

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

Gordon Brown and the Berlin Wall:

## Accusing Others of the Crimes Committed by Imperialism

**O**n November 10, Prime Minister Gordon Brown delivered a speech at the Brandenburg

Gate at the events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Like other world leaders gathered on that occasion, Gordon Brown aimed to give his own interpretation of recent world

history based on the Eurocentric values of the Anglo-American imperialists and the other big

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# PROTESTS AGAINST DOMINANCE OF BIG POWERS AT COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE



**December 11, 2009:**  
100,000 people demonstrate in Copenhagen as part of the Global Day of Action for Climate Change

**T**he fifteenth United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 15) opened on December 7, scheduled to conclude on December 18. COP 15 was a continuation of the sessions

serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The big powers hijacked this conference to such an extent that many developing countries, led by the African nations, walked out.

Kamel Djemouai, the chair of the African bloc, said poorer countries would never accept the abandonment of Kyoto. The Danish president of the conference resigned, warning delegates of the choice

between "fame or shame" and between "action or stalemate". Gordon Brown attempted to pose

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**Anniversary of Downing Street Declaration:**

## Self-Determination for the Irish People Remains the Goal

**T**HE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION OF DECEMBER 15, 1993, issued by then Prime Minister John Major and Irish Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, paved the way for a new stage in the struggle for Irish self-determination. It followed the 1992 Sinn Féin document "Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland" which pointed out that a lasting peace must address the root cause of conflict, British intervention and colonial rule, and be grounded in democracy and self-determination.

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# Gordon Brown and the Berlin Wall: Accusing Others of the Crimes Committed by Imperialism

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powers. One of the main aims of Brown's speech was to present the view that whatever the nature of the struggles waged by people around the world, they must all culminate in the goal of multipartyism and the neo-liberal economic order, the political and economic system defended might and main by the Anglo-Americans, which is continually presented as the apogee of human achievement.

When Brown claimed that the events in Berlin twenty years ago demonstrated that "history is moving towards our best hopes, not our worst fears, towards light and not darkness, towards the fulfilment of our humanity", this is exactly what he had in mind.

At the same time such an assertion by Brown was an attempt to turn history on its head, to completely rewrite the events of the 20th century, to deny the advances that have been made, particularly those connected with the struggle for the revolutionary transformation of society and the construction of socialism in the Soviet Union and other countries during the last century.

The events that occurred in Germany, as well as throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, over twenty years ago may well be a cause for celebration by the leading representatives of the big powers but they have not solved any of

the problems facing the working class and people of those countries. By 1989 the Soviet Union and its allies were already integrated into the imperialist system of states and heavily indebted to the big powers. The solution that was presented to the people of those countries; neo-liberal globalisation, privatisation and so-called free trade, representative democracy and the cartel system of political parties, was one which kept wealth and power in the hands of the few. This was the content of the "new world order" established by the "Charter of Paris for a New Europe" in November 1990 whose values would supposedly now hold sway. However, what was urgently required was the democratic renewal of society, which would place the majority at the centre as the decision makers and build a modern people-centred society to cater for their needs.

## Anti-social offensive

The struggles of the people of Germany and other countries for empowerment and social emancipation were turned into their opposites while the anti-social offensive that was then launched against them led to the wholesale destruction of the social programmes that had formerly existed in many countries in Eastern Europe. The fall of the Berlin Wall has not therefore brought the freedom and democracy that was so loudly trumpeted by the reactionary media and politicians at the time,



**Brussels, Belgium, December 5, 2009: Across Europe, tens of thousands of people took part in co-ordinated actions for climate and social justice.. In Brussels 15,000 demonstrated, as delegates from the European Parliament began the trip to Copenhagen. In the UK, 50,000 marched in London, 13,000 in Glasgow with demonstrations also taking place in Belfast and Dublin. Actions also took place in the French cities of Paris, Marseille, Bordeaux. Elsewhere, demonstrations were also held in Berlin, Germany and Stockholm, Sweden. Photo: Belgium Indymedia**

but rather all the economic, social and political problems facing the rest of Europe. Massive double-digit unemployment and other economic problems have plagued Germany, despite its big power status, while the other countries of Eastern Europe have been economically dominated by foreign capital and many of their workers have been forced to become migrant workers abroad.

## Reject falsifications

Gordon Brown's sanctimonious words about the "achievement" of the people of Berlin cannot hide the fact that little has been achieved in terms of the political and economic empowerment, and the democratic renewal so urgently required not only in Germany but also throughout Europe and most of the rest of the world. For Brown however, this "achievement" is connected with the creation of a "united Europe", with Britain at its heart, which will allegedly "advance prosperity not for some but for all", a vision of the big monopolies which is both reactionary and impossible under

present conditions.

