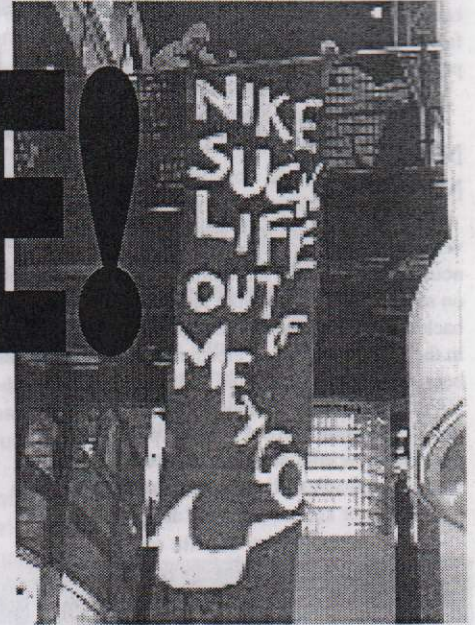
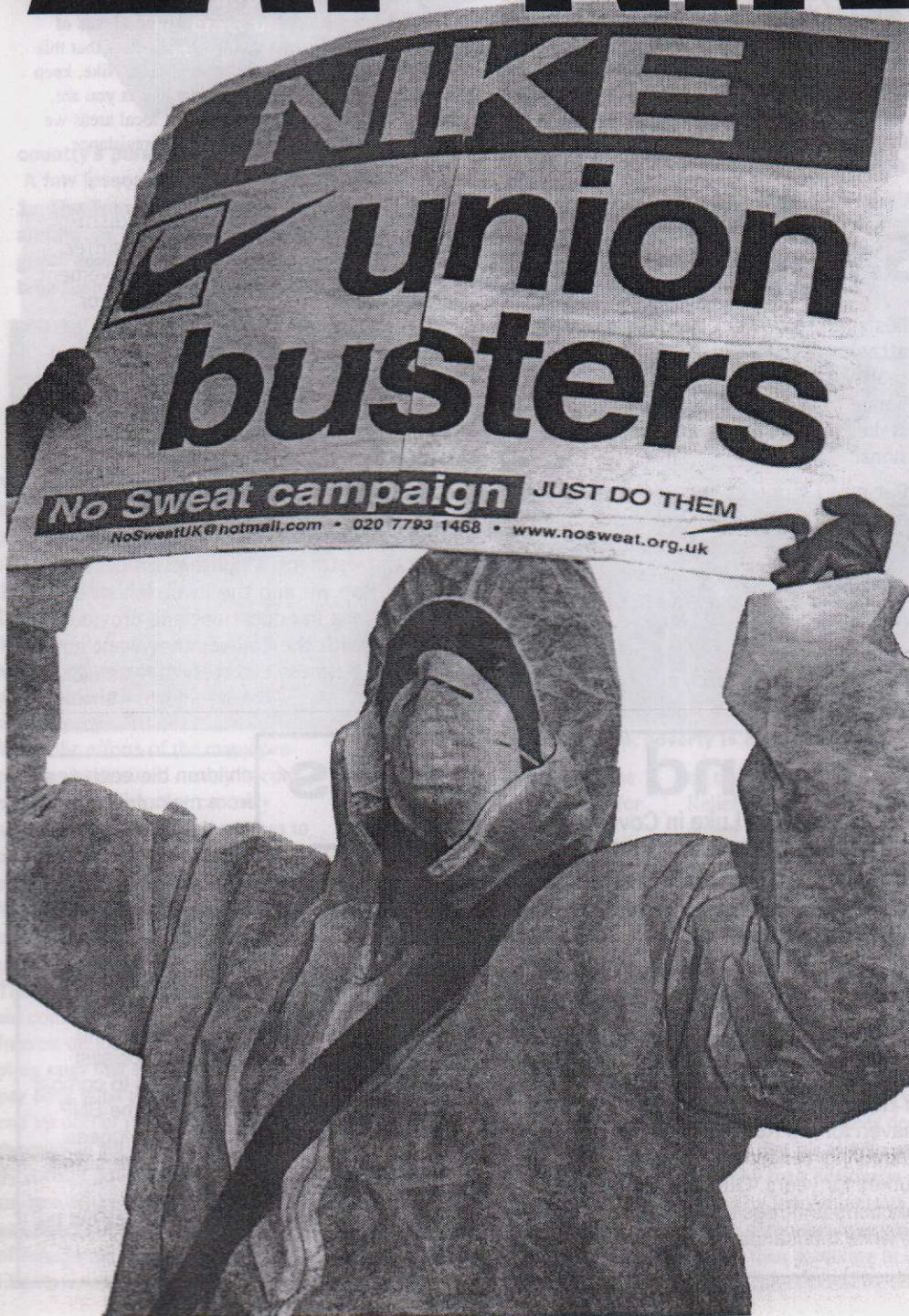


REVOLUTION

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ZAP NIKE!



March 11th looked like just another Sunday until activists took to the street. Tourists were looking well alarmed as 25 white-overall clad activists marched across Oxford Circus and invaded Niketown.

