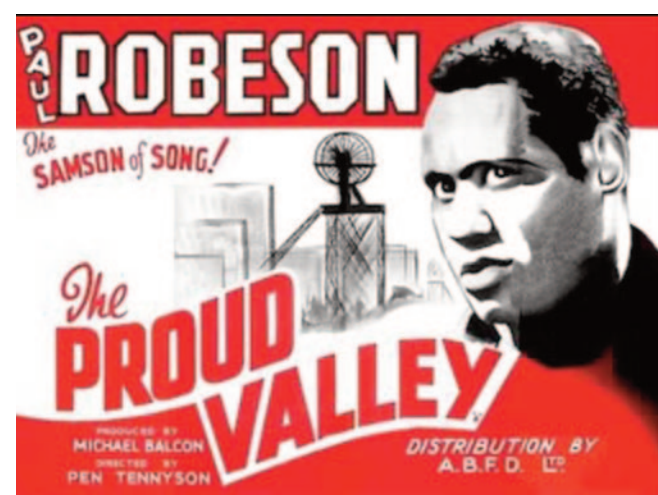


# May Day 2024



Workers of all lands, unite!  
Communist Party  
May 2024

# Unity!



## For peace and socialism

Robert Griffiths  
May Day 2024

BRITAIN'S COMMUNISTS send greetings to all workers and their families on International Workers Day. May Day is the day when, throughout the world, workers raise high their banners.

In each country the immediate issues are different but the universal call for peace and socialism is a shared goal.

In Britain our first priorities are to step up the fight to repeal all anti-trade union laws; to win higher investment in the NHS, housing, public services and secure a Green transition and to end imperialism's drive to war.

The Communist Party holds no illusions that the election of a Labour government under the leadership of Sir Keir Starmer is the path to an early achievement of these goals.

Set aside the few years in which the Labour Party was led by an straightforward socialist and anti-imperialist – but riven by sabotage from a disloyal faction in the parliamentary party and on the right wing – Labour has failed to make the repeal of Thatcher's anti trade union and employment laws a priority.

Some improvements are promised by the current leadership, the task of the labour movement will be to hold them to account.

The Labour Party stands in clear opposition of the great majority of people who want a ceasefire in Palestine and justice for the Palestinians.

There must be no votes cast for candidates who refuse the call for a ceasefire. Wherever you can vote Communist on 2 May. From International Workers' Day forward we demand an end to Israeli genocide – justice for the Palestinians and call for a united front for peace, jobs and social justice. Join with the Communist Party in the struggle for peace, solidarity and socialism.

ROBERT GRIFFITHS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## INSIDE

Rueben Brett on the Harry Pollitt School  
Steve Silver on Paul Robeson  
Liz Payne on NATO's threats  
Fathi Al-Fadl on the Sudan crisis  
Kevan Nelson on the danger of war  
Georgina Andrews on youth's problems

## SNP/Green split makes little difference

Tom Morrison  
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY throwing the Greens out of the Scottish Government will make little difference to working people and their families who are struggling with the cost of living crisis while big business reaps in super profits. Tackling inequality has never featured to any great extent in the Scottish's priorities.

Last month's Scottish Trades Union Congress gave the sort of lead that is required and showed the unions are a country mile ahead of the Scottish

political parties on policy and strategy in calling for workers organising in the workplace and communities to defend the public sector and local democracy. Policy is there which could raise £3.7 Billion!

Congress passed a motion calling for zero cuts budgets from local councils and we need united campaigning to make this a reality and compel councillors to join with unions and communities in this. If elected members lack the backbone for such a fight they should stand aside and make way for those who have.

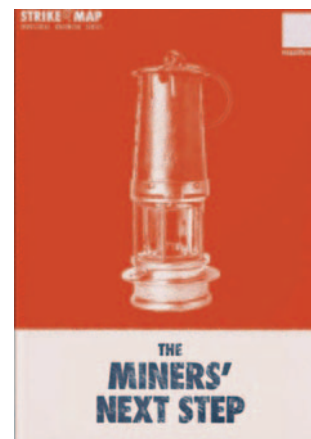
Other issues far outweigh the bun fight between the SNP and Greens.

★ The campaign for peace in the current climate. ★ Moving from arms manufacturing to socially useful production. ★ A green transition that takes workers along with it.

The Tories fear workers' collective action hence the attacks on trade union rights to weaken any possibility of the alternative above taking place.

The fight against these laws must be met with defiance and campaigning among the membership will be required to win that approach.

TOMMY MORRISON IS SCOTTISH SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY



*The Miners' Next Step* by Noah Ablett (The Unofficial Reform Committee), is a seminal pamphlet in labour and trade union history, ranking alongside the *Communist Manifesto* in its revolutionary implications.

Its proposals represent a complete rupture with the cosy, consensual Lib- Lab politics, but also the Parliamentary Labour Party whose deference to the state

and it's institutions was already self evident.

With what looks like a incoming Labour Government ahead, this pamphlet is an important reminder of what this means for workers. The pamphlet's own title is a vital question for our movement, who should control the future means of production? Private enterprise? The state or the workers themselves?

