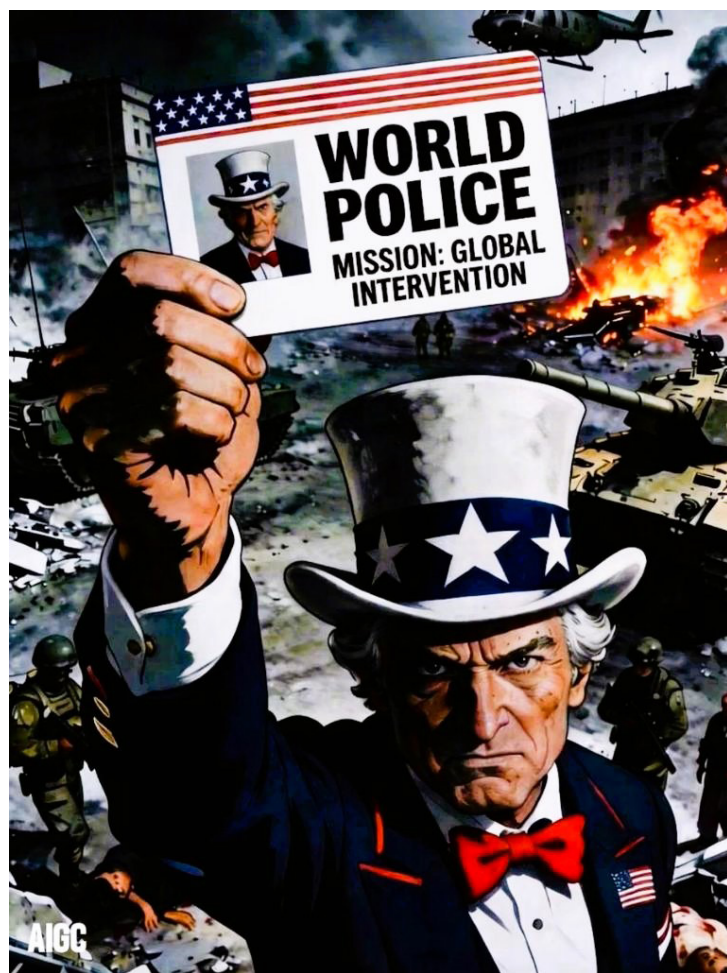


Guns blaze as election looms in Israel

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

The roar of missiles over the Persian Gulf as Gaza burns and Iran fires warning shots at vessels near the Strait of Hormuz. Yes, the shaky Middle East cease-fire was again on the brink of collapse last week following American air strikes on drone and missile bases near the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas and the inevitable Iranian retaliation against the US base from which the attack was launched. But the redoubled efforts of the Pakistani and Turkish mediation teams have kept both sides talking, with the Americans considering a 60-day extension to the truce to buy time to finalise a framework agreement aimed at establishing de-escalation arrangements and ending the conflict.

Usually reliable sources, quoted in the Arab media, say that the proposed arrangement is not a final agreement but rather a memorandum of understanding designed to outline immediate political, military and maritime steps following months of regional escalation. The sources added that the memorandum does not include any clause related to Iran's nuclear industry, which is



expected to be addressed in a separate track after the framework is signed.

The understanding reportedly focuses on ending the war, implementing de-escalation measures, and facilitating maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping choke-point now under a double-blockade by the Iranians and the USA.

These sources told the Lebanese *Al Mayadeen* TV channel that the memorandum includes the withdrawal of the US fleet from areas surrounding Iran and the end of the American naval blockade imposed during the war. It also includes the release of half of Iran's frozen assets, estimated

at around \$12 billion, alongside a 30-day period to reach a separate nuclear agreement after the signing of the framework.

The Israelis, who have been frozen out of America's secret negotiations with the Islamic Republic, are determined to kick their way back to the bargaining

table by resuming their genocidal war against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and ordering their troops to advance further into southern Lebanon, regardless of cost.

It's still, nevertheless, a heavy price to bear – even for the Netanyahu government that is still licking its wounds from the pounding it got from the Iranians that left much of Tel Aviv and its other major cities in ruins. But Netanyahu's days may soon be over. Legislative elections are scheduled to be held in Israel by 27th October 2026, and a swing to the communist-led Hadash bloc and its "Israeli-Arab" allies could make them king-makers in the new 120-strong Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

This new "Joint List" would become the third largest faction in the Knesset if elections were held today, according to the re-

sults of a recent poll broadcast on Channel 13 News. According to the poll, the Joint List would win 16 seats, while Netanyahu's Likud drops to 23 seats and the opposition "Beyachad" (Together) party dips to 21 seats. In this scenario, Netanyahu's Likud-led extremist right-wing slate drops to 53 seats, while the Zionist opposition platform holds 51 seats. To form an alternative government, Beyachad would need the Joint List to secure a majority of 67 Knesset members.

Hadash list chairman Yousef Jabareen says that the Joint List is the key to toppling the government. "Only the Joint List will bring down the government on the Knesset's very first day. I promise that Ben-Gvir and Smotrich [rabid Zionist settler fanatics] will not be in the government – we will bring about a strong Jewish-Arab partnership."

FUND

This week's appeal brought in £720 that included £193 from a Dagenham comrade and £100 from a Chigwell supporter. A Hereford friend sent £20 by PayPal and a London supporter gave us a tenner. The running total now stands at £2,321. That means we need to raise £1,179 by the end of the month and we've only got a few days to do it!

The survival of the *New Worker* depends on the support of our readers. The fighting fund subsidises the cost of our paper and the pamphlets we produce. It helps maintain the Centre and pay the bills of the print-shop's suppliers. It guarantees the continued production of the only communist weekly in Britain.

From Palestine to Ukraine, Venezuela to the Persian Gulf, it's one struggle – one fight! Help us to get the message across and build the communist movement in Britain. Make sure that the communist voice is heard every week in every factory, office and neighbourhood across the country by supporting the fighting fund.

Your contribution, big or small, counts in the battle to keep our presses rolling. Please send your donation to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here: <http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

INSIDE

DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT .. P5

PALESTINE .. P7

TIBET/XIZANG .. P8

20th CENTURY SOCIALISM .. P11

Make a donation to the *New Worker* (Pleckbond Ltd) today via your smartphone by scanning this QR code:



THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

What a difference a day makes...

...or not in the case of Sir Tony Blair, whose comments on the current turmoil within the Labour Party were splashed all over the bourgeois press last week. Whatever he achieved in office – Scottish and Welsh devolution, ending the conflict in northern Ireland and pushing through some minor social reforms – was far eclipsed by his despicable role in supporting the American onslaught on Iraq that ended in invasion and the execution of the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein. The dreams of Anglo-American imperialism ended in the streets of Baghdad as the Iraqi resistance fought back to eventually free the country from imperialist occupation. Blair fell from grace soon after – leaving Downing Street to console himself with lucrative sinecures, non-jobs such as his “peace-keeping” role in the Middle East, which were given to him by the Americans as a reward for his life-time of service to imperialism.

To be fair, Blair never pretends to be anything more than he is – a mouthpiece for what he thinks is the dominant trend within the ruling class. He has plenty to say but he’s got nothing to offer workers. Or as Jeremy Corbyn put it: “Tony Blair thinks the answer to this country’s problems is AI, welfare cuts and endless spending on war. Who benefits? Arms companies and tech billionaires. Once again, Blair is wrong. The answer is a redistribution of wealth and power and the relentless search for peace.”

Tony Blair, like Ramsay MacDonald and Sir Keir Starmer, divided and ultimately betrayed the Labour Party. But to paraphrase Orwell and say “all Labour leaders are rubbish, but some are more rubbisher than others” may be going too far. Attlee, Wilson and Callaghan did have their moments – although this was largely due to the immense pressure at the time from the labour movement as a whole for social justice.

Tony Blair is a rich man who has also acquired a number of gongs along the way. These include the usual honours reserved for past Prime Ministers as well as the American Presidential Medal of Freedom and the more dubious Dan David Prize given by Tel Aviv University for Blair’s “exceptional leadership and steadfast determination in helping to engineer agreements and forge lasting solutions to areas in conflict”.

None of this has, however, restored his political standing in Britain. The fame that Blair so longs for continues to elude him. His paean of praise for the sort of American-style neocon policies that have been embraced by both Democratic and Republican administrations in Washington throughout the 21st Century may have been music for the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg in the Conservative party but it didn’t go down well with Keir Starmer or the two contenders for his job, Wes Streeting and Andy Burnham, and can only serve to remind them of how glad they were to see the back of him in 2007.