The 5 or 6 Nike security guys didn't stand a chance (and we're not just talking fashion-wise) though the A-team rerun look of black puffa jackets and hands-free headsets definitely didn't help. With a "We are all Zapatistas" banner, the white overall squad managed to penetrate past the sales area and deep into the excellence zone, or whatever bollocks they call it. Security illegally assaulted several people, with punches and arms around necks. Finally management had to yell at their hired thugs to stop because the customers were watching gobsmacked, indy-media cameras were filming and they could see the cash tills emptying at the potential lawsuit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REVO in action

WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT?

The wombles used to be furry little fellers that live in Wimbledon, but now they are the White Overalls Movement in Britain, taking the idea of Ya Basta! from Italy. Revolution, the socialist youth organisation, helped kick off the anti-sweatshop campaign "No Sweat", and wanted to link this issue up to the larger issue of imperialism and anticapitalism. No Sweat members gave support from outside with petitions and banners.

BUT WHY NIKE? WHY NOW?

The Zapatistas were entering Mexico City that very day to demand democratic rights for indigenous peoples. At the same time, workers who went on strike at a Mexican Nike factory were going back to work and facing management intimidation in their upcoming union elections. No Sweat has been outside Nike for 2 and a half months, demanding that they talk to us about the Kukdong strike and child labour – to our great surprise, their promises to open a dialogue never materialised. It was time to yank their chain and get their attention.

The banner kept us together, and turned into a

tug of war, them pulling us out, us pushing to get further in. The Nike security guys had definitely



about how they put profit before their workers.

We made special efforts to talk to workers and let them know we weren't against them, but helping workers in Mexico fight against the might of Nike.

The cops showed up in vans and cars, diagonally screeching to a stop all over the road. We were forced out-

Zap Nike

been working-out, but brains overcame beefcake. Behind their backs protesters, who had slipped in earlier, threw off their coats to reveal yet more white overalls and dropped a banner from the first floor, "Nike suck life out of Mexico" and loads of leaflets rained down for people. A crowd of about 80 customers gathered round listening to accounts of the Kukdong strike, Nike's treatment of workers in Indonesia, its use of child labour, the fact that their own staff in Niketown weren't unionised, the fact that their goods had a 25,000% markup. We demanded to talk to management and make them give an account in front of their customers and staff

side onto the pavement, where we continued the protest with banners surrounding Nike and chanting "Nike Nike take a Hike!", "sweatshop wages, its outrageous" and "Zapata Vive!". Nike was forced to shut all but a side door, and which stayed open only because the local cops were ringed around it.

After International Women's Day and loads of actions around Britain taking off, it's clear that this is a movement that is here to stay: Gap, Nike, keep expanding those stores. The more places you are, the more targets we have to hit and local areas we can draw into a global movement of resistance. You can run, but you can't hide!

Star Wars: Sheffield strikes back

Boeing, the largest Aerospace and second largest arms company in the world, are set to invest in a new £15 million Aerospace Manufacturing Research Centre at Sheffield University. Many students are incensed at this corporate partnership with higher education – especially with a huge defence company like Boeing that deals in weapons of mass indiscriminate destruction.

Now they are at the centre of the greatest escalation of the arms race this decade, as the major contractor for the National Missile Defence (NMD) programme. NMD, or son of Star Wars, is

designed to protect the US from missile attacks by so called "rogue states." In reality, it is to reinforce Americas dominance of the world, and will raise the stakes in the arms raise and increase tensions.

But many students see Boeings involvement as a welcome injection of cash. At a time of serious underfunding, universities are desperate for investment whatever the source. But companies don't just give millions of pounds out the kindness of their hearts, they do it to make money in the long run. Research and teaching will be directed towards the areas and sub-

jects that big business needs, and students' education and choice will suffer. The struggle against Boeing's involvement at Sheffield is part of the struggle for decent funding of higher education. It is linked to the deteriorating quality of university courses, the privatisation of halls of residences and the ending of grants. Boeing should contribute to research and education – not by investment and grants, but by forcing on it and other big businesses massive increases in the pitifully low levels of corporation tax not through direct investment. Only through decent funding can we end the involvement of corporations in education, and provide students with the courses they want not what big business dictates.

Simon in Sheffield

Racism and refugees

by Luke in Coventry

The fascist BNP is standing in the general election in Coventry. They are using the

racist hysteria towards asylum seekers that has been whipped up by the Tory tabloids. Labour has reinforced this with talk about 'genuine refugees' and 'economic migrants', while 3 weeks ago in Leicester, an Iranian refugee killed himself rather than face deportation. The government had decided that he was not genuine.

As someone who works with refugees every day, I have heard many of their life stories about why they came to Britain.

For example, an Iraqi Kurd told me how his people had suffered years of persecution and attacks from Saddam Hussein's regime. After the Gulf War, the West promised a safe haven for the Kurds. They were to be protected by troops from neighbouring Turkey – troops who have been slaughtering Kurds in Turkey for years. Out of the frying pan into the fire! The continued sanctions and regular bombing of Iraq have devastated the economy, while thousands of

children die each year from malnutrition or are born with deformities caused by the use

of Depleted Uranium shells. Even educated and relatively privileged Iraqis would rather work in a British warehouse for the minimum wage than as accountants or teachers in Iraq.

