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Asian capitalism faces collapse! Forward to the revolution

Who would have thought six months ago, that Australia would be donating one billion dollars to save the South Korean economy? It appeared as if Australian capitalism was going down the drain but Korea was flying high. The "Asian tigers" have been promoted as capitalism's success story. They were arsenal in the imperialist's propaganda machine which aimed to show capitalism was not necessarily dominated by western and imperialist powers. They were considered to be living proof that with a bit work ethic, business sense, and "unrestrictive labour practices" any capitalist country could make it into the big league. Of course it was somewhat played down that the price working people have paid in those countries. The Asian tigers grew strong on the basis of slave labour. Nevertheless it did appear that these third world countries were growing into industrial giants. South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia are now on rations to the IMF.

Last July Thailand was forced to abandon its long term link between the Baht and the US\$. This had a flow on effect to the currencies of Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Sth. Korea. In Indonesia the Rupiah was devalued to seventy percent of the US dollar. Throughout South East Asia there has been economic and political turmoil which threatens to have not merely Asia wide but worldwide repercussions,

In Hong Kong (Xianggang) there has been panic over the collapse of the investment bank Peregrine investments which is the largest in Asia outside Japan. Other firms face collapse also. Tung Chehua the new administrator appointed by Beijing, has had to deal with angry investors and sympathises with their plight.

South Korea the eleventh largest economy in the world is in massive debt. Seoul has to pay off \$12.2 billion by January, \$5 by February and \$4.3 by March according to their Finance Minister as reported by Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japanese financial newspaper" A total of \$70.2 billion is needed in the first six months. The President years in jail as a victim of the reactionary Sth. Korean regime. Kim fought an international campaign for his release and for political reform, Now he has the job of selling the medicine of the IMF to Korean working and progressive people.

In Indonesia. The Suharto Government has been given an ultimatum by the International Monetary Fund basically stating "create a Budget surplus or else! The ruling junta has been very useful in repressing labour and by keeping wages down. It has, however always been a bit extravagant in terms of government for the imperialists liking. They have tolerated Suharto They were very unhappy with Suharto's most recent effort in the Budget just brought down. The stock market tumbled The rupiah plummeted even more. There was panic in the streets of Jakarta Economic destabilisation has led to political destabilisation. Imperialists want governments who will be responsible in terms of paying off the debt to the IMF. But they also fear the threat of revolution. For example their preferred government in Indonesia is one led by Megawati Sukarnoputri capital over Suharto's situation. She is opposing Suharto from the left (democratic rights) and from the right (economic

rationalism). But the imperialists know that there is more to the opposition than her. To the left, there is the PRD which stands for socialism. But unfortunately offers an alliance with PDI and "all those who want to fight the Suharto regime". They claim to be responding to the demands of the masses who seek unity. They claim that as the other parties are not responding, they have a mass audience. Unfortunately the "opposition to Suharto" crosses class lines. Workers must reject unity with those who will continue to tie Indonesia to IMF austerity even if this opposition "opposes Suharto". There also can be no unity with Muslim extremists. In Indonesia today, the Muslim religion is growing rapidly as apparent alternative to imperialism. The result is that Chinese are being scapegoated. The Muslim alternative is reactionary. But ultimately it is no real alternative to imperialism and will chain workers and peasants to the IMF.

Even if the revisionists got the unity and created their "anti-imperialist government" it would be dealt with ruthlessly by the Indonesian state. Such a government under the current circumstances is unlikely. The most likely immediate outcome of such a treacherous "unity" is the strangling of class struggle. And especially revolutionary class struggle.

The workers of Indonesia have not been sitting back passively. They have been protesting and occupying factories. These workers who have fought austerity do not have a revolutionary programme But they have both the potential to and an interest in going beyond mere democracy by defying the IMF and overthrowing the system itself. This requires a revolutionary communist party. There can be no parliamentary regime which can serve working people. Only when the Indonesian state is smashed will Indonesia be free of IMF domination.

It is bad enough calling for a parliamentary alternative. Even worse is a class collaborationist alternative. Workers should beware of bourgeois "democrats". In Indonesia Megawati is the daughter of the notorious President Suharto who murdered millions of communists and Chinese. In Asia and elsewhere, the popular front is well and truly a death trap for proletarians and the left. Megawati openly proclaims her loyalty to IMF domination. She makes no secret of the fact that she will obey orders and enforce the burden of the crisis onto the backs of workers and poor people in Indonesia. There can be no support whatsoever to Megawati. The PRD made a serious mistake in giving her critical support last election and are making another serious mistake by even "tactically" calling for a united opposition to Suharto with her now. They clearly have not learned the lesson of the popular front.

