

The Line of March

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TUC CONFERENCE 2014

**For a New Direction for the Economy!
Take Up Defence of the Rights of All!**

REFERENDUM ON SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

**Yes! for a Modern Scotland
where the People Are Sovereign!**



NO TO NATO!

Britain Out of NATO!

Fight for an Anti-War Government!

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TUC CONGRESS 2014:

The Working Class Must Take Up Defence of the Rights of All

As the TUC Congress 2014 convenes, it is essential that the organised workers make all the necessary preparations to defeat the austerity agenda. This agenda, being implemented by the Coalition government, is an agenda which has everything to do with capital-centred thinking and action, and ensures that neo-liberalism is implemented throughout society. It is an agenda to push through the programme whereby the whole of society is geared to paying the rich. It is backed by an outlook which defends the owners of capital, and does not even recognise the rights of the working class and their claims on society. It does not recognise that the working class is the producing class, a class which produces all goods and services within the socialised economy, a class which produces all value.

To break through this outlook, to break with what is holding back the organised workers' movement, the challenge facing the TUC and the working class is to assert their own programme based on resisting the assault on their rights and on organising to defend the rights of all, to defend the claims of all human beings on society for health, education, a livelihood, and everything a modern socialised society is capable of producing. As a crucial step, the organised workers must fight against the disequilibrium imposed by monopoly capital. Their dignity demands to fight against all attempts to blame them for the crisis, to call them a "cost of production", to drive down their wages, to dictate to them – that is, the vast majority of society who are workers involved in production and services – that to save the economy, the claims of capital must take priority. The opposite is the case: to build a human-centred economy fulfilling the needs of the people, what is required is to rein in ever more progressively the claims of monopoly capital.

The May 2015 general election will be an arena of struggle for the working class. That is how the workers should view it. They cannot accept to be marginalised from political life. It is the workers themselves who have the solution to the political and economic problems, not just of the day, but to the deep-seated crisis which even in its "recovery" phase brings no benefit to the working class and people. They must take up for solution ending the state arrangements that cause so much destruction and wrecking to the national economy and to the social programmes such as health, education, retirement pensions and so on.

The trade unions have been facing the effects of this crisis of the capitalist system. They have been responding with the aspirations not only to defend their members, but to defend the interests of all workers in society. All members of society have the demand that a right to livelihood be guaranteed. The organised workers' movement has to be forward-looking. In fighting for the public good, for the well-being of society, the working class can and must take the lead, organise so as to unite as one, being conscious that the future of a human-centred, caring society is at stake.

Because of the destruction of the national economy, its manufacturing base, and the refusal of the powers-that-be to recognise not just the rights of the workers, but the rights of all, the TUC on behalf of the trade union movement has really no option if it is to do its duty but to set its programme on the basis that there is a necessity for a new direction for the economy and for the whole of society. This is as true in the fight for the right to health care and education, for instance, as it is for the fight for a self-reliant, non-parasitic, human-centred national economy.

If the workers themselves are determined to sort out what is what, they will see that they have the ability and power to turn the situation around and move forward to a society where they themselves set the agenda and empower the people to be the decision-makers. The fight is on in the here-and-now to oppose the dictate of Westminster and the demands of the owners of monopoly capital. Every fight is necessary to put a spanner in the works of the juggernaut of "austerity" and the neo-liberal programme.

Everything cannot and must not be subordinate to the profit-making motive, which disregards the well-being of the people and the role of the working class, and destroys the economy. Instead, the working class must inscribe on its banner the defence of the rights of all, and set its sights on dictating that the society must serve its members, not be geared to cut-backs, privatisation and paying the rich. The organised workers' movement has the power to rise to the occasion, to participate in the 2015 election to defeat the austerity agenda, to elect candidates who stand for the alternative, and to open a path to the independent programme of the working class.

For a New Direction for the Economy! Build the Workers' Opposition! All Out to Defend the Rights of All!

REFERENDUM ON SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENCE:

The Call for a Modern Sovereign Scotland

The referendum on the independence of Scotland on September 18 presents a very exciting prospect for the Scottish nation-building project, and for opening a path to empowerment, not only for the people of Scotland but for the working class and people of Britain as a whole.

The exercise of Scotland's sovereignty is crucial to the renewal both of Scotland and of Britain as a whole and the national question is of concern to everyone. The fight for sovereignty in Scotland will contribute to the fight for the sovereignty of the working class and people throughout Britain.

The opportunity which the Scottish people are presented with is to take up their nation-building project in earnest so that the future will be under the people's control. The working class must take the lead in building a sovereign Scotland which defends the rights of all. They must take the lead in defining a modern sovereign Scotland as a central part of fighting the anti-social offensive and the neo-liberal policies which international monopoly capital seeks to impose throughout the world, including in Britain and the EU.

The issue presented in this referendum is that the future of Scotland should be in the hands of the people of Scotland. In our opinion, the working class of England, Scotland and Wales, as well as the people of the island of Ireland, should support the Scottish people in the exercise of this choice to vote Yes. This is a fight for something new, and it this aspect of opening the path for the New that is something which is the crucial aspect of the referendum.

The referendum on devolution in 1997 itself, though Westminster then deliberately did not raise the question of the independence of Wales and Scotland, reflected the demand for national self-determination of the Welsh and Scottish peoples. It established that to oppose this demand reflected the chauvinism of the Westminster ruling elite.

Even should the No vote prevail, the path to national self-determination for the Scottish people is unstoppable. The rich and the monopolies may do all they can to continue to deprive of empowerment not only the Scottish nation and its working class, but the working class and people of England and Wales also, while the Irish people continue to work towards the unification of their country as a whole. However, the fact that the issue of rights and a modern constitution has been put at the centre of the campaign to say Yes to an independent Scotland has established these issues in the consciousness of the Scottish people as



fundamental. The struggle will continue to establish new state arrangements which favour the nation-building project led by the working class.

