

We've been shot at by both sides in the South Atlantic.

Though the media would have us think that the 'free, democratic, British state' is fighting a 'brutal, fascist, Argentine junta', the rulers of both countries have a lot in common. Their differences are a matter of degree rather than of principle. Both countries have millions unemployed, and rising rents and prices while wages are held down. Relative economic prosperity allows the British rulers to treat people a little less nastily at the moment. They fire plastic bullets at demonstrators in Belfast, lead ones in Buenos Aires. In Britain dissidents face police harassment and occasionally incarceration in prisons and mental hospitals. In Argentina its death squads and torture chambers.

Both sides needed the war to divert people from fighting back against capitalism's economic crisis. The dispute was gaining momentum while workers in Argentina took to the streets to resist their rulers, while in Britain our rulers fear a bigger and better repeat of last summer's riots. Now the rulers of both countries hope these struggles will be drowned by a wave of chauvinist jingoism. And both sides now have the war as a handy scapegoat for their troubles, and working class resistance can be put down as 'unpatriotic'.

How can we choose sides in their dispute? The British Empire and the Argentine Republic are both our enemies. Like all states, in so-called 'socialist' countries as well as the west, they are committed to preserving their brand of capitalism and are prepared to defend it by brutal attacks on the working class in their own countries, and by sending young men to kill, and be killed by fellow workers from other countries. And so long as there are competing states and power blocs, there will always be wars. No government can prevent this, however much they shout about peace. The Falklanders have had a brutal lesson in what can happen when we rely on the state to 'defend' us. Whatever happens they now face many years living with their islands under military occupation by British, Argentine or UN troops.

The only war worth fighting is the class war against the rulers of every country. In the last four months the workers in Poland have shown it is possible to keep up some resistance to the most repressive regimes. We can hope the Argentine workers can follow this, and assist both these struggles if we possibly can. But we have the most power to act against the ruling class here in Britain. We can extend the struggles in our own communities and workplaces. We can reject the leadership of all would-be governments and start acting together towards creating a co-operative world without states, national boundaries or war.

What better opportunity to demolish the British state than when half its troops are out of the country?!!

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI COLLECTIVE, C/O 163 KING STREET, ABERDEEN. (14-5-82)