Olympians rage at drug-fuelled “Enhanced Games”

by
Lu Wena

The inaugural Enhanced Games concluded in Las Vegas on Sunday, but debate surrounding the controversial competition continued this week as the event permitted the use of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) that are fundamentally rejected in global sports.

Marketed as “a new model of sports embracing science, technology and enhancement”, the Enhanced Games competition featured swimming, athletics and weightlifting, while offering lucrative prize money and bonuses for athletes capable of surpassing official world records.

The Enhanced Games, founded by Australian entrepreneur Aron D’Souza and backed by several high-profile investors, has been under fire from the start. Organisers argued that their model simply made enhancement transparent and medically supervised. But anti-doping authorities warned that medical supervision does not mean the use of such substances is risk-free.

Despite months of hype surrounding the possibility of “super-human” performances, the Games produced only one unofficial world-best mark, while several athletes who claimed they competed without banned substances still defeated their “enhanced” rivals. The results have fuelled widespread discussion online, with many teasingly saying that the Games ultimately failed to prove that openly permitting doping could fundamentally re-define elite sports while noting that elite performance still depends on years of training, talent development and competitive systems rather than simply pharmaceutical enhancement.

Kim Wolff, the head of King’s College London’s Drug Control Centre, the UK laboratory for sports testing, writes in the journal *Nature* that the Enhanced Games “miss the point”, warning

that an event openly championing performance-enhancing substances poses risks not only to athlete health, but also to the integrity of sport itself. She argues that anti-doping science should continue to evolve to protect clean competition rather than normalise drug use in elite sport.

The China Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) has long voiced strong opposition to these games. In 2025, when the Enhanced Games initiative was proposed, CHINADA described the event as “a distorted competition that turns pure sports competition into a drug contest”, noting that it seriously contradicts the purpose of the World Anti-Doping Code.

CHINADA further warned that the event “severely threatens the physical and mental health of athletes as well as the spirit of sport”, while criticising the organisers’ “capital-driven” approach and their use of substantial prize money to attract participants.

The Chinese agency also urged the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) to “follow the code and international standards and take decisive measures to oppose the Enhanced Games”, saying that USADA’s response had revealed “its weakness in the face of powerful interest groups and wealthy sponsors”.

The International Olympic Committee says that “any events encouraging the use of performance-enhancing substances and methods are a betrayal of everything that athletes stand for”. The games were also sharply criticised by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

“WADA condemns the Enhanced Games as a dangerous and irresponsible concept,” says WADA spokesperson James Fitzgerald. “The health and well-being of athletes is WADA’s No1 priority. Clearly this event would jeopardise that as it seeks to promote the use of powerful substances and methods by athletes.”

WADA warned that even substances approved for medical use

may carry severe risks when used for performance-enhancement purposes. “Just because a drug is FDA-approved, including most of the substances on WADA’s Prohibited List, or is provided under medical supervision, does not mean it can be taken risk-free,” Fitzgerald said.

He also pointed out the potential side effects associated with substances such as anabolic steroids, human growth hormone, testosterone and EPO, including heart attacks, strokes, infertility, blood clots and sudden cardiac death.

“The reality is that sports medicine still doesn’t fully understand the long-term consequences of stacking multiple substances together at the doses elite athletes might use to chase records,” Fitzgerald noted.

According to WADA regulations, athletes hoping to return to competitions governed by the World Anti-Doping Code after participating in the Enhanced Games could still face anti-doping consequences and targeted testing by national anti-doping organisations and international federations.

WADA also expressed concern about the message such an event could send to younger generations. “The beauty and popularity of sport is based on the ideal of clean and fair competition,” Fitzgerald said. “Athletes serve as role models and WADA believes that this event sends a dangerous message to young people around the world.”

Or as Chinese sports commentator Mao Jiale put it: “Openly permitting doping undermines the principles of fairness and athlete welfare that international sports has spent decades trying to protect. Glorifying drug-assisted performances sends the wrong signal to young athletes and creates dangerous pressure on competitors still pursuing success through clean sports.”

Workers' Notes

Tony Blair emerges as a fake 'saviour' of the Labour Party

by Graham Hryce

This week, as Labour's destructive leadership contest intensified, former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair staged a remarkable intervention in which he single-handedly sought to save the party from political oblivion.

Blair's dramatic intrusion into Labour politics took the form of a 5,600-word essay – in which he denounced Keir Starmer, criticised leadership contenders Andy Burnham and Wes Streeting, and, more importantly, set out a radical political manifesto that he believes the Labour Party must adopt if it wishes to remain a viable force in UK politics.

The fact that Blair felt the need to act in this unprecedented manner – since resigning as Prime Minister in 2007 he has rarely intervened in UK politics – is, in itself, indicative of the severity of the existential crisis that has recently engulfed the Labour Party.

In his essay, Blair accuses the party of having lacked a credible policy programme for decades – and he is especially critical of the Labour left, referring pointedly to “the infinite capacity of the Labour Party for self-delusion”.

Blair rightly claims that Starmer has “no coherent plan for the country” and describes Burnham as a good junior minister when he served in Blair's own cabinet – faint praise indeed – but is brutally dismissive of his Corbynite economic agenda. Blair is also critical of Streeting for lacking policy coherence and for wanting to re-join the European Union. These criticisms are perfectly valid, and Blair is correct to refuse to endorse any of the talentless contenders for

the Labour leadership.

But Blair has a more fundamental and telling criticism to make of Labour – namely that, unless the Party moves beyond political squabbling about changing leaders, and adopts a radically new coherent policy agenda, Labour is doomed to extinction. According to Blair “if you can't agree on your policy direction, then there is no point in changing your leader”. This criticism is also valid.

Blair, who has never suffered from false modesty, then proceeds to set out his personal agenda for Labour's political salvation – which he grandiosely terms his “ten-point plan”.

It appears that Blair, who believes that God has guided his political manoeuvres in the past, has this week cast himself in the role of Labour's saviour – with his ten-point plan apparently being a secular version of the Ten Commandments that will lead Labour into the promised land where electoral success awaits it.

Blair's plan is a remarkable political manifesto for a former Labour Prime Minister to have drafted – although it is fully in keeping with Blair's own globalist prejudices and elitist worldview. Blair describes his plan as a “radical centrist” political agenda, and he urges Labour to:

- completely embrace AI and facilitate its implementation by doing all it can to assist Big Tech corporations;
- promote cheaper energy by abandoning net zero and the green energy agenda, and fully exploit Britain's coal and gas reserves;
- engage in a fundamental restructure of the welfare system by cutting pensions and incapacity and mental health benefits;
- reduce corporate taxes;
- reduce the minimum wage, wind back workers' rights legislation, and National Insurance contributions by employers;
- spend less money on the NHS;
- take drastic action – “whatever it takes” – to put an end to illegal migration;
- abandon plans to re-join the EU – on the grounds that Britain would do so from a position of weakness and, more to the point, that the EU is opposed to advancing the interests of AI and Big Tech; and
- commit to fully sup-

porting America's foreign policy agenda.

Blair's programme, in essence, seeks to re-establish Britain as a sovereign nation state, with a revived economy based upon the free market and radical technological innovation – free from the constraints of the welfare state, net zero ideology, as well as EU and international agreements and obligations – and cravenly committed to support America's foreign wars.

This, of course, is a deeply conservative agenda – not a centrist one – as the ultra-right-wing former Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg has gleefully pointed out this week. He has described Blair's ten-point plan as a “manifesto for the right”, urged Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch to adopt it immediately, and praised Blair for revealing himself to be nothing less than “an authoritarian Tory”.

Andy Burnham and Wes Streeting have, with some justification, responded to Blair's dramatic plan to ideologically transform Labour by accusing him of “overlooking how inequality is shaping modern politics”, “misunderstanding the root causes of populism”, and advocating a delusional, elitist agenda based upon mere “technological optimism”.

Interestingly, neither Burnham nor Streeting responded to Blair's conservative policy programme by enunciating a coherent counter-programme of their own.

There is, of course, no possibility of Labour adopting Blair's conservative ten-point plan – nor, indeed, any viable political agenda that may result in them staying in power for long. The current Labour leadership is so inept and divided that it is incapable of formulating or agreeing upon any coherent, let alone credible agenda – hence both Burnham and Streeting's wishy-washy and vague recent policy pronouncements.

