

# WORKERS VOICE

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Turn the miners' fight into a fight for all workers

## Solidarity not Sympathy! Strikes not Speeches!

So what now? After all the marches and speeches has anything yet changed. The 'reprieve' of the 21 pits was really a reprieve for Heseltine and the Tory Government. They hope that the protests will die down whilst a miracle will turn up to get them off the hook by January. One thing is for sure, the crisis of the capitalist profits system means that **they will be back for more.**

They may also get a bit of help from their friends in the TUC and the Labour Party. The largest demonstration for years in London on October 25th was a massive display of the anger of many workers. However it will not be enough. Listening to the speeches of Norman Willis, Party and Church leaders and singing 'Jerusalem' will save neither 30,000 miners jobs nor the thousands more that are going in British Telecom (and we all know what 'losses' they are making), education, health, cars, DanAir, local government and council services. No worker's job is safe. We are faced with an avalanche of redundancies at a time when real unemployment is already at least 4 million.

### More Attacks. More Cuts.

And the unemployed are not to be left alone either. Having axed their jobs the State proposes new attacks on benefit levels. This was the real purpose behind Peter Lilley's attacks on "the something for nothing society" at the Tory party conference. (No - he wasn't attacking financial speculators!). His aim is to prepare the way for further cuts in the biggest item in state spending - the social security budget. It is a sign that we have reached the end of the line. When the capitalist profits system can only produce more cuts and more misery the time to fight back is long overdue.

But how to fight? It can't be done by following the legal methods of the TUC, the unions and the Her Majesty's loyal opposition, the Labour Party. They exist to prevent a real class struggle. The events of the last week confirm this. We cannot rely on middle class pressure on Parliament to change the Government's minds. The Tory 'rebels' turned out not to exist when it came to it. All the demonstrations in the world won't change the situation. The only weapon the working class has is its collective ability to strike.

### The Lessons of 1984-5

But we have to learn the lessons of the past. In 1984 we, and other internationalist communist groups like us warned that the miners' strike was a strike for the whole class. If the miners lost we would all lose. We also warned that the slogan 'Coal not Dole' isolated the miners. It made it difficult for other workers to join in the struggle. This is exactly what happened. In

1980-81 the miners had given their solidarity to the steelworkers. What happened in 1984? Bill Sirs, boss of the steelworkers union, said they would not sacrifice themselves on someone else's altar. And when dockers in August 1984 tried to move in support of the miners by preventing coal imports their union leaders put a stop to it.

### The miners remained isolated and lost.

Today the miners aren't isolated but they (and everyone else) could still lose. Why? Because the union leaders, including Arthur Scargill, have put their trust in the TUC and a polite middle class campaign to persuade parliament they are wrong. What was absent in 1984 is absent today. A united working class action of strikes and coordinated protests. These cannot come from union led actions. They have to come from us. Asking the TUC to call a General Strike is an open invitation to catastrophe. Remember that the TUC's strike calls from 1926 on have always ended movements. They have never begun them. Waiting for someone else to take action first means that no action will be taken.

We have to strike together.

We have to link up as many sectors as possible. In this case it is obvious that miners, railworkers and power workers can form a powerful source of resistance. But it should not stop there. Congratulations to the nuclear power workers, teachers and others who struck on Wednesday October 21st in support of the miners. This needs to be repeated across every industry and sector.

The struggle must be run through mass meetings of everybody involved, regardless of union membership and including unemployed workers.

These meetings should elect recallable committees of delegates to link up the struggle between sectors.

The bosses should be left guessing about what our battle tactics are. There is no room for the usual union rituals of cosy negotiations behind locked doors.

All over the world workers are facing the same kind of attacks as we are. In Italy millions have been striking against new vicious austerity measures which involve increased taxes and wage and pension cuts. In Spain the 'Socialist' government is privatising (i.e. cutting the dole). Capitalism has failed both in its 'free market' version in the West and in its centrally planned version in the East. It is time the working class put an end to the myth that there is no alternative. It is time for working class people to fight for themselves.



No these aren't British union bosses sheltering from the rain in the October demo in London. They are Italian union bosses sheltering from nuts and bolts thrown at them by angry workers in Turin! Union leaders in Florence had to be rescued by the police for trying to sell out the workers!

## Meanwhile Workers fighting Austerity come Up Against the State and the Unions

In recent weeks the world economic crisis has plunged further downwards. It's not only in Britain that governments and bosses are expecting the working class to shoulder the burden. As we reported two issues ago, attacks on the jobs and living standards of Italian workers were already underway. As usual in Italy, these attacks were increased during the summer holiday period when the majority of workers are enjoying a month in the sun. This year their holiday was spoilt by the government's announcement of a series of "extraordinary taxes", ranging from an incredible direct tax on all existing bank accounts to taxes on housing (rented or otherwise). Meanwhile the cost of a driving licence, passports and just about anything else the government could think of went up. At the same time the unions finally agreed to the abolition of the last remnants of the old scala mobile (inflation-linked wage guarantees).