To take a stand for Scotland's independence is a just stand, a stand to right the historical injustice of the subjugation of Scotland by the English ruling elite over centuries. Once this injustice is overturned, not only does it open the path to ending inequality and class privilege in Scotland, but it will strengthen the fighting unity of the working class in England and Scotland. The working class will also be in a position to advocate a voluntary union of modern sovereign states which will be an advance when sovereign peoples are in a position to block the power of the state arrangements to deprive the working class and people of decision-making power.

The way the establishment parties of Westminster have combined to advocate a No vote has shown the self-serving nature of these parties and their vested interests, which have nothing to do with guaranteeing the rights of the people, not least the right to participate in governance. The objections that have been put in place from Westminster have demonstrated the ill-will towards the people sorting out problems in the course of the Scottish nation-building project. No doubt to sort out outstanding problems will require new thinking and new ways of organising, but this is precisely the motion of the Scottish working class and people which the referendum represents.

A Yes vote is the most practical step the people resident in Scotland can take right now to open the door to resolving problems of governance and of conditions in favour of the working class and people, and opening a path to a future where the rights of all are defended!

Draft Scottish Constitution Declares: The People are Sovereign

A fundamental issue facing the working class and broad sections of the people across Britain is to bring about a political system based on rights, closely connected to the question of where sovereign power lies and the need for democratic renewal of the political process. One important feature of developments in Scotland is how these issues are actually being argued out in the course of real life, rather than remaining abstract questions.

Ensuring the funding of Scotland's institutions under the austerity programme enforced by Westminster has posed these issues as concrete problems. The argument that the process of devolution has put Scotland in control of its health service, for example, no longer holds water. It is to the credit of the independence movement that out of this problem it has placed the need for a constitution that embodies rights, including the right to healthcare, on the agenda. The Interim Constitution proposed in the draft Scottish Independence Bill published in June this year reflects this in its section on rights, which states that every person has certain rights and freedoms (for this it defers to the European Convention on Human Rights [ECHR]) and that "Scots law is of no effect so far as it is incompatible with those rights and fundamental freedoms". Further, "the Scottish Government and public authorities must, in carrying out their functions, respect and comply with those rights and freedoms".

The explanatory notes to the draft Bill raise the following significant point: "In addition to first-generation civil and political human rights – which apply to Scotland through the ECHR – there are some second and third generation human rights on social and economic matters which the Scottish Government would suggest for inclusion in the permanent constitution. These would cover areas such as the right to education for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole, the right to healthcare and protections for children. This would also cover the 'Youth Guarantee' as discussed in Scotland's Future. This would establish access to education, training or employment as constitutional rights for young people up to the age of 24."

Of even greater significance, the Draft Interim Constitution opens with the sentence: "In Scotland, the people are sovereign."

This principle, a radical break from the present British constitutional arrangements, is linked in the Constitution with self-determination:

"In Scotland, the people have the sovereign right to self-determination and to choose freely the form in which their State is to be constituted and how they are to be governed. All State power and authority accordingly derives from, and is subject to, the sovereign will of the people, and those exercising State power and authority are accountable for it to the people."

The explanatory notes elaborate: "That sovereignty lies with the people will be the fundamental political, constitutional and legal organising principle of an independent Scotland. It

is a principle charged with historical resonance, affirming the ancient Scots constitutional tradition that Monarchs and Parliaments are the servants of the people. Sovereignty of the people was clearly set out as early as the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, refined in the writings of George Buchanan in the late 16th century, declared in Scotland's first Claim of Right in 1689 and proclaimed again for modern Scotland by the Constitutional Convention in 1989. ...

"The referendum, and becoming an independent country, would be an act of self-determination by the people of Scotland. However self-determination is permanent and that principle would continue to be respected following independence by the on-going democratic nature of government in Scotland.

"... to be sovereign entails being autonomous from external control or interference and having the capacity to make decisions about your own society without being contradicted or having your decisions set aside. That authority is limited only by the sovereign power of the people to bind themselves by such agreements as they choose freely to enter into ... Therefore the constitution is a manifestation of the people's sovereignty which, once it exists, sets parameters for the exercise of that sovereignty."

On this basis, the Draft Constitution contains sections on state accountability to the people. As the notes explain:

"Section 12 proposes making explicit constitutional provision, for the first time, that the Parliament and its members collectively, as the elected representatives of the sovereign people of Scotland, are accountable to the people for their actions. It also provides that the Scottish Government and its members – the First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and Law Officers – are accountable to the Scottish Parliament and, through the Parliament, to the sovereign people of Scotland. ... This provision is also a practical articulation of the sovereignty of the people – Parliament and Government are subject to the people and their authority derives from the people."

The Draft Constitution illustrates how forward-looking an independent Scotland could be. Though still bound to the party-dominated system of representative democracy, and though it contains the contradiction that the head of state remains the British monarch, preserving the Union of Crowns, in obvious tension with its core principles of popular sovereignty and self-determination, it opens up the real possibility of fighting for the alternative and for direct decision-making power in Scotland.

For such a written constitution to be brought into being in opposition to the archaic United Kingdom would send shocks waves through Britain. Its core principles put it both in direct contention with the British establishment and in unity with the people of Britain as a whole. It is certain to have a profound effect on the political life of all nations of this island, and is itself a reflection of the developing alternative.