In any event, Blair's plan would only result in electoral disaster for Labour – because it would drive working-class Labour voters in the northern ‘red wall’ seats into the waiting arms of Reform and cause more progressive Labour voters in the south-east to flee to the Greens and the Liberal Democrats in droves.

That Blair should have put forward a conservative elitist political manifesto should come as no surprise. Rees-Mogg, like Blair a politician of religious conviction, sees Blair as “the one sinner who has repented”. That, however, is to misunderstand Blair – who has not repented of anything.

It must be remembered that Blair – unlike Gordon Brown – never had any genuine connection with the Labour Party of the 1980s, nor, more importantly, the trade union movement.

Blair created the modern Labour Party in the 1990s – together with Peter Mandelson, now sadly of blessed, if fading memory – and he was always a determined opponent of the left-wing of the Party.

Indeed, one motive for his intervention this week may have been to destroy Andy Burnham's chances of becoming Prime Minister. Burnham once sat in Blair's cabinet – at that time wearing Armani suits – and it is difficult for even a political Pope to forgive an apostate, especially one who, decades later, adopts the heresy of Corbynumism.

Blair was always an avid supporter of globalisation – embracing all of its elitist irrational ideologies, including catastrophic climate change – and throughout his 10 years as Prime Minister he advanced the economic interests of the then emerging global elites.

Blair has always been something of a pragmatist, and his recent about-face on net zero simply reflects the fact that the green energy titans have recently been displaced in the West by the Tech Giants as the rulers of the new technologically based global economy.

Politically, the tech titans are all authoritarians – witness the totalitarian screeds of Peter Thiel, the mentor of JD Vance, and Elon Musk's support initially for Reform, and more lately (Nigel Farage does not appreciate being dictated to) for the even more right-wing Restore Party. This probably explains, at least in part, Blair's recent shift to the political right.

It may also be relevant that Blair's thinktank, the modestly named the ‘Tony Blair Institute’, receives substantial funding from the powerful Big Tech corporations.

On one issue, however, Blair has remained absolutely consistent – his unwavering support for America's wars of foreign aggression. From Kosovo to Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Gaza, Blair has always been an enthusiastic war-monger and ultra loyal supporter of whoever happens to reside in the White House at any given time, no matter what political party has elected that esteemed personage to that high office.

In this week's essay, Blair took time out to pointedly condemn Starmer for failing to provide support for Trump and Netanyahu's ill-advised and failed war with Iran – incidentally, one of the very few principled decisions ever taken by that now unfortunate lame-duck Prime Minister. What then has been the effect of Blair's extraordinary political intervention this week?

I suspect not much – other than to intensify the existing divisions and chaos within the terminally moribund Labour Party.

Prior to this week the Labour Party had thrown up one unimpressive ‘saviour’ – Andy Burnham – and now it apparently has two rescuers determined to save it from political oblivion.

But any credible political party with a viable future has no need of even one ‘saviour’ – and only a party in its political death throes could create two such misguided and politically redundant redeemers as Burnham and Tony Blair. Vale and goodbye the UK Labour party!

rt.com

Unrest on the airside

by New Worker correspondent

At the time of typing a strange orange object was seen in the sky over this correspondent's abode. According to astrologers, this is a sign that the holiday season is approaching. To mark the occasion, workers in the aviation industry are gearing up for industrial action as the busiest periods are best for putting pressure on employers.

At Glasgow and Edinburgh

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

airports almost 700 workers have voted for summer strike action.

Some 370 employees of Edinburgh Airport Ltd are involved in a pay dispute while across the country at Glasgow Airport about 320 workers employed by Menzies Aviation and ICTS also primed for action.

Unite General Secretary Sharon Graham pointed out that the impending strikes were “a direct result of their very profitable employers’ refusal to make a fair pay offer. The workers have no other option and the blame for this situation lies entirely with wealthy companies choosing to boost profits before people.”

Among the 370 Edinburgh workers are airport ambassadors (whatever these are), airside support officers, engineers and managers. Unite argues that as it made a £144.4 million profit it can well afford to cough up.

At Glasgow, where 150 ground services crew employed by Menzies Aviation (pronounced Ming-is) work, they recently announced record 2025 results of \$3 billion in global revenue. Their 170 colleagues employed by ICTS workers at Glasgow deal with security and work for a company whose 2025 profits were £7.6 million compared with £4.4 million in 2024.

Unite expects to announce strike dates shortly and time them to occur during the peak of the summer holiday rush coinciding with the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games held in

Glasgow.

Further north, at Aberdeen Airport about 70 ICTS members based are also balloting for industrial action.

Earlier in May, the same union’s 100 employees of ABM who look after passengers with disabilities at London’s Stansted Airport used the threat of strike to secure an improved pay offer from ABM, after rejecting a two per cent offer. They accepted a two-year pay deal involving a 3.8 per cent uplift, backdated to last November, plus an additional one per cent from May; next year they will have a pay rise of 3.5 per cent. This year they will also get a £350 pro rata payment.

Regional officer Steve Edwards said: “These workers do a vital job at Stansted and we are glad the employer recognised this following extensive negotiations. Unite is very happy to have secured this deal for our members at ABM, which guarantees pay rises for two years.”

Meanwhile, GMB have claimed credit for saving Doncaster Airport whose future had been in doubt when the local council, now led by Reform UK, reversed its policy of refusing to provide a £57 million upgrade loan. GMB Organiser Sarah Barnes said: “It’s a massive relief – both personally and for everyone in South Yorkshire – that the airport project hasn’t been killed. Thanks to pressure from workers, unions and politicians, Reform has executed a screeching U-turn and will no longer cancel the £57

million loan.” She concluded: “This is a huge victory for the people of Doncaster.”

Another modest triumph for airport workers has taken place at Heathrow, where Unite saved the jobs of 90 Dnata and Do & Co catering workers when the TUPE agreement was suddenly halted when their jobs were in the process of being transferred to Gate Gourmet.

The transfer was planned after American Airlines dumped Dnata as caterers after mice were seen on aircraft. It transferred the business to Do & Co. Two-hundred workers were under threat of redundancy but 120 were transferred to Do & Co. Yet on the day of the transfer the coaches taking them to work were blocked by Do & Co, who wrongly claimed no TUPE arrangements were in place. They now use agency staff.

The unexpected hero is another catering company, Gate Gourmet, which is now taking on these affected workers.

Unite is taking legal action against Dnata and Do & Co on behalf of its members. It accuses American Airlines of washing its hands of the situation, claiming the matter does not concern its workforce directly.

The 90 members at Dnata, including those there for more than 20 years, were only offered two weeks’ severance pay as a “goodwill gesture”.

Regional officer Shereen Higginson said: “This has been an extremely complex and unprecedented situation and one

which Unite has not encountered previously.” She doffed her cap to say: “We are grateful to Gate Gourmet who have stepped in and worked with Unite to help rescue our members’ jobs. However, Dnata and Do & Co have handled this extremely poorly and caused significant concern and worry for our hard-working members.”

This is a turn-up for the books. In 2005, Gate Gourmet became notorious for sacking hundreds of mostly Punjabi women – announcing the fact in a megaphone message. Gate Gourmet was the beneficiary of British Airways outsourcing its

catering in the 1990s. The dispute was sparked by Management attempts to reduce break times and speeding up conveyor belts.

The then Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU) took up their case, but returning from their morning tea break the workers discovered that agency staff had been taken on, which was Gate Gourmet’s long-term plan.

Heathrow baggage workers walked out in protest, which was illegal under Thatcher’s anti-union laws, but they closed the airport for two days in August. Those who returned to Gate Gourmet did so on worse terms and conditions, however.

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

4 weeks: £7.50; 3 months: £24;
6 months: £45; annual: £72

Name.....

Address.....

Post code.....

Cheque/POs, made out to
New Worker, to: NW Subs, PO Box 73, London
SW11 2PQ.

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

26th May 2006

Depending on the Tories to get his Bills through is getting to be a habit with Prime Minister Tony Blair, and he did it again when 69 Labour MPs voted in favour of a rebel amendment to the Education Bill but the Bill still got through unscathed because the Tories backed it.

The amendment would have forced schools to hold a ballot of parents before becoming independent trusts but was defeated by 412 votes to 121.