### Another bankrupt capitalist state

The reason? The Italian state was finally having to take account of its massive debts. According to the *Financial Times* in August the budget deficit was set to reach 180,000 bn lire (£84bn) by the end of this year. Something drastic had to be done. And when the Italian lire, like sterling could no longer maintain its place inside the ERM the government turned to even

more draconian measures. At the beginning of October the harshest attacks yet were launched against the working class in an attempt to "support the rebalancing of our public finances" (Prime Minister Amato) and enable Italian capital to rejoin the ERM. The government is trying to get rid of £45bn worth of its debt by imposing tax increases and swingeing public spending cuts which include a public sector pay freeze, pensions axed, cuts in education, transport, health - where everyone will pay for prescriptions and **households** (not individuals) with a joint wage of £20,000 upwards will pay the full cost of the health care they have already paid for through taxation.

### The Workers' Response

At the same time as all this, more and more industrial workers' jobs are under threat. In this context it would be surprising if there were no working class response. Despite the silence by the bulk of the British media, the streets of Italy have been unusually noisy and crowded lately. Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated their anger: not just against the government but also against the trade union leaderships who have negotiated away hundreds of thousands of jobs and been responsible for the erosion of the scala mobile over the past decade or so. The union hacks have had to face missiles from tomatoes to bolts being thrown at them. In the

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# Mass Strike not General Strike

Nearly all the so-called revolutionary groups of Trotskyist origin have been calling for a General Strike. The *Socialist Workers Party* have been calling for us to "Get the TUC to call a General Strike", whilst *Workers Power* have followed with "General Strike Now". The prize for the most ridiculous of all must be between *Militant's* calls for a "24 hour General Strike" or *Socialist Organisation's* "Day of Action". Between them they make the unions look positively revolutionary!

But what does this regular ritual call for a General Strike mean? It is in fact a call for the working class to put their fate in the hands of the TUC bureaucrats. History has shown that TUC strikes, 'days of action' etc. have always been called to ease the pressure on the union leaderships. They have not been to press the movement forward. They have always resulted in the end of any workers' resistance.

## The General Strike of 1926

Take the example of the General Strike of 1926. This was called by the TUC General Council (which was only set up in 1920) supposedly to unite action to defend the miners from a pay

cut. The strike lasted nine days. During this time the TUC made sure that there were never more than about a third of the workers on strike at any one time. In the end they went to 10 Downing Street where the Prime Minister, another grey man called Stanley Baldwin,



1926: J.H. Thomas the railway union leader leaves Downing St. A model for all union leaders ever since.

asked them whether they wanted to maintain the British Constitution or to hand over power to "those out there". The TUC leaders' decision is now famous and the miners were left to strike on their own until the following November. But our Trotskyists have not drawn the General Lesson from this experience. Unions are not in business to attack capitalism. They once existed to defend workers under capitalism. Today even that is no longer believable. Most full-time officials are just like another layer of the management. One thing is for sure all

unions will always defend the British Constitution. Expecting them to call a general strike to open up the way to a mass movement is just a dream.

## The Stranglehold of a General Strike

But history is not the only guide to the uselessness

of a general strike call. Even if the TUC or anybody else did call for a general strike what would it mean? It would mean that workers were still expecting leadership from those who have a vested interest in the continuation of the system. It would mean that everyone would be leaving everything to the leaders - a well-disciplined army simply waiting for the call to end the strike. Such a mechanical idea of class struggle has got little to do with the liberation of the working class. As Karl Marx said 130 years ago,

*The emancipation of the working class is the task of the workers themselves.*  
(introducing the Rules of the First International, 1864)

Of course the last argument our Trotskyists always put forward is the "stages" one. They don't really think a general strike will be called by the TUC but it will highlight its inactivity and this will make workers more conscious of how useless their leaders are. Or so they fondly believe. Even more dishonest is the notion held by *Militant* that a 24 hour general strike will lead to a deepening of class tensions. Apart from the fact that such a strike is more likely to be used by the bureaucracy to diffuse such tensions it is typical of a certain politics which thinks that manipulation is better than honest calls for class action.

## The Mass Strike

It should be clear from what we have said that we don't think any of the calls for a general strike have got anything to do with workers' freedom. They have about as much in common with real class struggle as a Parliamentary lobby. What is our alternative?

First it has to be recognised that socialism cannot come about by tricks or rigid laws. As Lenin stated during the Russian Revolution

*...Socialism cannot be decreed from above. Its spirit rejects the mechanical bureaucratic approach; living creative socialism is the product of the masses themselves.*  
(quoted in N. Harding *Lenin's Political Thought*)

This is why we don't go on about the betrayal of the TUC leaders in 1926. Not only were they acting in line with their own class ideas but the fact that the General Strike failed wasn't due to bad leaders. More workers were actually on strike in the days after the General strike was called off than during it. What the real problem was that the workers themselves were not sufficiently active or organised or clear about their goals to carry that movement to victory. And this is the key to the issue. The active participation of the workers is the prerequisite to a real struggle with our rulers. Anything short of that leads only to the political games and parliamentary shadow-boxing of recent weeks. As Rosa Luxemburg wrote in her pamphlet on *The Mass Strike* we must

*leave the pedantic scheme of demonstrative mass strikes artificially brought about by order of parties and trades unions and turn to the living picture of a peoples' movement arising with elementary energy, from the culmination of class antagonisms and the political situation...*  
op. cit. p.65.

