

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

## Oppose the Racism of the British State

**R**acism has always been a systematic policy of the British state. It has been cynically utilised by successive British governments imbued with the chauvinism of a "great power" that will not view

human beings as having rights simply by virtue of being human. These facts cannot be lost sight of in the recent clamour about the danger from the "far right". The theme of the cartel of the big parliamentary

parties over the recent period has been that problems in society have been caused, or at least exacerbated, by a mistaken immigration policy. This is one of the ways in which the racism of the state has been manifest

particularly since the reactionary focus on the danger of "Islamic extremism" as well as the movement of migrants from Eastern Europe, as well as elsewhere.

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### White Paper on Scotland:

## THE SCOTTISH PEOPLE MUST DECIDE THE FUTURE OF SCOTLAND

**O**n November 25, the government published its White Paper on Scotland's future within the

"United Kingdom". One of its key proposals is to cut the UK rate of income tax by 10p in Scotland and give the Scottish government tax-

raising powers. The White Paper proposals are being presented



Massive "Scotland Demands Democracy" demonstration of over 25,000 on the occasion of the European Summit in Edinburgh, December 1992

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### Commentary

## "Emergency Liquidity": Government in the Service of the Financial Oligarchy

**T**HE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, MERVYN KING, appeared before the Treasury Select Committee on November 24, and for the first time revealed details of the size of emergency loans to the Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS last year. His remarks were confirmed by Chancellor Alistair Darling the following day in a statement to the House of Commons. "As the Governor said, from 1 October 2008 the Bank provided liquidity to HBOS, and from 7 October to RBS. Use of the facilities peaked at £36.6 billion for RBS on 17 October and £25.4

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# Oppose the Racism of the British State

**Vigil held at Stockwell for Jean Charles de Menezes, an innocent Brazilian man, 6 months after he was shot and killed by British security services whilst boarding a tube at Stockwell Station, on July 22 2005.**



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This reactionary policy was manifest as Alan Johnson, the Home Secretary, made his first major speech on the question of immigration at the beginning of November, having been appointed Home Secretary in June. He has been reported as saying that both Labour and Conservative governments have made mistakes over the issue. However, most media reports made much of the fact that the Home Secretary claimed that recent governments had “struggled to contain the huge surge” in asylum seekers. Johnson alleged that “there are communities which have been disproportionately affected by immigration, where people have legitimate concerns about the strain that the growth in the local population has placed on jobs and services”.

## Diversions from the problems

With such remarks, which are reminiscent of infamous racist comments of the likes of Margaret Thatcher, the Home Secretary took up the mantle of all those who have over the years sought to use the issue of immigration in the most reactionary manner both to

attack the rights of migrants and asylum seekers, as a part of the attack on the rights of all, and as a means to whip up chauvinism and racism, to act as a diversion to prevent any focus on the actual source of the problems confronting society. It is not coincidental that the Home Secretary's comments came in the wake of the large-scale publicity that has been mounted to promote the fascist BNP and at a time when there have also been attempts to resuscitate various bogus and unscientific views on the subject of so-called racial differences. As in the past, the Home Secretary was not concerned to explain the reasons for migration and asylum seeking, nor did he elaborate how this is linked to the legacy of Britain's colonial past and the government's armed intervention around the world today.

## Justifying attacks

The Home Secretary's outlook is based on the racist and reactionary premise that Britain is allegedly being “swamped” by undesirable migrants and asylum seekers, “legal and illegal” migrants, while at the same time he also links migration and asylum seeking with an alleged influx of those connected with “terrorism” and the government's so-called “counter-terrorism” measures. By

such means, the government is justifying not only the attacks on the rights of migrants but also the surveillance of whole communities and sections of the population as the state positions itself to further attack the rights of all.