Our pamphlet includes forewords from Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, Lesbian & Gays Support The Miners (LGSM) and subject matter expert historian Rob Turnbull.

The pamphlet itself will be launched at this year's Durham Miners Gala

Pre orders available at <https://tinyurl.com/minersnextstep>

Published by Strike Map and Manifesto Press



# IDEAS, ACTION & EVENTS

‘Some people think that it is sufficient to draw up a correct Party line, proclaim it from the house tops, state it in the form of general theses and resolutions, take a vote and carry it unanimously for victory to come of itself, spontaneously, as it were. This, of course is wrong. It is a gross delusion. Only incorrigible bureaucrats and red tapists can think so. As a matter of fact, these successes and victories did not come spontaneously, but as a result of a fierce struggle for the application of the party line.’ **JV Stalin**



**T**HE COMMUNIST PARTY is standing a range of candidates in this year’s local elections across England and for the Greater London Assembly, as part of the run up to a wider General Election campaign across Britain.

The following candidates will be running on the Party’s ticket for the upcoming council elections:

- Ben Clarke – Nelson Ward – Norwich City Council
- Mark Ewington – Sopwell Ward – St Albans Council
- Simon Brignell – Abbey Ward – Cambridge Council
- Ben Ughetti – Walkley Ward – Sheffield City Council
- Steve Handford – Heaton Ward – Newcastle City Council
- Connor Spence – Fallowfield ward – Manchester City Council
- Chris Neville – Weaste and Seedley ward – Salford City Council

The Party are also running twelve candidates on the list for the Greater London Assembly.

Working people across Britain face a capitalist crisis. In our communities were faced with poverty, crumbling public services and hopelessness. The Communist Party is here to put forward clear, pragmatic, socialist solutions.

The demands of all of our Party candidates reflect and are specific to the communities they are from and the struggles they are a part of. But there are three key aims for all Communist Party candidates across Britain:

- 1 End cuts, austerity and the endless downward spiral.
- 2 Invest in jobs, housing, health, education and public services, invest in hope.
- 3 Reinvigorate local democracy and empower community campaigns.

Each of the Party’s candidates is putting forward bold, popular and progressive policies for their local area. Communists are clear that after decades of cuts, neglect and privatisation we have to rebuild our communities from the ground up.


The Communist Party has been undergoing an exciting period of growth across Britain in recent years. This electoral campaign is a sign of that progress and the fact that Communists don’t just have a proud past – we’re a party for the future.

We’re calling on voters not to settle for less at the ballot box this year or abstain in apathy and despair. We’re asking them to vote with confidence, to vote with hope and to vote to put forward a Communist voice for their community.

But our campaign doesn’t stop at the ballot box. Our priority is to build a mass movement across Britain based in our communities, workplaces and campuses to win real change.

For Britain’s Communists every day is polling day. Every day is an opportunity to win for working people.

These contests are part of a wider election campaign as we build toward the 2024 General Election campaign and our work in rebuilding a strong and vigorous communist movement across Britain.

 For more information contact – Communist Party Communications Director, Johnnie Hunter: email – [johnniehunter@communistparty.org.uk](mailto:johnniehunter@communistparty.org.uk)



Join us for the first episode of the newly relaunched **CommieCast!** With co-hosts **Johnnie Hunter, Dan Ross and Roger McKenzie.**

This episode covers domestic and international news as well as an in-depth discussion on the upcoming local elections.

For comments and criticism contact us [commiecast@communistparty.org.uk](mailto:commiecast@communistparty.org.uk) Previous and future episodes are available on anchorfm, Spotify, Google and YouTube.



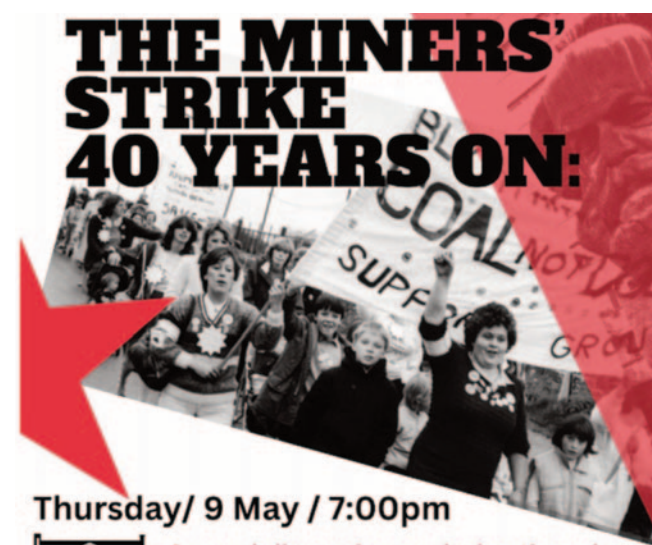
**COMMUNIST REVIEW**  
 Editorial *Martin Levy*  
**From Belgrade to Beijing: Comparing socialist economic reforms in Eastern Europe and China** *Roland Boer*  
**The roots and branches of Zionism** *Robert Wilkinson*  
**2nd International Meeting of theoretical publications of left parties and movements** *Rogelio Polanco Fuentes, Elier Ramirez Cañedo, Isabel Monal, Jenny Farrell, Martin Levy, Munyaradzi Machacha, Ignacio Ramonet, Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Dimitris Kilakos, Enrique Ubieta Gómez*  
**Palestine Declaration**  
**SOUL FOOD Class and culture: an ongoing struggle** *Fran Lock*



## Raise your voices!

The Communist Party’s communications team are working on a series of short videos outlining policy and making working class voices heard as we head into local and national elections.