Such a strike may appear only under certain conditions but it is far better that the arid schemes of the Trotskyists. It is a real movement which will be filled with mass assemblies, delegated representatives to other groups of workers and ultimately class-wide bodies capable of organising the fight against the State. And it will be a fertile soil for a deep political discussion about how to resolve the present conditions. Ultimately it will pose the question of the abolition of the capitalist system by the exploited majority.

# US Elections: The Ruling Class Always Win

The savagery of the cuts in the US over the last decade or so take some believing. The city of Detroit, we were told on BBC2's *Newsnight*, has **no** public hospitals. Those built in recent years have been demolished because whole sections of the working class cannot afford to take out medical insurance. The state itself is technically bankrupt (except that it is unthinkable for any capitalist to call the US Government bankrupt) with, as Ross Perot reminded everybody every day a \$4 trillion debt. Much of this debt has come from shoring up collapsing banks, the Savings and Loan financial sector (like building societies here) and the declining defence industries which were maintained on massive Government spending throughout the Cold War.

The stupidity of the Bush regime was reflected in the fact that Bush himself knew that the economic policies he inherited from Reagan were insane. When campaigning against Reagan he had referred to them as "voodoo economics". Today the weight of public and private debt is so great that even the lowest real interest rates

for decades cannot stimulate investment. And at the same time unemployment has begun to grow to levels near to that of the Carter years. The savage cuts the Federal Government made in social spending were the only real attempts by the state to cut its budget deficit. Today the consequences are that many areas of the USA now have the life-expectancy levels and the health problems of the so-called Third World (see table below). The Los Angeles riots (see *Workers Voice* 61) were not race riots as the media tried to maintain but the riots of the most marginalised of society of all races.

The system offers them less than nothing. US multinational leaders are licking their lips at the new North American Free Trade Area deal with Canada and Mexico. It will allow them to take half-finished goods to Mexico and them re-import them to the US as US products. It will allow them to drive down wages in the US and exploit virtual slave labour in Mexico, not to mention the fact that it will raise their profit rates whilst increasing unemployment.

chains too loudly. After all "you had a choice" they tell us.

In terms of the present crisis it is not surprising that the media have prepared everyone for change. After a dozen years of Reagan/Bush there can be little doubt where the fault lies. And so all hopes will lie in the modest Keynesian policies of Clinton. If John Major can U-turn on economic policy so can the US. Very possible there will be some short-term revival in the US economy. It won't last long and it won't relieve the misery of the millions of workers who are reduced to soup kitchens and homelessness. Many American commentators are comparing Clinton to Franklin Roosevelt who tried to spend his way out of the Depression of the 30s. But Roosevelt did not start with the huge debts that are around now. And prices were falling. Under modern decaying capitalism prices do not fall in a depression. In the end the only way to resolve the present over-

accumulation of capital can only come by destroying existing capital values. In the epoch of imperialism that has always meant global war. The only question is how and when.

The only alternative to this is for the global capitalist system to be destroyed. Not only would this destroy the paralysis which the existing property owners have over society but by abolishing their system of accounting (i.e. money) we could begin to address real social needs and direct resources towards satisfying the most acute problems. This however means communism. It first requires the working class to destroy capitalism all over the planet and in this the US working class, as the wage slaves of the dominant imperialist power have a leading role to play. But to play this role requires a transformation of consciousness. To US workers we say, "Turn the American nightmare into a Proletarian Dream!"

