

THE POWER GOES OFF IN UKRAINE

KIEV 'GUILTY OF WAR CRIMES'

by our Eastern European Affairs correspondent

RUSSIAN ROCKETS rained down on Ukraine this week in continuing attacks on factories, power stations and the national grid, causing power cuts throughout the country. Power was cut throughout the Odessa region and the metro network in Kharkov, Ukraine's second-largest city, was brought to a standstill. Former president Pyotr Poroshenko, the "chocolate king" oligarch, is calling for the banning of the Russian Orthodox church and the Russians are calling for a thorough international investigation into claims that the Ukrainians have been shooting Russian prisoners-of-war.

At the United Nations in New York the Russian envoy told the Security Council that the Russian missile strikes were aimed at disrupting the delivery of weapons and supplies from the West to Ukrainian troops on the front, through which NATO is conducting "a proxy war against Russia".

Vassili Nebenzia said Russia was not targeting civilian residences. The regrettable damage to residential areas is often caused by Ukrainian air defences deployed in populated areas, he said, pointing to the photos shared on Wednesday by Ukrainians themselves, allegedly showing fragments of US-supplied rockets found in their damaged homes in Kiev and nearby Vyshgorod.

Air-raid sirens wailed in Kiev and the western 'capital' of Lvov whilst Russian missiles struck key energy targets plunging around 70 per cent of the Ukrainian capital into darkness Kiev this week. In below-freezing temperatures many people are now without heating and water and many fear the sewage system will be the next to collapse.

Kiev Mayor Vitaly Klitschko said the authorities are doing "everything" to keep the lights on and water flowing; but Kiev's three million residents should make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives in the suburbs who still have water and power if the supply the capital is lost. Maxim Timchenko, the head of DTEK energy corporation, even says Ukrainians should consider going abroad during the winter. "If they can find an alternative place to stay for another three or four months, it will be very helpful to the system."

Although evacuating the capital remains the worst-case option for the Zelensky government the regime has already begun moving people out of Kherson, the provincial capital that the Ukrainians re-occupied following the Russian pull-back on the southern front. Kherson was virtually a ghost town when the Ukrainians arrived. Most people had left with the retreat-



• Power station hit in Kiev.

ing Russians. Those that stayed behind were left to the tender mercies of the Ukrainian fascists who've been "filtering" anyone believed to be a "supporter of the Russian world". Now as Kherson comes under heavy Russian bombardment, the city again becomes untenable and the authorities have now started evacuating Kherson's remaining civilians to western Ukraine.

Meanwhile disturbing video evidence of Ukrainian war-crimes has led to renewed Kremlin demands for an international inquiry. Dmitri Medvedev, the deputy chair of Russia's Security Council, said there should be "no mercy for the Ukrainian soldiers who executed the unarmed Russian prisoners of war. They should be sentenced to death even if the search for the killers takes years".

This was echoed by Russian communists on Moscow TV this week. Yuri Afonin, the deputy leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), said: "This

monstrous episode once again clearly shows with whom we are fighting. This inhumane murder is a war crime with no statute of limitations. Not only are the

direct perpetrators guilty of it, but also the entire Kiev junta to the very top. Those who supply these criminals with weapons are also guilty."

FUND

Another bumper post bag brought in £1,358 for the November appeal which now stands at £3,214. The fighting fund now needs just £286 to hit our target for the month.

Strikes are sweeping the country as more and more workers vote for action to make sure their pay demands are met in full this time round. They're sending a message to Management, the Government and those that claim to lead them in the labour movement that enough is indeed enough. And that's what we say as we put the communist answer to the crisis to the people on the street through the voice of the *New Worker*.

We challenge the lies of the bourgeois media and say there is an alternative to poverty, exploitation and war.

Every week our communist weekly campaigns for peace and socialism. And every week your donations keep our suppliers happy and our presses rolling. All donations, big or small, count. Please send them to: *New Worker* Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here:

<http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

INSIDE

World Cup:
stained with
blood...p2

Library cuts
...p3

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

The Neverendum

THE SUPREME Court's verdict that the Scottish Parliament does not have the competency to legislate for a second independence referendum without the consent of the Westminster parliament was hardly surprising – least of all to the Scottish nationalists who tabled it in the first place.

Three Tory Prime Ministers have turned down previous SNP calls for another referendum. Labour is equally opposed. Only last week, Labour's Henry McLeish, who served as First Minister from 2000–2001, rejected calls for a referendum, telling Sky -: "This is not the time to be taking these big political and constitutional decisions, it is a time for making devolution work and for the independence campaign to be side-lined."

Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish government, says she's now going use the next general election as a de facto referendum on independence and continue to push for Scottish independence. But this has been rejected by the Scottish Labour, Conservative and the Liberal Democrat parties, who all say they will not take part in any SNP plan to treat the election as a single-issue vote.

The SNP won the lion's share of Scotland's seats in the House of Commons – 44 out of 59 – at the last general election in 2019. But their overall share of the vote was still only 45 per cent, which clearly doesn't give them a mandate for any unilateral declaration of independence. It was more or less the same for the Scottish devolved government elections last year. Although the Scottish parliament is elected by a mixed system of voting that includes a form of proportional representation, the SNP and their Green allies still only took 49 per cent of the vote – although that did give them 70 seats out of a total of 129 in the Scottish parliament.

The Scottish Parliament was set up by the Labour Government in 1999. It has played an increasing role in the developing Scotland and, under Labour leadership, it used some of its powers to pass modest reforms beneficial to the working class.

Following the collapse of the Scottish Labour Party in the 2015 general election at the hands of the SNP, the nationalists have been successful in deluding many people that they are a left wing party.

The SNP claims to be a social-democratic party but it is essentially a bourgeois liberal platform that in recent years has embraced the NATO alliance. Its neo liberal economic policies and their failure to use tax raising powers already devolved to the Scottish parliament reflect the true nature of the SNP.

Behind the traditional nationalist demand for independence is the call for an independent Scotland within the European Union that simply reflects the demands of a section of the Scottish bourgeoisie who believe their interests are better served through greater integration with Franco-German imperialism.

The degree of local autonomy won by the Scots is, in itself, no guarantee that the national traditions and culture of the Scottish people will be developed, nor will it automatically lead to the strengthening of working-class power. But the creation of national institutions in Scotland has been a positive step.

The New Communist Party has long recognised the rights of the Scottish nation to full national self determination. We support Scottish demands for the right to preserve and develop their culture and national identity. We support their right to possess and control all the physical and other resources present on their land and territorial waters. If there is another independence referendum we will, of course, say YES.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup

The Football World Cup began on 20th November in Qatar stained with working-class blood.

THE DESIGNATION of this Arab emirate to host the event was already tainted by corruption. Billions of resources belonging to the Qatari people – all the wealth found in their subsoil – have passed into the hands of the large capitalist corporations. Since then, the sponsorship of these companies has been supported by speculation and business from which only the elites of the Arab country benefit.

This great mass of capital is also serving to whitewash mediæval and authoritarian regimes that do not hesitate to collaborate with the oppressive regime of Israel and the Western bourgeois democracies that endorse it.

Furthermore, Qatar is

a regime that oppresses the basic rights of women and people belonging to LGBT groups. There is no doubt that they will use this world event to wash the face of an oppressive government and present themselves to the world as champions of democracy and integration.

Capitalism has turned sport, a dignified and praiseworthy human practice, into another ideological tool to achieve its interests, impregnating it with a competitive character in accordance with its philosophy, according to which whoever does not win is a loser.

On the other hand, it also fosters the most conservative sentiments of nationalism being the source of acts of vandalism and violence, and harbouring fascist movements within it linked to political parties that yearn for bloody dictatorships and war that class-oriented trade unionism has always condemned. An event in which the role of women is relegated.

We cannot forget that the construction of the megalomaniac infrastructure that will host the

World Cup has claimed the lives of thousands of workers who have had to suffer endless days of work, suffocating temperatures, miserable wages and non-existent health and safety conditions; workers from the African continent and Southeast Asia who have been forced to accept slave contracts, known as the kafala system, where the employer retained their passport, imposed his working conditions enabling him to imprison or deport without compensation anyone who did not comply.

Everything that capitalism touches is corrupted. Class-oriented unionism denounces this predatory and inhumane system that even in leisure and sports tries to instil its philosophy of life. We cannot be complicit in the blood and misfortune of millions of class brothers and sisters for the sake of the spectacle that will accompany us in the coming weeks.

**World Federation of Trade Unions
Athens
18 Nov 2022**



• Protest in the US.

Workers' Notes

Library cuts

by New Worker correspondent

TWENTY YEARS ago, Hackney library staff were fighting for the reinstatement of overtime payments. Today another libraries' battle, involving the same union in the same east London borough, is underway to oppose job cuts.

