

# RED

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## Agents of EU austerity win Greek elections.

Both the imperialists and the Greek bourgeoisie breathed a sigh of relief. Greek bourgeois parties finally cobbled together a government committed to the European Union austerity package. This new government is led by the conservative New Democracy in partnership with the social democratic PASOK and the Democratic Left whose roots are in Eurocommunism.

Three years ago the social democratic PASOK was in government with 44% voter support. It was severely punished by the electorate as it was a PASOK who began the austerity process. Today their support is down to 14%. PASOK and Democratic Left put the European Union before the jobs and livelihood of Greek working people.

To say that things are going to be extremely tough is an understatement. Greek workers and unemployed are suffering now!

Today there is mass homelessness. Today, soup kitchens are popping up throughout Athens. Today the official unemployment rate is 21% and 51% for juniors. Today many workers on low pay need food packages in order to survive. Today there is an extreme shortage of drugs in both chemist shops and hospitals.

All this will get worse when the EU demands are carried out. For example more than 150,000 public servants will lose their jobs. Wages will be cut even further.

Most of the PASOK vote has gone to the radical left coalition called SYRIZA, which became a party so it can pick up bonus seats if it wins the most seats.

This Coalition of the Radical Left is very much equivalent to the Socialist Alliance in Australia. It is though more of a real alliance. This alliance contains ostensible Trotskyists, Maoists, Cliffites (who are in agreement with Socialist Alternative in Australia) eco-socialists and others.

SYRIZA came out of the antiwar and anti-globalisation movements. It gained a reputation for militancy, supporting the student occupation movement and the youth revolt of 2008. But unfortunately its programme does not match the reputation. Yes, many of its demands are progressive but none transcend the framework of capitalism. This means that stands for a better form of capitalism and not to overthrow the system, Yet it is revolution and only revolution which offers a solution to the massive problems facing workers and unemployed people. There is no solution under capitalism.

SYRIZA is gaining support rapidly. It won support both from social democracy and also from other left wing groups such as the hardline Stalinist KKE. A serious problem with SYRIZA at the moment is that they want to stay in the EU and negotiate an anticuts package. In no way should Greeks have anything to do with this gang of thieves but leader Tsipras insists "I will keep Greece in the Eurozone and restore growth"

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Radical Keynesian Tsipras believes that through government spending, there will be economic growth and thence the ability for Greece to repay its debt as well as provide jobs and services. He believes this will lead to a win-win situation not just for Greece but for Europe. All this is a pipedream.

For a start, he will have to persuade German iron lady Angela Merkel. That lady is not for turning. No, the imperialists will not allow Greece to go even further into debt. Even the minimal changes proposed by New Democracy/PASOK are not acceptable to EU.

The massive increase in SYRIZA's vote was a mighty achievement for a party founded in 2004. In fact they had a good chance of victory. Had SYRIZA won the shit would really hit the fan.. Their policies come in conflict with the interests of Greek and multinational capital. But will these bourgeois interests allow a democratically elected government allow a democratically elected government to interfere with their class interests? No way!

The problem is that SYRIZA has no revolutionary programme and therefore no mandate to smash the class enemy. So make no mistake, the bourgeoisie and its state will attempt to smash them, and probably the left and workers movement as well. This could be done either economically, or through a military coup similar to that what happened in Chile 1973. The working class could be bathed in blood!

SYRIZA didn't win government. Greek workers can look forward to another four years of cut backs, sackings, home repossessions, physical attacks from the state and the fascists such as Golden Dawn.

The fascists gained a bit. They are waiting on the wings, hoping to expose the left as impotent. They are however active. They are physically attacking immigrants, removing them from hospital beds. They are assisted by the New Democracy government who are actively pursuing racist policies against so-called "illegals". This will promote the fascists who will compete with the Tories to show that they are the most consistent promoters of racism. Immigrants come to Greece as it is a relatively convenient way to access nations within the EU

Golden Dawn will also attack the left and union movement physically. Tit's agenda is to attack the left physically and become the last line of defense for capitalism. That is why it is extremely important that a united front of left organisations be established to physically defend the left, the union movement, immigrants against **all** attacks.

This united front would be a united front for physical action. It must not be a propaganda block, especially not a parliamentary one. As PASOK is now a party of government it has no place in such a front. The united front is not some sort of peace deal. It is an arena of struggle where revolutionaries put forward their programme

The working class must organize! There must be factory committees and neighbourhood committees established to defend every job, fight every attack and defend against reaction.