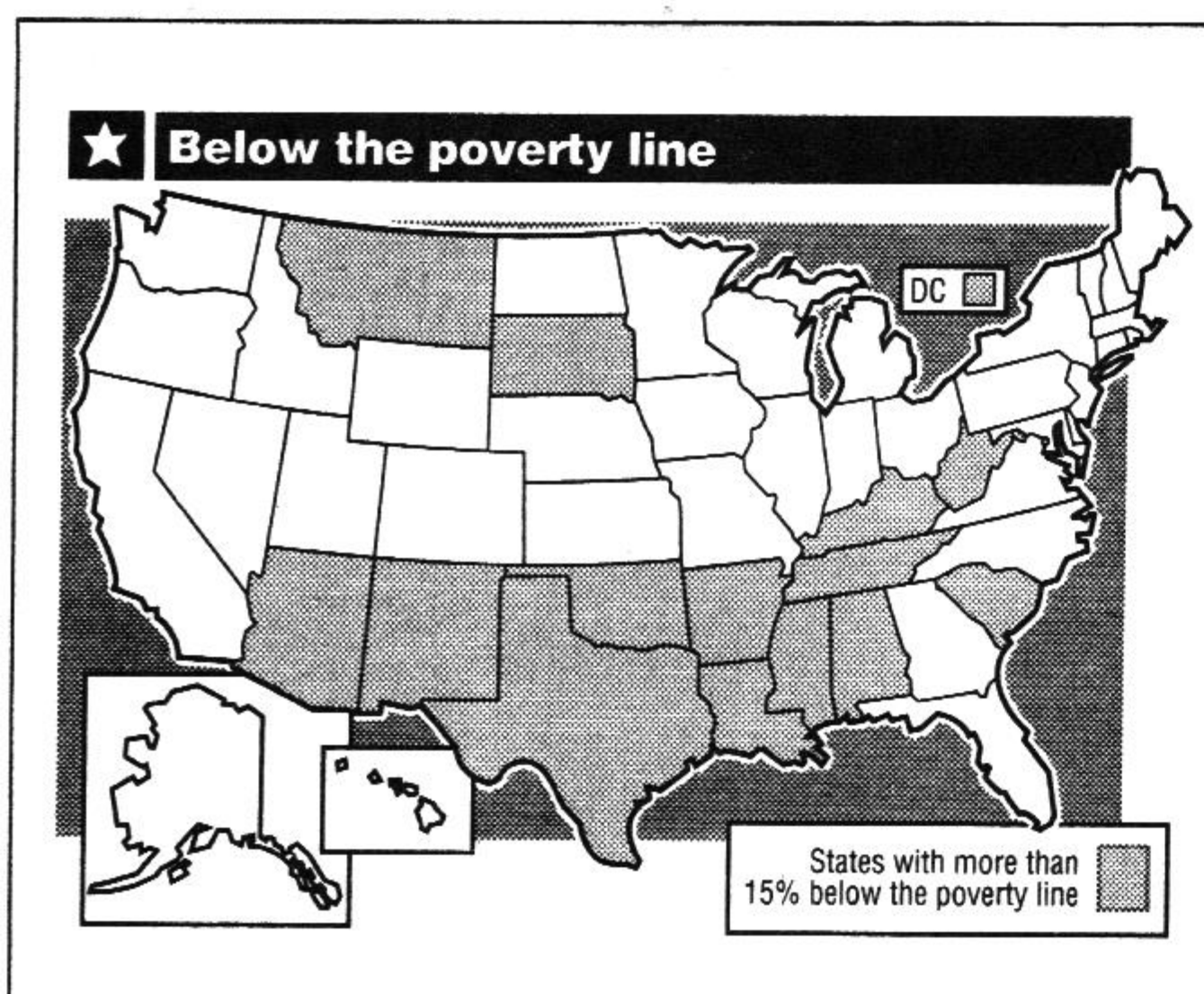
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## Italian Workers Struggles

street demonstrations they have had to be saved by the police from the blows of angry workers. - A revealing example of which side in the class war the union leaders really represent.

For anyone who believes that a general strike called by the unions as a result of pressure from below is a great achievement for the class struggle they should look to the Italian experience. This is exactly what happened in mid-October when 8 million workers went on strike - for one day! Since then the movement has quietened as the majority of workers remain confused and doubtful about where to go next. One thing is sure, the trade unions, who are doing their damnest to get the working class to

accept the sacrifices demanded by capital, cannot provide the framework for a class-wide offensive. For many, perhaps the majority of Italian workers, the existing trade unions are a discredited force. (In Turin, for example, local authority worker union officials ended up talking to rows of empty seats when they booked the Lux cinema for a mass meeting only to see the 'audience' walk out.) It remains to be seen whether the attempts by the likes of the revamped Stalinists to 'democratise' the trade unions will create new illusions. Or will workers who have experience of struggle and self-organisation outside the unions (in base committees or COBAS) draw the positive lessons from this and go on to extend them in the battles to come? More on this in the next issues of *Workers Voice*.



And what remedy does capitalism in the "land of the free" offer? An election. The candidates? A billionaire egotist, a multi-millionaire East Coast aristocrat, and a very, very rich governor of the most racist state in the USA. Bill Clinton will be only the second non-millionaire President of the USA. The fact that about 55% of the electorate (which is not the total adult population by any means) will vote reveals what democracy is really all about. It is where the wealthier sections of society elect the richest to rule. It is a sop to keep the slaves from rattling their



## The collapse of the Uruguay Round and the ERM



# From Cold War to Trade War

## US Imperialism on the Offensive



The Tories are right about one thing. The economic crisis is global (even if the stupidity of Tory policies have made the situation worse in Britain). What is behind the present crisis is lack of profitability. This doesn't mean that no profits are being made. It does mean that not enough profit is being made to finance new investment. This is what creates expansion of a capitalist economy. Without it firms don't employ labour but try to find ways of cutting costs. Sacking workers is the quickest way to do this.

