

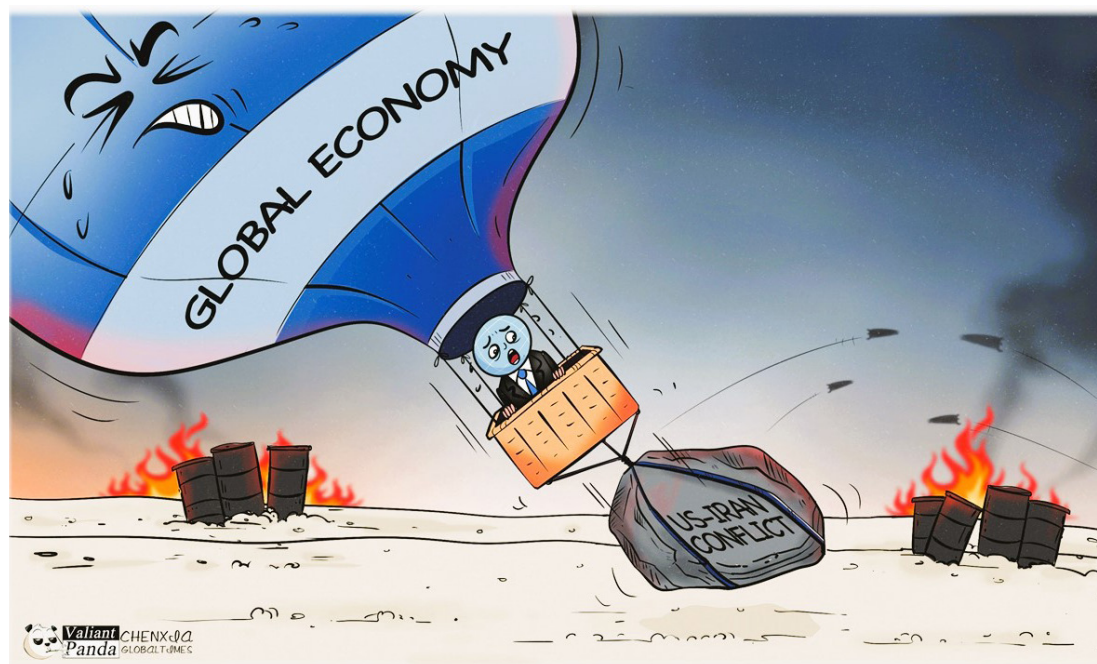
Escalation: Trump turns to the Saudis!

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

Iran hits US bases throughout the Middle East. The Americans and Saudis rocket Iran and Shia Muslim militia bases in Iraq. The double blockade of the Persian Gulf and the new one in the Red Sea send spot oil prices up to global-warming levels amid industry fears that Donald Trump has lost the plot. On social media Trump rants and raves against Iran. “We’re going to beat the fucking shit out of them. We’ll be hitting them hard. They’re going to get a beating” he says. And in Gaza and the West Bank the Israelis continue their terror attacks on Palestinian civilians.

Whether Trump is clinically insane is something only psychiatrists can tell. But there’s a method in his madness on the diplomatic front. There the Americans have gone on the offensive to try and get the Saudis to seal the knot and join their NATO-style ‘Abraham Accords’ in the Middle East.

Last week Trump told the world that his negotiators had reached a “historic agreement” with Hamas for the complete disarmament of all the resistance units in the Gaza Strip in return for a total Israeli withdrawal from the “security zone” it has carved



out of the Strip as well as the establishment of an independent Palestinian administration in Gaza and the start of serious and substantive efforts to rebuild the economy of the devastated Palestinian enclave. This, Trump says, is a “monumental step towards lasting peace and security” and a major milestone in his 20-point plan for the enclave.

“Today, agreement has been reached on the decommissioning of weapons and civilian transition in Gaza. It took months of very difficult negotiations to get here” Trump said, adding that there were times when he “did not believe we would make it” and insisting the Israeli withdrawal “must move in lockstep” with Hamas decommissioning.

The Israelis will be replaced by Trump’s peace-keeping force, the so-called “International Stabilisation Force” that will eventually be responsible for security throughout the entire Palestinian enclave – in tandem with a Palestinian police force that has yet

to be established.

Ghazi Hamad, a member of the Hamas negotiating team, has confirmed the agreement.

“These negotiations were difficult and hard, and we tried to reach the best possible formula that was achievable” Hamad told Al-Jazeera TV. But none of it will happen if the Israelis don’t fulfil their obligations, particularly withdrawing from Gaza and advancing reconstruction in the Palestinian territory.

There are big ifs. The Saudis have no principled objections to signing up to the American-sponsored surrender peace with Israel in return for American know-how

to set up their own nuclear energy programme. But they also want the face-saving establishment of an ‘independent’ Palestinian

state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Some believe that Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood which runs the Palestinian enclave, simply wants to go along with the Saudis – whose hand lies behind all of this Gaza talk – to force the Zionists to openly reject Trump’s initiative. A Palestinian state – even if it is little more than the “Palestinian Authority” which runs the autonomous Palestinian zones in the West Bank – is anathema to Netanyahu and the rest of the Zionist establishment in Tel Aviv. America’s ruling circles, however, want a way-out of the Iran conflict. And not one that leaves the Islamic Republic in control of the Persian Gulf. The Americans need the House of Saud to strengthen their grip on the oil-rich region. Whether they’ll pay the Saudi price is another matter. We’ll soon see...

FUND

The July appeal ended with a bumper £1,200 in the bag and a grand total of £2,800 for the month. Sadly £700 below our target but still a great effort considering much of it was made during our summer shut-down.

Many thanks to all who helped us on our way, such as the supporters at our Party Foundation Day reception last weekend who raised £416 for the *New Worker* and the supporters from Hull, Hereford, Wales, Scotland and the West Country whose donations guaranteed the continued production of the *New Worker* for at least another week.

Unlike Farage, we get no gifts or donations from City spivs and millionaire sponsors. We rely entirely on our readers to keep the *New Worker* going. The August appeal starts now and the target, as usual, is £3,500.

Help us get the communist message across and build the 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. Join us in the fight to guarantee the survival of the *New Worker*. All donations to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’.

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

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Labour holds!

The Burnham boost continues on a roll in Manchester. Labour swept the board in the Greater Manchester mayoralty by-election this week. Andy Burnham's chosen successor, Bev Craig, won the most votes in the election this week. The Faragists came a poor second, followed by the Greens, while the Tories and the Liberal-Democrats trailed behind with the also-rans in the poll for the post left vacant when Burnham returned to the House of Commons to get rid of Starmer and become leader of the Labour Party.

Her victory, in what is after-all a Labour stronghold, is perhaps not surprising. Nevertheless, Reform and the Greens had high hopes when the race began to replace the "King of the North" on his old turf. But their dreams of a breakthrough were dashed by Bev Craig, a seasoned Labour councillor who has led Manchester City Council since December 2021.

Bev Craig was the first woman and the first openly LGBT woman to lead Manchester City Council. She's now the first woman elected to lead the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. She's a supporter of the Mainstream Labour, a self-styled "radical realist" faction that was set up last year to reverse the party's "clear drift to the right" under Starmer and promotes a left social-democratic platform that includes taxing wealth, introducing democratic reforms and restoring part, but not all, of the British public sector that existed until the Tory come-back in 1979.

Labour now pips Reform in the opinion polls as the Faragist leader flays around Clacton fighting to keep his seat against a man with a bin over his head while more and more voters return to the Labour fold now that Burnham appears to uphold traditional Labour values. But does he?

Yes, no, maybe. Burnham has certainly revived Labour's fortunes. His initial pledges to build more council houses and help pensioners have helped. So has the long over-due decision to allow maverick left MP Diane Abbott back into the party. His talk about wealth taxes, rejection of neo-liberalism and criticism of Israel – a first for a modern Labour leader – are further steps forward. Some say this is small beer compared with Attlee's sweeping post-war programme that set up the welfare state and built the public sector and the NHS or those of the later Wilson administrations that brought the unions to the centre of government. But the Burnham agenda is a bonanza compared with Starmer who did nothing for working people.

