

Trump talks trade in Beijing summit

by New Worker correspondent

The Middle East truce remains on hold as Donald Trump lands in Beijing for top-level talks with the Chinese leadership. The double blockade of the Persian Gulf continues and the price of oil on the spot market once again soars over the \$100 a barrel mark as Iranian patrol boats clash with the American navy for control of the Strait of Hormuz. And the guns continue to blaze in Lebanon as the Hezbollah militia leads the fight-back to drive the Israelis out of their self-proclaimed “buffer zone” in southern Lebanon.

US President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday evening for a state visit to China, the first US presidential visit to China in almost nine years and Trump’s second since November 2017.

Last year Trump thought his tariffs and sanctions would indeed “Make America Great Again” and restore American hegemony over the entire Western world. Now that policy is in tatters with the knock-on effect of his trade war firing the cost-of-living

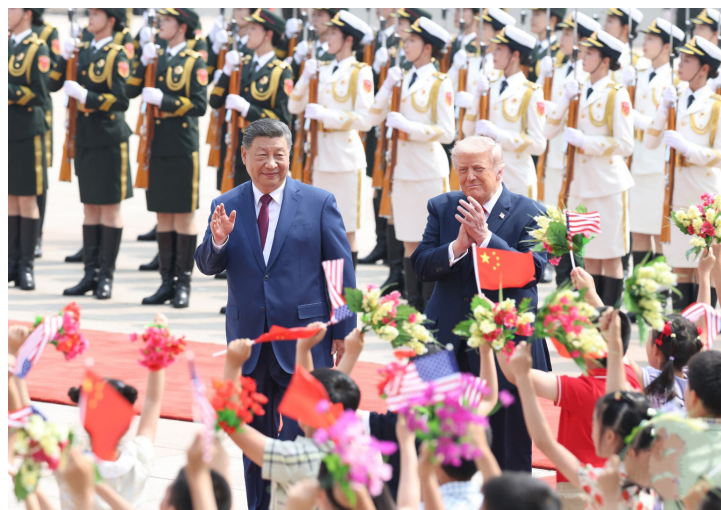
crisis in the USA while the global imperialist camp that the USA once led has been split down the middle by his vacuous threats to take over Canada and Greenland.

The Chinese government opposed the American-led onslaught on Iran from the start, urging both the USA and Israel to cease-fire while their long-standing support for the Palestinians is well-known in Washington and Tel Aviv. But the people’s government is also committed to world peace and is always ready for talks on trade and development.

Trump’s entourage included the CEOs from big US conglomerates such as Tesla’s Elon Musk, Apple’s Tim Cook, BlackRock’s Larry Fink, Boeing’s Kelly Ortberg and Blackstone’s Stephen Schwarzman. And that clearly was top of the agenda when Donald Trump met the Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, this week.

China stands ready to work with the USA to expand co-operation and manage differences in the spirit of equality, respect and mutual benefit, and provide more stability and certainty for a transforming and volatile world. There is broad scope and enormous potential for pragmatic co-operation between China and the USA.

We look forward to deeper exchanges and co-operation between the Chinese and US business communities under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, making new contributions to the stable, sound and sustainable development of China–US



• Xi Jinping and Donald Trump in Beijing.

relations, a spokesperson for China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said on Wednesday. Guided by the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, the two sides upheld the principle of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and win-win co-operation.

At home millions upon millions of Americans pay the price for Trump’s MAGA madness as the price of petrol at the pump soars along with everything else in the shopping malls. Or as the American communist *People’s World* put it “in the midst

of a week where the president continued to tell Americans what they know are lies about his Iran war and bragged about the multi-billion-dollar ballroom for which taxpay-

ers are footing the bill, his National Economic Director Kevin Hassett declared that there is no cause for worry. Hassett correctly said last week credit card spending is “through the roof”, including charges for gasoline and other basic goods and then falsely claimed that this shows a “very, very strong” economy.”

Now, trapped in a war of his own making, Trump clearly hopes to restore his standing at home and abroad in Beijing. Before this pathetic old fraud departed he told reporters that “good things are gonna happen” in China. Trump may well get the trade deals the American ruling class need to boost their flagging economy. Whether they’ll get much out of the Chinese over Iran is, however, doubtful...

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Now the fun begins...

The knives are out. The back-stabbers are at play as the struggle begins anew in the corridors of power within the Labour Party for the key to Number Ten. Sir Keir Starmer says that the UK faces going down “a very dark path” as he pledges to fight on as Prime Minister. And former Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell, a one-time ally of Jeremy Corbyn, says Wes Streeting is planning a stealth coup to move against Starmer to avoid a leadership contest that could include Labour’s ‘King of the North’, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham.

The solid vote for the Scottish and Welsh nationalists in last week’s elections in Scotland and Wales along with the spectacular rise of Reform in the council votes in England spells doom for Keir Starmer and the ageing Blairite crew that has brought Labour to the brink of electoral collapse in recent years.

The results – the collapse of the Labour and Tory vote across the country, sweeping gains for the Faragists and more modest but significant gains for the Greens and the Liberal-Democrats – came as no surprise to the pundits who long ago read the writing on the wall when the Labour leader purged the Corbynistas and drove hundreds of thousands out of Labour’s ranks soon after Starmer became leader in 2020. The likes of Peter Mandelson believed the working class would put up with this and more as they “had nowhere else to go”. They said Labour’s loveless landslide victory, largely due to the Faragist intervention that split the Tory vote, was a vote of confidence in their particular brand of class collaboration that revolved around following what they believed was the dominant trend within the British ruling class, crawling to the Americans and the Zionists, upholding the old Tory austerity programme and carrying on with the stealth privatisation of the NHS.

Many of them clearly believed this rubbish even though reality was staring them in the face as hundreds of thousands took to the streets every month to demonstrate against Israeli aggression and hundreds of thousands more abandoned Labour at the ballot box. Starmer clearly still believes in the old lies – trying to block the Blairites chosen successor and clinging to power when it’s obvious the game’s up.

But just getting rid of Starmer will not revive Labour’s fortunes. Labour needs to accept the inevitability of independence for Scotland and Wales and the re-unification of Ireland. It needs to go beyond the parameters of political debate set by the bourgeoisie that revolve around law and order, immigration and the EU and campaign to win the demands of the union movement that the Labour Party was set up for in the first place back in the early 1900s.

A genuine return to a working class agenda and a commitment to restore the welfare state and the public sector that existed until the Tory come-back in 1979 could win back the traditional Labour vote. That may be a call too far for the Burnham and Rayner camp but it has to be made – inside or outside the Labour Party.

Chinese refutes groundless spy charge claims

by Chen Qingqing

Last week two men were found guilty of “spying for China”, but China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy in the UK have refuted the claims one after another.

By arresting and prosecuting Chinese nationals in the UK without any factual basis and securing the conviction by abusing the law and judicial process, the UK is blatantly endorsing those seeking to destabilise Hong Kong. Such groundless accusations and smears against China are nothing but a typical political stunt, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said in response to a question on the conviction of two men in the UK on charges of conducting espionage activities for China.

The Starmer government approved the plan for China’s new embassy in London in January – but some British agencies involved in intelligence and security affairs still display a noticeable Cold War mentality.