The Labour council's plans include cutting 76 jobs that will in part be replaced with 57 new roles, which existing staff will have to reapply for. In detail this means there will be just 34 full-time front-line posts, down from 54, to cover seven libraries open between 55–64 hours per week. In some cases there could be as little as two staff on duty, even before taking account of holidays, sick leave, training or any emergency. The cuts will allegedly save £445,000.

The council claim that the cuts are essential to fund a £4.4 million revamp of Stoke Newington Library, which is in the poshest part of an otherwise deprived borough.

devastating

The borough's local government branch of Unison is in formal dispute. It claims that the council has ample reserves funds (to the tune of £300 million) to fund the renovation and that the job cuts will "will have a devastating impact on the service". It has collected 2,000 signatures on a petition against the proposed job cuts. A large protest meeting was held outside Hackney Town Hall on Wednesday night prior to a meeting of the Council last week. In a consultative ballot, 72 per cent of members said they were ready to strike to prevent the cuts going ahead.

The union accuses the council of keeping it in the dark about the job cuts when the delayed renovation plans were first announced three years ago.

Local Unison rep Matt

Paul told the {Hackney Citizen} that: "It will be impossible to deliver and sustain Stoke Newington library without having sufficient staff on the ground ... it's completely pointless if staff cuts are funding this," and queried: "What's the point of having a lovely space if it ends up eventually closing by not having the staff

£2.4 billion in extra costs onto the budgets councils set in March this year."

unprecedented

At the same time, public libraries are seeing an unprecedented rise in the number of people using their services. This is partly due to them

warns that: "The scale of the savings that libraries need to make and also the impact of inflationary costs means that these aren't savings that can be found down the back of the sofa or trimming little bits here and there." Unpopular increases in council tax levels will only provide a temporary relief.



to run it?"

At the same time as these staff cuts the senior management team received an additional £50,000 in salaries. The union is wary of the Mayor's commitment to keep all libraries open, saying the planned changes could make it unsustainable to run them and result in permanent closures. For instance, less staff would make temporary closures more likely in the event of staff shortages.

less ability

Branch chair Brian Debus warned that the cuts "will inevitably mean less ability to advise members of the public and the most vulnerable who most depend on the free services that we provide."

Needless to say, Hackney Libraries is not the only public library service. Gerald Vernon-Jackson of the Local Government Association (LGA), which is the representative body for local authorities, said: "No council wants to reduce library services, but the dramatic increase in inflation alongside increases to the National Living Wage and higher energy costs has added at least

returning to one of their Victorian purposes of providing a place for people to keep warm in without going to the pub. Others have established foodbanks.

Libraries Connected, which represents public libraries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, reports that many libraries have expanded their services to help people struggling with higher prices – running foodbanks, giving out clothing donations, extending their opening hours and providing hot drinks.

The BBC reports that Gainsborough Community Library in Ipswich is selling cut-price bags of fruit and vegetables for £2 and has seen sales nearly double since the summer. Suffolk County Librarian Bruce Leeke said the cost of running 45 sites has increased a lot, "from our energy costs to our cleaning. We will have to look next year at how we run the service. We are very concerned."

Isobel Hunter, CEO of Libraries Connected, warned that with budgets uncertain many libraries are contemplating cutting staff, services and book-stock, with some closures on the horizon. She

Further north at Nantwich Library in Cheshire, they have boxes of canned vegetables, fruit and cereals because it serves as an emergency foodbank pick-up point.

Joanne Shannon, of Cheshire East Council, said: "I've worked in libraries for 38 years and we've not seen the numbers of people, the broad cross-section of people who will tell us they are struggling.

rural poverty

"Some people think of some of the areas in Cheshire as very leafy and affluent, but we do have rural poverty. We've got a limited number of resources to give out and they are for extreme cases, but we see so many people who are telling us they are worried. How do we start to prioritise?"

It is good to see the Tories have abandoned namby-pamby "One Nation Toryism" and gone back to bringing us real Dickensian poverty. Whilst it has brought out the spirit of Victorian charity, what is urgently needed is the more revolutionary spirit that produced the Chartist movement and the *Communist Manifesto*.

University news

by New Worker correspondent

FROM university administrators to cleaners, workers at 19 higher education institutions up and down the country staff are taking strike action in search of decent pay under the auspices of Unison.

Administrators, cleaners, library, security and catering workers rejected a three per cent pay offer from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association last May. This offer is about a quarter of the present rate of inflation. An earlier series of strikes took place in September and October.

Unison's head of education Mike Short said: "Low pay has been a massive, and growing, problem in the university sector for more than a decade.

"The cost-of-living crisis is pushing people to the brink. University support staff can't even cover the basics. They've had enough and are quitting the sector for jobs on better pay.

"Going on strike is always a last resort, but the inadequate pay workers have been given this year is the final straw.

"The universities should do the right thing and come back with more money to show they care about their employees. This would help keep them in their posts so students can receive the support they need and have the best possible experience of university."

Affected are prestigious institutions such as the universities of Aberdeen, Brighton, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. Staff at the specialist Royal Northern College of Music and London's School of Oriental and African Studies are amongst those taking action, along with the newer universities such as Leeds Beckett University and the University of Gloucestershire.

One of the other universities involved in this dispute is Birkbeck College, the University of London's college for working-class mature students whose teaching takes place in the evening.

Here the academic staff

continued on page 4...

• Hackney staff take action.

...continued from page 3

are facing a separate challenge – 140 of them are facing redundancy. Staff accuse the Senior Management Team of causing the £13 million deficit by embarking on a £35 million building spree and pricing people out of pre-university courses that were once a money spinner before they became too dear.

There was also a failed venture of setting up a Birkbeck East, in east London's trendy Stratford, where the building was sold off to the University of East London.

Administrative staff have been cut back so drastically that the college's Registry currently has only 2.5 FTE [full-time equivalent] staff covering the college's admissions. A member of a staff writing anonymously in the wishy-washy *Tribune* points out that this has caused suitable students to withdraw applications and give up in despair. Ironically, reduced recruitment is now cited by management as a reason for cuts to academic and administrative staff. Very clever.

world-leading

At present 84 academic staff and 56 administrative staff jobs will go by July, some in the country's best academic departments. One is the Department of Geography that Joe Smith, Director of the Royal Geographical Society, said provides world-leading research. Smith also said it fulfils Birkbeck's mission

of "providing an outstanding learning experience for a diverse and under-served student body". The English department, second only to Newcastle, will be cut in half.

At nearby University College London (UCL), 200 outsourced security staff employed by Bidvest Noonan are losing all their overtime, which amounts to about one-third of some guards' incomes.

Here the small non-TUC union Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) says this is an attempt to break a strike by the guards who are fighting for £15 per hour and an end to outsourcing. Overtime shifts have been subcontracted to the Systematic Security agency, which pays as little as £10 per hour.

22 years ago

The £15 per hour claim is the equivalent to the wage of security staff over 22 years ago, before outsourcing was introduced. In 2019 the IWGB secured the present rate of £13 per hour in the biggest strike of outsourced workers in UK higher education. At that time UCL promised to give equal terms and conditions to all workers. The influx of strike-breaking agency workers clearly breaches that promise.

This battle against outsourcing comes after successful battles against outsourcing at other University of London colleges, namely Goldsmiths and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Henry Chango-Lopez,

IWGB's General Secretary, warned that: "Draconian strike breaking measures like these often backfire for institutions like UCL, which claim publicly to respect workers' rights. If they continue, it will force workers to escalate their public campaign because they simply cannot afford to shoulder the cost of UCL's hypocrisy."

at risk

A necessarily anonymous UCL security guard said of the outsourced contractors: "It puts students at risk, not investing in a secure and well-trained security staff, yet for years now it's been one incompetent cowboy company after another. The parents would be horrified if they knew how UCL puts profit before student safety."

Meanwhile the overtime shifts I've just lost amount to a third of my income. After rent I will have £200 left for the month. How am I supposed to support my family? I have colleagues who have been forced to take payday loans and won't be able to pay those back now."

Henry Chango-Lopez, General Secretary (IWGB), says: "Draconian strike breaking measures like these often backfire for institutions like UCL, which claim publicly to respect workers' rights. If they continue, it will force workers to escalate their public campaign because they simply cannot afford to shoulder the cost of UCL's hypocrisy. They will not be denied the dignity,

equality and basic rights they have fought for, been promised and more than earned."

NHS actions

by New Worker correspondent

IT IS looking increasingly likely that strikes in the NHS will be taking place.

With the Royal College of Nursing, Unite and Unison and smaller specialist unions having already voted for action, it appears that they will now be doing so after a letter from health Secretary Steve Barclay to the NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB) suggests that next year's rise will be a mere two per cent. He wrote that: "In the current economic context, it is particularly important that you also have regard to the government's inflation target when forming recommendations."

Unite, which has about 100,000 members in the NHS, said of the pay body that: "The NHSPRB board are clearly aware that without proper wages the exodus of healthcare staff will get worse, putting the very survival of the NHS at risk."