On Wednesday evening the Bill cleared the House of

Commons on another vote backed by the Tories. This time 50 Labour backbench rebels voted against the Bill.

Labour MP John McDonnell, who leads the Labour Representation Committee, commenting on Tuesday’s defeat of the amendment, said: “This is a crippling blow to the Education Bill, which the Prime Minister is only able to force through the Commons on the back of Tory votes.”

The Bill will now allow schools to become “self-governing” – that is to say governed by private sector sponsors who have forked out a £2 million donation, which is a small fraction of the total cost of the school. The taxpayers, who will meet the rest of the costs, will have little say in the policies of trust schools.

Blair, and his new Education Secretary, Alan Johnson, are claiming these semi-privatised schools will improve education standards in deprived areas.

But schools already in the Government’s £5 billion academy programme have failed to improve results

compared with the comprehensives they replaced, according to a study published last week by a senior academic at Edinburgh University.

The Liberal Democrats supported the amendment. Speaking for the Lib-Dems, Sarah Teather MP said: “This research pulls the rug out from under ministers who have made extravagant claims about the results academies are delivering.”

Meanwhile, popular support for Blair’s government is falling fast according to a Guardian/ICM poll published last Wednesday, which put support for Labour currently at 34 per cent compared with 38 per cent for the Tories and 20 per cent for the Lib-Dems.

This is the Tories’ highest rating in 13 years and is inspired not so much by confidence in David Cameron as disillusionment with Labour.

The financial crisis in the NHS, which is cutting swathes of health sector jobs, along with the current shambles at the Home Office are blamed for the falling support.

The Dictatorship of the Proletariat: what does it mean?

by
John Maryon

The qualitative transfer of society from obsolete capitalism to progressive socialism is the historical mission of the working class. Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and Vladimir Lenin developed an essential and powerful ideological theory to achieve scientific communism. A cornerstone of Marxism-Leninism is the need for a revolutionary change to bring about the dictatorship of the proletariat. Those opposed to Marxism-Leninism are at pains to deny this essential process and foster an illusion of gradual transformation using the bourgeois state apparatus. In effect tinkering with a collapsing system and incorrectly assuming that the working class will grow in terms of knowledge and understanding. In practice the power of the bourgeoisie needs to be challenged by the united efforts of all sections of the working class.

To fully understand the dictatorship of the proletariat it is important to be aware that it does not imply the use of force or threats against others. In Marx and Engel's days the term 'dictatorship' didn't mean autocratic one-man rule in the way we understand it today. They used the term to mean class rule. In the capitalist era we live under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. The dictatorship of the proletariat means the working class taking power to establish a new type of democracy. To organise the economy to benefit the former exploited classes. To raise political and social awareness of the masses. And to stimulate progressive cultural developments. This would see an end to identity politics, elevation of trivial diversions above matters of substance, the greed and corruption of lobby groups and the politics



• Paris Commune 1871 – the first workers' state.

of hate, blame and exclusion that we experience in Britain today. The Paris Commune gave a first glimpse of the dictatorship of the proletariat in action. Tinkering with the bourgeois machinery of the state will achieve nothing. It must be replaced with a new management apparatus as an essential prerequisite for building true sustainable socialism.

The basis of the dictatorship of the proletariat lies in the creative organisational activity in leading the masses towards building a new form of society. Lenin emphasised that it is the rule of the working class through strength of organisation and discipline using all the achievements of culture, science and technology. Also to develop proletarian affinity with all working people to develop prestige and respect. It may take different forms and methods depending on the nature of the socialist revolution, the existing social structure, the level of economic development and cultural background. Proletarian democracy systemically creates

a state of the whole people with the working class playing the leading role.

Lenin said that capitalism condemns the masses to a downtrodden, crushed, anxious existence. A gigantic apparatus of falsehood and deception hoodwinks the workers sowing confusion, fostering ignorance and stultifying their minds. We see this in Britain today. It is obvious that we have reached a great watershed in our political system. As the capitalist crisis has developed the establishment is no longer able to govern in the traditional manner. There is an increasing risk of neo-fascists gaining power and influence. Today the population of Britain is largely politically ignorant, is incapable of critical or analytical thinking and has sadly become brainwashed by continuing propaganda. Multiple colour leaflets issued by Reform reflected the politics of blame and hostility but ignored austerity, affordable housing, crumbling infrastructure, a collapsing health service or job security.

So, what political forces are there left in Britain today that can defend workers' rights, educate and enthuse the masses for something better? The Labour party has for the last century been the main political party for workers in Britain, forming an essential component of the labour movement. Sadly, it has always been dominated by its right-wing with affinity to social democracy. It has a long history of betrayal. Ramsay Macdonald, the first Labour prime minister, started progressively by recognising the Soviet Union shortly after Lenin's death and by opposing imperialist wars, but was to

later betray the party by forming a National Government with the Conservatives. The tremendous social progress made immediately following the Second World War was implemented only because of the pressure of the people who demanded change. Sadly, the party has gone downhill since those halcyon times. With the abandonment of Clause Four and the establishment of New Labour the Labour Party abandoned any pretence of socialism.

We have always gritted our teeth and supported Labour because of its link to the trade unions. Today we face unprecedented changes that may forge new alliances in a totally different political landscape. If they can get their act together, Your Party may play an important role for the left in Britain but will be limited in what it can achieve if it becomes just another hopeless social-democratic institution. Keir Starmer is on the way out but will his successor be any different? I very much doubt it.

One thing becomes immediately obvious. The urgent need is to build unity among all progressive forces to put forward the case for socialism. This is where a vanguard party such as the New Communist Party of Britain has an important role to play. We must grow to be more effective in motivation of the working class. Don't delay, join us today and help put Britain on the road to socialism.

CONTACT US...

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

Phone: 07497 393 263

New Worker National: www.newworker.org

email: party@ncp.clara.net

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

Palestine: The urgent need for a United Arab Initiative

by Ramzy Baroud

US President Donald Trump's state visit to China will go down in history as the day the USA finally acknowledged Beijing's ascendancy as a global superpower. That acknowledgment does not need to be articulated in a formal statement; it can be clearly read in the subtext of diplomatic behaviour, global perception and shifting media coverage.

During the summit, Trump's delegation – accompanied by prominent American corporate leaders – engaged with President Xi Jinping not from a position of absolute global dictation, but through a lens of defensive pragmatism. This transactional approach focused on securing bilateral trade commitments and preventing catastrophic economic friction.

The spectacle of the leader of the Western world navigating Beijing's terms, while actively managing domestic economic anxieties, signals a profound shift. The traditional American posture of undisputed global hegemon has transformed into that of a major power among equals, seeking stable terms of co-existence with an unignorable rival.

The moment is comparable only to Richard Nixon's historic 1972 visit to Beijing, although the circumstances are entirely different. Back then, the USA aimed to exploit the Sino-Soviet split and gain leverage over the Soviet Union

in exchange for the normalisation of diplomatic ties.

In 1972, China was an economically isolated, agrarian society recovering from internal upheaval. Today, Beijing is a financial giant boasting the world's largest economy by purchasing power parity, a critical hub of global supply chains, and a leader in next-generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

Militarily, the People's Liberation Army has transformed into a powerful navy and high-tech force capable of denying access to the Western Pacific. This vast economic and military expansion translates into unparalleled global influence, altering the balance of power across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

All this in mind, Trump's visit to China appears to be more about a declining empire attempting to manage its own contraction – a move that will likely lead to serious concessions.

Nowhere is the USA's dwindling status more apparent than in the Middle East. Decades of disastrous military campaigns, political alienation and the unravelling of traditional alliances have eroded Washington's credibility. Regional powers no longer view the USA as an indispensable security guarantor, looking instead toward a multipolar future.

China is already the Middle East's largest trading partner, with interests ranging from massive crude oil im-



ports to sweeping infrastructure investments under the Belt & Road Initiative, cutting-edge telecommunications networks, and multi-billion-dollar clean energy grids.

Yet Beijing's approach to the Middle East is fundamentally different from that of the USA. The latter inherited the colonial legacy of Britain and France. Although Washington resists seeing itself as a colonial power, it behaves like one: leveraging military might to achieve political dominance and economic privileges.

China is different. Free from the baggage of a regional colonial past – and having historical memory as a survivor of Western imperialism itself – China's expansion utilises a completely alternative model: economic integration, development and trade ties. This model could

alter however, should circumstances change. If Beijing finds itself forced to defend its massive interests and energy routes, it may adopt a more muscular posture, similar to its current assertive strategy in the South China Sea.

