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JULY 2026 • FREE EVERY MONTH • ISSUE NO.091 • WWW.COUNTERFIRE.ORG

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NEWS



GIANNI INFANTINO WITH TRUMP AT THE WHITE HOUSE. PHOTO: DANIEL TOROK / WHITE HOUSE

Fifa World Cup a travesty

JAMAL ELAHEBOCUS

The 2026 Fifa World Cup was promised to be ‘the greatest event that humanity has ever seen’, in the words of Fifa president Gianni Infantino. This comes from a man who has cozied up to Donald Trump in the past eighteen months and who is set to make millions in bonuses from the tournament. The reality is different; this World Cup, spread across Mexico, Canada and the US, has been one of profiteering, overshadowed by the influence of a warmongering, viciously racist administration.

The start of the tournament was beset with controversies as the Trump administration’s authoritarian border policies extended to players and officials arriving for the World Cup. The most prominent case was that of Somali referee Omar Artan, who was refused entry.

However, the Senegal, Uzbekistan and Iraq teams were also subjected to long, intensive searches. The Senegalese team weren’t even allowed off the airport tarmac before they were stopped and screened, while Iraq striker Aymen Hussein was held and questioned for nearly seven hours and the head of the Palestinian Football Association was also denied entry.

Fans from across the world, but particularly the Middle East and African countries, have had visas rejected or have been denied entry to the US. Jordanian fans were subject to 40% rejection rates for visas to the US in the build-up to the tournament.

As the tournament has progressed, the next major scandal has been the treatment of the Iranian team. Speaking after they were eliminated during the group stage, the Iran coach said that the team were treated ‘very unfairly’ and called on Infantino to ‘stand up to the US’. Amidst the backdrop of Trump’s war on Iran, the Iranian team were denied permission to stay in their planned training camp in Tucson, Arizona and were forced to station themselves in Mexico. Eleven senior officials, including managerial staff and technical advisers,

were denied entry. The team was chased out of Los Angeles after both of their first two matches, having to arrive and leave the US on the same day.

Ricardo Fort, a sponsorship consultant who negotiated commercial deals with Fifa on behalf of Visa and Coca-Cola said: ‘If you ignore the noise and the politics then the work done by Fifa’s commercial team is very impressive.’

There’s truth in this; it’s been a lucrative World Cup for Fifa. The governing body expects to make \$10.9 billion in profits from the tournament alone, with earnings of \$13 billion across the four-year world-cup cycle up till this tournament. That is a 73% increase in yield from the 2022 tournament in Qatar and dwarfs the profit

from the 2024 Olympics, which made €4.4 billion.

The vast bulk of this profit comes from ticket sales, the revenue from which has increased to \$3 billion. This is partly due to the expansion of the tournament to 48 teams but also because of the extortionate ticket prices. With dynamic pricing in place at venues throughout, fans are being bled dry to watch their teams compete.

Much of this revenue will go to Fifa’s 211 member federations and six continental federations, which will ensure the current regime at Fifa stays in place. Infantino himself will likely make millions in bonuses from the tournament; his bonus increased from \$2 million to \$3 million just last year. This money goes to a man

who has spent eighteen months buttering up the American president, awarding him a ‘peace prize’ invented by Infantino for his new best pal and attending Trump’s victory rally after the 2024 election.

This kind of corruption and profiteering is not new for Fifa. But the silence of some who rightly called out World Cups held in Qatar and Russia for ‘sportswashing’ but are silent on a World Cup hosted by a country which has actively participated in genocide in Gaza, brutal attacks on migrants and an illegal war in Iran is deafening. Not only that, but football once again has been shut off from working-class people, both in the host countries and around the world, who want to watch their teams compete. It is nothing short of a travesty.

POLICE ADMIT DESTROYING SPYCOPS FILES

JAMES SIMPSON

Summer 2026 is a significant milestone for the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) into the Spycops scandal.

It sees the end of open evidence given relating to the Metropolitan Police Special Branch unit, the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS).

The unit that infiltrated police officers into the lives of activists from 1968, to when it was subsumed into Counter Terrorism police structures in 2008, is now mired in infamy. Officers deceived women into sexual relationships, acted as agent provocateurs, spied on family-justice campaigns and stole identities of deceased children.

The final instalment of the SDS at the UCPI sees managers and one activist from the last two decades of its existence give evidence. This has been characterised by the persistent slow drip of controversial revelation against the ongoing, forthright obfuscation of process by the Metropolitan Police Service.