Wilful Obstruction from “No” Campaign

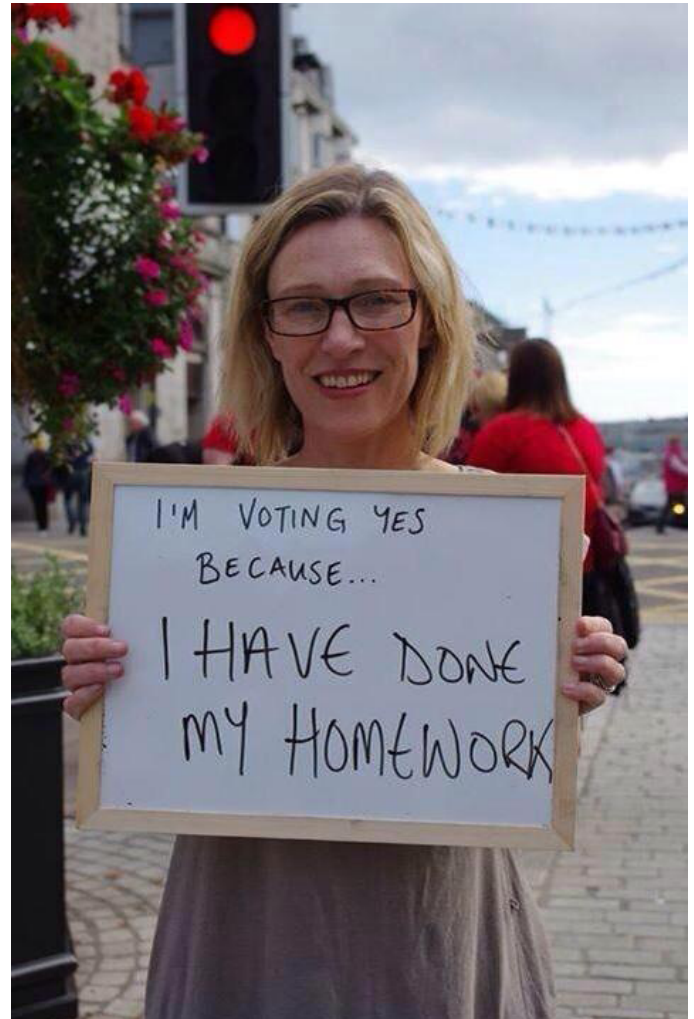
In the last few weeks before the referendum on Scotland’s independence, those who oppose an independent and sovereign Scotland have stepped up their campaign of disinformation. What has been demonstrated is that all of the major parties at Westminster, including their Welsh and Scottish sections, oppose Scotland’s independence. Instead of treating the issue with seriousness and recognising that, like all nations, Scotland has the right to self-determination, the No Campaign has done everything to confuse the issue, attempted to create hysteria and done everything to place obstacles to prevent the emergence of an independent Scotland.

The No Campaign has focused on scaremongering about various economic issues, for example claiming that independence will mean increased job insecurity, lower wage levels and higher unemployment. At the same time, particularly during the televised debates, Alistair Darling, the leader of the “Better Together” campaign has placed particular emphasis on which currency an independent Scotland would use following earlier comments from George Osborne, the Chancellor, that “if Scotland walks away from the UK, it walks away from the pound,” and similarly hostile comments from the Governor of the Bank of England. The opposition to an independent Scotland presents itself on the one hand with disinformation and scaremongering and on the other with obstacles and threats.

The fact that there is a Westminster consensus opposed to Scotland’s independence, to the right of the nation of Scotland to self-determination and the people of Scotland exercising their sovereignty, exposes the reactionary nature of the entire Westminster political system. It highlights the fact that there is an urgent need for democratic renewal and modern political arrangements not just in Scotland but also in England, Wales and Ireland too. The aim of the Westminster consensus is to ignore the question of where sovereignty should lie in a modern state and reduce the discussion to one of whether Scotland “is better off in or out”.

Such pragmatism attempts to negate the aspiration of the Scottish people for their own modern nation-building project. For such a project to succeed, it must set a new direction for the Scottish economy that is human-centred, not bound by neo-liberal assumptions that favour the interests of the monopolies. Its aim must be to guarantee the rights of all, which importantly includes the collective rights of the workers to job security, and standards of wages and working conditions. To end the perpetual worry of job losses and destruction of the productive forces requires a self-reliant, diverse economy.

A pillar of the disinformation campaign is therefore the attempt to keep all discussion of the economy in particular bound by the neo-liberal assumptions and the capital-centred outlook. From this starting-point, so-called fatal problems are placed in the way of independence and self-determination, which are rather problems of the neo-liberal economy.



The question must be asked why should obstacles be placed in the way of Scotland’s independence, why should threats be made against the people of Scotland exercising their sovereignty and becoming the decision-makers in regard to their country’s future? The answer raises further questions of what is meant by sovereignty and where sovereign power should lie in a modern society.

The referendum therefore presents an opportunity for the working class in Britain and Ireland to take up all of these questions from its own standpoint. This means starting to discuss and begin to build the new mechanisms required to renew democracy on the basis of the sovereignty of the people, breaking the stranglehold of the big parties on politics. The disinformation and threats of the No Campaign aim to prevent Scotland exercising its right to self-determination, and deny the people of Scotland their sovereign rights. At the same time the aim is to preserve the status quo not just in Scotland but also in regard to England, Wales and Ireland.

NO TO NATO! CONDEMN THE WARMONGERING NATO SUMMIT!

Britain Out of NATO!

Statement of RCPB(ML), August 30, 2014

Opposition is mounting to the warmongering North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit being held at Celtic Manor in Newport, Wales from 4-5 September. The government has been forced to erect a 12-mile “ring of steel” around the summit, and garrison 10,000 police in Wales in order to secure the warmongers’ protection from the justifiable anger of the people and to attempt to prevent the people’s opposition and create a climate of fear and intimidation.

The government must be condemned for its continued membership of such a criminal organisation and for hosting its summit, the first in two years, which is expected to attract over 150 heads of state and ministers from some 60 countries, including US President Barack Obama. The summit, said to be the largest ever gathering of political leaders in Britain’s history, is being held at a time when the criminal military intervention carried out by NATO in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere has plunged the world into a state of unprecedented instability and turmoil. NATO’s criminal activity, in contention with its rivals, has caused the loss of millions of lives, and created levels of devastation, violence and anarchy in some regions that seem likely to engulf the world in new wars, a situation used as the pretext for further NATO military intervention.