Of course, Attlee, Wilson and Callaghan served British imperialism as much as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Sir Keir Starmer. Andy Burnham and those behind him are no different.

Burnham's modest reforms are, however, not just sops to win votes – they do genuinely reflect the demand for change within the broader labour movement.

Getting rid of Starmer and his henchmen was a start. Now we have to get rid of the rest.

Getting back to the 1970s – the days when unions counted and workers enjoyed the highest standard of living recorded in the UK – will only come with mass pressure from the rank-and-file – the workers, the toilers, the people who make this country work. We are part of that struggle and putting the communist answer to the capitalist crisis back on the street is the task of the day...

Europe's political elites must rethink and learn from China

by
Martin Jacques

Europe is not in a good place. It is bereft of the kind of technology sector enjoyed by China and the USA. Since the Western financial crisis in 2008, apart from the Eastern European economies, Europe has barely grown. This stagnation largely explains the near-universal disillusionment with Europe's political elites, the rise of the far right, and extreme political volatility. Over the last two decades, the European economy has been greatly outperformed by the US economy. To compound matters, Europe now finds itself increasingly cut adrift by a US administration that no longer believes in the Western alliance, a bedrock of Europe since 1949.

The result has been major shifts in European public opinion. There is widespread disillusionment with the USA; a larger share of people in France and Germany believe that China is more dependable than the USA and that their countries should move closer to China. Most people in these countries believe that China is more technologically advanced than the USA. And a majority in these countries believe that China will be the dominant world power in 10 years.

Europe's political elites have belatedly come to recognise that "America First" reflects deeper trends in US politics and culture. Meanwhile, their response to China's economic rise has become increasingly protectionist. Initially, they claimed that Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) were competitive because of unfair subsidies rather than a long-term strategy that resulted in superior technologies and a more advanced production system. This became obvious as Chinese EVs increasingly dominated the Chinese market and won growing market shares elsewhere. European manufacturers found themselves on the

defensive: copying Chinese EVs, selling unused European plants to Chinese manufacturers, utilising their Chinese plants to produce more competitive exports, and linking up with Chinese partners to achieve technology transfer in what was a dramatic reversal of the relationship that existed between Europe and China in the early days of the reform period.

EVs are a microcosm of China's remarkable economic rise and Europe's economic decline. Instead of blaming China, they need to learn from China. Alas, Europe's political elites, in denial of the harsh realities of European decline, are opting for protectionism. China's EVs already face EU tariffs of up to 45 per cent. And the problem is not confined to EVs. China has overtaken Europe in countless technological areas. China accounts for almost one-third of global manufacturing products. Should Europe be so foolhardy as to provoke a trade war with China, there can be no winners.

Europe's political elites are living in the past. Their failed policies have been responsible for Europe's stagnation. Europe needs to engage with and learn from China, the main source of economic dynamism and growth in the world.

How do we explain Europe's reluctance in this regard? This is a very deep problem, at the heart of which is Europe's belief in its own civilisational superiority on the one hand and its disdain for China's profoundly different and

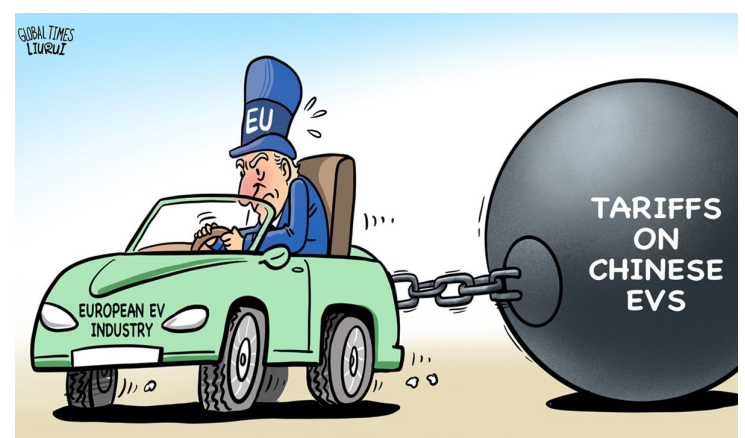
highly sophisticated civilisation on the other. The European elites refuse to study China, preferring to live in blissful ignorance.

Europe is composed of a multitude of countries with differing views. France is inclined toward protectionism, while Germany favours greater openness. Spain sees China as central to its future. The UK has not imposed any tariffs on Chinese EVs. Yet, the EU, with its 27 member countries, tends to move as one on such matters.

The most likely upshot of the present trade negotiations will be the EU having no choice but to retreat from its more extreme protectionist demands, while failing to address the underlying causes of its decline. The European car industry will over time become the defining metaphor for Europe's economic decline. Until a few years ago, the car industry was Europe's most important manufacturer and employer. Over time, it will continue to lose market share to Chinese companies.

Alas, there is little sign of Europe showing itself capable of halting, let alone reversing, its long-term economic decline, and the huge political, social and cultural consequences this will have.

The author is a visiting professor at the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University and a senior fellow at the China Institute, Fudan University. Follow him on X @martjacques. opinion@globaltimes.com.cn



Workers' Notes

The children of Palestine are not alone

by New Worker correspondent

Ipswich Woodcraft folk gave real meaning to their ideals of equality and co-operation for a fairer world as they hosted the visit of a group of youngsters from Palestine. They recently gave them a very warm, respectful and friendly welcome at the Friends Meeting House in Ipswich. The visit was sponsored by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association. (CADFA) as part of their Beyond the Checkpoints Programme. This aims to promote visits to Britain and to increase awareness of the horrors and injustices suffered by a brave and courageous people.

Over 60 people attended the successful gathering. Prior to the meeting the young Palestinians had played football and flown kites. This was followed by a meal, which included Palestinian food. Then the children introduced themselves, said which refugee camp they came from and gave harrowing accounts of their experiences at the hands of the aggressors. A situation that can only be described as genocide is taking place today against a proud people who just want to live in peace in their homeland. The young people showed remarkable resilience and maturity even after their terrible ordeals.

There can be no doubt that such meetings are of the utmost importance as they not only bring people together but also promote love and kindness and show that people do care. The children of Palestine are not alone. CADFA are to be congratulated for making this all possible and a special thank you to Helen Spilsted of the Ipswich Woodcraft folk for her work in making the local arrangements. The *New Worker* has always fully supported the rights of the Palestinians and campaigned on their behalf on the streets and in our newspaper,



and John Maryon of the Ipswich New Worker Group was among those attending the event.

Palestine Action founder to fight ban

The co-founder of Palestine Action was granted permission to challenge the group's prohibition at the Supreme Court this week as police arrested hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists in London.

The court ruled on Thursday that Huda Ammori, who co-founded Palestine Action in 2020, could appeal against the ban later this year. Palestine Action was listed as a terrorist organisation in July 2025, and although Britain's High Court ruled the ban unlawful earlier this year, an appeals court later reinstated it, citing the group's "support for violence".

"We will continue to fight this proscription all the way to the Supreme Court and, if necessary, to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn what has become one of the most extreme attacks on free speech and the right to protest in modern British history" Ammori said.

The ban placed Palestine Action in the same legal category as Al Qaeda and the IRA, and criminalised public displays of support for the campaign. More than 3,500 Palestine Action sympathisers have since been arrested for displaying T-shirts, flags and

placards supporting the group at protests.

As the first trials for these Palestine Action supporters were scheduled to begin at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London last week police arrested another 115 people outside the courthouse for expressions of support for the group.

Palestine Action was proscribed by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, who served under former Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Starmer led a nationwide crackdown on pro-Palestine activism, following the ban with calls for the "policing of language" and banning of anti-Israel protests.

Starmer's replacement, Andy Burnham, has said that the Labour Party "didn't get it right" on the war on Gaza and "needs to do better". However, Burnham's home secretary, Shabana Mahmood, has left the prohibition in place.

