

# SUBVERSION

bulletin of the league of communists in britain



Issue # 3 June 2012



*There is a key role for intermediate demands. Once the impossibilities of reclaiming sovereignty and fighting austerity within the Euro becomes apparent, and the wider reactionary role of the European Union has been exposed, then the people will start to ask harder questions and seek revolutionary answers.*

## RESISTANCE IN GREECE - NOW TO FIGHT AUSTERITY!

The depth of the resistance to austerity felt by the Greek people was admirably demonstrated at the re-run of the elections, which saw the SYRIZA coalition of the radical left gain a third of the votes.

In fact, the majority of the Greek people voted for parties opposed to the 'memorandum', i.e the EU/ECB/IMF or 'troika' imposed deal which saw the bankers bailed out at the expense of the sovereignty of the Greek nation.

It was only the scandalous toadying of the advocates of austerity, PASOK and New Democracy, who ensured the survival of the memorandum and the ongoing suffering of the Greek people.

But although the opportunity for political power for the Left has abated for now, the result still shows an unprecedented turn away from the stability of a discredited old party system towards a radical challenge to austerity.

It has been noted that much of the growth of support for SYRIZA has come from now demoralised parties of the soft left and the centre, as if such an influx of support renders the success of SYRIZA as tainted or even counterproductive for the battle against austerity. Furthermore, the fact their immediate opposition to the terms of the memorandum does not yet go so far as to meet outright opposition to the Euro or the EU has also been a subject of much debate amongst the left outside Greece.

In analysing this, we have to make a couple of very simple points.

One, that the influx of support for SYRIZA is what can be expected to happen when the political circumstances change to such a considerable degree as we have seen in Greece over the past two years. If such a movement did not happen, then the political system of any nation would be locked into stagnation. Furthermore, the previous political home of a vote does not taint the current recipient. Otherwise, where would the votes that 'should' have gone to the KKE come from? The fact that support for PASOK collapsed and fled to the radical left does not make the subsequent increase in support for SYRIZA meaningless.

Two, that just because the dynamic of resistance has yet to reach its full political conclusion does not mean that the process is without meaning. There is a key role for intermediate demands. Once the impossibilities of

reclaiming sovereignty and fighting austerity within the Euro becomes apparent, and the wider reactionary role of the European Union has been exposed, then the people will start to ask harder questions and seek revolutionary answers. To argue that until the point is reached that all struggle is pointless is lead the people into the dead end of the 'lesser evil' and eventual demoralisation and surrender.

The next step remains the creation of a fierce anti-austerity opposition, both within Greece and across Europe, and for the fight to move from the ballot box and onto the streets.



**BREAK THE  
MOULD -  
BUILD ANEW!**



Following on from the May 10th strike over pensions taken by PCS, UCU, RMT and others, it is now apparent that nothing further will happen to advance this dispute until the autumn. Although the stoicism of PCS and the other unions can only be applauded, it is now painfully apparent that the task of uniting and fighting these imposed changes has proven to be beyond the trade union movement in Britain.

It is always important after such developments not to sink into abject defeatism, but any sober analysis of the situation would conclude that with the imposed changes having had months to bed in that the campaign is further away from being won, and that although the campaign has not been conceded that any united action in the autumn will be on a multiplicity of issues, of which pensions will be only one.

All this means that all the key events of 2011 - the 26th March rally in London, the 30th June & 30th November strikes - which represented such a massive step forward for the movement, have taken us no further forward. It is only fair then that we ask how will the movement rise to defend jobs, fight for fair pay and defend the right to strike over the coming months if unity is so painfully built and so easily squandered.

The League of Communists in Britain is therefore asking the question - what can be done to rebuild and renew the movement? It is clear that the current basis of workers organisation is insufficient. How can the organisational basis of the labour movement be improved?

We need a new basis for workers organisation in Britain, covering such areas as workers self-organisation, rank & file left opposition in trade unions, better and different federation for trade unions activity, greater political education, organising migrant workers and the unemployed, and demanding a qualitatively different model for how we organise.

This is an open letter and does not come pre-loaded with the answers - but the debate must begin with a vengeance...