Against the backdrop of improving momentum in China–UK relations, how to properly handle and respond to such alleged “Chinese spy” cases has become a test of the governance wisdom of the administration of the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer.

Chi Leung “Peter” Wai aged 38, and 65 year-old Chung Biu Yuen also known as “Bill”, were found guilty by the jury at London’s Old Bailey of assisting a foreign intelligence service. The *Guardian* claimed that the conviction makes them the first people in British history to be convicted of spying for China.

China strongly deprecates and firmly opposes it and has lodged serious protests against the UK, Lin said. “We urge the UK to rectify its wrongdoings, stop its political manipulation against China, stop emboldening the anti-China, destabilising forces, and preserve the

hard-won positive momentum in China–UK relations,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry official said.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in London said that the Chinese side has made clear its principled position on the relevant case many times. The facts of this case clearly show that this is nothing but a political move of abusing the law and manipulating the judicial process by the UK side. The sole purpose of the trial is to embolden those anti-China elements who are hiding in the UK and bent on destabilising Hong Kong, and to smear the Chinese government and the autonomous Hong Kong government.

“We deplore such an act and have made solemn representations with the UK side. We urge the UK side to immediately stop the anti-China political manipulation, stop backing and emboldening those anti-China elements and stop all acts that smear China and interfere in Hong Kong affairs. We will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard our interests,” the embassy spokesperson said.

During the Cold War relations between the UK, the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies were constrained by the constant arrest of ‘spies’, the search for ‘suspicious individuals’ and the construction of related accusations. Today in the UK this Cold War mentality remains quite evident amongst some members of Parliament and certain government departments says Cui Hongjian, a professor at the Academy of Regional and Global Governance at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Over the last few years British security services and intelligence agencies have been hyping up so-called “spying activities” from China. But some cases have been dropped because the British government failed to provide the evidence to back up the alle-

gations. For instance, charges against two men accused of spying for China were suddenly dropped in September 2025 because prosecutors could not obtain critical evidence from the government that Beijing represented a “threat to the national security of the UK”.

The actions of certain departments in the UK will undermine the current momentum of China–UK relations, which had been moving from easing tension towards more positive developments, Cui noted. “Against such a backdrop, how the Starmer administration handles and responds to similar so-called ‘Chinese spy’ cases is a test of its governing wisdom,” he said.

Despite such challenges arising in China–UK relations, Reuters reported on Friday that a cross-party delegation of British parliamentarians will visit China this month for the first time since 2019, citing two sources familiar with the preparations. The report said this is a sign of warming ties since a visit in January by Starmer.

“In such a complex environment, the key is strengthening the ability of both sides to resist interference, because with every step forward in China–UK relations, their capacity to withstand and balance negative factors will become stronger,” he added.

Global Times

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Workers' Notes

Why is Starmer's government so unpopular?

Voters have taken out their frustrations on the British prime minister after two years of failure and broken promises. Sir Keir Starmer led the Labour Party to a landslide win in 2024. Since then, his approval rating has plummeted and he's suffered one defeat after another. But what is it about Starmer that's so uniquely unpopular?

Labour's victory in the general election of 2024 was the party's best result in more than two decades. Ending 14 years of Conservative rule, the election swept Starmer into Downing Street with a 174-seat majority and a level of public goodwill that none of his Tory predecessors had enjoyed.

How unpopular is Starmer?

The honeymoon period was brief. Within a month of the election, Starmer's net approval rating fell from plus seven to zero, with 52 per cent of Britons telling Ipsos that they felt the country was heading "in the wrong direction". According to YouGov, his net approval now sits at -48 on their polling scale (not a percentage), making him the least popular prime minister in recent history.

After losing 187 local council seats in England last year, Labour is on track to lose around 1,800 when counting concludes on Saturday, in another round of local elections that are being viewed as a referendum on his leadership.

Calls for Starmer's resignation are coming not just from his opposition – including the triumphant Nigel

May Day in London

by
New Worker
correspondent

London's Irish republican community joined thousands of others taking part in the capital's May Day march held on bank holiday Monday to mark the start of the historic General Strike of 1926.

The theme of the march through central London was 'Workers Make History', celebrating 100 years since the General Strike. It began outside the Marx Memorial Library in Clerkenwell Green and ended, as always, in a rally

in Trafalgar Square.

The annual London May Day march and rally, more of a procession rather than a march, has become part of the capital's traditions.

It passed without incident, apart from a couple of provocations from Iranian royalists who snatched the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a further clash between these supporters of the hated Shah that led to two arrests as the march got near to Trafalgar Square.

Farage's Reform UK – but from within his own party. According to *The Times*, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband urged Starmer to begin "planning his resignation" weeks ago in order to avoid a painful period of public infighting after the elections.

In his first address to the nation after taking office in 2024, Starmer announced that his government had "discovered a £22 billion black hole in the public finances" and would have to make "unpopular decisions" to fix it. This translated into the fastest rising tax rates in the developed world, according to the OECD.

Starmer hiked income and dividend taxes by two per cent, increased national insurance (NI) taxes paid by employers, and raised property taxes. Between July 2024 and November 2025, Starmer's government imposed a new tax or increased an old one every 10 days, according to the Taxpayers' Alliance.

The prime minister's Conservative predecessors presided over an historic decline in British living standards and a rise in energy costs and inflation, both of which soared after the UK cut itself off from Russian fossil fuels in 2022. Voters expecting Starmer to ease this burden were left short-changed, however, with the PM announcing sweeping welfare cuts last year. Public outcry forced Starmer to roll back some of these cuts, in-

cluding a deeply unpopular slashing of the winter fuel allowance for pensioners.

"We had 14 years of Conservative austerity," Green Party leader Zack Polanski told reporters on Friday. "Keir Starmer was voted in on a promise of change and, actually, what we've seen is very little change, and in many ways things have got worse."

Two-Tier Keir

If Starmer's tax hikes and welfare cuts angered the left, his response to a spate of anti-immigration riots in late 2024 infuriated the right. Hundreds of British citizens were arrested for making anti-immigrant social media posts, and violent criminals were released from prison early so that rioters and those supporting them online could be jailed.

Starmer was drawn into a public spat with X owner Elon Musk, who referred to the PM as "two-tier Keir" over his apparent prioritisation of speech crimes over real ones. His pushing of the Online Safety Bill, which critics say will further stifle free speech in Britain, then drew the ire of US Vice President JD Vance, who told Starmer to his face that "there have been infringements on free speech that affect not just the British... but also affect American technology companies and by extension, American citizens".



These issues, coupled with Starmer's failure to reduce illegal immigration, helped Reform UK emerge as the big winner on Friday, picking up at least 1,200 seats.

Palestine on the ballot

After ousting Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader in 2020, Starmer dropped all of Corbyn's pro-Palestine policies. Whereas Corbyn was a member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and supported a boycott on goods from occupied Palestinian territories, Starmer refused demands from within his party to call for a ceasefire in Gaza in late 2023, and publicly affirmed Israel's right to cut off power and water to the strip's two million residents.

