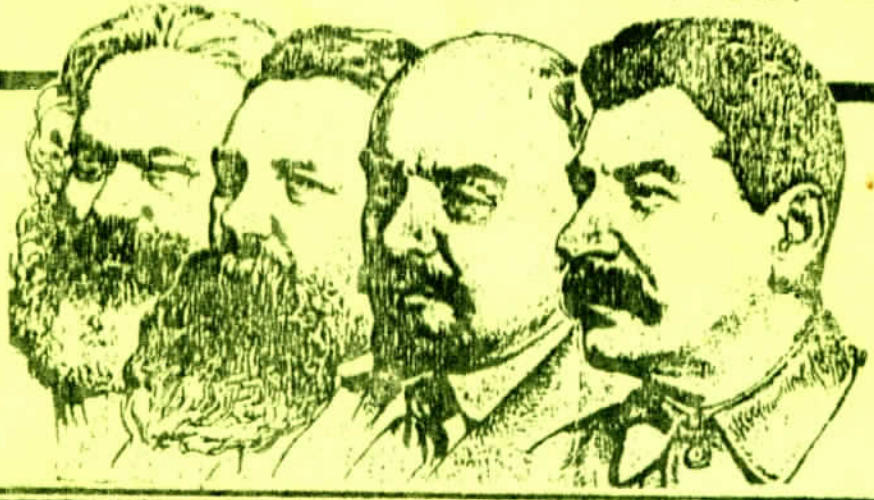
LIVERPOOL MARXIST-LENINIST STUDY GROUP



A SCORE OF LABOUR PARTY CRIMES

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THE CRIMES

I. The Labour Party will tell you how non-violent it is.
They have never hesitated to use violence against coloured peoples, and one of the most terrible uses of violence was in Malaya in I948. The people of Malaya in that year, being an oppressed colony of Britain, sought their independence by struggle. The Labour Government launched a massive violent war against the Malayan people, using jet bombers. Hundreds of thousands of people of Malaya were put into so-called New Villages, which were police-run prisons, heavily guarded, so as to cut them off from the people fighting for their country's independence.
This policy, started under Labour, was to lead to the "re-settlement" of 470,000 persons by the end of I952.

2. .... In I949 the Chinese people achieved their independence and liberated themselves after a massive war lasting dozens of years. The Labour government interfered in the private affairs of the Chinese people sending a British gun-boat, the Amethyst thousands of miles up the River Yangtze. By mistake this ship was fired upon, being mistaken in conditions of bad visibility, and then the ship was chased out of China by the Chinese people. The Labour Government knew that the incident was a mistake, and also knew that it had no right to interfere in Chinese affairs (What would we think of a Chinese gun-boat in the Mersey ?) but it used the incident to whip up massive Anti-Chinese and Anti-progressive feeling in this country.

3. We all know the terrible problem there is in Palestine, with the Israelis attacking the defenceless people of the Lebanon and with world peace and the survival of us all constantly being threatened by the existence of the Israeli state totally unrecognised by most of the rest of the world. This problem is entirely the result of the behaviour of the Labour Government of the day, which allowed the Zionists to seize power when the Labour Government pulled out of Palestine in I948. Had Labour been a progressive party, it would not have allowed a problem to emerge that has defied solution ever since. The Labour Party is an openly Zionist party, and Harold Wilson has recently published a book on Israel, which repeats all the nonsensical claims of the Zionists.
In a sense every death in the Middle East is the responsibility of - The Labour Party.

4. . In I947 there took place one of the greatest disasters of recent times - the totally chaotic division of India, with India dividing along religious lines and enormous numbers of people dying as a sham "independence" was achieved. This terrible disaster took place under a Labour Government, and the mess must be seen as entirely the resposibility of this party. Labour had consistantly opposed independence for India, imprisoning tens of thousands of Indians so as to keep down the hundreds of millions of people wanting a life free from Imperialist domination. If the Indian subcontinent today is place of crushing poverty and political backwardness, the total

failure of Labour to even begin to promote the interests of the oppressed is a major cause.

5. When the Second World War finished in I945, Greece was liberated from the Nazis, only to be subjected to British domination. The Greek people had exactly the fascists who had run the country under Hitler imposed upon them. And it was the British Labour Govt. that did it. The Labour Government imposed King George II "amid conditions of fraud and intolerable terrorism" (Andreas Papandreou). The policy led directly to the Greek Civil War. If democracy has shallow roots in Greece, it is the Labour Party which is to blame.

Imposing this regime proved too costly for the British, in the postwar situation of economic collapse in this country, and they withdrew, leaving the country in a state of civil war. The U.S.A. came in immediately to replace British (Labour Party) imperialism with the American version, as it also did in India and Israel. It was the Labour party which opened the door to American world domination in those countries.