Brown's comments about the "tide of history" and people power once again show that great efforts are being made to rewrite and falsify history, to disorient people and deny the nature of historical change, to claim that there is no alternative to global capitalism. The aim is to bury the history of the working class, its struggles and victories and the role of 20th century communism in providing the solutions that faced humanity at that time. To accept the anti-communist offensive of Gordon Brown and other representatives of those who wish to block the progress of society means to accept that history has come to an end, and that the oppression, injustice, barbarism and war of imperialism must remain. It is vital that the workers and all thinking people reject such falsification, investigate and draw the appropriate lessons from history, and continue their fight in the 21st century for the democratic ideals of liberation and renewal upheld by progressive humanity.

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# Self-Determination for the Irish People Remains the Goal

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In the Downing Street Declaration, the British government openly recognised for the first time the right of the people of the island of Ireland to self-determination. It was this, following the determined struggle of the Irish people, by many means and through many phases, for Britain to get out of Ireland, that opened the way to the "Peace Process", together with the pledge of the government of the Irish Republic not to take over the six counties by force.

The self-interest of the British government in this Declaration has to be recognised. The government had required the end of armed conflict in the north of

play its role in the world of "rebuilding a position of strength and influence", it required the "moral authority" of having appeared to resolve the conflict in Ireland. It is important to recognise this fact, and not be taken in by the rhetoric of "peace" and "morality" that the New Labour governments have bedecked themselves with. The war in Iraq and Afghanistan has been a telling exposure of this rhetoric, and the recent exposures in the Chilcot inquiry only serve to further underline the baseness and reactionary nature of this project.

In other words, the British governments were seeking to extricate themselves from their impasse in Ireland in a manner which would be favourable to them nationally and internationally. A further factor in bringing about the Downing Street Declaration can be said to be the wish to further penetrate Ireland, both by British capital as well as US but particularly European capital. It is ironic that the Republic of Ireland has, in the context of the present international economic and financial crisis, been a stumbling block to the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. European capital has been eager, just as it has strengthened the European Union as a free-trade zone of the monopolies, to have the whole of Ireland as a free trade area, thereby strengthening the EU bloc vis-à-vis US imperialism. The Celtic Tiger has come and gone, but this aspiration remains, and the Irish government are doing their bit to bail out finance capital also.

In these circumstances, throughout this period, the British government has not dropped its ploy of egging on the Unionists when it suited it. It wishes to make plain that the Northern Ireland Assembly is a devolved body still and not fully sovereign, so that the British government reserves its right to intervene. In this respect, it still clings to its former propagan-

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Ireland for its own ends. In the international situation following the end of the bi-polar division of the world, it wanted to create the conditions both for sending its troops to other parts of the world, as it proceeded to do. Furthermore, more generally in this changed international situation, in line with the programme of "Making Britain Great Again", especially as initiated with the New Labour government of 1997, in order to

## Convoy to Gaza Send-Off, November 27, 2009



**Isle of Wight van shortly before departure to join the Convoy to Gaza. The convoy will be spending Christmas on the border between Egypt and Gaza. On December 27 last year Israel broke a cease fire and launched a full scale attack, using illegal weapons supplied by the US. Since that time the Israelis have prevented anything other than limited medical supplies and foods from entering Gaza. Toilet paper, toys, tomato paste, clothes, bedding, seeds, stationery, books and building materials are all banned. The Convoy to Gaza consists of over 100 vehicles, travelling from Britain, Ireland, Turkey and European and Arab countries. Peter Venner, 4th from left in picture, explains: "Recently, to assuage the Jewish lobby, an arch-Zionist who approves Israel's right to seize land from the Palestinians has been appointed as our Ambassador in the area. No government dares to stand up to the Israelis. This is why it is important to take the convoy. Although the aid is desperately needed, the most important thing is to be seen not to be discouraged by Israeli bullying tactics. Land and sea convoys have been heading for Gaza since Israel first imposed a siege years ago. Some get through and some don't. The crew of the last 'Free Gaza' boat ended up in an Israeli prison. The important thing is to show that at a grass roots level people support the Palestinians and will never be discouraged from trying to help them."**

da that the Irish people have problems in governing themselves, and are second-class citizens in the polity of Britain. In the present situation, the object of the racism and chauvinism of the British state has largely been transferred from the Irish, as they were in the 19th and even 20th centuries to other immigrants, particularly those of the Islamic faith and outlook. It is the Irish who were labelled "terrorists" at one time, and against whom the first "Prevention of Terrorism Act" was passed in 1974, and now it is mainly South Asian and other national minorities in Britain. But the injustices perpetrated against innocent Irish people, such as the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six, who were incarcerated for long years for no other reason than they were Irish, are also a reminder that similar injustices are being perpetrated today, and that the government would prefer that these injustices were not uncovered, as with the case of Binyam Mohamed.

