

redscare

Danger!

FASCISM

TONY CONWAY

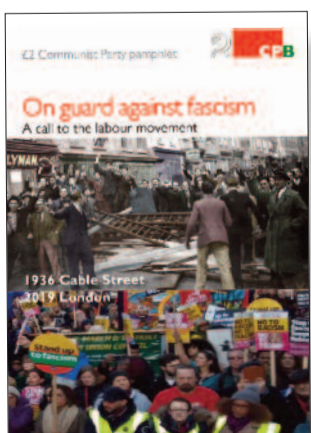
FASCIST IDEOLOGY must be exposed wherever it appears. The Communist Party has issued a new pamphlet to develop knowledge and awareness of how and why fascism can emerge – and how it can be challenged and defeated. It is important that the fight against racism and fascism does not remain defensive. The labour and anti-racist, anti-fascist movements in Britain need to develop a clear set of objectives and a strategy to achieve them. In this context, demands that cannot be satisfied short of socialist revolution are futile and will be seen as such by most of the people whose support and involvement is vital for any progress at all.

That is why communists puts forward:
 ★ Equal rights for all workers, citizens and residents in Britain. ★ An end to all racist immigration and nationality laws. ★ Humane treatment for asylum seekers and refugees. ★ An amnesty for overstayers who have not been engaged in serious criminal activity. ★ Greater resources for teaching English and the native languages of Wales, Scotland and Cornwall to immigrants and refugees. ★ Comprehensive anti-racist education in the school curriculum. ★ Tougher legal penalties for implicit racism within the press and media.

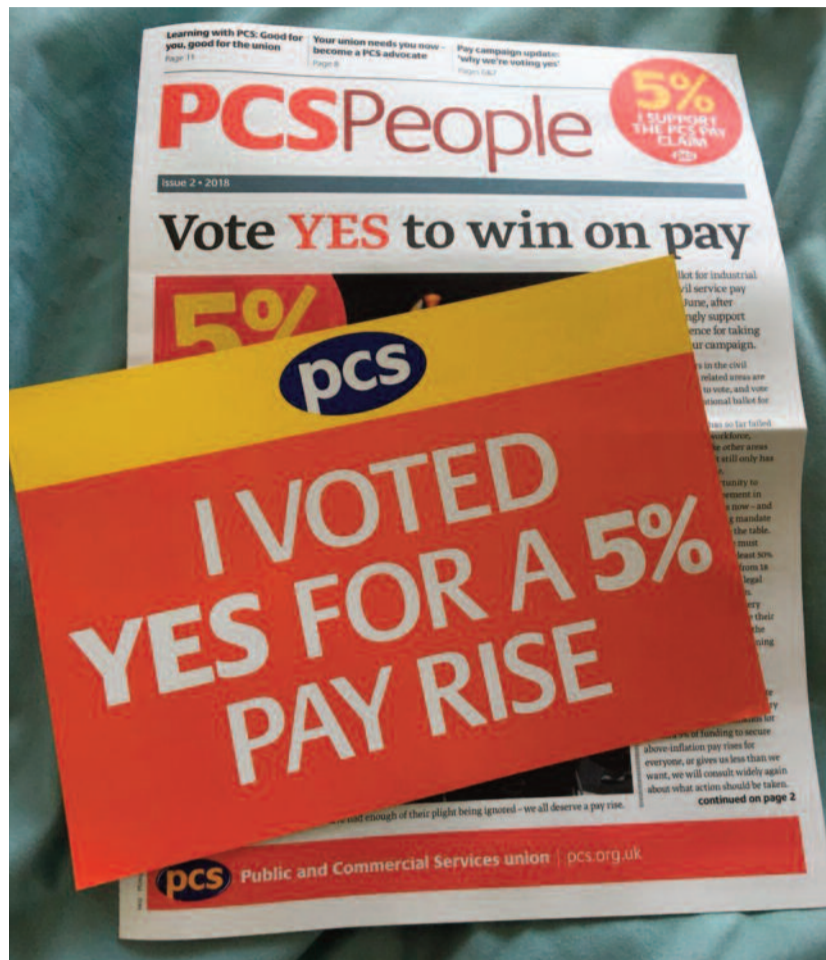
Immediately, communists stress the importance of anti-racists working together and standing ready to oppose the entry of far-right activists into our communities. This means campaigning against austerity and its local consequences in ways which seek to unite all residents whatever their nationality, race or religion – not simply parachuting in when far-right or fascist groups seek to exploit divisions.