Starmer has since reversed his position, and now backs a ceasefire and two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, but left-wing and Muslim voters have abandoned his party in droves over his listing of 'Palestine Action' as a terrorist organisation, the arrests of thousands of protesters for voicing support for that said organisation, and his calls for "policing of language" and banning of anti-Israel protests.

The Green Party has made the Palestinian issue a central part of its platform and won a crucial by-election in Man-

chester earlier this year by courting Muslim voters. "Palestine is one of the elements on the ballot," Polanski said ahead of last week's elections. "I think lots of people feel very strongly both about their local services – as they should do – and feel equally strongly that a reprehensible genocide is happening."

The Epstein connection

Few scandals smeared Starmer's reputation as thoroughly as the Mandelson affair. Peter Mandelson served as Starmer's ambassador to the USA between February and September 2025, when he was dismissed over his long-standing relationship with paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein. Starmer was apparently aware of Mandelson's ties to Epstein when he appointed him envoy but was forced to fire him after emails emerged in which Mandelson called Epstein his "best pal" and encouraged him to "fight for early release" from prison in 2008.

Mandelson was arrested in February and is currently being investigated for lobbying on behalf of Epstein in the late 2000s and leaking classified information to the notorious sex offender. Starmer's chief of staff, Morgan McSweeney, took the blame for appointing

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

a known associate of Epstein and resigned in February.

The bottom line

Starmer's policy record is enough to account for the surge in support for left- and right-wing alternatives on Friday. After two years of Labour leadership, Britons are poorer, less free and more divided.

His policy failures, however, are only one aspect of his unpopularity. The Labour leader also inspires a level of visceral, gut-level hatred unseen in modern British politics: he's been described by commentators as "useless and lacking in charisma", "empty, brittle, [and] wooden", and endured chants of "Keir Starmer is a wanker" from right-wing and left-wing crowds alike.

Within Labour, figures such as Ed Miliband likely think that they can win back support by distancing themselves from Starmer and appointing a new figurehead to sell their message. Polanski and Farage both think that the time has passed, as has the traditional Labour/Conservative duopoly. Farage told reporters that Friday's results represent "a complete reshaping of British politics in every way", while Polanski said that "the new politics is the Green Party vs Reform".

RT

Honouring the fallen on Victory Day

by
New Worker
correspondent

As part of the Russian embassy's ongoing memorial activities, Russian diplomats laid flowers on the graves of Soviet servicemen buried in Shaftesbury, Tidworth and Aldershot on 9th May Victory Day – the day of the final surrender of the Third Reich in the Second World War.

Such visits are conducted on a regular basis. Together with members of the Russian

ex-pat community in Britain the Russian embassy systematically inspects and help maintain military burial sites across the UK ensuring they are properly cared for.

Preserving the memory of those who gave their lives in defence of the Soviet Union is not only a moral duty, but also a matter of historical justice – one that must remain above political expediency.



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

12th May 2006

THE MORE pressure is put on Blair to step down, the more he digs his heels in.

Last Thursday's local election results were a damning verdict on Blair's premiership, with the Tories returning to power in local government throughout the country where many hoped they had been long dead and buried.

A few years ago there was hardly a Tory local authority in the country. Now they predominate, with no-overall-control councils coming second. In inner London only a handful of councils remain Labour. In total, Labour

lost 317 seats and 18 councils.

Many people will suffer from the policies of right-wing local authorities – especially council house tenants whose homes are likely to be transferred to the private sector.

Although Blair had pushed for the privatisation of local services, some Labour councils had dragged their heels – to the benefit of local residents. Many of them have been thrown out for no fault of their own but because they were betrayed by Blair and his henchmen.

This is the price the working class is paying for Blair's arrogance and stubbornness. Some of the defeated Labour councillors around the country made their feelings very clear.

Abdul Sattar-Butt from Brent said: "Muslim voters here told me I should be ashamed of the Labour Party. They said Labour's hands are covered in blood. Muslim workers, even Muslim children, have told me that."

The day after the disastrous but well predicted election

results Blair set about a dramatic reshuffle of his Cabinet. All his moves plainly signalled that he was entrenching himself, at the expense of party unity.

Left Labour MP Glenda Jackson pointed out that he missed the most important reshuffle of all – himself.

Even MPs such as Nick Raynsford, once a loyal Blairite, are telling him it is time to go. A letter signed by 50 MPs was delivered to Blair demanding that he set a timetable for his orderly departure.

These were not the left-wing backbenchers known as "the usual suspects" but many former Blairites. This initiative came from New Labourites who are terrified that if Blair does not agree to go quietly, the transition to Gordon Brown taking power will not be smooth. They are afraid of a real, open battle for the leadership of the party that could consign the whole concept of 'New Labour' to the history books and move the party significantly to the left.

The Epstein class: the other ‘lizard people’

by
Ramzy Baroud

When David Icke wrote his seminal work, *The Biggest Secret: The Book That Will Change the World*, published in 1999, he was not speaking metaphorically. When he detailed the “reptilian genetic streams” of “elite” families – human-reptile hybrids allegedly engineering global events – he literally meant it. To Icke, the world is not run by mere men, but by an inter-dimensional species operating just outside the visible light spectrum.

While many scoff at this as the ultimate apex of human gullibility, millions have found a dark comfort in Icke’s ‘wisdom’. According to a landmark 2013 poll by Public Policy Polling (PPP), roughly four per cent of American adults – between 12 and 13 million people – actually believed that shape-shifting lizard people control our world.

Conspiracy theories in the USA occupy a wide spectrum of beliefs. While the ‘Reptilian’ theory sits at the fringe, other theories command mainstream traction. According to that same study, 51 per cent of Americans believed a larger conspiracy was behind the JFK assassination, 37 per cent viewed global warming as a hoax and 29 per cent were certain that aliens exist.

Recently, these fringe ideas have drifted towards official discourse. In 2021, former President Barack Obama told *The Late Late Show* host James Corden that “there’s footage and records of objects in the skies, that we don’t know exactly what they are” and later stated in 2026 that aliens are “real”. This was followed by a statement by Donald Trump who declared that he will begin “the process of identifying and releasing government files related to alien and extraterrestrial life”.



This rhetorical tug-of-war has effectively moved the ‘extra-terrestrial’ conversation from the realm of the tabloid to the halls of mainstream politics.

The most significant shift in public scepticism didn’t come from space however, but from a private island. The Epstein Files – the documented evidence of a shadow network operated by Jeffrey Epstein – unveiled a web of influential statesmen, corporate titans and intelligence assets. To those who believed in a ‘New World Order’ conspiracy back in 2013 (then 28 per cent of the population), the millions of documents released through the US Department of Justice proceedings provided a grim validation. They pointed to a shadow government operating entirely outside the confines of democratic accountability.

The specific crimes of Jeffrey Epstein are now a matter of public record, thanks to the tireless efforts of survivors and investigative journalists. But for political science, the Epstein saga represents a ‘Galileo moment’. It is the realisation that our institutions are not the centre of the political universe but are often satellites orbiting private elite

interests.

Historically, we have been taught to view the world through a few primary lenses: Realism, which focuses on state-on-state power and national security; Liberalism, which champions international institutions and the “rule of law”; and Dependency Theory, which highlights the economic exploitation of the “Periphery”, the developing nations, by the “Core”, the wealthy nations.

