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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Goodbye and good riddance

IF STARMER had hoped to upstage Andy Burnham by resigning on the day Parliament re-opened he was clearly disappointed by the indifference on the street to his long-overdue departure from the political arena. No-one will miss him least of all the media gurus whose only focus was to fire speculation on who will take his seat at the by-election to choose his successor in the London Holborn & St Pancras constituency.

In years gone by retiring prime ministers could look forward to becoming an elder statesman on the Commons back-benches or the House of Lords ready to give advice to the government of the day as and when needed. A house in town and a place in the country, a few servants (usually referred to as “staff” these days), a social life that revolved around chosen clubs and charities and time to write those unread memoirs that stack the biography shelves of our major libraries – that was their reward for a lifetime of service to the ruling class in those days. Some, like Theresa May and David Cameron, will still settle for a peerage and the trimmings that go with it. But nowadays a second life in the House of Lords is not anywhere near enough for dumped politicians who lust after the vulgar and ostentatious life of the billionaires and oligarchs they once served. People like Tony Blair – the former premier who sees no shame in acting as a well-paid run-around for Trump and Netanyahu. Others, who are not so lucky, have to get by on what they can make on the American speaking-tour circuit while the likes of Boris Johnson and Liz Truss keep up appearances by filling the columns of the mainstream papers of the English-speaking world with their vacuous thoughts on the issues of the day.

Sir Keir Starmer is more ambitious. He says he wants to focus on new work on “international affairs”. Some say he thinks he’s in the running to be the new secretary-general of NATO – a post that is traditionally held by a European politician. Well we’ll see what happens.

In the meantime the battle to take his seat in the House of Commons has begun. Zack Polanski has already thrown his hat into the ring. The Green leader, one of the three members of his bloc on the Greater London Assembly, has long wanted a parliamentary seat in the capital. He’s got the backing of Andrew Feinstein, the independent Corbynista who came a distant second to Labour in the constituency at the last general election. The Greens came third but Starmer held the seat with a comfortable majority at the 2024 poll. Whether Polanski can overturn Labour’s majority this time round remains to be seen. A lot depends on who Labour chooses to defend it.

More lies from the BBC

RESCUE operations are racing against the clock to save lives in Nepal following last week’s deadly flash floods that have claimed the lives of over 1,200 people while more than 4,200 remain missing in the region. In China rescue teams are pushing deep into the hit areas in Gyirong County in the autonomous region of Xizang, the modern name for Tibet, to open paths and clear blocked roads.

Disaster updates are being broadcast live by official channels. Livelihood support task forces are fully engaged in sheltering residents made homeless by the catastrophic flashfloods that have swept away homes, roads and bridges and cut off entire communities. The last thing in the world we need at these moments of life and death is the BBC manufacturing ‘secondary disasters’.

Yet at this critical juncture when everyone is pulling together to race against time and save lives, the BBC has pulled a despicable stunt, spreading the sheer fabrication that relevant footage of the accident “isn’t being shown in China” and that “people in China will not know very much about what is happening” in the region right now.

This blatant distortion of the truth instantly ignited outrage all over the world. Netizens inside China shared comprehensive domestic media reports on the disaster;

they pointed out that even other outlets like CNN were picking up these Chinese media reports, while some noted that the BBC itself was citing them. Others dug up a history of BBC fabrications during past events, like the Beijing Winter Olympics, that exposed its fear of letting the world see the real China. They called for the resignation of the journalists behind the false reporting and coined a nickname – “BBC impartial” for fake news. Dripping with sarcasm, this name immediately went viral across social media.

global fury

The global fury directed at the BBC is no accident; the world has long suffered enough from its antics. Polling data from the renowned research firm YouGov shows that over 70 per cent of the British public believes that the UK media regularly publishes false or misleading information, with younger demographics exhibiting the highest levels of dissatisfaction with the BBC’s biased reporting. Hashtags calling on people to boycott the BBC have surpassed one billion views on social media, prompting netizens to mock it as the “Biased Broadcasting Corporation”.

Looking back at the BBC’s long track record of malpractice in its China coverage – including inventing lies of “forced labour” in

the autonomous region of Xinjiang, maliciously editing and taking interviews out of context and slathering its China-related stories in gloomy, desaturated filters -- the broadcaster has practically etched anti-China bias into its journalistic DNA. As its credibility continues to drain away, it is rapidly turning it into a public nuisance loathed and despised by everyone.

For a long time, certain Western media outlets represented by the BBC have thought that they held the monopoly on public opinion, believing they could turn black into white, do whatever they want and rest assured that no-one would ever dare speak truth to power.

Times, however, have changed. Information is no longer monopolised by the BBC. The Chinese media is reaching the global stage, Chinese voices are increasingly heard worldwide, and foreign friends travelling, studying or working in China are spontaneously stepping up as “rumour crushers”.

Even though the BBC continues to churn out lies and falsehoods, its malicious intentions are finding it increasingly difficult to succeed. BBC, feel free to keep your new nickname, “BBC impartial”. At moments of life and death, nobody needs you to manufacture bogus “secondary disasters” with your keyboard.

Global Times



Workers Notes

ON MONDAY, the Notting Hill Carnival celebrated its 60th anniversary, with hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the iconic London neighbourhood to enjoy the traditional and colourful parade of floats.

The Notting Hill Carnival is one of the world's largest street festivals and a major celebration of Caribbean culture in London. Held annually during the August bank holiday weekend, it traces its roots to the postwar arrival of Caribbean migrants, many of whom settled in Notting Hill and faced widespread racism, discrimination and violence.

The carnival emerged from efforts to strengthen community solidarity following the racial tensions and riots that affected the area in the late 1950s. A key precursor was the indoor Caribbean Carnival organized in London in 1959 by Trinidadian-born activist Claudia Jones, founder and editor of the *West Indian Gazette*. The event promoted Caribbean culture and unity in the aftermath of racial unrest.

The modern street carnival developed in 1966, when community activist Rhaune Laslett organised a multicultural festival in Notting Hill and invited Trinidadian musician Russell Henderson and his steel band, prompting a spontaneous procession through the streets.

Over subsequent decades, the carnival developed into a major expression of Caribbean heritage, featuring elaborate masquerade costumes, steel bands, calypso, soca, reggae and sound systems as well as Caribbean food and dance.

It has retained its historical association with cultural identity, resistance and community while becoming a central event in London's multicultural calendar, attracting around two million visitors over the holiday

Thousands gather for Notting Hill parade



weekend.

