious. Inventing your own party has the advantage that it means you do not have anyone telling you to stand down on account of a colourful past...

## FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

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

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# China charts the future!

by  
New Worker  
correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined social scientists, businessmen and other communists for a seminar at the Chinese embassy in London last week. The participants, which included solidarity campaigners, academics and politicians such as Vince Cable, the former Liberal-Democrat leader, all spoke on the importance of the ‘Two Sessions’ – the annual meetings of China’s highest civic authorities that were held in Beijing last month.

Chinese ambassador, Zheng Zeguang, opened on the new developments in China and the opportunities it gave to the world that was the theme of the symposium and the discussion that followed.

He said that in the international arena unilateralism and bullying are on

the rise, regional conflicts persist and the international order is facing serious challenges. The more turbulent the world becomes, the greater the need to promote dialogue and co-operation.

Ambassador Zheng highlighted that the implementation of the current Five-Year Plan will bring new opportunities for the development of other countries and open up new prospects for China-UK co-operation. China will work with the UK in the same direction to follow through on the important common understanding reached between the leaders of the two countries and the outcome of Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s visit to China. It is important that China and the UK strengthen exchanges at all levels, expand practical co-operation, properly manage differences, and continue to enrich the long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership, in



• Zheng Zeguang opens the seminar.

order to deliver greater benefits to the two peoples and make do contributions to world peace, stability and prosperity.

In his contribution, Andy Brooks said: “This has been a stormy month. While the millions upon millions of people in all

five continents recoiled in shock and horror at the American-Israeli onslaught on Iran plunging the Middle East into the flames of a war that threatens the entire stability of the world, another event – in the heart of China – charted the future not only for the Chinese people but for the cause of peace and socialism throughout the world.

“The Chinese revolution that established the people’s government in 1949 has transformed the country that was then the poorest in the world. China has now risen from being a weak semi-feudal, semi-colonial country to becoming a force for peace in the global arena, with the second largest economy in the world. Productivity gains, innovation and consumption need have become the main drivers of growth. As a major manufacturing country, China’s manufacturing, innovation and construc-

tion will continue to serve the world during the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period. As China transforms it shares what it has learned from managing large transitions at scale with other developing countries facing similar development challenges. And the communist party that led and continues to lead the Chinese people’s march to socialism equally is always ready to share its knowledge and experience with the rest of the communist movement around the world.

“Democracy is a shared value of humanity and a right of the people of all countries. In China, a prosperous society is being created for everyone to enjoy. And people’s democracy is an instrument to solve problems for the people who are the masters of the country. We see it in the Two Sessions and in the words and deeds of the Communist Party of China.”

# Hands Off Cuba!

by  
New Worker  
correspondent

London comrades joined other protesters outside the American embassy on Saturday calling for an end to the imperialist blockade of Cuba. The Hands Off Cuba demo was organised by the British Chapter of the Venezuela-based Anti-Fascist International, which the NCP joined last month. New groups and parties are joining the Chapter at the present time, such as IJAN, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, whose supporters came along with their banner



for this protest.

Venezuela has been at the forefront of the construction of an International Anti-Fascist movement that began in 2024. I

n its resolution of January 2025, the Congress of the Anti-Fascist International expressed its recognition of this effort and stated that: “Venezuela has been a beacon in the global struggle against fascism, imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and all forms of human exploitation and domination, playing a central role in the co-ordination of international initiatives aimed at building a new world based on justice, unity, peace, solidarity and mutual respect between nations.”

# Is Iraq Following Afghanistan?

by Lyuba Lulko

The Iraqi government will support the ultimatum issued by the Shia militias demanding the withdrawal of NATO coalition forces from the country. A repeat of the USA's withdrawal from Afghanistan is looming.

The Iraqi resistance has given Washington five days to withdraw its troops from Iraq. In a statement, the influential group Kataib Hezbollah, part of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, said that "the war started by the American enemy will end only on our terms".

"Foreign soldiers will not remain in Iraq, from north to south. Moreover, we will not allow them to possess lethal weapons or air defence systems on our territory".