Last month, four Palestine Action members were sentenced as terrorists for vandalising an Israeli arms plant near Bristol in 2024. After ramming their way into the Elbit Systems factory with a decommissioned prison van, they destroyed computers, drones and other equipment inside, causing around £1.2 million in damage.

rt.com

HCP RIP

by New Worker correspondent

Sadly, it looks like farewell to the High Pay Centre (HPC). Every January it announced its "Fat Cat Day", the day when the pay of CEOs and other directors exceeded the annual salary of their average UK workers, which was inevitably very early in the month.

Founded in 2011, it was funded by various charities such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, to "improve corporate governance" and advance policies designed to reduce economic inequality.

The end came when the Edinburgh-based Aberdeen Group, a wealth management and investment company, suddenly pulled the plug on its Financial Fairness Trust (FFT), which had funded similar organisations. This provided 35 per cent of HPC's funding in recent years.

This trust was based on the £90 million of unclaimed assets from the demutualisation of Standard Life in 2016. It sought "to fund research, campaigning and policy work aimed at making the UK financially fairer for people on low to middle incomes". Its first chair was Alistair Darling, a turncoat Trot who became Chancellor of the Exchequer in Gordon Brown's day.

The FFT has re-emerged as the Aberdeen Group Charitable Trust, which doles out money to such bodies as Partner: Money Ready which teaches teenagers how to look after their money, and Street Soccer which helps London and Scottish football players from deprived backgrounds find jobs. It also supports the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, which supports biodiversity monitoring. All these are worthy causes but they do not cause even temporary embarrassment to bosses.

Its 15-year work has not had all that much impact if its final report is anything to go by. Fat Cat Day generated plenty of headlines, and outrage, but no CEO was ever embarrassed enough to ask his remuneration committee to cut his salary. Some of those outraged by the HPC's findings were shareholders who thought that they ought to get a bigger slice of the profits generated by workers, rather than see it go to workers.

It is telling that the shareholders of Aberdeen Group have not revolted at the plug being pulled on FFT. In its valedictory

statement the HPC lamented that "long-standing donors have left the sector. While we have worked hard to develop a more sustainable funding model, unfortunately we have not been able to secure new sources of funding to replace what has been lost." The latter point is not surprising as other big businesses are clearly not keen on funding research that might be even mildly critical of them.

Even if the HPC is to be no more, its final report provides evidence that bosses need to be closely observed. Their final review of CEO pay for those heading companies in the FTSE top 100 shows that the ratio of boss's pay to their workers was 130:1 in 2025-26, an increase from the previous 124:1 and the highest for eight years. This was due to CEOs' pay rising by 8.6 per cent from a mere £4.66 million to £5.06 million.

While the mean FTSE 100 pay (including other executives) fell fractionally from £6.09 to £5.89 million, this was due to the bosses at aerospace company Melrose Industries getting a whopping £58.93 million the previous year. Excluding this one-off, mean pay for bosses rose by 6.5 percent from £5.53 to £5.89 million.

All in all, £856.6 million was spent on FTSE 100 executives, with the CEOs getting £550.4 million or £7.47 million per company.

Not that it really matters very much. HPC laments that only 10 FTSE 100 companies have female CEOs, one less than last year. That is as important as the difference between Boris Johnson and Theresa May.

As a farewell, HPC makes the blindly obvious point that "excessive spending on top earners by leading firms often comes at the expense of pay increases for the rest of the workforce".

As remedies, it calls for a full implementation of the watered-down Employment Rights Act, which will ensure workers are informed of their union rights and guaranteeing unions reasonable access to workplaces.

More controversially, it wants to see 'worker directors' with workers electing at least two directors to company boards. This would allegedly "improve

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operational understanding of the business at boardroom level ... and encourage a focus on long-term company success over short-term shareholder profit". For trade unions this would likely be a disaster as worker directors have a remarkable tendency to speedily become more directors than workers.

HPC optimistically asserts that more detailed corporate reporting on the pay of top bosses would make a great deal of difference. Wrong: the annual exposure by HPC has had no long-term effect apart from generating a few headlines. It is naïve in the extreme to claim that "if workers, investors and other stakeholders have more transparent information about pay practices, they are likely to be able to influence them to ensure fairer outcomes". Why would shareholders worry about executive pay so long as their dividends keep rolling in?

At AGMs, token votes from small shareholders against executive pay get overwhelmingly voted down by investment companies with bosses on the same rates.

The modest reforms suggested by HPC to address extreme pay inequality between bosses and workers are a "Fat Cat Tax", with companies paying a corporation tax surcharge on their yearly profits if single-figure remuneration for a director

exceeds a specified multiple of the median UK worker's salary. That will give the accountants something to do for a couple of hours devising a scheme to get round it...

Marking China's Army Day in London

by New Worker
correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined ambassadors, defence attachés, journalists and academics celebrating the 99th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA) at the Chinese embassy in London last week. Several videos were shown at the reception, including *Blue Helmets, No Borders: Together for Peace* and another of last year's military parade marking the anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people in the Second World War.

During the formal part of the proceedings Ambassador Zheng said that under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the PLA has travelled an extraordinary path over the last 99 years. It has made indelible contributions to the independence of the nation, the



liberation of the people, and the security and development of the country. It has also played an important role in maintaining world peace and stability. In the new era and on the new journey, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military, the PLA is striving to build a world-class force. It has the confidence and capability to provide greater strategic support for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and to contribute more to peace and stability in the world.

Zheng noted that, in his speech at a rally marking the 105th anniversary of the founding of the CPC on 1st July, President Xi Jinping reviewed how the Party united and led the Chinese people of all ethnic groups on a glorious journey over the last 105 years, and envisaged the bright prospects for the undertakings of the party and the people. He identified the outstanding qual-

ities and key factors behind the CPC's continued success and called on the party and the nation to forge ahead with determination and make new historic achievements. The Chinese people have full confidence in writing a new chapter on the twin miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability and achieving the goals of building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation.

He said that, in the face of a changing and turbulent world, China is firmly committed to promoting the shared values of humanity – peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, to championing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and to upholding the international system with the UN at its centre.

The ambassador stressed that there is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable

part of China's territory, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. The one-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community and the political foundation for the establishment and development of China's diplomatic relations with other countries. The Chinese people and their armed forces firmly oppose all forms of separatist activities seeking "Taiwan independence" and will not tolerate any meddling in China's internal affairs by external forces under any pretext.

Ambassador Zheng said that China-UK relations go beyond the bilateral scope and have global significance. A few days ago, Premier Li Qiang sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Andy Burnham on his appointment. Earlier in Manila, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband. China and the UK should keep to the direction of building a long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, deepen dialogue and exchanges, and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, to better serve the interests of the two peoples. He called on the two militaries to enhance dialogue and exchanges and play an active role in promoting the steady development of China-UK relations.

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

21st July 2006

Brutality and corruption are rampant in Iraq's police force, with abuses including the rape of female prisoners, the release of prisoners in exchange for bribes, assassinations of police officers and participation in insurgent bombings, according to confidential Iraqi government documents detailing more than 400 police corruption investigations.

The Los Angeles Times says a recent assessment by the US State Department police training contractors echoes the investigative documents, concluding that strong paramilitary and insurgent influences within the force and endemic corruption have undermined public

confidence in the government.

The Iraqi documents show that officers have beaten prisoners to death, been involved in kidnapping rings, sold thousands of stolen and forged Iraqi passports and passed along vital information to resistance fighters.

The newspaper says that the alleged offences span dozens of police units and hundreds of officers including neighbourhood patrol officers, generals and police chiefs. Officers were punished in some instances, but the vast majority of cases were either under investigation or were dropped because of the lack of evidence or witness testimony.

The investigative documents are the latest in a string of disturbing revelations of abuse and corruption by Iraq's interior ministry that employs 268,610 police, immigration, facilities security and dignitary protection officers.

After the discovery in November of a secret Interior Ministry centre in Bagdad, operated by police intelligence officials affiliated to a Shia Muslim militia, US officials declared 2006 "The Year of Police". They

vowed a renewed effort to professionalise Iraq's civilian police.