In Coventry, only the Socialist Alliance is fighting the election on an anti-racist platform. In collaboration with Coventry Against Racism, we have made contact with refugees and are helping them to organise to defend their rights. Revo and the Socialist Alliance have run stalls, petitions and poster campaigns to combat the racist lies of the media. We welcome refugees – it's the BNP that we want to drive into the sea. The conditions that refugees find in this country are horrific – detention centres, vouchers and racist attacks. Just imagine what they fled from.

For a fantastic insight into asylum seekers in Britain, check out the new film 'Last Resort' directed by Pawel Pawlikowski.

W**ker of the Month: Gordon Brown

PICTURE THIS: You have exploited the masses for the benefit of the few. You've cut taxes on the rich, you're about to privatise Health Care and you're the driver of an

by Paolo in Peckham

economy that is causing job losses by the thousands while telling the world that unemployment is falling. Well, if you can bring yourself to empathise with this scenario, you've gone some way (but

only some) towards becoming the man who holds the country's purse strings in his fingers: The Chancellor Gordon Brown. A few lessons in being a fat cat, profit-obsessed Chancellor:

1. The Treasury announces that there is to be a minimum surplus of around £5 billion in the year 2000-2001, while the reality is that it is a great deal more than that. Given that there are thousands living on the breadline, countless homeless and over a million unemployed, perhaps

you'd give them some of the money you got by throttling them for all they are worth? No chance. Sit on it and claim it would not be "prudent" to return to "a boom-or-bust economy" (Brown's favourite catchphrase). Then plug it back into the Banks and City Financiers that never earned it in the first place so that they can continue to spend billions on their endless corporate days at the races.

2. The unemployment figures. Mmmmm...they need keeping low. So, give everyone the impression that the unemployed are lazy and/or unwilling to work and then doctor the figures to exclude those that don't fit in with your required model. Chuck in some racial and age discrimination and BINGO! you have less than one million people unemployed.
3. Continue your policy of ripping off third world countries so they are unable to keep up payments on the interest due, let alone the debts, and have to limit

investment on education, employment and health. No worries, though 'cos this policy will bring you loads of money and you can also go round saying that you actually HELP 3rd world countries by giving them these extortionate loans.

4. The Family. A key word for any Chancellor. Make it look like you are doing something for the everyday, two-up-two-down household in England. A penny here, a penny there together with a quick fiddle of the figures and then tell them it'll make a difference of £3.42 a month and you'll keep them all happy. Ignore the plight of asylum seekers, the homeless and the generally ripped-off 'cos they are not vote winners and need sweeping under the carpet. Announcing a certain few millions for charities will keep this particular issue from raising its ugly head. And there you go: So simple isn't it? Live a lie and rip everyone except the richest off and you too can be a top notch **WANKER OF THE MONTH.**

Pants to capitalism

As Comic Relief congratulates itself on raising record levels of money to alleviate the desperate conditions endured by millions in the Third World the World Development Movement reports that "Britain's richest ten people have as much wealth as the 23 poorest countries with over 174 million people".

While the efforts of the many people who have raised money is commendable, at best they can only scratch the surface and it still has to be asked why massive charitable efforts like this are necessary when Western governments claim to be cancelling debts and helping the poorest nations?

The truth is that nothing given in aid comes without strings attached. Interest on loans is set at such crippling rates that even when nations pay back what they borrowed they end up deeper in debt. The loans themselves are often siphoned off by corrupt governments who act as stooges of the West. It has been estimated that only 6p in every £1 of foreign aid goes on basic needs like clean water.



Well... at least bankers think poverty is a laugh (right)

The IMF and World Bank impose strict conditions on their loans, for example the IMF's Structural Adjustment Programme forced Zimbabwe to charge for education and health care which led to a doubling of the number of women dying in childbirth. 76p of every pound given by Britain has to be spent on British products or British organisations. Transnational companies, meanwhile, play Third World countries off against one another in order to cut their costs, frequently moving production to somewhere with a more submissive workforce if exploited workers ever attempt to organise for a better deal. Back home corporations have lost



no time in jumping on the Comic Relief band-wagon: of the estimated £720,000 raised by the phone calls for Celebrity Big Brother over a third has been creamed off by BT, they claim that their licence with OFTEL prevents them from providing the service for free but does it also demand they profit by around £280,000? Other companies conspicuously donate cheques on primetime TV plastered with their names despite the fact that it's simply money given by their customers or raised by individual staff rather than a corporate donation. Rather than partaking in an annual career-boosting celebrity

By Neil in Marble Arch jamboree, however useful and well-intentioned, if we really want to do anything to address the obscene disparity in standards of living between Third World and First, we must demand the cancellation of all debts and provide aid without strings to redress the past crimes of capitalist exploitation.

We say
Pants To Poverty, Cancel the Debt!



ideas to use against global capitalism 3

In the last issue of REVOLUTION we looked at exploitation and how it is central to the way global capitalism works. This month we examine class, the main division in the world today, and why it's important in the struggle for liberation.

Copies of Part 1 - Origins of capitalism and Part 2 - Exploitation are available - just ring 020 7793 1468.