In recent years, this massive influx has forced the police to deploy about 7,000 officers to increase security during the event. Some 242 arrests were made on Sunday and 394 on Monday. Offences included drug possession and supply, assaults, weapons possession, sex offences and public order offences.

Telesur

Gotcha! How the BBC peddles bogus Russia threat...

LAST WEEK the BBC ran a major story drumming up the alleged Russia threat and supposed looming retaliatory attacks on UK drone factories supplying Ukraine. The chilly warning purportedly came from a top Russian official – except that the individual in question has not been one in over three decades.

At first glance the piece, entitled UK drone factories may face attacks from 'unknown sources,' says Kremlin adviser, looks legit, based on comments made on BBC *Newsnight* by An-

drei Fedorov. The broadcaster presented Fedorov as a heavyweight Russian official, describing him as a "Kremlin adviser" and "Russia's former deputy foreign minister".

The latter is partially true: Fedorov was the deputy minister in the RSFSR, the Russian republic in the old USSR, between October 1990 and October 1991 prior to the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The other claim, however, is completely false. Fedorov used to be an adviser to Russia's vice president until late 1993, the same year the vice president position was abolished, and has not held any public office since. Over the past decade, he has been best known as a political commentator and a media personality, frequenting assorted Russian political talk shows.

The piece survived for around five hours on the BBC website before it was quietly amended. Fedorov was 'demoted' to a "pro-Kremlin commentator who frequently appears on Russian television" yet no official retraction of the initial claim was made. The description, while still debatable given that Fedor-

ov is known for frequently spelling doom and gloom for Moscow citing his purported high-ranking sources at home and overseas, is not explicitly untrue.

The BBC also did not do a particularly good job of purging the fake news, which survived on several of its platforms. A BBC *Newsnight* Facebook post on the matter still cryptically describes Fedorov as a "President Putin ally" at the moment of the publication, while its post on the X social media platform claims that the commentator "advises President Putin".

The BBC interview with Fedorov was spread across British media alongside his false depiction as a "Putin adviser". Unlike the source, outlets that reprinted the fake news never bothered to amend it. Some outlets even managed to outperform the original. The *Express*, for instance, described Fedorov simultaneously as a "high-ranking Kremlin official" and "high-level Kremlin insider". *HuffPost UK* also described the political commentator as a "presidential adviser" and even 'promoted' him to a "key ally to Vladimir Putin".

This fake news also

spread beyond the UK media, making it to *Al Jazeera* with minimal amendments. Following the BBC, *Al Jazeera* falsely described Fedorov as "an adviser to the Kremlin and a former deputy foreign minister". It also made it to Ukrainian media, which generally takes its British counterparts at face value and attempts no independent fact-checking.

This was actually not the first time the BBC falsely presented the Russian political commentator. In January of this year, Fedorov made remarks to the BBC's *Radio 4* on the US military hunt for the *Marinera* oil tanker and was presented as a "Kremlin adviser and former Russian deputy foreign minister". The comments spread widely across British media at the time, apparently without any fact-checking, and remain readily available in news articles from major outlets such as *The Times* and *The Independent*.

rt.com

Scabs and Bugs

by New Worker correspondent

THE STRUGGLE at Butlins in Bognor Regis continues. Resort Safety Officers walked out on a protest strike demanding £14 hourly wage. Now some Butlins workers have been offered £15 an hour, plus free food and accommodation. But this is not a cause for celebration, as these benefits are only for the new employees recruited to break the strike organised by United Voices of the World (UVW). The bank holiday strike over staffing, equipment, breaks, pay and working conditions will be followed by another two weekend strikes and an indefinite strike from 21st September.

UVW say that Butlin's scab staff qualifications are best described as "questionable". General Secretary Nelly Ospino said "this is a deeply troubling development. Our members have repeatedly said that they want to work. They want

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to keep Butlin's guests safe and they want to resolve this dispute through negotiation. If Butlin's has the resources to bring in new workers on reportedly better terms, it should have the resources to properly value the people who are already doing this vital job. The door to negotiations remains open, but that responsibility now rests with Butlin's CEO and management".

Meanwhile workers at London Heathrow Airport say their working conditions are making them ill. In a poll conducted by their union, Unite, which has 30,000 members there working in security, catering, cleaning and ground & luggage handling. 82 per cent of those surveyed said there had been problems with workplace facilities during the year resulting on 30 per cent experienced ill-health in the same period.

In particular 43 per cent said there were not enough toilets, with 61 per cent saying they were not clean and well maintained. Broken and dirty showers and mould were other delights arising from working at Britain's leading airport whose owner, Heathrow Airport Limited, (HAL) made a £575 million profit last year. In

addition, workers complain of overcrowded and unhygienic rest rooms.

Nature lovers will be delighted at the opportunity to record various types of mice, rats, cockroaches and bedbugs discovered. But there are limits to that: one worker reported seeing "mice droppings in my food plates bowl and coffee cup, in my toolbox and tools and on my overalls and boots. I am deeply concerned that it is only a matter of time before myself or a colleague will get seriously ill".

General secretary Sharon Graham said "the situation with staff facilities at Heathrow is a disgrace. No worker should risk their health because their employer is forcing them to take rest breaks in dirty areas or denied breaks as areas are too crowded".

Unite is demanding that HAL fully review cleaning standards and contracts, improve reporting and monitoring systems to ensure standards are maintained and shortfalls promptly dealt with. They also want clear lines of accountability to be established for the maintenance and upkeep of all the facilities, including restrooms.

All these problems stem from the privatisation of

Heathrow in 1986, the first such privatisation in the world, and has thus become a laboratory for neo-liberalism. Even before that the airport's services such as catering, cleaning, retail and security were deregulated and outsourced. It was one of the first to routinely employ precarious and cheap outsourced labour provided largely by women from Commonwealth countries.

Outsourcing Wars

OUTSOURCING is also in the news at the north London borough of Enfield where the GMB is up in arms at efforts to move nine outsourced council jobs administered by NSL out of the borough to distant Rochdale and Inverness where the task of monitoring CCTV will be carried out in future. This, say GMB will take jobs and tax revenue out of Enfield, and the remote workers will have no essential local knowledge.

GMB's London regional organiser, Mary Goodson, said "it is inexcusable for these jobs and local council tax revenue to be moved out of the borough, and it raises serious questions about where these relocation plans

will end. This is some of the clearest evidence we've seen to date of a two-tier system, where outsourced workers' terms and conditions are less favourable than inhouse council staff". True enough, but it is also a warning to some trade union advocates of working from home. They might just get it and find that the homes people work from are in Manila and Bangalore.