One of the most shocking recent revelations came not through hearing evidence but was snuck onto the website like a thief in the night. On 16 June, documents were released, submitted by the MPS, and accompanied by a witness statement by Commander Dominic Murphy of SO15 Counter Terrorism Command. In 2021, a large amount of the Special Branch ‘Registry’ Files had been destroyed.

Registry files are the archive reports on group and individuals kept by Special Branch. The process of a person gaining a registry file accelerated swiftly when the SDS was formed. This saw between ten and twelve officers sent undercover into mainly left-wing groups at any one time until 2008.

Their insidious reporting for years on end saw the volume and scope of reporting on activists grow exponentially. By the 1980s, it was estimated 300,000 people had a registry file. These came with consequences: regular police checks and links to blacklisting companies like The

Economic League and The Consulting Association.

In 2016, it was agreed that no files would be destroyed relating to any of the Core Participants. By 2020, the MPS position was changing. Murphy’s witness statement detailed decision-making around Data Protection and the risible suggestion that the UCPI had gone on longer than expected. This was largely due to uncooperative behaviour by the MPS towards the UCPI.

Core participants have been asked to take on trust that the MPS has not destroyed anything that would have been relevant to their participation and understanding of why they were subject to such intrusive policing operations.

Reaction has rightly been one of outrage that a process that victims are made to feel like afterthoughts compared to the needs of the state and MPS to protect itself from embarrassment.

Find regular detailed coverage and analysis of the Spycops Inquiry at counterfire.org

EDITORIAL



ANDY BURNHAM, SHARON GRAHAM AND GARY SMITH

BURNHAM LEADERSHIP PLANS SPARK UNION ROW

COUNTERFIRE

Andy Burnham seems set for a coronation as Labour leader, enthroned without challenge. But his choice of top ministers and advisors is causing arguments across the labour movement.

Ed Miliband is one of the favourites to replace Rachel Reeves as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the second most powerful post in government.

Speculation that Miliband is in line for the economic portfolio has triggered a response from the General Secretary of Unite the Union, Sharon Graham, and from the GMB union.

Graham made it clear that she doesn't want Miliband as Chancellor because of his commitment to net-zero policy to halt climate change. Astonishingly, Graham came out against Miliband in the midst of a record-breaking heat spike caused by climate change.

Graham is one of the big funders of the

Labour Party, despite occasional threats to stop the flow of funds.

The *Financial Times* spelled out what's at stake: 'The priority for Unite and GMB is to persuade Burnham not to appoint Miliband because of his relentless focus on the net zero agenda.'

As the article continued, 'Miliband, a one-time Treasury adviser, is hugely popular with Labour's grassroots but is also suspected by some in the City of London as likely to pursue a higher-spending, left-wing agenda if he became chancellor.' That hasn't stopped ongoing Unite and GMB attempts to 'stop Ed Miliband'.

Other left-leaning unions have joined the debate. Daniel Kebede, the general secretary of the National Education Union and Andrea Egan the leader of the UK's largest union, Unison, have come out on social media to support Miliband. Kebede posted that the NEU would like to see Miliband as Chancellor.

What the division among the union

leaders shows is that a Burnham premiership is going to be under pressure from the very start. It's already clear from the possibility that ultra-Blairite James Purnell will be made Burnham's chief advisor that changes from the Starmer regime will be purely cosmetic.

Appointing Yvette Cooper or Shabana Mahmood over Miliband would be more evidence that the Labour machine is on a rinse and repeat cycle.

The results are predictable: a repeat of the last Tory government's rapid descent into oblivion as each successive leader disappoints faster than their predecessor.

Unite and GMB are now emerging as a pro-arms spending, pro-polluter right wing in the union movement, all in the name of saving jobs.

There's no evidence that a more right-wing chancellor would do this, and plenty of evidence that no union members will benefit from a drive to war or a burning planet.



AMERICA 250 CELEBRATIONS. PHOTO: WHITE HOUSE

America at 250

JOHN CLARKE

On July 4, the US marked 250 years since its first Independence Day. No matter how enthusiastic the celebrations, US imperialism is an ageing giant in a state of decline for which there is no remedy.

The American Revolution presented the capitalist society it was establishing as a model of freedom and universal rights – although one-fifth of the population then were enslaved, and one-third of the Declaration of Independence's signers were personally enslavers.