"But the 12 years of brutal wage cuts for NHS workers show that the NHSPRB's independence has been severely compromised. It's clear that it now exists just to do the government's bidding."

in a fight

General Secretary Sharon Graham warned: "That's why Steve Barclay's warning to heed the two per cent inflation target is the clearest indication yet that NHS staff should expect a two per cent pay offer and for the fires engulfing the health service to become an inferno. The situation is clear: We are in a fight to save the NHS and workers are ready to take a stand."

The *Nursing Notes* website notes that thanks to the unprecedented 'generosity' from Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, healthcare assistants and other clinical support staff in England who presently earn just £10.39 per hour will be below the new £10.42 national minimum-wage that he announced last Thursday.

This is just one example of how far HHS pay has fallen behind. In 2012 a healthcare assistant was paid £7.13 per hour, nearly a whole £1 more than the £6.19 minimum wage at the time.

A high end strike

by New Worker correspondent

THE PRESENT strike wave has reached as far as Knightsbridge in the west end of London, where over 50 uniformed security guards and CCTV operators at Harrods will take part on a strike in protest against a seven per cent pay offer (half the present real rate of inflation of 14.2 per cent). The first strike started on Friday, until Sunday 27th. Strikes are also scheduled for next Thursday, and for 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 26 December.

Harrods is one of Britain's finest state-owned shops, but the state in question is Qatar. Unite General Secretary Sharon Graham said: "Harrods and its owners, the Qatar Investment Authority, can absolutely afford to pay these workers a rise that reflects soaring living costs. Harrods, like many Qatari state enterprises, is known the world over for luxury and extravagance, an impression maintained off the backs of workers."

A beneficiary of the government's COVID 19 furlough scheme to the tune of £6 million, Harrod's recently doubled the pay of its managing director to £2.3 million and raked in profits of £51 million.

Regional officer Balvinder Bir added: "I'm sure that Harrods' high-end customers and store owners will not be pleased that security and CCTV operations during the Christmas period will be compromised. This is entirely the fault of Harrods, which is swimming in cash but offering a pay cut dressed up as a rise. The company needs to table an offer our members can accept." They also have some high-end shop-lifters.

20 years ago this week in the New Worker

LIBRARY workers in the east London borough of Hackney marked one year of strike action over the loss of Saturday payments with a rally, at which leading members of Unison expressed solid support to see their dispute through to a successful conclusion.

Roger Bannister, a member of Unison's national executive and vice chair of the Industrial Action Committee, described the year-long strike as "a mark of the determination of library workers here in Hackney to see this dispute through to the end".

"The cost of settling this

dispute – £65,000 – is chicken feed for Hackney Council. This dispute isn't about money, it's about breaking national agreements and about breaking the union, and in Hackney this has fallen on relatively few shoulders.

"Even moderates like John Monks [then TUC General Secretary] are coming to face-to-face with the hard reality that there are times when you have to stand and fight."

Jean Geldart, chairperson of the Unison local government executive, spoke of the rapid pace of change in libraries, and stressed that: "Library workers aren't opposed to modernisation – opening longer hours, better equipment and resources – but not on the back of pay cuts for workers already under stress and pressure."

She added: "All over the country the employers are attempting to chip away at national agreements."

Joint Hackney Unison branch secretary Brian Debus spoke of "the appalling attitude of Hackney Council" and said: "There is a total lack of democracy in this borough."

He asked: "How can the council give the new mayor Jules Pipe a salary of £65,000, but not return the £65,000 a year to the entire library workforce needed to resolve the dispute? This strike could be settled tomorrow."

"But if they are prepared to go to the wire it is likely to cost them a lot more – not only the return of Saturday Enhanced pay but compensation for unfair dismissal and for the upheaval and uncertainty our members have been through over the past year of this dispute."

"They could easily be landed with a bill for several hundred thousand pounds."

“We are not vanishing, we are not conquered”

by Moonanum James

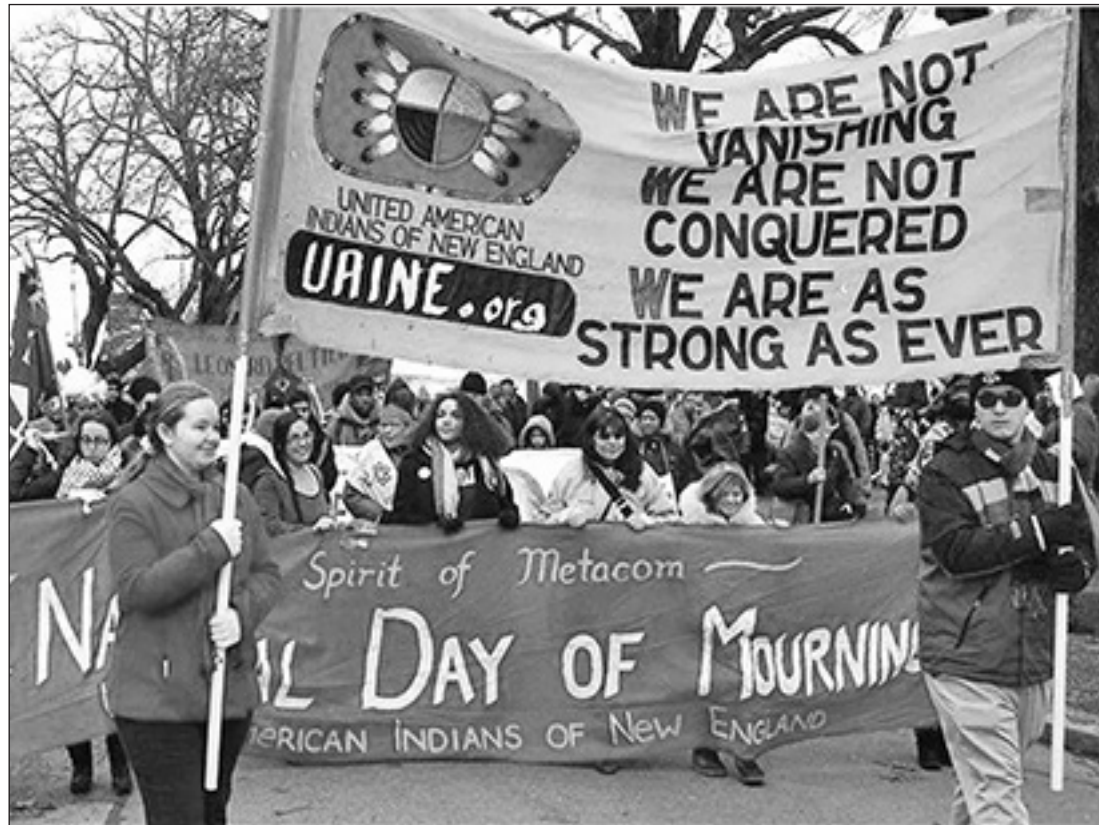
Moonanum James, a co-leader of United American Indians of New England, died on 4th December 2021 at the age of 70. In honour of his memory, we reprint a talk he gave at the 49th Annual National Day of Mourning on 22nd November 2018 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

ONCE AGAIN on the fourth Thursday in November, United American Indians of New England and those who support us are gathered on Cole’s Hill to observe a National Day of Mourning. Today marks the 49th time we have come here – in all kinds of weather – to mourn our ancestors and speak the truth about our history.

Those who started the National Day of Mourning could not have envisioned that generations would still be here, year after year, carrying on this tradition. Many of the elders who stood on this hill and organised the first Day of Mourning are no longer with us. But we feel their spirits guiding us today.

Forty-nine “Thanksgivings” ago, my father, an Aquinnah Wampanoag named Wamsutta Frank James, was invited to address a gathering celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. When asked by the organisers to provide an advance copy of his speech, Wamsutta agreed. When they saw the speech, the planners told him he could only speak if he was willing to offer false praise of the Pilgrims. The organisers were even willing to write a speech for him. After all, they said, “the theme of the celebration is brotherhood, and anything inflammatory would be out of place”.

My father refused to have



words put into his mouth. Then, the National Day of Mourning came into being as a result of his refusal. Instead of speaking at the banquet, he and a group of Indigenous peoples and allies from throughout the Americas gathered on this hill and observed the first National Day of Mourning in 1970.

‘Thanksgiving’ = ‘thanks-taking’

What really happened at the first Thanksgiving – or what some of us call the first “thanks-taking”? According to popular myth, the Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, landed on Plymouth Rock. The Indians welcomed them with open arms, then promptly faded into the background. Everyone lived happily ever after. The end.

Here is the truth. First, the Pilgrims are glorified and mythologised because the circumstances at Jamestown, the first colony in North America, were too ugly to hold up as an effective national myth. We

can’t teach schoolchildren about cannibalism or have them dress up as starving people in class plays. Pilgrims and Indians are a much more marketable story.

Second, the Pilgrims came here as part of a commercial venture. They didn’t need religious freedom; they already had that in the Netherlands. The Mayflower Compact was merely a group of white men who wanted to ensure they would get a return on their investment.