But officials say the renegade force in the ministry's intelligence service in Bagdad's Jadiriya's neighbourhood still operates out of the building's seventh floor. A senior US military official confirmed that one of the leaders of the renegade group, Mahmoud Waeli, is the "minister for intelligence for the Badr Brigade", a Shia militia and recruiter of paramilitary elements for Ministry police forces.

The Los Angeles Times says that police officers have also organised kidnapping rings that abduct civilians for ransom – in some cases, the victims themselves are police officers. Two Baghdad police commanders kidnapped a lieutenant colonel, stole his ministry car and demanded tens of thousands of dollars from the victim's family.

In another case, the bodyguards of a police colonel in the Zayone neighbourhood of Bagdad kidnapped merchants for ransom. In the capital's Ghazaliya neighbourhood a lieutenant and his brother-in-law kidnapped a man and demanded a huge ransom from his family.

The steadfast stand of the Korean people

by Keith Bennett

Given the events in the world at present, with changes unseen in a century unfolding at an accelerating pace, it is surely both necessary and appropriate to address the importance of solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its people in this situation.

This in turn cannot be separated from the role played by the DPR Korea in the world. Not simply how the world situation impacts upon the DPRK but at least as importantly how the DPRK, its stands and its internal and external activities, impact upon the world situation.

The DPRK is not a bystander, observer or victim of events in today's world. From its quantitative and qualitative development of its independent, self-defensive nuclear deterrent to its principled support for the special military operation of the Russian Federation, the DPRK is a conscious maker of history, playing a role far greater than its small geographical size or population would reasonably suggest.

For my own remarks, I want to touch on two aspects of the importance of the DPRK's stand, role and history as a socialist country in today's international situation and the relationship of this to the anti-imperialist struggle that unites the overwhelming majority of humanity, irrespective of ideology, system, political view or religious belief, but in which the insights provided by scientific socialism are indispensable for the achievement of final victory.

The last time we organised an event such as this

The Friends of Korea campaign held a hybrid seminar at the John Buckle Centre as part of the global month of solidarity with the Korean people against US imperialism that is held every year in July to mark of the outbreak of the Korean war. Chaired by Andy Brooks, speakers included Michael Chant from the RCPB-ML, Dermot Hudson from the Korean Friendship Association and veteran Korean solidarity campaigner Keith Bennett, as well as a diplomat from the DPRK embassy in London who joined the panel via a Zoom link. This is Keith Bennett's contribution.



• Kim Il Sung's victory rally – October 1945 in Pyongyang.

by Friends of Korea, in November 2025 – and how quickly the time passes – I had recently returned from the magnificent celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang and we were able to discuss the high-level participation there from China, Vietnam, Laos and Russia, as well as from progressive Latin America.

Earlier this week, Kim Jong Un, the General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President

of the State Affairs of the DPRK, wrote to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, congratulating him on the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

Kim Jong Un wrote: "It is the steadfast stand of our Party and government to steadily develop the DPRK-China friendly relations with long and historical roots and with socialism as their core."

"The recent Pyongyang summit was a historic occasion of deepening the com-

radely friendship and trust between us and reconfirming the unshakable will to more dynamically promote socialist construction in the two countries and their traditional friendly relations."

The concept of these relations having socialism as their core is one that Kim Jong Un has repeatedly stressed over recent years and he goes on to refer to socialism as "the common cause of the two parties" and the DPRK-China friendly and co-operative relations, as "the common

wealth of the peoples of the two countries".

The reference to the "recent Pyongyang summit" refers to the visit last month by Xi Jinping, his first in seven years and his first foreign trip in 2026.

For his part, writing in *Rodong Sinmun*, the Korean *Daily Worker* and the central organ of the Workers' Party of Korea, on the day he arrived in Pyongyang, Xi Jinping observed that "the shared socialist ideal is the defining character of China-DPRK relations. The Communist Party of China and the Workers' Party of Korea are both Marxist ruling parties, and China and the DPRK are fellow travellers on the socialist road."

Putting this into its historical context, he notes that "the older generation of leaders of China and the DPRK knew one another intimately and were as close as can be... the traditional friendship of shared destiny is the deep foundation of China-DPRK relations. In the turbulent years of fighting for national independence and national liberation, the people of China and the DPRK shared weal and woe, depended on each other in life and death, and forged a great fighting friendship with their blood. In the development of each country's socialist cause, the two peoples have stood shoulder to shoulder, sharing comforts and hardships, vividly embodying the comradely friendship of mutual trust, solidarity, and mutual aid."

Looking to the future, he adds: "We must hold firm to the path and be unchanged in our resolve, support each other in walking the socialist road that suits our own

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national conditions, and firmly safeguard the political security of both countries. We must uphold and strengthen the Party's overall leadership, expand exchanges and co-operation between the two parties, deepen the exchange and mutual learning of experience in governing the party and the country, and lead the socialist cause of the two countries to keep moving from one victory to the next."

In its own editorial that day, 8th June 2026, *Rodong Sinmun* wrote: "The DPRK-China relations are the invincible friendly relations closely united with comradely friendship and bloody ties in the protracted struggle to oppose foreign aggressors and build socialism."

"True to the intention of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Korean revolutionaries helped the Chinese revolution with blood in the arduous anti-Japanese struggle. The Chinese people, too, regarded the Korean revolutionaries fighting for the national liberation as their own flesh and blood and rendered material and moral assistance to the Korean people in their struggle."

"The brilliant victories won by the Chinese people in the arduous revolutionary civil war and by the Korean people in the fierce Fatherland Liberation War would have been unthinkable without the fraternal friendship and class ties which have been steadily carried forward and consolidated between the revolutionaries, service personnel and peoples of the two countries."



• The flames of the Korean War.

And it concludes: "We will, in the future, too, join hands with the Chinese comrades on the road of advancing the socialist cause and defending peace and security in the region and the rest of the world."

The Korean Central News Agency, reporting on the talks between the two leaders that day, quotes Comrade Kim Jong Un as affirming that "the WPK and the DPRK government will as ever maintain the DPRK-China friendship as the most important top-priority strategic work and do their utmost to strengthen the bilateral relations into a model of the relationship between socialist states and into an invariably special, genuine and solid strategic relationship and that this is our immutable choice and will."

As can be seen above, the comradely relationship with socialism as the core has a long tradition created by the previous generations of leaders. And it is in that spirit, as well as for many other reasons, that today we also especially remember Comrade Kim Il Sung, as we ap-

proach the anniversary of his passing on 8th July 1994. It scarcely seems possible that already 32 years have gone by.

Not only did he fight all his days to safeguard and consolidate the unity and solidarity of the socialist countries on the basis of revolutionary principles, he analysed the relationship between the internal and external tasks of the revolution, the role of the socialist countries in the struggle against imperialism, the difficulties arising, and how to deal with them, with remarkable insight and extraordinary prescience.

Today, for all those who stand against imperialism and in favour of socialism, there can be few things of greater importance than the defence of the Cuban revolution, with the Trump administration, like its tool the Zionist entity in Gaza, the West Bank and elsewhere, perpetrating genocidal acts of aggression, in the case of Cuba in the form of a siege that plumbs the depths of medievalism and recalls the Nazi siege of Leningrad during the

Great Patriotic War.

This year has also seen the 95th anniversary of the birth of Army General Raul Castro, the 98th birthday of Ernesto Che Guevara and next month will see the 100th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Fidel Castro.

In 1968, Kim Il Sung wrote a profound and far-seeing article on the first anniversary of the death in combat of Che Guevara. It is an article that has lost none of its relevance and importance with the passage of years.

Assessing the world historic importance of the Cuban revolution, he writes: "The triumph of the Cuban Revolution is the first victory of the socialist revolution in Latin America and a continuation of the Great October Revolution in Latin America. With the Cuban Revolution emerging victorious, the red banner of socialism now flies high over Latin America which was regarded as a hereditary estate of US imperialism only until recently, and the socialist camp has extended to the Western Hemisphere and grown in strength a great deal."

The significance of this is therefore that the "consolidation of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution is not only an important problem which decides the life and death, the rise and fall of the Cuban people but also a key problem which sways the destinies of the general development of the Latin American revolution."