Currently it appears that the imperialists still have faith in an apparently repentant Suharto who now claims to have reformed and will adhere to IMF dictates. Meanwhile the Rupiah will continue to plummet. Suharto has been a bit extravagant, but he does have a consistent record for repression against the working class. Basically the IMF will probably stick to the devil that they know. The imperialist will only support a change of government to head off the threat of revolution.

Communist Left has faith in the Indonesian working class. There will be some inspiring struggles against both state repression and austerity. The decisive question is leadership. The peasantry must be won to proletarian leadership. The proletarian vanguard must take up the question of debt which is forcing many off their land and/or starvation. It must take up the question of national minorities. Especially important is the right to self-determination for Timor and Irian Jaya. These nationalities are at war with the Indonesian state. A defeat for Indonesia will greatly assist the revolution throughout Indonesia

The collapse of the Asian capitalist Economies will have a profound effect on Australia capitalism and the workers movement in this country. Of course Australia is geographically close to Asia. But there is much more than geography in terms of Australia's influence. During the past decade the Australian ruling class has made a turn to Asia. The collapse of Australian manufacturing has forced economic restructuring. Australia, which is economically a colony, has been forced to restructure towards resource industries such as mining and tourism. The resource industries do not create much in terms of employment. Most of the growth in employment was expected to come from tourism. Most of the tourists were expected to come from the new tiger Asian economies. Australian tourist resorts have been promoted throughout Asia. Gambling casinos have been built such as Star City, which employs many thousands of workers to maintain the casinos and hotel there. Melbourne too has its extravagant entertainment complex on the South Bank. Sydney Australian airlines, QANTAS and Ansett have been expanding their Asian networks. More Asian airlines have been flying to Australia. There has been a massive growth in tourism although not nearly enough to make up the losses in manufacturing. Australian education institutions have been orienting to Asia to profit from training Asian students.

Mr. Howard is crowing that an Asian style collapse has not occurred here. This is more a case of good luck than good management. But already there has been a flow on. QANTAS and Ansett have ceased their air services to South Korea. The flow-on will continue. Rotorua New Zealand (in the same boat as Australia) is suffering a serious decline of tourists. One resort just north of Newcastle is on the verge of closing. Australia is tied to Asia. Talking about an "independent Australia" under capitalism is hiding your head in the sand. Australian workers have no interest in propping up Asian capitalists. But we have every interest in solidarity with Asian workers - especially when they are fighting IMF enforced austerity. Australian capitalism is linked to Asian. The collapse of the tigers will lead to massive lay-offs in this country. We must act in solidarity with our Asian class comrades and against the loss of jobs here. We can only win with an internationalist perspective. This means a complete break from the reactionary chauvinist politics which dominate the labour movement. Any plans to isolate Australia are reactionary and utopian. We must be prepared for direct action such as the occupation of factories. We must for factory and shop committees. We must fight for a continual shorter working week to share the work around. The Vietnamese revolution despite deformations inspired the Australian workers to fight the reactionary penal powers. Well an Indonesian revolution could inspire Australian workers to go further and take on the system if a revolutionary internationalist leadership develops.

Once again: Defend Iraq from imperialism!

The imperialists are once again beating the war drum. Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime is refusing to allow United Nations inspectors to look at his weapons so there is talk of war. Iraq is certainly mobilising the population. In the west papers such as the Sunday Times (London) are printing horror stories about Saddam Hussein's Iraq using anthrax on human guinea pigs. Of course they are quiet regarding horror stories on regimes favoured by the imperialists. This sort of revelation is well and truly part of the preparation for war.

In America today there is mass hysteria against Iraq. According to polls, a majority support a military strike to get rid of Hussein. In Iraq there are many thousands of Iraqis training preparing for what they see as the inevitable American "UN" intervention. They expect to see Baghdad bombed once again. Not all imperialists support war. France and Russia are trying to work out a compromise. We reject any compromise which means imperialist control - even if enforced more humanely.