Most important of all, communists stress the longer-term importance of developing class politics. Local, national and international working-class solidarity is at the centre of our work. In Britain today, this means actively drawing the labour movement and its trade unions and trades union councils into anti-racist, anti-fascist activity in local communities. Campaigning inside workplaces and in our communities has to be aligned to the practical issues that affect all working people. It is through such campaigning that a common understanding of the origins of poverty, unemployment and homelessness grows. Alongside this, political consciousness will develop of the need for a working-class unity if these and the other innate problems of capitalism are to be overcome by taking the road to socialism.

TONY CONWAY CONVENES THE COMMUNIST PARTY ANTI FASCIST ANTI RACIST COMMISSION



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Time to repeal anti-union laws

UNION RIGHTS

THE RESULT of the Civil Service pay ballot would in any normal circumstances be seen as a victory.

We won massive majorities for strike action and action short of a strike. Many members who had not engaged in union

activity previously were enthused by the pay campaign which brought to the fore hundreds of new activists. All our local and departmental representatives worked together in a united way. Unlike in the not to distant past were tactical differences elevated to sow confusion and disunity.

Nevertheless, despite winning 48 per cent – a higher national turnout than

ever before achieved, Tory anti-union laws have again prevented us from taking democratic action to recover pay levels that have fallen dramatically over the last decade.

In such a situation it is inevitable that PCS activists, members and officers will consider what alternative strategies are available to win higher pay.

In the first instance the disaggregated ballot results must be considered by our bargaining areas. It is unlikely the ballot result can be used to trigger individual bargaining area strikes but this option must be considered. This must be done quickly before departmental level pay talks commence.

But a word of warning to those who believe that Group or bargaining unit, or departmental level strikes on pay are the way forward. Analysis of past action show us that such a strategy will mean increased fragmentation. Different pay rates exist across the civil service precisely because we have a fragmented civil service. This is an entirely negative development and the product of earlier tactical errors.

In addition, as seen in some departmental talks, the employers will concede improved pay but at the expense of other terms and conditions. Such developments further fragment the civil service and act as a Trojan horse to introduce such changes as seven day working.

It is possible to win departmental campaigns around specific issues such as redundancy, office closures and staffing but we must be careful of producing a list of demands that do not retain the necessary focus on pay levels.

Undoubtedly members are annoyed about many of these questions but there are real dangers that pay will be sidelined.

Our unremitting focus must be on national civil service pay bargaining, national pay rates and equal pay. We must demand talks at government level while it is distracted and weak.

Opposition parties should be asked

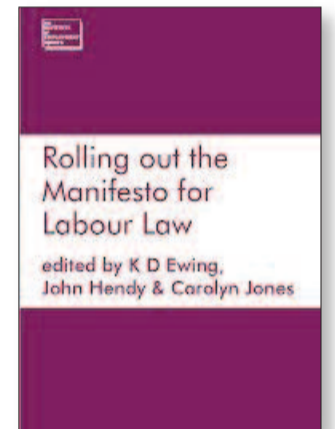
to commit to our bargaining demands. Alongside this we must relaunch the well resourced political and legal campaigns.

A number of organisational initiatives were successful during the ballot. Some weren't so successful. If we take it that members remain concerned about pay levels — and the overall turn out and the votes in favour of action would seem to imply that — why did some groups deliver and others didn't?

On this vital question there must be some urgent analysis. The union cannot allow a situation to continue where members are not engaged with PCS and this means increasing the time spent on organising. The app was a successful innovation and should become an everyday feature of PCS organising.

We must become more active in the class battle to repeal the anti trade union laws. These laws are a direct attack on the working class and our ability to organise all working people.

PCS and other unions — some who have lost national ballots — should coordinate actions to defy these laws and to get them repealed.



Rolling out the Manifesto for Labour Law

Towards a comprehensive revision of workers' rights. Edited by Professor Keith Ewing, John Hendy QC and Carolyn Jones. www.ier.org.uk

Which direction now for PCS and the Left

STRATEGY

THE ELECTION of John Maloney, long standing activist from DFT, to the position of assistant general secretary will be of a surprise to some.

John has a track record of lay activism and should be congratulated in his victory which while not as significant as the election of Mark Serwotka over a decade ago does signify some changes. This time there was no threat from the right and members had three candidates; John, Chris Baugh and Lynn Henderson, standing on broadly left and socialist platforms. This shows that PCS has shifted away from the old Cold War antagonisms of two decades ago and now has an internal culture more tolerant of a political pluralism and more focussed on our basic trade union concerns.

