

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

Tens of Thousands March over Austerity Measures

On September 29, European-wide mass actions took place against the anti-social “austerity measures” of the

capitalist governments in power.

Across the European Union, mass workers’ protests took place against the neo-liberal, anti-social

offensive by governments and their so-called austerity measures that attack the workers’ livelihood and the social programmes that are necessary to ensure the well-

being of the people.

In response to a call from the European Trade Union Confederation, a series of co-

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STOP THIS ATTACK ON SOCIETY! FIGHT FOR THE ALTERNATIVE!



All Together for Public Services rally in Central Hall, Westminster, on the eve of the CSR

The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) is nothing but a vicious escalation of the anti-social offensive on behalf of the rich. It is an intensification of the class struggle by the global monopolies and the financial oligarchy against the working class

and people. Its aim is to guarantee that the pay-the-rich society is protected against the claims and demands of the working people for the public good.

The fight by the working class and people is intensifying against this all-out assault on the fabric of

society in terms of benefits, pensions and public services. The demand that there is an alternative to this wrecking of society, to the further destruction of manufacturing and public services in the name of the “Big Society” and “eliminating the deficit” is being

voiced by all sections of society, led by the working class.

With the CSR, the government is declaring that the rich do not recognise the social responsibility of a modern state towards its citi-

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Review:

“Secret Iraq”

BBC Two recently ran a two-part series called “Secret Iraq”. It was billed as a documentary series that sheds new light on the dramatic story of Iraq, and is presently available on iPlayer.

THE PROGRAMME IN TRACING THE BRUTAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE OCCUPATION of Iraq was a devastating

indictment of the Anglo-US aggressors. The Anglo-American invading forces unleashed a cruel war on Iraq which inflicted untold destruction, pain and suffering on both Iraq and its people. It showed how Britain and the US had wrecked all aspects of Iraq’s coherence and nation-building project, threatened to destroy Iraq’s civilisation and culture and turn this region of the Middle East into a theatre of sectarian conflict. In this context, the self-justifications of Tony Blair which it shows are sickening.

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Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press

Tens of Thousands March over Austerity Measures



French protests in Lyon against pension reforms

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ordinated protests took place in 13 of the EU's 27 capital cities, including Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Rome, Paris, Riga, Warsaw, Nicosia, Bucharest, Prague, Vilnius, Belgrade and Athens, with protests also taking place in many other cities. The Confédération générale du travail reported 230 actions across France alone.

In France, nation-wide protests have continued for days on end, with huge strikes and millions of workers involved. In particular, working people are fighting to oppose the assault on pensions by the Sarkozy government. The government is responding with brutal attacks on the mass protests, especially against the youth.

Blocking the offensive

Trade unions and the European TUC are affirming the workers' determination throughout Europe that there is an alternative to the cuts and austerity measures, that there is

a way out of the crisis and it is the very opposite of what the governments are proposing. These governments are intent on wrecking society in pushing through the programmes of the monopolies, centred around making cuts to decrease budget deficits. The financial and economic crisis has not been caused by investment in social programmes and ensuring that the economy serves the needs of the peoples of Europe. It has been caused by the reckless and gross irresponsibility of the monopolies and the financial oligarchy. This has been the agenda of the EU, as well as successive British governments.

Workers' Weekly salutes the militant actions of the European workers, who are at one with the working class in Britain in going all out to block the anti-social offensive of the ruling circles. The events are showing that the workers themselves must become political and affirm the alternative and take up responsibility for the fate of society.

Stop This Attack on Society! Fight for the Alternative!

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zens. They do not recognise that this responsibility requires comprehensive funding in social programmes, which cannot be called a cost by the government, cannot be called reckless public spending, but is an investment in society. It is not just that a way must be found to curb government public spending to bring it in line with its income through taxes, or that taxation on the other hand must be increased to bring it in line with spending on social programmes and benefits. It is that the working class and people are fed up with this fraudulent equation which is based on outdated thinking of the owners of capital, and are voicing an alternative outlook. This alternative outlook recognises that the working class are the producers of wealth through the application of their labour to Mother Nature and that added value created by the

working people is that asset which is being fought over by the competing claims on society. The rich say that their claims must come first, otherwise society will come to an end. The claim, for example, of the financial oligarchy in the form of a huge amount of interest on the public debt is considered sacrosanct. Innumerable financial experts are wheeled out to put this as a received truth, to say that society is living beyond its means, that of course the contention is only about where the cuts should come. In other words, various versions of "we are all in this together" and all that remains is to make sure that the "cuts are fair".

