

RED

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For a Revolutionary Communist Programme.

Communist Left believes in a revolution. We want the workers of this country and around the world to take up arms and expropriate the ruling class and form a revolutionary workers and small farmers government. More than this we believe that a revolutionary programme is the only programme which satisfies the basic needs of working class people today. There is no right to work under capitalism. And no right to a living wage. There is no right to decent housing, education or healthcare. Capitalism is a system of war and pollution and state repression. We must overthrow it!. The point is not to patch up capitalism with enlightened reforms but to fight for a programme to overthrow it. This is what the Communist Left stands for.

As has been well publicised, the so-called Revolutionary Socialist Party and Socialist Alternative are fusing. This fusion is one sided. In practice, the RSP will in practice joining Socialist Alternative, almost totally on Socialist alternatives terms, surrendering fundamental differences of principle. The rallying cry for this fusion is the urgent need for a revolutionary party. Both parties claim to be revolutionary. They both raise the red flag and claim adherence to Marx and Lenin. This impresses many people.

Both reject Trotsky for different reasons. The SA have broken with Trotsky's analysis of the Soviet Union calling it "state capitalist". They have refused to defend it against imperialism. The RSP have broken with permanent revolution, adapting to Stalinism They support the Castroite leadership in Cuba, virtually uncritically.

We do not question their sincerity in wanting a mass

party identifying with revolution. However, being a revolutionary party requires more than just the name, formal identification with Marx and Lenin and flying the red flag. You must have a revolutionary programme. Revolution must be the consequence of your programme. This, unfortunately none of these organisations have such a programme. In fact they are reformist. For a start both in some way have identified with the Socialist Alliance. Socialist Alternative though not participating for very long but they did initially endorse its programme. The RSP were expelled from Democratic Socialist Perspectives after forming a faction, opposing DSP total liquidation into the Alliance. They didn't oppose the Alliance formation on principle just the fact that DSP played down their independent existence in order to build the alliance. They have no objection to forming an alliance around minimum demands just the way DSP failed to promote its independent existence.. Now the DSP has totally liquidated.

For revolutionaries our programme is revolutionary. Our programme supports day to day demands but links these to the struggle for power. Instead of this both parties identify with minimum programme. For example the RSP is descended from the old Socialist Workers Party known from programmes which include Nationalisation of the Steel industry! For a 35 hour week! For a Labor government pledged to socialist policies!

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In Britain Socialist Alternative's parent group in Britain, also known as Socialist Workers Party also stood for minimal programmes to "unite the class" such as "Defend The Unions, Victory To The Miners, Kick Out The Tories, Vote Labour".

For real Leninists and therefore Trotskyists, only the expropriation of the ruling class and a government based on Soviets can satisfy the basic needs of workers, revolutionary workers and small farmers government can satisfy the basic needs of workers and oppressed people. Yes these basic demands have to be linked to other demands

including a sliding scale of hours and wages, self-determination of the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders! Free abortion on demand! For a republic! For the right of homosexual people to marry! But unless you educate workers for expropriation of the ruling class is a prerequisite for their achievement, you reinforce capitalism and the parliamentary system This is effectively what SA and RSP do.

Both Socialist Alternative and RSP have a record of supporting popular front protest movements. RSP come from a political tendency whose strategy for fighting the war in Vietnam was to rally as many as possible around the single issue demand "Troops out now!"

Socialist Alternative come from a tendency whose method of fighting fascists in Britain was the Anti Nazi League which included respectable clergy, Liberal and Labour Party leaders . This respectable movement was posed as "the alternative to street fighting" Indeed it was!

Of course the acid test for whether a tendency is revolutionary is not just what they say on paper but how they organise within the working class. Both SA and RSP participate in minimalist formations called "rank and file" where they caucus around practical demands

What they don't fight for is a revolutionary political alternative within the working class. As a result, they adapt to the existing political leadership which is the Labor Party.

For Socialist Alternative, economism is a matter of strategy. They believe in "socialism from below" which means they see revolution as the extension of trade union struggle based on the rank and file. They believe in trade union struggle with more militancy. They oppose the trade union bureaucracy because of its

position of material privilege and For them the party is the catalyst for extending trade union struggles.