The example of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia 15 years ago, of which Tony Blair was an enthusiastic champion, demonstrates the aggressive character of NATO and its use as tool of domination. It is a huge irony that Blair himself described this aggression as necessary to avert what would otherwise have been “a humanitarian disaster”. The warning of the nature of NATO plans for Ukraine is very clear.

As if to highlight the warmongering aims of the aggressive US-led NATO alliance, ahead of the summit the organisation has held emergency meetings to discuss what further pressure it can bring to bear on Russia, following tendentious allegations that Russian armed forces have “invaded” the east of Ukraine and are responsible for the current conflict there. President Obama has threateningly reiterated that NATO will provide “unwavering” support for all its members, that the summit will discuss how it can prepare itself for any challenge from Russia, and that NATO will strengthen its so-called “co-operation” and “working together” with the Ukraine. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen went even further claiming that NATO’s “response force” was in readiness, that NATO was assisting with the modernisation of Ukraine’s army and that it was seeking additional bases in Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Prime Minister has provocatively announced that his government will seek to end the country’s “non-bloc” status and seek membership of NATO.

NATO expansion in Eastern Europe, which is already being



championed by the government of Poland, is in direct contravention of the 1997 NATO-Russia Act. Prime Minister Cameron has already called for a “review” of NATO’s relationship with Russia and it appears that this NATO summit, using the pretext of the Ukraine crisis, may well be used to overcome opposition within NATO, particularly from Germany, and alter the facts on the ground.

Successive British governments have demonstrated their slavish support for the US-dominated NATO and in this regard Cameron’s government is no different. The current government should be condemned for its sabre-rattling in regard to Russia and warmongering demands for NATO expansion in Eastern Europe. The government is also intending to use the summit to demand increased funding for NATO, for a commitment to maintain NATO intervention in Afghanistan so as to consolidate the creation of a proxy state there, as well as in Georgia and elsewhere. Indeed Cameron is urging a strengthening of NATO’s global partnerships in order to further the interventionist aims of Britain, the US and their allies.

Far from being a factor for global peace and stability or a basis for economic growth, NATO remains an alliance for war and instability, an unnecessary drain on the economies of Britain and other countries in which the majority of people have no decision-making powers.

The aim of the United States in consolidating NATO is clearly to secure its domination, not only through Eastern Europe to Asia, but also to Africa and not least in the whole of North America itself. The big powers of Europe, for their part, have been themselves concentrating power in the Europe of the monopolies, and see their participation in NATO also from this perspective. Altogether, the aim of the participants in NATO is to build that force which is moulded to carry out aggression as required on a co-ordinated and swift basis anywhere in the

world. However, the incoherence of the plans and the contention between Europe and the US present problems. As the briefing of the British government says, it is an “unpredictable world”. When the talk is of “building stability” in this world, then the issue for NATO is to impose neo-liberalism and fascism through force of arms. This scenario does not come cheap, and it is evident that one of the main emphases in the summit is going to be that the US is urging the European participants to shoulder more of the bill. As the US National Security Advisor Susan Rice is quoted as saying, “Europe needs to take defence spending seriously and meet NATO’s benchmark.”

The times cry out for mounting opposition to the warmonger-

ing NATO. Britain’s membership must be ended. The working class and people should also be vigilant about what the British state is planning at home as a corollary to the summit, bearing in mind that in 2005 when the G8 leaders met in Gleneagles, Scotland, the 7/7 bombings were carried out in London, with all the hallmarks of a state-organised outrage to deflect attention from the people’s opposition to these leaders of the capitalist world.

All peace-loving people must step up their efforts to stay the hands of the warmongers in Ukraine, to end Britain’s intervention throughout the world and create the conditions for establishing an anti-war government.

***Down with the warmongering NATO alliance!
Britain Out of NATO! Fight for an Anti-War Government!***

Actions in Newport against Aggressive NATO Alliance

This month thousands of people in Wales and throughout Britain and Ireland took part in opposition to the warmongering North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Wales at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport. On Saturday, August 30, there was a mass demonstration and rally in Newport. This is being followed two counter-summits, culminating with a march on Celtic Manor on Thursday and a protest outside the Cardiff Castle “banquet of death” of the world’s ruling elite the same evening. Among other actions, protesters also opened a peace camp opposed to the summit at Newport’s Tredegar Park.

On August 30, several thousand people from the local area and from many areas of Britain gathered in Newport. At the civic centre, over 1,000 people headed by the banner No New Wars – No To Nato took part in a militant demonstration around the streets of Newport finishing with a rally occupying the famous Westgate Hotel Square. This square was where the Chartists staged an uprising in 1939 against the refusal of Parliament to grant the people the right to a vote. Today, the modern oppressors have erected a ring of steel around Newport’s Celtic Manor, Cardiff Castle and Cardiff Bay to “secure” NATO warships. All this in a £55 million operation with 10,000 police to protect themselves whilst they plot to establish infrastructures to enhance NATO’s aggressive capability in the Baltic, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Active participants representing the anti-war movement throughout Britain, Ireland, Europe, Russia, Ukraine and the US took part in the demonstration and rally and addressed the counter summits.

Rally in Newport

At the rally in the centre of Newport, the opening speaker



was Bethan Jenkins, Plaid AM for South Wales West, and the youngest member of the Welsh Assembly. She said, “What free and competent people ever arose to embrace NATO? NATO is no solution to the vandalism that NATO has already inflicted.” She said that “under NATO the logic of security is dominion. Protection can only be exhorted at the price of domination. It would appear that the place amongst the first league of nations

is not earned by compassion and collective feats, nor through the elimination of poverty, suffering and inequality, but rather we must pay so our leaders can wear the necklace of destruction around their necks." Bethan Jenkins concluded: "NATO is a self-fulfilling prophesy of war. NATO is the homeless they will not house and the medicines they will not provide. NATO is 22 girls lying dead in a ditch in Kandahar. NATO is the misery that they will pass on to our families, the misery they will never know. The tab from which the butcher's bill is met!"

