

Proletarian



Workers must refuse to be intimidated by the barrage of lying propaganda that fills Britain's corporate media. It is the capitalists' job to try to stop us from taking power and building a socialist society; it is our job to do it anyway!



Hands off Yemen!

**Bombed for bravely
standing with Palestine**

Where are the trade unions?

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Birmingham bin workers expected to pay for council's bankruptcy

Some binmen are being told to take a £6k pay cut after national austerity and local speculation combined to bankrupt the city.

At 6.00am on Tuesday 11 March 2025, refuse workers employed by Birmingham city council initiated a comprehensive indefinite strike. The walk-out followed a series of limited strike actions that binmen had been taking since the beginning of the year, and which had eventually culminated in a more militant response owing to the intransigence of the current council commissioners.

The origins of this dispute can be traced back to September 2023, when Birmingham city council issued a Section 114 notice. This notice, issued under the terms of the 1988 Local Government Act, effectively declared the council insolvent. At the time of the notice's issuance by the council's financial officer, an £87m deficit remained unresolved.

In accordance with the Local Government Act, the Westminster government appointed commissioners (in effect, administrators) to scrutinise the council's financial records and implement cost-cutting measures to eliminate the deficit.

Wave of local authority bankruptcies

Birmingham city council is not alone in facing such financial struggles. It has joined eight other councils that have experienced insolvency in the last three years. These councils included Croydon in London, Thurrock in Essex, Woking in Surrey, and, just two months after Birmingham's announcement, Nottingham city council also joined the list of bankrupt authorities.

Council finances have been driven into a ditch mainly because of the throttling of central government funding, which began with the austerity drive launched by David Cameron's coalition government of 2010. This in itself was a response to the huge bank bailout instituted by Labour prime minister Gordon Brown during the financial crisis of 2008, the total cost of which was over £1tn. (Guardian, 12 Nov 2011)

The problems for many local authorities have been compounded because, with the

tacit approval of the central government, they have speculated considerable sums of money on risky schemes, including not-for-profit energy companies, solar power farms and loan companies. It now transpires that those responsible for investing council funds in these harebrained schemes often had little to no understanding of the likely risks or returns.

And of course, having lined the pockets of assorted crooks and swindlers, they bear no personal liability for the consequent failures.

Birmingham goes bust

In the case of Birmingham, the city's fiscal troubles centred on two key liabilities: a £100m cost overrun on the implementation of a new Oracle IT system, which the council reportedly tried to customise (against advice) to their pre-existing processes. The subsequent delays and costs that resulted from this customisation process led then-council leader John Cotton to seek approval for the extra money needed. The council only approved £46.5m, less than half of what was estimated would be needed to fix the problems.

The second liability was an equal pay legal claim dating back to 2010. The case had been brought via employment tribunal by 4,000 female claimants who did all sorts of jobs, including cooking, cleaning and administration. The women's upheld claim centred on the financial disadvantage they suffered by being left out of bonuses that were awarded in male-dominated fields of work, including attendance allowances. This meant that men could be earning up to 160 percent of the amount paid to women on the same pay grade.

At the time of their legal victory, solicitors estimated that the cost of compensating the affected female workers would be around £200m, but could be far higher if more female employees joined the existing claimants. In the end, the council spent (and is still spending) an estimated £1.1bn – a combination of legal fees fighting against the ruling and the compensation they were eventually forced to pay anyway. In some cases, the women concerned had to wait until 2024 and go through protracted negotiations via their unions to finally receive their settlements.

Binmen told to pay

Despite years of trying to balance the books via ever more draconian cuts to public services, the council finally admitted defeat and issued a Section 114 order in 2023. Commissioners, appointed to hack and slash the financial obligations of the council, determined that, in order to save costs, some of the refuse workers would be downgraded, and thus their pay reduced – in some cases by as much as £8,000 per year, a hammer blow to affected workers in the midst of an ongoing and seemingly never-ending cost of living crisis.

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And this was besides making huge cuts to social care and other essential services that have already been hacked back to the bone.

The all-out strike which began on 11 March has resulted in household refuse piling high in Birmingham's suburban streets, with reports of dozens of rats, some quoted as being "the size of cats" scurrying from pile to pile in broad daylight. According to social media, when council-appointed agency refuse trucks arrived, some residents were reported to be scuffling in the streets, competing with their neighbours to dispose of their rubbish. (Daily Mail, 20 March 25)

There appears to be little sign of a swift end to the dispute. On 25 March, Unite the Union, which represents the bin workers, criticised the council's apparent reluctance to negotiate. According to Unite, there had been a full week between negotiation meetings with the council, which has refused to rule out further attacks on the terms and conditions of those refuse workers who are not affected by the present round of downgrading and pay cuts. Unite general secretary Sharon Graham asked:

"Are the council's decision-making abilities being hobbled by unelected commissioners? If that's the case, the council needs to be honest with its workers and the public and tell them exactly what decisions it can and cannot make without the commissioners' permission."

It should be pointed out that Sharon Graham leads a trade union that is a major donor to the same Labour party that led Birmingham city council into bankruptcy (and which also initiated the massive transfer of public funds to the bankers in 2008). Unite bankrolls Labour to the tune of millions

of pounds of its own members' money every year, yet at no point during this dispute (or indeed any other dispute with Labour-led councils affecting Unite members, of which there have been many) have Graham or her predecessors called the union's continued and apparently unconditional funding of the Labour party into question.

And so the rubbish continues to pile and rot in the streets, the rats continue to run free and unfettered, and the lives of Birmingham's working-class residents, already adversely affected by the cost of living crisis and brutal austerity measures, are made yet more unpleasant.

Councils across the length and breadth of the country have been in a parlous financial state for decades, but 15 years of austerity, imposed by Tory and Labour governments alike, means that many more councils, whose council tax rises are capped at 5 percent, will inevitably follow the likes of Birmingham, Nottingham, Croydon and others into bankruptcy.

It is working-class people who suffer the ill-effects of central government-sponsored austerity and local council profligacy. It is they who are deprived of the most basic services, suffering higher and higher council tax bills for less and less in return.

There is no choice for workers but to sweep aside all the ineffectual proposals for tinkering at the edges of this system that the ruling class and its apologists regularly put forward. It must be replaced by a planned socialist economy, in which both production and service provision are based on the needs of the people, and all services are free at the point of use, fully funded, and run by and for the working class.



Starmer ditches promised 'right to switch off'

As British prime minister Sir Keir Starmer casually bins the last of his joke pre-election 'New deal for workers' pledges, withdrawing from an earlier commitment to stop employers pressurising staff into leaving their phones on indefinitely so that they are permanently on call, the role of social democracy in keeping workers docile and divided is exposed for all to see.

When union bosses were telling workers last spring that even though Sir Keir was *openly advocating for genocide* in Palestine, and even though he was promising to head up the most "pro-business government" Britain has ever seen, workers should vote Labour nonetheless because the party had plans to reverse some of the most egregious anti-worker measures and restore some of the rights at work that have been lost or eroded over the past 40 years.

Even so-called 'radicals' like Mick Lynch of the RMT and Unite's Sharon Graham added their voices to the 'Vote Labour' chorus that assailed workers from all sides.

But what happened when Starmer had been safely installed in No 10? One by one the 'pledges' were quietly dropped and the reverse was implemented: not only a doubling down on the support for imperialist war in Ukraine and Gaza, but a ramping up of attacks on the poorest and most

vulnerable people in Britain under the excuse of an "unexpected budget deficit" (all the fault of those nasty Tories, of course).

Wage-slavery v chattel slavery

To demand the 'right to switch off', to limit the hours of work to those agreed when the worker sells to the capitalist his ability to work (his labour-power), is no more than to require the purchaser of labour-power to *honour the terms of the contract* he has entered into with the worker, the seller of labour-power.

It is this which distinguishes wage-slavery from the outright slavery of an earlier epoch. The slave was a chattel, bought and sold for life by the slave-master. The wage-slave does not sell his body all in one go to the capitalist. Rather he sells to the capitalist the only commodity that he owns and can bring to market: his labour-power, and he sells it piecemeal, for use during certain hours.

Every blurring of the dividing line between the boss's time and the worker's time effectively keeps the employee permanently tagged to the job and with less and less 'private life' in which to raise a family, advance his education, broaden his cultural interests and even (heavens forbid!) study Marxist-Leninist science.

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The Grangemouth scandal

Failure to mobilise against job cuts at Grangemouth reveals the fraudulent nature of Unite and SNP leaders.

For two political parties that supposedly hate each other, the Labour party and the Scottish National party certainly are agreeing on a lot these days. They agree on the need to continue the Ukraine war in perpetuity, and they apparently agree that the number one priority of the governments in London and Edinburgh should be to support asset strippers such as Jim Ratcliffe of Ineos.

That is the company which currently co-owns (along with a Chinese company) Petroineos, operator of the Grangemouth oil refinery where at least 500 jobs are currently at risk owing to part of the plant being threatened with closure.

When this was announced by the company last year there was a storm of protest from Unite the Union leadership in the form of general secretary Sharon Graham and Scottish secretary Derek Thomson de-

claring the closure to be “unacceptable” and “inexplicable” and promising to fight the company’s plans tooth and nail.

But the first rumours about job cuts at Grangemouth emerged more than a year ago, and while there have been plenty of denunciations and verbal gymnastics from Ms Graham and co, there has been remarkably little else. Certainly no ballot of the Grangemouth workers for strike action, and apparently not even any agitation to build support for such a ballot. A strike ballot was held in relation to pay in 2023 but nothing over the proposed axing of at least 500 jobs.

As workers at Scotland’s only oil refinery, keeping the region supplied with petrol, Grangemouth employees have considerable industrial power should they choose to use it. Surely the most obvious step for any union worth its salt at

this point would be to mobilise the workers to defend their jobs and to be ready for a battle against Ineos and all those, including Swinney’s SNP and Starmer’s Labour party – who are working together to gut Grangemouth.

It should be noted that even as the firm is moving forward with its plan to axe jobs at Grangemouth and mothball the plant’s oil refining capabilities, the British government has loaned Ineos £600m to develop refinery facilities in Belgium! This is a major scandal that the entire British trade union movement should be mobilising around. Why is the government *paying* a company to deindustrialise part of Britain that already suffers from low and ever declining economic inactivity?

Total failure of Unite to mobilise in support of jobs and infrastructure

But the most baffling/enraging aspect of the case is the sheer inactivity of Unite itself. Sharon Graham was elected

to her present position four years on a platform of ‘getting back to union basics’ and fighting to preserve jobs, pay and conditions. Given that it has now more than a year since the Grangemouth plans were first mooted and Unite has done nothing to oppose them, we can only conclude that the union leadership is complicit with these job cuts.

It seems to us that, once again, the Unite leadership is doing the bidding of the Labour party who (in turn) are collaborating with Ineos to get the plans pushed through with minimal resistance.

And what of John Swinney’s SNP administration in Edinburgh? Why on earth would a party that claims to be dedicated to taking Scotland out of Britain be willing to overlook further deindustrialisation of their region?

Why is that after a year of these job losses being talked about, there has been no action from Unite? Why has the SNP government done absolutely nothing? Why has the Scottish Trades Union Congress done nothing? Why have the only demonstrations outside Grangemouth been held not by any trade union but

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by the nationalist Alba party (founded by the late Alex Salmond)?

The truth is that the SNP, like the Labour party, is servant of the British ruling class. The job of its leadership is to police dissent in Scotland and make sure it gets channeled in ways the British ruling class finds acceptable. The SNP's leaders have shown their willingness to back the slaughter in Ukraine, and now they seem to be backing the asset-stripping of their home turf – a territory they claim to want to lead into a bright and independent future!

The way these charlatans follow the orders emanating from London reveals a certain wretched truth about devolution in Scotland, Wales and the English regions: it was never about *reviving* these areas but only about ridding the London government of the responsibility for managing their decline – and misdirecting workers' anger about the cause of their problems in the process.