American influence in the Middle East has been waning for years, and the latest US National Defence Strategy, published in early 2026, is proof of that. The document explicitly anchors American military priorities to a homeland-first posture and the containment of China in the Indo-Pacific. By formally invoking the Monroe Doctrine to focus on the Western Hemisphere and emphasising conditional support for allies, Washington's own policy papers reveal a strategic retrenchment and an admission of overstretch.

In this context, the destructive American-Israeli escalations against

Iran cannot be seen as an American return to the Middle East, but as a desperate attempt at maintaining relevance. This closely echoes the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt by Britain, France and Israel. Just as that ill-fated campaign was a desperate, violent attempt by dying European empires to demonstrate Western relevance after the devastating toll of the Second World War, current US-Israeli actions are the volatile spasms of a fading hegemony.

Considering China's global agenda of expansion and integration, Beijing is likely to find itself the new global player in our region, although such a role can be shaped to mean partnership as opposed to dominance.

Aristotle, warning against the *horror vacui*, proposed that every space must be filled with something; if the USA exits or its presence continues to dwindle, that political space will not remain empty. For the Arab world, the future carries both a challenge and an immense opportunity. An American exit will create political margins that Arab countries must exploit and fill on their own terms. If they do not, others will.

Arab nations, like others in the Global South, fully understand the dangers of vulnerability amid seismic global changes as great powers jockey for influence. They also recognise how US behaviour – acting as Israel's enabler while failing to dictate regional outcomes – only contributes to Washington's

strategic desperation.

This desperation could lead to a sudden, chaotic American exit, leaving an aggressive Israel to expand as a local hegemon, or prompt more un-strategic military campaigns with dire consequences. All of this leaves Middle Eastern nations hostage to a volatile US foreign policy, granting opportunities for an expansionist Israel to produce more chaos.

This moment, therefore, calls for total Arab political clarity and unity, insisting on real sovereignty and the freedom to act based on the interests of the people. This new agenda should prioritise human development and economic prosperity, alongside equality and social justice.

Moreover, the Arabs should achieve a new political contract that rejects further foreign meddling or military interventions, holding any government that deviates from this principle accountable.

Finally, a unified Arab position must move past mere rhetoric into concrete action to hold Israel accountable, working ceaselessly towards the freedom of Palestine and ending the illegal occupation of Lebanese and Syrian lands.

Arab political outlooks must leverage these issues in all future integrations with global players, including China, to ensure that the century-long cycle of violence wrought by Western colonialism is over for good.

People's World
(USA)

Tibet: From dilapidated temple to modern campus

by
Shan Jie and
Yang Ruijia

From the urban area of Qamdo in Xizang, the modern name for Tibet, the Lancang-Mekong river can be seen winding through the mountains. Not far from the river stands the Qamdo Experimental Primary School, where the sound of children reading aloud, the rhythm of Tibetan traditional dance and the buzz of drones in flight meet on the same campus.

Li Yutao, a third-grade student, stands in a corner of the playground, skilfully manipulating a remote control as a drone steadily takes off under his guidance.

Li says that he finds drones “new and exciting”. He said flying a drone allows him to see the outside world without leaving the campus. Asked where he would like to go in the future, he said he wanted to visit other parts of the country and see its “thousands of mountains and rivers”.

The school’s beginnings, however, were far removed from modern technology. In 1951, Qamdo Primary School (the predecessor of Qamdo Experimental Primary School) was established in a local Chenghuang temple, marking the first modern school founded by the Communist Party of China in Xizang. From the classes in two shabby rooms over 70 years ago to today’s ‘smart campus’ with artificial intelligence and robotics courses, this school has chronicled the full evolution of

modern education in Xizang.

The first talent cradle on the snow plateau

Qamdo, the eastern gateway of Xizang, was the first place in the region to welcome the People’s Liberation Army (PLA). On 19th October 1950 Qamdo was liberated.

Before the peaceful liberation of Xizang, education was monopolised by monasteries and the nobility, and the vast majority of people had no access to schooling, with illiteracy rates as high as 95 per cent.

To change this situation and encourage farmers and herders to send their children to school, professors Li Anzhai and Yu Shiyu went door to door, holding community meetings to ease concerns and secure student enrolment. The school was officially established on 1st May of the same year.

Enrolment was open to all, regardless of ethnicity, age, gender or social status, and teachers were mainly officers



modern education

from the PLA’s mission to Xizang. With no textbooks, the professors created their own teaching materials; with no classroom aids, they made their own.

Li and Yu not only taught students personally but also guided their daily lives, treating each child as if they were their own. Yu lent her clothes to female teachers, helped girls braid their hair and told them stories, quickly winning the trust and affection of the students.

To this day, the spirit of selfless dedication demonstrated by Li Anzhai and Yu Shiyu continues to inspire generations of educators in the Xizang autonomous region.

Integrating traditional culture with



• Play-time at the Qamdo Experimental Primary School.

In Qamdo Experimental Primary School’s curriculum, millennia-old intangible cultural heritage resonates alongside cutting-edge technology.

The school deeply integrates traditional culture into daily teaching. It offers rich aesthetic courses such as Tibetan Xianzi dance, Tibetan calligraphy, Tibetan musical instruments and paper-cutting.

Fourth-grade student Tenzin Yangzom said she prefers Xianzi dance to Tibetan-language classes because, unlike reading aloud in class, Xianzi allows her to dance with her friends.

Counter-balancing traditional dance, modern technology is ubiquitous in classrooms. The school has achieved full coverage with electronic whiteboards and built future classrooms and recording classrooms.

In the drone club, many young enthusiasts such as Li Yutao participate. Fifth-grade student Drolma Yingtso, elected by classmates to the drone team, said she wants to become a scientist and make drone obstacle-avoidance functions more sensitive. In addition, fifth-grade student Langga Pumo

likened a drone’s speed to a horse in Tibetan, saying it flies as fast as a galloping horse.

The school not only emphasises high-end technology but also uses AI-assisted teaching to optimise lessons.

Fourth-grade student Wu Yue mentioned that subjects include Chinese, mathematics, English, music, moral education, science and information technology. This multidimensional curriculum aims to stimulate students’ curiosity and hands-on abilities, nurturing them to be “avid readers, critical thinkers and daring explorers” of the new era.

Witnessing years of aid to Xizang

The modernisation of Qamdo Experimental Primary School owes much to sustained team-based educational aid to Xizang. School history archives record that from 2019, a comprehensive team-based educational aid programme began, with teachers from North China’s Tianjin Municipality and other regions gradually joining the campus.

Current Tianjin team principal Zhou Rong explained that the aid team consists of 15 members, covering principal, vice principal and teachers across subjects. In their first semester, all teachers taught on the front line and led local teaching research.

To upgrade hardware, the Tianjin aid team in-

vested five million yuan (£519,330) in enhancing the campus’s gigabit fibre network and established a collaborative teaching experimental base with Tianjin Normal University.

Among the aid initiatives, the establishment of a handball team is particularly notable. In 2021, with support from aid teachers, Qamdo Experimental Primary School formed the first primary school handball team in Xizang.

Zhao Jiabin, a PE teacher from Tianjin who came to support education in Xizang and a former national-level handball player, said that children in Xizang generally have stronger physical fitness and lung capacity than their peers in the Chinese mainland, making them well-suited for handball and soccer.

Additionally, the aid team organises summer camps and other “exchange, interaction and integration” activities, bringing children from the border regions to the mainland to see the world and introducing advanced mainland concepts to the plateau.

Today, Qamdo Experimental Primary School has grown from two old rooms in a Chenghuang temple into a modern model school integrating multiple ethnicities. As Wu Yue explained, students learn not only from textbooks, but also from red-themed storytelling and mental health activities, which help them build character and better understand history.

LETTERS

The Awami Workers Party of Pakistan has condemned the US indictment of former Cuban leader Raul Castro, voicing support for Cuba amid rising tensions with US imperialism.

In a statement, the Awami Workers Party said: "We see no reason whatsoever to debate the falsity of these claims, which are nothing but the product of anti-communist hysteria manufactured by the US Department of Justice. We categorically condemn this attempt in its entirety.