Why worry about the question of class? It's not really important anymore, is it?

In fact the question of class is as basic as ever. Class is inseparable from capitalism - as long as you have one, you have the other. What's more, only a view of the world that recognises the division of humanity into different classes can explain how capitalism works, and how we can get rid of it.

Global capitalism is dominated by an elite - a minority with enormous wealth and privileges compared to the rest of the world's population.

Pro-capitalist theories try to explain this away by saying that everyone is rewarded according to how intelligent or hardworking they are - "you can make it if you try hard enough".

Others accept that the rich might have been a bit lucky but make out that they do no harm and that opponents of the system are just jealous ... these are the people who say "good luck to him" when they hear about how Bill Gates of Microsoft is wealthier than many third world countries.

Understanding class helps opponents of capitalism to answer these ideas.

The multimillionaire capitalists don't get to the top by working harder than everyone else - if that was true the world would be run by 12 year-old Vietnamese workers in Nike factories. Nor are the rich just harmless lottery winners. The source of their wealth is the work carried out by millions of people working long hours for low pay in their factories, offices, mines, plantations and call centres. Their wealth is created by other people and belongs to other people.

Put in the simplest terms, the great sources of wealth in the world are owned by the minority capitalist class - the wealth is produced by a majority working class which owns nothing but a few personal possessions.

you've got

CL

The overall aim of the capitalist class is to defend its property and

power - it does this by expanding to compete with other capitalists, by driving down working class pay and conditions wherever it can and by stamping hard on working class resistance.

The goal of working class people, wherever



don't believe them, chums, we're all one big happy family!

they organise, is to resist exploitation, improve pay and conditions, and win new democratic rights and freedoms. That is why for over 150 years unions and left-wing parties set up by the working class have been the greatest advocates of an alterna-

tive to capitalism.

There's got to be more than just two classes!

Well spotted. Whilst it is basically true to say that the world is divided into two main classes, there is a big grey area in between - a shifting mass of middle class people caught between the two.

This includes the owners of small businesses - from shops through to market stalls - who work for themselves, but can hardly be said to have the same power and wealth as the owner of Barclays Bank or Shell! We call these people petit-bourgeois - which is not a 'communist insult' but simply means small time capitalists.

It also includes 'professional' people like lawyers and accountants who provide services to finance and business. They get paid a salary - but it is higher than normal wages because it includes a special pay out from the profits of the capitalists as a reward for helping them.

Some people in the middle layers of society find themselves caught between the classes - sometimes in the position of one, sometimes performing the work of another. A supervisor at work, a foreman in a factory

We're all Middle Class now - Even on £4 an hour...

The recent assertion by Tony Blair that we live in a classless society would be all but laughable if it were not such an insult to the millions of workers who struggle daily in the increasing insecurity of the "flexible" labour market. Indeed, while Tony Blair boasts that, "Britain has the most lightly regulated labour market of any leading economy in the world", a new survey by Breadline Europe found that five million people in Britain live in absolute poverty i.e. suffer from a lack of food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and access to benefits. The media has also been bombarding us with articles and documentaries that tell us that we are all middle-class now. This is while the average wage in the service industry (the fastest growing employment sector in Britain) is around £4 per hour and 3 million households languish in unemployment.

Definitions of "class" are continually obscured in order to divide and dilute the consciousness of workers. For instance, the government's office of national statistics places lecturers and teachers in Class 1 and 2, or the "upper middle classes". This is despite the fact that they earn around £16,000 a year and have a firm tradition of unionised labour. Also, the capitalist classes (billionaire freeloaders) are conveniently left out of the figures altogether. Maybe a class classification of scrounging, genocidal bastards wouldn't fit too well with the New Labour agenda.

However, despite the relentless attempts to dissolve the working class, over 60% of people in a recent survey still regard themselves as working class. While the policies of New Labour continue the Tories' agenda of union busting, welfare slashing and privatisation, as workers and socialists we should shout as loud as ever: "the workers united will never be defeated!"

by Dan in Lewisham

ASS

by Richard and Andy

more potential power than it has ever had before.

Doesn't talk of class just divide the resistance to capitalism? Why can't we just unite the people instead?

Not everyone who wants to fight global capitalism is working class and unity in struggle is the best way to get the biggest possible opposition together. There is nothing wrong with the working

that it is an international class. Finally, the working class is more powerful than the other classes. It is the only class which is big enough and central enough to production to bring the capitalists to a halt.

Workers are organised by production into large groups, disciplined by the labour process so they are used to working together collectively and able to hit capitalists' pockets directly by taking strike action. Workers can be organised more and more easily on international lines, not only because of the internet and other modern communications but also because in the

age of globalisation they are often employed by the same company whether they work in Africa, Asia, Europe or America.

Unlike the other classes, workers have an interest in overthrowing the whole of capitalism and not just trying to make capitalism a bit fairer. And most importantly of all, they have the power to do it.

So should the whole world be working class?

No. We want to free the working class and abolish class division altogether. / workers' revolution would destroy the capitalists' power - their secret services, army high command and police - and set about converting the property of the big companies and the millionaires into the property of all, controlled democratically. That would mean that eventually there would be no such thing as working class, middle class and capitalist class - just people sharing out the work and the fruits of their common labour in a truly communist society.