6 The Labour Party has refused to use force to prevent a country becoming independent of Britain in <u>one case</u>. That was the case of Rhodesia, where a quarter of a million white settlers, led by Ian Smith, ruled 6 million black people in the most savage way. Smith declared independence on II November, I965, and did so in order to prevent any possibility of the black people being given rule of their own country. Ian Smith only decided to declare independence when Harold Wilson actually stated that no force would be used against the white Rhodesians.

So Labour only failed to use force when those defying Britain were a tiny clique of racist oppressors !

Wilson then embarked on a totally sham policy of economic sanctions against Smith, which had no effect whatsoever. He refused to supply black people with arms so they could seek their independence through struggle. Other countries were prepared to give aid to the oppressed black people and after a long and destructive civil war, they achieved their independence.

In a sense, every death in the Rhodesian Civil War was the responsibility of the Labour Party for refusing real help before the shooting started.

It is wrong however, to talk of Labour as being cowardly or traitorous, because what caused them not to support the Rhodesian Blacks wasn't fear - it was racism. They can't be called traitors, because they were never on the side of the black people to begin with.

7. From the very first the Labour Party has refused to anything about racism in this country exceept to attempt to profit from it electorally by sham opposition. They refused to take action against racism (open display of "No Coloured" notices etc.) when in office between I945 and I95I, and then made a big fuss when the Conservatives introduced Immigration legislation.
The Labour Party pledged to to repeal the Immigration Act of I96I, but when they achieved power in I964, did nothing until they passed a further Immigration Act in I968, which was, of course, even more

racist. The Conservatives passed an Immigration Act in I97I, which yet again Labour pledged to repeal, but on achieving office in I974 they strengthened the Act making restrictions even tighter.

8. The Labour Government went further and produced a discussion document (a "Green Paper") which proposed that the law on nationality be changed. But Labour were ejected from office by Thatcher, who has since introduced the new Nationality Bill, now an Act, based on the Labour Governments proposals and introducing a kind of apartheid into this country.

The Nationality Act is essentially a Labour measure, and all their promises of "repealing" it should be regarded in the same light as the promises refered to above.

9. The Labour Party makes claims about having some kind of special concern for the workers and trade unions. Also they make statements about opposing the harsh legislation against Trade Unions being passed by the Tories.

In fact the first major attempt to make the activity of unions subject to restrictive laws was that of Barbara Castle in I968. A government White Paper called " In Place of Strife " (i.e. in place of class struggle) was brought out planning all sorts of restrictions on the unions. There was a massive outcry from the Trade Unions and the proposals were dropped. But the ice had been broken and the following governments - Labour and Conservative - have repeatedly attempted to use the courts and police to interfere with workers' attempts to defend themselves.

I0. But what has really destroyed the trade unions and reduced them to the pale shadows we see today was the years of successfully imposed in-comes policies of Labour Governments. Wilson repeatedly attempted such measures in the I960s. Under Wilson and Callaghan in the I970s a whole series of such policies (the £6, the 4% and so on) disintergrated working class struggle by making every local factory labour-force appear unpatriotic if they tried for wage claims which their firms might be able to afford.

There was also a massive attempt to blame the hand-to-mouth wages of the working class for the massive inflation rooted of course in the deliberate use of the printing press to keep capitalism afloat. Furthermore the Labour Party in conjunction with the Trade Union leadership, who, like them, have totally betrayed the working class have attempted to change the character of Trade Unions. Because of the treacherous class collaboration policies of the Trade Union chieftains the Unions are no longer the defensive organisations of the workers which once terrified the ruling class, but increasingly under the guise of "industrial democracy" they have been turned into the right arm of management and strong allies of capitalism.

If today so many workers are confused and depressed, we have the policy of the Labour Party over the years to thank.

II. But as well as attacking the workers through laws and social contracts more physical means have been developed. It was under the last Labour Government of Wilson and Callaghan that the Commando-type Special Patrol Group was perfected as an instrument to intimidate and attack the national minorities and the workers. It was mercilessly used at Grunwick to smash a strike by one of the most oppressed of all groups in our society - black women. The film taken of the brutality was never shown on television due to the typical Labour Party use of censorship.

Just before the 1979 election the Labour Government sent in its police in Southall to gaurantee a safe hearing for fascists trying to incite racial hatred at the height of the election. This massive attack resulted in the injury of hundreds and the brutal murder of Blair Peach by the police. If today in Toxteth we face a police state the Labour Party is the one to blame most of all in recent years, who like all the other parties of the rich carry out the policies of the ruling class. The Labour politicians have constantly shown, they only criticise the police because the police provoke the people beyond endurance, and this threatens the stability of the state itself.

The "Community Police" we face now are very much a creation of Labour Party thinking. A Labour politician is a coppers nark and don't dare to forget that !