The team are looking for people to feature in the videos, expressing working class voices and experiences. Work with the team on scripts and participate from any location. Contact Will Dry at [will\\_915@hotmail.com](mailto:will_915@hotmail.com)



Thursday/ 9 May / 7:00pm  
 A panel discussion exploring the role of the law, the state and communities in the 1984-5 Miners' Strike.

*The Workers' Committee by JT Murphy*

**Newport Strike Map book launch and social: 8 May 2024**  
 Strike Map and Manifesto Press are hosting another excellent event, this time in Newport Wales. We are looking for Welsh comrades to join this important launch meeting. With Mairead Canavan, NEU-chair, Jamie Woodcock, *Notes from Below*, Dr Emma Runswick, BMA and Henry Fowler, Strike Map.

Booking: <https://bit.ly/JTMurphyNewportLaunch>.



**Video gaming is a fast expanding sector of the economy with workers and consumers confronting exploitative practices in employment and the market. Trade union organising is developing at a pace.**

The Communist Party’s Culture Commission is conducting a survey to connect game developers, technology workers, and casual gamers within the Party, as well as anyone interested in the cultural struggle within the video gaming industry.

Contribute to the work of the Culture Commission

The Culture Commission is considering producing a follow-up to its Class and Culture pamphlet. The Commission is looking for comrades who may be able to research and contribute short essays on cultural topics, for possible publication in the pamphlet and in other digital and print media.

The idea is to set out concrete proposals for promoting cultural democracy, ie widening access to all forms of culture; improving the conditions and careers of cultural workers; and improving the representation of the working class in cultural experiences.

The Commission would like to focus in particular on those themes as applied to a variety of cultural areas, including sport (generally, or in specific sports like football); TV; social media; eating and drinking; the theatre; music (generally, or specific genres like folk music); the visual arts; science and technology; religion and spirituality; and cultural education.

If you wish to make a contribution please contact Mike Quille at [editor@culturematters.org.uk](mailto:editor@culturematters.org.uk)



# HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

'The Marxist view of history and prehistory is admittedly material determinist and materialist. But its determinism does not mean mechanism. The Marxist account is in fact termed ". It is deterministic in as much as it assumes that the historical process is not a mere succession of inexplicable or miraculous happenings, but that all the constituent events are interrelated and form an intelligible pattern.' **Gordon Childe**, 1979 [1949].[1]

## Capitalism is failing young people

Georgina Andrews

YOUTH

**S**ILENCE AND INACTIVITY surrounds the problems facing Britain's youth. Young people are increasingly falling into poverty while £billions are spent on war and the preparations for war.

The impact of inflation-busting rent rises on young people struggling to get by on low wages, student loans or welfare benefits is devastating.

Around 130,000 apprentices and workers aged 16-20 are denied the national living wage of £11.44 an hour, missing out by up to £200 a week and with youth unemployment now standing at 12 per cent and rents set to increase on average by 13 per cent this year, many young people have experienced no recovery since the Covid slump.

The exploitation of young workers goes hand in hand with a housing crisis as rents and mortgages are beyond their grasp while public money can always be found for big business and war.

Young communists welcome the mass participation of young people in Britain and around the world in solidarity action with the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank. Many of our generation are angry about the British government's support for Israel's aggressive war and bloodshed in Gaza, including the continuing supply of armaments to Israeli forces guilty of massacring civilians, health staff and aid workers.

The YCL and the Communist Party continue to highlight imperialism's role in this genocide, showing how it is related to the drive for Western domination of markets, resources and transport routes.

The failure of the world's major capitalist powers to act decisively against global warming and climate change is a betrayal of our generation's future.

Young people around the world see the growing threat to their livelihoods as health and social services deteriorate, populations are displaced by hunger and war, and energy and food supplies are destabilised.

Capitalism's aggressive drive to maximise profit and domination is at the root of the world's problems and it now falls to the younger generations to make capitalism history!