There is little doubt that the US bases will close, as constant shelling makes their maintenance extremely costly and politically toxic due to troop losses. In fact, only Victoria Base in Baghdad and the Al-Harir Airbase (fewer than 2,000 personnel) in Iraqi Kurdistan remain, and both are regularly targeted by drone attacks.

The withdrawal of the base from Baghdad has already been announced in Washington and is seen as a



victory for the Iraqi people, who have fought for two decades to rid the country of foreign occupation. France, Italy, Romania and Spain have also announced the withdrawal of their contingents from Iraq, where they were present under coalition agreements with the USA.

Public opinion in Iraq is strongly opposed to the American presence. Two years ago, parliament passed a decision to expel the US bases but Washington delayed action. Tension escalated after Donald

Trump opposed the return of Nouri al-Maliki as Iraq's prime minister, despite support from the parliamentary majority.

Trump issued an ultimatum: if al-Maliki comes to power, the USA will completely cease all assistance to the country.

Al-Maliki is a Shia Muslim. In Washington's view, he represents Iranian interests in the region. Shias make up about 60–64 per cent of Iraq's population and dominate the country's political life. The prime minister of Iraq is

always a Shia.

It is worth recalling that Saddam Hussein, killed by the USA, was a Sunni, and his overthrow increased the political weight of the Shia majority, strengthening Iran's influence in Iraq in the long term. At the start of the US invasion in 2003, Iran was already considered one of the main adversaries of the USA and Israel, making the failure to account for the religious factor a major intelligence miscalculation.

This pattern is characteristic of American policy:

decisions are often driven by immediate needs rather than long-term strategy.

Washington typically prioritises short-term electoral gains, technology and budgets, with decisions frequently made in the interests of lobby groups and specific corporations. This time, despite eliminating several high-ranking Iranian figures, the USA has faced the threat of a 'forever war', massive financial costs, and destabilisation of the global energy market.

In the long term, aggression against Iran could

result in a complete loss of American influence in the region. Attacks on infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia could force these countries to distance themselves from Washington to avoid becoming targets.

If the Gulf monarchies reach agreements with Iran mediated by China, they may no longer need an American 'policeman'. China has already acted as a successful mediator between Iran and Saudi Arabia, restoring diplomatic relations and promoting itself as a neutral broker. Unlike the USA, Beijing does not impose its values or maintain military forces in the region, offering business and stability instead.

If countries such as Qatar or Bahrain follow Iraq in asking the USA to leave, maintaining military bases in the region by force will become impossible. Peace agreements between Israel and Arab states, including the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, largely depended on American security guarantees under the Abraham Accords. If, however, the USA withdraws, Arab capitals may once again turn towards Iran to avoid confrontation, creating significant challenges for Israel.

Pravda.ru

## Imperialism on the march

by Ekaterina Bliniov

From Libya to Iran the declining West seeks to re-colonise resource-rich nations. That's the view of Dr Alexis Habiaryemye, a visiting professor with the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. The USA has destroyed resource-rich

countries able to chart an autonomous political path – with Libya as a glaring example.

"The USA has never been interested in promoting real democracy," says Habiaryemye. "The CIA coup against Iran's Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953, the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in 1961, the coup against

Salvador Allende, are all examples of US deliberate attack[s] on democratic governments."

While US global power is obviously declining, it will not go down without a fight. "Both the US military and their Western allies are going to openly pursue ruthless actions against any country they perceive as not aligned with their

objective of extending their domination for a few more decades," he warns.

He notes that the Global South should be 'fully prepared' to thwart any attempts at recolonisation. By acting together, nations of the Global South stand a better chance.

"If [US Secretary of State Marco] Rubio's speech in Munich is any

indication, they will not hesitate to recolonise Africa and Latin America," Habiaryemye notes. "They are already colonising Venezuela's oil and are preparing to destroy Cuba."

All resource-rich countries should be aware of this threat, as "the US considers all strategic resources anywhere in the world to be within its control".

While the USA is presently attacking Iran, it hasn't given up its plans to balkanise Russia and undermine China, Habiaryemye believes. "This is actually a warning to Russia and China. Iran's defeat must be avoided at any cost."