After capitalism, humanity will have all the advantages of the rich today - their freedom and their access to resources - but without their vanity, cruelty, competitiveness and emptiness. And they will have all the strengths of the working class - their collectivity, honesty, fairness and courage - without poverty, oppression and suffering.



the working class: international and growing

class taking common action with other classes against common enemies. For example if a middle class group wants to join a protest with us against Nike's use of child labour, it would be idiotic to turn them away for 'classist' reasons.

But it is essential to keep class in mind at all times, because different class interests can emerge during the struggle. For example, whilst campaigning against exploitation, in the third world, small traders here might argue for a ban on foreign goods coming into Britain. This would help their business over here - but it would be bad for workers in the third world sweatshops, throwing them onto the dole and putting the British economy first.

That is why the working class should organise itself independently of other classes, fight for its own interests against those of other classes and always remember

or a middle manager in an office may be exploited by the capitalist owner of a company but still pushes workers around for the bosses' benefit.

The middle classes usually hate all talk of class and like to make out that they are 'normal' people. Because so many of them work in the media they sometimes seem to believe that they are the majority in society. Sometimes when they feel threatened by big business they move to the left - sometimes when they feel the working class is threatening 'stability' (i.e. good conditions for business) they move to the right. Because this is an unstable position to be in, the middle classes often project confused ideas.

Isn't the working class getting smaller?

No. Some people think this because over the last twenty years the type of work carried out in advanced countries like Britain has changed a lot. There are fewer factory jobs in heavy industries like steel, cars and mining - though these 'blue-collar' industries are still a very important part of the economy.

In fact the working class is getting bigger all the time. This is for two reasons:

The first is that new industries are cropping up everywhere. They may not be housed in factories but the workers in them are treated just the same - paid much less than the value of the work they do.

The working class includes lots of people who don't work in factories -nurses, teachers, secretaries, researchers, journalists and so on. Call centres are a classic example - organised just as ruthlessly as an old production line, with boring work, low pay, long hours and workers pushed around by supervisors.

The second reason for the growing working class is globalisation. As capitalism spreads all over the world in search of cheap labour and fresh resources, it destroys earlier less productive social systems and implants the modern wage system in its place. So countries like Korea, Brazil, India and Nigeria have seen the size of the working class grow enormously.

Far from getting smaller, the working class is billions strong, bigger than ever and with

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A GREAT DAY FOR THE ZAPATISTAS

by Paul in Southend

On the 7th March 2001 the leaders of the EZLN (the Zapatistas) marched with a caravan of their supporters into Mexico City from the southern state of Chiapas. On arriving, they were met by crowds of up to 250,000 people who, despite heavy rain, congregated in the main square. The Zapatistas' leader, a masked man going under the name of Marcos, described the history of the indigenous peoples' struggle.

Their life has been one of poverty and hardship, and for over 70 years the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has oppressed this people. So it was a major shock it was for the government when in January 1994 the Zapatistas came from nowhere and took control of 7 cities in Chiapas.

Marcos declared, "They use us as cannon fodder and loot the wealth from our country without any care for the fact that we are dying of hunger and curable diseases...without any care that we have nothing, absolutely nothing, we have no roof worthy of the name, nor land nor work, nor health nor food, nor education, and without the right to elect our authorities freely and democratically. TODAY WE SAY BASTA! ENOUGH!"

The occupation of the cities only lasted one week, but the movement was begun and the plight and struggle of the indigenous peoples became clear to people world-wide over the next three years! In retaliation, the army surrounded Chiapas, driving the peasants off their land and into the jungles to live cut off from the basic means of life such as food, water and medical help. In 1997 45 women and children were shot dead by pro-PRI paramilitaries as the state police looked on

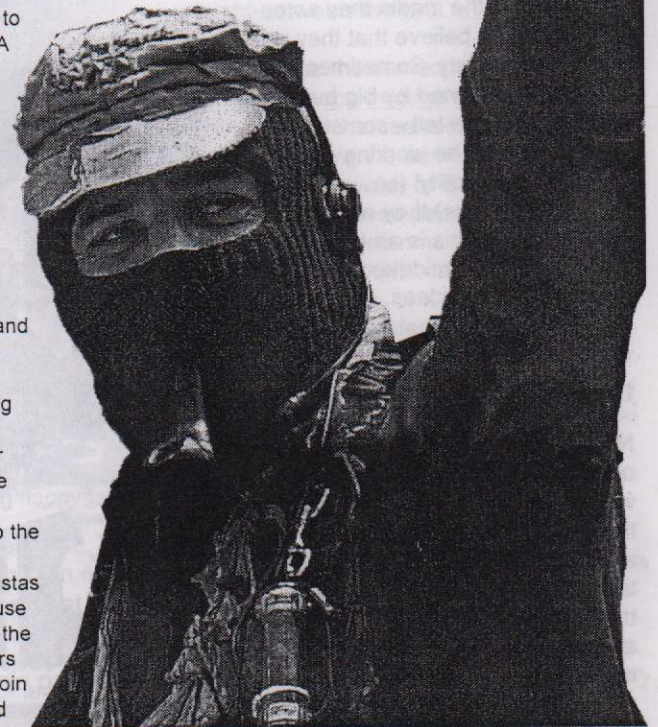
and did nothing.