Social consciousness

The working class points out that this is a dysfunctional society, that the governments of the rich are not addressing their responsibility of how to remedy this dysfunctionism, that the consensus in Westminster about where cuts should come and how quickly should be smashed. This can be done by building a Workers' Opposition which upholds that if the crisis is addressed by first examining that the pay-the-rich



Demonstrating in Brussels on September 29

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Workers' Weekly

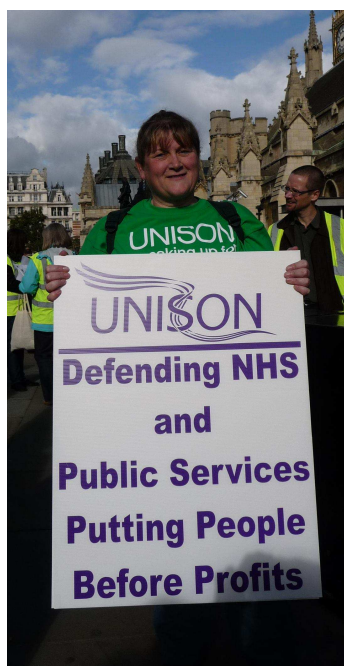
Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

October 23, 2010 Volume 40, Number 9

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £3.15, 26 issues - £19.95, Yearly - £36.95.
For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly.
Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

October Is Black History Month



society is causing the problems, and that investments in social programmes is a step towards the solution, then a way out of the crisis can be found. In the course of this, the working class and people must themselves participate in discussing the solutions, in discussing their forms of resistance, in elaborating what kind of society must be brought into being which will guarantee the people's rights and well-being as sacrosanct, that will put the public good above the claims of the rich for their fabulous killings, that will build an economy which serves the needs of society not the greed of the owners of capital.

That the working people are up in arms against the assault on society, the poor, the vulnerable and on working people as a whole, is a pointer that the time is opportune to develop the new social consciousness required to put an end to this headlong wrecking of society that the government is implementing.

**Stop this Attack on Society!
Fight for the Alternative!**



Black History Month recognises the achievements and history of Africans, people of African descent, and the people from the Caribbean. It is an important reflection of the necessity for the people to know about the history of Africa and Africans, and place this history within the context of world history. This is especially true of the place of peoples of African and Caribbean origin in Britain and their place within the struggles of the working class and people of Britain for their social liberation and for their right to exist and to create the conditions for the flourishing of that existence.

It is especially important in the context of the disinformation of the powers-that-be who declare that the people of Africa have no history. The equation goes that if you have no history you have no memory, and if you have no memory you have no intelligence, and if you have no intelligence that you are not a human being. On the contrary, the peoples of Africa have a very ancient and important and continuing history. As well as the history and pre-history of the peoples of the African continent, of course, not only have Africans played their part in British history for some 2,000 years, but they have taken their place as class sisters and brothers of the working people of Britain in their struggles throughout this time. Africans have contributed in all the major wars of Britain since the 18th century. The emperor Septimus Severus who occupied Britain in 197 CE was African, and perhaps the emperor before him, Claudius Albinus.

It is a fact that not only have the people of Africa been their own liberators from the direct colonialism of the colonial powers, especially Britain, but they have

continued to play a forefront role in affirming their rights within Britain, that they are not the gift of anyone else. Historically, they have played and they continue to play an integral role in the communist movement in this country also. In this respect also, they have continued to insist within the communist, workers and people's movements that racism must be considered, as a fact, as stemming from the state itself, and that it does not have its origin within the ranks of the people. The people of African and Caribbean origin have always taken their place within the front ranks of the people fighting to unblock the path to progress.

Under the signboard of "multiculturalism", the historic role of the national minority peoples has continued to be denied. Indeed, Black History Month itself can be said to have a negative side in that the history of national minority peoples is ghettoised as something apart from mainstream history. The other negative aspect that the powers-that-be promote about "multiculturalism" is the confusion of identity, nationality and citizenship. Of course, it is undeniable that in one sense Britain is a multicultural society, and it is very important that this is recognised, and that the pressures for assimilation on the one hand, or that national minority communities are second class human beings, on the other, are combated. The negative form of multiculturalism is also brought into play when it is promoted that separation is going too far, and that national minority communities are not espousing "British values", and that "national security" is under threat from what this sense of separation is giving rise to. In this sense, the term "mul-



"Le Negre Marron" (The Black Maroon), Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The statue commemorates the Haitian revolution of 1791 to 1804 which affirmed that all have rights by virtue of being human.

ticulturalism" is used by the ruling elite and the backward forces to whom they give the green light, to divert and attack the working people as a whole by dividing them along the lines of different cultures who should have a hierarchy of roles to play within the body politic. Black History Month at its best takes issue with this racist presentation of the issue on the one hand, and the ghettoisation of "black history" on the other by upholding the rights of all, the flourishing of all cultures, but that the Africans and Caribbeans, as well as Indian and all the other national minority communities, are second to none, and take their place at front and centre of the line of march to a new society.