The same union is faced with a much larger nationwide battle against outsourcing at struggling supermarket chain Asda where 3,500 cleaners will be outsourced to Bidvest and NIC Cleaning Services. Late last month Asda boasted it had returned to growth for the first time in ages. It is now owned by private equity firm TDR Capital who in January awarded top bosses a £31 million pay packet at a time when it reported a loss, so obviously something needs to be done to cut costs, and what better way to do so than get rid of low paid workers who will be at the mercy of new noses to the grindstone employers.

GMB organiser Rachelle Wilkins said "this is detestable behaviour from Asda. Outsourcing companies have a proven track record of slashing pay terms, conditions and even jobs as soon as they have their feet under the table. "Now loyal, hardworking cleaning staff will be worried sick about whether their job will still pay the bills or whether the axe will fall on them".

In April GMB asked Asda if there was any further planned outsourcing to which Asda categorically replied 'no'. As a result, says Wilkins: "Morale in stores is already at rock bottom. GMB calls on Asda to halt this process now – at least until the other consultations are finished - and consider what is best for its customers and staff". It is to be hoped that GMB will take some action to oppose outsourcing rather than complain about it.

However help is on its way. RMT and Unison have got together to optimistically demand that new the

Prime Minister implement Labour's 2024 election promise to deliver "the biggest wave of insourcing for a generation". There's not been much insourcing in recent decades, that will not be difficult, but as Burnham has, so far, spent his time in office backtracking on his other promises the unions will have a fight on their hands.

Outsourcing which boost the profits of multinational companies by the simple expediency of driving down wages of unskilled and semi-skilled often essential workers. It results in decline of quality of public services. In the good old days when hospital cleaners were directly employed by the NHS on decent wages, they took pride in their work. If there were any shortcomings Matron gave them a bawling to get it speedily sorted out. Nowadays very underpaid cleaners have increased workloads and uncertain shifts and employment prospects doled out by multinational companies who are more interested in the balance sheet than the number of germs.

The unions are rightly sceptical of Labour's claim that "the age of outsourcing is over" as such contracts are still being signed. Just last month the *Financial Times* reported that a record £456 million civil service training contract had been awarded by the Cabinet Office to giant accountancy firms KPMG and EY. That is clearly something the civil servants ought to be doing themselves.

All too often these private contractors are the tail that wags the dog. Vast sums of money are spent on consultants whose advice is generally that more money needs to be spent on them, IT contracts often lock public bodies into costly systems which are virtually impossible to escape from. Private contractors can offer public sector managers nice retirement jobs to ensure that contracts are properly allocated. As the case of Thames Water dramatically illustrates paying dividends to multimillionaires comes at the expense of clean wa-

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

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AGE CONCERN last week released a shocking report, *Hungry to be Heard*, revealing that 60 per cent of elderly hospital patients are at risk of malnutrition because nurses do not have enough time to help them to eat the dinners that are put in front of them. Many patients who are malnourished on arrival in hospital get a lot worse during their stay. The report also said that 90 per cent of nurses say they do not always have time to assist patients who need help to eat.

The logical deduction is that there are not nearly enough nurses. Everyone in the NHS knows full well that diet is a vital part of recovery

The logical deduction is that there are not nearly enough nurses. Everyone in the NHS knows full well that diet is a vital part of recovery from illness and injury. Yet NHS trusts are cutting nursing jobs because they cannot balance their books.

They make these cuts in the full knowledge that this will make the shortage of nursing care on the wards even worse.

The report says: "It's a national scandal: Six out of 10 older people are at risk of becoming malnourished, or their situation gets worse in hospital.

"Up to 14 per cent of older people aged over 65 in the UK are malnourished. Four out of 10 older people admitted to hospital are malnourished on arrival.

"The toll of malnutrition on health and social care costs is estimated to exceed £7.3 billion per year (much more than obesity). Over half is expended on people over 65".

Nursing unions reacted strongly to the report, demanding better levels of staff and call-

ing for nurses to be allowed more time to ensure patients eat properly.

Pauline Ford of the Royal College of Nursing said: "This survey highlights just how serious the problem of understaffing on many hospital wards has become and for so many nurses time has become a luxury. The RCN is calling for protected mealtimes and time and resources devoted to patients who cannot feed themselves".

The NHS trusts cannot balance their budgets because of the swingeing costs of the private finance initiative contracts, which have proved a real seam of vast riches for City finance companies. The insatiable greed of these fat cats is literally causing starvation among the elderly. Yet if we said these bloated capitalists are grinding the faces of the poor in the dirt, we would be accused of using quaint and old-fashioned language, of exaggerating and being melodramatic.

by C J Atkins

THE TRIBUTES to Dolly Parton, who passed away last week will dwell on her song catalogue – *Jolene*, *Coat of Many Colours* and *I Will Always Love You* – and on the causes now attached to her name: her free book programme for children and her trailblazing for women in a business men built to keep them out. Those things alone are enough to merit praise, but they aren't the whole picture. Dolly Parton was a woman who spent six decades in the spotlight but never stopped being what she started out as: working class and loyal to everyone else who was.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was born on 19th January 1946, the fourth of 12 children, in a one-room cabin in Sevier County, Tennessee. Her parents sharecropped somebody else's land before they scraped together enough, years later, to buy a small farm of their own. "We had a lot of stuff that money can't buy anyhow," she said of those years, "things like love and kindness and understanding. And we had music".

Dolly left for Nashville the day after her 1964 high school graduation. She was determined to break into a business where it was hard enough for a woman to get taken seriously as a singer, let alone as a songwriter, but she insisted on being both.

For her entire career, her music was also union-made. She was a member of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 257 branch in Nashville until the very end, filing union contracts on her sessions and tours so her band got the wages that come with a union card. "Before she was an icon, Dolly was a working musician," AFM President Tino Gagliardi said after her death. Local 257 President Dave Pomeroy put it plainer "throughout her 58 years as a proud member in good standing of Local 257, she set the gold standard for supporting her band and fellow musicians".

That working-class instinct is also the real backstory behind *9 to 5*. The song, and the Jane Fonda film it scored, are remembered now as 1980s workplace comedy,

Dolly Parton: a working class hero



but they grew out of a real class struggle. Fonda, who had the idea for the film, based its story on a Boston clerical workers' organization called 9to5 that was founded in 1972 by Ellen Cassedy and Karen Nussbaum. It rallied secretaries around pay, harassment, and the daily humiliation of being invisible in their own offices.