This approach was first outlined in secret by the government of Margaret Thatcher in the early 1980s, as cities like Liverpool were being rapidly deindustrialised, and it came to fruition under the direction of Tony Blair's regime dressed up as 'devolution'. So the real job of regional 'leaders' like John Swinney is to oversee the effective destruction of the areas they supposedly 'champion' and wants to lead to 'sovereignty'. Swinney's true role is not to lead national liberation but to act as regional manager for the British ruling class, which explains why he has no more interest in fighting for working-class Scots than Keir Starmer.

So whether we're talking about the Unite leadership, the Labour party or the SNP, all these organisations are designed to *police* working-class

actions and make sure that nothing happens that might challenge the rule of capital. If capital demands the closure of Grangemouth then it is the job of its political and industrial servants to ensure this takes place, while lying to the working class and actively looking to prevent any mobilisation against it.

Those who are prepared to act as policemen for the British monopolists against the working class can have well-remunerated careers with large expense accounts attached. Defy the ruling class, however, and only prison awaits. That is the deal that the union leaders, Scottish and Welsh nationalists and most of the left have accepted.

The demand needs be raised across Britain for the full nationalisation of the entire petrochemical industry, starting with Grangemouth, since it is clear that the refinery's private owners have no intention of investing in it. Pressure should be brought to bear on both the Edinburgh and London governments by the unions in support of this demand. If private owners cannot run vital energy infrastructure at a sufficient rate of profit, it should be taken from them without compensation and run according to a plan and without the need to generate profits for shareholders.

If the Unite leadership were remotely serious, they would be making that demand and mobilising workers at Grangemouth and across the oil industry in support of it. If the SNP leadership were remotely serious, then they be nationalising Grangemouth and daring Starmer to try and stop them.

It is high time the working class saw through these con artists, who are collaborating with the ruling class and facilitating its war on the workers.

Join the communists

Not only do we need to campaign against the bad conditions and lack of prospects for working-class people in Britain today, but we need to work for a completely different type of society – one where people's needs decide everything.

So many problems face this world: environmental catastrophe, poverty, disease, racism and war. They'll never be solved while capitalism remains, but they could all be sorted if society was set up for the benefit of the majority rather than the private gain of a few billionaires.

The Communists refuse to be intimidated by the barrage of lying propaganda that fills Britain's corporate media. It is the capitalists' job to try to stop us from building a socialist society; it is our job to do it anyway!

Our aim is to revive revolutionary Marxism and popularise it amongst the broadest possible sections of our class. Combining knowledge with disciplined organisation is the key to success in the fight against capitalism.

Our membership is youthful, while our leadership is experienced. We may be small, but we are growing. We welcome anyone who is serious and committed to working for a socialist future.

Become a supporter at thecommunists.org



Middle east



A map showing the Bab al-Mandab strait at the entrance to the Red Sea, a key shipping route. At just 16 miles wide, it has been crucial in Yemen's courageous anti-imperialist and anti-zionist struggle in support of Palestinian liberation.

Yemen is upholding the honour of the world's people once again

As the Gaza ceasefire breaks down, the Ansarullah government has resumed its blockade of the Red Sea.

Following the re-imposition of total siege conditions on Gaza by the Israeli military in March 2025, the supreme people's council of Yemen has announced that it will, in turn, be re-imposing its own blockade on passage of Israeli shipping through the Red Sea.

Regular readers will no doubt be aware by now of the consistently patriotic and heroic stances taken by the Yemeni government, led by the popular Ansarullah resistance movement, which swept to power in a revolution at the end of 2014 that brought an end to decades of pro-western dictatorial rule.

Decried as an "illegitimate coup" by the imperialist media, it was the exact reverse of what had occurred in Ukraine that same year, where an imperialist-sponsored fascist coup that brought a pro-western junta to power was lauded universally across imperialist news media

as a "revolution of dignity". As the song goes: *The revolution will not be televised* – at least not on mainstream corporate media.

Plucky Yemen takes on the combined navies of the west

The initial blockade imposed by the Yemeni navy during the first phase of the Gaza genocide shocked the world with its effectiveness, its capabilities – and its sheer tenacity. Despite being totally isolated from the world economy for years under a heavily-sanctioned government recognised only by Iran, the Yemenis nevertheless managed to build up a naval and military capacity capable of imposing a blockade on all Israeli-linked shipping, and then successfully resisting all US and British imperialist-led attempts to break this blockade with military force.

In addition to the support of the masses, the Yemenis have geography on their side. The Bab al-Mandab strait is only 16 miles wide at its narrowest point, creating a pinch point between Yemen and the small African nation of Djibouti. And through this narrow gap all shipping between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean via the Suez canal and the Red Sea must pass.

Despite a concerted campaign by corporate media and western politicians to present the Yemenis as mindless pirates, their demand was very clear and succinct: *Let food and humanitarian aid into Gaza, and we'll let Israeli ships through.* A perfectly reasonable demand, one might think. Of course, there is human logic, and then there is the logic of imperialism, which cannot tolerate such defiance to its system of global control.

Yemen a hero nation in the eyes of the world

At a time when the vast ma-

jority of governments and international bodies, including muslim-led ones, are doing nothing whatsoever to stop the Gaza holocaust, the gall of the Yemenis in so fearlessly taking such a dramatic action against imperialist-zionist interests has captured hearts and minds globally. Prior to 7 October 2023, very few workers around the world had paid any attention to Ansarullah beyond a small handful in anti-war and anti-imperialist circles; nowadays, the Houthis have become almost a household name, having bankrupted the Israeli port of Eilat and caused huge embarrassment to both US and British imperialism.

At pro-Palestinian rallies in western capitals it is now quite common to see Yemeni flags flown amid chants of "Yemen, Yemen makes us proud! Turn another ship around!" Notably, these protestors say 'Yemen' and not 'Houthis', implying that they recognise the Ansarullah-led government as the legitimate representative of Yemen; another blow to the credibility of imperialist-aligned media outlets, which invariably present the Yemeni government as "Iran-backed rebels" and a Saudi-based cabinet of powerless stooges (a la Juan Guaidó

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of Venezuelan notoriety) as the so-called “internationally recognised government”.

Particularly in the muslim world, the masses have no doubt been shocked and elated to see such revolutionary action from a movement that their Gulf-aligned media has been hysterically demonising for the past ten years with the basest of sectarian propaganda. Al-Jazeera infamously ran a completely false story some years back claiming that the ‘Houthis’ were trying to bomb the Ka’ba in Mecca, the holiest site in Islam, which led to much sectarian rage outpouring from the more trusting of the faithful.

Notably, the myriad so-called ‘jihadist’ salafi-wahhabi groups in the region, usually screaming endlessly about the influence of the western ‘infidels’ (whilst taking absolutely no meaningful action), are silent. This is not really surprising when we understand that most of these groups (al-Qaeda, Isis, etc) are imperialist creations whose purpose is to dupe muslims with their seemingly radical ‘anti-western’ rhetoric whilst in practice invariably herding them into actions *against* the really anti-imperialist Axis of Resistance (described by the wahabbists as “shia infidels”).

The blockade was finally lifted by the Yemenis after Israel had begun to implement a ceasefire and the loosening of the starvation-level siege on Gaza at the start of 2025. Now that the shaky Gaza ceasefire has effectively collapsed, however, and the zionists have returned to genocide mode, the Yemeni blockade has snapped back into place. Having exhausted all other options, the US regime led by Donald Trump has not been slow to respond by openly sending in the US military to try to bomb the country into submission.

Of course, this will not work. Indeed, even the US imperialists probably understand on some level that sending their bombers to rain death and destruction will not bring Yemen any closer to submission; if anything, it will likely have negative repercussions by openly exposing the USA as the driver behind the wars in the region and removing any room for plausible deniability.

Rather, the latest bombing campaign is an expression of the imperialists’ impotent rage: what else can they do when they have tried everything for more than a decade and signally failed to achieve their goal of cowing the people and controlling their government?

Advance of the Yemeni revolution

The Yemenis have come a long way since Sayyid Hussain Badreddine al-Houthi – the founder of Ansarullah murdered by US-backed government troops under the pro-US regime in 2004 – was giving religious guidance and recruiting youths in the remote north-western backwaters of Sa’ada in the early 2000s.

Over the past two decades, Ansarullah has created an incredibly strong and cohesive social base, largely free of collaborationists and traitors to an extent that would make even their fellow resistance allies in Iran and Lebanon envious. The imperialists have quite simply been unable to use their moles, NGOs and ‘soft power’ tactics against the ever-vigilant Yemenis.

Unlike other Axis of Resistance countries, the Ansarullah-controlled part of Yemen has been largely sealed off to outsiders and has a fairly homogenous make-up, much like the DPRK, adding to the difficulties of smuggling in western spies and trying to use the

usual divide and rule tactics – such as have been employed to such devastating effect against Syria, to give the most recent example.

Using al-Qaeda/Isis terrorists as proxies to destabilise the country has failed. So too did the massive Saudi-fronted bombing campaign, despite causing a death toll from famine and disease between 2015-18 that was comparable to the current Gaza holocaust. Despite the immense human suffering, despite the loss of infrastructure and industry, and despite the most barbaric economic sanctions, Ansarullah emerged stronger than ever from that war.

Sanctioning the country today has become a meaningless gesture, since Yemen has already endured its isolation from all international bodies and financial institutions for the past decade and has found new ways to begin the process of revitalising its industry and agriculture.

Arms development a key to Yemeni sovereignty

A measure of the Yemenis’ success can be seen in their present-day armament capabilities. While the west is keen to either ignore or dismiss Yemen’s missile and drone successes, and to assert that the country is entirely reliant on technological imports from Iran, the truth is far removed from this. Over the last decade and more of ongoing warfare against western planes and ships, the Yemenis have developed the ability not only to use drones to down imperialist planes and drones and sink imperialist ships, but also to steadily refine these capabilities, reverse-engineering captured vehicles and constantly iterating the design of their own domestically produced weapons.

It is this local innovation that allows Yemen to constantly adapt its drones to real combat conditions. American drones, on the other hand, are reliant on complex, expensive and totally unresponsive supply chains in which new technologies can take years, sometimes decades, to make it into active service, and even the smallest of modifications is a major project.

Today, Yemen is leading the way in the production of highly effective air and sea-based drones, and its hypersonic missile capabilities allow it to strike US naval carriers in the Red Sea, ships far out in the Indian Ocean and buildings in the centre of Tel Aviv 1,500 miles away. As yet, the imperialists have no way of intercepting these missiles and find them difficult even to detect until it is too late to respond. As a result, citizens in the Israeli capital have been regularly forced to flee into their bunkers, while the USS Harry Truman and other aircraft carriers have repeatedly been forced to flee the area after direct hits or near misses.

It should be recalled that the Saudi-led war against the Ansarullah government was essentially brought to an end because the Yemenis repeatedly demonstrated their ability to target oil facilities deep inside Saudi territory.

There is nothing left for imperialism to do other than send in its own troops to try to deal with the problem “the old-fashioned way”. We are sure that if they are fool enough to do so, they will be given short shrift.

Long live international solidarity!

Victory to the Yemeni and Palestinian people in their just struggle for sovereignty and liberation!

Europe



Landslide for Lukashenko as Belarus reasserts its sovereignty and independence

One of the positive side-effects of Russia's SMO in Ukraine has been the deepening cooperation between Russia and Belarus.

The triumphant re-election of President Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko on 26 January, with a whopping 86 percent of the vote, was a further indication of the Belarusian leader's wild popularity. And it was notable that in the same election the runner-up was Sergei Alexandrovich Sierankov, standing for the Communist Party of Belarus.

Predictably, Lukashenko's victory was denounced as 'fraudulent' by US, British and EU imperialists. These stories were all re-run on 25 March as the president was being sworn in for his seventh term.

President Lukashenko came into office in 1994, and during his three decades in office he has been painted by western politicians and media as a cross between a lunatic and a strong-armed dictator guilty of all manner of eye-watering crimes. This depiction has

been very much in the vein of the same gentry's characterisation of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe and Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. But what is the reality?