Marxists have often been too quick to see each capitalist crisis as its last. But this crisis of profitability now goes back twenty years. Until 1972 the world economy was governed by the Bretton Woods agreement (signed at the end of World War Two). This not only set up such international bodies as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to regulate state investment but also promoted basic treaties

like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Bretton Woods also made the dollar the standard which decided the level of all other currencies. In a way it recognised that the real victor of World War Two was only the USA. But by the late 1960s and early 1970s the post-war boom was over. Once again a cycle of capital accumulation was coming to a close. As the crisis began to bite and the US budget and trade deficits started to grow alarmingly the Nixon government used the US dominance to force the crisis on to the rest of the world. When the USA devalued the dollar in 1972, everybody else was forced to pay for the crisis of the US economy (since most governments held dollars that were now worth less). Since that time there has been floating exchange rates managed by the world's leading state banks (like the Bank of England). The European Monetary System (EMS) and the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) have been two ways in which the European states have tried to restore a bit of sanity to world financial markets. Since September 16th these schemes have been in tatters.

because they didn't use enough of their own reserves and didn't get any support apart from the Bundesbank. Between these two state banks did not have enough reserves to stem the run on the pound. The subsequent squabble between the British and Germans was no doubt met with satisfaction in Washington. But it is a dangerous game and has taken the world significantly nearer to another war. After all

this has been the usual capitalist solution to interminable economic crisis in the imperialist era. The road may be open but there is a distance yet to go before we reach this dismal goal. First, the precise nature of the alliances has yet to take shape and then there is also the possibility that the working class of the world ends the whole catastrophic capitalist system. War or revolution are a step closer after the last mad month.

## Maastricht - A Squabble Between Capitalists

Twelve months ago the ruling class was confidently predicting the impossible. A united capitalist Europe where the competing rulers of each nation would abandon their differences and establish a utopia of progress and prosperity was the vision on offer.

Marxists clearly understand two things the European rulers preferred to ignore. First, the idea that the ruling classes of 12 different nation-states could abandon their conflicting interests and establish a genuine economic and political unity was a nonsense. Second, the depth and breadth of the economic recession meant that the promise of prosperity for working people within a capitalist Europe was a total deceit.

### The Collapse of the Maastricht Agreement

The events since the bosses' Dutch auction at Maastricht have vindicated the Marxist analysis time and again. The capitalists of all the European countries have pushed unemployment and destruction of social provision down the throats of the workers. Meanwhile their much-vaunted economic unity has collapsed.

In the place of the Europe of the 12 we now have the prospect of a firm-up economic, political and military union based on the relative strength of the Deutschmark. Already the Belgian, Dutch and Austrian currencies (together with the new "democracies" of Croatia and Slovenia) are closely tied to the Deutschmark. Likewise the currency convulsions left the French Franc linked to the Mark which fitted in nicely with Franco-German joint military initiatives. The spectre of a GroßDeutschland has returned to haunt Europe and the world.

### The British Bourgeoisie Divided

With a revived German imperialism edging its way carefully around Europe the British bourgeoisie is now fully aware of its economic weakness. A year or two ago they were crowing that the British economic performance was outstripping a Germany which had taken on board 45 years of Stalinist decay and stagnation in the East. The collapse of the pound has shattered that illusion. It has also brought to the fore the splits in the British ruling class. Britain's largest market by far is in Europe so that, broadly-speaking, manufacturing (or what's left of it) needs desperately to develop commercial links with Europe. This is the faction led by Heseltine.

The other faction, led by Thatcher and Tebbit, still look to their old military and political ally, the USA. They were pro-European union as long as the USA was. But with the Cold War over and a huge budget deficit the US has become hostile to a possible rival in Europe. In economic terms, Thatcherism was about deregulation of British financial institutions so that Britain would capture the offshore bank business (enjoyed by such major powers as the Cayman Islands and Leichtenstein). Capital would then flow into London and make it the leading centre of world finance. However capital has also flown out of London (mainly to the USA) as manufacturing capital has found profit rates in Britain too low to make it worth recapitalising industry. Instead they have preferred a bit of speculation in US property markets. But the nasty Europeans with their old-fashioned banking rules have not deregulated in Paris, Frankfurt and Milan thus denying the British their expected reward for liquidating much of its manufacturing base. This is the background to the revolt of the Tory Right who are already refighting the bombing of Dresden and El Alamein.

But these differences spill over to involve factions in all of the parliamentary parties in Britain. They are also a more than convenient diversion from the economic and political onslaught that is being carried out against working people.

### Maastricht is no Business of the Working Class

The simple truth remains that whatever the shape of Europe, united, federal or the existing hotch-potch of nation-states can only offer workers increasing misery. Workers must not be drawn into debates amongst capitalists about how to run their rotten and decaying system.

Those like the ragbag of Trotskyists, Maoists and Stalinists who try to convince workers to participate in the "great debate" about Maastricht are worthy only of scorn.

When the parliamentarians play their games they are simply reflecting the sectional interests of those layers of the bourgeoisie who are pulling the ideological and financial strings. With their agonising over referendums or the future of this or that politician they ensure that we are bombarded with endless irrelevant hype about which quack remedy can ensure the future of their system.

**Workers must not get sucked in. Two fingers to the "great debate". For world communism not capitalist misery.**

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### A Return to the 1930s?

So too is the so-called Uruguay Round of the current GATT talks. Lets remember that GATT was signed because our capitalist rulers realised that the high tariffs of the period 1880-1940 had helped restrict trade, intensify rivalries between imperialists and, in the end, caused war. GATT worked well whilst the boom was on. It allowed the rich nations of the capitalist centres to impose free trade on the weaker "less developed" economies whilst making sure that there were still restrictions on the agricultural exports from the periphery. But the twenty year crisis has led the thieves to fall out.