He goes on to state that "the countries whose proletariat has grasped power in the encirclement of international capitalism are not free from the danger of imperialist aggression and restoration of capitalism during the entire historical period of revolutionary transition from capitalism to socialism. The overthrown exploiting classes always attempt to recover their lost positions and foreign imperialists incessantly engage in armed invasion and intrigues and manoeuvres for political and ideological subversion."

"The US imperialists and the reactionaries of Latin America deeply hate and fear the very existence of the Republic of Cuba and are manoeuvring stubbornly and ma-

liciously to stifle it. They are working hard to get rid of the Cuban Revolution so as to drive out the 'spectre' of Communism haunting the Western Hemisphere and check the liberation struggle of the peoples which envelops Latin America like a prairie fire. While scheming to strangle Cuba by directly mobilising their armed forces, the US imperialists are instigating the reactionary Latin American regimes of dictatorship under their domination and subjugation to bring political and economic pressure to bear upon Cuba in order to suffocate her with the policy of blockade."

Far from losing any of its relevance, does this not describe the situation in 2026 with even greater poignancy and accuracy than it does that of 1968.

Kim Il Sung goes on to explain that "revolutions should take place consecutively in the majority of countries of the world, in several adjacent countries at the least, to replace imperialist encirclement with socialist encirclement, the barriers of imperialism that surround a socialist country should be torn down to open the path of turning the dictatorship of the proletariat into a world-wide system and an end should be put to the isolation of the socialist fortress of one country... only then will it be possible to prevent completely armed intervention by the imperialists and their attempt to restore capitalism and say that the ultimate victory of socialism has been secured."

The reference to "several adjacent countries at the least"



• Pyongyang – capital of the DPR Korea.

highlights an important difference between the situation facing Cuba and that of the socialist countries in East Asia, whose main historical experience, sometimes difficult countervailing periods notwithstanding, has been characterised by strong and sometimes decisive mutual support and solidarity.

In Kim Il Sung's view "the Cuban Revolution is an organic part of the world revolution and, particularly, constitutes the decisive link in the chain of the revolution in Latin America. To defend the Cuban Revolution and to consolidate and follow up its victories is not only the duty of the Cuban people but also the internationalist obligation of the oppressed peoples of Latin America and all the revolutionary peoples of the world. Just as the defence of the gains of the October Revolution in Russia which made the first breach in the world capitalist system was an important question decisive of the fate of the world revolution, so the defence of

the gains of the Cuban Revolution which made the first breach in the colonial system of US imperialism in Latin America is an important question decisive of the fate of the Latin American revolution."

How true this is. For more than six decades, socialist Cuba has been the beacon of hope of the Latin American people. If it were to fall, not only would the Cuban people be plunged into an abyss of suffering, misery and humiliation; the people's struggle throughout Latin America would suffer its greatest ever setback.

That is why Kim Il Sung explained "it is of great importance for the defence of the Cuban Revolution to advance the revolutionary movement in those Latin American countries neighbouring on Cuba... if the revolution emerges victorious in some other Latin American countries, Cuba will get out of the encircling ring of imperialism with which she is confronted on all sides, there will be

opened up a favourable phase in the revolutions of Cuba and Latin America, and the world revolution will be stepped up still more."

This is in fact a huge part of the importance of the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela, as well as the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, led by Hugo Chavez and, after his untimely death, by Nicolas Maduro. The success of the revolution in Venezuela, the first new, conscious attempt to build and consolidate socialism in a systematic and all-round way since the counter-revolutions in the former Soviet Union and the European socialist countries, not only transformed the lives of the Venezuelan people, it began that crucial process identified by Kim Il Sung of replacing imperialist encirclement with socialist encirclement, of putting an end to the isolation of the socialist fortress of one country, of consolidating and following up the victories of the Cuban revolution as the important question decisive of the fate of

the Latin American revolution.

That is why every step taken by US imperialism in the Latin American region, particularly since the coming to power of the Trump-Rubio regime – from the overt support and encouragement of the most reactionary forces of Milei in Argentina and Bolsonaro in Brazil, the destabilisation and overthrow of the socialist-oriented government in Bolivia, the lawfare coup in Peru, the threats against Mexico, and so on, and above all the outrageous kidnapping of President Nicolas Maduro and First Combatant Cilla Flores, and the attempt to turn their proud revolutionary country into a US protectorate, have at their heart US imperialism's overriding goal of toppling the Cuban revolution – of finally extirpating that spectre which has haunted them since 1959. The stakes could scarcely be higher.

Kim Il Sung wrote, in words that were unmistakably echoed by Kim Jong Un in his speeches to the

ninth party congress and the session of the Supreme People's Assembly earlier this year, that "if there ever is imperialism which is not aggressive, it is no longer imperialism. Imperialism will not change its aggressive nature before it dies. That is why one should dispel all illusions about imperialism and fight it out. Only when a principled stand is maintained against imperialism and a staunch anti-imperialist struggle intensified, can the oppressed nations win freedom and independence and the liberated peoples check imperialist ag-

gression, consolidate national independence and achieve prosperity for their countries and nations."

This is the legacy and lesson that Kim Il Sung left us. This is the stand taken by the DPRK that enables it to stand firm in the face of all pressures, aggression and threats. This is why it is important to stand by the DPRK, to introduce, explain and defend its stand and to learn from its experience and that of all the socialist countries in whatever we are able to do in the cause of anti-imperialism, independence and socialism.

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NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
(cheques to New Worker)

LETTERS

The war against Russia is going nowhere fast. If Germany, France and UK governments wish to bust their own economies and disintegrate public support as a result of waging this senseless war then we wish them all the best. Against Russia's iron wall and the iron will of its people the democratic charade in Europe is being smashed to pieces as century old political leaderships bite the dust of public revulsion.

Russia is fighting for the liberation of Europe at great personal cost. They saved Europe from Hitler. They are in the process of saving Europe again from Hitler's heirs. This insane NATO war against Russia has had the opposite effect of its intention, not only has it strengthened the Russian state and the Russian economy, but it has also heralded a new world order of multipolarity where right trumps might. This war against Russia and now against Iran is the last bugle call of the most despicable human scum that has ever existed in human history. It's in an intellectual, mental and ideological sewer. Russia has made certain it will drown in its own shit. All honour to the Russian Federation!

One day I am certain the Russian language will be spoken by all in the United Workers Republic that will comprise our shores. And in the not too distant future the President of the Russian Federal Republic will be greeted on our streets by cheering millions of people and broadcast to the world.

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

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Elijah Traven Hull

Lenin upholds the 1872 position of Marx and Engels when they established that "the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purpose". The task of a proletarian revolution they said, like the Paris Commune, is not only to seize the power from the bourgeois state – which the Commune did – but to smash that state, dissolve its organs of coercion and administration, and replace them with the proletarian power-organs smashing the state. For the bourgeois class that this eliminates, this is unthinkable dictatorship. For the revolutionary masses, this is 'the dictatorship of the proletariat'. It puts the majority of the population in power. It destroys not only the bourgeois state, but the State itself.

Even with the working class at its core, the mass of the population cannot be expected to acquire this foresight all at once. The need is for a working-class organisation – which may have partly started in academic, scientific and intellectual milieus – that analyses, remembers, informs and empowers the proletarian masses. This is particularly relevant today, considering how humanity must seize the power from genocidal imperialists now organised globally, and start planning the economy of the world rationally and for human need.

Hence the importance of spreading the scientific analyses of Marx, Engels and Lenin against the many opportunists who try hard, such as Bernstein and Kautsky in the past, to limit the scope of all the ideas that justify the building of proletarian states. On a world-scale today, and in the UK in particular,

rare are the debates on the question of how to build a Workers State. And not few are the opportunists who condemn Russia for having 'annexed' Crimea, as they see it, but stay silent about British imperialism in Diego Garcia for example.

Due to the Labourite Social Democratic tradition in the UK we have many such opportunists in the working-class movement. Our task is all the greater therefore, to understand fully how "the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purpose" – and not allow this 'theorem' to be become distorted by the opportunists of today.