## Aim of racist legislation

As for the contention that the major parties have been reluctant to discuss and legislate on the subject of immigration and asylum, or have not been vigorous enough in the implementation of policy, nothing could be further from the truth. Since 1997, the New Labour governments have introduced six separate legislative Acts concerned with immigration and asylum, limiting the rights of asylum seekers and providing the state with more draconian powers to attack migrant workers. These culminated in the introduction of the new UK Border Agency and under the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 creating a “Border Force” to more effectively police national borders. The facts show that the Labour government is following the path of previous governments. All governments since the early 1960s have introduced openly racist legislation, and if anything the present government has outdone its predecessors as part of its

attacks on the rights of all at home and its reactionary colonialist policy abroad.

However, as in the past the aim is not to prevent migration, as the Home Secretary pointed out, since this is a vital source of necessary cheap labour as well as skilled labour, which can be exploited by the big monopolies in their quest to become competitive in the global market and to make maximum profits. Recent statistics show that around half of all new migrant workers have been educated to university level. The government's immigration policy aims to provide a means for the state to manage the supply of such labour required by the monopolies, to attack the rights of all workers and to provide a green light for the open fascists in the promotion of racism and chauvinism. In the period before the next election the two major parties appear to be attempting to outdo each other in this regard and demonstrating once again that racism is integral to the outmoded political and economic system, and that it is organised and promoted by the state, the media and the major political parties.

***Oppose the Racism of the British State!***

***Defend the Rights of All!***

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**Commentary**

**Anti-G20 summit demonstration  
outside the Bank of England,  
May 1 2009**



# "Emergency Liquidity": Government in the Service of the Financial Oligarchy

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**billion for HBOS on 13 November. The total use of emergency liquidity assistance across both banks peaked at £61.6 billion on 17 October. At that point, the two banks concerned provided the Bank with collateral-including residential mortgages, Government debt and personal and commercial loans-totalling in excess of £100 billion."**

The major banks want to be able to take risks, without being liable for the consequences if the risks fail and reap the rewards when their number comes up. And they wish to maintain the confidence of the financial speculators and institutions, irrespective of the outcomes of their decisions, so that they can maintain the inflow of the funds needed for their high risk strategies. In the language of finance capital, their debts are their assets, and the return on their assets depends on the willingness and ability of whosoever or whatsoever they are indebted to back that debt.

Of course, all this came tumbling down with the collapse of the financial system, whatever the element of conscious planning by the biggest players to bring about this collapse, in order to consolidate the stranglehold of the most powerful, to ensure billions were channelled their way by governments and institutions and lenders of last resort.

The extent of the practically endless supply of funds from the state and its financial power is still being revealed. The pretexts and excuses from the government also continue to flow. The billions upon billions which have found their way into coffers of the owners of capital the Chancellor swears have been put there so that the market can function, so that the wheels of the economy can remain oiled and the whole system with its hidden hand avoid seizing up completely. The state is now the majority shareholder in RBS and HBOS, but this does not change the underlying reality

that the underlying mechanism is one of billions of pounds, whether in loans or in other forms of the bailouts to "recapitalise the banking system", straightforwardly being channelled from the state treasury to the financial oligarchy.

This is one of the biggest indictments of the capitalist system itself. But rather than admit this glaring fact, Gordon Brown and his Chancellor view everything and explain everything from a wholly capital-centred viewpoint, as though human beings cannot conceive of taking control of the econ-

**The state is now the majority shareholder in RBS and HBOS, but this does not change the underlying reality that the underlying mechanism is one of billions of pounds, whether in loans or in other forms of the bailouts to "recapitalise the banking system", straightforwardly being channelled from the state treasury to the financial oligarchy. This is one of the biggest indictments of the capitalist system itself.**

omy and utilising it for the benefit of society, its individuals and collectives. Naturally, the various owners of capital differ in their interests and their responsibilities or lack of them, and contradictions abound. But they are united in that the claims of the rich on the state treasury are paramount, and that all else must pale into insignificance in comparison. The virtual printing presses are also working overtime to purchase government debt, which goes to bolster the value of capital in the hands of the banks. So complete is this state of affairs that the government cannot or is not prepared to attract manufacturing monopolies with loans or handouts, because its terms are not "attractive enough" as so much real and virtual wealth is being siphoned off to the