9to5's research exposed banks and insurance companies illegally colluding to fix wages and keep women's pay low. The group won a 10 per cent raise before growing into SEIU District 925. "Your boss is organised," Nussbaum liked to say. "You

better be organised too".

Fonda expressed the class consciousness that the film sought to inspire: "What I found was that secretaries know the work they do is important, is skilled, but they also know they're not treated with respect. They call themselves 'office wives'. They have to put gas in the boss's car, get his coffee, buy the presents for his wife and mistress. So, when we came to do the film, we said...what you have to do is write a screenplay which shows you can run an office without a boss, but you can't run an office without the secretaries!"

Parton wrote the anthem

for the politics and organising that not only defined the fight for women workers but also captured a truth that all workers know in their heart: "It's a rich man's game no matter what they call it, and you spend your life puttin' money in his wallet."

On that same LP as *9 to 5* Parton also covered Woody Guthrie's *Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)*, the elegy for 28 Mexican farmworkers killed in a 1948 crash while being flown back across the border, whom media at the time hadn't even bothered to name, unlike the American crew. "Who are these dear friends all scattered like dry leaves," she sang, "The radio said they were just deportees." She staked out a position of support for immigrant workers at a time when politicians were calling for mass deportations, a time much like our own.

She was clear, too, long before it was safe in country music to be so, about where she stood on gay and transgender people. Her 1991 song *Family* put it in a single verse: "Some are preachers, some are gay, some are addicts, drunks and strays, but not a one is turned away when it's family." The support went beyond words, though. Her film production company, Sandollar, put up the money behind *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, the 1989 AIDS Memorial Quilt documentary that won the Academy Award while Ronald Reagan's White House stayed silent on the epidemic.

In 2004, the Ku Klux Klan announced plans to picket Dollywood's Gay Day; the park's spokesman said flatly that the demonstrators "will not be allowed on Dollywood property," and the event went on undisturbed. Parton made her own position explicit a few years later, after a lesbian visitor was asked to turn a marriage equality T-shirt inside out at one of her parks: "Everyone knows of my personal sup-

port of the gay and lesbian community," she said. "Dollywood is a family park and all families are welcome".

She was secure enough in that support to once enter a Dolly Parton look-alike drag contest at a gay bar in West Hollywood incognito – and lose! "They just thought I was some little, short gay guy" she said afterwards.

When the fight for marriage equality was raging in the 2000s, she lent her backing in the most Dolly of ways, saying, "why can't they be as miserable as us heterosexuals in their marriages?" That was years before the US Supreme Court eventually ruled the religious right's gay marriage bans unconstitutional.

Her instinct to defend people other folks looked down on showed up on screen, too. When she signed on to play a brothel madam in the 1982 film *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Parton said she hoped the self-appointed "Moral Majority" would watch it, provocative title and all. "It points a finger at a lot of people, and some of 'em ain't whores," she said. "Like people who get fake religion".

She refused to let the film's women be treated as a punchline, either: "Prostitutes...are some of the sweetest, most caring people I've known because they've been through everything," she said, tracing their circumstances back to broken dreams and abuse rather than to any failure of character. It was the same argument, dressed up as a comedy, that she'd make in earnest for the rest of her life: judge the hypocrites, not the people they judge.

Years later, after a relative and a friend of hers came out as transgender, she wrote the song *Travelin' Thru for Transamerica*, the 2005 film about a trans woman. "I have a friend and a relative who are transgender," she explained. "I said, 'I'll be happy to make a stab at that.'" The song earned her an Oscar nomination.

The same reflex showed up when other people were targeted by those in power. In 2005, with Cat Stevens – by then Yusuf Islam – still barred from the United States after being wrongly flagged on a post-9/11 security watch list, Parton put him on her

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album *Those Were the Days*, singing *Where Do the Children Play?* as a duet. “He’s a precious man” she said. “He’s got a lot of bad press lately, but I think he’s out to try to save the world, not destroy it”.

In August 2020, as a racist police murder sparked a national uprising that brought millions into the streets, Dolly was asked point-blank about Black Lives Matter and her thoughts on the protests. She didn’t hedge: “Of course Black lives matter. Do we think our little white asses are the only ones that matter? No!” Her support for African American communities stretched back even further.

When she earned \$10 million in royalties from Whitney Houston’s 1992 cover of *I Will Always Love You*, Dolly used the money to buy an office complex and strip mall in a Black neighbourhood in Nashville and made it into her headquarters, bringing development and jobs to an area overlooked by other investors. “It was mostly just Black families and people that lived around there,” she said. “And I thought, ‘This is the perfect place for me to be, considering it was Whitney’”.

She built all of that—the music empire, the theme park, the 3,000-song catalogue—out of a one-room cabin with no electricity, and she never forgot it. What she did with the fame and fortune it brought her was spend it on people who needed the cover more than she did: the musicians in her band, the secretaries who inspired her biggest hit, the gay and trans kids looking for acceptance in a hostile world, the Muslim man barred at the airport, the Black marchers in the summer of 2020. That is a working-class hero’s résumé, and the rest is the soundtrack of her life.

People’s World (USA)

London’s nuclear gamble: why Britain is turning to Germany

by Andrei Nikolaev

BRITAIN HAS played itself into the role of a would-be global and maritime power. Its desire to reclaim the great status it once enjoyed has driven London into such enormous expenditures that Britain has decided to bring Germany into the effort to maintain and protect its nuclear arsenal. An excellent choice, considering Germany’s troubled past – most notably its role in initiating both world wars.

In this sense, it seems that two lonely powers have found each other. One wants to, but can no longer; the other can, but has not been allowed to want to. And now, suddenly, it has been given the opportunity.

Germany’s return to the nuclear question

If London once stood on the Olympus of world powers, Berlin distinguished itself on that road mainly by twice throwing itself with extraordinary determination against the deaf and formidable wall of Russia. Yet apparently the old saying is true: fools are not bound by laws, while history teaches nothing even to the intelligent. Germany now wants to



Trident on the prowl.

walk through the same door for a third time – the one that opens onto an abyss.

To claim a place under the sun in today’s world, it is desirable to have a nuclear club behind you. Germany has therefore decided to immerse itself in the nuclear intoxication as well, drawing on the yeast of its old imperial ambitions.

Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) reported on Germany’s nuclear ambitions as early as July 2026. According to information from the Russian intelligence service: NATO military experts believe Berlin could independently produce the necessary fissile material within one to three months and design an operational nuclear explosive device within one year without conducting a full-scale test.

