

# **DON'T VOTE!**

**Labour=Tory=Capitalism**



**BRITAIN NEEDS  
REVOLUTION**

**Communist Party of Britain  
Marxist-Leninist**

# IF YOU VOTE you vote for capitalism



Photo Mark Rusher-IFL

At the time of a general election there is always a lot of sickening cant from both parties about "serving the national interest" and "upholding the standards of British justice" and so forth. Capitalism, which both parties serve so faithfully does not represent the nation's interest and it is a thoroughly immoral and unjust system. Its very supporters defend it on the grounds that human nature, which they claim cannot be changed, is so depraved and self-seeking as to deserve no other system than capitalism.

Capitalism's earliest apologist like Adam Smith never tried to justify it in moral terms. They argued that if all men strove mightily and selfishly in a completely individualistic way to satisfy their own ends, the market place would sort out all their competing claims for the general good of society. But after several hundred years of such an amoral approach what we see is a world of the grossest inequality, with over a third of the population undernourished or actually starving, with incessant wars culminating every so often in world conflicts in which millions upon millions are immolated.

That is where production for the profit of the few rather than production to meet the needs of the people directly has taken the world. That is the system the Tories urge us to support by portraying it as a system of freedom as opposed to totalitarianism. But Labour is guilty of an even greater hypocrisy. They urge us to support exactly the same system but insist that when they are in office it is not really capitalism at all but socialism. This rotten, corrupt, evil, unjust system is, they tell us, what the great social reformers and utopian idealists wanted for us. Two million unemployed, the destruction of Britain's industrial base, the whittling away of all our hard won social services, the selling out or splitting up of the country's sovereignty are fobbed off on us as the answer to our socialist dreams!

In all the times that the Labour Party has enjoyed political power not one step towards socialism, not one, has been taken. Britain is as thoroughly capitalist as ever and the only difference is that it is a capitalism in world-wide decline. Many unions like the AUEW have written into their constitutions a pledge to move toward socialism, the ending of the private ownership of the means of production, the end of exploitation of man by man. How then can they go on supporting a political party which so obviously flouts these principles which are the morality of the working class?

Marxism-Leninism is the ideology of the working class and only a Marxist-Leninist party can express the morality of the working class in its drive to realise socialism and its willingness to commit itself to everything which that realisation entails. It is thus no moral arrogance on our part but a simple statement of fact that the CPB(ML) is the only political party which the British working class, from its own moral point of view, could possibly vote for. And we do not ask our class brothers for their vote - only for the common allegiance with us to the cause of socialism.

## Labour, Tory both the same

Ever since the end of World War II the two major political parties, Labour and Tory, have taken turns controlling the British state machine in the interests of capitalism. They have taken turns in trying to impose a policy of fixing wages by government fiat in defence of profit and in preventing the trade unions from defending collective bargaining. Wage fixing and the destruction of the unions are complementary and both

**Shipyards, docks, textiles, steelworks, coalmines, telecommunications, engineering closed down. 2 million unemployed.**

are necessary to capitalism in its state of absolute decline.

The two parties have vied with each other in coming up with wage freezes, solemn and binding agreements, phased limitations, social contracts and government guidelines - all to keep wages down so that profits

could soar. At the same time they have competed in devising legislative means of hobbling the trade unions, Labour with "In Place of Strife", the Tories with "The Industrial Relations Act".

Both attempts to destroy the unions by legislative means were smashed by the organised working class. Within the last few months the working class has also reasserted the right to collective bargaining. Collective bargaining, the right to have a say in the price put on our labour power, is the corner stone of any freedom we enjoy at all in a capitalist society. Without it we are simply wage slaves in what has become a fascist state. To vote for either of the parties that tried to fix low wages on us and destroy our unions would be to repudiate the victory we have just won.

There is no difference between Thatcher and Callaghan on the question of our right to collective bargaining. Both would deny it though they may differ about the words used. There is no difference

in their attitude toward our unions. Thatcher threatens to try the old line of legislative restrictions again. Callaghan simply urges people to cross picket lines.

Once again in this election we are being urged to vote Labour as the lesser of two evils. But on the two issues

**Hospitals, schools closed  
Ambulance services cut  
Fire services cut back  
3 workers dead, 1000 injured at work each day.**

that are vital to us, collective bargaining and the strength of our unions, these parties are the same. In any case, we cannot go on being hoodwinked by the lesser-of-two-evils argument. If the Tories say they would shoot one worker in ten if elected and Labour says they would only shoot one in twelve, that does not mean we ought to vote for Labour. It means we ought to get rid of both anti-working class parties and of capitalism itself

## Be positive - don't vote!

We organised workers simply cannot go on voting for capitalism and a General Election offers us no alternative. The Tories are capitalist. Labour is capitalist. The Liberals are capitalist too. The so-called 'national' parties in Scotland and Wales represent local capitalist interests and, like all the

others, are anti-working class. The fringe parties represent even more naively a belief that there will never be a change from the capitalist system and therefore all argument has to take place in the parliamentary forum capitalism provides.

**Save Britain - capitalism can't!**

For workers to vote in an election where every vote is a vote for capitalism is, in fact, to disenfranchise themselves as workers. A vote is only meaningful if it can be cast for what the voter really wants and needs.

What the workers of Britain need desperately at this moment in time is an end to unemployment, a restoration of health, education and the public services and investment of the wealth they have created in Britain's future, that future being the capacity of British workers to use their skill and ingenuity to provide a wholesome life for themselves, their children and their children's children. Is it conceivable that any of the capitalist parties can give us that? If it is, why haven't they done so? We have needed these things long enough. No. It is per-

fectly obvious we shall have to do these things for ourselves.