Lukashenko heads a state that was noted during the Soviet period both for its successful collective farms and also for its strong industrial base. Whatever else he may have said or done, President Lukashenko's real crime in the eyes of imperialism is to have played a progressive role in helping to preserve large elements of that Soviet agricultural and industrial base, and even in helping to extend it.

For instance, 'Belarus' tractors, a legacy of the Soviet period, have become something of a global brand in recent years, and the Belarusian collective farm system has also been maintained. President Lukashenko himself was a product of

that system; he was a very successful collective farm manager, and he still comes across as a genuine outdoorsman today.

(As an aside, if you ever want to see a wood chopping masterclass, look up the lumberjack Lukashenko online. He can demonstrate how to find the weak point in a log, and show how just a gentle tap in the right place will cause it to fall easily apart.)

Lukashenko is a product of the Soviet system. He's often described as a "Soviet man" by his opponents, who appear to consider this an insult, but he himself has never shied away from the label. He regularly expresses a certain admiration for Marxism-Leninism as he understands it, even though it's clear that he's not a Marxist-Leninist himself.

During his inauguration speech, the president emphasised the continued industrial and technological development, despite an onslaught of western sanctions aimed at destroying Belarus's economy

and bringing down its government:

"The Belarusian state model of development has become a challenge to the system of pseudo-liberal values. And the fact that we do not retreat and do not bend frankly irritates our opponents and enemies. That is why we have been hit with a waterfall of sanctions ...

"The space industry is fully developed in the country. While we started with the production of equipment for space technology, today we participate in international research programmes, launch satellites and train specialists. We have built the first nuclear power plant. With the opening of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, we have mastered technologies available only to a few countries of the world.

"We have also found our niche in such an advanced field as digital technologies. Our optics and microelectronics are in demand all over the world. We are known as the home of the largest Belaz vehicles. Every tenth tractor on the planet comes off the MTZ assembly line. And there are also MAZ vehicles, electric buses, cars, etc."

The Belarusian leader also explained that by implementing a rural development programme, the country has not only ensured its own food security, but in many areas has become one of the world's top ten food exporters. "This is all of us, the new Belarus, the country of workers and creators. We have become strong, significant and noticeable," he said. (Lukashenko: Belarusian state model of development became challenge to system of pseudo-liberal values, Belarus Today, 25 March 2025)

Europe

Pro and anti-imperialist forces

There have been many pro-capitalist reforms made in Belarus over the years, but attention should be drawn towards the words of communist leader Sergei Syrankov:

“For the first time since 2001, the second place among real candidates was taken not by a liberal nationalist or any other puppet from abroad, but by a supporter of deepening socialist reforms. This shows that Belarusian society after 2020 has received the necessary vaccination against these viruses.

“Liberalism and nationalism have become unacceptable among the citizens of Belarus. It is clear that we are approaching the implementation of those provisions of our programme when the social ills will be completely eradicated from the life of our society.”

Syrankov was referring to the attempted overthrow of Lukashenko's government in a colour revolution-type event in 2020. This coup attempt ultimately failed because Lukashenko's government was able to mobilise the support of the state machinery and of the great bulk of the population. Belarus's people made it clear that they did not want a government of the liberals and so-called 'nationalists' (ie, the pro-imperialist elements) led by west-appointed 'celebrity wife' Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, the Juan Guaidó of Belarus.

Even though there is genuine domestic opposition to Lukashenko, and there are people within the Belarusian working class who have disagreements with things that he and his government have done, it is clear that the masses choose to go along with Lukashenko because they understand that the most vocal 'opposition' leaders are tools of imperial-

ist reaction who want to do to Belarus what has been done to Ukraine.

Attempts to use the national question continue to fail

Belarus not only retains strong elements of Soviet industry and agriculture, but it has also preserved the Soviet nationality and languages policy. Co-equal status is given to Russians and Belarusians inside the country, and the Belarusian language is supported alongside Russian, just as it was during the Soviet period.

The so-called 'nationalists' in the so-called 'opposition' (in reality bought-and-paid-for stooges of Anglo-American imperialism), never tire of complaining that Belarusian culture and language are being 'extinguished', hoping thereby to stir up sectarian divides among the people – and their accusations are widely repeated by western politicians and commentators.

But the truth is just the opposite. Most Belarusians speak Russian as their first and preferred language, but just as was formerly the case in the Belarusian Soviet Republic, so today in the Belarusian state, the Belarusian language and all aspects of Belarusian culture, including literature and music, are actively promoted.

To assert otherwise is an outright lie, just as the Banderite fascists in Ukraine lied when they asserted that the Soviet state was eradicating the Ukrainian language and culture. In both cases, this attempt to stir national divides and nationalist sentiment, to present one section of the population as being 'oppressed' by another, is a device aimed at grooming fascistic proxy forces that could eventually be used to cower the general population and overturn a sovereign

and anti-imperialist government.

And we have no need to speculate about exactly what this looks like; it played out in all its hideous reality on the streets of Ukraine over the last 30 years.

Lessons of Ukraine

We can only imagine how different Ukraine would be today if its people had been able to put forward a similar figure to Lukashenko in the 1990s instead of finding themselves dominated by a string of pro-imperialist comprador gangsters. In particular, we note that President Lukashenko has remained sympathetic to the Communist party and consistently acted in coordination with it. Whatever the ideological and political weaknesses of Belarus's communists, they have defended the gains of the Soviet era and the sovereignty of the country.

By contrast, their sister party in Ukraine was *actively kept out of power* by the machinations of the local comprador oligarchy, which may well have had help from the comprador clique of Boris Yeltsin in Russia during the 1990s. During that immediate post-Soviet period the Communist Party of Ukraine was a serious and very popular political force, and all means were used by the domestic oligarchy and its imperialist backers to defraud it of election wins and then to undermine, sideline and destroy it.

Tragically for Ukraine, neither the communist party nor the people were equipped to put up the necessary fight that would have prevented a series of pro-imperialist 'leaders' being imposed on them after the fall of socialism. Whenever any leader attempted to run a middle course between aligning either with Russia or with

the USA/European Union, he was ruthlessly removed by the imperialists. The rest were outright stooges of the west who simply sought to maximise their own payday by facilitating the sale of Ukraine lock, stock and barrel to imperialist corporations, leading the country into the horrific situation in which it now finds itself.

It is thus greatly to the credit of Lukashenko and his supporters, as well as of the Belarusian communists and the wider proletariat, that they have found a way during this exceptionally difficult period to maintain the country's sovereignty and independence and to keep a viable and relatively self-sufficient economy going.

Deepening the Union State with Russia

This has been further secured by the strengthening of the Union-State agreement with Russia, whose terms were for many years a source of friction between the two countries as Belarus tried to avoid being merely 'absorbed'. The agreement has been steadily enforced and deepened, however, since the west-backed coup attempt in Minsk 2020 and the launch of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine in 2022.

The two countries now have a genuinely shared defence policy, with a large contingent of Russian forces based in Belarus and the extension of Russia's nuclear umbrella over the country, meaning that external military intervention by any of its more rabid west-backed neighbours has been rendered virtually impossible.

Belarus also has extensive trade and military agreements with China. Indeed, Chinese detachments carried out joint training exercises with the Belarusian armed forces near the Polish border in July ► **page 19**

Europe



Russia closes in on victory while imperialism scrambles to save its rotten system

The USA wants a better ‘division of labour’ in Ukraine, but its hopes of future victory are still founded in self-serving delusions.

Imperialism’s attempt to effect the subjugation of Russia, which was launched in earnest with the 2014 fascist overthrow of Ukraine’s elected government and reached a new level with the development of the full-scale proxy war against Russia in 2022, is coming to an end.

Despite all the support that US, British and European imperialism have provided, Ukraine is running out of soldiers and its sponsors have emptied their armouries of weapons and ammunition – either destroyed by the Russians or expended by Ukraine to no avail.

Russia has won the war. All that is left to be determined is the scale of the victory, as Ukraine and its imperialist backers face a catastrophic and total defeat,

USA claims to want ‘reset’ with Russia

US imperialism, seeing the writing on the wall in Ukraine, is attempting a change of

tack. The new Donald Trump administration has instigated negotiations with Russia with the stated aim of restoring diplomatic relations and ending the war in Ukraine as soon as possible.

So far, a once seemingly iron-cast commitment to return Ukraine to its 2014 borders and support the country’s admission to Nato has been dropped. The deployment of US troops in a ‘peacekeeping’ role in Ukraine has also been ruled out entirely. At the United Nations, the USA has opposed a European-drafted resolution condemning Moscow’s actions and supporting Ukraine’s territorial integrity, and then drafted and voted for a resolution at the UN security council which called for an end to the conflict – and which contained no criticism of Russia.

Despite the apparent difference in methods of the new administration, however, there is no difference in aims. A cursory glance at the USA’s Rus-

sian foreign policy over the past 30 years gives no reason to believe it has any real interest in peace. It appears that the White House is attempting to buy time, hoping that Russia will lower its guard and make concessions to its interests.

But Russia has made its position clear. No European or US troops will be allowed to set foot in Ukraine. There will be no ceasefire until Ukraine has been effectively demilitarised and Russia’s frozen assets are returned. Russia will likely only accept a deal if its position turns out to be more precarious than previously thought, or if it believes it can use any respite better than the Americans and Europeans to prepare for a larger war.

At this point, neither of those possibilities looks likely, so it appears that the war will be fought to a military conclusion.

Already, the US secretary of defence Pete Hegseth has given the game away. He has demanded that the European powers take on the “overwhelming share” of both non-lethal and lethal aid to Ukraine, launch a “peacekeeping mission” and go through a period

of rearmament to commit to “Europe’s long-term defence and deterrence goals”. In other words, the USA is seeking to extricate itself from a costly and unwinnable proxy war, while getting its European sidekicks to continue funding and equipping Ukraine and preparing themselves for a future direct conflict with Russia.

Following Hegseth’s comments, a great deal of political theatre dominated the headlines as the USA and Europe traded angry words. US officials berated their European allies for a perceived lack of commitment to militarism, while Europeans in return stomped their feet in anger at the betrayal by the USA of Ukrainian and European interests. Amidst the fallout, the various false narratives about ‘national self-determination’ and the ‘defence of democracy’ that have been used to justify the Ukraine war, have unravelled.

With his typically bullish attitude to diplomacy, President Trump has stated that the war was initiated by Ukraine, which has repeatedly refused to negotiate a settlement with Russia. He even went so far as to describe Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky is a “dictator”. The Americans and Europeans are now squabbling over who will plunder Ukrainian raw materials to the anticipated tune of \$500bn, with the USA threatening to withdraw all financial and military support if it does not get its way.

The European Union, after a short period of protestation, complied with Hegseth’s directive. European president Ursula von der Leyen announced a €3.5bn payment to Ukraine arriving in March, and a “comprehensive plan on how to scale up our European arms production and defence capabilities. And Ukraine will also benefit.”

The big imperialist powers in

Europe

Europe – Britain, France and Germany – have all committed to large increases in their military spending.

It seems that the European imperialist powers are finding themselves increasingly weak and wedded to the coat-tails of US imperialism, incapable of carrying out an independent imperialist foreign-policy line. Their fortunes are now inseparably tied to that of US imperialism.

Whilst the loss of the Ukraine war is a bitter defeat for US imperialism, for its European imperialist allies it's nothing short of a catastrophe. The European imperialist powers have gone all in for a Russian defeat, further undermining their already troubled economies in the process, staking their fortunes (and their hopes for an economic recovery) on a Ukrainian victory, and a subsequent despoliation of Russia itself.

Their ultimate objective of a subjugating Russia and degrading it to colony status has failed, and their consolation prize of a 'fair share' of the spoils from western Ukraine appears to be slipping away as the dominant USA proves there is no honour among thieves.

After all, imperialist powers may be allies, but they are also rivals, each one of whom strives to keep profits, markets and resources to themselves.

