
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

100th Issue of The Worker

First Published: The Worker No.21 November 14, 1974

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the [Creative Commons Common Deed](#). You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proofreaders above.

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No21 Nov 14th 1974 Price 3p

100th Issue of THE WORKER

To look back over the 100 issues of THE WORKER since regular publication began on January 1st, 1969, is to review the development of a revolutionary line for the working class in Britain. This line is the result of the application by our Party of Marxism-Leninism, the concentrated experience of class struggle by the world proletariat, to the specific conditions of Britain today. It is deepened and strengthened as it becomes the working class's principle of action.

In this review it is possible to trace the dialectical relationship between the line as it takes on a firmer shape and a richer content and the historical events involving working class struggles over the last six years - the relationship between theory and practice.

DON'T VOTE: PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION

In the very first issue of THE WORKER it was pointed out that a Labour Government was just as much a capitalist government as a Tory Government, just as much the enemy of the working class and even more dangerous as a more plausible form of social democracy. From Labour's blueprint for new Combination Acts against the trade unions, "In Place of Strife", to Labour's present attempt to chain workers to capitalism with the 'Social Contract' we have never ceased exposing its operations on behalf of the employing class.

In three elections our Party has distinguished itself absolutely from every other political grouping in the country with its correct line of showing up the parliamentary road as a cul-de-sac for the working class.

ONLY TWO CLASSES: ONLY TWO LINES

A line is the concentrated expression of the interests and demands of a particular class and a guide to the actions of that class. In Britain today there are only two lines because there are only two classes. There is the capitalist, reactionary line of the bourgeoisie and there is the socialist, revolutionary line of the working class. There are no ideas, beliefs or calls to action which do not belong to one or the other of these two lines. Whatever is not in the interest of the working class in its struggle to smash capitalism, even if, like revisionism or Trotskyism, it sounds 'leftish', serves the interest of the capitalist class and is part of the bourgeois line.

Because there are only two classes, capitalists and workers, the exploiters and the exploited, the working class does not have to seek allies by adopting some broad democratic programme which postpone socialism to a later stage but goes straight for its socialist goal under a dictatorship of the proletariat established by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Whole new sections of the working class, teachers, students, nurses, civil servants, government employees, all moving into struggle through industrial action prove the correctness of this class analysis.

GUERRILLA TACTICS AND REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY

The line of guerrilla struggle was developed by our Party as the correct tactics for workers when it is necessary to take the offensive, but also at a time when the class enemy is still too strong for outright confrontation. This was the line adopted by the engineers in their nation-wide, factory-based struggle against the engineering employers. It was the line the miners used to deny the use of coal and coke depots and force the government to concede; the line of the building workers with their flying pickets spreading their strike from site to site. It was a line workers could develop creatively in such variations of struggle as sit-ins, work-ins and occupations.

Guerrilla tactics informed the successful battles that the working class, led by the engineers, waged against the Industrial Relations Act bringing down a government in the process. But these were victories in a long protracted war.

A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION

At a time of capitalist crisis, when class war was being intensified by the ruling class's need to slash wages and by the working class's determination to fight for their lives, the Marxist-Leninist line was a life-line for workers.

In January of this year only THE WORKER had the boldness to say that a revolutionary situation existed in Britain - a situation in which it was no longer possible for the ruling class to rule in the old way and the working class was no longer prepared to seek accommodation with capitalism. The struggle will be long and hard. And yet already can be discerned, in addition to the two great landmarks in the working class's history, the October Revolution in Russia and the Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, the outlines of a third - the first revolution in an advanced capitalist country, the taking of state power by the workers of Britain.

BY WHAT RIGHT ?

On what authority does the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) formulate a working class, revolutionary line for this country?

Only in so far as it genuinely is the political party of the working class - born of the working class, indissolubly part of the working class, having no other interests but those of the working class. Only with Marxist-Leninist leadership have workers ever made a revolution. Only with Marxist-Leninist leadership have workers been able to retain state power once they have won it.

In formulating a consistent line by distilling the experience in struggle of the entire working class the CPB(ML) is distinct from all other political parties, whether of the 'left' or right, which present a grab bag of ideas, opinions and illusions. The line of the CPB(ML) is a mass line, developed through democratic centralism, in the service of the working class. In the issues of THE WORKER to come that line will continue to be developed, the thread the working class can follow through the labyrinth of crisis and chaos to the order, justice and comradeship of socialist society.