

# Workers Weekly

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Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

## Increase Investments in Social Programmes! Stop Paying the Rich!

**O**n September 15, Gordon Brown addressed the TUC Congress in Liverpool on the necessity to make cuts in public spending. Chancellor of

the Exchequer Alistair Darling has been warning of a new era of “spending restraint” and argued to reduce the budget deficit after the current deep economic crisis alleviates. This

is supposed to be a “test of character” for the Labour Party. That old chestnut, much beloved by Tony Blair and others, of the need to make the “hard choices” has informed

the Chancellor’s arguments. In particular, his speech at the Callaghan Lecture in Cardiff on September 8, was said to prepare party and country for

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70th Anniversary of Second World War

## THE FALSIFIERS OF HISTORY HAVE THE AIM OF COVERING UP THEIR OWN PREPARATIONS FOR FASCISM AND WAR

by Chris Coleman\*

**S**eptember 3 marks the 70th anniversary of the declaration of war by Britain and France against Nazi Germany, following Hitler’s invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. On the occasion of this 70th anniversary of

the outbreak of the Second World War, the imperialists and their apologists – as did the leaders at Gdansk on September 1 – have lost no time in attempting once again to rewrite history. They have as an aim to cover up their



Red Army soldiers raise the red flag over the Reichstag in Berlin on May 2, 1945, signifying the victory over fascism in Europe.

plans for state arrangements at home which serve their dictatorial rule, and internationally their preparations for a new inter-imperialist war for the redivision of the world. The focus of their falsifications, as ever, is the role of Stalin

and the Soviet Union in the lead up to the war, in particular the gross slander that Stalin “connived” with Hitler, carved up Poland and set off

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### Workers’ Weekly Youth Group

## In Midst of Crisis, the Youth Are Taking Control of their Future

**A**S THE ECONOMIC CRISIS UNFOLDS, THE DENIAL OF A FUTURE FOR THE YOUTH by society in decline is being thrown into relief. At the same time, young people are increasingly taking up their social responsibility for building a future for themselves.

Youth have borne the brunt of the recession. According to the Office of National Statistics, the employment rate of 16 to 17 year-olds decreased by over 7% between the first and second quarters of this year, while unemployment rate of 25 to 34 year-olds increased by nearly 19%. The BBC estimates that the

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# Save Vestas Day of Action in Newcastle

Report by Workers' Weekly Youth Group

There have been rallies around the country on September 17, the Day of Action in support of the Vestas wind turbine workers on the Isle of Wight. Students and workers met up at the Civic Centre in Newcastle prior to the rally down Northumberland Street through the city centre, to the Newcastle University Business Centre.

The rally sparked interest from youth and passers by. The slogans that were adopted included, "Save Vestas jobs!", "Vestas – Whose factory? Our factory! Whose blades? Our blades! Whose jobs? Our jobs!". These



PHOTO: WORKERS' WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP.

were appropriate given their use by the Vestas workers themselves, and also added to those was the slogan "Whose econo-

my? Our economy!". There were some short speeches at the end in support of the Vestas workers' struggle.

**YOUTH+STUDENT**  
page of the  
**Workers' Weekly Youth Group**

## In Midst of Crisis, the Youth Are Taking Control of their Future

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unemployment rate among 16 to 24 year olds currently stands at 19%. It has been especially reported recently how jobs at graduate level are being eliminated: BT recently closed its graduate recruitment programme to

name one example.

The conditions facing young people are such that the question raises itself: what does the future hold for the youth? In reply, youth are starting to take control of their own future. A current example is the struggle of the workers at the Vestas wind turbine plant on the Isle of Wight. These workers, predominantly aged between late teens to early thirties, have been made redundant and the factory set for closure by the company. They have experienced organising themselves for the first time and have been learning through experience the necessity of keeping the initiative in their own hands, not putting their fate into the hands of other forces. In the political arena, they

have quickly become eloquent and shown they are fully capable of being politicians in their own right. These young workers are beginning to appreciate their potential.

### Young at centre of progress

The issue is that, in a society in crisis, young people are taking up the issues of society. They *are* the future. This is the special characteristic of youth, by virtue of their being the next generation. Young people have a social responsibility to build a bright future for themselves and in so doing, safeguard the future of society. This is both their duty and their right.

The young Vestas workers, for example, are placing themselves in the centre of progress, putting for-

ward their own solutions in favour of society, from defending their jobs to the environment. They are demanding a say as full participants in decision-making. By engaging as a collective in their very practical struggle, they have been finding out together what is what, which has enabled them to seek alternatives and identify the way forward.