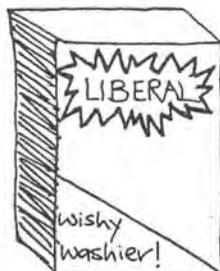
A significant vote by workers isn't a mark on a piece of paper cast every four or five years. It is what we do or don't do daily, mainly at our place of work, which either confirms in power the class and the party and the government which exploits us or, by organising ourselves for resistance, begins to vote capitalism out and socialism in.

**Don't vote - organise for revolution!**

When it was said that the Russian soldiers streaming back from the front where capitalism had been slaughtering them had not yet voted, Lenin said they had voted with their feet. We vote with our feet when we, in trade union solidarity, walk out of a place of work in pursuance of a just claim. We vote with the seat of our trousers when we occupy a place of work the employers are trying to close down.

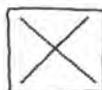
And most of all we vote with our hearts and minds when we repudiate their phoney elections and parliamentary traps to organise ourselves for the overthrow of the class enemy and the ending of exploitation.

**TAKE THEM TO THE CLEANERS!**



**BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY -**

it isn't worth a



# Their 'democracy' is not our democracy

A correct attitude of the organised working class toward elections and voting depends on its understanding of democracy; and this understanding, in turn, depends on taking a class view of the matter.

There is bourgeois democracy which, from our working class point of view, is the velvet glove form of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and there is the working class democracy of a socialist society whose political form, as far as the overthrown bourgeoisie is concerned, is the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But these two political conditions are not equally valid. Democracy, literally, means 'the rule of the people', the rule of workers who are the vast majority of the population, and it can only exist when the working class has assumed state power and eliminated the exploitation of one class by another. It is equally true that only when proletarian democracy genuinely exists can a socialist society prevent degeneration into some form of bureaucratic capitalism as is happening now in China.

'Bourgeois democracy' is not democratic at all because the vast majority of the people are disenfranchised

on the one issue of any consequence to them: they are not allowed to vote on whether they are to go on being exploited or not. Bourgeois democracy is only called 'democratic' because it retains certain of the forms, like parliament and general elections, which were once democratic in relation to the feudal dictatorship, based on ownership of land, whose overthrow was symbolised by the chopping off of a king's head.

Proletarian democracy, real democracy, cannot be achieved by bourgeois parliamentary means. That is a fundamental Marxist principle which history has amply endorsed. Socialism based on real proletarian democracy is not one of the options in this election. What British workers are being offered is a choice between two political parties both capitalist, both committed to the intensification of the exploitation of workers.

This is no choice at all and must be indignantly rejected by all workers with any class political consciousness. We will not vote in such a sham election. We will go on organising ourselves to overthrow our oppressors, who can rule equally well through a Tory or a Labour government.



Photo Carlos Augusto IFL

## No peace with capitalism No peace with imperialism

If you vote, you vote not only for capitalism at home, but also for its continued activity as imperialism abroad.

British troops occupy Northern Ireland while torture is sanctioned in Irish gaols. The fact that the Labour Government is master of both these operations at the present does not of course disguise their approval by all the other parties aspirant to parliamentary seats.

Southern Africa, thrown into turmoil by the desire of its peoples for liberation, is too precious a jewel for Britain to relinquish entirely, and all the efforts of the little doctor only match what the Tories would try, have tried, the retention of this neo-colony in the interests of imperialism, British and American.

The world over, British imperialism has its hooks into its old colonies, readjusting to change, including the overthrow of its own overt rule, with one aim, to retain its power to exploit and oppress. This is the nature of imperialism and no government which serves imperialism can fail to attempt this role.

Under Labour Britain entered the EEC. The overfish-

ing of British waters, uneaten mountains of food at the expense of heavy subsidies, the abuse of advanced British agriculture, all the problems which scandalise our Labour negotiators today, are inevitable consequences of belonging to that club of international monopoly capitalists which Labour, Tory and Liberal alike embraced.

Voting for capitalism is voting for a system which created NATO, ostensibly the defender of the liberties enjoyed under the Western democracies, in reality an aggressive force to ensure, they hope, that the working class never moves beyond bourgeois democracy and towards proletarian dictatorship. Remember Heath's

pronouncement at the UN in 1974 that the greatest danger (to the capitalist system) was civil war (revolution).

Thatcher and the Tories talk alot about war. Indeed war is an inevitable part of imperialist practice, necessary for the constant redivision of the world for cheap labour, resources and spheres of influence; also a cynical method of diverting and decimating the working class. British workers have fought their working class brothers in two world wars. Capitalism will have no compunction about unleashing a third when the time comes. Let us not assist it by voting for its representatives in parliament, but work urgently for world peace through revolution.



Photo UPI

Communist Party of Britain  
Marxist-Leninist  
May Day Meeting 1979

**No peace with capitalism  
One solution-  
revolution**

Conway Hall  
Red Lion Square  
Holborn WC1  
Tuesday May 1  
7.30 p.m.

Other CPB(M-L) May Day meetings

AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3, May 2, 7.30 p.m.

Swarthmore Education Centre, Woodhouse Square, off Hanover Way, Leeds 3. April 29, 2.30 p.m.

Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham, April 28, 8.00

Shepherds Hall, Old Market, Bristol, May 1, 8.00 p.m.

International Centre, Gwydir Street, Cambridge, Apr 28 8.00

# Britain needs revolution

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you vote for  
capitalism**



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**COMMUNIST PARTY  
OF BRITAIN  
MARXIST-LENINIST**

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