US imperialism pivoting towards China

US imperialism, far from throwing in the towel, has recognised that it doesn't have the resources to wage wars against both Russia and China at the present moment. It is reorientating itself and expects the European powers to do their bit by *continuing the fight against Russia with less US input*. The USA seems keen to prioritise a future conflict with

China in the Pacific, viewing it as the greater threat to its imperialist interests. This has been spelt out quite clearly by the new US defence secretary:

"We also face a peer competitor in the communist Chinese with the capability and intent to threaten our homeland and core national interests in the Indo-Pacific. The USA is prioritising deterring war with China [sic!] in the Pacific, recognising the reality of scarcity, and making the resourcing trade-offs to ensure deterrence [ie, aggression] does not fail.

"Deterrence cannot fail, for all of our sakes.

"As the United States prioritises its attention to these threats, European allies must lead from the front.

"Together, we can establish a *division of labour* that maximises our comparative advantages in Europe and Pacific respectively." (Speech by Pete Hegseth to the Ukraine Defence contact group, 12 February 2025, our emphasis)

Leaving aside the blatant doublespeak, whereby the imperialists consistently seek to paint their targets as aggressors and their own drive to war as 'deterrence' or 'peace-keeping', this nevertheless represents a change in focus for Washington. For some time now, the dominant faction in the US ruling class considered that the best way to secure global dominance for US imperialism was by first destroying Russia and then moving on to China. Since this strategy has patently failed, a new approach is being sought.

Whilst the loss of the Ukraine war is a bitter defeat for US imperialism, for its European allies it's nothing short of a catastrophe. The European imperialist powers have gone all in for a Russian defeat.

Already this policy shift is playing itself out as the USA attempts to secure critical resources and trade routes. Greenland and the Panama Canal are both vital for global trade and military logistics. The USA is putting economic and military pressure on Canada and Latin America as it seeks to bolster its flagging domination over the western hemisphere. In the middle east, the US has put forward plans for the transformation of Gaza into

a US protectorate and the ethnic cleansing of its people.

These actions are all part of the larger plan of intensifying trade wars and acquiring domination over global supply

chains in preparation for a military conflict with China – most likely, as with Russia, via proxies in the region.

Imperialism seeks domination

We are living through a period of deep economic crisis; markets are saturated and opportunities to make profit are dwindling. A capitalist enterprise that cannot secure maximum profits is swallowed up by its rivals. The search for profit is becoming increasingly desperate and cutthroat.

"War is a continuation of policy ... 'World domination' is to put it briefly, the substance of imperialist policy, of which imperialist war is the continuation." (VI Lenin, A Caricature of Marxism and Imperialist Economics, 1916, Chapter 1)

Imperialism, in its quest for

domination, seeks control over resources, markets and opportunities for profit-taking. It strives for maximum profit whatever the human or environmental cost. All factions of US and European imperialism are committed to war as a means of the redivision of the world and the total subjugation and looting of the non-imperialist countries.

Russia and China existing as large independent states with strong and independent industrial, scientific and military foundations act as a bulwark against imperialism's machinations, providing military and economic support to the great mass of non-imperialist countries. Having frustrated imperialism's encroachment on their sovereignty, a direct confrontation between imperialism and the two powers is an inevitability.

Capitalism is bringing humanity to the brink of a global third world war.

The era of socialist revolution

Imperialism, lurching from one crisis to another, is finding it increasingly difficult to keep the system of global capitalism going. In its constant search for profit, it weakens itself, digging its own grave in the process. The export of capital is steadily deindustrialising the imperialist economies and intensifying capitalism's imperialist and parasitic tendencies.

The USA and the European powers speak of rearming for future conflicts with Russia and China, but their combined industries have proven unfit for the task of adequately arming even their Ukrainian proxy. Their lack of manufacturing capacity brings into question their ability to sustain a global war against Russia and/or China. However, imperialism as a system is not based ► **page 12**

Europe



EU meddling in Romanian election

The exposure of EU manoeuvring has led even its own stooge candidate to distance herself from Brussels, and highlighted deep divisions in the imperialist camp.

In November last year, Calin Georgescu won the first round of Romania's presidential election, on a platform of ending all further Romanian political and military support for the Ukraine regime. He won decisively, garnering 23 percent of votes as against the 19 percent secured by the pro-EU candidate Elena Lasconi.

However, the constitutional court annulled this result, citing unproven claims of 'Russian electoral interference'. On 26 February Georgescu, on his way to register for new elections in May, was detained and called in for interrogation by the prosecution office, and he now stands accused of ly-

ing about his election spending and of "founding or supporting fascist, racist, xenophobic or antisemitic organisations".

But according to the Telegraph, the accusations "stopped short of providing detailed evidence linking Russian interference to the election results. Now, critics say that the evidence is thin and does not warrant the result being cancelled."

Presumably feeling the heat of public outrage, even the European Union's stooge candidate, Elen Lasconi, has felt obliged to distance herself from this farce. Ms Lasconi has denounced the cack-handed

way the prosecutors are dealing with the case, which she says makes a mockery of 'democracy' (and which will no doubt be putting her own role in the affair under unwelcome scrutiny).

Allegations of foreign interference in domestic elections are rich coming from those in the west for whom meddling with every one else's elections is a full-time profession and a god-given right. Even leaving aside the whole history of postwar western Europe, one need only recall the continuing attempts by the USA to impose the reactionary nobody Juan Guidó onto the Venezuelan people in preference to their chosen president Nicolás Maduro. Or the arrogance with which then-US president Barack Obama lectured workers in Britain on the perils of abandoning the

EU imperialist club at the time of the Brexit referendum.

Especially rich are the allegations that Georgescu supported "fascist, racist, xenophobic or antisemitic organisations", or praised the wartime fascist dictator Ion Antonescu who allied himself with Hitler. Whatever the truth or otherwise of such allegations, the fact remains that the people who are making them happen to be the most vocal supporters of the present-day Ukrainian fascists, who have been running the Kiev junta since 2014. The pot indeed paints the kettle black.

As splits within the imperialist camp are driven deeper, EU imperialists will find that it is not so easy as hitherto to expect the rest of the 'free world' to snap to attention every time Brussels gets its knickers in a twist over people voting for the 'wrong' candidate. US Vice-president JD Vance, chose the occasion of his speech to the European security conference in Munich to denounce Romania for cancelling the elections based on "flimsy suspicions" and under "enormous pressure" from other European countries.

And responding to the news that Georgescu had been arrested, Elon Musk, the billionaire adviser to President Donald Trump, posted: "They just arrested the person who won the most votes in the Romanian presidential election. This is messed up."

Russian victory

◀ **page 11** on human logic or rationality; it has no choice, despite the obvious pitfalls, but to try to turn its fortunes around by attempting the subjugation of Russia and China.

All sincere anti-imperialists must engage in antiwar work to obstruct imperialism's drive to

war. And in case of an outbreak of war, we must support the defence of Russia and China and work for the defeat of imperialism, knowing that such a defeat will hasten the collapse of the whole rotten system.

Capitalism has nothing to offer the proletariat other than impoverishment and war. This maturing crisis is surely bring-

ing with it a new wave of proletarian revolution – a vital opportunity for the working class to put an end to the imperialist system and replace it with a planned socialist economy and a decent future for all.

But such a victory will not come by itself; it must be prepared for and won. It is the job of all communists to expand

and intensify the political education of the working class. Only an organised and class-conscious proletariat can perform this historic mission.

**Victory to
Russia and China!
Death to imperialism!
Onwards to socialism!**

Americas



Salvadoran police officers escort *alleged* members of a Venezuelan gang (read – migrant workers) recently deported by the USA to the Terrorism Confinement Centre concentration camp 'prison' in Tecoluca, El Salvador. The USA has presented no evidence to back up its claims that these migrants are criminals.

Solidarity with the Venezuelan people in the face of US imperialism's neverending aggression

The latest provocations by the Trump regime are a sign not of strength but of weakness.

The following statement was issued by our party on 25 March 2025.

The Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist) (CPGB-ML) wishes to express its solidarity with the people of Venezuela and particularly with the families of the migrants deported from the United States to El Salvador and now detained in the concentration camp known as the Centre for the Confinement of Terrorism (CECOT), created by the fascist Nayib Bukele.

For the last 25 years, the people of Venezuela have endured oppressive economic measures, coup attempts, attacks on their leaders, the freezing of their assets abroad, invasion attempts and a relentless media war to destroy their future.

All these actions, promoted

by the fascist right wing in Venezuela and implemented by the United States of America in association with its European lackeys, have caused the Bolivarian nation enormous suffering.

But the people of Venezuela, these brave people who did not lose heart in the face of difficulties, overcame the trials imposed by the imperialists and after each struggle emerged stronger and more determined than ever to continue building the legacy of Hugo Chávez.

As part of this war, the Donald Trump administration has decided to deport 238 Venezuelan migrants on false charges, using the 1798 Foreign Enemies Act. Without a trial and ignoring the most basic principles of international law, it has imprisoned them in a regime full of abuse and torture.

As the president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

Nicolás Maduro Moros, said: "The actions of the US and El Salvador governments against our young workers constitute an act of cruelty and injustice, a cruel and outrageous kidnapping."

Once again, the decadent and parasitic capitalist system is trying to blame the migrant workers it itself creates in order to cover up its structural crisis, adopting discriminatory and racist practices.

But as painful as this action is, especially for the families of the detainees, it should not come as a surprise. It is the continuation of the imperialist policies of the USA against all of humanity, manifested in the wars, assassinations, economic sanctions, coups d'état and military invasions that it has carried out over the last 200 years.

Nowadays, these policies are expressed more crudely in their unconditional support for the Israeli government and the extermination of the Palestin-

ian people. The peoples of the world have an obligation never to forget this.

That is why we recognise, as the final declaration of the Antifascist International (Caracas, January 2025) states: "Venezuela has been a beacon in the global struggle against fascism, imperialism, colonialism, zionism and all forms of human exploitation and domination, playing a central role in the coordination of international initiatives aimed at building a new world based on justice, unity, peace, solidarity and mutual respect between nations."

By expressing our solidarity, the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist) (CPGB-ML) rejects all coercive policies against Venezuela and calls on the British people to unite in the struggle against fascism, imperialism, colonialism and zionism and to show solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters and with the peoples who are fighting for their liberation.

Asia Pacific



DPRK condemns USA's latest war provocations

US imperialism's attempt at a 'show of strength' can only aggravate the security crisis on the Korean peninsula.

The roaring sound of war machinery, full of hostility and mistrust, is being heard from the area over the southern border of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The USA is about to stage its large-scale joint military Freedom Shield 2025 exercises – an aggressive and confrontational war rehearsal – in collusion with the 'Republic of Korea' (ROK) military gangsters to heat up the atmosphere of the ceasefire region.

Despite the DPRK's repeated warnings, the USA and the ROK persistently stage large-scale joint military exercises. This dangerous provocative act is leading to an acute situation on the Korean peninsula, in which a physical conflict could be sparked by means of a single accidental shot.

What should not be overlooked is that our enemies are scheming to apply their 'OPlan 2022', which aims to make a "preemptive attack" on the DPRK's nuclear weap-

ons facilities during the current exercises, as described in the "guidelines for nuclear deterrence and nuclear operations" cooked up and published in July 2024.

The USA's military hysteria, which continues irrespective of the policy ambiguity inevitably brought about by regime change in Washington, clearly proves the inveterate hostility of the USA towards the DPRK, as expressed in endless sanctions, pressure and confrontation.

Lurking behind the above-said war exercises, regularly staged by the USA and the ROK, is the persistent and unchangeable aggressive ambition of the USA, which seeks to project American-style 'values' and Yankee-style 'liberal democracy' into the inviolable territory of a sovereign state, and finally to overthrow the DPRK government and its social system.

The long history of DPRK-US political and military confron-

tation makes clear the origin of this deep-rooted conflict and the gravity of the present situation. Owing to frantic US sabre-rattling, which has been directly aimed at the DPRK, the structures are closer than ever to the threshold of an explosion, and the likelihood of confrontation is developing at an ever more dangerous pace.