GEORGINA ANDREWS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

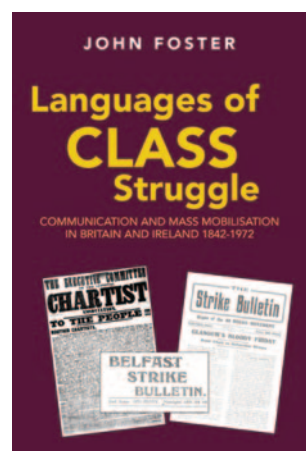


## Give to the Communist Party's £50,000 Big Red Appeal!

Your donations will:

- \* Fill our General Election 'Class War-Chest'
- \* Raise Big Red billboards for every Communist candidate
- \* Send an election Red Letter to one million households
- \* Publish materials for Palestine, peace, women and workers
- \* Upgrade our entire IT system at Party HQ

Send cheques (marked 'CPB') to CPB, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Rd, Croydon CR0 1BD or pay by bank transfer to Communist Party, S/C 60-83-01 a/c 50725694 today



This is a study of five key moments in the history of the British and Irish working class movements. John Foster applies some of the key insights of Soviet Marxist thinkers on language to the 1842 General Strike, the Councils of Action 1920, the Glasgow and Belfast General Strikes of 1919 and the 1972 UCS work-in on Clydeside.

£15  
<https://redletterspp.com>



## Rueben Brett reports from the YC political school – named after famed British communist leader Harry Pollitt – held in April in his Manchester birthplace

**W**ITH MORE than one hundred people – overwhelmingly young – from all over Britain taking part in this intense weekend of political education and discussion the 2024 Harry Pollitt school can be rated a success

With a packed timetable of talks, panels and workshops as well as an exclusive screening of the *London Recruits* (winner of Best Documentary at Johannesburg Film Festival 2024) and a radical history walking tour around Manchester led by a knowledgeable local comrade participants went home exhausted by enthused.

Some highlights from the weekend:

- ★ A fantastic panel including GMB organiser Helen O'Connor, RMT president Alex Gordon (RMT), Nick Troy from Unite, Stephanie Martin from UNISON and Gawain Little GFTU general secretary discussed the history and future of British trade unionism, the contradictions of British labour's relationship to imperialism, the need for trade unions to adapt and work more closely with tenants' and community unions, and more.
- ★ Paul Cockshott discussed Karl Marx's Labour Theory of Value, its historical development and application and
- ★ Fiona Edwards from No Cold War reported on Latin America's struggles against US hegemony 201 years on from the Monroe Doctrine.
- ★ David Broder analysed European fascism as 'an intellectual movement, not a historical moment' which did not end in 1945 and has continued to shape right-wing politics and governance, particularly in the context of the EU.

**Global changes** The emerging multipolar world order and its consequences for both the

Global South and the developed capitalist states came under scrutiny from a panel including Fiona Edwards, Carlos Martinez and representatives from the Student Federation of India, the Communist Youth League of China and the Leninist Komsomol of the Russian Federation.

Steve Marsling enthralled participants with his experiences as a London Recruit in the secret struggle against apartheid.

Praxis Press publisher Kenny Coyle dismantled anti-communist lies including the superficial analysis of 'totalitarianism' and emphasised that the way to defeat anti-communism is through unity, work and openness;

The history of the Communist Party was the core of party general secretary Robert Griffiths's session in which he set out the party's role in the next period.

Scottish young communists women's officer Robyn Martin led an insightful workshop examining liberal feminism and the realities of the sex trade.

Isaac Rose from the Greater Manchester Tenants' Union traced Manchester's contemporary history as a model metropolis for neoliberal models of development.

**Palestine** The final panel included Bassam as-Salhi, general secretary of the Palestinian People's Party discussing the culpability of the Israeli state in the decades leading up to the October 7 attack, its lack of serious engagement with any attempts at a peace process over the decades, and the importance of the continued demand for a two-state solution which, he said, would put imperialism 'on the back foot' once achieved.

Closing the Harry Pollitt school young communist's general secretary Georgina Andrews stressed the importance of the relationship between the Young Communist League and the Communist Party and the need to work more closely together in building the united front.

RUBEN BRETT IS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE YCL, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CULTURAL EVENTS.



# WORKING CLASS HERO

'The man who accepts Western values absolutely, finds his creative faculties becoming so warped and stunted that he is almost completely dependent on external satisfactions, and the moment he becomes frustrated in his search for these, he begins to develop neurotic symptoms, to feel that life is not worth living, and, in chronic cases, to take his own life of fear. My weapons are peaceful, for it is only by peace that peace can be attained. The song of freedom must prevail.' **Paul Robeson**



## Paul Robeson

The man they tried to remove from history



**Steve Silver marks the anniversary of the birth of Paul Robeson, Paul Robeson was born in 1898. Robeson excelled as an athlete, actor, singer, academic and political activist**

**B**OTH IN THE 1930s and 1940s he was the most famous black man in the United States and became internationally renowned for songs such as "Old Man River", and as a Shakespearean actor in *Othello*. By the time of his passing in 1976 his strident views on racism in the USA, belief in socialism and refusal to condemn the Soviet Union during the McCarthyite era meant that attempts to wipe him from collective memory had been largely successful.

The son of a preacher who had escaped from slavery, Robeson became deeply politicised by his experiences when he lived and worked in England in the 1930s.

### Rising star

One of those rare individuals who excels in many different fields, Robeson was an outstanding sportsman, becoming one of the first black men to be named "All American" in college football, considered to be one of the greatest achievements in the history of the game. He went on to become one of the first black men to play professional American football.