Sputnik

## Top talks in Pyongyang!

Relations between Belarus and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are entering a fundamentally new phase, says Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko in Pyongyang. The Belarusian president, who was in the north Korean capital for talks with DPRK leader Kim Jong Un last week, said: "Friendly relations between our states, which originated during the Soviet era, have never been interrupted. Today, as a result of comprehensive progressive development, we are entering a fundamentally new phase. With great delay, but nevertheless, we are entering a



• The two leaders greet the masses in Kim Il Sung Square.

new era."

Although thousands of miles divide them the Be-

larusian and Korean people are united in common interests, such as patriotism,

preservation of historical memory and deep respect for the older generation,

Lukashenko said. "In the current realities of global transformation, when the norms of international law are openly ignored and violated by the powerful of this world, independent countries need to interact more closely, consolidate efforts aimed at protecting their sovereignty and improving the welfare of our citizens."

Kim said that his country expresses solidarity and full support for Belarus, which "seeks to pursue an independent policy corresponding to its reality, achieve peace and development, while continuing to develop relations with traditionally friendly countries". Kim

specifically noted the noteworthy achievements of the Belarusian government and people in protecting sovereign rights and interests, in the security sphere, and in stable economic development.

Kim added that both countries strive to build a multipolar world based on the principles of independence and justice and maintain similar positions on many international agenda issues. The north Korean leader said that this serves as a perspective for the possibility of further expansion of bilateral relations in accordance with the mutual interests of the two countries.

*Sputnik*

## The war of the future is already here

by Emilia Reed

What we are witnessing in Iran is not just another episode of instability in the Middle East; it is a preview of the immediate future of warfare. A future that will no longer be dominated by large military platforms – aircraft carriers, state-of-the-art fighter jets or exorbitantly expensive systems – but by a different logic based on volume, automation, and data.

The prevailing thesis is clear: military superiority no longer depends solely on possessing the most sophisticated weapon, but on deploying large quantities of inexpensive systems, interconnected and guided by artificial intelligence. In this new scenario, a drone costing tens of thousands of dollars can challenge defences costing millions. This fundamentally alters

the classic equation of military power.

The *Washington Post* published a revealing statistic last week. In the first week of the American and Israeli aggression against Iran, drones accounted for nearly 71 per cent of defensive actions. Tehran has demonstrated that it doesn't need to compete on equal technological footing with Washington to build a deterrent capability. It simply needs to mass-produce drones, low-cost missiles and autonomous systems capable of overwhelming enemy defences. This principle, known as 'precise mass', combines sufficient quantity with accuracy, completely altering the cost-effectiveness ratio in combat.

Twenty-first-century warfare is shifting towards an arena where industrial capacity, access to data, and software development

are as crucial as traditional weaponry. Distributed sensors, commercial satellite imagery, communications and artificial intelligence systems enable real-time operational co-ordination without relying on conventional military infra-

structure.

Herein lies a central element that is often overlooked: the historical relationship between technological development and the military-industrial complex. The internet, presented as an emblem of freedom and

global connectivity, was born as an American military project funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Many of the technologies that structure daily life – from advanced computing to artificial intelligence – originate from programmes funded by the US Department of Defense (renamed the Department of War by Trump).

Big tech companies are no strangers to this process. Companies that now dominate entire sectors of the digital economy grew, directly or indirectly, thanks to US military spending. From developments linked to digital animation to massive data analytics platforms such as Palantir, the link between technological innovation and military strategy is structural.

What the conflict with

Iran brings to the forefront is the generalisation of this logic. War is no longer the monopoly of major powers with unlimited budgets. The combination of accessible technology, distributed production and open knowledge allows smaller actors to challenge, at least in part, military supremacy.

But this doesn't herald a safer world. On the contrary, it makes war cheaper, reduces the political costs of initiating it and multiplies the actors capable of waging it. Automation also introduces unprecedented risks, with lethal decisions mediated by algorithms, autonomous systems that are difficult to control and a technological opacity that hinders accountability.

We are facing a historic shift. The war of the future will not only be a matter of weapons, but also of data, networks and algorithms. And, as happened with the internet, what is currently being developed in the military sphere will eventually seep into civilian life, reshaping economies, communications and power relations.

*Granma*