This is not some moral inconsistency that we should regard as a footnote. Slavery played a vital role in generating a mass of foundational wealth for US capitalism. The legacy of slavery and the struggle against it remain defining features of US society to this day.

Indigenous dispossession was the basis for the US becoming an economic powerhouse, and a huge portion of what is now the US was secured by force of arms from Mexico. Conquest was an indispensable part of the process of US ascendancy.

The leading role of US capitalism was attained, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries through a brutal and efficient exploitation of human labour.

It was immediately after WWII that the US became the undisputed global hegemon, able to forge a world order in its own image. The US became the economic and political cornerstone of the global system, with the capacity to unleash massive military aggression.

Though it remains the leading imperialist power, a long process of US decline has unfolded, reflecting the ground that has been lost to economic rivals, particularly China.

Trump's America First turn represents a rupturing of the 'rules based' world order that the US has overseen for decades.

As seen with the attacks on Venezuela and Iran and the blockade of Cuba, Trump is fully committed to trying to preserve the US's global role with a brutal brand of 'gangster imperialism.'

As we see from the dangerous conduct of the Trump administration, we can't expect US imperialism to grow old gracefully.

But the long years that followed the Declaration of Independence have been marked by innumerable examples across the world of resistance to US expansion and domination.

The future lies in the struggle to defeat what remains of the world order that the US has played a central role in shaping.



WEEKLY BRIEFING

Cut through the media bias with Lindsey German's analysis on the latest political developments straight in your inbox every Monday morning



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RANK-AND-FILE ROUNDUP



LEFT TO RIGHT: ULRIKE EIFLER (GERMANY), EDDIE DEMPSEY (RMT), JO GRADY (UCU), GIORGIOS GOGOS (GREECE), FRAN HEATHCOTE (PCS), DANIEL KEBEDE (NEU), GRAZIAMARIA PISTORINO (ITALY). PHOTOS: CIARAN ELLIOTT AND STEVE EASON

TRADE UNIONS CAN STOP THE DRIVE TO WAR

JOHN WESTMORELAND

The International Conference Against War in June was a call to arms for trade unionists everywhere.

Some three thousand trade unionists and campaigners came together to demand an end to militarisation and the pillaging of welfare budgets to pay for it. The conference pledged to support an international day of action on 10 October in solidarity with Palestine, and on 20-22 November to oppose militarism, to demand welfare not

warfare and to assert our democratic rights.

Here are some of the trade-union voices that brought the audience to its feet.

Ulrike Eifler, representing the German IG Metall trade union spoke about spiralling military preparations in Germany, with public services like transport and hospitals being brought into war games that imagine a major war in the east.

She related how German trade unions are resisting the arms race and opposing conscription. She was cheered to the rafters when she said the jingoism of the

capitalists has to be resisted and the role of trade unionists is to throw a wrench into the war machine. Expect mass demonstrations across Germany on 10 October.

Jérôme Legavre, a deputy for La France Insoumise, the only party to vote against doubling the military budget, spoke of the need for real working-class internationalism. He said how much he admired the Greek and Italian dock workers who refused to handle Israeli cargoes because they did not want to be complicit in genocide, and the German school students who were taking strike action against conscription.

He said, 'Our urgent duty is to stop the war machine, and organised workers in trade unions can do that.'

Maryam Eslamdoust, General Secretary of the TSSA warned about what we can expect if investment needed for maintaining our infrastructure is diverted to military spending as Starmer wants. She said, 'The government wants to double military expenditure by cutting the essentials of everyday life for workers. Transport infrastructure is crumbling. Today we mourn the death of a railway worker whose death, we believe, is because of the failure to invest in our industry.'

Eddie Dempsey from the RMT backed Maryam up. He said, 'We are in a period like before the First World War and the dangers that face our planet and the peoples of the world couldn't be graver. The rise in militarism is leading to a clampdown on our rights and civil liberties at home. We

see the central banking system of Europe facilitating war mongering and militarisation. This conference is a first step. We need to follow it up. My union is committed to supporting the international day of action to stop the war machine.'

Daniel Kebede of the NEU said, 'We are standing on the edge of an abyss. Global conflict is at the highest level since the Second World War. We cannot rely on our politicians to deliver peace. That responsibility lies with us. A record 2.9 trillion dollars was spent on weapons in 2025. The cost of a single stealth fighter could fund a year of education for 200,000 children. Every war is a war on children. But, opposition is growing and international solidarity can deliver peace.'