Under these frameworks, we analysed the Nixon era through Realpolitik, the Clinton years through Liberal Internationalism, and the Bush years through Neo-conservatism. But the Epstein network challenges all of them. This is no longer about Core vs Periphery or ‘containment’ vs ‘pre-emptive war’.

Traditional theory assumes leaders act on behalf of their citizens. The Epstein files suggest a different reality: a secretive social contract bound by mutual vulnerability and blackmail. In this system, shared secrets are a more stable currency than gold or votes. We are witnessing the rise of the ‘Transnational Elite Theory’. This framework suggests the true ‘State’ is a

borderless network of high-net-worth individuals who share more in common with each other than with the citizens of their own countries.

These ‘sovereign individuals’ fly above national laws in private jets, moving assets through jurisdictional gaps that the average citizen cannot see. They don’t just influence the law; they exist in the grey zones in between. For decades, victims spoke out, but mainstream institutions marginalised them. In the chessboard of power, they were too insignificant to matter. The failure of oversight bodies wasn’t a glitch – it was evidence of a system repurposed to function as a support system for the elite.

The implications for our future understanding of power are profound. If the primary driver of high-level policy is no longer the ballot box or

national interest, but rather the preservation of opaque, transnational networks, then our current democratic models are essentially obsolete. We are forced to admit that the political theatre we witness daily – the debates, the elections and the legislative battles – may merely be a superficial layer designed to distract from the deeper, darker mechanics of the global hierarchy.

Furthermore, this paradigm shift suggests that the ‘marginalised’ of the world are not just those in impoverished nations, but anyone excluded from this high-networked social contract. The divide is no longer strictly between the Core and the Periphery of nation-states, but between the networked elite and the disconnected public.

Now that the public sees the liberal world order as a system that applies rules only to the un-networked, it has lost its moral authority. While the old theories remain useful for understanding the history of politics, they cannot explain its current state. The elites are a powerful network capable of acting against their own governments’ national interests to achieve political power, private leverage and wealth.

Perhaps the literal ‘lizard people’ have yet to be revealed in the sense that Icke tirelessly promotes. But as the Epstein saga proves, a predatory, cold-blooded and non-accountable elite is no longer a theory – it is a documented reality.

People’s World
(USA)

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Stand by Cuba!

by Robert Crooks

We need to be clear: solidarity with the Cuban people means supporting the Cuban government.

On 17th April Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Canadian foreign ministry, announced that they would be sending a meagre \$5.5 million worth of medical and food supplies to the Pan-American Health Organisation and the World Food Programme in Cuba. The package will also include fuel to help distribute the aid on the island.

In February Canada sent an \$8 million aid package to Cuba via UNICEF, and the GAC claims that “Canada works through experienced and trusted organisations to ensure that assistance reaches the Cuban people directly, particularly the most vulnerable”.

The subtle distrust embedded in the Canadian government’s communications regarding Cuba is reproduced in Canada’s dominant media outlets. It implies a division between the Cuban government and the Cuban people, and the suggested inability of the former to meet the needs of the latter. If the decades-long genocidal blockade is mentioned at all, it is treated as secondary to Havana’s presumed ineptitude.

This attitude inevitably seeps into the solidarity movement. Canadians who donate to material aid drives do so to help people who are suffering conditions beyond their control. This does not necessarily mean that donors understand who is responsible for the humanitarian crisis perturbing their conscience.



• No to the blockade!

Aid against the blockade

For 24 years, the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) has been sending shipping containers of aid to Cuba. Since Trump’s energy blockade began in February, the CNC has been sending multiple containers a month, including three in April 2026 alone. This is possible thanks to the support of the network’s two dozen member groups and the generosity of progressive people in Canada.

The shipment of aid to Cuba is co-ordinated through the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (ICAP), which is a branch of Cuba’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With increased donations to its campaigns comes more questions about the CNC’s partnership with the Cuban government: What about government corruption? Are there observers in Cuba to ensure the aid

reaches the people? How can donors be sure that the aid doesn’t end up on the black market?

Friends of Cuba who wish to work through official channels must be able to confidently answer these questions.

The underground market in Cuba is a product of the American blockade. Fidel once used the example of someone who privately brings “10 kilograms of medicine” into Cuba as a solution to the state’s lack of resources. “It is seen as a formula for help” he explained “but it becomes a source of the [underground] market.”

Medical aid delivered to the government is distributed to clinics and hospitals where it is most needed. If the aid circumvents the government, it is more likely to end up in the hands of an individual who may choose to sell it rather than to put it to direct use. Were it not for the blockade, all the required medications

would be available in subsidised pharmacies, voiding their re-sale value.

Long road to equality

Having the Cuban government take the blame for deprivations caused by the blockade is precisely the point of American strategy. In his infamous memo from 1960, Lester D Mallory sketched a strategy to cause “disenchantment and disaffection” and turn the people against the Revolution.

The blockade aims to break the unity that the US government begrudgingly recognises to exist. It is a constant struggle waged by the Cuban people for unity against the divisive forces of the blockade.

Take racial disparities in Cuba, for example. Fidel lamented that ending legal racism didn’t defeat racism altogether. What he came

to see was how the economic conditions caused by the blockade perpetuate colonial legacies.

White Cubans were typically better off than Black Cubans before the Revolution. More white Cubans therefore fled to places like the USA. Since Cuba decided to open up its economy to family remittances in foreign currencies, this has consequently benefited white Cubans more than Black Cubans.

In the 1990s, Cuba re-opened to tourism, a decision they did not take lightly. The state entered into partnerships with foreign capitalists to build and operate tourist infrastructure such as hotels and resorts. But these foreign companies arrived with their racist baggage into Cuba, disproportionately hiring white Cubans for positions that interface directly with tourists, granting access to tips in US dollars. The Cuban state has ejected corporations from the island for these kinds of

discriminatory practices, but the risks remain.

What is Cuban democracy?

The common wisdom in liberal societies is that Cuba can’t be democratic because it is a one-party state. More devious politicians and media figures won’t even allow leadership to fall to a party. They call it “Castro’s Cuba”, as if Fidel and now Raul omnipotently control every aspect of Cuban society. It reduces the aspirations of a nation to the will of one person, erasing the agency of an entire people.

To liberal thinking, democracy is the free market of politics. The basis of a functioning free market is competition, and politics is a competition for your vote. If there are not multiple parties competing for your vote, it is not democracy.

This relegation of the elector to such a passive role is completely alien to Cuban democracy. Fair and free elections take place regularly in Cuba without interference from the Communist Party. Each of the municipal, provincial and national assemblies in the country are elected by direct popular vote. But Cuban democracy goes much deeper than elections.

For socialist Cuba, democracy is not the choice between competing parties. Politics isn’t about winners and losers. It is a process of synthesising viewpoints and building consensus. The government, civil society organisations and everyday people all

actively contribute to the ongoing construction of political unity on the island.

Unity has been a cornerstone of Cuba's struggle for self-determination since José Martí wrote about his impression of the democratic process in the USA. Dividing the Cuban people into different parties weakened the common struggle against colonialism, just as the Democrats and Republicans divide the working class into two parties that represent the interests of competing capitalists.

