

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

## Mass Actions by Students to Declare that Education Is a Right!

**T**he demonstration on November 10 called by the NUS (National Union of Students) and UCU (University and College Union)

reflected the outrage and anger against the Coalition government's programme to increase student fees as part of its anti-social offensive and

attacks on fundamental rights.

The demonstration also reflected that there is an overwhelming sense that the direction that the Coalition and

previous New Labour governments have been taking society must be changed. The reactionary programme of the

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## FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT!



- RCPB(ML), November 20, 2010 -

**O**n the occasion of the demonstration "Afghanistan: Time To Go!", the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) calls on the

working class and people to further build the movement to end crimes against peace, and to fight for an anti-war government.

The anti-war movement has

persisted in its opposition to the warmongers without compromise since the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. This is a great tribute to the anti-war sentiment of the working

class and people, and to the people's determination to oppose and block the factors for and the causes of war. It is a tribute to the

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### Commentary

## First They Fake Berlin

The November 9 anniversary of the "fall of the Berlin Wall" in 1989 is used by those in the imperialist camp and the most reactionary elements in society to create massive ideological confusion about the historical significance of the events of 1989-91 in Eastern Europe. It is proclaimed that these events marked the "victory of capitalism" and the "end of

communism". Capitalism and communism alike are rendered dogmatically to distort the significance of unfolding events and what can be done to resolve the crises in which the world is mired in a manner which favours the peoples. The goal of the anti-communist offensive is to get the working people to end their fight for a society which provides their rights with a guarantee. In this context, we are carrying the following, based on the article by Dougal MacDonald in "The Marxist-Leninist", Daily On-Line Newspaper of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), November 9, 2010.

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## Anglo-French Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation:

# No to Militarisation and Aggressive Alliances!

The UK-France Summit that took place on November 2 in London concluded with two major declarations: one on preventing so-called “illegal immigration” and the other on what the British and French governments chose to call “Defence and Security Co-operation”, by which is meant preparations for wars and further aggression. As a consequence of the Summit two treaties were signed between the two governments, which pledged to co-operate militarily and to establish a closer relationship between the armed forces and defence industries of both countries. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, went as far as suggesting that the result of these agreements “will make our citizens safer, more secure and better protected in the global age of uncertainty in which we now live”, adding that the agreements “will also help us to maintain and strengthen our defences at a time when national finances are

severely challenged”.

### Warmongering entente

The mass media has been quick to seize on the fact that the “entente” has been forced on the two governments by economic circumstances. While this may be a consideration, no evidence has been produced by either government of any “savings”. Indeed Britain and France currently have the third and fourth largest military budgets in the world, half of the total military spending of all European countries. The measures agreed this week, which include joint missile construction and use of aircraft carriers and a joint “expeditionary force” or rapid deployment force, as well as other forms of military and military-industrial cooperation are designed to further consolidate the monopoly power of the armaments and “defence” industries of Britain and France. They will further bolster the military capabilities of the two countries to intervene globally, as well as creating the conditions for both to enhance their position within Europe and within the warmongering NATO, which will shortly hold a major summit in Lisbon, which Russia will also attend. As part of the treaty signed this week, Britain and France will also jointly support the expansion



Demonstrations against the G20 Summit outside the Bank of England, April 1 2009

of the ALTBMD missile defence system for Europe, one of the key agenda items at the Lisbon summit. In short the military agreements signed this week aim to strengthen the military capabilities of the two countries, the EU and the warmongering NATO alliance.

Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, commented that the new entente was “a decision which is unprecedented and shows a level of trust and confidence between our two nations which is unequalled in history”, while David Cameron spoke of a “new chapter” in co-operation between the two. However, it may be remembered that Blair’s first government also made similar “unprecedented” military agreements with France at St Malo in 1998, before embarking on its warmongering rampage throughout the world. The St Malo agreements also paved the way for wider agreements on an enhanced EU military capability within NATO.

### Global insecurity

Like its predecessor the coalition government makes every effort to claim that its warmongering activities around the world are somehow connected with maintaining the security and well-being of the citizens of Britain. But this

is to turn truth on its head. Events in recent years have demonstrated that the military intervention and occupation, as well as threats and other forms of intervention by British governments and their allies, have created ever greater global instability and insecurity for the people of Britain and other countries.

### For an anti-war government

The new Anglo-French entente is clearly designed to enable similar and even more aggressive acts to be committed in the future and the “Declaration on Defence and Security Co-operation” clearly signals the intention of the two powers to intensify their threats against Iran and the DPR of Korea, as well as other countries. The warmongering alliance between France and Britain, as well as the threats issued against Yemen and other countries, have been taken against the interests of the people of Britain and without our consent. They point to the need to continue to demand and fight for an anti-war government which removes foreign troops from Britain and brings home British troops from abroad – a government which refuses to act on behalf of the big armaments monopolies and withdraws from NATO and all warmongering alliances.