Iraq has been in the bad books ever since it invaded Kuwait. Before then it was in the good books as it attacked Iran and objectively helped imperialism undermine the Islamic regime. George Bush organised a world united front including the then existing Soviet degenerated workers state to isolate and destroy Iraq. The United Nations led and dominated by the United States imposed mandatory sanctions. Kuwait hardly constitutes a country. It was created by an arrangement between the El Sabah family and oil imperialists to ensure the safety of oil for imperialist exploitation. The sheiks, of course received a mighty cream-off. Iraq's "crime" was to reclaim Kuwait and its oil for the benefit of Iraqi people instead of an elite few. Communist Left supported the overthrow of this reactionary state and unconditionally defended Iraq against the US dominated imperialist war machine.

Today US has changed allies. There has been reconciliation between US and the Islamic republic of Iran. Of course Clinton conveniently "forgets" about their record on human rights. "Human rights campaigns" are strictly for America's enemies!

Revolutionary communists have no faith in the Baathist regime. We urge workers to overthrow it. However we urge its overthrow by one means alone - the mobilisation of the Iraqi working class. In this country we must mobilise the working class - to fight imperialist war or threats of war. Action should begin now. If the imperialists get the message that workers of the world will act on any aggression then they will be more reticent to act... We urge workers to sabotage their war plans - now!

No imperialist power can play any progressive role in the Middle East. Whatsoever. U.S. and British imperialists were behind the establishment of the reactionary Jewish state of Israel. Israel was supposedly established to resolve the Jewish question after the Second World War. In reality it has been a tool of imperialism to dominate the Middle East. Malignant and armed to the teeth, it has forced Palestinian people into the desert. The imperialists do nothing about the Israeli war machine. But Iraq gets showered with bombs.

Workers of the world must act immediately to stop the US backed UN terror machine bombing Baghdad and killing many thousands of Iraqi civilians.

French unemployed fight austerity

In France, recently there has been an inspiring upsurge of unemployed people. France is currently governed by a popular front government led by Socialists but including Greens and so-called Communists (Stalinists) The Communist Party of France PCF has four ministers in Cabinet. This government is unlike the overtly monetarist Labour Government of Tony Blair in Britain in that it has been prepared to throw a few crumbs to working people to placate them and ensure loyalty to the system. One of its election programme demands is the thirty five hour week. There have been explosive struggles in France for a shorter working week and due to the failure of revolutionary leadership. This has been taken up by the reformists.

The popular front government is of course merely an alternative administration of capitalist austerity. What is clear is that many thousands of unemployed realise this - and won't take austerity lying down. They believe, quite rightly that they shouldn't have to be forced to live on a pittance. The occupation of dole offices is a very healthy form of militancy. Even more health is their occupation of the offices of the French socialist Party. Unemployed people have once again shown that they can be a vanguard of class struggle. Struggle should be supported unconditionally - whoever is in office. It is to their credit that the "left" credentials of this popular front are treated with contempt.

The struggles were led by a number of groups including Anarchists. It is therefore no surprise that these struggles had no perspective of bringing down the government, nor did they even split the popular front. But a minor wedge was created. They were given a degree of support from minor popular front partners the Communist Party and the Green. They were opposed by the Socialist Party. Mr. Jospin representing the government said that their demands were unrealisable and that the priority of his government was not supporting the unemployed but creating jobs and increasing productivity. Mr. Jospin is now the least popular minister in the popular front cabinet as French people reject his contempt for the unemployed. They won the very partial gain of being allowed to travel free on local public transport such as the Paris Metro. This is merely a minor gain French unemployed and supporters have made it clear that they will continue until they have a decent level of benefit.

This shows that militancy and organisation works. It also shows that complete victory cannot be won by the unemployed alone. There must be unity between unemployed and employed workers. This does not mean that unemployed should sit back in poverty until the employed decide to struggle. It means that unemployed struggle should be backed by the entire employed working class. Employed workers do not realise that their

interests lie in common with unemployed. That is why a revolutionary vanguard is required. Unemployed workers may not have the same relationship to the means of production as their employed class comrades. But through their poverty they can become angry and militant. Their militancy can be the linchpin which can ignite revolutionary class struggle. For this it must be linked to that perspective. For this reason Communist Left takes work amongst unemployed people very seriously.

A class conscious working class takes up demands to fight unemployment and to fight attacks on the unemployed. It does so not merely out of patronising "concern" but because unemployment and the unemployed are used to undermine the whole of the working class. A sliding scale of hours and wages which is a continuous decline in the working week until everyone is employed with wage rises is a key demand for the whole of the working class.