The disappearance of an organised (and employer-supported) right wing

machine based on patronage and polarisation has accompanied a shift to broader campaigning and a culture of organising over nearly 20 years. This is no accident and is built on a genuine trust in lay activism promoted by the majority of our leadership both lay and full time. This must be developed and embedded.

To achieve this PCS must see the emergence of a whole new layer of young activists that represent the whole spectrum of our membership. It is disappointing that Lynn Henderson — who was backed by a wide range of opinion beyond the Left and the Communist Party — did not get elected. As a significant woman trade unionist she took these issues into the heart of her campaign and in a union with a very high proportion of women members its is surprising that this aspect of her candidature did not resonate more.

This question must be considered in a discussion about why the turn out

was so low. And this applies to the NEC election too. PCS has major problem with engagement of our membership in national elections. One solution is to bring these elections closer to the membership. Allow proper hustings. Let candidates take their case to members. But we must also invite members to suggest solutions. Can we e-ballot in some elections? Trade union education must be available to all.

The progressive left is infinitely wider than the organised groupings. Many members who are inspired by Corbyn and the more socialist Labour leadership are not in any left grouping, but have signed up to Labour Party membership. Organised left groups ignore these members to their detriment.

Although the long standing Left Unity group is among the more successful left grouping in the trades union movement neither it nor the breakaway Independent Left or the

more centre ground PCS Democrats have all the answers and indeed, this fracturing seems increasingly anachronistic in a situation where we may be facing a radically transformed negotiating environment.

We could be facing a fag end Tory government led by Boris Johnson or, more probably in time, a Labour government led by Jeremy Corbyn. Both these prospects present new challenges which require a qualitatively different approach by the union.

Our challenge to Left Unity — the largest group of the three and now in danger of splitting — is how we can continue to develop a genuinely combative broad left trade union whilst maintaining a unified leadership position.

What is the best way to advance the interests of civil and public servants in a new situation where our prospects are bound up with a the election of a Labour government that, if it keeps to its promises, will be as embattled as we



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EU ELECTION

BIG BUSINESS has never agreed with the result of the 2016 referendum.

The Bank of England, City banks and bosses' organisations the CBI, the Institute of Directors and the Engineering Employers Federation wanted us to vote 'Remain'. So did most mainstream right-wing politicians.

After losing the referendum, Theresa May's Cabinet and the EU cooked up a Withdrawal Agreement to keep Britain tied to the EU Single Market.

EU rules would halt a future Labour government's policies for public investment in industry and infrastructure (including housing and public transport), an end to privatisation and outsourcing, cuts in VAT and a ban on the super-exploitation of migrant workers.

No wonder the British ruling class opposes Brexit! But MPs can't agree on whether to accept Theresa May's half-baked Brexit – or to cancel Brexit with an EU-style second referendum.

When the peoples of Ireland (twice), Denmark, the Netherlands, France and Greece voted against EU plans, the result has been ignored – with or without a second referendum.

Our rulers hope that the daily anti-Brexit scare stories since 2016 will frighten us into staying in the EU.

They want to keep Britain in the EU capitalist 'free market' jungle forever.

That's why Britain's Communists say: Defend popular sovereignty!

Stop the sabotage!

Here's the record of inaction and delay:
June 2016: Britain votes to leave the EU by a majority of more than one million.
March 2017: the pro-Remain Tory-LibDem coalition gives TWO YEARS NOTICE to quit the EU.
March 29 2019: first Brexit Day CANCELLED.
April 12 or May 22 2019: second Brexit Day CANCELLED.
October 31 2019: next 'final' Brexit Day CANCELLED?

After three years, Britain should have been out of the EU as decided by more than 17m people - the biggest vote in our history.

The EU Parliament elections planned for 23 May 2019, have no democratic mandate here. They are sham elections for a sham 'parliament' that can't even devise its own laws!

But the EU demanded they go ahead as a condition of extending the Brexit Day deadline.

We should be leaving, not begging the EU to stay in its big business 'Fortress Europe' for longer!

That's why Britain's Communists say: Time's up – leave the EU! Boycott the EU elections!

A question of peace

BRITAIN

THE ABOLITION of war or the threat of war both nuclear and non-nuclear is essential if we are to achieve socialism and a healthy living planet.

Britain's record is lamentable.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organisations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017.

