

SUBVERSION

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THE NEW ELITISM

Two separate and recent events have highlighted the new elitism among the New Right ideologues of the both the Conservative Party in the UK and the Republican Party in the Republican party of the USA.

In the UK the Daily Telegraph published excerpts from new book entitled 'Britannia Unchained: Global Lessons for Growth and Prosperity' written by the new Conservative ultra Neo-Liberal Free-Enterprise Group.

In amongst the suggested & unsurprising attacks on Employment Law and the minimum wage is the central contention that: *"The British are among the worst idlers in the world. We work among the lowest hours, we retire early and our productivity is poor. Whereas Indian children aspire to be doctors or businessmen, the British are more interested in football and pop music"*

This represents a new trend in elitist thought among the new right thinkers in the Conservative Party.

Similarly In the USA new articles appeared on Paul Ryan's professed love for the neo-liberal novelist Ayn Rand who wrote 'Atlas Shrugged' a novel set in a dystopian future where entrepreneurs and business leaders are so stifled by government control that they effectively go on strike by leaving society.

Paul Ryan likes Ayn Rand for exactly the same reason the economist neo-liberal Ludwig Von Mises did. Mises admired Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand because *"...You have the courage to tell the masses what no politician told them: you are inferior and all the improvements in your conditions which you simply take for granted you owe to the efforts of men who are better than you."*

These contentions make a lot more sense in neo-liberal thinking than what William Hague had said in May that bosses: *"... should be getting on with the task of creating more of those jobs and more of those exports, rather than complaining about it."*

He stopped short of blaming the general populace for the deep depression that the UK is currently in precisely because he knew how unpopular this would be given the current banking crisis.

The new neo-liberal thinkers in the UK and in the USA are challenging this contention. They want a new more aggressive neo-liberalism, more savage cuts and more tax cuts for the rich.

This is because the new neo-liberal ideologues both in the USA and UK refuse to pin the blame for current economic crisis on the Anglo-American capitalist banking system which had non-existent banking regulation and extremely favourable tax incentives.

For them the blame lies not with the market but with the fact that the market was too restricted and that we had too much government regulation and spending, for them the market could not have caused the crisis because the market is always right.

The main agents who in their opinion drive the market are: the wealth accumulators, entrepreneurs, business leaders and speculators, who could also not have been to blame. In their opinion, these people cannot have ruined the economy as it would not be in their interest.

Logically the only people than can be blamed for the economic crisis, if you follow this argument, is the proletariat for being too lazy and the government for spending too much.

Again logically if you follow those arguments you then get the most worrying and deeply disturbing contention of all. From the quotes so far released from '*Britannia Unchained*' it is clear to see that the authors believe that British workers and citizens are far too mollycoddled and that we should be looking to replicate the severely limited wages and working conditions of the sweatshop economies of China and other South East Asian countries.

China is succeeding in economic growth not because it innovates but because it has a far less restricted market capitalist economy. There is a low minimum wage set locally, almost no workers rights and no human rights.

The conservatives parties admiration for the 'communist' Chinese governments disgraceful treatment of its citizens marks a new low point for the British Conservative Party.

They have recognised that Marx was right and that labour is the true source of value in economics but instead of taking that argument and stating that labourers should be given the full fruits of their labour they are now going to start making the argument that labour is just too expensive in Britain. They will now argue that we need to start giving up our rights and living standards in order to keep up with China and the new rising economic stars of Brazil and India In Britain and the USA the conservatives have been peddling the lie that it was not the capitalist system or the bourgeoisie which caused the economic crisis which started in 2008 with the banking crisis but government spending.

A new lie and myth is being propogated by both conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic that we must surrender our living standards and rights so that our betters can build our economies to challenge the Chinese.

They will argue that the elite in your own country are your friends and that you must sacrifice more to maintain your standard of living.

A new nationalist lie is coming, Communists, socialists and all left leaning activists should start building the argument now that the bosses and bourgeoisie in your own country is the enemy and exploited workers in all countries are your friends.

RED OCTOBER

a festival of revolutionary culture

Saturday 6th October
League of Communists in Britain stall & leafleting
Leeds city centre, 11am

Wednesday 10th October
"Developments in Nepal - Where Next for the Revolution?"
Public meeting. Speaker Peter Tobin (editor, Red Front).
Swarthmore Education Centre, Woodhouse Sq, Leeds 7-9pm

Friday 12th October
Viva Cuba! Revolutionary Social - live music & guest speaker
Bar Santiagos, Grand Arcade, Leeds, 8pm-late

Saturday 13th October
League of Communists in Britain stall
& leafleting, Sheffield city centre, 11am

Monday 15th October
Free Pussy Riot! Benefit gig
Featuring: Gleeeeeeeee +
Flesh Eating Foundation + more t.b.c
The Packhorse, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds
8pm -11pm - £4 entry
www.red-square.org.uk
www.commies.org.uk





FROM LIBERATION TO OPPRESSION



The League of Communists in Britain condemns the disgraceful murder of workers in cold blood by the South African police, an act which further condemns the political class of the 'new' South Africa – a nation which is increasingly bearing the hallmarks of its own oppressive and corrupt past.

We need to be mindful about any analysis which ignores the subjective political factors in play at any particular moment. The objective nature of any institution, policy or political action can change as these subjective factors frame the context of their existence. It is not enough to generalise about the role of any part of the political or state apparatus; for example, although the army in most capitalist countries will play a reactionary or repressive role, at a certain point in the development of class forces this can decisively change so that, like in Russia in 1917 or in Portugal in 1975, the army can play a progressive role; similarly, a 'revolutionary' army can also become a repressive and reactionary force as the subjective political conditions change (as demonstrated by the degeneration of the People's Liberation Army in Tiananmen Square in 1989).

Similarly, trade unions can, despite their potential for struggle and action and under particular circumstances, also become forces of reaction. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) and the Immigration Service Union are both cases in point.

Indeed, the history of the Communist movement is one where the political nature of a state or Party can change; when the role they perform stops being revolutionary and becomes oppressive. Neither is there only one form of Communist politics in play at any juncture. The nature of politics changes as the context of politics changes.

This is what we have to bear in mind with the actions of both the African National Congress (ANC), South African Communist Party (SACP) and the National Union of Mineworkers. It is not enough to regard these institutions as being in their nature progressive, we have instead to look at their actions and the role they are playing at a particular moment.

The ANC government and the NUM, by failing to support the striking miners and by orchestrating a legalistic witch hunt against the leaders of the strike, are objectively playing a reactionary role, a role of brutalised oppression which the shooting of striking miners in the back ably and bluntly demonstrates.

Further, the role of the SACP in calling for the arrest of the leaders of the breakaway Association of Mineworkers & Construction Union (AMCU) is simply a disgrace. Such actions cannot be justified and are a colossal failure of basic class solidarity.

Any attempt to solidify or freeze the struggle of workers into blanket or automatic support for existing representative institutions is doomed to failure. The objective needs of the South African working class are not being met under current conditions; no trade union or political party can expect to monopolise working class support as the subjective conditions change. The creation of AMCU is simply the political expression of a need for a better kind of struggle.

Any such expression will get the full and wholehearted support of all revolutionaries, real progressives and all those who support the movement of resistance. Failure to provide such support will always be the litmus test of any revolutionary movement.



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 Leagues 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.



JOIN THE LEAGUE!

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