"The US indictment is tied to the 1996 shoot-down of a plane operated by the exile group 'Brothers to the Rescue'. Thirty years later, the Trump administration has made the political decision to dig into its cold-case files to find a convenient excuse to justify its latest move to deepen its ongoing war on Cuba. This case is neither the actual reason for this decision nor is it a legitimate legal action.

The leadership of the Cuban Revolution has withstood the harshest trials of history with dignity and has been vindicated by history itself. Raul Castro, who has carried out the most critical responsibilities in this historic struggle, holds an indelible place in the hearts and minds of the Cuban people as a hero of the revolution.

The US government does not have any form of jurisdiction over Cuba. Their action does not have any legitimacy in international law to arrest the

former head of state of another country. This is only a political manoeuvre to fish for a legally framed justification for military violence.

At the height of the USA's asphyxiation of Cuba through its illegal and immoral economic blockade spanning close to 70 years, made worse by modern efforts to starve the Cuban people through the oil embargo, the US government is arming itself to execute a new assault on Cuba through this facade of a case. The Trump regime has set itself apart in the company of other US administrations in its brutality and violence as it pursues its imperialist policies against the Cuban people. This is part of US foreign policy in which it claims the right to control the Americas as its sphere of influence.

The Awami Workers Party (Pakistan) calls upon the working-class movement and progressive forces across the globe to raise their solidarity with the Cuban people to meet the present challenges. We condemn the indictment of a Cuban leader by a foreign government. The US actions in this direction is an action of extraordinary arrogance. We condemn the continued US aggression against Cuba. We further call for practical acts of solidarity that demonstrate support of the Cuban people in their daily struggles for survival, sustenance and development from working people across the world and especially in Pakistan.

The Awami Workers Party (Pakistan) stands firmly against all attacks targeting Cuba and will continue to do so. We stand with the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership.

**Pervez Fateh
International Relations
Secretary
Awami Workers Party**

**(Pakistan)
Leeds**

The "voluntary price freeze" called for by Rachel Reeves is a cop-out. Reeves appears to be reluctant to even bring back the feeble Prices Commission, which existed under the right-wing Labour government of Wilson and Callaghan and which lacked real power to control prices. "Voluntary price controls" sound even worse.

Even the idea of a "voluntary price freeze" was rejected and denounced by the greedy capitalist monopoly retailers. This says a lot about them.

The Left in Britain has been almost silent on the subject of prices. Is this because many left-wing organisations are full of wealthy people and it does not matter to them?

Back in the 1970s the old Communist Party of Great Britain, although it was a revisionist party, had a "Freeze Prices Now" campaign.

What we need today is a big campaign against high food prices and rising prices. This could involve picketing and even occupying supermarkets. It is a campaign that would receive mass support.

**Dermot Hudson
London**

AKEL, the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus, increased both its votes and percentage in the general election on the island this month. The fact that this was achieved under difficult conditions, particularly bearing in mind the rise of the far right, is very significant for AKEL as this year we are celebrating the Communist Party of Cyprus/AKEL centenary.

AKEL is here, strong, in the House of Representatives and among the people!

Tonight marks the beginning of a new upward

trajectory. A trajectory that signifies not only the recovery of our percentages but also a vote of confidence that we have received from society.

We fought this election campaign under difficult conditions. Against this backdrop, AKEL managed to reverse a downward trend that had lasted for many years and turn a new page. We are moving forward with determination, looking to the future!

This did not happen by chance. We reached out to society by highlighting the issues that affect citizens' daily lives. We emphasised the need to support the working people, the middle-class, young people and pensioners. With policy proposals for bold initiatives to tackle inflation and the cost of living.

So today we are turning a new page, with society and the interests of the many at the forefront.

A new chapter for our Cyprus, for achieving a solution that will liberate and reunite our country and people.

A new chapter for a broad progressive coalition against the erosion of working people's rights, against the far right, and in support of democracy.

The AKEL-Left-Social Alliance is the strong pole of this progressive front, aiming to change things in our country. Because our people deserve better, and that is what we are fighting for!

I would like to warmly thank the thousands who supported the AKEL-Left-Social Alliance ballots.

I would like to thank the thousands of volunteers who worked hard over the past few months.

We sincerely thank our candidates who fought the election campaign with integrity and dignity, the cadres of our party, of the popular movement, and the friends of the Social

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 JUN

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.

FRI 5 JUN

Gaza Nights: Amplify Gaza Food projects fundraiser. 19:30, St Michael-in-the-Hamlet Church, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 7BD. Book on Ticketbo website.

SAT 6 JUN

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

Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign: 42nd Anniversary March and Rally. Assemble 12:30 for 13:00 start. City Hall, Barkers Pool, Sheffield S1 2JA.

SAT 13 JUN

90th anniversary of the anti-fascist 1936 Battle of De Winton Field. 12:30. Cambrian Colliery (NUM) Club, Tonypany CF40 2FN.

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 (at CSC AGM), Derby, Nottingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Oxford and Bristol. See CSC website for full details.

MON 15-WED 17 JUN

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Delete Genocide Tech campaign. Public meetings Liverpool, Cardiff and London. Details on PSC website.

TUES 16 JUN

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: *Technological Disobedience*. Cuban documentary 18:00, Venue Sands Cinema Studios, Film preview theatre, 82 St Marychurch Street, London SE16 4HZ. In person and

online. Book on CSC website.

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.

FRI 26 JUN

Trades Union Congress: Climate, backlash, and winning with working class communities conference. 09:30-17:00. Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.

SAT 27 JUN

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

WED 1-SAT 11 JUL

Townsend Theatre Productions: Neil Gore's *Farewell Leicester Square*. Touring play about Bedford's first Black bus driver. Bedford, Watford and London venues. Book on TTP website.

THUR 2 JUL

Marx Memorial Library: Meirian Jump on Women and the Spanish Civil War. 19:00. People's Letters Bookshop, 395 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9RA.

SAT 4 JUL

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Independence From America demonstration. Menwith Hill, Harrogate HG3 2RL.

SAT 4 JUL

International Brigade Association: Annual Commemoration. 13:00. Jubilee Gardens, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PG.

SAT 11 JUL

Durham Miners Association: Durham Miners' Gala. Durham city centre DH1.

THUR 16 JUL

Marx Memorial Library: Discover the lives of Radical Women in Clerkenwell. 18:00. In person. 37a Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DU.

FRI 17 JUL

Ipswich New Worker Group: Impressions of People's China by Samuel Swale following his recent study tour. 19:30-21:30. Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnerau Road, Ipswich IP1 3HJ.

FRI 17-SUN 19 JUL

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, Dorchester Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset DT2 7EH.

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

**JOIN US!
For peace!
justice!
socialism!**

I would like to join the New Communist Party....
I would like more info about the NCP....

Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

phone.....
Send to NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.



BOOST OUR FUND

Make your commitment to sustaining the New Worker in the struggle for peace and socialism
COMPLETE THE BANKER'S ORDER FORM BELOW:
The Manager.....

bank. Bank's address.....

Please pay to the New Worker account No 50492464, 08-90-34, Co-op Bank plc, 17 High St, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 1LP. the sum of £.....
(in words) each month starting on.....

Signature.....

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

NCP Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

The Scottish election is over. First Minister John Swinney has announced his new Cabinet. A reduced version, with just nine members compared with the previous 12. This was not just down to the fact that Angus Robertson lost his Edinburgh seat, his job as 'Constitutional Affairs' secretary has also vanished as Cabinet post.

While the post of Constitutional Affairs Secretary will not be missed, Swinney was attacked for dropping the role of women's health minister. Midwife Leah Hazard, who is also a best-selling author, told the media that: "At a time when gynaecology waiting lists remain intolerably long, maternity care remains stretched and abortion rights remain under threat, it is extremely disappointing that the Scottish Government sees the women's health minister as an expendable post. It is also politically short-sighted, as roughly half of the electorate are female, and stand to make their opinion of the SNP clear the next time they hit the ballot box".

Swinney appointed as his deputy Jenny Gilruth, an MSP since 2016 who was formerly Minister of Transport where she was responsible for the famous ferries. This did not prevent her spending the last three years as Education Secretary, where she skilfully avoided taking any decisions on the issue of school violence and washed her hands of the financial crisis at the University of Dundee. In addition to her deputy job, she is also Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government.

Soon after getting her

new job and with the election safely out of the way, Gilruth warned that there will "undoubtedly" be a need to make cuts. Labour spokesman Michael Marra said she was "keeping Scots in the dark about where those cuts will fall".