Britain however, which possesses approximately 215 nuclear weapons, did not participate in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It has said that it intends never to join the treaty. It voted against the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 that established the mandate for nations to negotiate the treaty. It has failed to fulfil its legally binding disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Meanwhile imperialism, led by the US and fully supported by the British government continues its war to take

control of all hydro carbon resources and trade routes in the Middle East.

The Tadhmun Iraqi Women Solidarity group points out the consequence of war, occupation and neo-colonial policies from Morocco to Palestine and Iraq is an ecological crisis. This undermines the basis of life in the region. Its effects are seen in disruptive climate change, polluting extractive industries, exhaustion of natural resources, water scarcity and wars leaving behind metals delivered by modern ammunition, and harmful agents from depleted uranium and white phosphorus as in Iraq and Gaza.

Inevitably, this creates the conditions where social/environmental regional conflicts, over ever diminishing land resources and livelihoods take centre stage. In this merciless UK backed imperialist assault vital archaeological sites and artefacts going back thousands of years are also destroyed. Fortunately, campaigners such as the women in Tadhmun are fighting back for sovereignty and jobs and a safe environment.

Our union needs to be even more involved in peace campaigning and we need to up our game right now.

Viva Venezuela!

SOLIDARITY

IF YOU follow the international news you will know that Venezuela is a troubled country. If you have been following the mainstream media you will understand that Venezuela is ruled by a dictator called Nicholas Maduro who has ruined the country's economy and repressed all opposition.

You will also have heard that Maduro is challenged by one Juan Guaido who has been anointed president on a wave of popular support.

But let's dial back a little...to 1998 when Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez was elected president.

He was re-elected in 2000 and again in 2006 with over 60 per cent of the votes. Following years of corruption and inequality in what he called the 'Bolivarian Revolution', after 19th century Latin American revolutionary leader Simon Bolivar, Chavez began to put in place policies which applied the benefits of Venezuelan oil revenues for the many instead of the few – making Chavez very popular with everyone except the oligarchs whom he had ousted from power and the privileged middle class. Not that they didn't try to get back in control through the ballot box and, in 2002, by attempting to seize power in a US-backed coup d'etat.

Chavez remained however the People's Champion among his 'Chavistas' until his death from cancer in 2013. Before he died he proposed Nicholas Maduro as his successor. Maduro, a former bus driver and staunch Chavista, found himself unexpectedly in the top job. Chavez was always going to be a hard act to follow and without either Chavez's charisma or, perhaps, his political ability, Maduro struggled – in the face of falling oil prices – to maintain the economic advances for working people which Chavez put in place.

The opposition, supported by the USA anxious to remove any lingering socialism in its 'own back yard', saw an opportunity to attempt once again to wrest power and embarked on a campaign of disruption and protest. Notwithstanding this, Maduro's government maintained power by winning a series of elections. These elections have been regularly decried as fraudulent by those seeking to undermine the socialist government – despite the fact that observers (including former US President Jimmy Carter) have described the polls as amongst the fairest they had ever seen.

Into this increasingly unstable situation,

from obscurity, stepped a minor politician Juan Guaido. He announced himself as the new President of Venezuela and became the spear-head of the anti-Maduro protest. The un-elected Guaido was hailed as the new president, firstly by Trump, then Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro's and other right-wing leaders...to be followed in short order by the UK and most of the EU. Guaido has called for a military coup and encouraged Venezuelans to take to the streets to bring down Maduro's government; a call which failed as the numbers failed to materialise and the armed forces stayed loyal.

We now read that Guaido is in 'open dialogue' with the US military in bid to raise tension with threats of a US invasion.

Students of Latin American politics will be familiar with the horror of the US at the prospect of socialist countries on its own doorstep showing US citizens and the world that there is an alternative to capitalism. Cuba's revolutionary lead, despite years of blockade and global exclusion, has served as a beacon to the world of what socialism can achieve.

We shouldn't be surprised that yet another progressive government is receiving the unwelcome attention of imperialism. Maduro and the Venezuelan people deserve our unwavering support. Viva Venezuela! Viva Maduro!



Latin America, imperialism and resistance Two volumes at £2 each Part One *Two centuries of neo-colonialism*; Part Two *The challenge to imperialism* Written by a panel of experts in Britain and the Americas these pamphlets analyse the course of revolution and counter revolution in Latin America in recent years. www.comunist-party.org.uk

Another Europe is possible Another European Union isn't

EUROPEAN UNION

ROB GRIFFITHS

THE FUNDAMENTAL treaties of the EU provide the framework for capitalist free markets, the unrestrained movement of capital, corporate power, monetarist public finance limits, an open market in public sector procurement contracts and severe restrictions on state investment or aid to industry amount. This is the essence of the European Union.