I2. In order to attack coloured people abroad, the Labour Government was, in 1950, prepared to smash the National Health Service, so as to pay for an army to go to Korea to impose (in South Korea) the fascist government they have now. The provision of the health service being free at time of use was abandoned, and charges introduced for spectacles and other items. This should show us that the imperialist policy of Labour can only lead to misery at home for us.
Labour has attacked the health service of the country on many other occassions, while still hypocritically claiming to be "socialist".

I3. The Labour Party is totally committed to maintaing the system of international capitalism, and is prepared to make the people of this country suffer in order to preserve this system.

In 1976 the Labour Government let its entire policy be decided by the International Monetary Fund, imposing cuts far worse than anything Thatcher has been able to do in the name of this organization which basically represents international finance capital.

Labour is always prepared to respond to the pressure of the Stock Market, and in fact its nationalisation proposals have always resulted in a rise of stock market prices.

The Guardian said recently that the fact is that the rich get richer under a Labour Government than they do under a Conservative Government. This the Guardian found strange ! But the endless incomes policies and the endless hand-outs of state money to buy bankrupt industries and subsidise state industries so that they in turn can subsidise private industry with low prices make it quite clear that there is nothing strange at all about that.

The Labour Party is the party of the financiers - and if you don't believe that, listen to Healey on every issue.

I4. Sometimes the attacks on the working class reach heights that can only be described as obscene. In 1966 the seamen went on strike. There demands centred on the fact that, at sea, they were actually under military discipline - if a seaman was given one black mark by a shipowner he would never be able to work again. Also they had to support themselves at sea at the same time as supporting their families at home.

Harold Wilson totally refused to help them. But he went one step further. He actually accused the seamen of being led by "politically motivated men" - saying that they were simply being led by Communists. The special Branch were set to spy on the leaders of the seamen.

The strike was smashed. What friend of the working class would behave like that ?

I5. When the seamen's strike took place in the summer of '66, unemployment was only 250,000. This resulted in workers' wages rising very quickly as the employers in many parts of the country couldn't get labour - there were 800,000 unfilled vacancies. This position of full employment was deliberately sabotaged by Harold Wilson, who, on July 20 1966 announced a whole series of tax increases and cuts in government expenditure which "cooled down" the situation. Wilson talked of the redeployment of labour. What this meant was that unemployment was 500,000 by Christmas 1966, and has never looked back since.

Under the Labour Government of 1974 to 1979 unemployment increased continuously, growing every year until 1979, when as the election approached the growth stopped (surprise, surprise !)
The major factor there was the introduction of YOP and STEP schemes. YOP, a criminal scheme to get the youth to do dead-end work for buttons in to replace other workers with cheap labour - was introduced by the Labour Party.

I6. We all know the horror the Vietnam war was. Now in films such as "Apocalypse Now" we are allowed to see the despicable way the Vietnamese people were treated in that war. Of course the major power involved there was the United States. But Britain played a vital role by supporting the attempt of the Americans to exterminate the Vietnamese people. And the major role in this was played by Harold Wilson, who quite unashamedly supported the Americans. He didn't dare to send out troops to attack the Vietnamese - his instinct for self-preservation prevented him. But he did send out English police to advise the clique of gangsters that the United States was trying to impose on the Vietnamese people on how to handle the struggle. They advised the Americans to adopt the same tactics as had worked in malaya.

As we all know, the Vietnamese people won that war, but if Britain had refused to support Lyndon B. Johnson and the war-mongering American imperialists, perhaps millions of lives would have been saved, and perhaps that area today would not be so disturbed as it is.
But then an imperialist Britain led by the Labour Party could hardly be expected to have failed to support L.B.J.

Everywhere the Labour party goes, it spreads war, destruction and slavery.

I7. In Europe there is one country which is virtually totally isolated and falsely accused of carrying out a deliberate isolationist policy. That country is Socialist Albania. Britain, which of all countries is one of the quickest to give recognition to any new government, has refus to recognise the government of Albania throughout the over 30 years of its existance. The Labour Party has been in power for about half of tho 30 years, and so this attempt to smash real living socialism can be gre attributed to the Labour Party.

Not only has the Labour Party refused to give Albania recognition the Labour Government of I945 - I95I adopted a policy of 'destabilisation sending in agents, spies, sabateurs to smash Socialist Albania. In I946 British warships entered Albanian territorial waters, repeatedly attempting to intimidate the Albanians in the same way they-intimidated the Greeks. One of the British gun-boats was sunk when it struck a mi laid by the fascists during the occupation. This incident has been used by the British to justify the witholding of 20 million pounds of Albani gold which had been stolen by the fascists and is now illegally held in the vaults of the Bank of England despite rulings from the international courts that the gold should be returned.

What kind of behaviour is this from a party which claims to be "SOCIALIST" ?