Should we regard various military drills staged by the USA at any time under such unctuous signboards as 'annual' and 'defensive' as rash muscle-flexing of those who are frightened by the DPRK's strong defence capability – a capacity that is growing in direct proportion to the USA's nuclear threats – or as a means to comfort and pacify its ROK stooges at a time of security unrest?

As compared with last year, the USA and the ROK have decided on a sharp increase in the number of brigade-level and above mobile field drills. They are simultaneously conducting a second-stage joint command and control drill of the USA's ROK-based Space Force, which aims to verify the capabilities of space-based operational assistance in the

region in case of a contingency on the Korean peninsula, and to experiment with the use of generative AI during the joint military exercises. All these facts show clearly the multi-domain and all-round *offensive* nature of Operation Freedom Shield.

Obviously, the USA intends to push the situation into an uncontrollable phase by relentlessly building Freedom Shield and other large-scale war drills in successive waves, thus perpetuating the vicious cycle of provocation and tension in the Korean peninsula and the region.

It is anachronistically seeking to gain an advantage in the Asia-Pacific region and to realise a geopolitical realignment by expanding its military alliance with its stooges into a comprehensive strategic alliance – all under the pretext of supposed 'threats'.

Under this confrontation and hegemony-oriented line of the USA, strategic means including the nuclear submarine *Alexandria*, B-1B strategic bombers and the nuclear carrier *Carl Vinson* are being constantly deployed in the waters of the Korean peninsula, and reckless aerial espionage and all kinds of joint military exercises are being staged one after another. Such acts are increasing the legitimate security concerns not only of the DPRK but also of other countries in the region.

In the wake of the said exercises, various anti-DPRK war drills – including the one jointly sponsored by the US-ROK Allied Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the ROK – are to be conducted more than 110 times, a 9.7 percent rise over last year. This shows clearly that the military confrontation hysteria of our enemies is a chronic problem, not a single outburst. ►

World

Communist revolutionary Harpal Brar lives on in the hearts of the world's people

During the Soviet counter-revolution, he was at the forefront of the ideological battle for the fate of the communist movement.

The following speech was delivered by delegates from the World Anti-imperialist Platform to Harpal Brar's memorial meeting on 22 March 2025.

The revolutionary activities of the communist revolutionary Harpal Brar are deeply embedded in the history of the world's peoples. In India, where he was born and raised, in Britain, where the revolution began, and around the world, Harpal Brar dedicated himself to strengthening the international communist forces and the world anti-imperialist struggle by educating, organising and mobilising the world's workers and people in the revolutionary movement.

Harpal Brar made an outstanding contribution through building the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

ist) and advancing the revolutionary movement in Britain and Europe through the challenges and obstacles posed by British imperialism, and through his unwavering adherence to Marxist-Leninist revolutionary thought.

As an honorary delegate during the founding of the World Anti-imperialist Platform, he contributed to the development of the world communist movement and the strengthening of the world anti-imperialist struggle, and practically demonstrated the virtuous life of an internationalist and communist until the end of his life.

The harder a flint is struck, the brighter it shines. Harpal Brar's unwavering revolutionary principles and uncompromising support for the revolution shone even brighter during the Soviet counter-revolution. He fought at the forefront of

the ideological battle for the fate of the international communist movement against the imperialist forces and their followers – the international revisionist, opportunist and sectarian forces, who claimed that the collapse of the Soviet Union meant the collapse of socialism, and he devotedly fought for the unity of the world communist forces.

Harpal Brar stood for internationalist unity with socialist countries such as Cuba, China and the DPRK, which are facing sanctions and repression from the imperialist aggressors unprecedented in the history of the communist movement. He consistently strove to strengthen and expand the anti-imperialist front in international solidarity with anti-imperialist countries such as Venezuela and Palestine.

Harpal Brar's pure ideas and steadfast revolutionary will, which have made an immortal contribution to the strengthening and development of in-

ternational communism and the anti-imperialist front, burn brightly in the hearts of all of us.

The ongoing imperialist wars of aggression in eastern Europe and western Asia, and the storm of World War 3 blowing into the east Asia and west Pacific, call more than ever for the unity and struggle of the world anti-imperialist forces with the communist forces at their core.

As a third world war between the anti-imperialist and imperialist camps develops, strengthening the world anti-imperialist front, carrying out anti-imperialist actions on a global scale and advancing victory is the true expression of the loyalty of the future revolutionary generations to the previous revolutionaries who improved for the future.

The World Anti-imperialist Platform will continue to move forward by recalling the noble ideological will of Harpal Brar, who devoted his life to the path of the workers and people.

The socialist construction and independence all over the world that the communist revolutionary Harpal Brar wanted to achieve with his life must be realised.

◀ The increase in the visibility of US strategic assets on the Korean peninsula and in US-led bilateral and multilateral war rehearsals that look very much like actual war, demonstrate the need for the DPRK to be as thoroughgoing and overwhelming in deterring its enemies' anti-DPRK nuclear war threats as possible.

The USA, which is overusing the toughest high-handed power politics in different parts of the world, has gradually stepped its physical manoeuvres on the Korean peninsula

and in the region, claiming this to be a "demonstration of its alliance". They may help to calm down the alienation of its stooges, but it must be pointed out that such moves can never add to the security of either the USA or its allies.

The reckless and unreasonable action of the USA in seeking to play the first solemn movement of a war symphony through its largest-ever military provocation will only *undermine* US security.

The DPRK has already ex-

pressed its determination to continue exercising strategic deterrence in the face of the USA's continued military posturing.

The USA should be mindful that its habitually hostile policy, openly denying the DPRK's legitimate existence and victorious advance, will only cause the DPRK to reaffirm its principle of tough anti-US counteraction, facing all the undesirable consequences and escalated security threats.

The trite 'succession' to the

USA's malicious anti-DPRK practice will inevitably lead to a serious strategic misjudgment. Lacking the ability to judge clearly, the USA faces a gloomy prospect.

The DPRK will redouble its responsible efforts to maintain a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and throughout the region, relying on its own trustworthy strength that is underpinned by its rapidly developing nuclear power.



How the left failed Syria

Trade union and antiwar leaders in Britain facilitated the destruction of the middle east's longest-surviving sovereign territory.

The following paper was delivered by Joti Brar to a meeting organised by the Alba Granada North Africa organisation in Tunis. The meeting was held to mark the 79th anniversary of the founding of the Syrian Arab Republic in April 1946.

Very few workers in the west are aware of the fact that Syria had maintained a sovereign and anti-imperialist government for nearly eight decades in the teeth of imperialist opposition and constant attempts to bring it down. Despite having to contend with Zionist armies on its doorstep, a Zionist occupation on its territory, and Zionist spies and saboteurs infiltrating its society, the Syrian Arab Republic refused to normalise with Zionist Israel and remained a steadfast friend to the cause of Palestine liberation and a reliable base for

Palestinian resistance movements.

The fall of the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2024 came as a huge and very unwelcome shock to progressive people all over the world.

For workers in the imperialist countries, there are some very important lessons that must be learned from this event. The hard truth is that the people of Syria – and elsewhere – could have been spared what they are now enduring if our working-class movements had been doing their job for the last 20 years.

We allowed ourselves to be sidelined and disempowered. We allowed a leadership tied hand and foot to the interests of the imperialist ruling class

to prevent us from organising ourselves to carry out *genuine*, rather than tokenistic, antiwar work.

Treachery of the antiwar leadership

In Britain, the self-appointed leadership of the trade union and antiwar movement knows this full well. Back in 2009, my party took a motion to Stop the War's national conference. In those days, the antiwar movement was still large and vibrant, with many active local branches. The assembled delegates overwhelmingly endorsed the motion that we presented, which called for the instigation of a *campaign of mass non-cooperation with the British war machine* – which at that time was focusing its efforts on Iraq and Afghanistan.

That resolution required Stop the War to “do all in its power to promote a movement of industrial, political and military non-cooperation with all of

imperialism's aggressive war preparations and activities among British working people”. The steering committee was instructed “to *campaign vigorously among trade unions* to encourage them to adopt a practical policy ... [of refusing] to support illegal wars or occupations directly or indirectly”.

On the day that their members voted that motion through, Stop the War's leaders raised no objections. They did not dare to openly express their hostility to such a line at a time when antiwar sentiment was running so high. This was, after all, a time when many workers were realising just how badly they had been lied to when the war in Iraq was being launched. They wanted to do something to end the bloodshed, and they approved the proposals our party put forward.

So in classic bureaucratic, social-democratic fashion, the leadership allowed the resolution to be passed and then quietly shelved it. Its contents were never mentioned again in public, and the policy that had been agreed upon was never

British politics

implemented.

This took place in April 2009. In 2010, our party reminded the organisation that it had taken this position, and that it must be implemented. Again, the conference overwhelmingly endorsed a motion that instructed Stop the War's leaders to launch "*a full campaign inside the unions to draw attention to British, US and Israeli war crimes, with the aim of passing in each of them, and then at the TUC, motions condemning those crimes and calling on workers to refuse to cooperate in their commission, whether it be by making or moving munitions or other equipment, writing or broadcasting propaganda, or helping in any other way to smooth the path of the war machine*".

This second resolution was also shelved and ignored. When we consider that the original position had been taken *two years before* the launch of the dirty war on Syria and the criminal destruction and invasion of Libya, we can appreciate fully the treachery of the antiwar movement's leadership and the role they played in facilitating these terrible crimes.

During that period, far from implementing non-cooperation as a policy, which would have included *refusing to cooperate in the spreading of war propaganda*, the Trotskyites, Labourites and revisionists who dominate our movement continued to help the imperialists in preparing their next round of illegal aggressions.

Reinforcing imperialist narratives

As the ruling class was preparing for its wars against Libya and Syria, Stop the War meetings were dominated by Trotskyists who repeatedly proclaimed the advent of a 'people's revolution' in both

countries. They told British antiwar activists that 'people's councils' were being formed, giving the *totally false* impression that a mass movement to topple unpopular 'dictatorships' was in motion.

Over recent decades, workers in the west have heard such lies repeated about many different countries, all of whom just happened to be targets of imperialism (Yugoslavia and Iran, for example). Every time, this assertion turned out to be a lie – but how many of those who heard the lie ever found out the truth? Certainly, no Trotskyite organisation has corrected itself or apologised for misleading the people. They assume our memories are short and simply transfer their big lie to a new theatre of operations.

Each time, they act in consort with a western media demonisation campaign that aims to galvanise support for a new war and to demobilise working-class antiwar sentiment. The imperialists know that aggressive war is not supported by the masses, so they aim to present their aggression as being somehow in support of the local people. This is why we are subjected to such hysterical campaigns to demonise the leadership of every country that imperialism wants to bring down.

In the west, the Trotskyites and 'official' working-class and antiwar leaders play their part in reinforcing this hysteria by claiming to have knowledge of an allegedly 'mass', 'working-class' opposition to the targeted government. Very often, they are more hysterical even than the rabid warmongers in denouncing the supposed 'crimes' of the governments (always referred to as 'dictatorships') being targeted (as, for example, in the cases of Zimbabwe's President Mugabe, Libya's Colonel Gaddafi or Rus-

sia's President Putin). The result is that whatever 'antiwar' slogans they later produce are purely tokenistic: a bit of pacifist handwringing about the 'nasty violence' that is being used to achieve an aim that they have fundamentally endorsed.

In the case of Syria, Stop the War's leaders left it to their allied Trotskyites to dominate the floor of meetings and tell lies about what was happening in the country. In the case of Libya, they were much more blatant. Just when the British people were being inundated with lies about Libya and Colonel Gaddafi by politicians and media, the StW leadership responded not by exposing these lies but by *organising a picket outside the Libyan embassy to protest Gaddafi's supposed "crimes against his people"*!

And when my party criticised and exposed this war-enabling activity by our supposedly antiwar leaders, which was carried out just as Nato's *blitzkrieg* was being prepared and the imperialist propaganda campaign was reaching fever pitch, we were promptly expelled from the organisation (by a leadership that had never been elected and according to no official rulebook).