The anti-Corbyn right in the Parliamentary Labour Party sees the subversion of the referendum result as its main goal which, combined with faked-up charges of anti-semitism, as the means to bring down Corbyn.

On its main campaign priority it has now been joined by a new grouping – Love Socialism Hate Brexit – that wants to give a leftish spin to its bid to keep Britain in the EU.

Despite the 'socialism' in its name this new outfit has attracted a host of right-wing Labour figures. It says it opposes Brexit on the grounds that it is a 'right-wing Tory project' which attacks the environment, migrants and the working-class.

This flies in the face of the fact that opposition to Britain's membership of, first the Common Market and, since the Maastricht Treaty, the European Union, has been a basic left-wing policy which for many years was the common sense basis of the Labour and trade union approach.

There have been decades of Labour-left opposition to the Common Market/EU project from Aneurin Bevan and Michael Foot to Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner. Even Clement Attlee, no left winger, was convinced that the post war Labour government should avoid entanglement in the project for European capitalist integration. In its origins the euro federal project had the support of Oswald Mosley's post war fascist vehicle, the European Movement, which wanted a united capitalist Europe to confront the socialist countries and exploit its colonies in concert.

The Tory government, for its own self-serving purposes of preventing a split or mass defections to UKIP, offered the people of Britain a referendum on the EU.

Yet many Labour MPs including Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and most others on

the left demanded a referendum in order to stop the EU Maastricht Treaty in 1993.

The pro-EU Tory government denied one in order to drive through the treaty's neoliberalising programme. Labour promised a referendum when in office in 2004 and at the 2005 general election on any further EU constitutional changes, knowing that many Labour voters opposed further integration. Corbyn also voted for a referendum in 2011 against the Lisbon Treaty, which the Tory government chose to adopt without a referendum.

All of which indicates that opposition to the EU is not and never has been, in essence, a right-wing Tory project.

Opposition to EU membership comes from many quarters. Many Tory MPs oppose Britain's loss of sovereignty and want to severely restrict immigration from eastern Europe. Some fear an erosion of Britain's subservient alliance with the US, despite recent EU treaty changes aligning the EU with the policies and structures of Nato.

Many Tory neoliberals oppose EU regulation of financial services, the labour market or environmental standards. They exaggerate the extent of that regulation and any restrictions it places on big business, just as many Labour, Green, TUC and other pro-EU elements join in the exaggeration — in an effort to present the EU in a progressive light.

But many Tory and most right-wing Labour MPs also understand that the EU and its treaties and institutions have been designed to protect free-market capitalism. That's why they support EU membership. They cannot conceive of an alternative to capitalist globalisation.

The Remain campaign was backed by Britain's main big business bodies – the CBI, the Institute of Directors and the Engineering Employers Federation – as well as by most major City banks including the Bank of England itself. Here are the authoritative voices of British monopoly capital and this is why the EU is a class issue.

The idea that Labour should campaign inside to 'transform' the EU in the 'best traditions of international democratic socialism' lacks credibility.

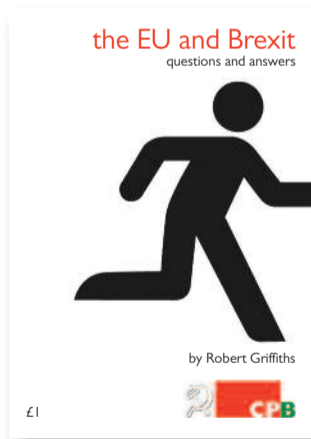
Electoral support for almost all of Europe's traditional social-democratic parties with their pro-EU, pro-austerity orientation has collapsed. Most left wing parties – especially the communists –

reject the delusion that the EU can be transformed into a vehicle for socialism.

The EU is hard wired against socialist solutions. None of the forces that promote the idea that it can be reformed from within have a realistic strategy for doing so.

Left-wing supporters of Britain's membership will acknowledge the neo-liberal essence of the EU but talk abstractly about 'transforming' it. When pressed they avoid a discussion about the actual processes involved in changing the EU's treaties or reconstituting its ruling bodies because they know that these things are beyond democratic control.

ROB GRIFFITHS IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S GENERAL SECRETARY



The EU and Brexit Available at www.comunist-party.org.uk



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