We have been warned that such cuts are going to be serious. There is even a new Cabinet post devoted to making cuts. It is called "Public Service Reform". This is occupied by Ivan McKee, previously Minister for Public Finance from 2024 to 2026 and Director of Business for Scotland, which the SNP founded before the Referendum.

Meanwhile, Labour members are calling for Scots MP Joani Reid to be re-admitted to the Party after being suspended amid allegations that her husband spied for People's China.

The suspension is being challenged because Reid, who is a member of the Home Affairs committee, is not under investigation and she has denied any wrong-doing. The East Kilbride Constituency Labour Party unanimously voted for Reid to be readmitted last week. A Scottish Labour MP told the *Daily Record* that: "Joani is one of our most effective MPs and hasn't been accused of any wrongdoing herself, so it feels only fair she should be given the whip back." Meanwhile, Monday saw the start and unexpected finish of the case of the Crown versus...

Peter Murrell

...at which he unexpectedly pleaded guilty to embezzling a precise £400,310.65 from the SNP between 2010 and 2022. Murrell was appointed CEO by the present First Minister in 2002 and stood down under the £600,000 cloud in 2023. He married former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in 2010 and they announced their

divorce early last year.

The timing and outcome of the trial are curious. Despite years of investigation, it took place only AFTER the Holyrood elections. While in theory there is no plea bargaining in Scotland, it looks as though a deal has been done where Murrell will get a light sentence for admitting most of the charge sheet (the £400,000 is well below the £500,000 mark that would see a heavier sentence) and keeping others in the SNP in the clear. The guilty plea effectively means there is no trial, so we will never know the details.

Nicola Sturgeon predictably denied knowing anything about her husband's activities. She claimed she was "angry, hurt, sad and very distressed", and repeated the claim that she "had no knowledge or suspicion whatsoever that he was using SNP funds for personal purposes". This is unconvincing except to the few remaining devotees of the Cult of St. Nicola. Incredibly, some people still think it was wise to buy the famous camper-van for campaigning. She explicitly declared that the SNP finances were sound and above board in response to a finance committee member raising queries in response to complaints by maverick nationalists. Seeing a new £81,277 Jaguar I-PACE car that appeared on their driveway in 2019 is not, however, an everyday occurrence for most folk.

There is a possibility that Sturgeon's denial is true but if so, it gives credence to those lurid rumours that she is a closet lesbian and that her marriage was fake for political convenience. This she strenuously denies.

Also denying any knowledge of the missing cash was Colin Beattie, the recently re-elected MSP who was Treasurer when the allegations emerged. If he is indeed

innocent in the best sense of the word, he is also innocent in the worst sense of the word. He initially dismissed allegations of fraud as a "social media conspiracy", adding that the money supposedly reserved for another independence referendum was "woven through". Both Sturgeon and Beattie were arrested and released after questioning. No-one in their right mind would entrust people like that to run a pensioner's bingo club. No wonder the SNP had to go to Manchester for their auditors.

John Swinney has also piously declared himself to be "shocked and betrayed", seemingly oblivious to what was going on under his nose for a decade or more. It will be interesting to see if the SNP take legal action to retrieve the money, but that would open up another can of worms.

On Tuesday at Holyrood, SNP and Green MSPs voted yet again in favour of securing the right to hold another independence referendum. That will keep the SNP members happy. The same may not be the case for the higher-ups. The SNP's "ring-fenced referendum fund" all went to Harrods and Fortnum & Mason. They could, however, hold a nice dinner party using a £3,912 black tea set, a £3,500 Hamilton & Inches hand-chased wine coaster in Britannia silver, finishing up with coffee from the £3,231.90 Jura Giga 5 Cromo coffee machine...

...continued from page 8

Alliance. We will continue to fight strongly in the new parliament for the benefit of society. Now and always, AKEL.

Stefanos Stefanou
General Secretary
AKEL
Nicosia

Come along and support the Orgreave Anniversary March and Rally organised by the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign on Saturday 13th June 2026. We are commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the police riot at Orgreave and celebrating the great Miners' Strike of 1984/5. Assemble 12:30pm for a 1:00pm start at the City Hall, Barkers Pool, Sheffield S1 2JA.

Since our last anniversary rally an Orgreave Inquiry was announced in July 2025 and launched in March 2026. We now need to make sure the inquiry delivers the truth and jus-

tice so long overdue.

Please bring along your banners, placards, family, comrades and friends and march with us through Sheffield and support our call for an inquiry for truth and justice for striking miners brutalised by the state at the Orgreave Coking plant on 18th June 1984.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Joe Rollin
Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign

Make a donation to the New Worker (Pleckbond Ltd) today via your smartphone by scanning this QR code:



The NCP badge



£4.50 inc P&P from New Worker, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

China at London Craft week

by
New Worker
correspondent

London once again became the show-piece for traditional arts and crafts during the 2026 London Craft Week, which ran until 17th May. Celebrating outstanding British and international creativity, the festival brought together over a thousand established and emerging makers, designers, brands and galleries from around the world. A curated selection based not on price or fame, but underlying substance. Plus, that essential dash of magic and inspiration that separates great from good.

Must-see exhibitions and events were held across the capital during the 12th edition of London Craft Week as well as a series of demonstrations, artist talks, and micro-workshops that showed how communities preserve heritage while reimagining it for the future.



The China Pavilion showcased achievements in the preservation and innovation of Chinese craftsmanship and highlighted its important role in supporting poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation.

Guy Salter, the founder and Chairman of London Craft Week, said: “The works presented in this year’s China Pavilion continuously update and reinterpret

tradition through contemporary art and fashion design, challenging conventional perceptions of traditional craft itself.

“The exhibition unfolds through three curatorial threads: reconstructed historical wedding attire, the textile systems of Southwest Chinese ethnic minorities, and auspicious motifs that run throughout the exhibition space.

Together, they form a broader discussion about the emotional structures embedded within Chinese culture – how family, marriage, female labour, bodily experience and intergenerational memory are preserved through needlework, fabric and handcraft.”

With the theme of *Those Who Make China Beautiful*, this year’s China Pavilion focuses on Chinese female

handicraft creators and intangible cultural heritage inheritors. The exhibition featured wedding costumes, ethnic embroidery, auspicious patterns and contemporary craft innovation. It integrated the thousand-year-old Eastern context with contemporary design expression to present a credible, lovely and respectable Chinese image to the world. Helping to promote China’s excellent traditional culture overseas and continuing to write a new chapter of exchanges and mutual learning between China and the UK.

The exhibition was organised by Art and Design Press, with the strong support of the London Craft Week Organising Committee and the Chinese Embassy in the UK. Media support was provided by the Nouvelles d’Europe UK. Important guests from China and the UK in fields including art, business and design gathered at the opening site to witness Eastern crafts on one of the world’s top

craft stages.

At the opening ceremony, Zhao Fei from the Chinese Embassy in London said China’s traditional craftsmanship, both well preserved and continuously evolving, is an important vehicle for carrying forward Chinese culture in the new era. It is a vivid expression of the beauty of China. China’s beauty is rooted in its historical and cultural heritage, shaped by continuous development, grounded in its people’s pursuit of a better life, and enriched through exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. The outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan, released not long ago, highlights the need to better preserve intangible cultural heritage and create new scenarios for immersive experiences. This will provide stronger institutional support for the development of crafts, while opening up broader prospects for cultural exchange and co-operation between China and the UK.

The ‘last bell’ for Russian pupils

by
New Worker
correspondent

The last call rings for all Russian school-leavers on 24th and 25th May. Millions of school-kids in the Russian Federation and amongst the Russian ex-pat community abroad took part in ‘Last Bell’ cele-

brations. And London was no exception.

Final year pupils say goodbye to classmates and teachers in May at a ceremony that usually includes speeches by the head-teacher and guests, parents, first-graders and the last words from those from the final years.

Traditionally, the last bell is carried by a leaver

and rung by a first-former. And it tolled for pupils at the general school under the Embassy of Russia in the heart of London last weekend.

Traditionally, the event opens with the anthem of the Russian Federation. Russian diplomat Vasili Tsyganov then addressed the pupils, their families and

teachers, congratulating the school-leavers as they embark on a new stage in their lives and wishing them confidence in their strengths, success in their exams and achievement of their intended goals. And finally, the day ended with creative performances and dances by the students and their parents.