The defeat of the Batista dictatorship in 1959 was prefaced on the deal made between the July 26th Movement, the Revolutionary Directorate and the Popular Socialist Party to combine the tactics of guerilla war, urban sabotage and general strike. Together these three organisations would go on to unite as the Communist Party of Cuba.

"It was an enormous victory for us to achieve that revolutionary unity," Fidel said in a 1992 interview. "It is the United States that has always tried to divide the people, divide forces, divide everything."

Participation of the masses

Consider the Cuban constitution, the document that defines the legal framework of the country.

In 1975, a draft constitution was proposed by the National Assembly. Over six million people, out of a population of 9.5 million, were involved in consultations resulting in 60 per cent of the document being revised. The amended version was adopted

with 96 per cent of eligible voter approval.

In 1992, the Constitution was amended to expand the democratic processes in response to the economic crisis that followed in the wake of the overthrow of socialism in the Soviet Union. In 2002, George W Bush said that the US blockade would remain in place until Cuba abandons socialism, prompting eight million Cubans to sign a constitutional amendment making socialism legally irrevocable.

Cuba undertook a year's worth of public consultations for the Constitution they ratified in 2019. Eight million people made 800,000 suggestions resulting in 760 revisions, amending more than half the document. Seventy-four per cent of all eligible voters voted in favour of the final draft.

Out of this process also came the 2022 Families Code and the 2024 Code on Children, Adolescents and Youth. These two documents are included among the most progressive laws in the world, enshrining love as the legal basis for family bonds and protecting the agency of young people in determining their own lives.

Discussions on these issues were accompanied by a massive education campaign to ensure the debates reflected a factually informed and not a prejudiced understanding of the issues.

Education is a key pillar to the Revolution. Prior to 1959, illiteracy in Cuba was 23 per cent and only 56 per cent of children went to school. Within two years, illiteracy had been eradicated, and by 1986 every school-aged child was receiving institutional education. Education is not only a human right, it also helps equip the people to run their own country.

The Special Period

The overthrow of the Soviet Union in the 1990s caused Cuba's gross domestic product to fall by 35 per cent as they lost 70 per cent of their markets. Cuba's oil supply fell from 13 million tons to 5.8 million, and three billion roubles-worth of Soviet imports were not received. This downturn is known as the "Special Period in the Time of Peace".

The US government took this opportunity to tighten the blockade by passing the 1992 Torricelli Act and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act. Section 109 of the Helms-Burton Act pledges support and financial aid to opposition forces in Cuba. Like in any other country, taking money from foreign actors for the purpose of overthrowing the political order is illegal in Cuba, as are actions such as arson and attacking police officers.

Nobody in Cuba is in

prison for their political beliefs; so-called "political prisoners" have been incarcerated for criminal offences.

The long list of terrorist acts committed by the USA or US-funded Cuban reactionaries is well-documented. But even in their darkest hour, Cuban authorities never used these violent attacks as an excuse to tighten their grip on power and consolidate their hold over civil society, as you would expect from an authoritarian regime.

Cuba did the opposite. It further decentralised decision making, strengthening necessary reforms through popular consultation.

The workers' parliaments that Cuba convened in the 1990s should inspire any labour activist who takes workers' control seriously. Three and a half million working people from 80,000 union sections took part in these parliaments. In response to the worst economic crisis that the Revolution had faced up to that point,

the workers decided how to make their enterprises more efficient, how to increase productivity, how to improve national self-sufficiency and how to boost morale.

"A fundamental principle of the workers' parliaments," explains Pedro Ross, the general secretary of the Workers Central Union of Cuba (CTC), "was that the workers are the owners."

It wasn't only unions that took part in this process. The Cuban Federation of Women, the Committees in Defence of the Revolution, the National Association of Small Farmers and the Federation of University Students all played key roles in this island-wide project calling on the people of Cuba to fortify the Revolution against economic collapse.

As a result, Cuba avoided neo-liberal policies and protected the core pillars of the Revolution: education, public healthcare and social security.

In defence of the Revolution

Today, conditions in Cuba are much worse than they were during the Special Period. And Cuba continues to rely on the ingenuity and creativity of the people to weather the storm.

Popular consultations on how to protect the country have been ongoing. Since this past October, over 76,000 meetings have been held in which over 140,000 proposals have been made. The objective is to minimise the impact of this crisis on the Cuban people and figure out how to use the country's internal resources to increase economic activity.

As President Díaz-

Canel recently reminded us, democracy is not abstract but concrete in Cuba. The government will continue to serve the needs of the people, while "seeking solutions through unity and collective contribution".

To someone who has only ever known liberal democracy, the absence of an opposition is a seemingly obvious sign of an undemocratic state. But what would an opposition in Cuba oppose? The participatory process that engages the entire population in the country's governance? An education system that ensures the highest levels of schooling are accessible to all? A universal healthcare system that puts Canada's system to shame?

The Revolution of 1959 wrested control of the country's economy from foreign capital and placed the country in the hands of the people. To assume an antagonistic division between the people and the government is to deny the agency of the people in carrying out the Revolution.

It's not just that the people of Cuba support the Revolution – the people are the Revolution!

Robert Crooks is a long-time Cuba solidarity activist and a member of the Canadian Network on Cuba executive.



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LETTERS

As the crisis of capitalism intensifies so must the class struggle. With their economies falling into recession, the Western world faces an uncertain future. The USA seeks to curtail trade with People's China and in doing so also harms its capitalist rivals. The irreconcilable contradictions of capitalism combined with severing cheap energy supplies from Russia and blindly obstructing trade with China has led to disaster for America's allies, particularly in Europe. With no clear plans for the future, except to support US hegemony, these so-called leaders continue with an unbelievable level of incompetence and a bizarre level of denial. One thing is certain; they will continue to put the burden of failure on the shoulders of ordinary working-class people.

While always blaming others for their failings the British ruling class will use the economic crisis to coerce the working class to accept lower wages, inferior pensions and big cuts in the social wage. This means increased exploitation for workers as they see their real incomes fall, retirement ages rise and social provision reduced. As conditions worsen the police may be encouraged to turn a blind eye to racist groups while stepping up harassment of left-wing protests and rallies for peace. The combination of economic and political circumstances has convinced the ruling class that they

cannot rule in the old way.

It is against this background that the class struggle must take place. We no longer have a strong labour movement and the Labour Party has, as it has done many times, betrayed working people. We must rebuild from the grass-roots. To organise and educate the masses. To build their confidence and expectations. To show that a better more stable, peaceful and democratic way forward is possible. One without forever wars, greed, corruption and an obsession for making money. And an effective way forward is to build *New Worker* groups up and down the country.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Hind Rajab was a five year old girl who was murdered by Israeli soldiers in Gaza on the 29th January 2024. The 3rd of May 2026 would have been Hind's eighth birthday.

Hind Rajab, along with members of her extended family, was fleeing Gaza City when an Israeli tank fired at their car, killing her aunt, uncle and her four cousins. Before she died, 15-year-old Layan managed to call the Palestinian Emergency Services. Bursts of gunfire then rang out, killing Layan. The emergency services called back and Hind, terrified, answered. For three hours she, surrounded by her murdered family, lay on the floor of the car; pleading for help, as the emergency services frantically sought Israeli permission to rescue her. Finally, when it arrived, the Red Crescent ambulance was struck by an American-made MH30AI missile, killing the two paramedics inside.