At the official level,

however, Chancellor Friedrich Merz rules out the possibility of developing Germany’s own nuclear weapons. At the same time, he allows for the deployment of British or French nukes on German territory and even for the use of German aircraft as their delivery platforms.

Against this backdrop, London appeared at exactly the right moment, ready to play along with Germany’s revanchist sentiments while also solving part of its own financial problems at someone else’s expense. That is standard British practice.

“Germany, since you dream so much about nuclear weapons, why not join us as a partner in this area?” London seems to be saying.

Apparently, this is how the idea emerged of bringing Germany into Britain’s nuclear

programme. Co-operation is expected in three areas: joint financing of Britain’s Nuclear Defence Enterprise programme, valued at £63.6 billion; participation in the production of submarines and nuclear warheads, as well as uranium enrichment; protecting the nuclear arsenal with German air-defence systems, in particular Patriot missile systems.

Britain’s nuclear arsenal and American dependence

When it comes to Britain’s nuclear arsenal, the popular modern phrase “it’s complicated” comes to mind. Although people usually apply it to relationships between men and women, it can also

be stretched, without fear of exaggeration, to describe the strange Anglo-American relationship.

Britain, as we know, possesses its own nuclear weapons, although its arsenal remains relatively small – around 200 warheads. The actual figure remains classified. The country’s nuclear arsenal consists exclusively of submarine-launched missiles. Britain builds the submarines itself, but remains heavily dependent on the United States when it comes to the missiles.

First, most of Britain’s nuclear missile stockpile is stored at the US Navy base at Kings Bay in Georgia. Only the operational portion remains directly aboard the submarines.

Second, the Trident II missile currently in service is manufactured primarily in the

United States. Britain produces only its own warhead, and even that relies on an American design.

It remains unclear what happens during the final assembly of the British version of the missile, because Britain's last two test launches ended in failure.

The most recent failure looked particularly absurd. Barely after launching from the submarine's launch tube, the Trident literally splashed back into the water nearby. Then again, absurdity seems to have become Britain's trademark if one looks at the actions of its politicians.

Strangely enough, the very same missiles manufactured in the United States fly both far and high. Could Washington be deliberately tweaking something for London, just to make sure the British do not do something unfortunate? If so, perhaps London's decision to change its nuclear-program partner is not entirely accidental.

Germany, of course, does not possess expertise at that level, but the Germans learn quickly. Once again, it is worth recalling the Russian intelligence report mentioned above.

London's financial burden and Berlin's opportunity

There is also a second reason for bringing Germany into the arrangement: Britain's financial problems. London apparently can no longer sustain its military machine, although judging by Britain's defence budget, the British soldier should be the richest, best-equipped and



The struggle for peace in Europe -- German communist cartoon.

most heavily armed soldier in the world.

At the same time, the rapprochement between Britain and Germany on nuclear matters should not be overestimated. To push the United States aside, Berlin would have to work extremely hard for a very long time, because the chain of co-operation between Washington and Lon-

don is highly complex and deeply interconnected.

However, given the broader European trend away from dependence on the United States, London will probably help Berlin.

Germany is strong in missile development and submarine construction. It also possesses expertise in nuclear energy, despite

the fact that all of Germany's nuclear power plants have been shut down in accordance with the green agenda. It is strange that Berlin feared peaceful nuclear energy so much, yet is now apparently eager to take up its military applications.

What Germany can do right now is deploy its air-defence systems around the Faslane

naval base in Scotland. That is where the submarines carrying nuclear missiles are based. It can also provide some money.

The entire picture shows just how pitiful and weak Britain actually is. Its desire to inflame conflicts in other parts of the planet and pit countries against one another in order to make money from

the process is producing the opposite result: London is growing poorer. Perhaps too much attention has gone into overseas affairs, particularly Ukraine.

It is no coincidence that Moscow has recently treated London with extreme coldness and disdain. Considering the entire trail of treacherous acts committed by this state on planet Earth, Britain should be pushed back to somewhere around the middle of the 16th century in terms of its level of influence. And even that would be generous.

Back then, Britain had not yet become the mistress of the seas. It was only beginning to search for its place among the colonial conquerors. It was precisely then that the English navigator Richard Chancellor "discovered" Russia through the White Sea, laying the foundations for trade relations between the two countries.

Interestingly, the English came across Russia more or less by accident. They were looking for India and "discovered" Russia instead. It would not be a bad idea to show these maritime wanderers the door today and advise them to knock again – but this time politely. After that, Germany could be dealt with as well.

For now, there is one thing that offers some reassurance regarding joint nuclear cooperation: historically,

London has never trusted Berlin. Therefore, even after receiving money from Berlin, the maximum Britain will allow the Germans to do is look – but not touch.



Protest at Faslane base.

LETTERS

THE COMMUNIST Party of the Workers of Spain (PCTE) strongly condemns the recent attacks on migrants remaining in [the Spanish enclave on the Moroccan coast of] Ceuta as well as the attacks against their settlements and the threats directed at those who are still providing humanitarian aid.

One month after the massive entry of tens of thousands of people from Morocco the situation remains unresolved. Thousands of migrants are still under precarious conditions. Meanwhile, unrest is growing among a population that has been enduring for weeks the results of a crisis the various Administrations have not been capable of addressing with the pace and resources required to do it.

Such unrest is being used by the most reactionary political sections in order to spread the criminalisation of immigrants and make them responsible for a situation not of their making. The existence of real problems in Ceuta does not justify the portrayal of all immigrants as criminals or the pre-

vention of the delivery of humanitarian aid and the persecution of those who sleep on the street.

Responsibilities must be placed where they belong. The Spanish Government has reacted late and prioritised border control and deportation over a sufficient response to the needs for accommodation, child protection and basic care. The Moroccan authorities, on their part, are exploiting their position on the external border of the European Union as a means to pressurise Spain and the EU itself [over their claim to Ceuta].

The European Union is no stranger to this situation. For years, it has externalised migration control to third countries such as Morocco. It has funded the containment of population movements caused by the uneven development of capitalism, wars and growing violence between countries caused by the worsening of inter-imperialist contradictions.

Meanwhile the promotion of racism contributes to direct the unrest of those who are enduring the worsening of their living standards against those who have even less. A false community of interests between workers

and exploiters is built in this way as they share a nationality, while foreign workers are presented as enemies.

Migrant workers are part of the working class. Defending them against violence, ensuring their rights and their organisation are a need for workers in Spain as a whole.