As an academic Robeson graduated from Rutgers University with an assortment of honours for excellence. He was the first black law graduate to enter one of New York's most prestigious law firms.

In the cinema Robeson was the first black actor to rise to international prominence in film and, through his outspokenness at the stereotyping of black actors, the first to bring dignity and respect to black characters.

### Politicisation

Robeson's views became steeled in the crucible of 1930s anti-fascism and he was a staunch fighter against antisemitism as well as racism against black people. He argued that the Ku Klux Klan and segregationists were cast in the same mould as the Nazis and their supporters.

Long before it was fashionable, Robeson sought inspiration in Africa. A supporter of the various national liberation movements that came to prominence after the Second World War, he had spent time with several of Africa's future leaders while in London.

Before delivering a monologue from *Othello*, Robeson would describe *Othello* as coming from a culture as great as that of ancient Venice.

Berated by right-wingers for his support for the Soviet Union, where he perceived great advances to have been made towards the eradication of racial prejudice, Robeson was denounced as a

communist. While he was close to many leading people in the international communist movement, and supported many progressive causes, he refused to answer whether or not he was a communist before the McCarthyite House Un-American Activities Committee.

Robeson spoke over 20 different languages including several different African languages, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. He had an astonishing bass voice and sang songs from the Nazi concentration camps and ghettos in German and Yiddish. His rendition of the American labour movement song "Joe Hill" is the version that most activists know and love. You can hear his version of the Jewish partisan song *Zog Nit Keynmol* (sung in Yiddish and English).

### Violence at Peekskill

In 1949, as anti-communist fervour gripped the country, a Robeson concert was attacked at Peekskill just outside New York. The concert, in aid of the Harlem chapter of the Civil Rights Congress, was abandoned as jeering crowds of "anti-communists" screamed "lynch Robeson" and antisemitic epithets like "dirty kike" while pulling concertgoers from their cars and beating them.

Rioting youths organized by the "anti-communist" Veterans Council of Peekskill, N.Y. break up chairs at a picnic ground there August 27, 1949 where Paul Robeson was scheduled to give a concert sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress.

Robeson returned the following week determined that he and his followers would not give in to mob violence. Surrounded by trade unionists, he sang and showed the world that there was another, progressive, America.

His political views and activities caused him to suffer under McCarthyism, the strongest manifestation being the withdrawal of his passport for eight years so that he could not act or sing abroad.

**Links with the British labour movement**  
Robeson developed strong links with the British labour movement after living and working in England in the pre-war period.

Keen to distance himself from the world of West End theatre, he became a supporter of the left-wing Unity Theatre. He appeared in its play, *Plant in the Sun*, to which he was attracted by its strong advocacy of the principles of trade unionism and the success that follows when black and white workers join together and strike.

Hurt by the fact that even when his roles in film looked as if they would have him portray a black man in a positive light, by the time they were edited his character would appear as a stereotype, Robeson once vowed that he would never act on camera again. He tried to buy up copies of the film, *Sanders of the River*, to prevent its distribution.

In 1939, however, an opportunity arose

that fired his imagination and he starred in a film about the Welsh miners, *Proud Valley*. Filmed on location in the Rhondda Valley in Wales, it was based on the true story of a black American miner from West Virginia who makes his way to England, where he works on the docks, and then drifts to Wales when massive unemployment hits England. This was the film with which Robeson was happiest artistically and politically.

Robeson sang at many British labour movement meetings and remained firm friends with several of its leading activists. He sang at benefits in support of the International Brigade in Spain and also went over to Spain in the midst of the civil war to sing to the Republican troops.

Britain's labour movement never forgot its great friend in his time of need. When Robeson's passport was taken away, a major "Let Robeson Sing" campaign was initiated. It started with a resolution at the Scottish Trades Union Congress calling for the United States government to return his passport. A committee based in Manchester held a meeting in the Free Trade Hall with the black boxer and Communist Party member Len Johnson speaking, which drew a crowd that more than filled the venue. Local Labour Party members and the Jewish community turned out in large numbers. This was part of a worldwide campaign and caused considerable embarrassment to the United States government.

When Robeson finally got his passport back in 1958 he came to England. He was described as "euphoric" at the reception that he received on his arrival.

### Setting the record straight

For years, Robeson was made a nonperson, literally removed from the history books. His former university, Rutgers, removed his name from sports records. This is the price he paid for his outspoken views on the issues of the day. He was a civil rights activist long before the post-war civil rights movement of Dr Martin Luther King and a black radical before the world had heard of Malcolm X.

Dedicated to black self-determination within the United States and the colonial powers, he fought tirelessly to aid national liberation movements in Africa.

Until his death in 1976 he continued to insist that racism against black people worked hand in hand with antisemitism.

In later years, Robeson began to gain the respect and recognition within the United States as a freedom fighter which he had long had internationally. Robeson's rehabilitation has been slow. In 1995 he was inducted posthumously into the Rutgers College Football Hall of Fame and in 2004 a Paul Robeson stamp was issued in the USA.