However for Marxists it is neither the question of militancy, nor control. In his book ,Wages Prices and Profit , Karl Marx argued that in terms of trade union struggle, capital was the stronger side. Instead, he counterposed general political action, the abolition of the wages system. The abolition of the wages system is a political struggle it requires a political party.

In practice the Cliffite tradition, which SA identify with, repudiates this fundamental principle of Marxism.

The other serious consequence of this strategy is its adaptation with the existing consciousness of the working class. This means that they adapt to racism which is the logic of social chauvinist reformism.

Socialist Alternative will contest this strongly.

Yes, they are active in struggles in defence of refugees, of Muslims, of Black rights, the right of gay couples to marry each other and many other anti chauvinist issues..We are not questioning either their sincerity nor their commitment. What we are saying though is that due to their economist rank and file strategy these issues are not of consequence when it comes to organising and politicising workers on the shop floor.

For revolutionaries, the revolutionary programme is not just a programme of action, it is a fight for a new level of consciousness, revolutionary consciousness. It is a fight against the current level of consciousness which is reformist. The logic of reformist consciousness is supporting the capitalist state. Large sections of the working class oppose gay marriage, consider the unemployed "dole bludgers", think a woman's place is in the home, oppose refugees in the name of border protection support privatisation in the name of economic efficiency and many other bourgeois measures.

We are not saying that every worker supports all of these.

If they did there would be no basis for revolutionary situation. But we are saying that overwhelmingly their consciousness is within the framework of capitalism and revolutionaries must fight this. We must do so on the shop floor as well as in our propaganda in general.

Socialist Alternative will point out they are active in movements which challenge bourgeois consciousness. This includes solidarity with the Palestinians, refugee issues and gay marriage.

They are active but have no perspective of linking these issues to a working class interest. In the Refugee Action

Coalition, Sydney they don't oppose but are hardly enthusiastic about efforts raised by others (including Communist Left to reach working class communities and unionists. They are hardly proactive. Their comfort zone is the inner city student political milieu and that is where they poster and participate in stalls. Basically, they are comfortable within a middle class milieu which indeed, the refugee movement is.

Their participation in Gay marriage involves promoting mass action. Once again there is no effort to transcend what is a respectable movement.

The militancy of the seventies was impressive. But this movement collapsed, precisely because of the politics, reformist and stalinist which dominated the ideology of these militants. Socialist Alternative recently promoted Jack Munday, leader of the once militant NSW Branch of the Builders Labourers Federation. But there was no mention from any SA speaker of CPA Stalinism which deserves some responsibility both for the militancy and principled positions. Their failings led to the smashing of this union by a Maoist Norm Gallagher in alliance with the bosses. The NSW BLF must not be seen with rose coloured glasses. No one from socialist Alternative discussed the old Aarons led CPA whose programme and strategy which dominated that militant union.

Socialist Alternative claim to oppose Stalinism. So much so that they refuse to defend post capitalist states from imperialist attack. Their rationalisation was that these states are and were "state capitalist"

But SA do not stand for a consistent struggle against Stalinism on the shop floor where it matters. Can you remain a Stalinist and part of a Socialist Alternative rank and file group? Yes you can! Although it was right wing Stalinism which was influential in developing the Prices and Incomes Accord which unions signed with the Hawke Government, many militant unionists share this class collaborationist method. Fortunately they don't go as far along the road as Laurie Carmichael but they have fundamentally a similar method of class collaboration

No matter what they call themselves. No matter how enthusiastically they raise the Red flag, if they do not have a revolutionary programme and are not fighting for that programme within the working class then they are not revolutionary.

The British Socialist Workers Party which Socialist Alternative identify with is not revolutionary and nor is the US Socialist Workers Party which the RSP was once in solidarity with. The traditions of both these revisionist traditions must be repudiated.

The new fused Socialist Alternative may think of itself as a revolutionary party but unless it's programme is revolutionary, it isn't.