Ali Ahmed, deputy lord mayor of Cardiff Council, also gave a speech saying, "We all know what is happening in Iraq, Gaza, Palestine, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan. Who created all this? It's us, it's America!"

Another speaker, Boris Kagarlitsky a Russian anti-war activist, pointed out, "From Iraq to Ukraine, NATO only causes pain." He said that the new President of Ukraine is coming to Newport to discuss closer co-operation between NATO and Ukraine, "to develop their military effort which is about fighting his own people, his own population in the south east of his own country". He said that they are asking for more money and the money will not go into education, into housing, into health care. "On the contrary, they have already announced they will stop supporting their own industry and jobs but the money will only go into killing people in their own territory." He said here in the West that is something that has to be stopped by stopping NATO. He concluded that "the people in south eastern Ukraine are not resisting for Russia, or because many of them consider themselves Russians, but they are resisting because they want to decide by themselves how to live and they want to fight for their rights, their welfare and their future".

Betty Hunter, Honorary President of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said that NATO was the northern arms traders supplying arms to everyone including Saudi Arabia and Israel. She said that Israel has the fourth most powerful military in the world because the US gives them £3 billion a year which they use to hold the Palestinian people hostage. She said, "We have just been witnessing the slaughter in Gaza, more than 2,000 murdered, tens of thousands injured, hundreds of thousands made homeless and there is supposed to be a truce today." But she said she did not want anyone to be under any illusions. "The purpose of the Israeli state was to destroy the Palestinian people and expel them from their land and they have been doing this for 66 years." And she said, "The same world leaders that are meeting in Newport do nothing while they watch this slaughter and they agree with Israel's continuing expansionist colonial policy in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem." She concluded by saying that "it is us the people who can change history against NATO and against Israel".

Lindsay German, convenor of the Stop the War Coalition, said that "the NATO summit in Newport is not a summit for peace. It is a summit for war." She said that "they are going to increase the enlargement of NATO to the East with all the threats that that brings to further war in the Ukraine". She said that the US was already bombing in Iraq, a situation the Anglo-US powers created in their illegal war killing hundreds of thousands of people. "We don't want war in Ukraine, or anywhere." She said that one purpose of the NATO summit was to pressurise countries to spend more on war at the expense of public services and



the well-being of the people and she concluded by asking people to remember the constant lies which the Anglo-US NATO powers use as a so-called justification for war. "Every day they say it is the Russian threat, or the ISIS threat, or it is the Hamas threat, or it is somebody's threat. No! It is the big powers and NATO threat! They are the people we have to oppose!"

Counter Summits

Around 150 people took part in the counter-summits, easily matching the number of leaders taking part in the NATO summit. These were held on Sunday August 31 at Cardiff County Hall and then the second conference took place on Monday September 1 at the Newport Dolman Theatre. These alternative conferences condemned NATO as the greatest threat to world peace and had the aim of building the anti-war movement against NATO, war and militarisation and for planning future joint actions across Europe. For example, in a session on "Ukraine and the new cold war", John Rees representing the Stop the War Coalition said that what the government and their media outlets are trying to remove from the picture was the entire post-war expansion of NATO to the east. They were trying to focus on eliminating any memory of NATO's massive crimes over recent years and over the post-war times. He said that on the foundation of NATO in 1949 the first President of NATO, Lord Ismay, was the one who put the purpose, definition and function of that military alliance very clearly. Rees quoted Lord Ismay as saying that "the purpose of NATO was to keep the Russians out the Americans in and the Germans down". The conferences exposed that today the US, along with its big power allies, are the biggest spenders on, and suppliers of armaments and weapons of mass destruction, which together dwarf any other industrialised state including Russia and China. Thus the conferences highlighted that it was the US and its big power allies along with their criminal military alliance of NATO that is behind the mayhem and destruction and war in every part of the globe, the cause of the most dangerous world situation to date.

WORKERS' AND PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS:

130th Durham Miners Gala: Long May the Gala and Big Meeting Continue to Mobilise the Workers behind their Class Interests!

On July 12, an estimated 100,000 people took part in the 130th Durham Miners Gala which was also dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the 1984/5 miners' strike.

This year the crowds were so great that the traditional parade of banners took several hours longer to make its way to the racecourse. David Hopper, General Secretary of the Durham Miners Association (DMA), who chaired the big meeting, told the crowd that it was probably the best attendance he had seen since the pits were all open in the 1960s with 47 band groups, 80 miners' banners and many more trade union banners than before. Dave Hopper pointed out that every year the gala is increasingly getting financially attacked by the authorities, and he said the DMA is in a very, very difficult situation to keep it going. But he hailed the support of the Friends of the Durham Miners Gala and the trade unions who have supported the gala through thick and thin, and will no doubt continue their support as long as there is a gala in Durham. He assured those that took part that whilst there had been some speculation in the press, "We will be back next year – that's a certainty!"

It was a beautifully sunny day as the contingents headed by their bands began to march through Durham before 9.00am, stopping to play for the Big Meeting speakers and guests on the balcony of the Royal County hotel. This year these included Christine Blower, General Secretary of the NUT, Steve Gillan, General Secretary of the Prison Officers Association (POA), and Paul Kenny, General Secretary of the GMB.

RCPB(ML) took part in the Gala with its programme, *Fight for the Alternative! Stop Paying the Rich, Increase Investments in Social Programmes! For an Anti-War Government!* The Party banner with the programme emblazoned on it was in the centre of the march onto the racecourse and this year there was growing interest in the views of the Party comrades and the beautifully presented Party publication and the call of the Northern Region in *The Line of March* which was distributed through the parade and from the Party book stall on the racecourse and was sold out of all copies. Hundreds of the Party's Northern Region call were also distributed in a printed version of the *Workers' Weekly Internet Edition* for the day.