# WAR & PEACE

‘Instead of leaving it to the hypocritical phrase-mongers to deceive the people by phrases and promises concerning the possibility of a democratic peace, socialists must explain to the masses the impossibility of anything resembling a democratic peace, unless there are a series of revolutions and unless a revolutionary struggle is waged in every country against the respective government.’ **VI Lenin** *The Question of Peace* 1915



**Liz Payne** represented the British Peace Assembly at the conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia organised by the World Peace Council and the Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals.

**WE** PAY OUR respects to the many hundreds killed during the 78-day bombing campaign, to their families, to the thousands who were injured, and to the generations then unborn, who continue to suffer now.

Five years ago, on the 20th anniversary, here in this city, we who already knew and understood so much could little imagine the further horrors US imperialism and its allies would so soon inflict - undreamed of acts of barbarism hatched from their greed for wealth and power.

We particularly think, in this era in which imperialism so indiscriminately murders children, of the youngest victims of the 1999 attack, whose lives and potential were so prematurely cut off. Their poignant memorial stands in nearby Tasmajdan Park, bearing four simple words - "We were only children." Those words echo today across a war-torn world crying out for the slaughtered children of all conflicts, for the murdered children of Gaza.

We recall with horror the orchestrated terror and devastation inflicted purposefully and mercilessly on the people of Yugoslavia by the US and its allies, including Blair's Labour government in Britain and the neo-liberal establishment in whose interests it acted. We remember the enduring legacy, the lasting consequences of NATO's Operation Allied Force.

On the 24 March 1999 the world changed forever. Lines that were crossed unmasked the nature and intent of the most reactionary powers on earth. For the first time force was used against a sovereign state without UN Security Council consent. There were "no boots on the ground" - sole reliance on air power, the most advanced technology and deadly weaponry. Large-scale use of satellite missile-guiding technology made its debut. B2 stealth bombers were first used in live combat. And the scene was set for all the horrors to come, down to the present day.

There was, despite the rhetoric, no plausible reason to attack. Events in Kosovo posed no discernible threat to the national security of any NATO country, yet public opinion was won over on the basis of a sophisticated and highly effective web of lies.

The day before the first bomb fell, prime minister Tony Blair told parliament that Britain would do what it was about to do "to avert [...] a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo." But the aggression was long-planned and nothing Belgrade did or did not do could have changed the mind of NATO's generals.

In Yugoslavia, they saw not only the opportunity of ridding Europe of any last vestiges of socialism, splitting the country into controllable and exploitable statelets and securing access to high quantities of mineral resources, including the valuable lignite deposits of Kosovo, but also, crucially, of testing the strength of the NATO alliance - its strategies, its new potential for "interoperability" made

possible by huge investment in the advanced technologies of conflict, its military hardware and software, and its potential, via the mass media, to win the support of the peoples of member countries. Operation Allied Force was a deadly experiment, the harbinger of what was soon to come - a blueprint for future devastating interventions around the world.

In Britain, few people were aware, or have since become aware, of what truly took place. They have little idea of the sheer scale of death and injury, of the numbers of refugees and displaced people, of the destruction of thousands of homes, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, airfields, oil refineries, factories, power and water plants, public buildings, broadcasting facilities, and telecommunications networks. They are largely unaware of the poisoning of the environment by toxic emissions from bombed industrial sites and the widespread and long-lasting effects of depleted uranium. To this day they have been kept ignorant of the fact that all strategic military targets were destroyed within three days, yet bombing continued for a further seventy-five, with lethal cluster bombs rained down on civilians from early April. Neither do they know that civilian targets and places where it was known that civilians would be casualties were deliberately attacked, or that subsequent rescue attempts and medical teams attending the injured were subjected to secondary 'terror' bombing. There was no exposure of war crimes and their carnage. Consequently, there have been few calls for justice and reparation.

For NATO, the aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was a success by any measure. For the military-industrial complexes of the West, it was a vindication of investment, with the promise of trillions of dollars profit to be had from coming wars and threats of war. But for the people of the world, it was the tragic precursor of a whole new order of aggression - in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza - a prefiguring of its contemporary warmongering and a chilling warning to all peace-loving people.

Britain played a full and significant part in Operation Allied Force - in mobilising support for military action from mid-1997 and in detailed planning from then on in. During the campaign, from the outset, B52 bombers and vital tactical military aircraft left from bases in England. HMS Invincible operated Sea Harrier jets and an array of British destroyers, frigates and war planes gave support throughout.

Today, Britain continues to play its role as number one ally of the United States, just as Churchill quietly proposed to Truman in Potsdam, while the World War 2 still raged. Today, Britain's bases,

from Akrotiri to Diego Garcia, once honed for colonial domination, are now indispensable to US imperialism's bid to control not only the resources of Africa and the Middle East, but also the vast wealth of the Indo-Pacific. Aggression is cemented in ever more deadly pacts - the likes of AUKUS - while Britain once more plays a full and fearsome new imperialist role.