The power of the ruling class must be smashed. Instead of a parliamentary bosses government there must be a revolutionary workers and small farmers government.

The factories and banks must be expropriated!

There must be no concessions to racism. All immigration controls must be opposed and all migrants made welcome!

All nationalities must be offered the right to self determination!

A revolutionary communist party must be constructed!

Whatever happens in Greece has international consequences. Greece is not the only country in a dire economic situation. Workers in Spain Italy Ireland and Portugal are also suffering from Euroausterity. A victory for the proletariat in Greece will have a massive flow-on effect to working people fighting austerity in those countries. A defeat could set the movement back internationally. The revolution must spread throughout Europe! Therefore it is important that working people act internationally. For a fifth communist international!

# Syria. For a workers opposition to Assad but no to imperialist intervention

Every day there is news about bloodshed in Syria. UN observers point the finger at the Syrian military as the force responsible in the slaughter of thousands of civilians including children. President Assad blames terrorists.

There is a hue and cry demanding that the world intervene to stop the barbarism and save lives. There are many reasons why they don't. For a start Russia and China are blocking any UN endorsement of any such action. Also if Assad is deposed, who will take over? The opposition is a hotch potch. It includes terrorists such as El Qaida. Promoting these people is not what Obama wants to do. Also, Syria is not an oil state so there isn't the same material incentive. It would be though of strategic importance if Assad was replaced with an imperialist friendly alternative.

A UN or US military intervention may lead to another bloody war where allied troops get bogged

## Diamond Jubilee of Reaction

Mrs. Windsor "Queen Elizabeth the Second" has been on the throne for sixty years. So the British people have been celebrating. There has been an immense amount of pomp and ceremony. There have been gushing comments about her humanity, hard working commitment and social understanding. Whatever her qualities she doesn't deserve the many millions of pounds she receives out of tax payers money.

Some see the Queen as a diversion or an anachronism aimed at taking people's attention away from the hard realities of capitalism. Well she's worse than that! The Queen represents a reactionary empire which rips off billions out of the imperialist dominated countries. She is also head of state. This means she is head of the armed forces. She has what are known as "reserve powers" This means that when there is instability she can step in, take control of the government. She is not politically neutral but Tory. Her position is

down in another long and dirty war. An end to Assad could lead to war between the oppositionists.

There are also religious divisions. Assad is an Allawite, most of the population are Sunni.

Assad also has the support of a large section of the population (some claim the majority). He also has overwhelming support of the armed forces. He has no intention of giving up, especially as it may cost him his life. So the bloodshed continues.

Where should revolutionaries stand? Well in no way can we identify with the bloody regime of Assad. But nor can we identify with reactionary bourgeois opponents. This would be a dearh trap. The point is to polarise the resistance along class lines. Workers fighting in the resistance must break from their bourgeois leaders and fight for a workers state. We want a socialist revolution for Syria

hereditary and neither the public nor the government have any say in who rules. Of course a coup would most likely to occur against a left leaning government interfering with the interests of capital. Basically Britain's democracy only goes so far. If a Labour Government goes too far it's dismissed, irrespective of what the public want!

The Queen is head of state for many countries. One of them is Australia. We hope the Brits can get rid of her. Workers in Australia should get rid of her also. Her agent, the governor general must also be removed. We support a republic. Of course we prefer a workers socialist republic. But on the whole, any republic should be preferred to the Monarchy unconditionally.

The whole Australian constitution must go! The Queen and the governor general are not the only aspects of Australia's rotten constitution. The whole state system is undemocratic as is the Senate.

In the Senate, tiny Tasmania gets as much representation as massive New South Wales. This was deliberately created to contain working class influence.

The Senate was deliberately constructed to frustrate any reform moved by the House of Representatives. The deliberate aim of the Senate was to prevent even minimal reforms. Also according to the Constitution, the Federal government is not allowed to interfere with trade between states. So there is no constitutional road to socialism.

## **Another refugee crisis.**

There have been several boats which have attempted to come to Australia. One capsized leading to the death of at least ninety refugees. There has been real concern over this. The general feeling is both parties should stop playing politics and find consensus. Independent MP Rob Oakeshott calls for “an end to toxic politics “ He is trying to organise this with a sort of compromise resolution which he hope will facilitate unity.

This desire for unity has caught Tony Abbot offside. His electoral strategy has been to expose the government’s weakness via a hard uncompromising stand. “send the boats back”. This unequivocal approach won the support of racist westies in Sydney and elsewhere. Any compromise will mean that Liberals will have to weaken this approach and lose their appeal to hard line racists.