The supposed cause is soya beans. The US demands that the EC drop its subsidies to French farmers who grow oilseeds (rape, sunflower etc.). It claims that US soya bean farmers lose \$1 billions a year because of EC subsidies. The whole thing is ridiculous in terms of world trade. The US has insisted that this deal be settled before deals on other farm subsidies, services, textiles, intellectual property etc. At the same time the US has also started to create its own rival trade bloc to the EC with Canada and Mexico. This so-called North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) is to consolidate the hold of US multinationals over the US nearer empire whilst it tries to bully the rest of the leading capitalist countries to submit to its world domination. All the capitalist commentators agree that if an agreement could be signed it would create a \$200 billions boost to world trade. But such is the desperation of the global economic situation that the US is holding out over a small percentage of that when it already has the promise of cuts of 24% in EC wheat subsidies. The fact is that the US is using the talks to try to split the Europeans (giving the French the blame). If it can do this it will be so much stronger in the difficult period ahead.

### Trade War or Global War?

But the options are narrowing. For twenty years the capitalist crisis has been managed at an international level by the G7 states. The CWO predicted in 1977 that they would be able to do this for years. But today there is no external enemy like the USSR to keep them together. And it is precisely at the point when their debts are so high that they are running out of new options. The collapse of the ERM also shows this. Previously international speculators have been kept in check because the US Federal Reserve, the Bundesbank, the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England have all got together to bail each other out. But on Black Wednesday the British got caught with their pants down



Across Europe Racism is Spreading but Democracy will not Defend Us Against the Racists

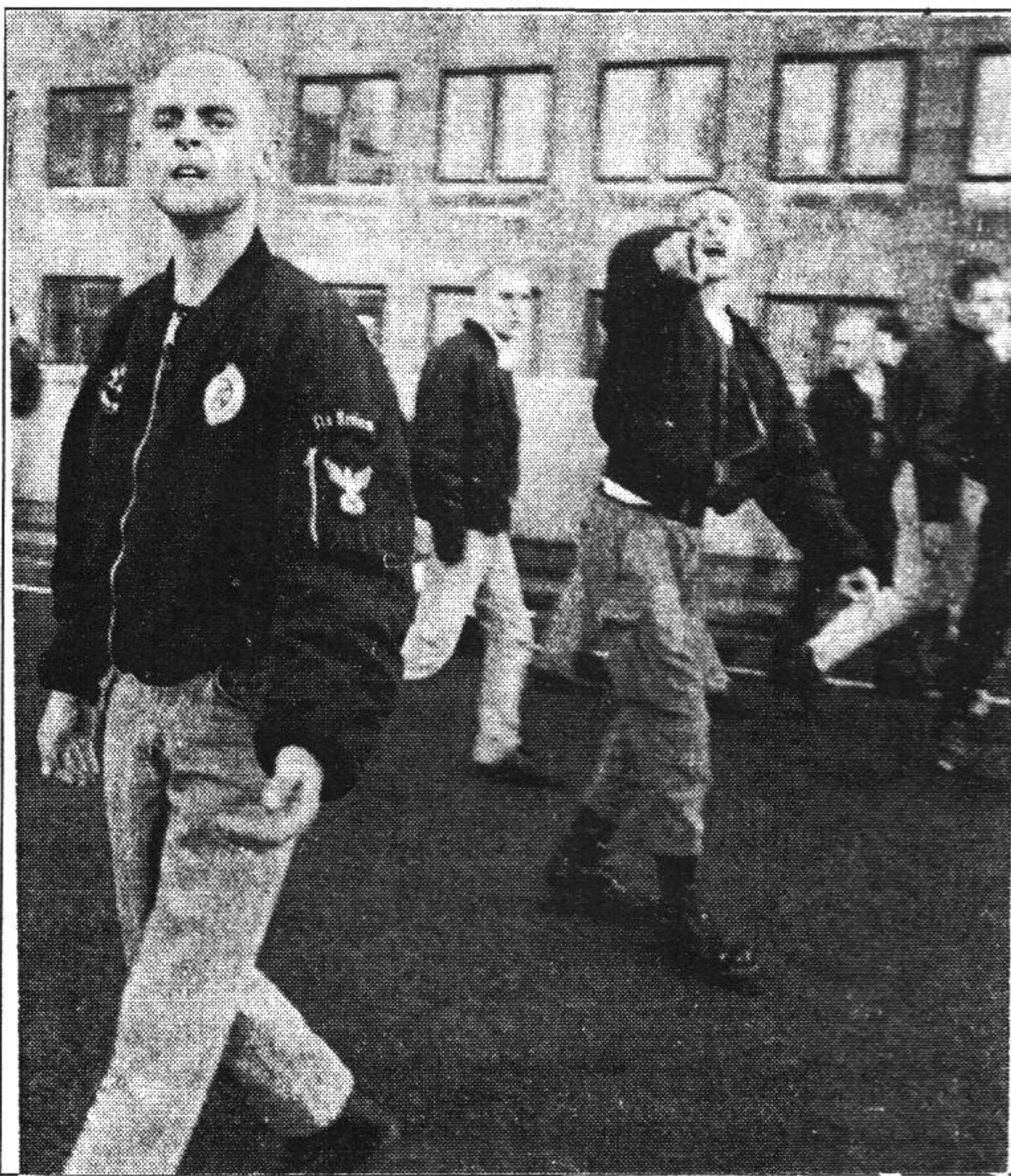
# Fight Racism! Fight Democracy!