Excluding anti-imperialists from the controlled 'antiwar' movement

So the only organisation that had proposed a genuine antiwar policy, which the membership would have been happy to carry out if given decent leadership, was expelled from the official antiwar movement – just as imperialism was launching two more illegal, aggressive wars. *Wars that the antiwar movement did absolutely nothing to prevent or oppose.*

It is worth noting that the chair of the Stop the War coali-

tion at that time was Jeremy Corbyn, who would later be held up to British working people as the great hope for their salvation from austerity and war. Corbyn personally presided over the next annual conference of Stop the War, at which he refused to allow our party members even one minute to speak against their expulsion from the floor.

The protest against Gaddafi's government was the sum total of national activity by Britain's 'antiwar' movement in relation to the criminal war on Libya. Likewise on Syria, for the first two years that the war raged, Stop the War acted as if nothing was happening at all, and studiously avoided mentioning the conflict. It was not until a parliamentary vote was held in 2013 to decide on launching a *direct* (as opposed to proxy) intervention that they took part in some lobbying of MPs. No mass movement was mobilised at any point to use British working-class power to prevent or stop the war.

And no effort was made to expose the lies being told about Bashar al-Assad's government or to explain the role of British and US imperialism in creating and directing the various proxy forces that were working together to carve up and destroy Syria – from the army of mercenary jihadi invaders to the Kurdish separatists and the Zionist bombers. Quite the reverse, many of those involved in Stop the War described the invading jihadists and terrorist gangs as the cutting edge of a "working-class, progressive revolution against a dictatorship".

These details are not recounted for sectarian point-scoring purposes, but to illustrate a vital point: the working class in an imperialist country has very real power to prevent its ruling class from engaging in aggressive war ► **page 18**

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Left failed Syria

◀ **page 17** abroad. But this power remains untapped if we are not conscious of it, and if we do not explicitly organise ourselves to harness it.

Learning from our history

To our great shame, the last time the working class successfully organised against a British war intervention was over a century ago. On 10 May 1920, inspired by communist leader Harry Pollitt and the communist-led 'Hands Off Russia' campaign, the dockers and stevedores of London refused to load arms and ammunition onto a ship called the *Jolly George*, giving such a lead to the whole working class that it went on to defeat the British bourgeoisie's planned invasion of revolutionary Russia.

The working-class campaign against the invasion included mass protests in Trafalgar Square, but it achieved victory because workers collectively refused to participate in the invasion – not just as soldiers but also as facilitators, as aiders and abettors. Not only did a very shaken British government back down, but it was quick to also grant some pension and unemployment concessions to a working class whose militance was posing a direct threat to the stability of British capitalist rule.

This history is unknown to the vast majority of British people. It is deliberately buried not only by the ruling class but also by the social-democratic leadership of the organised working class. *These misleaders have blood on their hands from every war waged by British imperialism without meaningful British working-class opposition. In the case of Syria, they are palpably guilty, having enthusiastically endorsed lies about the Assad government*

and failed to mobilise meaningfully against the war.

From the beginning of the war my own party put forward two slogans: "Victory to Syria" and "No cooperation with the war effort". One of many leaflets we distributed in 2012 outlined the real reasons for the war as follows: "Syria's government ... is 'guilty' of the high crime of following anti-imperialist policies that seek to deliver economic and democratic gains to the Syrian, Arab and middle-eastern peoples.

"The imperialists, faced with the deepest ever economic and social crisis of capitalism, and with the prospect of losing some of their all-important footholds in the middle east, want to grab [Syrian and Iranian] resources. They also want to destroy the dangerous examples of independence that those countries set – and to try to establish new territorial bases from which to carry on controlling the region.

"Nato's dictators want to install governments that will reverse progressive gains in Syria and Iran, such as free education and healthcare, nationalised oil and mineral wealth, and food and housing subsidies. Most importantly, they want to put an end to their independent and anti-imperialist foreign policies, particularly their principled refusal to compromise with Israeli zionism.

"In Syria, they want to overturn a secular and inclusive state and replace the present national-unity government with

a politics rooted in confessional divisions. In this way, they hope to break the unity of the Syrian workers and divert their energies into religious and ethnic conflicts."

What might have happened if this understanding had been spread by the whole of the trade union and antiwar movement to the British working class 15 years ago? How much suffering could have been spared not only in the middle east but also at home if the workers had been organised to resist the endless onslaughts of crisis-ridden imperialism?

The antiwar misleaders have blood on their hands from every war waged by British imperialism without meaningful British working-class opposition. In the case of Syria, they are palpably guilty, having enthusiastically endorsed lies about the Assad government.

The treachery of the antiwar movement's official leadership allowed the British ruling class to play its vital role in directing a proxy jihadi army against Syria with impunity. It left the British working class ignorant of the ways in which the imperialists were destroying that country's economy and steadily undermining its social fabric through a combination of vicious sanctions, endless bombing campaigns, territorial occupation and the seizure of some of its most important oilfields and wheat-growing areas.

Today, the working class of Britain is more demoralised and less organised than ever before. And at the same time as ever-larger numbers are being plunged into abject poverty with no meaningful resistance, we see the longstanding plans of the imperialists to balkanise Syria also coming to fruition.

Workers should take care-

ful note of who joined the imperialist cheering over the fall of President Assad and the destruction of the secular, sovereign, anti-imperialist and anti-zionist Syrian Arab Republic. They have shown their true colours, and their allegiance to imperialism has been clearly revealed. The antiwar, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist movements will get nowhere until we learn to recognise such enemies within our ranks and eject them.

Linking our struggles

We owe this to our brothers and sisters in Syria and all the other countries ravaged by imperialist war, and we owe it to ourselves. For as VI Lenin pointed out (also in 1920): "The revolutionary movement in the advanced countries would in fact be nothing but a sheer fraud if, in their struggle against capital, the workers of Europe and America were not closely and completely united with the hundreds upon hundreds of millions of 'colonial' slaves, who are oppressed by that capital."

We need a programme and a strategy against war that recognises the intimate connection between the struggle of the workers in the imperialist countries and the struggle of the masses in the oppressed countries. We need to understand that imperialism's strength comes from its ability to draw superprofits from colonial and neocolonial territories, and to use a portion of those profits to buy social peace at home. We need to recognise that the struggle to rid humanity of this parasitic and bloodthirsty system must be fought on both fronts, and that neither can be fully victorious without concerted action by the other.

In the imperialist countries, this means refusing any longer to be sidelined; refusing to accept the false idea that we

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are mere bystanders to world events. It means organising to deliver meaningful solidarity to those who are targeted by our common exploiters overseas. By effecting such organisation, we will also begin to create the forces necessary for taking charge of our own society and finally overthrowing the senile rule of British finance capital at home.

In considering all this, it is worth noting that the overall trajectory for imperialism is the same as it was before it achieved what I have no doubt will turn out to be a temporary victory. It is true that this has been achieved through the most dirty and brutal means and is having horrific consequences for the Syrian people. But this does not by any means signify the end of the struggle, either for Syria or for us. Our shared struggle continues.

We expect, and are already seeing, that the struggle of the people of the middle east will be redoubled in the face of this reverse, and we in the imperialist heartlands must likewise learn to organise ourselves so that we can play our essential part in bringing about the final victory of the struggle against imperialist domination of the globe.

Reverses are bound to happen in the course of a long struggle such as ours, but no such reverse can alter the fact that imperialism is weak and rotten at its core. The system

has become so utterly parasitic that it can no longer even organise itself efficiently to fight its own wars. It remains incapable of escaping the contradictions of capitalist economics and the deep global capitalist crisis of overproduction – a crisis that is impelling the imperialist bloc's reckless drive towards all-out global war against Russia and China.

The launch of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation by a resistance movement that the zionists thought they had successfully neutralised, and the course of the genocidal war against Gaza over the last year and a half, have shown clearly that while the imperialist camp can do tremendous damage to people and places, the real balance of forces in the region has shifted substantially in favour of the Axis of Resistance. The imperialists and all their proxies combined have been unable to defeat even one of the Palestinian, Lebanese or Yemeni resistance movements.

Quite the reverse. Without the full support of the entire Nato bloc, Israel would have been destroyed by the combined actions of these forces. The imperialists have likewise been unable to wage an open war against Iran. Despite the defeat suffered in Syria, this steady shift in favour of the resistance remains fundamentally unaltered.

Meanwhile in the imperialist

countries, the outrage of large numbers of workers at the genocidal war being waged on Gaza, and their disgust at their own governments' complicity, has led to an outpouring of rage on the streets that the imperialists have been unable to contain via the usual 'antiwar' control mechanisms. The official 'Palestine solidarity leadership' did not mobilise those people onto the streets, and it is not able to demobilise them either, despite its best efforts.

While relatively few workers in Britain yet understand the role that was formerly played by Syria in the Axis of Resistance, the growing anti-zionist consciousness that is developing in Britain is creating a genuinely anti-imperialist core at the heart of the Palestine solidarity movement. Since this is not under the control of the social-democratic controlled 'opposition', the state is having to become increasingly repressive in response – further undermining its claims to be either 'democratic' or 'representative'.

Our own party members are among the many who have been targeted under public order laws (for supposed "anti-semitism") and anti-terror laws (for "support for a proscribed organisation – Hamas"). This began under the Rishi Sunak's Tory government and has continued under Keir Starmer's Labour one. Labour's role as unconditional supporter of zionism and the Gaza geno-

cide has exposed not only the party's leadership but all the 'left' Labourites, Trotskyites and revisionist 'communists' who endlessly repeat the mantra that Labour is the party of the working class and that voting Labour is the only route to meaningful change for working-class people in Britain.

We have no doubt that the forces of resistance in Syria and across the region are going to continue their century-long struggle for liberation and sovereignty. And we are determined to do our part in educating as many workers as possible with a genuinely anti-imperialist understanding, re-establishing a Marxist-Leninist leadership that is able to give clear guidance in the rebuilding of a revolutionary movement in Britain.

Given the blood price that is demanded of humanity for every year that this decaying, parasitic system remains in place, it is simply not acceptable to wait passively for better times. It is our bounden duty to work now, and work together, so that the defeat of Anglo-American imperialism is brought about sooner rather than later.

**Death to imperialism!
Death to zionism!**

**Victory to the Axis of
Resistance!**

**No cooperation with
imperialist war!**

Belarus election

◀ **page 9** 2024, leaving Nato war planners gnashing their teeth and sending the Polish reactionary regime into a predictable tailspin. The exercises came just a week after Belarus announced its entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organ-

isation (SCO).

Although the emergence of Belarus as an independent state was the result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and therefore something that no one in the progressive world was happy to see, the fact that it has survived as a sovereign

state in close alliance with the Russian Federation is a genuinely progressive development that should be supported and applauded by all socialist and anti-imperialists.

The efforts of the Communist Party of Belarus are now focused on transforming the "left

turn" that they say Lukashenko has been making into a more sustained *socialist* turn. And the relatively strong performance of the Communist Party of Belarus in the recent elections indicates that there is growing support for such a programme amongst the Belarusian population.

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◀ **page 24** Seriously!

A split of the Labour party was threatened (does anyone now remember Chuka Umunna?) But the reality was, that *the Labour party machinery itself lined up with the Tories, Liberals, Greens, Scottish nationalists, Ukip, police, military, navy, military intelligence, civil service, BBC, mainstream press and the finance capitalists of the City of London* to ensure that his electoral campaigns were sabotaged and his leadership holed below the waterline.

Antisemitism: the 'best weapon' picked up by imperialism

Perhaps the most effective line of attack on Corbyn proved to be the lasting smear that he was an antisemite, that Labour had a problem with racism and antisemitism, and that the Labour party must be forced to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism (which characterises all criticism of Israel as "antisemitic").

Back in 2012, Corbyn had expressed his approval of an anti-capitalist mural in east London. It depicted the (European and Japanese) capitalists and imperialists playing Monopoly on the backs of the workers of the world, quite clearly depicting imperialism as modern-day slavery. Suddenly in 2018, the entire bourgeois press launched a campaign decrying this criticism of the wage lords' exploitation as "antisemitic"!