If it were not for the existence of capitalism, there would be no such 'opportunists' of course. Lenin's text is an invitation to combat the lingering illusion that capitalism is democratic – hence Israel can have nuclear weapons, and Cuba is a dictatorship, hence it cannot. Lenin shows how the dictatorship of the proletariat represses the bourgeois class but liberates the multitudes.

Lenin's view of Kautsky "standing between confusion and social chauvinism" should be a warning for us not to take the side of our bourgeois class in this Third World War we are already in. Increasingly under the control of global high finance imperialism, each bourgeois class – the UK's of course included – is already recruiting young people for its immediate inter-imperialist wars, as well as to subordinate the British population to the interests of the world billionaire's caste.

Marie Lynam London

On the 30th July 1946, a truly epochal change of great significance took place in the northern half of Korea. People's Korea: the Provi-

sional People's Committee of North Korea enacted the Law on Sexual Equality as part of the wide-ranging programme of democratic reforms of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution that was carried out after Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in August 1945.

Korean revolutionary leader Kim Il Sung had first put forward the idea of making women equal with men in the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. The Law on Sexual Equality of People's Korea freed women from centuries upon centuries of double and treble feudal oppression. It was a profoundly revolutionary measure that changed the lives of Korean women forever.

The law consisted of a total of nine articles. Article 1 declared that "Women have equal rights to men economically, culturally, socially, and politically in all areas of life of the nation". Thus, for the first time in history Korean women became equal with men. Korean women also gained the right to vote. In capitalist countries that style themselves as 'democratic' it took a long time for electoral voting rights to be extended to women. In the UK for example, women did not get full voting rights until 1928, some 10 years after men. But in People's Korea women had the right to vote from the beginning.

Similarly, Article 3 of the Law also granted Korean women the right to equal pay. This was 24 years before the equal pay act in the UK. In fact, despite equal pay legalisation in Britain, the gender pay gap still remains.

Significantly, the law abolished all Japanese imperial laws and regulations concerning women. Korean women had suffered

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 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 6 AUG–SUN 9 AUG

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings nationwide commemorations. See CND Events for details of local events.

THUR 13 AUG

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: *Cuba After Castro* film & brigade report back. 19:00. Pelican House, 144 Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E1 5QJ. Book on CSC website.

SAT 15 AUG

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against American nuclear weapons in Britain. 12:00–14:00. RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9PN.

SAT 5 SEPT

Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies: Jim Jump on Soviet Policy and the Spanish Civil War. 14:00–15:00. SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB.

SUN 6 SEPT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on CLS website.

SUN 6 SEPT

Burston strike school rally. Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk IP22 5TZ. Visit the NCP stall.

SAT 19 SEPT

Society for the Study of Labour History: Chartism Day 2026. Friends Meeting House, 39

High Street, Warwick CV34 4AX. Details from SSLH website.

SAT 19 SEPT

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against American nuclear weapons in Britain. 12:00–14:00. RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9PN.

THUR 24 SEPT

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: National Unemployed Workers' Movement (NUWM). Online lecture. 19:00–20:30. Book on GFTUET website.

MON 28 SEPT

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: End the siege on Cuba. 17:45. The Casa, 29 Hope St, Liverpool L1 9BP.

WED 30 SEP–SAT 21 NOV

Townsend Theatre Productions: Ribert Tressell's *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*. Touring play. See TTP website for venues and booking.

SUN 4 OCT

90th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street. Assemble 12:00. Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1BJ.

SUN 4 OCT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on CLS website.

FRI 9 OCT

Unveiling of the Mandela statue. 16:00. Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow G2 9 IYQ.

SAT 10 OCT

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: National march for Palestine: End the Genocide / 3 years. 12.00–16.30. Central London. Details TBA.

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Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

As I type, Ex-Labour leader Anas Sarwar had not chosen a title but has been christened ‘Baron of Govan’ by his enemies, who reminded him of his 2022 remark that “The House of Lords, in its current form, as an institution has no place in 21st century politics. It is unacceptable, and has been for far too long, to have unelected representatives wielding such power”.

Among those was one particularly hypocritical remark from Green Party co-leader Gillian Mackay, who commented that “by grabbing a place on the unelected red benches, he’s ensured that he gets all of the power and privilege without having to worry about what voters might think”. Just like a certain Green MP who owes her place in Holyrood with 12.2 per cent of the Central Region list vote, with 87.8 rejecting her party.

Anas Sarwar’s elevation to the Lords represents the second family attempt at securing a peerage. His father, Mohammad Sarwar, was Labour MP for Glasgow Govan between 1997 and 2010. As a reward for being the first Muslim MP, Gordon Brown nominated him for a life peerage in his Dissolution Honours, but on the advice of HMRC he was blocked by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. So he went back home to twice become Governor of Pakistan’s Punjab province, where he often crossed swords with the central government.

Deputy Leader Dame Jackie Baillie becomes Acting Leader, a post she has held twice before. Young Sarwar’s departure from Holyrood will not spark a by-election as he

was a regional list MSP for Glasgow, so the seat will be filled on the Buggin’s turn principle. The search for a new party leader will draw on an extensive pool of 17 MSPs, a record low. The only thing we know is that the Dame will not be standing and that none of the contenders will be particularly exciting.

Apart from Sarwar’s new job in what was once the Board of Trade, the arrival of a new prime minister has not made much difference to the Scottish Labour MPs. The Secretary of State for Scotland remains Douglas Alexander. His predecessor, Ian Murray, who was twice the party’s only MP, remains as Minister of State in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, he previously held a related post at the former Department for Science, Innovation & Technology.

Midlothian MP Kirsty McNeill, is appointed Minister for Development at the Foreign Office. This was met with a partial groan from Oxfam’s CEO who declared: “We warmly welcome Kirsty McNeill’s appointment – she has been a bold champion for women and children internationally. It is, however, disappointing that development will no longer be represented at Cabinet level.”

Although no longer a whip, Imogen Walker, the Hamilton and Clyde Valley MP, will be keeping an eye on Labour MPs on behalf of her husband, Morgan McSweeney, to keep vengeance-seeking Starmerites informed.

One long-established ritual on the appointment of a new Prime Minister is meeting the Scottish First Minister and telling them they will not be having another independence referendum. This occurred even before Burnham headed north to the opening of the Commonwealth Games.

Burnham’s spokesman reported on the first phone call: “When the question of independence was raised,

the Prime Minister was quite firm they would have to agree to disagree,” adding that “it’s not something he’s focused on and it’s not a conversation that he’s interested in taking forward.” He later declared he was interested in “practical measures, not constitutional changes like further referendums”.

Whatever honeymoon Burnham has with the Scottish Greens, it will soon end when the UK exercises its powers over North Sea oil and gas. While Labour’s 2024 Manifesto pledged not to issue any more drilling licences, Burnham now says that “North Sea gas and oil is an important part of that transition ... to achieve in the long-term energy security and lower bills”.

The fate of two potential fields, Rosebank and Jackdaw, is in his hands and a report from the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) will appear soon.

Church Times

The lucky people of Orkney have a new bishop but not everybody is delighted, including the Vatican and the incumbent Bishop of Aberdeen –whose diocese includes the Orkneys.

The new bishop is Father Michael Mary, a 73-year-old dissident priest who was promoted from being head of the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer based at the Golgotha monastery on the tiny island of Papa Stronsay, which they bought in 1999.

While the Sons earlier had the reluctant support of the Catholic hierarchy, the appointment of the new Bishop has brought down the wrath of the Diocese of Aberdeen, which has jurisdiction over the Order and has branded the consecration an “act of schism”.

In a pastoral letter to all parishes Hugh Gilbert, the Bishop of Aberdeen,

warned the monks that they were “breaking the unity of the Church”, describing the event as “spiritual suicide” for those who take part.

Father Michael has been excommunicated and his Order is under Papal investigation. That does not worry these monks as they hold that all popes after Pius XII died in 1958 are invalid because the Vatican has been infiltrated by freemasons. The Canadian ‘bishop’ who presided over the enthronement denounced the “false religion” of the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s. In that he agrees with the late Ian Paisley...