After 12 days Hind's decomposed body and the bodies of her family and the two paramedics were finally retrieved. The ambulance was a burnt-out

shell, and the car had been riddled with 335 bullets.

Hind's last hours are recounted in the Oscar-nominated film *The voice of Hind Rajab*. It is important to remember, with love, an innocent child who was executed in a genocide by Israel and, in which, Britain was complicit.

The export of military equipment requires an official licence from the government. According to analysis of official figures by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT), Britain licensed arms sales to Israel worth £488 million between April 2015 and September 2023. This sum includes "technology for military radars", components for targeting equipment and components for military aircraft. But this is an underestimate. The £488 million excludes exports using (rather opaque) open licences, under which components for the F-35 – the Stealth fighter aircraft that has played a major role in pummelling Gaza – are sold.

Peter Osborne, in his book *Complicit*, also points out that Israel has used F-35s in Gaza since October 2023. In July 2024, an F-35 dropped three 2,000-pound bombs on Al-Mawasi in Khan Yunis. Israel had designated this area a 'safe zone' and instructed civilians to move there. Ninety people were killed. Britain supplies spare parts for the F-35, enabling them to continue their use. According to CAAT, the F-35 is "almost certainly the single largest and most important part of Britain's arms trade with Israel".

**A McKerl
Fife**

Every anti-racist should be appalled by the rise in anti-Semitic attacks, including the horrific stabbing in Golders Green. Anti-Semitism must be fought wherever it appears.

We stand in solidarity with Jewish communities. But what we are now witnessing is a cynical attempt to weaponise the attack.

Keir Starmer, the police, the media and politicians of all shades are using the attack to whip up Islamophobia against Muslims. Racist Nigel Farage gave an opportunist speech at Golders Green, attacking Muslims.

They are also using it to attempt to ban and silence the Palestine movement. This is an attack on the fundamental rights to protest and free speech and must be opposed. Opposing the genocide in Gaza is not anti-Semitism.

There is also no clamour to ban fascist Tommy Robinson's demonstration on 16th May – one led by a fascist who encourages racist attacks, Islamophobia, and espouses the anti-Semitic 'Great Replacement' theory.

We have to build unity against all racist attacks. That means confronting racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the far-right – not fuelling the same division that leads to them.

On 16th May, we will march united for Palestine and to oppose fascist Tommy Robinson. Join us on the streets. Be there in central London. Bring your friends, family and workmates.

We've shown what's possible. When half a million people came onto the streets at the Together Alliance march, we proved we are not outnumbered. Now we do it again. When they mobilise, we mobilise bigger!

**Stand Up To Racism
London**

On 16th November 2015, the American left paper *Workers' World* published an interview with Margot Honecker who had been

continued on page 9...

Diary

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

UNTIL 10 JUNE

National Theatre of Scotland: *Stand & Deliver: The Lee Jeans Sit-in*. Touring play of Scotland celebrating the 1981 Greenock women workers' sit-in. Book on NTS website.

UNTIL 18 OCT

'Comrades in Art: Artists Against Fascism' exhibition, on the anti-fascist Artists International Association. The Towner Eastbourne, Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne BN21 4JJ.

THUR 21 MAY

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: No Nuclear War: Protest the expiry of New START. 12:00–14:00. US Embassy, 33 Nine Elms Lane, Nine Elms, London SW11 7US.

SAT 23 MAY

Red Book Fairs Collective: Merseyside Marxist Book Fair. 10:00–16:00. The Casa, 29 Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BQ.

SUN 24 MAY

Morning Star Scotland: Summer Conference, Looking Beyond Holyrood. 12:00–16:00. STUC, 8 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow G40 1BP.

THURS 28 MAY

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: Part-Time Work in the Post-War Years Day Nurseries. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 30 MAY

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Unveiling of plaque for Clive Branson. 12:00. 310 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 3HU.

SAT 6 JUNE

Socialist History Society: AGM (13:00) and Book launch of Donald Sassoon's *Revolutions: A New History* (14:00). MML, 37A Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

MON 8 JUN

Solaris (1972 Soviet sci-fi film). 14:30. Prince Charles Cinema, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY.

WED 10 JUN

RMT: Garden Party for Cuba. 18:30. Maritime House, Clapham Old Town, London SW4 0JW. Tickets £20.00. Book on Cuba Solidarity Campaign website.

SAT 13 JUN

Society for the Study of Labour History: John Goodridge on "Reading by glow worm: the struggles of labouring-class poets". 14:00–15:30. In person. John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH.

SAT 13–SUN 21 JUN

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: End the Siege of Cuba. Cuban Friendship Institute speaking tour: London, Derby, Nottingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Oxford and Bristol. See CSC website for full details.

SAT 20 JUN

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

SAT 20 JUN

Stop the War Coalition: International Meeting Against War. 12:00. Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH.

THURS 25 JUN

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: The Ford Dagenham Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 27 JUN

TUC Midlands: Women Chain-makers Festival. 11:00–16:00. Mary Macarthur Gardens, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, Sandwell B64 5BG.

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

...continued from page 8

Education Minister in the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

She celebrated the achievements in the GDR under socialism. There was equality for women. Care for children and the elderly “was the law”. Medical care was free. Cultural and leisure facilities were affordable. Social security was a “matter of course”. And we “knew no beggars or homelessness”.

Honecker conceded that despite the “sense of solidarity” it was “not a paradise”. There were “shortcomings in supply, deficits in social life which led to dissatisfaction”.

She insists however, that the activities of the Stasi were “necessary” because from the start the GDR was under attack. There was “sabotage” and “infiltration by agents”. Plus she maintained that the construction of the Berlin Wall helped prevent a further war.

**Alan Stewart
Wakefield**

The New Communist Party of Yugoslavia (NCPY) expresses its deep concern over the increasingly visible and aggressive manifestations of the neo-fascist Ustasha movement and other ideological successors of the defeated forces of the Second World War across the territory of the former SFR Yugoslavia.

In recent years, we have witnessed frequent attacks on monuments and memorial sites dedicated to fighters of the anti-fascist and partisan movement, both in Croatia and in Serbia. These attacks are not isolated incidents, but dangerous symptoms of a profound social and moral crisis that has persisted since the violent destruction of Yugoslavia during the 1990s.

We especially point to the latest act of vandalism at the Memorial Cemetery in Slobostina near Požega,

where a memorial plaque was destroyed and Ustasha slogans were written.

In this place, the Ustasha killed 1,368 people during the Second World War – refugees from Kozara, victims of the joint offensive against the people and partisans on that mountain, as well as the local inhabitants from the Požega area who accepted and helped them. The desecration of such a site represents not only an attack on the anti-fascist heritage, but also an attempt at historical revisionism and the rehabilitation of criminal ideologies.

The sad images of destroyed and desecrated monuments demonstrate that state institutions are failing to provide a clear, concrete and systematic response, despite the fact that official authorities declaratively invoke anti-fascism. It is unacceptable that attacks on monuments dedicated to victims of fascism and the People’s Liberation Struggle are treated merely as ordinary acts of vandalism without confronting the ideology that stands behind them.