Of course they are not the only grouping of revisionists who betray the struggle for a revolutionary programme. The Communist Party of Australia has a minimum and a maximum programme as does the now liquidated Communist Party of Australia (Marxist Leninist). Solidarity (Socialist Alternative's former comrades) The Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Party of Australia and the Alliance for Workers Liberty have minimum programmes which are compatible with the framework of capitalism.

Others such as the Spartacist League, Trotskyist Platform and the Socialist Equality Party, to their credit put socialist revolution on the political agenda. Whilst we have political differences, we acknowledge that these groups raise the banner of revolution as part of their programmes.

There are serious differences which separate us though. The Socialist Equality Party have a dangerously sectarian attitude to unions and bourgeois national struggles.

We need a real revolutionary party whose programme is to expropriate the ruling class.

Mali. Defeat the French imperialist military intervention!

They claim that the French invasion is part of the “war against terrorism”. In reality it is an imperialist war. It is a war against the Toureg people who live in north Mali, deprived of their right to self-determination. They are now fighting for it. France has much at stake. Within Mali there is oil, gas, gold, phosphate and other minerals which the imperialists wish to exploit. The Toureg people, fighting for their self-determination are a barrier to French imperialist exploitation.

President Francois Hollande is supposed to be a socialist. He is considered to be a bit slack when it comes to the likes of Portugal, Greece and Italy paying back their debts. But he has shown that in no way is he slack when it comes to defending French imperialist interests when they are threatened in West Africa over which France imperialism dominates, despite the facade of “independence” for those countries.

Hollande has support from all mainstream parties, including the Greens. There is some verbal support from the far left. This has to be converted into action. For workers action against the French imperialist war drive!

The message we are given is that France is some sort of fairy godmother saving the decent innocent Mali government from the evil El Qaida. Yes El Qaida is involved but this is less than half the truth. Mali is a divided country. El Qaida is influential in the north of the country. But what we are not told about the Toureg people. They have been oppressed by Malian governments. They have formed the Movemente Toureg de Nord Mali. They are now well armed thanks to their participation in the Libyan revolution. That is why they hold such power and are now coming to attack the government in Bamako.

We are told about El Qaida. This reactionary force is indeed cashing in on the plight of the Toureg people. They are filling the vacuum left by the failure of the left to fight for revolutionary leadership and to deal with the lack of national rights for the Toureg people.

France talks about “human rights” But the government they are defending is a dictatorship. French imperialism has backed this dictatorship. Like the USA, France is using “war against terrorism” rhetoric to justify an imperialist offensive. France rips off Mali which is one of the poorest countries in the world.

France also fears a domino effect. France is the dominant imperialist power in West Africa. What if Mali falls? Would other states fall to anti-French or Anti-imperialist forces also? For France the idea is too terrible to contemplate. So Hollande, if he is to adequately support the French imperialist cause must act decisively and now! Indeed he does!

France is not acting alone. Other countries are joining the French imperialist effort. Canada is contributing a C-17 military plane. A Canadian company IAMGOLD runs a gold mine there. Several thousand troops from other parts of Africa, including Nigeria are sending troops and weapons to assist the Malian dictatorship.

France is getting financial support from the rest of Europe. The United States of America has just joined the war effort. There have been divisions between the White house and the Pentagon as to what extent America will get involved. There is unpopularity amongst the general American public concerning US war efforts. It has been suggested that drones be sent as the most acceptable form of US intervention. Well American lives are not lost through drones, but Malian ones are!

In fact all military intervention must be opposed, unconditionally and fought with revolutionary class struggle. We must support the defeat of the French imperialists! Black bans against the French imperialist war effort!

Within Mali, revolutionaries must demand the right of self-determination of the Toureg people. This means the right to establish an independent state... In this war as in every other imperialist intervention, we must be for imperialism’s defeat. France is part of the problem. And in no way is it the solution. Mali is an artificial country. It was created by the imperialists and as a result, Malians are suffering.

Once Again, the Malvinas are Argentine

The Argentineans are saber rattling again. Thirty years ago Argentina led by General Galtieri sent the troops in to reclaim from Britain what were called under British rule, The Falkland Islands. The Argentineans call them the Malvinas.