The PCTE calls on the working class and popular sections to reject any attempt to turn the Ceuta crisis into a war between the poor, to fight racism and xenophobia in neighbourhoods and at workplaces, and to demand accountability to those who do have the capacity to solve this situation. Against racism, war and exploitation – the unity of the working class!

**Press Office
of the PCTE
Madrid**

IN MY STRETCH of the woods one of the most famous engineering companies is Sheffield Forgemasters. This company makes bespoke large forging and castings. It also has lathes for machining these huge items.

The company was nationalised, I believe, in 2020 and is owned by the Ministry of Defence.

It produces parts for nuclear submarines and barrels for field artillery (105mm and 150mm)

This is part of the slow militarisation of the economy to prepare for war against Russia.

The other part of this is how to pay for it. The disabled, the most vulnerable in society, will have their benefits cut. There will be great suffering if the Personal Independence Payment

(PIP), currently under threat, is abolished. The subtext to this is that disabled people are all malingerers and not disabled.

Employers do not want to employ disabled people, generally speaking,

so poverty and destitution of the pre-war days will return.

**Roger Newby
Sheffield**

ALVARO CUNHAL was born in 1913 in the Portuguese university city of Coimbra.

His own family background reflected the then prevalent divisions in Portuguese society. His father was a free-thinking radical lawyer. His mother meanwhile was religiously devout. She ensured that he was baptised and that he went on to make his first Holy Communion.

The family later moved to Lisbon and Cunhal entered the University there in 1931 to study law. He had just turned 18 and he was also about to join the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP).

Cunhal – his cadre name was “David” – visited the Soviet Union for the first time in 1935 to attend the Seventh World Congress of the Comintern. He then joined the Central Committee of the PCP in 1936. He already headed up the party’s youth wing.

His first arrest occurred in 1937, at the age of 33. Whilst in prison, in July 1940, he completed his final thesis and got his law degree. The topic was a hot one, legalising abortion.

Briefly free that year he taught geography in Lisbon’s Colegio Moderno. Mario Soares, later a political rival as head of Portugal’s Socialist Party, was one of his pupils.

From 1941 to 1949 Cunhal lived “underground”. By 1943 he was de facto leader of the PCP although he was not officially General Secretary until 1961.

Arrested and tortured by the secret police (PIDE) in 1949 he remained in prison for 11 years – eight of them in solitary confinement – until a dramatic escape from the Peniche Fortress prison in 1960.

He would go on to lead the renewed opposition to the Salazar dictatorship. He would prove himself a “brilliant intellectual” and an “implacable political fighter” (Valle 2021).

And after the Carnation Revolution in April 1974 he would serve as Minister Without Portfolio in several provisional governments. A fellow

continued on p9

Diary

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.

UNTIL 22 OCT

Prince Charles Cinema: Series of films by Soviet director Andrei Tarkovsky. 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Details and tickets on PCC website.

UNTIL 2 NOV

People’s History Museum: On the Line – 100 Years of Strikes and Solidarity. PHM Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER.

UNTIL 26 FEB 2027

Working Class Movement Library: Two exhibitions: 1926 General Strike and Grunwick 1976-8. Wed-Fri afternoons. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

WED 9 SEPT

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: No Palantir in our NHS demonstration. 10:00-11:00. Where: Board Room, Junction 6, Whipps Cross Hospital, London E11 1NR

SAT 12 SEPT

Wigan Diggers Festival. 11:00. Gerrard Winstanley Gardens, The Wiend, Wigan, WN1 1PF.

SUN 13 SEPT

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign: Viva la solidaridad! No to Trump’s War on Latin America. 12:30, Royal Hotel Brighton Waterfront, Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 19 SEPT

Scottish Palestinian Campaign: Scotland Palestine Demo: 11:30 Glasgow Green to Buchanan Street Steps.

SAT 19 SEPT

Marx Memorial Library: Open House Day 11:00–15:00. 37a Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DU.

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.

TUE 22 SEPT

Marx Memorial Library: Introducing Marx & Marxism. 19:00, free online taster. Book on MML website.

THUR 24 SEPT

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

SAT 26 SEPT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Commemoration of Fife volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. 11:00. Memorial stone, Forth Avenue, Kirkcaldy KY2 5PR; later social at KUSI Club, 8 St Brycedale Avenue KY1 1ET.

SAT 26 SEPT

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Stop Arming Israel: march to Labour’s annual conference. 12:00-16:00, 12 noon on St George’s Plateau, Liverpool L1 1JJ.

SUN 27 SEPT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Evening of films about solidarity. 17:00–21:00. The Nest, Little Clarendon Street, Oxford OX1 2HU. Register on WeGotTickets.

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.

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We will remember them!

DENIS MOSKALENKO, the Consul-General of the Russian Federation in Edinburgh, honoured the memory of the Arctic convoy participants last week by laying a wreath at the monument dedicated to them at Cove, in the Scottish Highlands.

It was there, at Loch Ewe, that convoys bound for the Soviet Union were assembled between January 1942 and December 1944.

The Russian diplomat also visited the Arctic Convoy Museum in the village of Aultbea, on the shores of Loch Ewe, and thanked the staff for preserving the memory of the joint struggle against Nazism during the Second World War.

August 31st 1941 saw the arrival of the first Arctic convoy from Britain. It delivered 25,000 tonnes of supplies to Arkhangelsk and marked the beginning of regular

shipments between the USSR and the Allied powers via the Arctic route.

In total during the Second World War approximately 1,500 vessels, escorted by warships, made the journey to the Soviet Union and back as part of 78 Arctic convoys. They delivered thousands of aircraft and tanks, other weaponry and military hardware as well as ammunition, medical supplies, fuel,



strategically important raw materials, and various supplies essential for the nations of the anti-Hitler coalition in their fight against Nazi Germany and its allies.

The participants of the Arctic convoys were true heroes. Cargo delivery took place under extreme weather conditions with bitterly cold temperatures, gale-force winds, and heavy snowfall, while facing a constant threat from the German navy and air force. More than 3,000 sailors serving in the Arctic convoys gave their lives for the sake of victory over Nazism.

REVIEW

by Ben Soton

Iran and the revolution

Iran and The Revolution by Homa Katouzian ; Yale University Press New Haven and London 2026, 352 pp, illus; rrp:£20.

HOMA KATOUIAN, an Iranian-born academic who lives in Britain, has written extensively on Iranian history. His latest book covers the Anglo-Soviet occupation during the Second World War, the short-lived Mossadegh government of 1953; the Shah's 'White Revolution' of the 1960s and the 1979 revolution which led to the establishment of today's Islamic Republic.