Actually both Liberal and Labor parties are at one, agreeing on the fundamentals. They both want to disrupt the “people smugglers” business model, deter the boats through offshore processing. Labor believes in the Malaysian solution and Abbot’s Liberals want to either bring in the navy or send them to Nauru. If boats were sent back home many will face a jail sentence or perhaps even death.

Their concern is for “people smugglers” more than the lives of those fleeing torture or even death. People smugglers are bourgeois Some rip-off both their workers but also the refugees. Many of their ships are dangerous. However for many they are the only way out of a desperate situation. “People smugglers” save lives!

Oakeshott’s compromise is reactionary also. He wants offshore processing but only to nations which

In short the Monarchy is bad news. She is bad for workers in England and she is bad for the working class in any other nation of which she is head of state. Unfortunately she has real power which she will use against the workers of both countries, if we let her. We must stop her now before she has a chance to use it. We must smash the monarchy. We must smash the entire Australian constitution

have signed the UN convention for refugees. This excludes the government’s preferred option – Malaysia.

We want refugees to be allowed to come to Australia – unconditionally! We want them to come here with freedom. No to Detention Centres! We also don’t care if they are “real refugees” or otherwise. We oppose all immigration controls. Detention centres are really oppressive places. Many suffer mental illness. Many attempt suicide.

Many refugees face a serious problem at the moment, ASIO. ASIO can declare that you are a security risk without even telling you why. There is no appeal process. They can detain you as long as they see fit. This could be for the rest of your life. If you are considered a “real refugee” they cannot send you home. So you may be sentenced to life imprisonment even though you have committed no crime. This is disgusting and reactionary.

Incidentally, the minister Chris Bowen has the power to override ASIO by issuing a visa which doesn’t require an ASIO security clearance. This he refuses to do.

Most of the victims of this are Sri Lankan Tamils who fought against the Sri Lankan Government as part of the Tamil Tigers. Yes the Tigers fought, often brutally. So did the Sri Lankan Government. But there has never been any suggestion that the Tigers are in any way a danger to Australia. It seems that ASIO is pandering to the Sri Lankan Government.

The Tamil Tigers never threatened anyone else except the Sri Lankan Government, Most former

Tigers just want to get on with their lives. We think that the Tamil Tigers fought a just cause and should be welcomed into this country.

Refugees have been used as a political football. Supporting the refugees is not just a matter of caring. It is about opposing the ruling class agenda which attacks unions, the unemployed, sole parents and Black people.

## NSW Jobs and workers compensation threatened: Barry O'Farrell on the attack! Bring down the O'Farrell Government!

Barry O'Farrell stood for election as mister nice guy. He successfully persuaded Labor supporters that he was not hard right and they would have nothing to fear with an O'Farrell government. Many voted Liberal for the first time. Perhaps he meant it at the time, perhaps he didn't. Anyhow things have changed. He is dealing with the crisis in a typical Liberal way and that is to attack the public sector and the working class. O'Farrell plans to sack at least ten thousand public servants.

Of course, for these public servants, losing their job may be devastating. But also at stake is services. The HSC Hotline, for example will be abolished.

O'Farrell claims that these cuts will lead to "better service" as it will "make public servants work harder". Well DOCS workers have a big enough case load already. Making them work harder will mean that more children considered to be in danger will be overlooked.

The attacks on workers compensation are serious. They involve workers no longer be covered if injured to or from work. Reduced payments after thirteen weeks. Stopping payments and medical payments after two and a half years. Stop partners of workers killed at work from receiving compo for

nervous shock. Stop lump sum payments for pain and suffering and to make it harder to prove

It is therefore that the left and the workers movement take an unequivocal stand in their defense and against all immigration controls. This means action and not just protest.

employer negligence. and for how long. Injured workers will no longer be able to claim legal costs – even if they win the court case. Unions have a right to be angry and they are.

Unions mobilised outside NSW state parliament House to show their rage against these serious attacks. Passionate speeches defending injured workers were made by both the unions and workers. But there was no plan for ongoing action, let alone action which would bring down the government.

NSW leader of the opposition is John Robertson, former Unions NSW. He reminded the audience of his militant past opposing Labor's attacks. He also claimed that his Labor would stand up against the attacks on compo. Well it might be a long time until Labor achieves office once again. Meanwhile the attacks will be entrenched. Workers will suffer. They must be stopped now!

However, even if Labor were to somehow get in, we say, don't trust Labor. The Liberals are only continuing the process of attacking compo which Labor began. Labor like Liberal is committed to serving the system, balancing the Budget. Don't bet on them changing anything fundamentally.