At the Big Meeting all the main speakers summed up that the working class movement had increased the mass character of their struggles over the last year and they militantly spoke



of the necessity for an alternative to the government's austerity programme, and the necessity to build this organisation and resistance of the working class and that the working class needs its own agenda to counter the programme and agenda of "austerity" of the Coalition government. There was recognition, including from the speakers on the platform, that there was no expectation that the Labour Party would provide even one alternative policy objective, let alone the practical implementation of such a policy. This revealed that all are considering what the way forward for the working class movement is and how to step up their struggles to defeat the "austerity" agenda. Then comes the challenge of how to utilise the 2015 general election to ensure that the marginalisation of the workers' voice and their class organisations is ended.

For this reason the call of the Northern Region of RCPB(ML) at the Durham Miners Gala addressed these very questions when it called on the whole working class movement to go all out in this intervening period to ensure that the fraudulent, anti-worker and anti-social "austerity" programme of the Con-Dem government is defeated, and that candidates who oppose the agenda of austerity are elected. It pointed out that the working class and people will prevail if they set their sights on becoming the decision-makers and persist in their struggles with this outlook. Crucial for this to be successful, the Party pointed out, is the necessity for the working class to build its own modern communist party to clear the path so that the working class can adopt its own independent political agenda to take the lead in the nations of Britain so as to vest sovereignty in the people and effect a new direction for society.

The Working Class and People Must Set their Sights on Becoming the Decision-Makers and Persist in their Struggles with this Outlook! No to Austerity! For a New Direction for Society!

People's March for the NHS

The People's March for the NHS has been following the route of the historic Jarrow March in 1936. The final leg of their journey brought them to London, with a rally in Trafalgar Square, on Saturday, September 6.

The marchers had left Jarrow in the North East of England on August 16, and for three weeks have been building support for the NHS and joining up with campaigners across the country, walking a distance of nearly 300 miles. The march aimed to make the public aware of what the government has been doing to the NHS, including what has been happening to hospitals and health services. The march was organised by the 999 Call for the NHS campaign, which was created by a number of women from Darlington, known as "the Darlo mums", in response to the government's passing the three pieces of legislation – Health and Social Care Act, Section 75 and Clause 119, which have led to the removal of the Secretary of State's duty to provide national health services, and to the rapid dismantling, privatisation and destruction of the NHS.

The march was supported by All Together for the NHS, a



The first leg from Jarrow to Chester-le-Street

joint campaign co-ordinated by the TUC, bringing together unions and campaigners from across the health sector.

SUPPORT THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

Condemn Israeli Occupation and Aggression! Hands off Gaza!

There has been worldwide condemnation of the savage military onslaught inflicted on the Palestinian men, women and children of Gaza by Zionist Israel. Israel's indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza, a blatant act of state terrorism, has now led to the deaths of over 300 people including many children. The barbaric and criminal nature of these acts of terror on civilians has been such that even Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister, was moved to condemn Israeli Zionism for what he termed "a deliberate form of collective punishment", a term more commonly used in connection with Nazi war crimes. Latest reports indicate how Zionist Israel's ground invasion of Gaza is aimed specifically at smashing Palestinian resistance.

The current bombardment and now invasion, which is so reminiscent of similar crimes carried out by the Israeli state in



the recent past, was precipitated by crimes for which nobody has yet been brought to account – the abduction and murder of three Israel teenagers, followed by the kidnapping and murder of a Palestinian youth, Mohammed Abu Khdeir. The Israeli Zionists blamed the Hamas government of Gaza for the deaths of the three Israel teenagers, an accusation denied by Hamas, and then used these deaths as a pretext to launch attacks on Hamas and the people of Gaza, as well as elsewhere. The government and people of Gaza have heroically resisted the Zionist onslaught and despite the tragic circumstances refused to be intimidated. In recent days, for example, Hamas completely rejected the ceasefire agreement proposed by the Egyptian government, and supported by the British government, on the grounds that it had not been consulted and because such an agreement had clearly been designed to favour the interests of Zionist Israel.

The criminal acts of the government of Israel, including the continued occupation of Palestine and the denial of the national rights of the Palestinians, can only take place because of the continued support of US government and its allies including the government of Britain. As in the past there has been every effort to spread disinformation about the nature of the crimes committed in Palestine and against the Palestinians, with calls to “end the violence on both sides”, or similar platitudes. The aim is to present the state of Israel as an innocent and wronged party that must have the right to defend itself, while the rights of the Palestinians to nationhood and self-determination are ignored and their struggle to defend their rights and for self-defence is equated with “terrorism”.

It seems likely that the current events have been cynically engineered by Zionist Israel and its allies as an attempt to break the unity that has recently been established between the govern-



ments of Gaza and the West Bank in the run up to imminent Palestinian elections. At the same time there is no doubt that Israel has become increasingly isolated and condemned throughout the world, not least for the fact that it refuses to enter into meaningful talks with the Palestinians and continues to build new illegal settlements on occupied territory. The attacks on Gaza are therefore also an attempt to distract attention from the crime of the continued occupation of Palestine, which denies the Palestinians their homeland.

The Line of March calls on everyone to condemn the state terrorism and other crimes being perpetrated against the people of Gaza and their elected government by Zionist Israel and its allies, including the British government. It calls on all to unite with the heroic Palestinian people in their just struggle against occupation, in resisting aggression and for the liberation of their homeland.

Massive Demonstrations in London and World-Wide in Support of the Palestinians' Right to Be

The depth and diversity of the support for the Palestinian cause amongst the British people was reflected in the marches and rallies for Gaza.

Many tens of thousands, as many as 100,000 according to some estimates, took part in the demonstration in London from Downing Street to the Israeli Embassy in Kensington, July 19. Similar demonstrations took place world-wide.

Police estimate that 45,000 marched on July 26 from the Israeli embassy in Kensington to Parliament Square, but the actual number looked much higher.