### Vitality of the youth

The Vestas workers are not the only young people working and learning collectively, faced with finding solutions to very real difficulties. Out of the crisis, the youth are proving that theirs is the fresh blood that has the vitality to rejuvenate a worn-out society.

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# Workers' Weekly

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# Increase Investments in Social Programmes! Stop Paying the Rich!

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## this cut in government spending.

In this argument, Alistair Darling is covering over the nature of the economic crisis and what the government has done to exacerbate it. It is the mechanisms to ensure that the wealth created nationally and internationally goes to paying the rich that have been deepening the economic crisis the root of which is a social economy and global system in which the ownership of capital and the means of production is in private hands. That the government has been bailing out these owners of monopoly capital has been a powerful force in exacerbating the crisis.

Alistair Darling is leaving decisions on which services will have to take the strain until the autumn's Pre-Budget Report and next year's pre-election Budget, but in his speech he did not "ring-fence" any areas, making plain that even "sacred cows" for Labour, such as the health service, would have to make a contribution.

## Hand-outs to the rich

*The Times* reported last Saturday that the Chancellor, backed by Lord Mandelson, has

persuaded Gordon Brown to abandon the notion that a Labour government could somehow avoid spending curbs.

Gordon Brown is now reported to have admitted that Labour would be forced to rein back spending drastically if re-elected, and this was his message to the TUC. The Prime Minister, who had insisted on contrasting Labour "investment" in public services with Conservative cuts, said that "hard choices" on spending would be required, telling a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers in London, "We won't flinch from the difficult decisions that will be necessary." Britain, he said, would halve its budget deficit over the next five years. The strategy would be "front line first".

The argument from the government, and all the big parliamentary parties that form the Westminster cartel, is that it is necessary to make cuts to reduce the national debt. This is the same national debt that has grown out of all proportion with the government's billions of pounds in hand-outs in order to bail-out the banks and pay the rich.

These hand-outs have amounted to a criminal abuse of the funds of the public treasury.



**Above: Ryde Trades Council banner at beginning of march.  
Below: Seize the Day singing the Vestas protest song**

Far from being necessary to the economy, they have been made to ensure that the well-springs of the crisis have been rescued when the necessity has been to root them out and deny them the right to suck billions upon billions of pounds out of the social economy for private gain. On the other hand, the very path that will lead the economy out of the crisis, which is to increase investments in social programmes, end the hand-out to the monopolies, stop gearing the economy to paying the rich, and concentrate on the production of social wealth, is deemed expendable, a secondary or tertiary claim after the demands of the financiers have been met.

## The people's well-being

A healthy economy can only be one that addresses the people's well-being, that is geared to the public good. The ruling elite, prior to the collapse a year ago of the financial institutions, presaged by the collapse of Northern Rock, and before that by the wracking up of the people's debt to unprecedented proportions in order to channel funds to the rich, had been swearing that this was the only way the global economy could be run. It is important that the necessary conclusions are drawn by the people, and that they do not accept the sophistry of Gordon Brown and his Chancellor.

What is being left out of the equation is that if the public debt

is of such proportions that it is disastrously destabilising the public finances and wrecking the government's budgets, then this debt must be called in, and the repayments to the financiers stopped immediately. These funds must be channelled where the people demand, that is to social programmes and into production to meet the needs of society. It will not wash and must not be allowed to pass that the government and the whole ruling elite say that now public expenditure must be cut and the claims of the financiers take priority.

Brown and Darling say that setting priorities inevitably means tough choices, that "private endeavour" takes priority and the "vital role for the state" is to intervene on behalf of the financiers. This is completely unacceptable. This government-speak of "more efficiency, continuing to reform, cutting costs, public and private sectors working together" signals the reality that the people must be prepared to be devastated and the economy wrecked. In opposition, worker politicians must get organised to demand that investment in social programmes and wealth production is stepped up, and that if the monopolies do not agree then it is they who must leave the scene of history together with the politicians who sing from their hymn sheet.

**Stop Paying the Rich! Increase Investments in Social Programmes!**



## 70th Anniversary of Second World War

# The Falsifiers of History Have the Aim of Covering Up Their Own Preparations for Fascism and War

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the war. The truth is the precise opposite.