It starts in August 1941 with 'Operation Countenance' and the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran. Its objective was to depose the pro-German Reza Shah and prevent the Axis powers from gaining a foothold in



a highly strategic area between British-dominated Iraq and the Soviet Union.

It then moves on to 1953 and the progressive Mossadegh government's nationalisation of the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Katouzian claims that the communist Tudeh Party opposed Mossadegh; which is

not strictly true. Tudeh gave Mossadegh's National Front government critical backing and supported the nationalisation of Anglo-Iranian. But he opposed Mossadegh's bond scheme set up to counter the imperialism blockade that followed. What is staggering about the book is its failure to mention Opera-

tion Ajax. Operation Ajax was planned by Kermit Roosevelt the CIA agent who, with the help of MI6, organised gangs of armed thugs to bring down Mossadegh and replace him with the Reza Shah's son, a willing tool of imperialism. No study of the period is complete without mention of this imperialist plot.

The new Shah considered himself an enlightened despot. And in 1963 he embarked on the 'White Revolution' – a modernisation programme that included limited land reform and improvements to the position of women. But being an enlightened despot is a contradiction in terms. The White Revolution raised people's expectations without meeting them and was opposed by both the conservative clergy and the left.

Revolutions are not one-day events; they begin with the overthrow of the old regime and end with the consolidation of the new. The Russian Revolution began in

1917 and came to an end in the 1920s with the Soviet victory in the civil war. In the case of this study the Iranian Revolution started in January 1979 when the Shah fled and ended in the early 1980s by which time the Islamic Republic had eradicated internal opposition.

After a revolution there is a period of political horse-trading with different groups vying for power. After the Shah fled the country in January 1979 Iran saw the rise of radical Islamist, and leftist movements, while moderates such as Bazargan and Banisadr (respectively Iran's new president and prime-minister) vied for high position.

upstage

The occupation of the US Embassy by Islamic students was an attempt by Islamists to upstage the left, presenting themselves as better anti-imperialists. By 1982 the Islamists, led by Ayatollah Khomeini,

were firmly in control. Most of the left, including Tudeh, supported the Islamists until they were suppressed.

The only exceptions were the Peoples' Fedayeen, an armed resistance group with links to the anti-revisionist left – and the People's Mujahidin which eventually turned to the Americans for support.

The author covers the period since the revolution in some detail; however this should arguably be the subject of another book. Katouzian views Iranian society in terms of state vs society conflict with little reference to class.

This puts him at odds with Marxists who would see the Shah as a tool of the pro-imperialist, comprador Iranian elite with the Islamists acting on behalf of the national bourgeoisie, the wealthy 'bazaar' traders. Although containing some useful information the book is most noted for what it leaves out.

Nepal flash-flood disaster – a stark warning of climate change

by Hai Feng

ALMOST overnight the China-Nepal border became the focus of the world. The mudslide at the China-Nepal border on 26th August has killed 734 people, with 2,498 still missing. In Gyirong in China's autonomous region of Xizang, the modern name for Tibet, the death toll stood at 16, with 546 missing.

In a disaster, numbers are never abstract. Behind every death is a family broken apart. Behind every missing person are people still waiting for news. Human fragility before nature has been laid bare.

But if this is read only as an ordinary mountain flood or mudslide, the real point would have been missed. What should alarm us is not only the scale of the damage, but where it began.

According to findings released by authorities in Xizang a glacier on the slope of Mount Langtang Lirung in Nepal collapsed at an altitude of about 5,200 metres, triggering an ice-rock avalanche. After plunging from a high altitude it scoured the mountainside, formed a massive debris flow, and raced some 22 kilometres down the valley toward Gyirong Port. Over two-thirds of a square kilometre of the area was flattened, including 27 buildings and related facilities.

This was not a surface disaster set off

by rain alone. It was a chain reaction: glacier failure, ice-rock collapse, mountain-side scouring, then a mudslide that grew as it ran. The disaster did not start at the foot of the mountain. It started when high ice came loose.

On 29th August Taiwan's *China Times* published a commentary, Nepal's flash floods warn that Earth's cryosphere is collapsing, and made a sobering claim: "the catastrophe on the China-Nepal border may not be a local freak event, but a warning that the planet's ice sphere is slipping into instability". What does a 'loosening cryosphere' mean?

In the long sweep of Earth's climate change history, disasters on this scale from melting ice have happened before – over the past 18,000 years or so. Most came after the last ice age, in the thaw that carried the planet from cold into warmth. By about 6,000 years ago, glaciers in the high mountains and at high latitudes had, on the whole, steadied. That is why humans came to assume mountain ice might shrink, but slowly, and in ways we could see coming.

That assumption is breaking now. What happened on the southern rim of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau was not an ordinary melt event. It was fracture, ice-rock avalanche and catastrophic run-off. Under continued global warming, some high-mountain fro-



zen systems once considered as relatively stable may be nearing a new tipping point.

History has already left this lesson. The Great Lakes of North America are themselves a vast left-over from the Ice Age. About 14,000 years ago, as the climate warmed and ice wasted away, meltwater poured south and reworked the continent's river systems. About 12,000 years ago the northern ice lakes lurched again. An ice dam failed, a huge pulse of freshwater entered the North Atlantic, changed the density of seawater, disrupted deep-ocean circulation and helped bring on the Younger Dryas cold reversal.

The American West's Dry Falls and "channelled scabland" record an even more violent kind of disaster. About 15,000 years ago, ice dams

on Glacial Lake Missoula failed again and again – 40 to 80 outburst floods in some 2,000 years. Peak discharges ran several times the combined flow of all the world's rivers today. The land was gouged; boulders were carried far onto the plains. They still lie there, like a prehistoric alarm left on the surface.

same fact

These stories sound distant, but they point to the same fact: when the planet enters a warming path, the cryosphere does not retreat gently or evenly. At certain nodes it can fail suddenly, and set off chain disasters humanity cannot survive.

The China-Nepal border disaster shows a harsh reality. The thin balance between natural activities such as high glaciers, frozen ground, slope sta-

bility, extreme weather and human activity is giving way.

We used to think disaster still stood a little apart from modern life; that roads, buildings and warning systems would take the blow; that "climate change" meant heat, drought, rain and typhoons. This time the disaster started deep in the ice, fell from the high peaks, tore down the valleys and left a port in ruins. Warming is not only a rising number on a thermometer. The planet's frozen systems are loosening, and with them the structure of mountains and rivers is being rewritten. What should humans do?