When the Pilgrims arrived on outer Cape Cod – not on that pebble down the hill – one of the first things they did was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of their winter provisions of corn and beans as they were able to carry. The colonists’ own writings describe these actions.

The next part of the mythology is true: My Wampanoag ancestors welcomed the Pilgrims, not knowing that they and other Indigenous peoples would be dispossessed and killed by their guns

and hanging ropes, as well as by their diseases. What did we get in return for this kindness? Genocide, the theft of our lands and never-ending repression.

The first official Thanksgiving did not take place in 1621 when the Wampanoag provided a harvest-time meal to the Pilgrims. Instead, it was officially proclaimed by Governor John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637 to celebrate the massacre of over 700 Pequot men, women and children on the banks of the Mystic River in Connecticut.

Holiday myth covers up genocide

Governor Winthrop wrote of this event: “Those that escaped the fire were slain with the sword; some hewed to pieces, others run through with their rapiers...they thus destroyed about 400 at this time. It was a fearful sight to see them thus frying in the fire...horrible was the stink and scent thereof, but

the victory seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave the prayers thereof to God, who had wrought so wonderfully for them...for the next 100 years, every Thanksgiving Day ordained by a Governor will be in honour of the bloody victory, thanking God that the battle had been won.” And yet the history books call us the “savages”.

Why does any of this matter?

When people perpetuate the myth of Thanksgiving, they are not only erasing our genocide but also celebrating it. For my ancestors, the Pilgrims’ arrival marked the beginning of the end.

Those of us who managed to survive this genocide are treated as quaint relics of the past, forever relegated to this one point in history. But we did not simply fade into the background, as the Thanksgiving myth says. We have survived and thrived. We have persevered.

The very fact that you are here in Plymouth is proof that we did not vanish. The fact that other people – having seen through the Pilgrim myth – join us every year in the struggle to destroy that mythology is proof that we did not simply vanish. Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books and the myth-makers. We will remember and honour all our ancestors who went before us in the struggle. We will speak truth to power as we have been doing since the first Day of Mourning in 1970.

The first Day of Mourning was a powerful demonstration of Native unity. Today is a powerful demonstration of not only Indigenous unity, but the unity of all people who want to speak truth to power, who want the truth to be told and who want to see an end to the oppressive system brought to these shores by the Pilgrim invaders.

continued on page 6...

...continued from page 5

Sadly, the conditions which prevailed in Indian Country in 1970 still prevail today. Then we demanded an end to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We still demand this today. Native nations should not need federal oversight to govern ourselves or take control of our own lands.

Recently, the Department of the Interior ruled that the Mashpee Wampanoag should not be able to take their own ancestral territory into trust. In other words, the Mashpee are threatened with having their very own land ripped away from them for a second time! This decision is an attack on the self-determination and sovereignty of all Native Nations throughout the country, especially those who were federally recognised after 1934.

I hope you will stand with the Mashpee and support pending legislation that would give Mashpee Wampanoag the right to petition for land to be taken into trust. Tell your congress members that this legislation should also be applied to other tribes in Massachusetts and elsewhere that were federally recognised after 1934.

Those who started National Day of Mourning also spoke of terrible racism and poverty. That continues. Some reservations, such as Navajo, do not even have clean drinking water for thousands of their people. Native youth suicide and school-dropout rates continue to be the highest in the nation.

However, Native peoples continue to display resilience in the face of ongoing settler-colonial oppression and work hard to ensure to take care of our communities and find solutions to problems that we face. We know that racism is alive and well, now more than ever.

All of us are struggling under the oppression of a capitalist system which forces people to make a bitter choice between heating and eating. We will continue

to gather on this hill until the US military and corporations stop polluting the earth and until we dismantle the brutal apparatus of mass incarceration. We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past.

The struggle will continue!

We won't stop until the homeless have homes, until no person goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. Or until union busting is a thing of the past. We won't stop until people from Mexico, Central and South America are no longer demonised and targeted by politicians in search of a scapegoat or until Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy that Israel has denied them for 70 years. Until then the struggle will continue.

We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by all governments and organ-

isations against innocent people worldwide.

As we did in 1970, we mourn the loss of millions of our ancestors and the devastation of the land, water and air. Since the invasion of Columbus and the rest of the Europeans, Native people have been non-stop victims of terrorism. From the colonial period to the 21st century, this has entailed torture, massacres, systematic military occupations and the forced removals of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral homelands.

Let us not forget that this country was founded on the ideology of white supremacy, the widespread practice of enslavement of African peoples and the policies of genocide and land theft. Let us not forget that underneath the pipelines, skyscrapers, mines and oil rigs lie the interred bones, sacred objects and villages of our Native ancestors.

Today on liberated territory we will correct the history of a country

that continues to glorify butchers such as Christopher Columbus, makes slave-owning presidents such as Washington and Jefferson into god-like figures, even carving their faces into the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota.

On our programme today there will only be Indigenous speakers. This is one day when we speak for ourselves – without non-Native people, so-called 'experts' – intervening to interpret and speak for us.

Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books, the profiteers and the myth-makers. We will remember and honour all our ancestors in struggle who went before us. We will speak truth to power. We will remember all our sisters and brothers, including Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal, who continue to be imprisoned.

In 1970 very few people would have thought that the Indigenous people of this hemisphere do not look upon the European invaders' arrival as a reason to give thanks. Today thousands stand with us in spirit as we commemorate the 49th National Day of Mourning.

In the spirit of Crazy Horse, in the spirit of Metacom [who was killed resisting the colonists in 1676], in the spirit of Geronimo – and above all – to all people who fight and struggle for real justice, we say: We are not vanishing. We are not conquered. We are as strong as ever. *Workers World (USA)*



• Above: Moonanum James. Below: marching for Leonard Peltier.



Bourgeois democracy and fascism

by J Sykes

COMMUNISTS have a proud history of fighting on the frontlines of the resistance to fascism, from the International Brigades in Spain, to the Anti-fascist Resistance in occupied Europe, to the heroic struggle of the Soviet people to defend the USSR and defeat Nazi Germany. The Soviets liberated the survivors of the death camps and led the assault on Berlin. From that practice theory has been developed to analyse what fascism is, how it develops and how it should be fought.

It is common on the left to hear the USA described as fascist. This is especially true amongst the youth and some petty bourgeois radicals, who want to emphasise how terrible and repressive the USA really is. But is this an accurate description of the class enemy in the USA, and what difference does it make?

First, let's define what fascism is. The commonly accepted definition amongst Marxist-Leninists is the one used by the Communist International. The Thirteenth Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International (Comintern), in 1933, defined fascism in power as "the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialist

elements of finance capital".

This is different from some other definitions of fascism popular amongst the left today. Take, for example, the definition given by George Jackson in his book {Blood In My Eye}. He says: "But both Marxists and non-Marxists alike can agree on at least two of its general factors: its capitalist orientation and its anti-labour, anti-class nature." From this, Jackson concludes: "These two factors almost by themselves identify the US as a fascist-corporative state."

Many people take up this view. People rightly see that the USA is repressive and so they call it fascist, almost as a rhetorical or agitational device, or as an invective against it. Indeed, fascism is capitalist and anti-labour, but there's more to it than just that. Marxists must be precise and scientific, because our practical and strategic orientation hinges on our scientific analysis of current conditions. The question "What is to be done?" has to be answered based on these concrete conditions.

Between the Comintern definition and Jackson's there are some very important differences. Most importantly, Jackson concludes that the USA is currently fascist. But if we look concretely and historically at America, the Communist International definition seems

to have a better grip on the material reality and historical development of how bourgeois democracy transforms into fascism, as a result of the class struggle.

The problem is that Jackson's definition isn't qualitatively different from bourgeois democracy in any stage of its history. Bourgeois democracy has always been a democracy for the rich and a repressive dictatorship for the rest of us. American capitalism, since its inception, has relied on genocide and national oppression, as well brutal repression of any movements for progressive change. It has always had a capitalist and anti-labour orientation. What good is to call the USA fascist if fascism isn't qualitatively different from bourgeois democracy generally?

The main difference between these two ways of looking at fascism turns around the point of "open terrorist dictatorship". Certainly, if we look at the fascist states of the 20th Century, such as in Italy and Germany, we see something qualitatively different than what we have here in the US. That doesn't describe our current conditions. Currently, the ruling class can suppress the rights of people, but has to resort to some legal manoeuvres to do so. With fascism, the gloves come off. Repression is no longer hidden behind a veil of bourgeois legal norms. "Open terrorist dictatorship" means that legal, above-ground organising is practically impossible, and the entire resistance to fascism, both the communists and the broader united front, must operate underground in conditions of covertness and illegality.