Typically, Corbyn apologised: "I sincerely regret that I did not look more closely at the image I was commenting on, the contents of which are deeply disturbing and antisemitic. I wholeheartedly support its removal. I am opposed to the production of antisemitic material of any kind, and the de-

fence of free speech cannot be used as a justification for the promotion of antisemitism in any form." (Corbyn 'supported antisemitic mural', *The Times*, 24 March 2018)

Corbyn apparently did not understand what was happening. Or perhaps he did but was just not equal to the task of standing up for himself, let alone for the British working class or the oppressed and downtrodden nations. One after another, all the causes from which he had made a career mouthing 'support' were thrown under the proverbial bus.

And we were left facing the new reality, that this very charge of 'antisemitism', of racism, could and would be hurled at British workers for opposing imperialism, for opposing capitalism, for opposing exploitation, and for opposing in particular the imperialist drive to dominate and loot the mineral wealth of the middle east.

Supporting the liberation of the oppressed, indeed, socialism itself was being outlawed. Not explicitly, as Bismarck had outlawed the German socialists in 1878, with his 'anti-socialist law'. No, this was to be a far more 'British' regime. Civilised on the surface. Almost unspoken but adhered to rigidly for all that. And, as ever, the consensus to the will of capital must be cross-party. Absolute. Unquestioned.

As Karl Marx noted in the preface to his great work *Capital*: "In the domain of political economy, free scientific inquiry meets not merely the same enemies as in all other domains. The peculiar nature of the materials it deals with, summons as foes into the field of battle the most violent, mean and malignant passions of the human breast, the Furies of private interest. The English Established Church, eg, will more

readily pardon an attack on 38 of its 39 articles than on 1/39 of its income. Nowadays atheism is *culpa levis* [a minor sin], as compared with criticism of existing property relations." (1867)

Despite the fading global political, military and financial position of Britain, our ruling class was signalling that with the ongoing and intensifying capitalist crisis, that its absolute right to export capital, and to commit any crime to safeguard the rights of the financial barons in the City of London to commit any crime to safeguard their superprofits and capital flows was sacrosanct.

Moreover, at a time of heightened inflation, of stock-market turmoil, of global competition and glut, and of the domestic 'cost of living crisis', there would be no talk even of mild social-democratic welfare increases (Corbyn's plans for cuts in tuition fees, free internet and the like!) The economic realities of capitalism meant class war. And as popular discontent rose, the state's means of controlling the working people must likewise become more intense.

Corbyn's continual retreat should not really have surprised anyone. He has never been an economic Marxist. His underlying 30-year political history was that of the soft left, "loony" Labour; of Bennite social-democratic support for the 'democratic' imperialist status quo; of ineffectual posturing and an endless round of garden fetes, 'antiwar' meetings that called on the assembly to 'vote Labour' despite Blair and Brown's Labour governments, of which Corbyn was a back-bench member, being the party of war, of genocide in Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. 'Reclaiming' Labour was the continual theme of this gentry – as if it had ever stood for anything else.

Corbyn's entire political life and role was to be the *Labour talisman* atop the British 'left-wing' movement, wringing his hands over the cruelties of imperialism, and issuing a stream of meaningless and effete resolutions – no sooner committed to paper than filed in the wastepaper basket of history. He really had not wanted to become the leader of the party at all.

Zionist activists become Britain's political police force

Let us cast ourselves back into this febrile political bubble. The date is 21 August 2018, just 18 months before his final electoral defeat at the hands of Boris 'Get Brexit Done' Johnson. Corbyn was holding a rally in Conway Hall in central London, and Zionist provocateurs had been deployed to harass the attendees, shouting them down for being, yes, "antisemites", "terrorists" and all the rest of their now familiar refrain.

It must be noted that the infamous Zionist preacher 'Joseph Cohen' (if that is indeed his real name) had not yet had such a direct hook-up with the mainstream press that anyone took him at all seriously. Nevertheless, he and a few rabid Zionists roamed the crowd, trying to stir up an incident upon which to 'base' their baseless claims of 'victimisation'.

I was at this event. I had gone with a few comrades to man a stall and speak to the disciples of Corbyn. It was already apparent that his project was floundering, and that the mass following it had called forth would soon be rudderless.

Our party had recently collected Harpal Brar's series of essays, originally published in the anti-imperialist journal *Lalkar*, on the origins of Zionism into a pamphlet, and that

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was among the materials we displayed. One of Cohen's Zionist companions, having approached me to start an argument – and no doubt to nurse 'offence', even 'fear' on the back of his aggressive intrusion – seized (stole, actually) one of these pamphlets and handed it to a policeman, ever present at the demonstrations and meetings of the left.

The police had a brief word with me, took my name and the stolen copy of the book – and then ... never made contact with me again!

The Israeli genocide of Oct 2023-Jan 2025

And that may very well have been the end of the matter, had I not subsequently been targeted in November 2023 and January 2024 by other Zionist activist groups (notably 'Harry's Place' and 'Gnasher Jew'), which were working hand in glove with London's Metropolitan police to target workers and political activists taking part in the mass protests against genocide and in support of the Palestinian people in the wake of the escalated Israeli genocide from October 2023-January 2025.

This escalation in Britain's level of political policing was directly ordered by the Rishi Sunak's cabinet, whose rabid home secretary Suella Braverman was on record as declaring herself a Zionist and demanding that the Met police take a proactive role in suppressing the Palestine solidarity campaigners and demonstrators.

The police responded to her call. I, among thousands of British workers, was arrested on two separate occasions. On Saturday 25 November 2023 and Sunday 14 January 2024. I will not go into the details of those police arrests now, except to say that despite having no grounds whatever to arrest

me, they did so on the pretext of allegations made by their Zionist agents that I was "inciting racial hatred" by attending a demonstration and distributing the self-same book on Zionism; and later that I was "supporting terrorism" by standing outside Hammersmith police station with my four-year-old son – yes really!

It became clear that Zionist foot soldiers were directing the police effort to target and criminalise political activists and conscious anti-Zionists and anti-imperialists attending the demonstration. Clearly with a view to intimidating and stemming the rising tide of the Palestinian solidarity movement among British workers.

Labour complicity in Israeli genocide and suppression of British workers

The Labour party has compounded and extended the repression since assuming government on 5 July 2024. But even in opposition they gladly played their part. Yvette Cooper, as shadow home secretary, is on record as doing her bipartisan best to chime in with Braverman's condemnation of British workers' solidarity with Palestine. All the acts of police repression were recorded as "incidents of antisemitism" by the 'community security trust', and in turn were used to justify further acts of repression of the anti-imperialist British workers.

In February 2024, Cooper told Parliament: "I welcome the minister's statement, and advance sight of it. *The appalling and intolerable rise in antisemitism in Britain* in recent months, as set out in the report of the *Community Security Trust* last week, is a stain on our society. *We must never relent in our work to root it out* – something that I know the whole House will want to

affirm.

"The more than 4,000 incidents in 2023 alone are an urgent reminder of the responsibility that we all have to stamp out the scourge of antisemitism wherever it is found. *I join the minister in thanking the CST for the remarkable and tireless work that it does each day, alongside the police, to keep our Jewish community safe. Having supported and worked with it over many years, I know the incredible forensic work that it does in monitoring antisemitism, and the physical protection that it provides for Jewish schools, synagogues and other community events. We owe it our thanks.*

"We welcome and support the government's commitment of additional funding for the CST ...

"We must never allow the terrible events and conflicts in the middle east, which cause deep distress across our communities, to lead to increased tension, hatred, prejudice, abuse or crimes in our communities at home. I welcome the points that the minister made about ensuring that extremist incidents on marches are also addressed with the full force of the law, but I press him to go further in a few key areas.

"First, the counter-extremism strategy is now eight years out of date. There are reports that the work has been delayed again. When will the government come forward with an updated strategy? The Metropolitan police commissioner and the government's own experts have warned that there is a gap in the law around hateful extremism that is allowing toxic antisemitic views and conspiracy theories to be spread [this in the midst of the Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people!], and making it harder to police them. I have asked this of ministers before:

will the minister update us on what action is being taken?

"Will the government also urgently look again at the decision that ministers took around a year ago to downgrade the reporting of non-crime hate incidents, particularly around islamophobia and antisemitism, to ensure that those who engage in vile and vitriolic religious hatred can always be properly monitored and identified by the police?

"Finally, I ask particularly about online antisemitism, which has increased. We have seen a huge increase on X, formerly Twitter, at the same time as some of its monitoring and standards have been downgraded. Have the government raised that directly with Elon Musk and X? I urge them to do so, and to set out how the Online Harms Bill will address that, because there are real concerns that it will not go far enough to address the changes.

"We stand ready to work with the government on this. Those on both sides of the House will want us to stand together with Jewish communities across the country, in solidarity against hatred, prejudice and antisemitism in all its forms. All of us must stand together and say that antisemitism must never have any place in the United Kingdom." (Contributions by Yvette Cooper to a parliamentary debate on 'Antisemitism in the UK', Hansard, 19 February 2024, my emphasis)

'Antisemitism' here is the term incorrectly used for opposition to Zionism, Israeli genocide and Anglo-American imperialism, which is the real perpetrator of that genocide. It is precisely for that reason that Comrade Harpal's book is so powerful, and exposes the myth that our principled politicians are just 'anti-racist'!

They are racist ► page 22

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◀ **page 21** to the core. They stand with exploitation and the war crimes committed by serial Labour and Tory governments to protect that looting of the labour-power and the mineral resources of the peoples of the middle east, and wider humanity.

Wes Streeting, the NHS and 'antisemitism'

This has dovetailed entirely with Wes Streeting's December 2024 meeting with the Zionist campaigning organisations (Board of Deputies, Community Security Trust, Jewish Medical Association) in his capacity as health minister, during which he pledged to push for the IHRA definition of antisemitism *to be adopted across the NHS*, directly affecting over a million workers, and further criminalising medical personnel who speak out against the genocidal policies and actions of Israel.

Streeting (the Labour MP for Ilford North who came very close to being ousted by pro-Palestine campaigner Leanne Mohammed last July) has gone so far as to exhort the General Medical Council (GMC) to strike off doctors who campaign against Anglo-American-Israeli genocide:

"In the 12 months following 7 October, over 5,500 antisemitic incidents were recorded in Britain, three times as many as reported the previous year

"According to community security organisation CST [entirely objective and unbiased!], 78 antisemitic incidents have been reported in the health sector over the past 14 months, of which 42 were perpetrated by healthcare professionals. Regulators have powers to set conditions that a healthcare professional must work under, suspend them, or strike them

entirely from the medical register," Streeting said. (Jewish Chronicle, 15 Dec 2024)

We will not discuss the IHRA definition of antisemitism here, but refer you to our previous article on the topic. Suffice to say, it is designed not to expose or define racism, but to *indemnify Israel from criticism*, and therefore to deflect all criticism of Anglo-American imperialism in the middle east as 'racist'. This fools fewer people every day – no thanks to Labour, or indeed to the 'left Labour' swamp around Corbyn.

GMC investigations into 'antisemitism'

Perhaps predictably, the GMC (my professional oversight body at work) was contacted by both Zionists and the police, following the latter's infringement of my civil and political rights, and launched its own, ponderous investigation into my conduct. As part of this, both the police and the Jewish Medical Association (JMA) coordinated complaints to the GMC. I note in passing that the JMA is actually an Israeli (not 'Jewish') organisation, and was formerly the 'British Chapter of the Israeli Medical Association'.

My hospital was contacted and I was asked to justify my action. Had they been so minded, my local NHS Trust managers were encouraged to launch separate disciplinary proceedings against me. Fortunately, my colleagues were generally supportive, and as I was a permanent member of staff, it was not an easy step to simply dismiss me or 'discontinue' my contract – as has been the case for so many doctors and healthcare professionals who do not enjoy that relative security of tenure.