Demonstration in South Shields, North-East England, in support of the Palestinian resistance, August 5, 2014

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF WAR AND PEACE:

Nazi Germany's Invasion of Poland

by Dougal MacDonald, *The Marxist-Leninist Weekly Information Project*

At 4:15 am on September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland in a massive assault. Hitler's Wehrmacht of 1,850,000 troops, 3,200 tanks, 2,000 combat aircraft and 11 warships – over two-thirds of Germany's entire combat force – destroyed the Polish state and massacred the Polish people.

Behind the Wehrmacht followed Himmler's SS Einsatzgruppen, killing squads specialising in mass murder.

Against Poland, the Nazis perpetrated one of the worst crimes history has ever known. Poland suffered the largest number of casualties per capita of any European country. A total of about six million people were killed. Direct extermination by mass murder, death camps and other means took some 1,750,000 Polish lives. In addition, the state forces of Nazi Germany exterminated 2,700,000 Polish Jews, 2,000,000 Polish children and youth, more than 50,000 Roma, some 12,000 people deemed mentally handicapped, and thousands of Polish prisoners of war, soldiers, and officers who were systematically shot. The German Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) shot some 40,000 Polish intellectuals, political personalities and other leaders within the first six weeks of the Nazi occupation. Prior to the invasion, beginning in May 1939, the Nazi Operation Tannenberg, which was part of Hitler's Generalplan Ost (Masterplan East), had already identified and listed more than 61,000 Polish activists, intelligentsia, scholars, former officers and others, who were to be interned or shot, mainly by the SS. The murder of 5,000-6,000 Poles in Fordon, Bydgoszcz, in October-November 1939 is just one example of the many executions the SS and the Wehrmacht carried out. Other examples include the murder of 4,143 Polish officers found buried in Katyn Forest for which the Nazis and their collaborators blamed the communists and continue to blame the communists so as to exonerate their massive crimes and confound who were the liberators and who were the criminals.

The Polish people were greatly outnumbered but fought back bravely. The state leaders of Poland fled to Romania on September 17, but the Polish people's spirit of resistance remained strong. Many Poles fought courageously in the communist-led underground Resistance. Poles formed their own patriotic divisions and fought alongside the Red Army against the Nazis all the way to Berlin.

Despite the facts, the Hitlerites blame the Soviets for what happened to the Polish people, claiming that Stalin signed a pact with Hitler to let it happen, and Stalin invaded Poland. In fact, the Soviet Army entered the territory of Poland on September 17, only after the Polish state had collapsed, the Polish army had disintegrated, the government had ceased to function and its leaders had fled. The part of Poland the Soviet Union occupied was the territory of the Ukraine and Byelorussia that

Poland had forcibly annexed from the Soviet Union during the Polish-Russian War of 1919-20. At that time, Poland was one of the 14 invading imperialist countries that attempted but failed to strangle the newborn Soviet Socialist Republic. Only about eight per cent of the people in the Ukraine and Byelorussia were of Polish origin.

"As a result of the Soviet Union's timely entry into what had been territories of the Polish state, Hitler was forced to accept a line of demarcation between his troops and the Red Army, a long way west of the then Polish-Russian frontier." (Hardial Bains, *Causes and Lessons of the Second World War*, Toronto: MELS Institute, 1990) The Red Army saved millions of people including Poles inhabiting the Ukraine and Byelorussia from a similar fate that Hitler was at that time wreaking upon the Polish people. Even the virulently anti-communist Winston Churchill publicly justified the Soviet march into eastern Poland.

Today, the modern-day Hitlerites, masquerading as democrats, continue to spread the vicious lies that "Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union secretly conspired to divide Poland between them". Those lies, meant to equate the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany and discredit and split the anti-fascist front led by the communists, were first put forth by Hitler himself in a speech declaring war on the Soviet Union, when he referred to "secret protocols" to divide Poland. Then after their defeat, some Nazi war criminals being tried at Nuremberg resurrected the "secret protocols" in a bid to escape punishment but the Presidium threw them out as a forgery. It was only when the US took up the mantle of Hitlerism during the Cold War and became the modern day master of Goebbels' big lie technique that Hitler's concoction about "secret protocols" became a so-called historical fact. This has now become official contemporary propaganda as well.

The real historical facts clarify why Hitler attacked Poland. In 1939 Poland was an imperialist country formed from the disaster of the First World War by Britain and France through the 1918 Versailles Treaty. "One of its ambitions was to add the rich agricultural regions of the Ukraine to Polish territory and extend Polish territory 'from sea to sea,' from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.[...]The Polish landlords and bourgeoisie dreamed of restoring the Polish empire of medieval times." (Hardial Bains, *Ibid*) Financed and armed by the British and French monopolies who wanted to regain their lost profits and privileges seized by the workers and peasants' revolutionary forces, the Polish rulers attacked the Soviet Union in 1918, occupying large parts of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and Lithuania. During the following 18 years of semi-fascist Polish rule, the Polish landlords and industrialists viciously exploited the workers and peasants in those regions.

As inter-imperialist war clouds loomed over Europe, the Pol-

ish ruling circles refused to see the world as it presented itself, especially the German Nazi imperialists who made no secret of their desire to conquer Europe so as to conquer the world, and their racist contempt of the Polish people. The Polish elite considered Britain and France to be their allies and the Soviet Union their avowed enemy. The Anglo-American and French imperialists wanted to ensure their own leading roles in world domination. They followed a policy of appeasing Hitler and egging him eastward to attack the Soviet Union, rather than organising collective security with the Soviet Union against the avowed eastward expansionism of Nazi Germany into industrial, oil bearing and rich agricultural regions, hoping that it would become bogged down in a protracted war rather than grow fat from robbing the Soviet Union of its wealth.