There is a dialectical relationship between bourgeois democracy and fascism. Fascism is latent in imperialist countries. In



• Marching against fascism in the US.

its dealings with its colonies and neo-colonies, open terrorist dictatorship is often the principal or dominant aspect of the contradiction. But within the USA, bourgeois democracy is the principal aspect. This contradiction is largely driven by the contradiction between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

Since the class struggle drives this contradiction, and the revolutionary movement is relatively weak, the ruling class doesn't need to ramp

up repression and resort to fascism at this moment. Certainly, it isn't the case that communist organisation has been outlawed and forced underground. And there's a good reason why it hasn't been. Simply put, if the monopoly capitalist class doesn't need to resort to fascism, they would prefer not to. The revolutionary movement in the USA is not strong enough for the US ruling class to outlaw it and resort to open violence against its leaders and

militants.

Stalin, in his Report to the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in 1934, put it like this: "In this connection the victory of fascism in Germany must be regarded not only as a symptom of the weakness of the working class and a result of the by the betrayals of the working class by Social-Democracy, which paved the way for fascism; it must also be regarded as a sign of weakness of the bourgeois, a sign

that the bourgeois is no longer able to rule by the old methods of parliamentary and bourgeois democracy, and, as a consequence, is compelled in its home policy to resort to terrorist methods of rule – as a sign it is no longer to find a way out of the present situation on the basis of a peaceful foreign policy, and, as a consequence, is compelled to resort to a policy of war."

The ruling class will not resort to fascism until the point is reached when it can no longer rule in the old way, because the movement of the working class and oppressed nationalities has become so well organised, so militant, and so powerful a threat to the monopoly capitalist class, that the ruling class can see the danger of their downfall and defeat before them.

Currently, there are fascist elements amongst the US reactionaries, many of whom have been emboldened by Trump. Some of these elements even attempted to seize power on 6th January 2021, at the US Capitol in Washington. These elements should be taken seriously

and resisted by any means necessary. It is certainly possible that the most reactionary elements of finance capital in the USA will resort to fascism, driven by the development of the revolutionary movement to desperation, and of course we should prepare for that eventuality.

The far-right paramilitary groups such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys, along with their enablers within the "Make America Great Again" wing that currently dominates the Republican Party, didn't rise up so boldly out of nowhere. The current rise in reaction is a response to the growing progressive current amongst the masses, most sharply demonstrated by the uprisings in cities across the country after the police killing of George Floyd in 2020. The George Floyd uprisings pushed the people's struggles forwards in ways we haven't seen in decades. As the people rose up in anger, we saw a great increase in reactionary violence against the people from both state and non-state forces. As the level of struggle and organisation amongst the broad masses of the people increases, so too will the forces of reaction likely escalate.

But as things stand it only confuses the issue to mis-characterise the current state of bourgeois democracy as fascism in power when it clearly isn't. Fascism isn't just reaction in general. It is reaction of a particular type. We don't need the invective of fascism to know that we should do everything we can to overthrow this horrible system of exploitation, oppression, waste and war. Bourgeois democracy is bad enough.

*Fight-Back News
(USA)*



• Fighting against fascism in Spain.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

The 'great re-set' is a dystopian nightmare being pushed by the so-called liberal global elite through the World Economic Forum and many other organisations. The main force for this is coming from the USA, which is pushing its agenda on the world.

It is a de-humanising ideology, relying on the ignorance of the population, whereby the definitions of words have no meaning, and evidence, reason and rationality are thrown in the bin.

Anyone who disagrees or even questions this madness is cancelled, imprisoned, labelled "conspiracy theorist" or even "fascist" – and if that does not work, murdered.

The people pushing this agenda are the actual fascists. They are degenerate psychopaths who refer to themselves as liberal, democratic and progressive. It is the same group of mass murderers responsible for promoting death and destruction all around

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday. You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

the world with "regime change" in the name of "Western democracy".

The ultimate example of this, being all of the so-called liberal progressives in the western world cheer-leading for the arming and training of Nazi death squads in Ukraine for the ultimate goal of destroying and enslaving the people of Russia.

Fortunately, there is now a 'great awakening' with millions of people seeing through the crude propaganda. A considerable number of military personnel have spoken out in a blunt and honest way, although not reported in the mainstream media. Many of these people are not socialists or communists but say they just know when they are being lied to and the ruling class keep using the same "big lie" technique with every new war.

**Martin Rayner
West London**

Dear Comrades

I look forward each week to reading the *New Worker* for its communist analysis and support for the workers.

Both John Maryon and Dermot Hudson have regular articles and letters published that are educational and fill me with confidence about the struggles of the working class for socialism worldwide.

And a word of praise

for the Editor: Andy Brooks, he co-ordinates the production of a great paper each week. Long may you reign.

But how do we more effectively counter bourgeois and capitalist propaganda in society that is all pervasive?

I do a small amount by encouraging workers to read the *New Worker*. As an active union member, I promote the paper at every meeting.

Would it be possible for the *New Worker* and NCP to organise a national readers and supporters meeting?

**Mervyn Drage
Manchester**

Dear Comrades

The international community has become accustomed to the craven endorsement of US hegemonic foreign policies by its close Western allies.

In what can only be described as masochistic submission, they have responded grovelingly without question to the most outrageous and authoritarian demands of their masters in Washington. They have actively supported US imperialism's aggression against states such as Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and the tragic events in Ukraine. They have supplied weapons, money and sanctions without any honest principles. Nor have they taken any responsibility for the serious consequences of their actions.

High inflation, austerity, business failures, chronic energy shortages, cutbacks to public spending and higher taxes are the humiliating results of hanging on to the USA's coat-tails. The working class will likely in the

absence of any effective opposition from so-called 'opposition parties' be made to carry the burden on its shoulders. Some smaller land-locked states in Europe have made attempts to resist the reckless policies but have faced the wrath of the EU mafia.

One may ask what has happened to the left? Whatever 19th Century pretensions they may have had, social democracy today has become just another front for imperialism. It has nothing to offer that will change anything, nothing to enthuse a new generation, and exists as a convenient platform for class collaboration. The once massive and respected communist parties, with strong roots in the working-class communities, have vanished overnight as they embraced revisionism. Socialism and its higher more advanced form of communism are still, however, very much on the agenda. Smaller socialist and communist parties such as the New Communist Party still carry the red flag with pride. The successes of People's China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Vietnam, Laos and Cuba continue to inspire.

Socialism and communism, as demonstrated by the achievements of the socialist countries as they build up their economies and create new forms of society, point the way forward. They have shown how to organise society without cyclical crises. Whilst still at different stages of development and with different national characteristics, they are employing new technologies and promoting social changes for enriching people's lives. They are all building new societies that will

have no unemployment, poverty will be unknown, national and racial inequality have already been abolished, and there is no exploitation of one person by another.

These achievements are being made with working-class power. They are living proof that the socialist countries have greater real freedom than western nations. There are those of course who think that we in Britain are free and are taken in by the blandishments of Bourgeois Democracy. They counterpose the illusion of pluralism against working-class power, which in the transition between capitalism and socialism has to take the form of dictatorship of the proletariat. Once working-class power is achieved there can be a withering away of the power of the state. In Britain all the main political parties are hostile in varying degrees to socialism, which means that in a bourgeois election there is very little choice.

The NCP works for a society in which state power is in the hands of the workers, not one that exists to serve the interests of international corporations, financial institutions and the puppets of US hegemony. Once state power is transferred the people can flourish.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Dear Comrades

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Jean Pestieau on the morning of 14th November.

Jean had been a member of the International Relations Department for many years. Jean has trained many fellow party members. We will always remember Jean's revolutionary optimism, which he shared until his last breath.

**Bert De Belder
International
Relations
Department
Belgian Workers
Party (PTB-PVDA)
Brussels**

Diary

UNTIL 23 DEC

We Shall All Be Brothers and Sisters: the Communist Party in Britain 1920-2020: Exhibition at the Working Class Movement Library, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX

SAT 26 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign Barclays: don't bank on apartheid. Nationwide day of action outside Barclays Bank branches in protest against its ties with arms companies selling to Israel. Details on PCS website.

MON 28 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: On the Evolving Significance of the Chinese Revolution, dialogue between Andrew Murray and Ken Hammond. 19:00 at MML and online. Book on MML website.

WED 30 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: John Bellamy Foster on Engels and the Second Foundation of Marxism. 19:00 Online lecture. Book on MML website.

SAT 3 DEC

Warm This Winter: Day of Action Against Fuel Poverty. See www.warmthiswinter.org.uk for details of local events.

SAT 3 DEC

Campaign for Trade Union Freedom: From Pentonville to P&O: union rights and Tory wrongs. National Conference. 11:00-16:00, Mander Hall, Mabledon Place London WC1H 9BD. Register on www.tradeunionfreedom.co.uk

MON 5 DEC

Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust: Peter Nolan and Jenny Clegg on Understanding China in the new world order 19:00. Hybrid meeting at Marx Memorial Library and Online. Book on MML website.

FRI 9-SUN 11 DEC

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp: Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PW.

SAT 10 DEC

Arise: Solidarity, struggle, socialism: Rally. 10:00 Conway Hall 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL. Register at www.mstar.link/

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

4 weeks: £6; 3 months: £20;
6 months: £30; annual: £50

Name.....