Mass Opposition to Seoul G20 Summit

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# For An Anti-War Government!

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people's determination to bring the war criminals to justice to account for their crimes.

The maturity of the anti-war movement has been such that it has allowed no provocations to divert it from its aim of settling scores with the warmongers in this country.

The task facing us is to further build the movement to end crimes against peace, recognising that to plan to commit aggression and to invade or occupy a sovereign country is a most serious war crime. The government is continuing the occupation of Afghanistan, whereas the demand of all justice-loving people is that the troops be brought home now. The threat to the peace and sovereignty of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other countries must be ended. Britain must withdraw from NATO and end all military alliances which threaten peace and stability.

RCPB(ML) calls on the movement, above all, to discuss the significance of an anti-war government and how to bring this about. We call on everyone to intensify their efforts for the principles of an anti-war government, which include defence of sovereignty, independence, removing British troops from foreign soil, demilitarisation of the economy, as well as the necessity for reparations for war crimes and the fight to bring war criminals to justice.

We salute all those who continue to fight for justice and to bring about those arrangements in society which will put an end to war crimes.

**Build the Movement to End Crimes against Peace!  
Bring the Troops Home!  
For an Anti-War Government!**

# First They Fake Berlin

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**T**he past is the objective occurrence of events and there is only one past. For example, on February 2, 1943, the Soviet Union defeated Nazi Germany at the Battle of Stalingrad, which was the turning point of the Second World War. That is the past; it happened and nothing can change that. But besides the actual past, there is historical falsification of the past by certain human beings. Churchill, speaking for the Anglo-American imperialists, said: "History will be kind to us because we will write it."

Berlin has long been the focus of post-war historical falsifications. Just as the fall of the wall in 1989 and the "reuniting of Germany" in 1990 supposedly marked the "end of communism", the so-called Berlin Blockade and Berlin Airlift of 1948-49 supposedly marked the Soviet Union's initiation of the Cold War. But in March 1946, Winston Churchill had already started the Cold War by attacking the Soviet Union in his warmongering "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe." Churchill was echoing his mentor, Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels, who had stated a year earlier: "If the German people lay down their weapons, the Soviets, according to the agreement between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin would occupy all of East and Southeast Europe along with the greater part of the Reich. An iron curtain would fall over this enormous territory controlled by the Soviet Union, behind which nations would be slaughtered" (Article titled "Das Jahr 2000" in the newspaper *Das Reich*, February 25, 1945, pp. 1-2).

What then are the facts about the 1948-49 "Berlin Blockade" and "Berlin Airlift"? At the end of the Second World War, by the 1945 Potsdam Agreement, the four allies divided defeated Germany into four

**The liberation of Berlin by the Soviet Red Army in May 1945**

zones: Soviet, American, British and French. The city of Berlin was located in the Soviet Zone but all four countries' military governments were represented in its administration. A main provision agreed upon at Potsdam for the setting up of a new post-war German democratic state was economic unity among all zones. From the beginning, the US imperialists pursued a policy of splitting rather than unifying Germany and of trying to isolate the Soviet Union, first merging the US and British Zones into Bizonia and then into Trizonia by including the French Zone.

In 1948, the US and the other Western Powers announced their intention to form a separate West Germany, which was created in May 1949. "East Germany" did not yet exist. The Soviet Union called for renewed four-power talks to resolve the issue, but the Western Powers ignored the call and instituted a separate Western currency reform, even though the Potsdam Agreement called for economic unity, which required unified currency. The goal of the Western introduction of the new Deutschemark currency into Berlin was to try to destabilise not only the economy of part of Berlin but also of the whole Soviet Zone of which Berlin was a part. It was warfare on the economic front. To prevent economic disruption of the people's lives, the Soviet Union instituted restrictions on traffic to and from Berlin, which the Western Powers labelled a "blockade".

The Western Powers responded to the justifiable restrictions by initiating the "Berlin Airlift" of food on June 24, 1948, after falsely alleging that the people of Berlin were starving and were "victims of a famine". For purposes of anti-Soviet propaganda, the completely unnecessary airlift delivered food to the supposedly blockaded people in the non-Soviet zones of Berlin until May 12, 1949. To show its good faith, the Soviet Union immediately offered to supply enough food for the entire Berlin population (rather than just the Soviet zone), which it began doing daily in July 1948. Meanwhile, the Western powers continued to pour out a stream of



false allegations such as that the Soviets refused to negotiate, that the Soviets planned to overthrow the Berlin municipal government, that the Soviets wanted a new world war, and so on.

In August 1948, in Moscow, the four powers finally agreed on lifting the travel restrictions and introducing a uniform currency in Berlin but the US imperialists quickly broke the agreement and stayed their course because such changes would interfere with their plans to partition Germany and create a separate West German state. The imperialists wanted to form an aggressive military bloc directed against the Soviet Union and the people's democracies and divert attention from questions of peace and disarmament. A divided Germany was the plan of the US imperialists from the start, a policy that they later also carried out in Korea and Viet Nam. What happened in the past reveals that all the modern-day imperialist hosannas about Germany finally being reunified are complete rubbish because it was the imperialists who deliberately divided Germany in the first place.