Their New Zealand branch has got into trouble for overdoing exorcisms, and back in Papa Stronsay several monks have recently departed being unable to endure the strict rules – one drowned when seemingly trying to swim away.

This outfit is incredibly reactionary, being an offshoot of the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) founded by the French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who wanted to restore the French monarchy, thought abolishing the Inquisition was a big mistake and found in Petain’s Vichy regime much which was to be admired.

Apart from this outfit, Scotland has seven SSPX chapels offering the Latin Mass, which seems to be the main growth area in Scottish Catholicism. The mainstream Catholic church continues its long slow decline in numbers, reversing a short period of growth caused by the now departed Poles.

They have never really recovered from the scandal of Cardinal Keith O’Brien, who resigned in disgrace over his failure to observe priestly celibacy with young seminarians. His successor as Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh had his consecration disrupted by a disgruntled boyfriend of O’Brien who hid the crozier to delay the service.

...continued from page 8

horrendously under Japanese imperialist rule. They not only faced feudal oppression but were subjected to criminal ill-treatment by the Japanese imperialists. The Japanese imperialists subjected over 200,000 Korean women to sexual slavery, an unspeakable crime which degraded them and subjected them to a fate worse than death. To this very day there has been no proper apology or atonement from Japan for this crime.

The Law on Sexual Equality forbade polygamy and the sale of wives and concubines. It abolished prostitution, something that capitalist countries have failed to do and in fact during past decades the sex and prostitution industries have greatly expanded in the capitalist countries. Symbolic of this is the scandal around Jeffrey Epstein, the American capitalist financier who forced

many young women and even children into prostitution and sex-trafficking. Today in the DPRK there is no prostitution, no pornography and no sex industry that blights the lives of women and creates toxicity and decadence in society.

Later the equality of women was enshrined in the constitution of the DPRK and many other laws to enhance the position of women were passed.

Some may point out that Western countries also have gender equality legalisation but these are just bits of paper with no real meaning. In People’s Korea legalisation is fully backed by practical measures such as the provision of free childcare as well as a healthy ethos of valuing women. Korean women have enjoyed 80 years of Juche-based socialist women’s liberation.

Dermot Hudson
London

Another year of struggle

by New Worker correspondent

Despite sweltering global-warming heat, supporters rallied in London last weekend to mark the founding in July 1977 of the New Communist Party (NCP). Friends and comrades, old and new, marked the struggle of the NCP to keep the banner of Marx and Lenin flying against all odds for the last 49 years at a reception at the Party Centre, celebrating the anniversary with speeches, food and drink.

Our National Chair, Richard Bos MCed the social and welcomed guests, including comrades from People's Korea and Socialist Vietnam as well as representatives from the labour movement that have long worked alongside us in London and other



• Andy Brooks pays tribute to the NCP.

parts of the country.

These included Marie Lynam of the British Posadist movement, Ian Donovan from the Consistent Democrats, Dermot Hudson from the Korean Friendship Asso-

ciation and Theo Russell from the International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity campaign. Other tributes came from the embassies of the DPR Korea and Socialist Vietnam. NCP leader

Andy Brooks recalled the heady days of the last year that's seen the end of Starmer, the growing campaigns in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela and increasing calls for an end to NATO's proxy war against Rus-

sia, while London is rocked every month by hundreds of thousands of protesters in support of the Palestinians and the defiant Iranian people resisting American aggression.

No NCP event can

end without an appeal for the *New Worker*. Richard Bos called on everyone to dig deep to boost our August fighting fund. They did, with a collection that raised £461 for our communist weekly!



• Andy, Richard and Marie at the social...

The new life in People's China

by New Worker correspondent

Ipswich New Worker Group held another of their regular public meetings at the local Friends Meeting House in July. The purpose was to discuss the remarkable progress being made by China in its economy, infrastructure development and how the lives of its citizens are improving rapidly. Samuel Swale was the chief speaker. He gave a detailed account of his recent visit to that country as part of a youth delegation invited by the International Department of the Communist Party of China.

It was possible to visit historic sites, factories



• Samuel Swale and John Maryon.

and bustling cities by taking advantage of the superb high-speed rail network. The delegation visited Shaanxi, birthplace of the revolution, and learnt about the sacrifices made by the early revolutionaries under

Mao's leadership and the heroic struggles of the Red Army. It was in this region that Xi Jinping experienced his political awakening where he was sent as an educated teenager to experience rural life. The local people

still remember him affectionately.

A number of manufacturing enterprises were visited, including the R&D centre of the BYD car plant in Xi'an. In the West when jobs are lost through automa-

tion it very often means the scrapheap for the workers. In the People's Republic there is a duty to the loyal workforce. Production changes are planned well in advance, giving the opportunity for retraining so that workers can move to alternative employment when the changes are eventually made. The Communist Party has taken steps to overcome rural and urban poverty by supporting job training and encouraging people to establish their own small business.

Xi'an is a multicultural city with its own Muslim quarter. People with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds work together side-by-side for their common good. Samuel concluded

that China was an idyllic nation of noble ambition and an inspiration for all workers everywhere.

The chair, John Maryon, spoke briefly about the contrasts between the urban lifestyles of major cities and life in remote villages. He praised the magnificent high-speed railway system that is still being created. He also described the importance of China's 'slow trains' for farmers, herders and those living in remote regions of the country, trains that are enabling people to be lifted from poverty by selling their produce in a town market, and emphasised the importance of co-operation and friendship between people who were formerly isolated.

REVIEW

The Age of Erdoğan

From Life Itself: Turkey and Istanbul in the Age of Erdoğan by Suzy Hansen. Profile Books 2026. Pbk: 368pp, rrp £12.99.

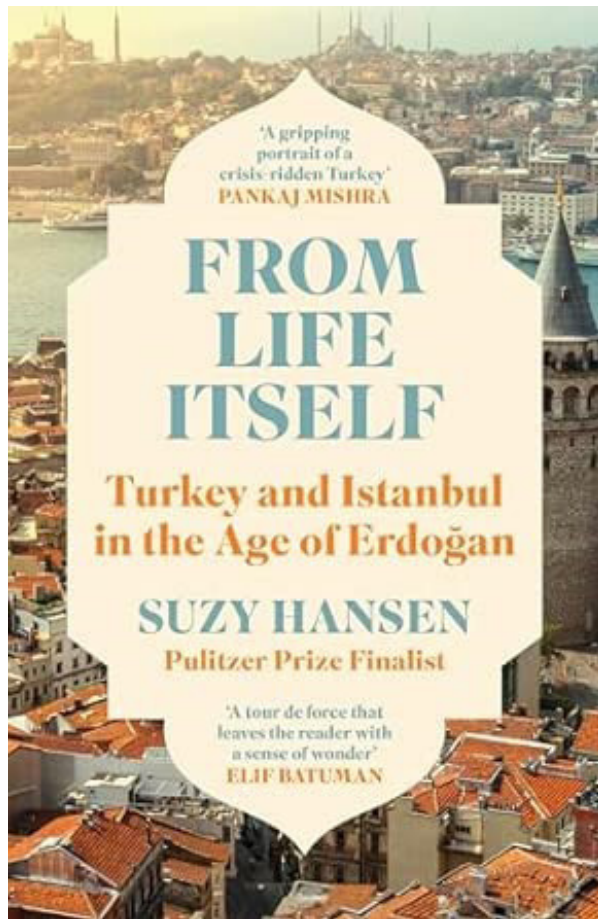
by Ben Soton

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) have dominated Turkey for over 20 years. He became Prime Minister in 2003 and has been President since 2014. This is the story of his reign. The book covers the Erdoğan years mainly through the prism of the Istanbul neighbourhood of Karagumruk and its local mukhtar, Ismail. A mukhtar is a local fixer, to whom people often come for advice; interestingly Erdoğan once referred to himself as the Mukhtar of Turkey.