But over the next four years the movement became international, with the Zapatistas inspiring many movements to join together in the internationalist PGA (see article below).

Now the Zapatistas need to focus on building a movement in Mexico with the students and especially the working class, which will have great power in Mexico!!! They can stop the factories, they can take control away from the multinationals and ruthless bosses.

The anger of the workers is there and the Zapatistas have to tap into it and use it against the government and Mexico's President, Vicente Fox, who wants to look like he's doing something but actually give them nothing.

On the 7th of March Marcos met for talks with Vicente Fox - the talks broke down without outcome, Fox wouldn't agree to the Zapatista's demands. So the march on the surface seems to have been a waste of time. But the Zapatistas should see it as a turning point, because over one million people turned out on the streets to show their support! Workers had travelled from all over Mexico to join up and protest with the Zapatistas and there is a real chance to create a revolutionary movement. This is a turning point in Mexico, the idea that the people of the country can unite and tell the sweatshop child-labour multinationals and their governments to PISS OFF!!!!



A positive sign that the movement in Mexico is uniting is that workers from Duro Bag Manufacturing in Rio Bravo met with Marcos and discussed linking their struggle with that of the Zapatistas. The workers at Duro have fought to improve the lives of maquila workers by forming the Independent Union of Maquila Workers. After 8 months of struggle, including a strike, lock-out, and hundreds of firings and beatings, the workers finally won the right to a union election last week. But with a twist. Workers were required to walk through a gauntlet of over 100 pro-company thugs and declare out loud their choice for a union. Not surprisingly they lost. But this will not end the struggle for independent unions in Mexico, which is creating the forces for deep social change - and revolution - in Mexico.

People's Global Action

The weekend of March 24th / 25th will see **by FRAN in PECKHAM** anti-capitalists converging on Milan from all over Europe for the Peoples Global Action (PGA) European conference to discuss the movement and the protests at the G8 meeting in Genoa this July. The PGA is one of the driving forces behind the wave of global actions that have shaken the world of the bosses' business meetings since 1998, when activists met in Genoa three months before the WTO meeting in the same city.

The PGA has no real members, no spokespeople and no leaders, but contrary to what people might think, it is not simply an anarchist-style 'disorganisation'.

YA BASTA!, the Italian social centre movement, and RTS play an important part in the PGA, as in the anti capitalist movement, but the PGA is also composed by the 750,000 strong Bangladeshi Garment Workers Union, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Sem Terra movement of landless peasants in Brazil and by Marxists.

The unifier of all these groups coming together as the PGA is the strategy

of confrontational, non-violent direct action with a fun flavour - the first example of it was the colourful and vibrant Global Street Party on 16 May 1998. The movement finally went right up the bosses' noses at the 1999 WTO protest in Seattle. From then, everybody knew the anti capitalist movement wasn't going to go away.

Such a heterogeneous alliance is positive in terms a creative approach to action, that comes from such a wide range of organisations and backgrounds, while also allowing mass action. Thus the International Day of Action has been a major tactic of the PGA, and made possible by this broad unity. Democracy and mutual respect, while discussing out differences and ideas, have obviously been essential to keep the movement together and united in action.

The anarchist accuse the left of wanting to turn the movement into a stale and bureaucratic organisation. The PGA is already composed by at least 2 massive workers unions, with structures and rules, but that doesn't detract to their militancy, courage and willingness to act.

A unified organisation will help us win battles and maintain the creativity. The bosses, our common enemy, are strong, united and have the state power - police, army - on their side. Multinationals might be overpowering nation states, but ultimately, we will not be fighting fat world bankers in the street, but fit pigs in riot gear. And the police, as the bosses, are

AMNESTY CONDEMNS CZECH COPS

by Rachel in Brixton

Activists detained after the anti-capitalist demonstrations in Prague last September suffered extreme brutality at the hands of the Czech police. A recent Amnesty International report details ill-treatment of the over 850 detainees, including beatings, some with truncheons, resulting in severe injuries such as broken arms and ribs, cuts to the head, and internal bleeding. German Tazio Mueller describes the organised and pre-meditated beatings that he witnessed and suffered: "They pushed my head down until it was between my legs and then a cop stuck his boot in my face... they shoved me to the ground, kicked me, walked over me..." Among other injuries, Mueller suffered a rupture eardrum caused by blows to his head.

The Amnesty report concludes that in many of the cases "the ill treatment inflicted by police officers may amount to torture." In view of the number of activists who have similar stories to tell, this slight condemnation seems understated.

Complaints examined by Amnesty describe numerous human rights abuses against the demonstrators by the Czech cops, including instances of arbitrary arrests and extreme brutality against detainees, non-violent protesters on the streets and even against

passers-by; refusal to let detainees contact their families, a lawyer or their embassies; overcrowded and inhumane conditions in cells; and refusal of much needed medical treatment. In the case of Sylvia Yolanda Mach, doctors later faced a two week struggle to save her leg from amputation because of swelling that occurred and went untreated while she was being detained by the police. While the individual instances the report details are horrific, what is more worrying is the sheer number of cases, and what this indicates about the attitudes of the authorities to demonstrators. The report suggests that the unwillingness of the Czech government to investigate complaints against the police has created "an atmosphere in which officers feel they can act with impunity", and that the behaviour of the police was motivated by a "desire to demonstrate their effectiveness in dealing with protesters, rather than to enforce the law".