The history of Berlin shows how historical falsification "works" by repeatedly presenting lies about the objective past and by suppressing — including by force — the presentation of the truth. Hitler once said, "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels was a master of the big lie technique. The Nazis constantly backed up their lies with force; Hitler's lie that Poland had attacked Germany was followed by the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, resulting in the deaths of more than 3 million Polish people. The US imperialists learned well from Hitler and the Nazis, and for decades a major weapon against the working class and people of the world has been the imperialists' repetition of historical falsifications, backed up by force.

# Mass Actions by Students to Declare that Education Is a Right!

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Coalition is accelerating the assault on the social economy. Almost every day a new measure is announced. It is not that these legislative diktats are too much too quickly. Rather, this comprehensive anti-social offensive is designed to eliminate the conception that society has a responsibility to meet the claims and needs of its members.

It was in this context that 50,000 students and lecturers demonstrated against the government's proposals for outrageous increases in tuition fees, and to declare that education is a right, not a privilege! It was a signal of the flowering of both the youth and student movement and the movement of working people as a whole which is voicing the sentiment and demand that there is an alternative! This demand has come to the fore out of a deep sense of frustration about the marginalisation of the working class and people from decision-making. It has come to the fore out of a determination that the wrecking of society and its social programmes must not succeed, and that a halt must be called to the juggernaut of neo-liberalism.

The November 10 demonstration, in its size and militancy, took a stand against the obscurity of the government's doubling tuition fees, cutting social programmes and social benefits, while attempting to consolidate its role as a military power, arrogantly parading as "Great" Britain.

The events at Millbank were a reflection of a genuine hatred of

Westminster's neo-liberal consensus. Many progressive people have since underlined this stand, and the sentiment of those fighting against being made to pay for the crisis is with the students. The storming of Millbank and its occupation cannot be said to be the actions of rogue "anarchist and extremist elements", or however it is put. It was an outpouring of resistance to the anti-social offensive by large numbers of students, directed against what has become a symbol of the contempt for the people's wellbeing, first under New Labour when Tony Blair staged his electoral coup, and now under the Con-Dem government, and its cartel-party coalition.

Perhaps the state was genuinely unprepared for such an action. Or maybe the Metropolitan Police had been making a point to the government to beware of cut-backs on the number of police, or the state had been looking for a pretext to act with increased brutality and impunity in the future against the workers' and people's movements, and the growing upsurge amongst the youth and students.

## Perspective of the youth

Following the actions at Millbank, the ruling circles and their media have attempted to sow divisions within the student movement. They have done so by, for example, claiming that those that occupied Millbank were not genuine students, or that those who did so were rich students who could afford tuition fees, or that the demonstration was hijacked by those intent on causing damage to property. Already a witch-hunt has begun against those the police want to arrest, and the state has stepped in to close down a website giving guidance on avoiding arrest. It may be mentioned in passing that the rich are perfectly happy to fund endless advisors on tax avoidance to perpetrate "legal" violence against the state



treasury.

The aim of this propaganda against the youth is on the one hand to hold back the opposition of the working class and people, including the youth and students, to the pay-the-rich social system which cares nothing for the public good and the people's wellbeing; on the other, it is to give the green light for further repression of the people's resistance to this system. The promotion of violence to property covers over the violence to society, and particularly to the youth, that the Coalition is perpetrating; and the damage to Millbank Tower is nothing compared to the wrecking of society that its occupiers are presiding over, particularly to the future of the youth. Furthermore, the ruling elite would like to block the movement of the youth to take control of their own future, and instead lead them into a morass of anarchy and violence, and crush their movement with the anarchy and violence of the state itself.

The youth are not accepting that their movement will be stopped, either by the disinformation and violence of the state, nor, as it happens, by the promotion of a future parasitic heir to the throne as an example for the youth. The youth and students are actually giving the lie stemming from the Thatcher years

that they are politically apathetic, and are prepared to buy into the pay-the-rich society for the sake of their careers. The November 10 demonstrations and also subsequent student occupations, as well as previous student and lecturers' actions, are a declaration that they will not accept the dictate of the Con-Dem Coalition or the Westminster cartel, and are refusing to be marginalised from decision-making.

Through their actions, the students are coming to the conclusion that new arrangements are required in society so that the people can actually address the issues facing them, such as that education is a right and not a privilege, and that such a right must be provided with a guarantee, and that the economy must serve the needs of the people and not the enrichment of the owners of capital. In this regard, what is at stake is not a matter of forms of "protest" as the ruling circles would like to promote. It is how the youth and students can take control of their own future, and build a society in which class privilege is ended, and the public good is paramount.

**No to Tuition Fees!  
Education Is a Right, Not a Privilege!**



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