The author covers the changes to Istanbul over this period, which include a real-estate boom that has changed the appearance of the former capital of the old Otto-

man Empire. In 2013, Erdoğan faced criticism from architects over the destruction of Gezi Park with a view to turning it into a shopping mall in the style of Ottoman military barracks. This led to protests sparked by criticism from architects; in typical far-right populist fashion Erdoğan claimed to be standing up to elites. Meanwhile the construction boom led to serious imbalances in the Turkish economy, which led to economic problems in 2018.

Early in the book Hansen gives historic reasons for the success of Erdoğan and the AKP. In 1955, Istanbul was rocked by sectarian riots that led to an exodus of Greeks from Istanbul and other Turkish cities. They were replaced by conservative migrants from the countryside,



some of whom had a poor understanding of city life. Ismail recalls a new arrival depositing soil on his roof with a view to planting toma-

toes and water pouring into his flat below. These communities have now established small- to medium-sized businesses and become keen sup-

porters of the AKP.

Erdoğan has created an alliance between Islam and capitalism based around state-sponsored construction projects to counter the secular Kemalist establishment they defeated in 2002 and curb the growth of the Turkish left. In the 1960s the left flourished in Turkey, as in much of Europe, often amongst radicalised students. Successful movements of the left are an alliance between workers and intellectuals but this didn't work in Turkey where much of the urban working-class are descended from rural migrants.

The author charts the changes in the nature of the AKP, which in its early days favoured a form of Pan-Islamism but has now moved towards an aggressive form of Turkish nationalism with an innate hostility to the Kurds. This can be partly explained by the AKP alliance with the far-right National Movement Par-

ty (MHP) in the Turkish parliament that further concentrated power in Erdoğan's hands.

The earthquake of 2023 sent shock-waves throughout Turkish society. Many of the buildings constructed during his tenure survived but some raised the issue of the unsafe buildings that were destroyed, especially in a country prone to earthquakes. Despite this he still survives and there is even talk of changing the constitution, enabling him to remain in office after 2028.

Erdoğan's success may be down to a weak opposition who engage in politics on his terms, or simply the repressive nature of the Turkish state. Hansen, an American academic, views the world from a liberal perspective, focusing on the subjective experience of individuals. This does not however, mean that her work should be dismissed or ignored.

Roger Waters blasts West over Ukraine

Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters has denounced Europe's military build-up and escalating confrontation with Russia, arguing that Western governments are steering the world towards catastrophe while arms manufacturers and political elites profit from perpetual war.

Speaking on Rick Sanchez's *The Sanchez Effect*, Waters said calls for European NATO members to increase military spending to five per cent of national GDP

were "effing insane". He questioned how Western leaders could even contemplate a direct conflict with Russia, given the Soviet Union's decisive role and immense losses during the Second World War.

"I often say to people, do you know who the Russian people are? They won the Second World War, for God's sake. Twenty-five million of them died, saving the world for us," he said. "And you want to have a war with them? How dumb."

Waters blamed the West for prolonging the Ukraine conflict and argued that the war could have been prevented either through the Minsk agreements or through a preliminary peace settlement reached in Istanbul in 2022.

"This is 12 years since Maidan, since John McCain went and organised that so-called revolution, and murdered a few people, and got rid of the elected government, and put in the Banderites. Nazis – they're just Nazis, and we know

that," he said. "Then we sent a moron... who's the stupidest man who's ever been in government in England. Boris Johnson! Sent him to Ukraine to tell them that they're not allowed to make peace!"

Western leaders were sacrificing Russian and Ukrainian lives for geo-political and financial interests. "Think of all the children and grandchildren, all the men on both sides who have been killed since then" he said. "Why? Money. That's all."

Waters argued that modern conflicts are driven primarily by profit and the interests of a narrow ruling class. He pointed to major defence contractors and wealthy political donors, claiming that money has corrupted democratic institutions and made US foreign policy vulnerable to private influence.

He explained that Western interventionism is rooted in centuries of European imperialism and colonialism, and said the USA inherited the same belief that for-

eign peoples and their resources were "ripe for the picking".

"This ship is steering for the rocks," he warned, urging ordinary people in Europe and the USA to stop blindly trusting political leaders who promote confrontation and instead rebuild communication and co-operation across national borders. "We have to open our eyes. We have to start talking to our neighbours and co-operating with one another."

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Venezuela – what next?

Venezuela has entered a phase of political preservation and a hidden struggle for power six months after the forcible removal of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, says Darya Mitina, a historian, politician, Secretary of the United Communist Party of Russia and chairwoman of the New Labour trade union. In an interview with Pravda.ru, she analysed the current situation in the country, where the interim leadership is attempting to balance the preservation of sovereignty with the demands of Washington.

On the night of 3rd January US forces carried out an operation in Caracas and several other regions of Venezuela. During the operation, Nicolás Maduro and his wife were detained and forcibly transported to the USA. In New York, the country's leader faced charges relating to alleged involvement with narco-terrorist organisations. New details continue to emerge regarding the assault on the presidential residence by special operations units.

But despite Maduro's



physical absence, official documents continue to identify him as the country's president. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez has not yet secured full presidential status, creating a period of political limbo. At the same time, major shifts are taking place in the economy. Amendments to the hydrocarbons law have effectively stripped

the state-owned Petróleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) company of its monopoly, opening the market to foreign capital.

"No contracts with foreign states have been terminated. All co-operation programs with Russia formally remain in force, but in reality they have been placed on hold. The same applies to the investment projects Russia was pursuing in Venezuela – they are frozen, although nothing has been officially cancelled. At the same time, contracts are now being signed with a number of countries that previously avoided co-operation with Venezuela because of the threat of US sanctions, including agreements for oil and petroleum product supplies. India, for example, which refrained from working with Caracas for many years, has now begun restoring that co-operation," Darya Mitina explained.

She stressed that Washington now effectively exercises unrestricted control

over the country's resources, although the financial benefit to the American economy remains relatively modest, amounting to roughly \$300 million. For US President Donald Trump, the Venezuelan case serves primarily as a reputational tool designed to demonstrate America's ability to achieve rapid victories amid setbacks elsewhere.

Meanwhile, eyewitness accounts from Caracas suggest that living standards have not fundamentally changed. Inflation remains high, while the modest increase in oil production to 1.2 million barrels per day stems not from industry growth but from the shipment of previously accumulated reserves.

"Contracts signed over the past six months with foreign oil companies, including Britain's BP and America's Chevron, have been finalised, but implementation has effectively not begun. The restructuring and modernisation of the oil industry, which Chavistas discussed even before the

recent dramatic events, are recognised as necessary, and attempts are being made, but so far with little success," she added.

Divisions within Chavismo deepen

Venezuela's domestic political landscape is increasingly defined by divisions within the ruling party. A faction of 'left-wing' Maduro supporters is gradually losing influence to 'right-wing' Chavistas promoted by Rodríguez. Prominent figures such as General Vladimir Padrino López are seeing their influence diminish, while other allies of the former president have faced arrests. Patriotic circles expressed particular outrage over the extradition of Alex Saab to the USA, given his role in helping Venezu-

ela circumvent sanctions. Washington's demands regarding the restoration of certain rights in the energy sector also play a role in these developments.

Mitina noted that Chavista positions remain strong at the grass-roots level, including among governors and municipal authorities, but ideological unity is being eroded by external pressure. Meanwhile, the opposition has behaved surprisingly passively. At the same time, the international community continues to monitor developments involving the republic's civilian fleet, including ongoing discussions surrounding the interception of a tanker carrying a shipment of raw materials.

"Chavismo has survived – the majority of deputies, governors, and mayors remain in control. There has been no political coup. Chavistas continue to control both the security apparatus and civilian institutions. However, a division has emerged between right-wing and left-wing factions. Maduro's supporters are giving way to right-wing Chavistas promoted by Delcy Rodríguez. Several key ministers have already left their posts or have been reassigned to secondary positions," Mitina said.

The situation remains uncertain, and the six-month period has provided no definitive answer regarding the country's future course. Venezuela continues to manoeuvre in an effort to preserve what remains of its sovereignty under conditions of economic blockade. Analysts have already emphasised that international law faces serious challenges when civilian vessels are forcibly stopped in neutral waters.