Address.....

Post code.....

Cheque/P.O.s, made out to

New Worker, to: NW Subs, PO Box 73,
London SW11 2PQ.

CONTACT US...

Post: NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

Phone: 020 7223 4052.

New Worker National –

www.newworker.org

email– party@ncp.clara.net

London District NCP –

<http://londoncommunists.blogspot.com/>

**JOIN US!
For peace!
justice!
socialism!**

I would like to join the New Communist Party....
I would like more info about the NCP....

Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

phone.....

Send to NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.



BOOST OUR FUND

Make your commitment to sustaining the New Worker in the struggle for peace and socialism
COMPLETE THE BANKER'S ORDER FORM BELOW:
The Manager.....

bank. Banks address.....

Please pay to the New Worker account No. 50492464, 08-90-34, Co-op Bank plc, 17 High St, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 1LP. the sum of £.....

(in words) each month starting on.....

Signature.....

RETURN THIS FORM TO:
NCP Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

SCOTTISH politics recently experienced the strange sight of a Tory MSP denouncing the possibility of privatisation! This came about as the result of the discovery by BBC Scotland News of minutes of the 21 September meeting of senior NHS Scotland officials in which they discussed the creation of a "two-tier" system that would see the rich paying for treatment.

Holyrood's Tory health spokesperson, Dr Sandesh Gulhane, a real GP, said the report was "deeply alarming" and repeated his frequent demand that the SNP Health Secretary resign. "Despite Humza Yousaf's protestations, the privatisation of Scotland's NHS seems to be under active consideration by the SNP," he claimed, adding: "This is outrageous. Healthcare must remain free at the point of use for everyone."

Needless to say, both Health Secretary Humza Yousaf and his boss denied this. Yousaf said the SNP policy "could not clearer" and "our National Health Service must be maintained to the founding principles of Bevan – publicly owned, publicly operated and free at the point of need."

When asked about the meeting, Humza stoutly declared that "I couldn't be more clear that there has never been a discussion with me". This denial may be true – but if so that raises the question as to whether Yousaf has the faintest clue about what goes on the NHS he is responsible for.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was equally quick off the mark to say that "the founding principles of the National Health Service are not up for discussion".

The detail of the minutes, of 14 health board CEOs, tell a somewhat different tale. They debated that very question of a two tier-system for those who can afford to go private, significantly having been told they had a green light to consider policy changes in "areas which were previously not viable options".

The leaked minutes state that there is a "disconnect from the pres-

sure boards are feeling and the message from SG [Scottish Government] that everything is still a priority and to be done within budget". To translate this into plain English, the CEOs and other senior figures in the NHS are tired of the SNP refusing to come up with any policies whatsoever apart from the standard sloganising that was the response of Yousaf and Sturgeon.

The NHS bosses complained that for the SNP "everything is a top priority, what is the real focus?" and assert that "the fundamental model of healthcare is not working for us".

The bosses also warned that there is a "billion-pound hole" in the health budget and that it was "not possible to continue to run the range of programmes" safely that the NHS currently offers. They also suggested reviewing the present system of giving free prescriptions to everyone. Suggestions that doctors should "change their appetite for risk" by sending patients home earlier and delaying the funding of new drugs were also considered.

The "two-tier" policy was suggested to avoid the NHS "picking up the cost for life-enhancing not life-saving treatments".

Another, perhaps more telling point made at the meeting was a "lack of clinical input into political decision-making" and that the SNP Government was often "divorced from reality of life and purpose of service".

Dr Gulhane is more likely to be right than wrong in his assessment that "it's clear that the NHS leadership are talking about abandoning the founding principles of our health service and introducing patient charges – and that they feel they have the political cover to do so". Otherwise, the meeting would have discussed other topics. The NHS Scotland CEO, Caroline Lamb, who of course works closely with ministers, gave her blessing to discuss such matters.

Labour's health spokesperson Jackie Baillie added that: "While the SNP fail to support staff and patients, we now know that those trusted with protecting our health service are talking about betraying it." She once again made her regular demand that Yousaf should resign, to no good effect.

The response of the trade unions was mixed. Iain Kennedy of the Brit-

ish Medical Association (BMA) Scotland meekly said that the minutes exposed the need for a "proper, open conversation about the NHS and how we make it sustainable now, and for generations to come" to avoid "sleepwalking" into a two-tiered privatised system.

Predictably Unite took a more robust line. Scottish Secretary Pat Rafferty thundered: "The idea that this is even being discussed by those that have a job to protect the NHS is shameful."

"While we welcome the comments made by the cabinet secretary and first minister that the principle of universality is not up for debate or discussion, the reality is that it is being privately discussed among appointed civil servants of the Scottish government." He demanded an inquiry into why this was on the agenda and who supported it.

Former Chief Medical Officer Sir Harry Burns criticised the present day CEOs for thinking about a two-tier system and said that: "Anything that sends us back to the old days I think, clearly, is crazy," adding that "ways of improving well-being are not being adopted because health boards are so focused on treating ill-health rather than creating good health."

Also on the Agenda

Another matter discussed at the less than top-secret meeting was the National Care Service (NCS). The plan to centralise the social care on NHS lines, presently creeping through Holyrood, was viewed sceptically, with them agreeing that "£800 million for NCS does not make sense". They also let the cat out of the bag by noting that there is a "group within SG [Scottish Government] who recognise that it may not be possible to provide what was

initially proposed within NCS" and the SNP "challenge is how to get off that promise and do something different".

They are right to be sceptical. The SNP are very shy about the financial details of their NCS.

Former SNP Health Secretary Alex Neil has described the plans as non-sensical, as have the trade unions.

An NHS Recovery Plan to overcome the effects of the Covid pandemic was launched in August last year. Numbers of patients on waiting lists increased by 140,000 to 748,000, however, about a seventh of the population and well over the 448,000 on the list in late 2019. The waiting list for diagnostic tests was 157,289 in June 2022 compared with 115,253 in June 2021.

Many people with some spare cash have voted with their feet and dodgy knees. In the first four months of 2019 they spent £5.5 million on 985 cataract, knee and hip ops – that increased to £13.4 million on 2,365 operations in the same period of 2021.

The BMA recently warned that the NHS was in a "perilous situation", largely due to staff shortages. There are about 6,000 nursing and midwifery vacancies. This is not a surprise discovery, the official bean-counter Audit Scotland also complains its warnings are being ignored by the Government.

Although it is often difficult to get into hospitals with long waits in ambulances outside hospitals it is also difficult to leave, with too many patients being kept in hospital for lack of appropriate care either in their homes or in care homes.

Whilst some dangerous ideas were aired at the now infamous September meeting at least the some of the serious problems facing the NHS were aired. Better solutions are urgently required.

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

The Middle "Class" by Neil Harris £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint)

The ruling class, fascism and the State by Neil Harris £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint)

The poisoned well (an insight into imperialist intelligence work) £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

Communists and the united front by Neil Harris £2 plus 50p P&P. (New Worker reprint).

New technology and the need for socialism £2 plus 50p P&P.

Communists in Britain today £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

Peoples's China in perspective £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

The case for communism £2 plus 50p P&P.

The basis of scientific socialism, the 1st chapter of Anti During by F Engels £2 plus 50p P&P.

On Stalin £2 plus 50p P&P. (New Worker reprint).

Stalin & the BRS £2 plus 50p P&P.

How we got in the State we are by Daphne Liddle £1 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint)

All in the family by Daphne Liddle £1 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

Arab nationalism and the communist movement by Andy Brooks £1 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

Killing ourselves to live by Daphne Liddle £1 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).

The first 30 fighting years of the New Communist Party of Britain £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint)

NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
(cheques to New Worker)

New Worker supporters groups

exist to support the weekly newspaper of the New Communist Party.

Individual membership is £10.00 (8 Euros or \$10) for all or part of the calendar year and every member will receive a New Worker Supporters Group (NWSG) card and a copies of the Internal Bulletin for the year.

Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

Books, communists and talks in Liverpool

by New Worker correspondent

MARXISTS and communists gathered last Saturday at the 2022 Merseyside Marxist Book Fair to exchange literature and ideas and hold talks and discussions. Around 60 people met at The Casa, in the city's Georgian Quarter, a bar and venue that was set up by dockers who were sacked when they refused to cross a picket line in the 1990s. The dockers' struggle began in September 1995 and ended in a one-sided settlement in February 1998. But some of the dockers, who had been paid £130,000 for writing a drama about the dispute for Channel Four, used the money to buy a building to set

up a communal hub, not-for-profit bar and an advice centre.

The event was the third organised the Red Book Fairs Collective, including members of Red Fightback (RFB) a "revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party". It included stalls from: the Communist Party of Great Britain (Provisional Central Committee); *Ebb Magazine*, an independent online communist publication; the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) independent street union; the New Communist Party of Britain (NCP); socialist and labour history book specialists Northern Herald Books; *Peace, Land, & Bread*, the journal of the Center for Communist Studies; rs21 (Revolutionary Socialism in the 21st



• At the book fair.