The GMC investigation dragged on and hung over my working life and practice

for some 14 months before it was finally dropped entirely – as there was 'no evidence of misconduct' – on 25 January 2025. That did not happen without a vigorous legal campaign of defence being waged by me, with the help of several lawyers and my party. I will publish more details to help other workers who are falling foul of this increasingly systemic and draconian regime of state actions and sanctions.

By some twist of fate, the GMC emailed me its intention of dropping the investigation on the very day that the pamphlet's author, my father Harpal Brar, succumbed to his final illness and left us to continue the struggle to which he had dedicated his life. He may rest assured that we will fulfil his behest.

An ill wind that blows no good

And yet, were it not for that politically motivated witch-hunt; that British police-state harassment directed against Harpal's book, our party's stall, myself, my comrades and the great Palestine solidarity marches, the police would not have disclosed these secret police records to the GMC, which in turn would not have passed on a 200-page bundle of 'redacted' material to me.

Such was the GMC's eagerness to assist in getting me struck off, disciplined, morally censured and economically outcast from society, on the direct instruction of home secretary Suella Braverman and her Labour successors, that despite heavily redacting various materials from its adjudication process (carefully hiding the names of various state agents), it nevertheless disclosed the fact that *some six years before* I was arrested on the flimsy pretext of "inciting racial hatred" by possessing Harpal's quite legal and

factual book on the history of Zionism, *the police themselves had read, reviewed and summarised Harpal's book*.

In fact, the "officer in charge of the case read the entire book and deemed the content not to be offensive". He had 'outcome'd the case for "No further action", since "No offences have been identified."

We reproduce in full the Met police review of this outstanding work, and add only our hearty recommendation that all our readers should obtain a hard copy from our shop or download and read the pdf from our website.

There is, of course, a reason that the Zionists and both Tory and Labour imperialists want to suppress this information. *Because knowledge leads to conviction and understanding. It is the basis of working-class political organisation.* And from that grows the political power of the working class, and the real freedom of the exploited and oppressed masses from the global system of wage-slavery in which we are enmeshed.

Official police review of Harpal Brar's 'Zionism'

Ranjeet Brar – Case Summary complied using Crime Report: 2323708/18

Offence: Racial Incident. Circumstances: On 21 August 2018 Police were called to outside the Conway House Ethical Society to reports of a protest taking place whereby literature was being sold which was inciting racial hatred. As police attended they found approximately 100 people standing outside the entrance with about 20 people in high visibility yellow jackets acting as stewards for the event.

As officers were there various people were coming up to them stating that Jeremy CORBYN was supposed to be at-

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tending the meeting which was regarding Palestine with apparent Anti-Semitic groups outside within the group of 100. Officers observed the group which was of good nature and no apparent public order offences were being committed.

After approximately 20 minutes of officers being present an unknown member of the public (not the informant) approached officers stating that a small picnic type table was around the corner whereby leaflets and books were being sold. Apparently, one of the books being sold was inciting racial hatred and the Jewish community were extremely offended by them.

Officers approached this table which was being dismantled as they approached and suspect1 approached officers in a friendly manner. Ranjeet Brar stated that he was the distributor for the book which had caused offence and officers asked to see it. Ranjeet Brar handed the booklet over and stated that they could keep it for their investigation whilst officers also explained it would be seized for this purpose. Ranjeet Brar was completely supportive of officers being there and offered to assist in the investigation and he was adamant that the book was not inciting racial hatred and actually completely the opposite.

The title of this book was: Zionism. A racist, anti-Semitic and reactionary tool of imperialism.

[Printed by the] Communist Part of Great Britain (Marxist Leninist).

On the front of the book above title was the star of David in white. In the middle of this star was what appeared to be a swastika which was causing the offence to people at the gathering. Officers read the blurb of the book and nothing

jumped out as inciting racial hatred. The front of the book was clearly using a controversial symbol to grab people's attention however it was not believed to be inciting racial hatred. The book is 92 pages long and therefore officers did not read this due to time constraints and also dealing with a live public order incident/protest.

Various groups approached officers stating that they wanted the people selling these books to be arrested however, it was explained to them that during a public order incident where three officers were present it would not be the case. More importantly, no immediate criminal offences could be seen within the publication itself. However, officers clearly explained that this book was being seized and it would be examined to see if any further action needed to be taken at a later date.

23 May 2019. Officer in charge of the case read the entire book and deemed the content not to be offensive. The officer made the following comments:

I have read the book from start to finish and can see no offences from this book.

The book consists of 8 chapters made up of various articles from LALKAR which is a bimonthly political magazine and proletarian [the paper of the CPGB-ML].

The preface and chapter one introduces what Zionism is, how they believe it is an imperialist tool how the labour party are accused of being soft on anti-Semitism.

Chapter 2 (pages 5-22) Talks about Zionism as a racist ideology by talking about the beginning of Zionis[m], the Balfour declaration, blut and boden theory, the principles agreed by German Zionists and how this

progressed once under Nazi leadership. It also talked about The Ha'avara in which German jews were allowed to transfer some of their money outside of Germany to Palestine by buying farming machinery. It then goes on to talk about the Nazi-Zionist collaboration and the basis for this and then onto Nuremberg laws.

Chapter 3 (pages 23-39) Talks about how Zionism and how Jewish people were treated. Starting from the reformation of the church, Cromwell in England, French revolution through to the first world war, Balfour declaration and Jewish people in [unfinished sentence].

Chapter 4 (pages 39-47) Talks about the non-semitic origins of the modern Jewish people. It talks about the origins of modern Jewish people from the ancestral homes, their DNA, through to their language and discusses how it is not historically correct for Israel to be seen as Jewish people's homeland.

Chapter 5 (pages 49-75) Talks about the Nazi-Zionism collaboration in great detail. It starts by talking about [Adolf] Eichmann then Kestner who was from Hungary and how he formed a pact with the Nazis to save 600 prominent Jewish people. It goes on to talk about Kestner and his involvement in the Zionist movement, which they say a lot of information about this has been suppressed. It goes on to talk about his trial and the public reaction to it and also at the Supreme Court [of Israel]. It then goes on to talk about immigration of Jewish people to the USA and other countries and how it was selective.

Chapter 6 (pages 75-81) Talks about the Edward Montagu memorandum. The author then goes on to talk about his own opinions including:

there is no Jewish nation, he would make Zionism illegal, Palestine as being unsuitable for Jewish people to sit [unfinished sentence].

Chapter 7 (pages 81-88) Talks about the Balfour declaration, how a lot of Jewish people are against Palestine as a homeland for Jewish people. It goes on to talk about the Palestine mandate. It then goes on to say that the Jewish population in Palestine was increasing and that by 1939 a white paper by Britain had been issued promising to end Jewish people immigrating to Palestine. The chapter then goes on to talk about the Nakba (catastrophe) for people already living in Palestine as it resulted in them being expelled from their own homes. It goes on to talk about how Israel is giv[en] money for military, aid etc. rather than Palestine being recognised as an independent state.

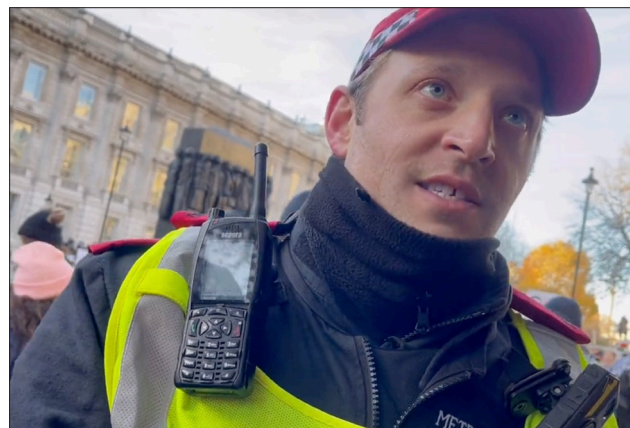
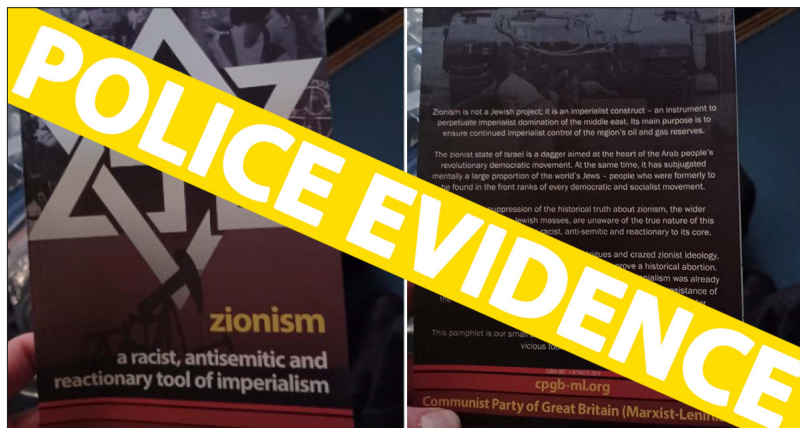
Chapter 8 (page 89-92) is about how certain western governments have criminalised activism against Israel occupations and discussed articles from newspapers including the independent. It talks about laws passed in the America in which less funding would be given to education institutions that fund groups that boycott Israel for instance.

I therefore propose to close this book and taken no further action against the SUS1 as this book is not inciting racial hatred but talks more about the development of Zionism, key characters involved in it[s] development, the impacts it has had over time and different people's opinions on it.

I will ring the SUS1 to make them aware of this and in order to give his book back. [Not done!]

OUTCOME:
No further action. No offences have been identified.

Proletarian



London Metropolitan police review of Harpal Brar's book on zionism

'It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good' was not my favourite proverb at school, but I've recently come to fully appreciate its meaning.

By Ranjeet Brar

From the August 2018 police report (released to me by the General Medical Council):

"Ranjeet Brar was completely supportive of officers being there and offered to assist in the investigation and he was adamant that the book was not inciting racial hatred and actually completely the opposite. The title of this book was: 'Zionism, A Racist, Antisemitic and Reactionary Tool of Imperialism'. Printed by the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

"Officers read the blurb of the book and nothing jumped out as inciting racial hatred. The front of the book was clearly using a controversial symbol to grab people's attention however it was not believed to be

inciting racial hatred." (My emphasis)

How the Met came to write a review of Harpal Brar's 'Zionism',

Let me take you back to August 2018. Jeremy Corbyn was still clinging on as leader of the Labour party, struggling to stay in office against the relentless assaults of the British establishment, which was striving to remove him from office and thereby remove any hint of the discourse about 'socialism', 'anti-capitalism' or 'anti-imperialism' from mainstream bourgeois politics.

Corbyn was drubbed daily in our press as a *terrorist* for having once expressed mild support for the Irish republican movement (the IRA!), and

the Palestinian resistance (Hamas! Islamic Jihad!), which he dissociated himself from. He was lambasted for *supporting violence*, having once expressed mild support for the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela, for Hugo Chávez, but not President Maduro, from whom he dissociated himself also (condemning "violence on all sides"!)

He was lampooned for being a *dangerous pacifist* (an apparent oxymoron), having previously called for nuclear disarmament as head of 'Stop the War' and the CND – although he reluctantly agreed after being elected Labour party leader that Trident should be renewed! Having initially spoken out against extra-judicial assassination of Yemeni and Sudanese citizens, among others, by British drone strikes, he was subject to relentless pressure, until he went along with that too!

Corbyn was criticised as a *supporter of the 'dictator' Assad* – although he dissociated himself from the "Assad regime" and allowed a 'free vote' of his own Labour party right-wing MPs (basically the whole party) on the question of a 'no-fly zone' and cruise missile strikes on Syria. Do you remember the cries of "Oh, what a mature, seasoned, sensible and wise politician" is Hillary Benn!?

For all these reasons Corbyn, we were told, was not a *true patriot*, could not be admitted to the *privy council*, would not command the loyalty of the armed forces, police and civil service "if elected", and certainly had no support from the press barons and City financiers. In the event of a Corbyn government, a coup was in order! Serving British soldiers were reported as practicing their marksmanship using JC's portrait as a target. **page 20 ►**