The BPA calls unequivocally for the closure of all 145 major British bases and military installations in 42 countries. Especially at this time, we call for a halt to the massive upgrading work being planned and undertaken at Akrotiri, Cyprus, at astronomic cost. We also call for an immediate end to its decades-long use for the training of military personnel, for secret surveillance of the whole Middle East region, for the stationing there of state-of-the-art attack aircraft and for the launch of deadly bombing missions threatening the peace of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

All military supplies to and support for the Israeli war cabinet's unspeakable assault against the Palestinian people facilitated via our government's Cyprus bases must end immediately, as must the transformation of Cyprus into an island arsenal and forward position for the forces of the US and its allies. This exposes its whole population to retaliatory attack and threatens the region and beyond with all-out war.

The BPA and the wider peace movement in Britain must use this anniversary to ensure that the people of Britain understand fully what was done in their name here in 1999. It will be repeated time and again unless we are strong, united, and vigilant. In Britain that strength is now on display week after week as hundreds of thousands come onto the streets to demand peace in Palestine, the release of prisoners and an end to genocide. The sheer scale of protest is unsurpassed in modern times.

But protest alone is not enough. The people of Britain must unite to challenge their warmongering government, expose its crimes, halt its plans, dissipate its lies, and bring it down. Our job is to work together to break neoliberalism and halt the tide of fascism in our country.

The World Peace Council, its affiliates, and the peace movements of every country must place imperialism and NATO under the spotlight, so that people everywhere know and understand why we say, "No to NATO" and "Yes to peace." We must never forget the crimes of 1999. But if there is ever to be a "world of equals" we are going to have to tear up the very roots of aggression and struggle together internationally against the forces of imperialism and stand side by side for a future of peace, democracy, and progress.



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# SUDAN: ONE YEAR OF WAR

As the war approaches its first anniversary, it rages on relentlessly with no sign of resolution. Each passing day deepens the suffering endured by the Sudanese people. Recent weeks have seen a marked escalation in the conflict, characterized by both sides acquiring more sophisticated weaponry from their respective allies. The Burhan faction has bolstered its arsenal with advanced drones from Iran, along with new tanks, artillery, and helicopters supplied by Turkey **reports Fathi-Al Fadl**



▲ South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees entering South Sudan through the Joda crossing point in November 2023. UNHCR picture

**U**KRAINIAN SPECIAL FORCES are actively supporting the army in its clashes against the RSF (Rapid Support Forces) and the Russian Wagner PMC (Private Military Company).

Meanwhile, the RSF militia continues to receive substantial military backing from the UAE via Chad and the Central African Republic. Its ranks are swelling with recruits from Mali, Niger, and factions loyal to General Haftar in Libya.

- This overt foreign military intervention is dangerously escalating the conflict, transforming it into a proxy war.
- The repercussions of this catastrophic war have reached alarming levels. According to UN agencies, as of February 2024, between 13,000 to 15,000 Sudanese have lost their lives (excluding the tens of thousands brutally murdered in Al Gezeria province). The number of wounded since April 2023 has reached nearly 100,000. There are no available statistics on those who perished due to diseases like cholera. Furthermore, the already fragile healthcare system has been further debilitated with over 70% of hospitals and clinics destroyed.

Adding to this crisis, doctors and health workers have faced severe mistreatment, detention, beatings, and some have been forced to flee for their lives. It's essential to consider the widespread hunger in the conflict zones; those fortunate enough to have one meal a day are considered lucky.

- More than 9.5 million people have been displaced, seeking refuge either in neighboring countries or within Sudan itself.

- The Sudanese Red Crescent Society reported that over 4,000 young females have fallen victim to violent sex crimes, with over 170 cases of young women being taken as sex slaves in the capital by the RSF militia.

- The economic impact of violent robberies, factory destruction, and property confiscation is estimated to be nearly \$7 billion USD.

—It is evident that the RSF militia bears significant responsibility for a majority of the crimes, particularly mass murders and sexual violence. Additionally, the regular army and militias affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood have also committed their share of atrocities. These crimes, acknowledged by UN agencies and human rights organizations, encompass acts classified as crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

- Given the circumstances outlined above, it is challenging to anticipate a swift ceasefire or period of calm in the near future. This is particularly the case as the international community, including the UN, EU, and AU, appears either hesitant or unable to broker a truce. It's important to recall that both international and regional forces were initially unprepared to support the December 2018 Revolution. Instead, they were pursuing the AU's Road Map, which aimed to integrate part of the Al-Bashir regime and broaden its social base by incorporating right-wing political

minister from Blinken to Cameron repeated the the same pious words of condemnation.

But it was not simply words that the western powers deployed in its hypocritical defence of Israel but active measures. Where mere words were deployed to plead for more aid to be admitted to devastated Gaza the NATO powers showed no hesitation in deploying their own naval, air force and missile forces against the Iranians.

There is some discussion that the Iranians and the USA – who have back channels of communication both gave effect to their joint desire to avoid a wider conflict and if true it shows just how cynical is Netanyahu.

His political survival – and a pressing need to retain his ministerial immunity in the face of compelling corruption charges – depends on him remaining premier in his coalition war cabinet. It is a measure of the Israeli 'oppositions' acceptance of Netanyahu's war aims that they back the war on Gaza.

parties into power-sharing arrangements. However, the Sudanese masses surprised everyone and compelled a change of plans.