Particularly alarming is the fact that in Croatia, such acts send a message that there is no place for diversity, for the memory of the common anti-fascist struggle of the peoples of Yugoslavia, nor for those who oppose historical revisionism and the rehabilitation of Ustasha ideology.

The New Communist Party of Yugoslavia believes that the response to such phenomena cannot consist solely of fines and formal condemnations that conceal the essence of the problem. What is necessary is systematic education based on historical truth, the development of an anti-fascist culture of remembrance, and a clear opposition to every form of chauvinism, national hatred and the rehabilitation of fascist movements.

Anti-fascism is not merely a matter of the past, but the foundation of

a civilised and free society. Silence in the face of neo-fascism means complicity.

The NCPY will continue to consistently fight for the preservation of the anti-fascist heritage, the brotherhood of peoples, and the historical truth about the People’s Liberation Struggle.

**New Communist Party of Yugoslavia
Belgrade**

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Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

Supporters of the anti-fascist resistance in Ukraine joined a several thousand-strong march through the streets of Glasgow on May Day under the banners of Unison Scotland, Glasgow Trades Council and Unite the Union’s hospital sector.

They handed out leaflets against British support for the Zelensky regime and against the NATO war on Russia.

In what was one of the largest May Day marches seen in Glasgow in recent years, local unions and solidarity campaigns marched to the beat of the St Francis Pipe Band and the Unite Scotland Kinneil Band at the rally organised by the Glasgow Trades Council to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1926 General Strike and celebrate the power of the unions and the working class. There they heard a number of speakers, including the

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RMT’s Eddie Dempsey and Brian Leishman, the left Labour MP for Alloa & Grangemouth.

Suki Sangha, the chair of Glasgow Trades Union Council, said: “100 years ago, Glasgow’s working class were preparing for one of the greatest recorded acts of mass solidarity. Today, mainstream politicians

are failing to understand and address the issues destroying the lives of working-class people. We are in the fight of our lives, and it is once again left to the trade union movement in our workplaces and communities to promote the interests of our class and hold politicians of any brand to account.”



Remember their sacrifice!

by
New Worker
correspondent

Millions of Russians took to the streets on Saturday to celebrate Victory Day and the surrender of the Third Reich on 9th May 1945. Every year, the Russian Federation celebrates the victorious end of the Second World War with parades and processions across the country while similar tributes to the millions of Soviet soldiers and citizens who died in the struggle to defeat the Nazis were held in much of the former Soviet Union, Europe and the rest of the world. And on Saturday comrades joined diplomats, solidarity campaigners and members of the Russian ex-pat community for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soviet War Memorial in London to mark the 81st anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. Wreaths were laid on



• Andrei Kelin, the Russian ambassador, pays tribute to the fallen.

Saturday 9th May at the Soviet War Memorial in

Lambeth to honour the 27 million Soviet citizens

and service members who died in what the Russians

call the Great Patriotic War that ended in 1945

with the Soviet flag over the Brandenburg Gate and Hitler dead in his bunker in Berlin.

The solemn commemoration brought together ambassadors and diplomats from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, alongside members of the Russian-speaking community as well as British communists and anti-fascist campaigners who came to pay their respects to the fallen.

The memorial in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park next to the Imperial War Museum, unveiled in 1999, honours the millions of Soviet citizens who lost their lives in the fight against Nazism during the Second World War. The block of rare crimson quartzite was mined in Karelia in the north west of Russia – the same type of stone with which the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the wall of the Moscow Kremlin is lined.

We will not forget Odessa!

by New Worker
correspondent

Activists from International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity (IUAFS) and members of the Workers Party of Britain held a vigil outside the Ukrainian Embassy in London on Saturday 2nd May to remember the Anti-Maidan heroes who died at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa on 2nd May 2014.

On 2nd May 2014, a fascist-led mob torched the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, preventing firefighters from intervening and attacking anyone who tried to escape. Accord-

ing to the Kiev regime, 42 people who were defending democratic rights and the rights of Russian speakers died on that day, but this figure is widely disbelieved. According to local investigators the true number of fatalities is well over 300.

For the first time since the formation of IUAFS in 2017, a pro-Zelensky counter-protest was held in front of the embassy, including people wearing fascist Azov emblems – one of whom held a sign saying “We killed the protesters in Odessa”. However, there were around three times as many anti-fascist protesters as the Ukrainian

fascist Banderites. People came out of the embassy to join the Banderite protesters. So the embassy was clearly involved, and that may be as a result of the repeated IUAFS protests there.



There was a large police presence in order to avoid any conflict breaking out in front of the embassy, which is located in one of the most expensive areas in central London. Members of the IUAFS approached

the Bandera supporters to tell them that we wanted to lay flowers at the embassy gate but were told “it is forbidden”. We consulted the police who advised that this may lead to trouble breaking out, so it was decided to lay flowers under a tree across the road. The policy of IUAFS is that its campaigns are purely political, firstly calling on the British government to end all support and collaboration with the Kiev junta, and secondly to extend solidarity and support to all Ukrainian democrats and anti-fascists in Ukraine or living in exile abroad.

The Ukrainian protesters, holding Ukrainian,

Romanian and British flags, shouted to the anti-fascist protestors “Are you Russian? Do you support Hamas terrorists?”, and a man apparently from Ukrainian TV filmed the IUAFS activists and asked “where are you from?”.

IUAFS will continue its campaign until democracy, freedom of the media and the right for all peaceful, democratic political parties to operate freely in Ukraine are restored. We look forward to the day when Ukraine is free of NATO personnel and provocations and all the national communities in Ukraine can live side-by-side together peacefully.

Cuba reaffirms the urgency of anti-fascist alliance

by Ed Newman

The ‘Voices Against Fascism’ meeting, held in Cuba on Saturday 9th May, reaffirmed the urgent need for anti-imperialist and anti-fascist alliances, emphasising the importance of fighting for all those whom the imperialists consider inferior and expendable.

Representatives from the Cuban Book Institute, members of the Network in Defence of Humanity, the Union of Journalists of Cuba and the International Committee for Peace, Justice, and Dignity of Peoples met at the Casa de las Américas in Havana. There, they issued a statement warning of the possible resurgence of fascism.

“On May 9, 1945, Nazi Germany formally surrendered to the Red Army.” Thus, the victory against fascism on the European



continent was achieved, led by the struggle and resistance of the people, especially those who were part of the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

“Since then, there have been attempts to diminish the role of the Soviet people and their sacrifice, which involved the loss of more than twenty million lives,” the document states.

It also clarifies that this victory did not end imperialism, explaining that its ideas and practices return

every time the global capitalist system faces a crisis and the imperialist order that emerged from the Second World War is shaken at its foundations.

“It is alarming, but not surprising, that eighty-one years later, in 2026, ideas and practices that emulate Hitler, Mussolini and Franco are advancing even though attempts are made to cover them up and disguise them with the complicity of major media companies,” the statement

concludes.

“We are currently witnessing the entrenchment of a global totalitarian system, which manifests itself in the impunity with which the United States government acts domestically and internationally to discipline and punish all those peoples who refuse to submit.