Throughout Europe there has been struggles for a shorter working week. The concrete demand is for a thirty five hour week. We think that the working week should be reduced continually until everyone is employed. This will mean more leisure for workers. It will mean a stronger and more organised working class. This will mean that the balance of force will be on our side and not the bosses

Bougainville peace without justice

After much negotiating, an agreement has been signed between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army the Bougainville Transitional government the Papua New Guinea government. Apparently it will lead to irrevocable peace. Bill Skate Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea has just apologised for all the hardship suffered by the Bougainville people during years of conflict and blockade. The blockade has just been lifted. Thanks to the blockade enforced by Australia, many thousands of Bougainville people died due to lack of medicines. Many women died in childbirth.

This is not the first attempt to find a peaceful solution. However, this time both the imperialists and PNG compradors have shown that they are far more serious. Why? Because they have been losing the military struggle against the BRA. Without BRA victories the imperialists would be going all out for complete victory. The PNG Government has given some concessions.

The Many, especially on Bougainville consider that an agreement for peace is an achievement. Joseph Kabui, vice president Bougainville Interim Government informs us "In Bougainville, people are once again smiling. The fear which had surrounded them during the past nine years of is gradually disappearing. People are once again experiencing freedom of movement, of association, of normal day to day living deprived for them for a long time and this is because of the process of peace and especially the Truce Monitoring Group currently in Bougainville.

Many tens of thousands have been killed either directly (through fighting) or indirectly (from lack of medicines due to blockade) as a consequence of the war. Communists hope that Bougainville people have not died in vain. The question is: has the Bougainville question been resolved? We fear not.

The Lincoln agreement calls for parties "to cooperate and maintain peace by peaceful means" A "permanent and irrevocable ceasefire will take effect on Bougainville will take effect in Bougainville at 2400 hours 30 April 1998" "Immediately the ceasefire takes effect, the parties will refrain from the use of arms, ammunitions, explosives and other instruments of death, injury or destruction in Bougainville" "The parties will act within the law in reporting and prevent the use of manufacture importations, sale trade, exchange of weapons and ammunitions."

This all sounds equal and fair. After all it is binding on both sides. The problem is this. The PNG government will never totally disarm. There is no suggestion of the abolition of the PNG armed forces. But the BRA will be expected to disarm and it will become illegal for them to receive any further weapons. The Imperialist "neutral" Truce Monitoring Group will see to that. The TRG is controlled by the United Nations. It can only be trusted to serve imperialism. Even if it were to stop PNG in the short term there is no way that it will stop PNG in the future when -it has withdrawn. Meanwhile the BRA has been disarmed. In fact the BRA having arms is now illegal under international law! How a breach of the agreement by the BRA is to be dealt with is not state. But if it is in breach of international law would the TMG be permitted arms to deal with the situation?

The agreement does talk about a "return to civilian policing" and "free and democratic elections in Bougainville to elect a Bougainville Reconciliation government before the end of 1998. Unstated is the relationship of that government to PNG, "the parties agree to promote consultation, cooperation and liaison at the political level among Bougainvilleans with the PNG National government.

The fact is that Bougainville has not been given its right to self-determination. The fact is that the PNG Governmental, Australia and New Zealand are all opposed to it. And despite proclaimed respect for Bougainville people and Martin Miriori, this opposition remains. It is useless to consider that self-determination will somehow be granted with "further negotiations or consultations" etc. The BRA are unarmed and PNG has no way forced to give it...

There is no serious talk about reopening the mine. The local people remain hostile to Riotinto. PNG will have to bide its time before enforcing its reopening. The closure of the mine is well and truly a gain for the local people. But how long will it last?

Bougainville has not been given self-determination. Even if the PNG Armed forces are inconvenienced or excluded for some time

they will be able to enter eventually. As the BRA have agreed to be disarmed.

The only just solution to the Bougainvillean conflict is Bougainville self-determination. This means the free choice for the people to be independent, part of PNG or part of the Solomon Islands. The current "autonomous region" status does not mean complete freedom from the PNG Government and their armed forces.