Century); and Socialist Classics – reprints of classical Marxist literature.

Theo Russell from the NCP gave a talk on the history and current situation in Ukraine that focused on the experiences of the Russian-speaking commu-

nity in Ukraine since 2014, which was well received and followed by a fraternal discussion. Other talks were given by Alfie Hancox from Red Fightback on "The Long Crisis of British Marxism in the Shadow of Thatcher", and Harry Holmes from rs21

on "Transforming the British Workers Movement".

Amongst the publications available was the English version of Alexander Bogdanov's *Art and the Working Class* from USA-based Iskra books – the publishing house of the Center for

Communist Studies, and new editions of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin from Foreign Languages Press, the publishing house of Redapark, the Indian Maoist website.

The NCP stall included books by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, party pamphlets and Soviet badges, all of which sold well, as well as up-to-date leaflets on the conflict in Ukraine.

Many fruitful discussions and contacts were made and co-operation on future book fairs was also discussed, in which comrades from the UK and India-based Second Wave Publications have already expressed interest. The next Merseyside Marxist Book Fair is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th November 2023.

by New Worker correspondent

KOREAN solidarity activists from all round the world gathered in Spain for the annual international meeting of the Korean Friendship Association (KFA) in November.

A British delegation headed by Dermot Hudson, the chair of the UK KFA, joined delegates from many other countries for the conference in the historic city of Tarragona in the autonomous region of Catalonia that kicked off on 12th November, the anniversary of the foundation of the KFA in 2000.

KFA officials and members from Britain, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the USA took part in the meeting as well as a delegation of the Russia-based International Solidarity Group with the DPRK. The meeting was nearly double the size of the KFA International meeting in Barcelona last year and several times the size of some previous meetings.

Opening the meeting, KFA President Ale-

jandro Cao De Benós said that the CIA, FBI, Interpol and MI6 could not defeat him and KFA. The FBI had tried to frame Alejandro on false charges but this had failed. He still cannot travel abroad however, due to the fascist Spanish authorities, the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the Spanish fascist dictator Franco, confiscating his passport. Alejandro's lawyers are fighting for the restoration of his passport and his right to travel.

A message of greetings to the meeting from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Embassy in Spain was read out by comrade Alejandro.

Dermot Hudson read out the message from the Korea-Europe Cultural Exchange Promotion Agency of the DPRK Korea that praised the work of KFA, noting that KFA are the true friends of the DPRK and are expanding their ranks all the time.

A message was

also received from comrade Park Soo Churl, head of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-Imperialist National Democratic Front of south Korea, which said in part that: "Today the DPRK enjoys the greatest heyday demonstrating its prestige as a powerful country throughout the world thanks to the outstanding leaders."

"The 80 years-long history of the DPRK reflects the dignity of a party that reaches the highest level, national strength that is displayed throughout the world and the rosy future of a nation is guaranteed only when a nation is led by a great leader."

The central theme of the meeting was the leadership of Kim Jong Un. In his keynote address Alejandro stressed that former socialist countries collapsed because they had failed to create a correct leadership system, but the DPRK had created an excellent leadership system.



• Alejandro Cao De Benós giving delegates a tour of the old city.

Today the DPRK is forging ahead under the leadership of Kim Jong Un. The progress in the DPRK is in sharp contrast to the corrupt and declining capitalist world.

As Dermot Hudson pointed out in his speech: "The DPRK was able to defeat COVID 19 within three months and basically by relying on its own resources as it rejected

the fake humanitarian aid of world imperialism and the south Korean puppets. No other country has done this. In some countries COVID 19 still prevails after nearly three years since its first outbreak."

The conference concluded with a commitment to redouble the work to build solidarity and friendship with the Korean people.

The following day Alejandro, who said that he had once declined an offer of a post in the Catalan regional government, took the delegates on a guided tour of old Tarragona, including the famous Roman amphitheatre.

The NCP badge



**£4.50 inc P&P
from New Worker,
PO Box 73, London
SW11 2PQ.**

Let the world hear China's voice

by Liang Xiao

WITH NEARLY 50 years of diplomatic experience, Liu Xiaoming, who served as ambassador of China to the United Kingdom from 2010–2021, considers promoting the deepening of understanding between the Chinese and people of other countries a top priority for China's diplomats.

The wider public, however, mostly knows him for a comparison he made eight years ago in an opinion piece for the *Daily Telegraph*. Liu likened Japanese militarism to Harry Potter's arch-villain Lord Voldemort following then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine where Japan's war dead, including 14 Class-A World War II war criminals, are worshiped. Liu wrote at the time: "If militarism is like the haunting Voldemort of Japan, the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo is a kind of Horcrux, representing the darkest parts of that nation's soul."

The article soon became the topic of worldwide discussion. Within 10 days, Liu was invited by almost every major British television and radio network for live interviews. On 3rd January 2014 he appeared on ITV's *News at Ten*, explaining to correspondent John Ray that: "Lord Voldemort will not be destroyed if you do not destroy all the seven Horcruxes. And I made the comparison because militarism has not been completely destroyed [in Japan]." Five days later, during an interview with Jeremy Paxman on BBC2's *Newsnight*, Liu quoted Winston Churchill – "those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it" – to elaborate on China's position and warn the international community to beware of the revival of militarism in Japan.

In the years that fol-



• Liu Xiaoming at the launch of *Sharp Dialogue*.

lowed, Liu gave many interviews, covering everything from China's stance on COVID 19 and Hong Kong to the country's relationship with the UK, pitting him against many of Britain's best known TV presenters and interviewers.

With his 11 years of service in London, Liu became the longest-serving Chinese ambassador in the history of China-UK relations and the longest-serving ambassador-level diplomat since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. These feats aside, Liu deems three other records in China's diplomatic history to be his proudest achievements: During his time as ambassador to the UK, he made more than 700 speeches, wrote more than 170 articles for the mainstream press and gave more than 170 interviews, including 29 live ones, to major Western media outlets. On 9th October, Liu's new book, a bilingual compendium of his live interviews with British media published by Beijing Publishing Group under the title *Sharp Dialogue*, became the latest addition to that list.

The compilation comes with the recommendation of several high-level dignitaries and scholars, including

former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and former Commercial Secretary to the UK Treasury Jim O'Neill.

"The huge value of this book is it provides a unique case study of how Ambassador Liu Xiaoming made valuable pioneering efforts from the Chinese Embassy in the UK to make an optimal impact to 'let the world hear the voice of China'," Alistair Michie, Secretary General of the British East Asia Council, wrote.

spotlight

At the book launch, Liu shared his belief that as China is increasingly put under global spotlight, the world is eager to know more about the country. The majority of people in Western countries, however, know very little about China.

"We should improve our ability to engage in international communication to tell China's story well, make the voice of China heard, understood and recognised. We should present a true, multi-dimensional and comprehensive China to the world. Let the world see a reliable, admirable and respectable image of China," he explained.

During a recent interview Liu also touched on the high expectations he

holds for the younger generations, especially for Chinese students studying overseas.

"When I was in the UK, I reached out to many universities; this is a good way to make more young people know about China. Another reason is that the biggest percentage of overseas students in the UK hails from China," Liu said. He hopes these students can become good storytellers, telling their classmates, teachers, neighbours, and so on, about the great changes taking place in China, in their hometowns, as well as communicating their own experiences.

"I've said this many times: Every Chinese student studying abroad is a Chinese ambassador."

Beijing Review

***Sharp Dialogue* by Liu Xiaoming is published by the Beijing People's Publishing House. The bilingual 448pp paperback is available from the Guanghua bookshop, 112 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 5EJ for £23.70. It can also be ordered online from Cypress Books at <https://cypressbooks.com/> (plus £3.20 postage and packing).**

Hate in America

by Nancy O'Brien Simpson

I'VE BEEN on a hiatus, however, the hubris of the USA and its self-righteous bullshit burns through me. Writing is a catharsis to prevent my soul from being scorched by our hypocrisy.

Where to begin? The USA loves to throw stones, we love to hate. Russia is "our enemy" is blasted throughout our media. Why Russia is our enemy is never revealed. It is inferred they are commies and want to somehow harm us. So we have to fear them, nuke up against them and sanction them.

The Russians are far from the first. We hated the Vietcong and napalmed their villages. That will teach 'em. We hated Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi, and you know what we did to them. Trump hated the Mexicans and let us know they were damn rapists. He also hated Iran and in broad daylight violated international law and assassinated Iranian hero, General Soliemani.

Recently after decades of admiring the progress and technology of China, they suddenly become the new target of our hate. The new enemy. If you listened to our media China invented COVID 19 in the Wuhan Lab to take us down. Never mind it was released in China and not the USA. Never mind we funded that lab. Never mind they asked for funds to help with safety precautions and the Trump

administration turned them down.