At present, the situation over the transference of policing and

justice powers to Stormont is causing concern, and it is to be suspected that the British government is not playing an innocent role in this regard. But it cannot play this card too heavily, since its involvement militarily and politically in other areas of the globe are its main pre-occupation. As shown by its stance towards strengthening the role of Scotland within the "United Kingdom", it is opposed in practice to moves that will weaken the role of Westminster, and its stand towards the north of Ireland as Irish unity is put higher on the agenda of the Irish people is no different.

As Sinn Féin points out, the move towards Irish unity is an historical tide that cannot be withstood. The British government must not stand in the way of this historical movement, nor be the arbiter of progress in Ireland. The cause of the British working class and people in opening the door to progress and building a new society is at one with that of the working class and people of Ireland as a whole.

# Protests against Dominance of Big Powers at Copenhagen Conference

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as a person of power and influence, a representative of "Great Britain", declaring that the "future of humanity" is at stake. An atmosphere of doom and hysteria has been generated with the heir to the British throne adding that the crisis of climate change is putting the survival of the species in peril.

## Ideologues of capital

The science of climate change which is being presented is also being seen as hopelessly tainted. Owners of capital are using the science surrounding climate change in a such a way as to serve their narrow self-serving aim to protect and expand their capital and spheres of interest. Science has been mobilised not to serve humanity and to humanise the social and natural environments but to "prove" self-serving agendas to profit from problems emerging from industrial production and to obscure and block the people from consciously solving problems based on a new pro-social aim and human-centred alternatives.

The ideologues of the capitalist system are attempting to link solutions to pollution and other environmental and natural problems emerging from mass industrial production with the same anti-social aim that gave rise to the despoliation of the planet in the first place. The aim of protecting and expanding capital without concern for the social and natural consequences, which is causing environmental and social destruction, has now seized control of the global climate change movement and environmental agenda both pro and con.

## Role of the people

But this situation is also arousing serious opposition from the working class and people. One of the outstanding features of the Copenhagen UN summit has been the protests of those concerned with the destruction of the environment by the monopolies, and the

brutal attacks on them.

The people have been officially excluded from investigating the cause of environmental degradation and global pollution and from elaborating and putting into practice human-centred solutions. The mainstream global discussion is tightly controlled by the monopolies and those individuals who are well on their way to becoming green billionaires.

## Pro-social alternative

Worker politicians have to make their own space to discuss the situation with cool heads and sort through the science that is being used to promote solutions dominated by the same capital-centred aim that caused world environmental problems in the first place. Rare mention is made in the official science and monopoly-controlled media of the most important sources of environmental degradation such as predatory wars of occupation and aggression, the pursuit of the highest profit in the fastest possible time, conspicuous consumption by the fabulously rich, the irrational car culture, and so on.

The capitalist economy is based on an assumption and necessity of ever-increasing consumption by a rich minority but the system's internal contradictions inhibit such grossly unequal consumption by a minority exploiting a majority of others at home and abroad. The global system breaks down the more it separates societies everywhere into two contending camps of owners of monopoly capital and working class causing it to collapse in cyclical crises and continuous predatory and inter-imperialist wars for markets, sources of natural resources, cheap chattel labour and spheres of influence. The peoples of the world must struggle to elaborate and bring into being a pro-social alternative based on the human factor/social consciousness and put an end to the reckless socially irresponsible and egocentric aim of constantly expanding capital.



**Naming of the Dead soldiers and Afghan people at Newcastle Monument - December 9, 2009**

## Vigils for 100th British Soldier Killed in Afghanistan in 2009

**O**n December 7, a soldier of 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment died after an incident in central Helmand Province in the afternoon. He was the 100th British soldier killed in Afghanistan in 2009. In the next few days, vigils were held in many cities and towns across Britain, including Newcastle, Sunderland, Rochdale and Lewisham.

At the Naming of the Dead Vigil at the Newcastle Monument on the evening of December 9, a representative of the Tyneside Stop the War Coalition asked, "Why have 100 soldiers died in Afghanistan this year?" In a short address, he said:

"The hundredth British soldier to die in Afghanistan this year has been killed because Gordon Brown and the other big parties refuse to learn the lessons of history: that the people of Afghanistan and other countries that they invade will never accept

occupation by foreign powers. The people of Britain want to play a role as peacemakers in the world and not warmongers. Their demand is to remove British troops from foreign soil. They want an anti-war government not a pro-war government. Gordon Brown says that Lance Corporal Alan Drane, 23, the 100th dead soldier this year, died to safeguard Britain against terrorist attack. But no Afghan has ever attacked Britain, or any other country. Britain has invaded Afghanistan many times. It is Britain's role, alongside the US, that is the real threat to peace and security in the world.

"By increasing the number of British troops sent to kill and be killed in Afghanistan to over 10,000, Gordon Brown has condemned many more soldiers and countless Afghans to die in this unjustified war."

**Bring the Troops Home!  
Fight for an Anti-war  
Government!**

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