First, admit that this is not one country's issue. It is a shared human risk. The Earth is not a pile of separate pieces; it is one linked whole. When high glaciers fail, the shock doesn't

only affect nearby villages and travellers. It hits cross-border transport, regional water systems, ecological security and, more broadly, the order in which humans live.

Second, speed up a shared, cross-border system to watch and warn for high-mountain disasters. Glacier fracture, glacial-lake outburst and slope collapse are high-intensity chain events. One country, one agency, one discipline is no longer enough. Better remote sensing, linked data and joint rescue are what buy time.

More important still, humans have to look again at their relationship with the Earth. We cannot enjoy the spread of industrial civilisation and pretend that glaciers, oceans, permafrost and forests are someone else's business. "The world shares the same cold and heat" is already a reality.

The mudslide on the China-Nepal border is not only the name of a disaster. It is a blow from nature itself. When the cryosphere starts to loosen, mountains and rivers do not stay silent. When they speak, humanity has to learn to listen.

If this is treated only as a stroke of bad luck, and the planetary alarm behind it is ignored, then what is buried in the mud may not only be lives and homes. It may also be humanity's last remaining luck.

Global Times

If Brazil falls all of South America falls

by Hedelberto
López Blanch

PRESIDENT Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva has been very clear in understanding the danger looming over his country and probably over Latin America if the United States, through the Brazilian far right, manages to win the presidential elections scheduled for 4th October.

During a visit to the Aramar Nuclear Industrial Centre, Lula reaffirmed the importance of preserving national sovereignty as a fundamental pillar of the country. He defended international co-operation and the strengthening of multilateralism amidst threats from the United States.

Lula insists that "without sovereignty, Brazil would not exist" and that "a country of such size cannot live with its head down for its entire life" – a direct reference to the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the United States on products from the South American giant.

As the general elections in Brazil approach Donald Trump has intensified his campaign in favour of the far-right candidate Flavio Bolsonaro, whom he received at the White House in June, saying that "it was a pleasure to have such a smart young man in the Oval Office". He later posted two photos of another meeting he held with Bolsonaro on 26th May, a secret encounter that had not been publicised.

To bolster this Bolsonaro's chances (he's the son of former president Jair Bolsona-



President Lula.

ro), Trump decreed a high tariff on Brazilian products, with the clear intention of damaging the Brazilian economy and denting the mass support Lula currently enjoys within the country.

In the continuation of that campaign, the US administration designated the Brazilian groups PCC (First Capital Command) and Comando Vermelho (Red Commando) as terrorist organisations, a step Bolsonaro requested when he met Trump and which Lula rejected, as it "could open the door to a US military intervention" in his country.

Another ploy rejected by Brasilia was the approval of Trump's nominee as ambassador to Brazil, Daniel Pérez, a Republican Congressman from Florida close to

Trump's foreign minister, Marco Rubio. The response was that this would only be done after the elections, since the United States had gone a year and a half without an ambassador in the country.

Brazil's nationalist government also faces a strong disinformation campaign in all the hegemonic media outlets that try to denigrate the progress achieved in the South American giant in recent years.

constructive

In order to guarantee global stability and strengthen the country's position on the international stage, Lula has adopted a constructive stance, which was confirmed in a recent telephone conversation with Trump to try to smooth things over.



Protest against Jair Bolsonaro.

Among the achievements of his government are the diversification of trade relations through expanded co-operation with BRICS and the Asia-Pacific countries; reducing the importance of the dollar in world trade and promoting the creation of alternative payment systems.

Regarding the economy and social policy, Brazil was removed from the UN World Hunger Map; there was a marked decrease in poverty and extreme poverty: 8.7 million people were lifted out of poverty and 3.1 million out of extreme poverty.

End of the year GDP growth is estimated at 2.4 per cent. The unemployment rate is now one of the lowest in history at 5.3 per cent. Exports have also increased and the lowest inflation rate in recent years was achieved at 4.24 per cent.

But Lula, with his long political history and experience in presidential administration, understands that in the upcoming elections not only Brazil, but all of Latin America's independence is at stake due to the political and economic ambitions of the United States, which seeks to dominate and colonise the entire continent.

That is why Lula's recent statements on the matter have been scathing: "It is sovereignty that brought us freedom and independence...sovereignty is the authority a people has over its own destiny; for us, it is the right to build a free, just, and equitable society".

Resumen Latinoamericano

Euronews, Stalin and the falsification of History

EURONEWS TV's report on the 85th anniversary of the deportation of Soviet Germans is a textbook example of how anti-communist history is framed in contemporary Europe.

The method is simple: place Stalin in the dock, reduce Soviet power to "persecution" and push the decisive historical fact – Nazi Germany's war of annihilation against the USSR – into the background.

The ideological slant is obvious from the start. Euronews describes the 1939 Soviet-German non-aggression pact as a period of "close cooperation" between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. But where is Munich?

In September 1938, Britain and France signed the Munich Agreement with Hitler and Mussolini, sacrificing Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland almost a year before the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. To isolate Soviet diplomacy from Munich, appeasement and the collapse of collective security is not neutral history. It is political selection.

By August 1941, however, the central reality was no longer diplomacy but survival. Nazi Germany had invaded the Soviet Union in a genocidal war aimed at destroying the socialist state, colonising its territory and annihilating those regarded as racial and political enemies. Soviet wartime security measures cannot be torn out of that context and presented as arbitrary acts floating in a

vacuum. Yet that is precisely what Euronews does. The Nazi invasion becomes background scenery. Stalin becomes the story.

And this framing closely mirrors the broader politics of historical memory promoted by major institutions of the European Union. The European Parliament has repeatedly placed Nazism and communism under a common "totalitarian" framework and, in its 2019 resolution on European remembrance, explicitly treated the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as the immediate trigger of the Second World War.

Euronews is not an institution of the European Union, and it should not be described as one. But on this question it reproduces almost perfectly a historical narrative that has become deeply entrenched in official European memory politics: Stalin permanently on trial, socialism reduced to repression, and the Soviet Union's decisive role in smashing Nazism pushed further and further into the background.

The result is a grotesque inversion. Nazi Germany invades the USSR, but the moral spotlight falls on Stalin. Western appeasement is contextualised; Soviet diplomacy is criminalised. The socialist state that bore the main burden of defeating Hitler is retrospectively placed on the same moral plane as the regime that invaded it. That isn't serious historical inquiry. It is hideous anti-communism dressed up as journalism.

IDO C