Suffice it to say America needs to hate. We need it to fuel and fund our military obsession. Hate is a funny thing. It grows and it metastasises. If you lived in the USA you could see and feel that hate metastasising throughout the country. The red-pilled patriots hate Biden. The number one song on iTunes today is a rap song *Let's Go Brandon*. It is code for F**k Joe Biden.

Heck, the Republicans hated their very own vice president and on 6th January 2021, the day of the great insurrection, they created gallows and chanted "Hang Mike Pence!"

The liberals are not much better, they hate Donald Trump so much it is pathological. There was nothing he could do during his presidency that was not cast in a pejorative light. If the man cured cancer the corporate media would have said he had contributed to overpopulation. It was that bad.

This hate did not stay an ideological abstraction. No, it further metastasised into families becoming divided. Couples breaking up. Neighbours no longer talking to one another. Fights breaking out at PTA [Parent Teacher Association] school meetings. Riots in cities.

Hate is like that. It is not benign, not encapsulated. It is stealth and it grows. It is now choking America and if anything is to be our death knoll as a nation... it will be our hate.

Pravda.ru

A hair's breadth from escalation?

ON 15th November 2022 the world came close to a rapid escalation of the US-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Soon, however, representatives of the US government made statements that pulled back from the brink. For now.

The events recalled some of the tense moments of the 20th Century Cold War.

In the evening of 15th November, Warsaw time, a missile fell on Polish territory near the Ukraine border. Ukrainian President Zelensky immediately charged Russia with having launched the missile that hit Poland. His foreign minister demanded a NATO summit with Ukraine's participation, and asked NATO countries for modern war-planes and air defence systems.

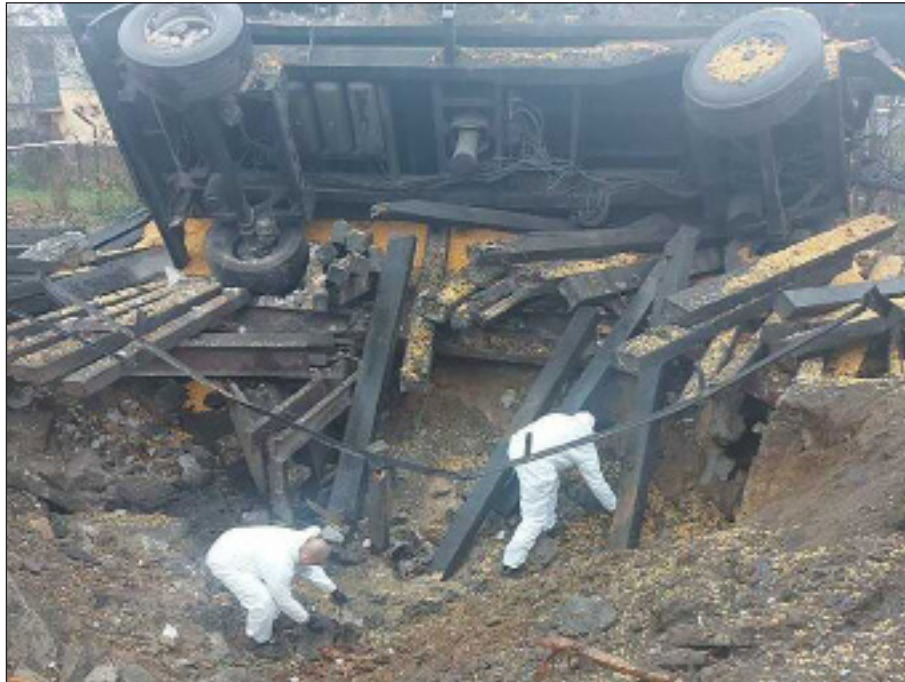
Moscow denied hav-

ing fired the missile, but for much of the day the corporate media in Europe ignored this denial and repeated the fake news that Russia had attacked Polish territory with missiles.

Since NATO members, per the treaty, have the responsibility of defending any other NATO member that is attacked, the consequences of accepting Zelensky's charges as true would be grave. NATO members would be required to aid Poland against Russia.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda then stated he believed the missile hit was an accident. US President Joe Biden confirmed this from Bali, Indonesia, where concurrent with the G20 conference he had just held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Biden administration, including some



• Polish police search the wreckage.

of the top generals, soon made it clear that they had no evidence that it was a Russian missile. On the contrary, they had evidence the missile was an anti-aircraft mis-

sile launched by Kiev's armed forces that apparently went astray. In a news conference later in Arlington, Virginia, the head of the Joint Chiefs, General Mark Milley, and

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed that assessment.

In that same news conference, General Milley warned Kiev that they were unlikely

to be able to drive Russia out of Ukraine completely. Austin, who earlier this year called for exhausting Russia with the Ukraine war, pointedly said he wouldn't comment on what was possible. Their apparent disagreement is a warning to the people of the world that they can't count on the US government to avoid such an escalation in the future.

All the more is it important to heed that warning and mobilise popular, working-class forces against the continued participation of US and NATO forces in the war. These imperialist war-makers are using Ukrainians as cannon fodder in a proxy war against Russia. And they are attacking the living standards of workers at home as they impose sanctions on Russia.

Workers World (USA)

Cuba Russian summit in the Kremlin

by Catherin López

THE president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, and Cuban president, Miguel Díaz-Canel, held an important meeting in the Kremlin on Tuesday as part of the official visit of the Cuban head of state to the Russian Federation.

The two leaders discussed the current state and prospects for the development of the Russian-Cuban strategic partnership in the political, economic-commercial, cultural and humanitarian spheres, as well as exchanging views on key issues on the international agenda.

During the meeting, President Díaz-Canel said he was convinced that the sanctions imposed on Mos-

cow and Havana are unjust and arbitrary.

Later he said he appreciated all the work being done by the Russian Federation, the role it is playing, which Cuba supports, in seeking to change the world, to move towards multipolarity, and in that sense, Russia and particularly you, emerge as a leader.

He also pointed out that both nations coincide in their points of view regarding the global problems that are affecting humanity.

"Once again, I want to reiterate that Russia can always count on Cuba," Díaz-Canel said. "We are going to do everything to continue strengthening and expanding our ties and bilateral relations."

For his part, the Russian president said that Moscow and Havana should move forward and strengthen their co-operation, taking account of the current situation, based on this solid foundation of friendship, adding that he was very happy to have this opportunity.

Putin stressed that first the Soviet Union and then Russia have always sup-

ported and continue to support the Cuban people in their struggle for independence and sovereignty, as opposed to any kind of sanctions, embargoes and blockades, and Cuba takes the same position concerning Russia.

Putin added that this has to do with the friendship between the two peoples, established by the leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, whom he considered a symbol of an entire era, of national liberation movements, of the fall of the colonial system and the creation of newly independent states.

He also asked Díaz-Canel to convey his best wishes to former Cuban President Raúl Castro. Shortly before, Putin and Díaz-Canel had inaugurated a monument to the leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, in the square that bears his name, located in Moscow's Sokol district.

Díaz-Canel is making an international tour between 16-27 November that includes Algeria, Turkey, Russia and China.

Radio Havana Cuba

This smells of danger

by Roberto Morejón

A MEETING of ultra-conservatives on the rampage, prone publicly to display their hatred, was organised in the name of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), created in the USA in 1974 and hosted by the American Conservative Union.

Held in Mexico, the gathering brought together a select club of characters with racist, xenophobic and anti-immigrant tendencies or performance who are staunch adversaries of the left, whom they qualify as the enemy.

The CPAC is consistent with its ultra-radical theoretical guidelines.

For that reason, it counts amongst its protectors the US Republican Party and the person

considered as its leader, former President Donald Trump.

It is no coincidence that amongst those who gave messages of support to the meeting in Mexico, in person or by video-conference, was Steve Bannon – the only person amongst those close to Trump who was tried for refusing to co-operate with a legislative committee in charge of the investigation of the attack on the Capitol in Washington on 6th January 2021.

Not wanting to miss the representative conclave of rampant ultra-conservatives were Senator Ted Cruz, a proven anti-immigrant, and former Polish President Lech Walesa, an old hawk now looking for pay-offs because his pockets are empty.

Other notable guests at the meeting in Mexico of the US CPAC were a grandson of the Dominican dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo and Eduardo Bolsonaro, son of the defeated Brazilian president Jair

Bolsonaro.

The plotters seek alternatives because, in their opinion, the left threatens their freedom and they are disturbed by the victories of progressive politicians in Latin American countries.

Opposed to abortion rights, the expansion of women's prerogatives and gender equality, the conspirators under the umbrella of intolerance take solace in their supremacist ideology.

As expressed in a statement by the Cuban cultural institution Casa de las Americas, voices must be united to denounce what it called a fascist offensive.

Let us remember that the discourse of these right-wing fanatics is linked to the economic power of several of them and their links with the hegemonic press, hence the validity of the denunciation of social groups about the conspiracy mounted at this week's meeting.

Radio Havana Cuba