20th Century Socialism: a step forward

by
A Carruthers

While the Soviet Union eventually ossified and liquidated itself, we should remember that its Marxist-Leninist style of governance had already impacted countries from Africa to Latin America and throughout the Caucasus and the Slavic nationalities, many positively. Today's five socialist countries are making great strides that are slowly but surely putting an ultimatum to capitalism. They are based, more than is acknowledged, on Soviet-style structures and systems.

Countries around the world today with the most secure housing outcomes either had, or still have, socialist systems.

There is a tendency in the Western left to equate the mistakes made with net failure. History written by the victor, in this case the capitalist victor, is liable to tell it its own way. But



there is a case to be made that in the larger scheme of history, these mistakes on the whole do not negate a larger trend, towards the success of socialism, the efficacy of the communist idea and the Marxist-Leninist social system.

To separate '20th century socialism' from '21st century socialism' is unnecessary. History works on a larger continuum, of negations and setbacks,

and progressive movements forwards, and victories. "Ever onwards to victory" – *hasta la victoria siempre!* – remains the leading slogan of the heroic Cuban communists, exemplars of this forward trend, between the two centuries.

Take Burkina Faso, the revolutionary trend of Ibrahim Traoré and the recent developments there. What inspires Traoré? The 20th-century Sankara revo-

lution. That is what inspires the upwards trend in the Sahel region today. Not a new invention in the 21st Century but an old one. They are reinventing Sankaraism for the new century.

As Shakespeare said, nothing comes from nothing. To try to create a revolution from nothing, from a blank slate, doesn't work. Foundations matter. History matters, history inspires.

Sankara's peoples' democratic revolution in Burkina Faso in turn was taken from the Soviets, from early Marxist-Leninist theory and practice of people's democracy and the socialist transition. Traoré is inspired by trends over a century old, and reaping results from it.

Revolutionary timescapes are long and vast. That is why the Marxist-Leninist style, the revolutionary style of Marx, Engels and Lenin, for so long as it remains an active, practical Marxism to change the world – to create the new social system, the socialist social relations of the new society – never becomes old, never irrelevant. It won't become irrelevant until the world enters into the next stage of the process, ie, the construction and emergence of socialist societies, of communist civilisation, which necessarily is a higher stage of civilisation. Only then will Marxism become irrelevant. For now, so-

cialism remains the trend of history. More and more capitalism and capitalists are becoming superfluous. More and more our hard work is paying off.

When the Soviets were liquidated we lost a great deal, but through the times of darkness and confusion, communists around the world were biding their time and working hard with what they had, armed with the knowledge that capitalism was an unsustainable system and that eventually the upward trend would return to socialism.

Socialism is the unstoppable trend of history. The working class now envelops the globe. The ruling class has already become surplus to our needs. In these times we say: all power to the workers! Forward a thousandfold with the class struggle!

*Guardian –
The Workers' Weekly
(Australia)*

Soviet flag sparks anti-communist frenzy in Czechia!

An act of political defiance at the Brno city council in the Czech Republic has once again exposed the rabid anti-communism of the Czech ruling class and the broader reactionary campaign underway across Europe to criminalise the communist movement.

On 19th May, during a council session, a woman raised a Soviet flag in protest against the gathering of the Sudeten German association in the city – an

organisation tied to the legacy of German revanchism and the post-war dispute over the Sudetenland whose German minority was expelled after the defeat of the Third Reich in 1945. Police immediately intervened and authorities launched an investigation against the protester for allegedly promoting a "totalitarian ideology"!

The incident is another example of how bourgeois states in Eastern Europe are intensifying anti-com-

munist repression under the banner of "defending democracy". In today's



Czech Republic, communist symbols and political expression are increasingly

treated under the same legal framework as fascist propaganda, in line with the systematic effort of the European ruling classes to equate communism with Nazism and erase the decisive role of the Soviet Union and the communist movement in the defeat of fascism.

The hypocrisy of the Czech establishment is striking. While communist symbols are persecuted and anti-communist hysteria is cultivated at the state level,

organisations connected to the historical rehabilitation of Sudeten German nationalism are granted legitimacy and political space.

The persecution of communists and the falsification of history go hand in hand with the broader offensive of European capitalism against workers' rights, anti-imperialist politics and any force challenging the power of capital, the European Union and NATO.

IDOc

China stands by Cuba!

by
New Worker
correspondent

The first shipment of emergency food supplies from People's China has been delivered to the Cuban people. Fifteen thousand tons of rice, part of a donation of 60,000 tons under China's emergency food assistance project for Cuba, was unloaded at the Port of Havana last weekend. The new humanitarian aid package is part of China's response to the economic blockade imposed on Cuba by the American imperialists.

"China urges the United States to immediately cease the blockade and sanctions against Cuba,



as well as any form of coercion or pressure," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. "We will continue to pro-

vide assistance to Cuba to the best of our ability and in our own way."

This year Chinese President Xi Jinping ap-

proved a new aid programme for Cuba including the 60,000 tons of rice as a show of support during the tightening of the block-

ade by the Trump administration in Washington.

Hua Xin, the Chinese Ambassador in Havana, said the food assistance

shipment is an important part of China's package of support measures for Cuba and a concrete reflection of the two countries standing together and helping each other amid the current complex situation. China will firmly advance practical co-operation with Cuba and steadfastly support Cuba in safeguarding its sovereignty and national dignity.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the close bonds of friendship and co-operation are growing stronger at crucial moments. China's noble gesture of solidarity will reach millions of consumers across all provinces and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, as well as Cuba's health and educational institutions.

Ukrainian fascists honoured in Kiev

by
New Worker
correspondent

On Monday 25th May the remains of Andrei Melnyk and his wife, Sofia Fedak-Melnyk, were reburied at Ukraine's National Military Memorial Cemetery in the Kiev region. Their remains had been brought back from Luxembourg, where Melnyk had been buried after his death in 1964. The reburial ceremony took place with the participation of the country's top leadership, including President Vladimir Zelensky, as well as representatives of the government, parliament, civil society and the armed forces.

But it provoked an angry response from the Russian Government, who saw the actions of the Luxembourg authorities as neglecting the memory of the victims of the Second World War and supporting the glorification of Nazi collaborators.

The official Ukrainian repatriation and honouring of Melnyk, the leader of the notorious Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-M), once again exposes the increasingly open rehabilitation of fascist and collaborationist forces by the Zelensky regime.

Melnyk was one of the principal leaders of the OUN, an ultra-nationalist and fiercely anti-communist movement that

collaborated with Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

After the war, Melnyk remained in the West and continued to lead Ukrainian fascist movements until his death in West Germany in 1964.

Despite repeated attempts by Ukrainian nationalist circles to sanitise their past, the political character of the OUN remains inseparable from fascist ideology, ethnic chauvinism and collaboration with the German occupation.

Vladimir Zelensky openly embraced fascism by honouring Melnyk says Lubos Blaha, a left social-democrat Slovak member of the European Parliament. "Zelensky openly confessed to fas-

cism" Blaha said. It is well known what Ukrainian far-right leader Stepan Bandera supporters were doing in eastern Slovakia he added.

"We know what they did in Volhynia, how they skinned children, how they tortured and killed tens of thousands of women and children. And Zelensky glorifies such people today, collaborators of Hitler. I have been saying this for many years: Zelensky's regime is Bandera-like, and today it has been officially confirmed. Ukraine is becoming a fascist state," he added. There should be no doubt that representatives of the Kiev regime support fascism, Blaha said.

The decision to ceremonially return Melnyk's remains to Ukraine and

publicly honour him is not accidental. It reflects a broader state policy that has steadily elevated OUN figures into official "national heroes" while anti-fascist and communist traditions are systematically erased or criminalised. Streets, monuments and commemorations dedicated to OUN leaders have multiplied in recent years under the banner of "decommunisation".

The reactionary Zelensky government continues this dangerous historical revisionism by presenting figures like Melnyk as symbols of "national liberation" while ignoring or deliberately obscuring the reactionary and fascist nature of the movement

they led.

The repatriation also reveals the profound hypocrisy of Western governments and institutions that continue to present Ukraine as a bastion of "democratic values" while remaining silent about the glorification of a movement historically tied to fascism and collaboration with the Third Reich.

The honouring of Andrei Melnyk is not merely a symbolic act about the past. It is another clear indication of the ideological direction being cultivated inside the Ukrainian state: militant nationalism, institutionalised anti-communism and the normalisation of far-right historical revisionism.