In no way would Margaret Thatcher let them get away with this. She sent the Royal Navy. There was a war and Britain won. However, Argentina still lays claim to these islands. We think that Argentina has every right to reclaim them also. Recently the President of Argentina Kristina Fernandez de Kirchner assured us that she is a Malvinas President and once again re-iterated Argentina's claim for the islands which Britain stole from Argentina 180 years ago. She pointed out that Argentina has the authority of the United Nation whose policy backs Argentina right to control these islands.

David Cameron Britain's current Tory PM has no intention of acceding to her wishes. On the

Contrary! He promises force to defend the Falklands and warns Argentina that any military attempt to reclaim the islands

David Cameron claims to be standing up for the fifteen hundred odd Falkland Islanders. These islanders have a British culture and strongly identify with the British crown. Cameron claims to be their defender and poses as a democrat. Britain is now talking about a referendum. We think that if a referendum were held the Islanders would vote to stay part of Britain.

There is, however much more at stake than fifteen hundred people. Britain still is a world power with massive investment in South America and the Falklands are its military base. So what is at stake is not just a few islands but the self-determination of Argentina, effectively a British semi-colony and other countries throughout South America. British imperialism must be opposed totally and unconditionally.

So will there be another war? If so, once again we will be on the side of the Argentineans

Gillard Government attacks sole parents.

As of January this year sole parents whose youngest child turns eight will be denied their allowance and be forced to apply for Newstart. This is of serious consequence to the sole parents themselves. Firstly, they will be \$130 per week worse off... This will save the government hundreds of millions and assist Swan and Gillard in their aim of balancing their budget. They seek economic responsibility while sole parents struggle to survive. It is difficult to live on a single parent's allowance. It is tougher to live on Newstart.

Just because your child turns eight doesn't mean it costs any less to bring him or her up. To the contrary! It is very expensive to bring up a school child. As children get older the more expensive they are. They need to eat more. They face costs such as uniforms, school expenses. On Newstart most sole parents will be unable to afford this. Many will be unable to afford adequate meals for themselves let alone for a child as well.

Being forced to look for a job will also add to the hardship. Parents will have to spend time at their

job network satisfying the authorities with "mutual obligation", looking for jobs which simply are not there.

But what if you get a job? Well you may have more money but it will be difficult to take you child home from school safely. Work may be tiring and it will be harder to do the housework required and look after your child properly.

It is even harder if one is forced to mutual obligation tasks such training or work for the dole. In other words you are forced to do the job without receiving the pay.

It is even harder if your pay is quarantined. This means that your pay is divided in two with half being put on the Basics Card where it can only be spent on "essentials" and only shops such as Coles and Woolworths.

This was introduced as part of Mal Brough's Northern Territory intervention. Initially it was forced only on black sole parents and unemployed. Gillard has extended it. Now it has been forced

upon all those in the Northern Territory They are trialing it so it can be extended throughout Australia.

You may also find yourself breached. This means being deprived of income for a period of eight weeks if you don't satisfy their "mutual obligation" demands.

The system, including agents Gillard and Abbott, does not recognize housework and childcare as work. We do! Bringing up a child is a serious responsibility. Yet for this hard and grueling work parents are paid peanuts. We are against a system which puts the onus of childcare and housework on individuals. It should be a social responsibility. For the socialisation of childcare and housework!

There has been a race to the bottom on welfare. Both parties are in market competition in this Reactionary race to prove that are not pandering to "dole bludgers" Gillard Labor is certainly no slouch. There has been no significant rise in the Newstart allowance for the past seven years. Howard and Abbott have built up support by pandering to backwardness and chauvinism. Gillard and Rudd have attempted to counter this

by playing Howard and Abbott's game. We will see how effective their efforts are when the election is held later this year. The victims of all this are unemployed and sole parents.

Some argue for wages for housework. At the moment sole parents are paid. They are paid poverty. No-one should be paid less than a full wage. Of course we do not oppose giving housewives a wage. But we prefer to raise a demand which challenges the whole private nature of housework and childcare. These important tasks should not be the responsibility of an individual. This Gillard offensive (supported by Abbott) must be fought! In fact all measure which attack sole parents and unemployed must be fought both by the organised working class and by organising the unemployed and sole parents for militant action.