A programme of industrial action is needed urgently! This action should have the objective of bringing down the O'Farrell Government. Such a struggle will require revolutionary leadership.

# Sole Parents under attack.

## For the socialisation of housework and childcare!

Federal treasurer Wayne Swan brought down a balanced budget as promised. He made sure Rupert Murdoch's newspaper The Australian called it a class war budget. Throwing a few peanuts such as a two hundred dollar down payment to unemployed doesn't constitute class war.

Apart from defense, victims of the Swan's cost cutting measures were sole parents. They will have to apply for Newstart after their youngest child turns eight years old. This means that they will be treated like ordinary unemployed.

This has serious consequences. Firstly it means less money. When your child gets older it takes more money to raise not less. For example clothes are dearer. There is money to be spent on school excursions

It also means that you have to register at a job network agency and look for work. You may have to do mutual obligation requirements such as training and work for the dole. Apart from being an oppressive attack, it will mean less time for cooking cleaning, shopping and general household duties required to bring up a child properly.

If you get a job you will certainly have more money. But there are problems finding afterschool care. If you can't find this your child might be in danger. After all school ends at three pm and work often ends at five. Yes you might be lucky and make arrangements with friends. But you might not. These attacks on sole parents must be fought. However what they reflect is a devaluing of the role of housework and childcare by the capitalist class and governments in general.

These attacks on sole parents reflect the ruling class's and societies attitude to housework and child care in general.

You see housework is not really recognized as work. They therefore think that it doesn't really deserve pay.

Actually the time spent doing these massive chores is tremendous. It is longer than the thirty five hour week. But you usually have to rely on your partner sharing his (usually a male) pay packet. A low paid male worker barely gets enough for himself.

Some consider the answer to be "wages for housework" Well we don't object to women getting more money. In fact if parents are to be paid it should be nothing short of a living wage. But we don't think that this is the answer. Childcare is an extremely important task. It shouldn't be the responsibility for one individual. It should be the responsibility of the whole of society. Therefore we demand the socialization of housework and childcare. Of course this will not be achieved under capitalism. That is why revolutionaries call for the systems' overthrow.

Communist Left believes in the complete liberation of women. We support equal pay which still hasn't been achieved. In fact Julia Gillard opposes equal pay.

We support free abortion on demand.

We support the abolition of all discrimination based on sex.

We believe in a working class based women's movement based on revolutionary principles. This means antagonism towards the capitalist state and seeing women's liberation as only being achieved through the overthrow of capitalism.

Male chauvinism has been used by the capitalist class to tie workers to the system. It must be fought now!

# Gay Marriage. Gay Liberation becomes respectable.

Gay Liberation has gone a long way from those small demos of the early seventies which were often physically attacked by police.

The August demo for Gay marriage in Sydney will be massive. It will include all types of gay people and many straight. They will come from all political parties and from across the political parties. Both of the two major parties oppose Gay marriage officially. But many MP's of both parties agree and want it to be a conscience vote and would vote for it. Queensland Premier Campbell Newman is one of the supporters.

Today even opponents of Gay marriage are at pains to point out their support for gay rights. The issue, they claim, is the Marriage Act.

In the beginning Gay Liberation had a liberated view on sexual relations. They didn't just want gay love to be recognized within capitalist relations, they thought that those relations were unjust.

"Marriage is an institution and who wants to live in an institution" said comedian Groucho Marx. These sentiments were widely agreed with.

Yes marriage is a legal institution which ties a couple to the system. It is a property relationship.

## COMMUNIST LEFT.

COMMUNIST LEFT is a revolutionary propaganda group with a programme to overthrow capitalism.

This means we support the expropriation of the ruling class and political power to workers and exploited through a revolutionary workers and small farmers government.

We support a revolutionary Fifth International whose programme is based on Trotsky's Fourth International whose heritage we identify with.

In heterosexual marriage it means male domination and control

Today gay people want to join the mainstream. The Gay Marriage campaign is a campaign for respectability, for gay people to be part of the respectable action.

Communist Left opposes all discrimination based on sexuality. Therefore gay people should have the right to marry with the same rights as straight people. This includes the right to have, adopt and look after children. They should have the right to marry if that is what they want.

But we agree with the principles Gay Liberation initially agreed with namely opposition to all oppressive relationships.

This is what will happen under communism, real communism.

In the meantime we support a working class movement for Gay rights as Gay oppression is a key weapon tying sections of the working class to capitalism.

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