This is not the first time the Czech police have been accused of extreme brutality, but the government has so far failed to investigate complaints properly or to act on recommendations made by human rights groups. British police are also under scrutiny following deaths in custody largely caused by the use of dangerous restraint techniques or failure to procure adequate medical care for detainees.



Police were expecting demonstrations during a five-day meeting in the city of the Global Forum, a conference of political, finance and technology leaders who gathered to discuss the role of the Internet in government. More than 4,000 regular police, paramilitary Carabinieri were drafted into Naples. Anti-globalisation groups organised to bring thousands of demonstrators by train from Palermo and Milan to Naples for the protest, where they were joined by thousands of unemployed. 25-30,000 people gathered at the main train station, before marching through the streets and then clashing with police as they tried to gain access to the venue of the Global Forum behind the 30-foot walls of Naples' Royal Palace. Police fired teargas to break up the crowd and then charged, beating demonstrators with batons as the protesters hurled back paving stones and iron bolts, witnesses said. After 20 minutes of hand-to-hand clashes, police brought the situation under control.

Naples clash

NO LOGO

Tom and Julian
in Dulwich

managed to reach an audience far greater than your average 'Schnews' or 'Earth First! Action Update'. This coverage can only be good for the anti-capitalist movement.

Naomi Klein's No Logo, now available in paperback, is one of the few anti-capitalist books to truly make an impact on the mainstream media. No Logo has managed to reach an audience far greater than your average 'Schnews' or 'Earth First! Action Update'. This coverage can only be good for the anti-capitalist movement.

scared and angry at the movement and will use their weapons to smash resistance. It is unity in action, organised defence and co-ordination that will win the battle. To achieve all this, open and democratic debate is essential. Discussing ideas, tactics, ideologies and demands on the capitalist state is fundamental in order to formulate a winning plan. In their global conference in India, in April 99, the PGA admitted that Global Days of Action such as Seattle or MayDay, have a limited ability in involving people in the southern hemisphere. So, what's the solution? How do we get there? What will our demands be when we win? This is what we need to achieve in Milan and this is what the movement needs: proposals for the way forward. The First International was also a very heterogenous and diverse movement. It rose to support revolutions throughout Europe, but ultimately crumbled under internal differences when put to the test of struggle. We want this movement to be here to stay and we want to win it to revolutionary anti-capitalism, so it will pass the test of the revolution and smash capitalism.

The book catalogues a number of absurdities in the capitalist system from Disney's branded villages to Nike sweatshop workers and Starbucks expansionist policies. Klein also gives a detailed account of the birth and growth of the anti-capitalist movement from the New York teach-in (1995) to early Reclaim the Streets parties in

the UK. The sub-sections of the books (No Space, No Jobs, No Choice and No Logo) are quality sub-books in their own right. Each section is peppered with interesting facts on the many topics which Klein touches upon.

The one major flaw is that Klein's post-modernist views and subsequent reformism shine through in the book. For example she explains to a revolutionary Marxist that "with globalisation there needs to be some common standards [corporate codes of conduct] - and the governments certainly aren't making them." With this statement she implies that a fair capitalist world is possible if only 'common standards' could be imposed. Her rejection of revolution and promotion of reformism is the major drawback of No logo. She ignores the fundamental dynamics of the capitalist system which drive it to ever greater exploitation of people and planet in the pursuit of profit.

For example when Gap and Nike were forced to write a code of conduct for workers in the third world after mass protests in the United States they used it as a publicity stunt to provide a politically acceptable face even though workers in their factories had never heard of it. The only chance of a decent life without exploitation that workers have is if they themselves democratically control the means of production and this will not arrive by tinkering with the capitalist system. A fair society will only emerge through a revolution and the abolishment of the privileged capitalist class.

As I said earlier this is one of the drawbacks of No Logo which is otherwise a very good book. It can be a great resource for any anti-capitalist thinker wishing to arm themselves with the facts, figures and stories necessary for arguing with any pro-capitalist's feeble attempts to justify the insanity of the corporate controlled system we live in.



Vote Big Brother Blair out of the House!

democracy n., pl. -cies 1. government by the people or their elected representatives. 2. a political or social unit governed ultimately by all its members. 3. the practice or spirit of social equality. 4. a social condition of classlessness and equality. [from Greek *demokratia* government by the people]

Does the above sound at all like a description of the current system that we have today? Look at Britain after 4 years of New Labour, who were supposed to be so different from the Tories:

■ **Democracy:** The "ethical foreign policy" went out of the window pretty quickly. Arms sales continue to repressive regimes such as Indonesia and Saudi Arabia (no democracy there!). The government argues that arms sales are necessary to defend British jobs. But what is being defended is huge profit by producing goods that have no other purpose but to put down democracy movements and make war. Bombing campaigns against Serbia and Iraq enforced the West's dominance.