As the world economy plunges deeper into crisis the ruling class becomes increasingly anxious to find ways to stop workers fighting back. The bosses have never been slow to find ways to split workers either by trade, by section or by race. Racism is a fact of daily life under democracy for millions of workers in Europe but the latest racist attacks are part of a wave of racism, neo-Nazism and nationalism which is sweeping across Europe. And make no mistake, anyone who thinks that nationalism is not the same as racism need only look to the former Yugoslavia in order to see the reality. So-called "ethnic cleansing" is just the latest sign of a social system which has outlived its usefulness for humanity.

In Western Europe the racists and fascists remain on the ultra-right margins of the bourgeois political spectrum. Although the state apparatus tacitly (and sometimes openly) supports the racist attacks it is not yet mainstream ruling class politics. Racism is at present a minor weapon in the class war and not surprisingly is at its strongest in places like the former East Germany where the economic crisis of the capitalist world is at its most acute.

## Anti-fascism or anti-capitalism?

The growth of racism and fascism is always accompanied by an even greater growth in anti-fascist groups like the Anti-Nazi League in Britain. Let us make our position clear on the ANL. The CWO and other groups



of the Communist Left will fight alongside any workers to defend their areas from racist attacks from the likes of the odious scum of the National

Front and the British Movement. But we will not join with any kind of Popular Front like the ANL. The reason for this is that whilst the fascist groups provide a real and immediate threat to certain groups of workers it is the capitalist democratic system which nurtures this threat. It is the capitalist democratic system which is responsible for the poverty and exploitation of the whole working class. It is the capitalist democratic system which spawns both fascism and imperialism. We cannot join in any body like the ANL which is backed by the Labour Party and Socialist Workers' Party to DEFEND DEMOCRACY (i.e. defend capitalism). Democracy has nothing to offer the working class and democracy uses the fascist threat to get workers to support it as the lesser evil. The idea that democracy can defend the workers against racism must sound very funny to those who live in Brixton, Handsworth, St. Pauls and Toxteth

who have had to defend their areas from attacks by a racist state.

Racism may not yet be part of the state's official ideology but it has certainly allowed it to flourish. How was it that the mighty German government was unable to control a handful of skinheads in Rostock from burning down immigrant hostels? The police looked on whilst the democratically elected state government described the racists' behaviour as "understandable". Remember that it was the so-called democrats in Italy and Germany who invited the Fascists and the Nazis to take over. But they only did so AFTER the workers movement had already been crushed by a combination of liberals and socialists who did not hesitate to shoot workers.

## What is to be done?

So, whilst we do not defend democracy against the fascists this does not mean that the racist and fascist gangs can be ignored. Although marginal to capitalist 'high' politics the Nazis do pose a real threat to workers of ethnic minority groups. We must therefore clearly denounce the vile racist ideas with which they attempt to divide the working class and retard the anti-capitalist struggle. Moreover communists should support, and where possible become involved in organising autonomous groups of workers to expel the racists from their neighbourhoods. This is the task of the workers themselves. It is futile to ask the police or the Labour Party to do it for us.

## Life of the Organisation

With the current crisis not just of the British state but of the capitalist world in general Workers' Voice now returns to a more regular appearance. The frequency of future publication depends on two things. The first is the general political situation. If it demands it we will not fail to respond. The second is the support of our readers and sympathisers, both financially and politically.

Fifteen years of capitalist onslaught have left communist groups as tiny minorities compared to the tasks in front of us. Our resources are inadequate to fight the lies of the capitalists (both free market and state varieties).

We therefore appeal to all contacts, readers, sympathisers and subscribers to help in the struggle to give an authentic internationalist communist voice to the process of self-emancipation of the working class.

You can help by sending for bundles of leaflets (four separate ones have been issued in the last fortnight), or papers. The life blood of political organisation is debate so you could also help by sending us letters (however critical), either about articles in previous issues or about your own experiences or ideas.

The continuation of capitalist rule depends on the passivity of the exploited class. Help us to break that cycle.

## Red October 1917.

### A Part of Our History

### They Are Trying to Bury

November 7th is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the workers' revolution in Russia.

Our ruling class tell us that this revolution failed. The Stalinists told it succeeded. Both lied. To fight theses and other lies Workers' Voice is holding a public meeting to examine the real history of that revolution and the lessons for the working class of today.

