

The Occupation Movement

Throughout the world millions are mobilizing against the corporate elite. They are justifiably angry at a system which destroys people's lives for the benefit of a small minority who make millions often billions.

It started in New York but was inspired by the events in Tahir Square Cairo. In Tahir Square hundreds of thousands of Egyptians mobilised for democracy. They were seeking to overthrow a dictatorship and not a corporate sector. In Egypt and elsewhere the armed forces exist to defend capitalism. When these forces there realised that the system was not under threat they supported the mobilisations and the Egyptian revolution won.

The occupation of Wall St had different motivations. Things in America are desperate with many thousands losing their jobs and their homes. There seems to be no way out. Obama's "Yes we can" these days seems somewhat hollow. The Egyptian revolution appeared to give one. For the past six weeks the Occupation movement has spread around the planet including to Sydney and Melbourne.

This movement identifies with ninety nine percent as opposed to the cause of the problem, the one percent. For some the strategy is uniting the ninety nine percent.

Yes there are many positives. Yes they expose the undemocratic nature of the system. Yes they expose the capitalist class causing mass suffering to millions. Yes they offer an alternative vision which is a foretaste of the democracy of the future. Yes they raise important issues such as refugees. All this is positive. We, however take issue with strategy.

The events in Melbourne are indeed enlightening. There a prominent member of the one percent Mrs Elizabeth Windsor (Queen Elizabeth the Second) visited and received solidarity from a massive number of ninety nine percenters. Included was the Melbourne City Council. They directed other members of the ninety nine percent, namely the cops, to move the demonstrators on, which they did, physically attacking and arresting many. The force was on their side.

The point is that if we don't change this situation we don't win. The cops will not change sides. In Queensland during the Civil Liberties struggle one, and only one, cop broke ranks. He was an exception. The problem is also the many thousands who support Mrs Windsor. The Monarchy is, apart from being head of state, an important ideological weapon which they use against us.

It is not just the cops but many others included in the ninety nine percent who are our enemy. They include armed forces, smaller capitalists and high level bureaucrats.

The problem is also that those who should be on our side often don't support us. Many accept minor gains from the ruling class and identify with the ruling class. They support the Australian flag and put Aussie workers before workers in Asia and the Pacific. Tony Abbott gained support from some working people showing he was the most effective defender of Australia from refugees. He did this in order to enlist support for a programme attacking unions. These workers have to be won to our side on a principled basis. This means a political struggle against their false consciousness and their politics. Traditionally this has been Labor though many are now voting Liberal. To win we must have a conscious strategy to smash the state. We must unite those with nothing to lose but their chains, the proletariat behind a banner to smash the state, to establish a workers state We must win over

others including sections of the middle class. We must raise important demands such as a republic, the right to gay marriage, opposition to the Northern Territory intervention, unconditional support for the refugees. To be revolutionary we must have total opposition to the system. This will not be achieved by merely declaring ninety nine percent!

In many countries the level of mobilisation is impressive. But make no mistake, the system can usually demobilise even millions of people. Until the new social system is established, we cannot claim victory. If those organised have no political leadership or no force we will be defeated. At Martin Place, the cops carried guns. They were not doing so for nothing! Yes they are prepared to use them. Yet prominent members of Occupy Sydney made overtures to them, welcoming them to join us. This is dangerous folly. Of those groups which leafleted, Socialist Alliance, Solidarity, Socialist Equality Party and Communist Party of Australia, only the CPA made the point that cops are not our ally. The ninety nine percent/one percent strategy fits hand in glove with their “unity against monopoly” strategy. Antimonopoly capitalists are also our enemy.

We hate to spoil the party. But if a revolutionary strategy is not developed, putting the balance of force on our side, this movement could be bathed in blood.

Communist Left PO Box 260 St Peters 2044 NSW Australia xred39@hotmail.com
www.comunistleftofaustralia.com