- Furthermore, as the two warring sides persist in their seemingly unwinnable conflict, they increasingly rely on foreign recruits. Some individuals join as mercenaries for the RSF, while Islamist terrorists align themselves with the army.

- The catastrophic war, even if touted as a "victory" by either side, will only exacerbate and intensify the suffering of our people, ultimately leading the country towards becoming a failed state. One year into the conflict, it is evident that neither side has achieved its stated objectives. The international and regional initiatives lack a clear vision, plan, or structure to attain a ceasefire and establish lasting peace.

Previous attempts by international and regional actors to mediate and contribute to halting the civil war, restoring peace, and reinstating democracy have yielded meager and short-lived results. The Sudanese experience illustrates this, as seen in the 1965 Round Table Conference organized under the auspices of the African Unity Organization (now the AU), which resulted in a brief cessation of hostilities, only for a more violent conflict to erupt in the South of the country within years. Similarly, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement brokered between the Muslim Brotherhood regime and the SPLM in 2005 ultimately led to the country's fragmentation. These failed efforts, along with similar examples in Africa like Somalia, underscore the limitations of such initiatives, which typically achieve no more than fragile accommodations. They often fail to address the root causes of the national crisis, thereby perpetuating instability and conflict.

- The majority of Sudanese people, including democratic and patriotic forces, welcome all efforts to achieve a ceasefire and provide humanitarian aid. In this context, we welcome the convening of the Donors Conference in Paris on April 15th. However, we caution against attempts to create and impose a politically non-representative civil body claiming to represent the Sudanese people.

In fact the Israeli Defence force has lost significant numbers of combatants and has withdrawn much of its forces from the south of Gaza leaving the various resistance groups still able to deploy significant fire power.

With Saudi Arabia and Jordan backing Israel and with the Arab street in solidarity with the Palestinians a regional crisis is brewing.

Israel's genocidal assault on the Palestinians has created a new balance of opinion in the world with Israel condemned by many millions as a pariah state.

Only a brave minority of Israeli Jews oppose their government's genocidal policies and, significantly, while Israeli Jewish opinion is still substantially in support of the war if not their prime minister Jewish opinion throughout the world and especially in the USA is no solid monolithic bloc of support.

The neoliberal consensus between reactionary, conservative and social democratic politicians in support of the

- The devastating war has shifted the balance of power in the country. Gradually, the forces of change, including the SCP (Sudanese Communist Party), Resistance Committees, and trade unions, are regrouping and rebuilding their structures. Significant progress has been made during this challenging period; Emergency Committees have emerged to alleviate the suffering of the people amidst war conditions, and the Doctors' Union is providing medical aid whenever possible. Particularly noteworthy are the meetings and consultations between the SCP and Resistance Committees aimed at agreeing on a unified program to establish a broad people's front based on grassroots consultations. Similar efforts are underway between the Doctors' Union, journalists, and lawyers organizations to form a trade union framework. Here, we appeal for support from British, European, and international trade unions. Contacts have been made with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

—In summary, the war is orchestrated to suppress the revolution and reinstate the Muslim Brotherhood regime or a modified version thereof. As previously mentioned, the outbreak of war originated from the Security Committees' coup aimed at defeating the revolution. Democratic and patriotic forces, including the SCP, are actively engaged in efforts to halt the war and reinstate the revolution. Their objectives include bringing an end to the war as a first step, removing the military and RSF militia from politics, and implementing measures to dissolve the RSF, other militias, and the Muslim Brotherhood's armies. This would establish a unified, professional national army under civilian government supervision. Furthermore, ensuring accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity is of paramount importance.

- Achieving these fundamental demands would pave the way to restore the revolution's objectives and establish a fully civil, democratic authority.

FATHI AL-FADL IS A MEMBER OF THE SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Zionist state is allowing the political distinction between Jew and Zionist to enter the consciousness of millions.

In the USA only 45 per cent of Jews under 35 have a favorable view of the Israeli government, while 53% have an unfavorable view. American Jews aged 50 to 64 are the only age group in which a majority express a favorable opinion of the Israeli government (64%). On president Biden's handling of the conflict, relatively few Jewish adults under 50 (35%) say he is striking the right balance between Israelis and Palestinians.

In Britain Rishi Sunak, now much weakened and Labour leader Keir Starmer, are united in support of the US and increased military spending. Britain is not only directly joining with the Israeli military in action but is both arming Israel and importing Israeli armaments.

KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

## Danger of war

The world is dangerously close to a conflict that could drag millions into war. The spark was Israel's missile attack on Iran's embassy in Syria writes **Kevan Nelson**

**B**ARELY A CRITICAL word escaped the chanceries of the NATO powers when Israel breached diplomatic convention and international law to assassinate Iranian officials at the embassy.

Netanyahu's provocation – without warning Israel's US sponsors – was designed to drag the US into a wider conflagration which – for the moment – would compromise its efforts to reassemble its regional coalition.

But the moment the Islamic Republic launched a response every NATO foreign