Work for the dole: Australia and Britain

When Howard, last Federal election promised young people that, if he and the Liberals were elected into government, they would introduce a Work for the Dole scheme. Howard kept his promise. However they can't exactly say that the scheme has been a roaring success. There has been a high rate of absenteeism and lateness from the participants, most of who admit that they are not volunteers but there under duress. It is also acknowledged that few have been created from the schemes and only in a few cases has it led to unemployed being employed. Young people have been forced to do work such as park maintenance, community service (etc.). But according to Howard, the scheme has to be maintained "because the public demand it". Labor has rationalised its lack of response due to strong public support for work for the dole. The response to the failure is to expand the scheme to include more unemployed and to increase penalties for those who refuse to participate.

Howard's rationalisation for abusing the labour of young unemployed is "people who receive money from the government should contribute something in return." This superficially may sound fair. What it means is that the government or private enterprise gets discount labour. It is difficult being on the dole. It is even harder if you are only paid junior rates. Young people get a discount dole but still have to pay full adult prices. Of course the government, though it doesn't explicitly say so expects parents to subsidise a young person's existence. Living on junior rates for the dole is almost impossible. You need more to live off if you are working. And you do get a bit extra with work for the dole. But the extra certainly isn't sufficient. Howard's reason for introducing working for the dole is a straight case of middle class chauvinist bullying. Howard rose to power on a wave of middle class and labour aristocratic chauvinism. This wave promoted Pauline Hanson. Small businesspeople do pay high rates of taxation. They blame unemployed and young unemployed for apparently getting a free ride getting the dole. They should address their problems to the likes of Christopher Skase and big business who get away with minimal or even no taxation. A politically weak working class has thrown middle class people into the hands of big business of fascism.

With its undermining of Social Security system, introducing training schemes the previous Labor Governments paved the way for Howard. Their training schemes (many of which were Mickey Mouse) always contained a degree of work for the dole. However their aims were definitely different. Labor realised that to use the unemployed to undermine wages and conditions, they had to be part of the workforce. Their schemes were hardly honourable but definitely job oriented. Their training schemes benefited the boss and should be considered work. Those who are "trained" should be paid fully - a full adult wage. Whilst Labor has a slightly different strategy of abusing young people's labour we must reject their "alternative"

Meanwhile in England Tony Blair is on the offensive declaring war on the social security system and unemployed people. Welfare, he declares is dated. What he wants is workforce mobility with the least expense possible for big business. Part of his war involves work for the dole. Unlike Howard's efforts in Australia, Blair is far more serious. He attacks far more effectively. Work for the dole is now being introduced, not just for young people, but for older unemployed up to those aged thirty five. They will have the choice of doing an approved education course, or doing community work. The alternative means being cut off the dole.

Blair is leader of a party called "Labour". Does Labour mean slave labour? Well it doesn't mean unionised jobs at decent wages. These Labour has very little in common with the original principles which Labour was originally built - even the minimal and reformist ones. Everything Labour has stood for which has even the appearance of being in any way principled has been thrown out the window. It is only a matter of time until Howard catches up to Blair in terms of being ruthless. More significantly, it is only a matter of time until Australian Labor catches up to Blair. The emergence of Blair is no accident. Blair's extreme right monetarism is the logic of the reformism which all factions of Labour share.

Wharfies under siege. Defend the MUA.

There has been a worldwide offensive against the union movement. Unions contribute to "inefficient work practices" They mean that workers have some basic rights. Union bureaucrats have been very convenient tools of the government in containing and even strangling union militancy. That was in the past. Now their very existence is an obstacle in capitals drive for superprofits. Labor contained unions through the Prices and Incomes Accord. The aim of this Accord was to get workers to "agree" to pay for the economic crisis of the system. This created a tame cat union movement seen, correctly by the rank and file as chaining workers to the system. Workers lost faith in unions who were accomplices in enforcing declining living standards and worsening conditions. Union bureaucrats ignored the rank and file and instead lobbied with the Labor government. In fact they feared the rank and file as a threat to their sellout deals and bureaucratic privileges. This has paved the way for the full blooded onslaught of the Liberals It is of no surprise that the Liberals pick the MUA as the prime target in their offensive. The trade union movement has been unable to meet the challenge of the restructuring of Australia's economy away from manufacturing towards raw materials, primary industry, tourism and services. Unionism is mainly confined to hard-core areas such as large manufacturing (what's left of it) railways, public sector, miners and crane drivers and the building industry.