Fran Heathcote from the civil servants' union, PCS, and Jo Grady from the lecturers union, UCU, talked about the crisis in our social provision and Higher Education. Fran and Jo rejected the need for militarisation saying, 'Putin is bogged down in war and the idea that he could come rampaging through Europe is fanciful.' And, 'Our government is committing more money to rearmament than any other country in Europe, and military spending in the EU is massively in excess of Russian military spending. Who wants to sit in a country with shiny new bombers while children live in poverty?'

Everybody onto the streets on 10 October and on 21 November. Free Palestine! Welfare not warfare!

See backpage for more info

PICKET LINES THIS MONTH

For latest updates see counterfire.org/events

WOODFIELD SCHOOL

Union: NEU
Dates: 2, 3, 6-9, 13, 14, 16, 17 July
Location: London, NW9 7LY

GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Union: UCU
Dates: Continuous
Location: London, SE14 6NW

CWM TAF MORGANNWG HEALTH VISITORS

Union: Unite
Dates: 1-17 July
Location: Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

GKN AEROSPACE

Union: Unite
Dates: 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 July
Location: Bristol, BS34 6FB

NEU SUMMER DAY OF ACTION

Date: 11 July
Location: Schools across the country

WALSALL VILLAGE HOTEL

Union: Unite
Dates: 2, 4, 7, 10 July
Location: Walsall, WS2 8TJ

INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH

Union: Unite
Dates: 1-10 July
Location: Chelsea, SW7 3RP; Sutton, SM2 5GP

KIMPTON CLOCKTOWER HOTEL

Union: Unite
Dates: 4, 5, 11, 12 July
Location: Manchester, M60 7HA

INTERVIEW

‘Our media is shaped and distorted by capitalism’

Michael Lavalette spoke to **Des Freedman**, Professor of Media and Communications at Goldsmiths university, a long-term trade-union activist and author of the recently-published *Capitalism and the Media: Key Concepts for Understanding Communications and Technology (Polity)*



Could you tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I’m currently a Professor at Goldsmiths University, but I have a long history as a trade-union activist at ITN, in Further Education and at Goldsmiths, where I have had many union roles. I write on media issues in several places including Declassified UK, the London Review of Books blog, and Counterfire. I was one of the founding members of the Media Reform Coalition, which is a media activist group.

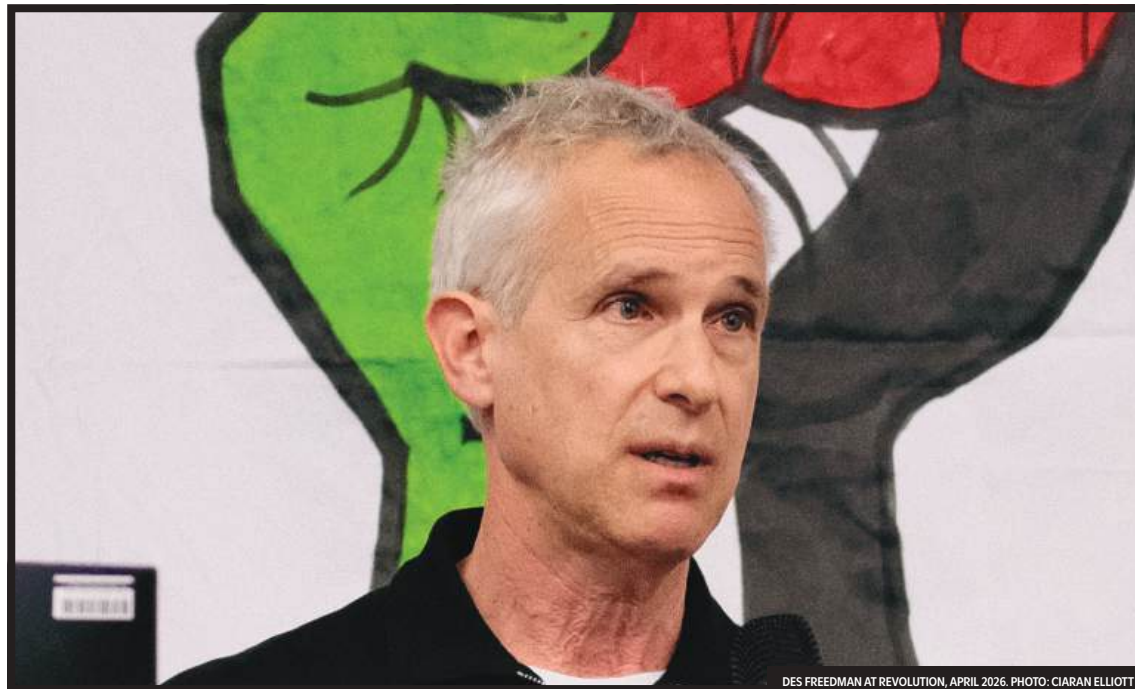
Why did you write *Capitalism and the Media*? What are its main arguments?