The Second World War was a terrible catastrophe for the entire humanity. There is no doubt such a tragedy could have been avoided, or at the very least limited in its devastation. Facts, readily verifiable from the documents of the time, make clear the causes of the war. It was the ruling circles of Britain, France and the USA who re-financed and re-armed Germany to be the dominating force in Central and Eastern Europe and egged Hitler on to "Go East", to realise his cherished dream of taking over territories such as the Ukraine and destroy the Soviet Union and Bolshevism. Faced with Hitlerite aggression, the Soviet Union called on Britain and France to sign a collective mutual assistance pact with military clauses. They refused, choosing instead to sign the Munich Agreement with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, an act of betrayal which sealed the fate of Europe, ceding Czechoslovakia and its powerful armaments industry to Hitler, and giving him the green light to go east and attack the Soviet Union. The Polish government, imperialist itself, took the same stand, for which it was to pay so dearly. Appeasement was not a sign of weakness, as is claimed, but of connivance. The imperialist mentality was to fear communism more than fascism, to follow a short-sighted and self-serving policy which brought the most terrible devastation on the peoples of the world, including their own.

It is also fact, readily verifiable, that the Soviet Union, following the policies of Lenin and Stalin, was a factor for peace in the lead-up, the waging, and the aftermath of the Second World War. It was, after all, the October Revolution which brought the First World War to a close. It was the collective security proposals of the Soviet Union which could, if taken up by the imperialist powers, have prevented, or at least limited, the

Second World War. Faced with the refusal of Britain and France to take up these proposals, the Soviet Union had no alternative but to sign a Non-Aggression Pact with Germany in order to give it time to prepare for the inevitable Nazi invasion of its territories. It was also forced to move its Red Army on September 17, 1939, into Ukrainian and Byelorussian territories seized by Poland in 1919-20, thus saving millions from the slaughter visited upon the rest of Poland, and moving its forward defensive line several hundred kilometres west. When the inevitable invasion came, in June 1941, the war took on an anti-fascist character. Millions upon millions were inspired on the world scale to participate in destroying the fascist menace. This was the main factor in the victory of the anti-fascist forces over Nazism. The policy of the Soviet Union was based on steadfast opposition to aggression, invasion, occupation and annexation, to the imperialist redivision of the world and inter-imperialist war. Despite all the waverings, the cynicism, the treachery, the obstruction of the governments of Britain, France and the USA and others, they stuck to their stand. They made huge sacrifices in order to do this, and with great proletarian generosity ensured that the war effort progressed and victory over fascism was ensured. It was not down to the failure or weakness of the policy of the Soviet Union that this victory over fascism in 1945 was not consolidated and the opportunity for peace and democracy cast aside, with the imperialist powers reverting to their old policies, which had brought such disaster to the world's people, including their own, of "containment of communism" as their main aim, along with renewing their support for and practice of fascism worldwide.

Why the falsifications of this indisputable history? Everything points to the fact that the attack on communism today is not so much on what it is or has been, but on

what it can do. In the 20th century communism solved the problems that faced humanity. It led and inspired people to make huge advances and win great victories. The crises later in the century were due to its abandonment, not its legacy. Now in the 21st century, despite the raised consciousness of the people, the result of the achievements of the 20th century, and the opportunity which that presents to take matters into their own hands, in the last 25 years of retreat of revolution the forces of reaction have been and are determined that the people will take no such initiatives, that they will leave the solution of the problems which face humanity in the hands of those who created them, in the hands of today's so-called "benevolent despots". Thus communism must be attacked. Its ideology and politics must be discredited. History itself must be falsified and rewritten.

The attack, the falsifications, come not merely in the form of lies, but as total disinformation which distorts the whole progress of humankind, the basis of change, motion and development, how a new society has been and is being created, and if not challenged deprive the people of any perspective, of an outlook on their lives.

As the late Hardial Bains pointed out in his important work *Modern Communism*,\*\* the attack is not just on communism but on all real change. History, he says, has been turned on its head, with the worst crimes of the Hitlerite fascists attributed to the communists in general, and to Stalin in particular. This disinformation is intend-

ed to disorient the workers, women and youth and provide them with no prospects whatsoever. It is also to divert the attention of the world's peoples from the crimes being committed today by the imperialists and world reaction in the name of democracy.

The question must be put: How can one believe the stories of those who commit such dreadful and dastardly acts these very days? Guantanamo, Fallujah, Gaza, the bombing of villages in Afghanistan and Pakistan are facts of history too. How can the solution of the world's problems be left in the hands of those who cause them, who are leading the peoples into such terrible catastrophes?

It is vital that the falsifications of history, such as of the causes and lessons of the Second World War, are exposed and combated. This is necessary not as something in itself, but as part of providing all the information, the perspective, the outlook – which only Modern Communism can do – to enable the working class and people to discuss and plan the way forward, what kind of new society is needed, how to take matters into their own hands, to bring about democratic renewal and bring into being a pro-social anti-war government, and solve themselves the problems facing society.

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\*\*Hardial Bains, *Modern Communism: Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), New Historical Basis Series No.1, CPC(ML), 1996*

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