# CHAOS, CORRUPTION & CAPITAL



The current Leveson enquiry is massively instructional for any serious analysis of how Britain is governed, and how the state works. So instructional in fact that space prohibits a full examination here. However, we can start with the following issues:

It aptly demonstrates the chaos of government. Any conception of a monolithic and methodical state apparatus cannot be squared with the reality of government by officials who are often arbitrary in their governance, if not totally random. Furthermore, the administration of power is almost casual in it's disorderly, lackadaisical nature. Accountability is hard to wield against a state machine which seems ad-hoc and semi-improvised. We would be doing ourselves a disservice by imaging the state as a well-oiled machine, but it is instead a complex and dysfunctional and chaotic system which often works against itself.

The level of corruption as manifested by the shared

interests between political, media and oppressive arms of the state, and the interests of capital. Often this is not done openly or even self-consciously but through and unofficial and covert means which work against the official modus operandi of the state apparatus. The interlocking of parts of the state and the needs of political and financial elites needs reviewing in the light of such widespread illegality in the workings of government.

The widespread audacity of the operation, from both the semi-improvised nature of the hacking to the depth of the information-sharing with parts of the state. This represents irregular class warfare as practise by the ruling class. What we need to take from that is the need for the working class and it's allies to use similar imagination to advance our agenda.



**JOIN THE LEAGUE!**

**For more information contact us at:**

**The League of Communists in Britain**

**PO Box 507**

**Leeds,**

**LS6 9DN**

**[info@commies.org.uk](mailto:info@commies.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.commies.org.uk](http://www.commies.org.uk)**



**SYRIA -**

# **THE END OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION**



The ongoing massacre in Syria is ample proof that the neoliberal project of 'humanitarian intervention' is dead and buried.

Without the cosy consensus of opportunism that was the hallmark of previous imperialist adventures in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, there is evidently no basis for any intervention in assisting the Syrian people resist the onslaught from the Assad regime.

In particular, without Russian support all attempts at military leverage have failed, and all the while the world awakes to massacres the like of which have not been seen for decades.

It is vital that imperialist intervention in Syria is opposed; however, we must also send our solidarity and support to the Syrian people in their battle against oblivion. The League of Communists stand shoulder to shoulder with the Syrian people against both the Assad regime and the failed beasts of Western neoliberalism. The world must fight for justice for the Syrian people and for an end to the war that is being waged against them – and urgent humanitarian and political support is required.



**ABOUT**

# **THE LEAGUE**

The League of Communists in Britain was formed on 30th November 2011, and is a non-party, political organisation dedicated to grassroots political activity and practical solidarity. We are an inclusive, broad and non-sectarian platform for the non-authoritarian Left, and we include anarchists, communists, socialists and environmentalists in our affiliates. We believe that we are working in a post-Leninist politics, where the issue is not the establishment of another 'revolutionary vanguard' but the engagement of the working class with the masses, and the direct role of the masses in politics. The imposition of structure upon politics has failed, and the issue today is that of developing political consciousness and on supporting struggles against oppression and exploitation, and to work towards building a mass movement.

Communism in the 21st century is not a struggle for state power, but the struggle against it; it is the engagement in a radical, decentralised politics, which manifests itself as a challenge and resistance to exploitation and oppression on the basis of class, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, immigration status, species and religion. Resistance and practical solidarity is the basis for all of the League's political work. We work to defend human rights and political autonomy, provide humanitarian assistance and support those in struggle. We publish a regular newspaper, 'Subversion', which acts as a focus for politics and organising. Our members are active in trade unions such as PCS, Unite and the NUT, and campaigning groups such as UK Uncapped, refugee support organisations and the anti-cuts movement.

We believe in a radical politics which is decentralised and broad; we do not have a structure of committees or branches, we have no conditions of affiliation or payment of dues, and we do not work on the basis of an agreed political 'line'. Instead our emphasis is on practical political work, and not on party building. Affiliation is open to anyone, regardless of membership of other organisations, who agrees with our core mission. statement and signs our equalities disclaimer. Affiliation costs £1 per month.