The MUA is a symbol of solidarity, organisation and tradition which the bosses represented by Howard wish to stamp out. They have a good internationalist tradition without having a consistent internationalist political perspective (Trotskyism). Recently they gave active support and assistance to the people of Bougainville. When the Vietnam War was on the wharfies stood up against the war, black banning shipping. They also stood up against apartheid and for the independence of the Timorese. Whilst they support the Stalinist perspective (socialism in one country) some stands have been exemplary. However, there are even more important reasons than this, the restructuring of the economy towards primary industry and mining requires a "flexible labour market" on the waterfront. It is this that the MUA by even its very existence let alone militancy is a barrier. The bosses want to reduce wages to a bare

minimum and abolish such important gains as holiday pay (etc.). The stakes in this struggle are very high - for wharfies and all Australian unionists.

Make no mistake! A victory for the government and NFF will give the green light for the smashing of all unions. We have to ask ourselves why is it that unions which were once perceived as so powerful are now face a grim fight for their very existence. Responsibility for the situation lies with the politics which dominate the leadership which are fundamentally shared by the rank and file - reformism and Stalinism. In no way are we suggesting that rank and file workers have faith in their officials to defend their union. What is required is a total break from the politics which dominate the movement. We also think that workers should take control on a rank and file level. The building of shop committees committed to putting control of the struggle into of the rank and file must be built as a matter of urgency.

The Republican bandwagon marches on

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In Australia there seems to have been two major gains from the protest movement of the seventies. One is the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras which is now a multi-million dollar event and well and truly part of Sydney's social calendar. It is also a major earner of export dollars. In 1978, the police were attacking the Mardi Gras physically. In 1998, a police delegation will be marching openly and out, for the first time.

The other major gain appears to be a republic. Howard has assembled a Constitutional convention. Some of the delegates were appointed and others elected. The overwhelming majority at the Convention want a republic. And this is in tune with public opinion. Even Sydney's notorious The Telegraph acknowledges this. The notorious Piers Ackerman instead of attacking the republic head on suggests that because there were "too many ratbags" there, the convention was not an appropriate place to determine such an important issue. Paddy McGuinness, economic rationalist and republican suggests, correctly that the "ratbags" (he used the term with a bit of affection) were in tune with public opinion and the Monarchists were not.

Today most Australians are seeing the Monarchy as an anachronism. The Liberal ranks are now well and truly split. Costello is now for it. Howard has relinquished his hard-line opposition. A referendum has been promised. And it looks as if a vote for a republic will be well and truly carried. Now much of the debate is over what type of republic. Should the president be elected by the House of representatives?

We say: good riddance to the Queen and representatives) No one elects the queen. By birth she is head of state over Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. Her duties, for which she receives billions of dollars, may appear symbolic. But she is head of the armed forces and will use this reserve power when called upon to defend imperialist power when it is inconvenienced.

Much of the opposition from Labor's side stems from Governor General Sir John Kerr's thoroughly unjust sacking of Whitlam. No-one elected Kerr. But he sacked a government which was elected by the majority. Kerr however was responding to an undemocratic situation - the Senate refused to pass supply. The fact that the Senate is an undemocratic institution is not even raised,

let alone dealt with, by the convention. The Senate is undemocratic because it represents states and not people. In Australia the states are uneven in population. Tasmania has about half a million people. New South Wales has about six million. The smaller states are also the states with a higher rural population and a smaller working class. They are also more dominated by imperialist finance capital rather than comprador capital. The Joh Bjelke-Petersen regime in Queensland was very strongly backed by Japan and US multinational. Goss Labor and Borbidge National have maintained the reactionary tradition. The aim of the Senate was and is counter any reassures taken by the House of Representatives which may inconvenience the states, and therefore multinational capital. The smaller states have proportionally a smaller working class. So the system is biased against the working class.

At this constitutional convention none of the republicans are challenging the totality of the reactionary constitution. Australia will not even be consistently be bourgeois democratic. The ARM merely want to give the constitution a republican whitewash. Their ticket includes Liberals. The Just Republic team, led by black barrister Pat O'Shane is more comprehensive about democratic rights. They talk about guaranteeing freedom of speech. But they don't challenge the constitution fundamentally. The imperialists have shown that they will concede on the republic - given that Labor is unlikely to be anything other than totally submissive. But they will not accept a totally democratic society even on bourgeois terms. It is only through a socialist revolution that Australia will be consistently democratic.

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