For its part, Poland hoped that Hitler would somehow go East and attack the Soviet Union without seizing Poland first, and that from the spoils of war Poland could also capture Soviet territory. Poland refused to settle outstanding border questions thus keeping the Soviet defence line against the Nazis as far east as possible. The Polish state refused the Soviets permission to enter Poland to stop the impending Nazi advance and make it more difficult. Instead of taking all measures necessary to defend the people against the disasters of an obvious Nazi invasion, the Polish rulers, harbouring deep illusions about Hitler's intentions and blinded by anti-communism, preferred instead to engage in fanciful manoeuvres for advantages favouring their private interests.

In attacking Poland, Hitler was both taking up the Anglo-American policy of going East and implementing his own plan outlined in *Mein Kampf*, to increase Germany's "living space" (*lebensraum*) by taking over the Ukraine as part of his plan to enslave the entire world. Hitler made his barbaric intentions toward Poland very clear. Only ten days before the attack, Hitler in his Obersalzberg speech instructed his generals to "send to death mercilessly and without compassion men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space which we need." (E.L. Woodward & Rohan Ritlep [eds.], *Documents on British Foreign Policy: 1919-1939*, 3rd

series, London: HMSO, 7:258-260, 1954) Tragically, in the end, Poland paid very dearly for its ruling class leaders' imperialist ambitions, anti-communism and rejection of Soviet assistance.

Today, the Western governments and reactionary Polish ruling circles continue to spread the same lies that the Nazis did, and try to throw mud on the wartime exploits of the So-

viet Union so as to accuse the communists of crimes against humanity. On September 1, 2009, Polish President Lech Kaczynski called for "glory to all the soldiers who fought in World War Two against German Nazism and Bolshevik totalitarianism". Soon after the April 10, 2010, crash of a Polish airliner near Smolensk, in which Kaczynski and 95 others died, the Polish rulers and others around the world used the tragedy to resurrect the old lie that the Soviet Union and not the Nazis committed the wartime Katyn Forest Massacre. Such deliberate disinformation ignores the fact that it was the Nazis who killed six million Poles and that it was the Red Army together with an allied Polish Army that finally liberated Poland from the Nazi occupiers.

Pamphlet Released August 4, 2014

NO TO IMPERIALIST WAR



Three Articles from
Workers' Weekly Internet Edition
on the Centenary of the First World War

Available to order from office@rcpbml.org.uk
or as a pdf from RCPB(ML)'s website

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT:

RCPB(ML) Participates in CPC(ML) Celebrations

Every August, the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) celebrates several historic anniversaries to learn from the Party's work and the contributions of its founder and leader Hardial Bains as well as pay respects to all those who came forward to build the Party and have passed away. The aim

of the Party is reaffirmed to lead the working class in its historic task of constituting itself the nation and vesting sovereignty in the people so as to open a path to society's progress and avert the grave dangers which face humankind.

A delegation from RCPB(ML) participated in this year's

events, which included a Reception in Ottawa on August 15, which marked the 75th anniversary of the birth of Hardial Bains. Then, on August 16 in the afternoon, friends joined CPC(ML) for a Commemorative Concert at Beechwood Cemetery, followed by the laying of floral tributes at the Party Memorial. The next day at dawn, a traditional gathering organised by the youth took place



Commemorative Concert in Ottawa on August 16



First Secretary of CPC(ML), Sandra L Smith, speaking to open the Commemorative Concert in Toronto on August 23

at the Party Memorial.

The following week, the Hardial Bains Resource Centre sponsored a programme of videos and discussions on the work of Comrade Bains on the 25th anniversary of the historic meeting held in Chertsey, Quebec on August 19, 1989. This culminated on Saturday, August 23, with another Commemorative Concert and a Celebration on the 44th anniversary of the Party press.

RCPB(ML) was very pleased and honoured to have participated in CPC(ML)'s celebrations of its historic anniversaries, regarding our work as one work.

66th Anniversary of Founding of DPRK Celebrated under Leadership of Kim Jong Un

September 9 marks the 66th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The DPRK came into existence as a people-centred socialist society which affirmed the interests and rights of human beings and which would defend its national sovereignty no matter what the pressure. Under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il and now under the respected leadership of Kim Jong Un, such principled stands have made and continue to make the DPRK an impregnable fortress against imperialist provocation and hostility, a factor for peace in the region, and an inspiration to the struggling peoples of the world.

The founding of the DPRK in 1948 was an event of great historical significance for the Korean people and the peoples of the world. For 66 years since its founding, the DPRK has had a difficult road to travel. But at every stage this journey has been marked by great victories. Throughout, the DPRK has contributed to humanity's striving for peace and progress. The existence of the DPRK today, as a modern industrialised state, in which the people contribute to the building of a thriving socialist nation, gives the lie to all the baseless and hysterical propaganda levelled against it by US imperialism, aided and abetted by the British government and the whole of the monopoly-controlled media.

Following the victory over the Japanese imperialists, the DPRK came into being as the realisation of the people's aim to never again be a subject people and to create a society which af-

firmed the needs and rights of human beings. The July 27, 1953, victory over the US demonstrated both the national and anti-imperialist sentiments of the Korean people, their heroic self-sacrificing spirit, and the support enjoyed by the DPRK among the world's progressive forces as a major contributor to world peace.

The founding of the DPRK on September 9, 1948, by President Kim Il Sung was a solemn declaration of the birth of people's Korea, a great event which opened a new era of building a socialist state centred on the humanity of the Korea people.

The US today is as active as ever in pursuing its efforts to conquer the whole of the Korean peninsula so as to dominate all of Asia. But the concrete reality of the DPRK shows the unbreakable unity of the people of the DPRK with their leadership and the armed forces. They have confidence in their socialist nation-building project, are proud citizens of the DPRK, and understand that throughout its history, under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, and of President Kim Il Sung, General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and now the supreme leader Kim Jong Un, the adherence to principle is the strength of the DPRK. The Korean Peninsula is sure to be peacefully reunified at this bedrock of principle, based on the reality that Korea is one!

On the occasion of their national day, The Line of March sends warm greetings to the Korean people and is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in fighting for a new world, a world of peace and progress.



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