banks in the name of solving their problems of "liquidity", i.e. funds they are prepared to lend. But even in the Chancellor's own terms, this problem of "liquidity" is not disappearing. The state treasury is put totally at the disposal of the financial oligarchy. In this situation, it is no wonder that the cartel of parties at Westminster are focused on the government deficit and squabbling amongst themselves ineffectually as to its size and importance. Meanwhile, forces such as the TUC are chipping in to say that the deficit is not the problem, but the symptom, and the government should not shrink from continuing to oil the wheels of finance capital.

It is true that the deficit is a symptom of the underlying problem, the financial and economic crisis, but ignoring what has caused this crisis is not going to provide solutions. The Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons on November 5 regarding the hidden "emergency liquidity assistance provided by the Bank of England to the banking system" paints a panic-stricken picture: "the world banking system was on the verge of collapse". The remedy had to be "maintaining financial stability" in these "extraordinary market conditions" by ensuring that "the banking system" had "access to sufficient liquidity". This "remedy" is ensuring rather than the social economy is being starved of real investment of material value, and that the crisis may be temporarily alleviated but that its underlying severity and profundity is being chronically intensified. The Chancellor is so very deeply concerned for the survival of the "banking system", but it is noticeable how this concern comes at the very top of his list, on which everything else is supposed to depend, and his avowed concern for a national economy that serves the people's needs and provides a modern standard of living and guarantees a livelihood is very hard to find.

The Chancellor does not explain what is the use of a banking system if its function is to endlessly circulate funds, while the banks and the financiers take their cut at every stage. Reference to social production, the source of the wealth needed to fund the state treasury, is noticeable by its absence from Alistair Darling's statement. Instead, the Bank of England becomes a mysterious source of wealth that can conjure up funding literally from nothing. The working class and people cannot be fooled by such chicanery. The bottom line is that the government is stealing added-value from the social economy to pay the financial oligarchy.

The Bank of England has been one of the greatest financial instruments of exploiting the working class and the people, both nationally and internationally, ever since its institution in 1694. It has been the central financial institution of the state, run by the financial oligarchy, in the building up of the capitalist system. It was nationalised in 1946, and New Labour under Tony Blair declared it to be an independent public organisation in 1997, but it remains an instrument of the government, designed to serve the private ownership of the means of production, designed to serve the financial oligarchy. It is playing a gigantic criminal role in the present financial crisis, fleecing the wealth of the socialised economy to pay the rich and to ensure that their system maintains its stranglehold.

The working class and people must reject the self-serving propaganda of Alistair Darling and Mervyn King and the other apologists for finance capital that the government's function is to prop up the financial oligarchy. The working class is capable of bringing forward its own worker politicians who will take a stand on restricting monopoly right and put the claims of the people and the needs of society before the rapacious demands of the financial oligarchy and build a self-reliant social economy.

## White Paper on Scotland: The Scottish People Must Decide the Future of Scotland

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by Secretary of State for Scotland, Jim Murphy, as strengthening the devolution settlement, following the final report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution led by Sir Ken Calman. However, Michael Russell, the Scottish government's Constitution Minister, accused Westminster of playing "student politics", noting how the White Paper came just days before the Scottish government's own proposals for an independence referendum. As commentators have pointed out, the political reality is that the issue of more tax powers for Holyrood and the issue of Scottish sovereignty are aimed at making a "stronger Scotland in a stronger United Kingdom" a key battle ground at the forthcoming Westminster General Election.

The issue for the Scottish people and the working class in Scotland does not present itself as separatism versus unionism. That is a context that is redolent with the chauvinism of the attempts at fostering the values of Britishness that had its heyday in the empire building of 19th century Britain, and were grounded in the forcible conquest of Wales, incorporating it into England, and the union of the Crowns and the subsequent Act of Union of Scotland and England. Scotland has retained its nationhood, and the issue facing the people of Scotland is their empowerment to take control over their lives, in the context of their own nation-building project.