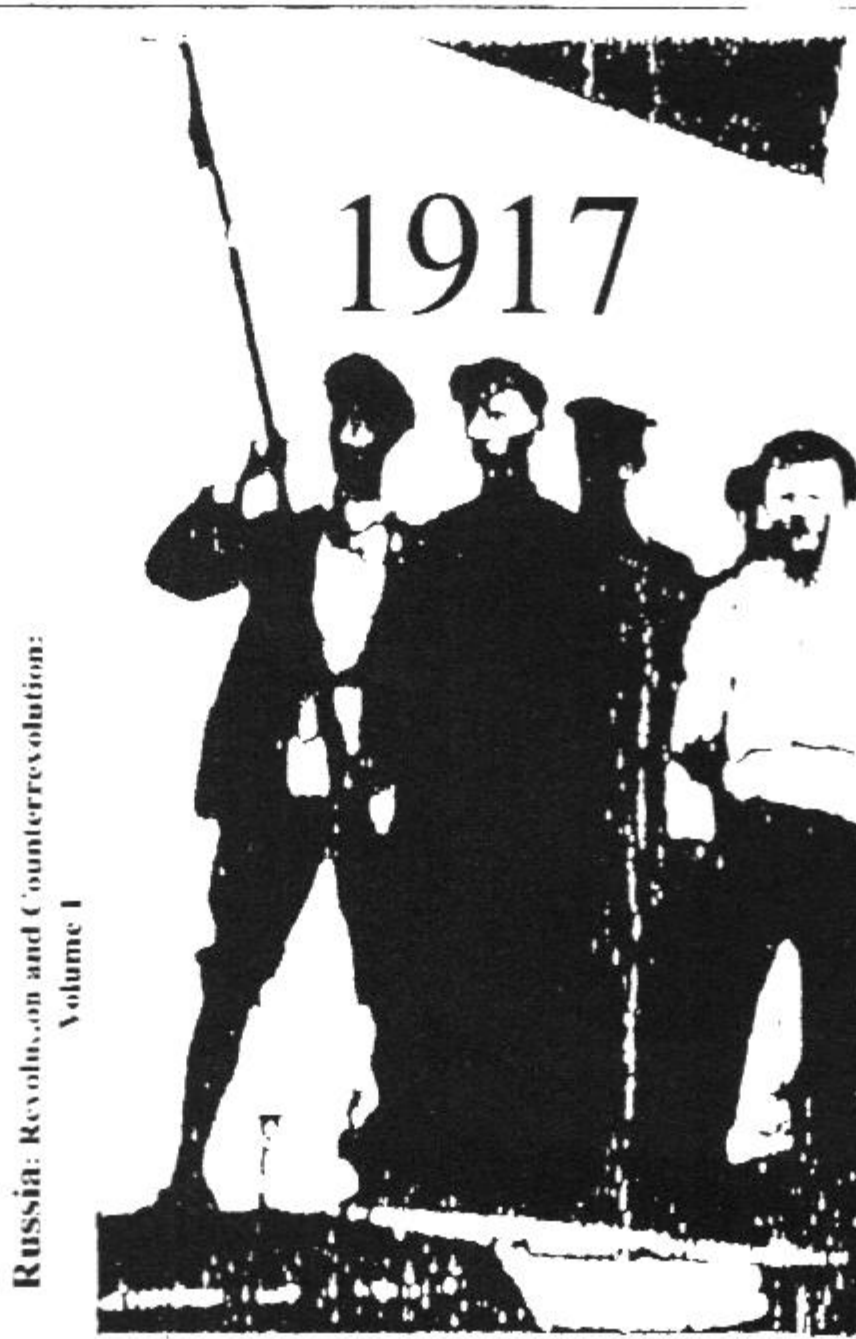
A genuine discussion meeting - all are welcome.

**2.30 p.m., Saturday, November 7th**  
**Foresters Inn, Division Street,**  
**Sheffield**

### Correction

In a footnote to an article on the Italian Left in WV62 we stated that Michel Roger was a Trotskyist. This was a mistranslation from a letter in French by Philippe Bourrinet. The comrade writes to us

*Michel Roger is an old member of the ICC (since 1977); member of RI's executive commission. It is true that the direction of the Michel Roger thesis (whose chapter was published from the ICC's pamphlet) is essentially Trotskyist.*



CWO Pamphlet Number 2.

Price £2

## Our Basic Positions

1. We aim to establish a stateless, classless, moneyless society without exploitation, national frontiers or standing armies and in which "the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all" (Marx): COMMUNISM.
2. Such a society will need a revolutionary state for its introduction. This state will be run by workers councils, consisting of instantly recallable delegates from every section of the working class. Their rule is called the dictatorship of the proletariat because it cannot exist without the forcible overthrow and keeping down of the capitalist class worldwide.
3. The first stage in this is the political organisation of class-conscious workers and their eventual union into an international political party for the promotion of world revolution.

4. The Russian October Revolution of 1917 remains a brilliant inspiration for us. It showed that workers could overthrow the capitalist class. Only the isolation and decimation of the Russian working class destroyed their revolutionary vision of 1917. What was set up in Russia in the 1920's and after was not communism but centrally planned state capitalism. There have as yet been no communist states anywhere in the world.
5. The International Bureau for the Revolutionary Party was founded by the heirs of the Italian Left who tried to fight the political degeneration of the Russian Revolution and the Comintern in the 1920's. We are continuing the task which the Russian Revolution promised but failed to achieve - the freeing of the workers of the world and the establishment of communism. Join us!

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