Black History Month presents an opportunity to deal with the problems of racism, and state-organised division of the polity, the proud history of Africans and the African Diaspora, and so on, by putting them under the spotlight and discussing their solutions. Naturally, the struggle to resolve these problems and to create a society where the rights of all are recognised by virtue of everyone being human is not confined to October. But we call on everyone of whatever national origin to participate in Black History Month on this progressive basis and contribute to opposing in practice all forms of racism and racial discrimination which are being organised and promoted by the British state.

Review: "Secret Iraq"



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The programme, while presenting this shocking reality, at the same time did not disclose the full criminality of the occupying forces, for instance the shooting of ambulance drivers and the bombing of a health clinic in Falluja. Similarly, it was not able to show the full extent of the undercover operations, and therefore presented a misleading picture that made it appear that Muslims who had lived side by side worshipping at the same mosques suddenly started blowing each other up. The death squads in the police were created by the US occupiers in the time-honoured fashion of the imperialists, who were organised and paid to create sectarian conflict. Throughout Iraq, the US military established "checkpoints" – the tactic well-known and reviled throughout the world for its arbitrary and often deadly use against the Palestinian people. They not only provide the military with impunity to kill civilians, but also to humiliate all those forced to pass through the checkpoints as part of their daily lives. And the programme repeated the disinformation that the main enemy of the Iraqi people has been Al Qaeda.

Resistance

In spite of this terrible situation in which hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have been killed, the resistance still fought the occupation and the US and British armed forces. The British were forced to withdraw so that they could deploy troops to Afghanistan, in which they are vainly attempting to create similar civil conflicts. The programme did not show the opposition from the troops themselves and the military families to being involved in these unjust and criminal conflicts.

The role of Britain can be compared to that in the north of Ireland where state operations and

infiltration were both in operation and difficult to distinguish, and they were there to stir things up and keep the people divided, the people who would otherwise resolve their problems, or at least their problems are their own business. The programme depicted the rescuing of undercover British special forces, who had been dressed as Arab civilians with a car full of explosives, in Basra as a heroic exercise. It glossed over the just anger of the Iraqis, and what this incident exposed as the bombings and assassinations carried out by the occupation.

Reparations and justice

Britain, of course, was the imperial power that invented the brutal policy of divide and rule, and its criminal involvement in Iraq goes at least as far back as the beginning of the 20th century. At the same time, the occupying forces have not been able to create an Iraq after their own image, and still face incalculable difficulties in implementing their occupation strategies, how to install a government as a proxy, and so on. No such imposed system can be a solution to the problems of aggression and occupation.

The conclusion could be drawn from "Secret Iraq" that the occupation strategy has been to destabilise the whole region, so as to favour imperialist control, but the occupiers with their self-serving pretexts have not been able to guarantee such control. Certainly the programme demonstrates how the intervention of the US and Britain has created hell. At the same time, however, its message was that the Iraqi people are determined to continue the resistance, begin anew, and finally achieve the goal of being in charge of their own destiny. The anti-war movement must continue to insist that Britain for its part must pay reparations for its crimes and that its own war criminals be brought to justice.

AFGHANISTAN: TIME TO



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Rally: Organising to Defeat Cuts in Public Services

**Saturday, October 23,
12pm - 1.45pm**

March against the cuts, **assemble at 11am** outside the RMT head office, 39 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD.

Rally 12:00 to 13:45

Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.
Website - <http://www.tuc.org.uk/serucevents>

Evaluating Black History Month

Wednesday 27 October, 6pm: Museum of London

You are invited to come and take part in this debate concerning the future of Black History Month with leading historians, funders and activists. The event is an opportunity to review and evaluate the future of Black History month in an ever-changing climate. Your voice and opinions are needed.

To include panellists:

Dr Hakim Adi (Historian),

AJamu (Co-Founders of the rukus! Archive), Dr Caroline Bressey (Lecturer at UCL and Director of the Equiano Centre), Dr June Bam-Hutchison (Partnership Development Strategist) and Fabian Tompsett (THACMHO) together with an audience the 'Evaluating Black History Month' debate aims to come up with solutions.

Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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

Web site: www.rcpbml.org.uk

e-mail: office@rcpbml.org.uk

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