For the right to a living wage!

For the socialisation of housework and childcare!

For a sliding scale of hours and wages!

Remember TJ Hickey. Organise to fight racist police

attacks! Nine years ago, young TJ Hickey was killed, when impaled on a fence while being chased by cops when chased by the cops. On February 14 there will be a march in Sydney in his honour. The Hickey family are not happy. They want a plaque in his honour to be placed on Taurunga the block of flats in Waterloo where he was killed. They are unhappy that the coroner did not find that the police were responsible for his death

This is another Black death at the hands of a racist police force. There have been hundreds of Blacks killed in custody. There has been a Royal Commission This made minor recommendations which haven't been carried out. Of course there was no fundamental change to a system which it basically whitewashed. No police officer has ever been charged in relation to a Black death.

As revolutionary communists we are in no way surprised about this lack of action. The police are a racist institution of capitalism. They are antagonistic to both black people and the working class. Black people will never achieve justice from a racist system. We need to fight the system.

Black people have an interest in fighting the racist system. So too do working people. If the unions turn a blind eye or even worse, endorse the racist police force then they join the system which is attacking them. Worker/Black defense must be organized now against cops and racists.

We honour TJ Hickey. We hope his death will lead to a movement which will fight the cops and bury this racist system, for good.

COMMUNIST LEFT STANDS FOR.

Revolutionary expropriation of the bourgeoisie. We do not recognize right of the capitalist class to exploit and rule. The means of production and the resources should be taken over by working people.

A workers and small farmer's government This means political power in the hands of workers organisations, of soviets not a boss's parliament

The smashing of the capitalist state! This means the police and the armed forces. This must be carried out by the organised working class. Bosses do not allow the democratic right of any elected government to interfere with their right to plunder. They will dispose of any government by force if it doesn't accept their dictates. That is why we must use force to reclaim what is ours.

For international class struggle. The capitalist class act internationally, well so must we. We need internationalism to unite the class internationally. The bosses also use the national interest to tie workers politically to the system. Workers tied to chauvinism put nationalist interest before class interest

Oppose all Australian intervention in South East Asia and the Pacific! This means working class action. Australia is a colony but also has a mini-imperialist domain in south East Asia and the Pacific.

For a revolutionary communist international!
Communist Left supports the construction of a Fifth Communist International founded on the programme of the fourth International founded by Leon Trotsky,

For the defense of the remaining post capitalist states and colonies against imperialism. Counter-revolution has triumphed in the Soviet Union and Eastern European post capitalist states but China, Vietnam, Lao Kampuchea North Korea, and Cuba are still post capitalist and should be defended

For a sliding scale of hour and wages. So long as there is one worker who wants work but cannot get it, the working week is too long. The working week should be continually reduced, with wage increases, until every worker is employed.

For a Republic! The Queen of England is not an anachronism but important for the ruling class in their maintenance of political power. The Australian

constitution and the states are also totally reactionary and should be abolished. We prefer a socialist republic but a bourgeois republic would be a step forward.

For self-determination of Black Australians, Koories Nungahs and Murries (and other nationalities) and Torres Strait Islanders! We define self-determination as the right to leave Australia if this is what these peoples want. We also do not rule out autonomous areas. For workers action to fight state racist attacks on black people.

Smash all immigration controls! For the right of working people to live where we please internationally. Refugees and all coming to Australia should be welcomed unconditionally and not have to endure prison camps.

For the socialisation of housework and childcare. For women's equal pay and full equality. For their right to free abortion For Gay rights including the right of gay people to marry.

Down with the Labor Party! Build a revolutionary communist party! The Labor Party which now administers Australian capitalism makes no pretences about being anything other than a conservative party. It offers nothing progressive to anyone. It endorses antiunion legislation, attacks on the unemployed including work for the dole, the Northern Territory intervention the US imperialist war effort. Its crimes are too numerous to mention. Labor has betrayed because it supports the capitalist state. We must build an alternative which fights the capitalist state.

Break from this party of chauvinist reaction! Build a revolutionary communist party

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