The ridicule poured by the Labour and Conservative parties on the Scottish National Party does not sit well with the fact that the SNP forms the government in Scotland, to the extent that devolution allows the Scottish people to have their own parliament. The powers that the Scottish parliament needs are the powers that allow the Scottish people to have control over their lives and engage in their nation-building project. This cannot be portrayed as "separatism" except in the sense of the self-determination

of nations and peoples. This is a cause of the working class of England, Scotland and Wales. That it is not an empty phrase is proved by life itself, in the right of the Scottish people to take the decisions which affect their lives in the course of building and strengthening the Scottish nation, and which has found expression in the formation of a Parliament for Scotland. The Scottish people have the right to a sovereign state, and have the opportunity to fight for and build it along modern lines. The aspirations of the people of Scotland, as well as Wales, and the working class of the whole of Britain have been fashioned in struggle for their rights and interests, against exploitation and for the concerns of human beings to be put at the centre of all considerations. In this context, the people of Scotland have the opportunity to build a democracy based on these considerations, and resolve the ongoing constitutional crisis, one aspect of which is the archaic nature of Westminster political processes.

That this archaic system should not continue to have sway over Scotland and Wales, not to mention the north of Ireland, was underlined by many of the Bills outlined in the Queen's Speech, which in scope do not extend to the whole of the "United Kingdom". For example, Children, Schools and Families Bill, where the whole bill applies to England, while other parts cover Wales and it only extends in part to Northern Ireland; Personal Care at Home Bill, which applies to England only, and so on.

That the Westminster government should attempt to rouse passions against a modern sovereign Scotland in this context, while introducing a White Paper which proposes greater powers for the Scottish Parliament, notably tax-raising powers, is an indication of its bad faith. It is at odds with the demand that people and not parties should be empowered, and is at one with the attempt to impose a "one-nation politics" that stems from the ideology of New Labour, which is

increasingly being rejected, not least by the peoples of Scotland and also Wales, in particular the repeated references by the government to "the nation" and "British values". In other words, at the heart of this "one-nation politics" is an anglo-centric Britain which denies the rights of nations and peoples in a cosmopolitan ideology, based on values enshrined in the Paris Charter. This is the successor to the empire-building project of English colonialism, which the government attempts to pass off as "Britishness" or the "British nation". It is a project which both denies that all have rights by virtue of being human, and at the same time condemns national identity and national traditions as being backward.

The so-called "unionist consensus" that exists among the cartel of parties who form the Westminster government is an attempt to deny decision-making power to the people both of Scotland and to Britain as a whole. Any union which respects national rights and national sovereignty cannot be within a "kingdom" whose authority does not constitutionally come from the people but from the royal prerogative. It can only be a voluntary union whose authority comes from the sovereignty, the decision-making power, of the peoples of England, Scotland and Wales.

The working class and people of Scotland are working towards a sovereign self-reliant economy, in which it is the working class and people themselves who decide the direction of the economy. It is absurd to suggest that this economy would be "separate" from other economies. But what the people of



Scotland do not want and will not accept is an economy and political system which is dictated by and whose direction is decided by Westminster and by criteria which supposedly are of benefit to the "United Kingdom", but which are in reality dictated by the concerns of the monopolies.

The cartel of Westminster parties would like to suggest that their consensus is not self-interested, but nothing could be further from the truth. Their invective against the nation-building project of the Scottish people seeks to deny to the Scottish nation its right to determine its own affairs, as well as actually covering over the reality of the class unity of the workers of Scotland, England and Wales, as well as internationally.

The issue for the working class and people of Scotland is achieving the power to make the decisions in those matters which affect their lives. They have not accepted the old status quo of the union of Scotland and England and that fact is embodied in a Scottish parliament. But neither will they accept a new status quo in which their sovereignty remains compromised. Sovereignty must be vested in the workers and people of Scotland.

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