“Trump’s militaristic and threatening foreign policy is also a reflection of his behaviour within the United States. The freedoms granted to Im-

migration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the practices carried out by this agency are manifestations of an interest in defining which population groups belong to the ‘national body’.

“The slogan ‘Make America Great Again’ has become a return to early fascism: a strident nationalist project that excludes large segments of the population. This exclusion is achieved even through physical suppression,

murder, or confinement in internment camps. Furthermore, the freedoms granted to ICE echo the appeal to paramilitarism that characterised fascist regimes in Europe.”

During the meeting, discussions focused on the rise of the far-right globally, which stems from multiple causes and the logic inherited from fascism, which equates the far-right with the leadership of the president of the world’s leading imperialist power.

To confront these realities, unity and resistance are imperative. It is becoming increasingly clear that fascism must be combated on all fronts, and this must be done in a particularly hostile environment due to its control of the military-industrial complex, its economic power and its dominance of communication platforms.

Radio Havana Cuba

India: Red Kerala falls

The communist-backed Left Democratic Front (LDF) suffered a historic electoral setback in the legislative assembly elections last week.

The LDF, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), was defeated in the recent state assembly elections in Kerala, bringing to an end a decade of Left governance in one of India’s most politically advanced and socially progressive states.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) secured a commanding parliamentary majority, winning 102 out of 140 seats, while the

CPI(M)-led alliance was reduced to just 35 seats.

Although the decline in the Left’s vote share was significant, the scale of the parliamentary defeat was magnified by India’s first-past-the-post electoral system, where a relatively limited swing in votes translated into a dramatic collapse in seats.

The result also marks a historic setback for the communist movement in India. For the first time since 1977, communists will not govern a single Indian state.

The defeat comes despite the fact that Kerala under Left governance

achieved remarkable social gains over the last decade. Just months ago, the state officially declared the eradication of extreme poverty, becoming the first state in India to do so.

The achievement was the outcome of large-scale social planning, extensive grass-roots mobilisation and welfare policies implemented by the LDF government through local councils, women’s organisations and public institutions.

These gains built upon decades of Left-led reforms that transformed Kerala into a unique social model within India, with high

literacy rates, strong public healthcare, low infant mortality and some of the country’s highest human development indicators.

Welfare pensions expanded significantly under the LDF administration, while major infrastructure and public investment projects moved forward despite severe financial pressure.

At the same time, the Left government operated under increasingly hostile conditions imposed by the BJP-led central government.

Federal revenue transfers to Kerala were sharply reduced over the years, creating what Left econo-

mists described as a form of economic strangulation. Rising debt, unemployment and outward migration of young workers became central issues during the election campaign and were heavily exploited by the opposition and the business media.

The victory of the Congress-led alliance does not erase the social achievements secured during years of communist governance. On the contrary, Kerala remains one of the clearest examples in India that organised mass politics, public welfare and state intervention can dramatically improve the living condi-

tions of working people, even within the limitations of the capitalist system.

Following the defeat, leaders of the Left acknowledged the seriousness of the result and stressed the need to draw political conclusions from the setback.

For the communist movement in India, the outcome in Kerala represents not only an electoral loss, but an important political turning point whose consequences will be closely watched across the country.

How Long Will Russia's Patience Endure?

by Hedelberto López Blanch

“Russia’s patience is not unlimited and could run out,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has stated calmly and firmly in international forums and organisations, in response to the constant terrorist attacks and indiscriminate bombings by Ukraine against his country.

Lavrov denounced the West, and especially the West European countries, who are trying to turn Ukraine into a “trigger” for a global threat and described the Russian-Ukrainian conflict as “a war against Russia that the West has been preparing for years”.

During a speech at the Antalya Diplomatic Forum in Turkey, the Russian foreign minister accused the West of “repeatedly crossing red lines” and added that “patience is an inherent quality of our character, but at some point, patience runs out”.

Recently, numerous cities and towns have been attacked by Ukraine, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries among the Russian civilian population, including Kursh, Yekaterinburg, Crimea, Donetsk, Lugansk, Tupapse, Astrakhan, Bryansk, Voronezh, Kaluga, Kursk, Krasnodar Krai, Zaporizhzhia and Moscow, among others.

The USA and the Western Europeans have launched numerous aggressive actions against Russia since the latter began its special military



• Not the first time: Western Europe’s war on Russia is centuries old.

operation on 24th February 2022 to de-nazify Ukraine, a country that has committed numerous atrocities against the Russian-speaking populations of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Since the coup against President Viktor Yanukovich in May 2014, Ukraine has become a special ally of the USA, which co-ordinated and helped orchestrate the coup. Furthermore, the West threatened to expand NATO’s borders towards Russia and, at the same time, established several biological weapons laboratories on Ukrainian territory, which also represented a dangerous threat to Moscow.

Every day, the pressure exerted on the Eurasian giant in an attempt to destroy it intensifies, but far from succeeding, Russia has evaded it.

In total, more than 20,000 economic, financial and political sanc-

tions have been imposed on the Russian Federation.

On 26th September 2022, three of the four sections of Russia’s Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines were sabotaged with explosive devices on the Baltic Sea floor, near a Danish island and off the Swedish coast, in areas under NATO control.

In 2025 alone, co-ordinated actions by the security forces prevented 172 terrorist attacks, including nine armed attacks against military personnel, government officials and educational institutions, the Russian National Anti-Terrorism Committee reported.

Another violent terrorist attack was carried out on 22nd March 2024, by several men at the Crocus City Hall concert venue, resulting in 141 deaths and more than 120 injuries.

Now the Western European countries have

proposed and are already working on the production and supply of drones to be delivered to Kiev with the aim of continuing attacks on any region of Russia.

In this regard, the Russian Ministry of Defence published a list with the exact locations of some 20 companies operating in Europe for these purposes. Fire Point, Horizon Tech, and Leicester are in the UK, DaVinci Avia and Airlogix are in Germany, and Kort is in Denmark.

The extensive list also includes detailed information on companies producing this military equipment in Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic.

The Russian Ministry of Defence stated that companies located in Europe that produce drones for Kiev are dragging these countries more quickly towards war with Russia.

Meanwhile, the Dep-

uty Chairman of Russia’s Security Council, former president Dmitri Medvedev, has indicated that the list of companies published by the Ministry of Defence shows that these are “legitimate targets for the Armed Forces” and that “the materialisation of attacks will depend on what happens from now on”.

Western Europe’s hatred and obsession with using Ukraine to try to weaken Russia has also led it to impose a new list of economic extortions against the Eurasian giant, while simultaneously approving another \$40 billion loan for the corrupt regime in Kiev.

Faced with the constant and increasingly aggressive actions of Ukraine and its Western allies, we must ask ourselves once again: how long will Russia’s patience last? Is Western Europe seeking a global

conflagration?

Let us hope that the hot-headed European elites understand the consequences of the global disaster they are about to unleash.

Hedelberto López Blanch is a renowned Cuban journalist. He writes for the newspaper *Juventud Rebelde* and the weekly *Opciones*. He is the author of *Cuban Emigration to the United States*, *Secret Stories of Cuban Doctors in Africa*, and *Miami, Dirty Money*, among others.

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