■ **Equality:** The government does not challenge the outpouring of racist bile from the right-wing press against asylum seekers. Instead, they scapegoat refugees, pass repressive legislation and make it even harder for oppressed people to seek asylum in Britain just to make sure they don't lose votes. Only token measures have been taken against police racism, and stop-and-search continues as a policy to harass black and Asian youth. Women are no better off than before.

■ **Classlessness:** The role of government is now to facilitate "wealth creation" and not redistribution – as shown by attacks on single mothers, unemployment and disabilities benefits. The divide between rich and poor continues to grow, five million now live in poverty. Related to this is the fact that Britain has the least regulated labour market in the EU – few trade union rights and rights at work, low wages – and this is something that Blair is actually proud of! Privatisation of the tube, hospitals, and schools is being pioneered by New Labour – the parts

that the Tories couldn't reach.

And the Hinduja passport affair has shown that money will buy anything under New Labour, just like under the Tories.

For the first time in decades there will be a left alternative to Blair: 125 Socialist Alliance and Scottish Socialist Party candidates will be standing in the general election.

Working class people who are sick of Tony Blair's New Labour will have the chance to show just what they think of the government's continuation of Tory policies.



Homes not Domes

Kirstie Paton is a secondary schoolteacher who will be standing against Labour's housing minister Nick Raynsford in Greenwich & Woolwich, South East London. She says, "Just putting a cross in a box will not change the world but by standing in the election we can encourage people to build campaigns against privatisation, police brutality and poverty. We can use our election challenge to build a movement to challenge the market system."

WHAT THEY STAND FOR :

KIRSTIE PATON • Socialist Alliance
Homes for workers
Publicly-owned tube
Tax the rich

"NASTY NICK" RAYNSFORD • Labour
Homes for yuppies
Privately-owned tube
Tax cuts for the rich

Raynsford is the friend of construction firms, especially in his support for the building of the Illesiu Dam in Turkey, which threatens to destroy land belonging to the Kurdish people. Kirstie supports freedom for the Kurds and wants to nationalise big firms under the control of workers and consumers, without a penny in compensation.

Many people have already decided they have had enough of the bosses' parties and are planning to stay away from the polling booths, but the Socialist Alliance presents them with the chance to turn their anger and disillusionment into action.

The candidates standing for the Socialist Alliance aren't just politicians, they are campaigners and trade unionists who have been in the forefront of the fight against cuts, closures and privatisations.

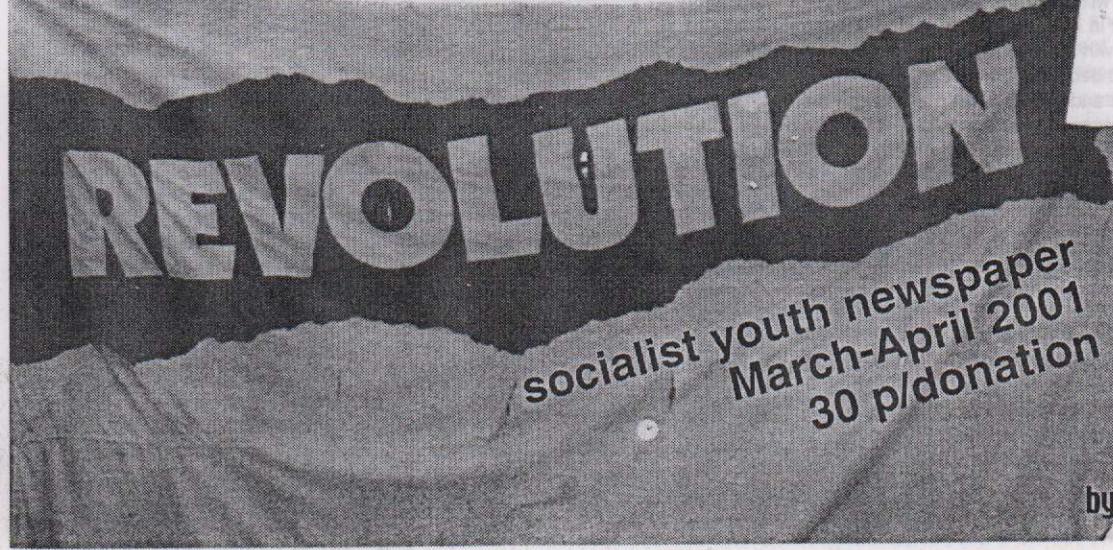
We believe that even if we won huge support at the ballot box and Parliament was stuffed with left-wing MP's, the capitalists would still not give up their control of the economy and society. We need to take their property from them. To do that we need to organise

workers' councils and militias which would be capable of taking on and beating the state's armies and police forces. That would be

mass, direct democracy. The Socialist Alliance is not a revolutionary party, but it presents the left with a genuine opportunity to build one.

That is why Revolution supports the Socialist Alliance and will use the campaign to put forward a revolutionary solution to the problems people face.

But elections don't change much - that's why we need a



To find out how to get involved contact Revo on 020 7793 1468 or write to Socialist Alliance, PO Box 121, Coventry CV1 5DA, phone 020 7536 9696.

by Yuen and Kuldip, South London