I8. Within the United Kingdom there is a fascist police state. It is known as Ulster, and existing since I92I it has survived by the open use of terror against the patriotic Irish population. Labour has held off many times in those years, and never did anything to improve the lot of the Northern Irish Nationalist population. In the I960's Wilson didn't even mention Northern Ireland before the "troubles" exploded exploded in I969. So much had the Labour party neglected the area that in I969 th was not one government official in London with any specialist knowledg Ulster.

In I969 the Irish people rose, and the Ulster fascist state was brought to the verge of destruction by disturbances very similar to tho in Toxteth in I98I. The Wilson Government responded by sending in the British Army, thus ensuring the survival of the only state in Europe bu on religious hatred. The Army's entry into Ulster was presented as th saving of the Catholic population. But in fact it was the saving of the bigots. And with typical Labour two-facedness the army, under Labour orders, soon became a force of occupation, occupying the catholic dist

But what else could one expect from a capitalist party, determine at all times to forward the intersts of British Imperialism. Had Wilson behaved as he did over Rhodesia i.e. not sending in troops, then certainly today semi-insane butchers in dog-collars like Ian Pais would not be polluting the political life of Britain.

Labour is the friend of bigotry and fascism all over the world.

I9. Of course the struggle of the Irish people has been reflected inside Britain itself. But it is the Labour party which has introduc fascism into this country, undermining our basic liberties. In respon to bombings in Birmingham, which strangely the IRA never claimed resp sibility, the Prevention of Terrorism Act was introduced and pushed through Parliament in a matter of hours, which removed basic rights protecting people against detention without trial.

This has been a major extention of police authority in this country, and along with other Labour Party measures like the creation of the SPG has moved us closer than ever to a police state.

The Labour Party, which talks so much of democracy, never hesitates to reject it when that is required by the need to smash the struggles of the oppressed. In 1981, the Irish people demonstrated by democratic methods their support for the men in the H-Blocks (built by Labour). They did this by electing Bobby Sands to be their MP. The Labour Party totally rejected the democratic decision of the Irish people, and their loutish Don Concannon actually insulted Bobby Sands MP. while he lay dying in his lonely prison cell !
Don Concannon has the comfort of demonstrations by the fascist scum in the "British Movement" in his favour, when he needs support.

20. Nowadays, the Labour Party's "left wing" gets in a big stew about the threat of nuclear war. But nobody bothers to mention that it was precisely the Labour Government of 1945-51 that developed the Atomic Bomb for this country, so as to assert our role as a first class imperialist power. The Bomb was developed in complete secrecy, and the large sums of money to pay for it were raised by the deliberate deceiving of Parliament - passing money bills for other purposes

If this country is now a prime target in any future confrontation between the imperialism of the United states and the social imperialism of the revisionist Soviet Union, and if this country risks total destruction, we must remember who exactly brought the bombs here,
THE LABOUR PARTY !

CONCLUSION

Obviously, a good deal more could be said about every one of the 20 crimes of Labour we have listed here, and of course there are many many more crimes that could be listed if we were to produce something more than a small pamphlet like this. But we feel we have presented enough information to prove beyond all doubt that the Labour Party's claims are all false.

But why are these claims so widely believed ? Well the answer is quite simple. The Bourgeoisie themselves promote these lies. The ruling class realise that a party which both claims to represent the oppressed, and at the same time is prepared to do nothing to help is a great asset . One can see in the media the immense concern at the possibility of the Labour Party collapsing, a concern that comes most of all from Tory papers.

Capitalism needs the Labour Party, and so the lies that are at its root are never exposed. We have not said much about the "left" of the Labour Party but this concept of shifting the Labour Party to the left should also be regarded as a crime. This idea is a clear example of the ruling class telling the workers the way to rebel.
The crimes of this thoroughly bourgeois party are so great that they can't be ignored, and this is where the "right-wing" of Labour comes in useful. All the crimes that cannot be hidden are said to be those of the "right" this lets the Party off the hook and allows them to continue in there attacks against the working class. The promise of a "left-wing Labour Government" offered by the so-called "Marxists" of militant maintain the influence labour has over the working class offering a glimmer of hope to disillusioned Labour voters.
The Labour Party (left or right) and the promotion of social democracy i.e. Labour Party "socialism" is the main weapon the ruling class has to keep control over the working class movement to stop it from breaking out of the framework of reformism,and Parliamentary politics,and taking up the correct path of Marxism-Leninism and waging revolutionary struggle.

What this pamphlet sets out to do is to free people's minds from any illusions about the party so many look to.
Until people can realise that the road the Labour Party offers is the road to hell, no progress can be made.

"The Labour Party is a thoroughly Bourgeois party, because, although made up of workers it is led by reactionaries, and the worst kind of reactionaries at that, who act quite in the spirit of the Bourgeoisie. It is an organisation of the Bourgeoisie which exists to systematically dupe the workers".

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