I’ve been interested in the media for a long time. Too often, people talk about this area of social life as if it were separate from the main drivers of contemporary capitalism. I found it really frustrating that, in all the discussions about the impact of the media, capitalism barely gets a mention.

In the book, I want to emphasise that all aspects of the media from newspapers to television, from podcasts to social-media platforms, are all shaped by contemporary capitalism. Capitalism shapes and distorts our media and communications landscapes.

So the book explores concepts including accumulation, exploitation, ideology, oppression, commodification and colonisation and discusses the impact of these processes on everything from our experiences online and the dynamics of algorithms to the power of oligarchs and the media’s role in the escalating environmental crisis.

The major media and



DES FREEDMAN AT REVOLUTION, APRIL 2026. PHOTO: CIARAN ELLIOTT

communications outlets are owned and controlled by the fabulously wealthy, or the companies of the fabulously wealthy, and of course sometimes by the state. They are tied to the interests of other sectors of capitalism (the influence of advertising companies is an obvious one).

They are shaped by, and are opinion formers for, the dominant ideas of the ruling class in society. Their starting points are shaped by acceptance of class inequality, of racism and sexism and all forms of oppression, of imperialism and colonialism, and of war – all of which they portray as ‘normal’ or as an inevitable ‘part of life’.

For example, we know that, in Britain today, there is support for Palestine, for an end to the genocide and to isolate the Israeli state, but where does this appear in the mainstream media?

It’s true that the new owner of the Daily Telegraph made it clear that their journalists had to reflect the pro-Israel position that he demanded in all its coverage. But more generally, the terrible coverage of the genocide isn’t just down to biased journalists, but to the legacy of colonialism,

Britain’s role, over many years, in policing the Middle East and to the emergence of capitalism as a global system of competition between companies (or what we might call ‘units of capital’) and between states. You need to have a bigger vision of the system that is generating the kind of journalism and the kind of media coverage that we get.

In the past, we seemed to have more radical journalists – has that space now gone?

We can all remember a Paul Foot or a John Pilger, but we shouldn’t exaggerate the numbers of radical media journalists in the past – the space was always quite small.

But I do think that space has narrowed even further.

It’s worth thinking about where the space for radical journalism in the mainstream comes from. People sometimes hark back to the journalism of the Vietnam War, but the space for this grew out of the long, sustained anti-war movement.

The media, in general terms, promote the ruling ideas, but this doesn’t mean that people just accept these ideas. There are

competing ideas, people’s experiences can challenge what we are being told, and through broader collective struggles some spaces can be opened up.

But again, to understand this, is to understand the conflicts, the contradictions and the contested nature of the modern capitalism.

You work in Higher Education and are an activist in your union. Can you tell us what is happening in the HE sector in Britain?

People sometimes have this idealised view of HE as being staffed by people who exist in an ‘ivory tower’ where they read, research, write books and do a little teaching. But it really isn’t like that!

Like the media, the HE sector exists within the world of capitalism. Universities are massive employers (and not just of academics, but administrators, cleaning and catering staff, maintenance workers, porters etc) and they have been subjected to massive processes of marketisation, privatisation, wage cuts and the undermining of working conditions.

The funding of HE in Britain

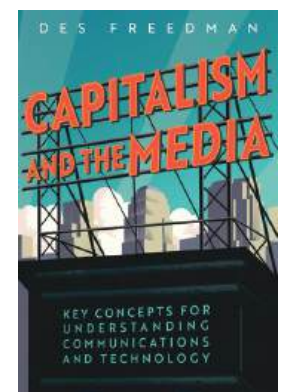
is almost completely dependent on huge student fees and, as a result, universities have been competing with each other to attract more and more students. This market-based competition is forcing a significant number of institutions to the point of bankruptcy. And so numerous universities are cutting courses and making staff redundant.

The system really is in an existential crisis.

What is needed to defend Higher Education and the University sector in the UK?

A number of universities (including my own) are on strike against cuts and job losses. We need to generalise and spread this. But we need to link academics with all the other groups of workers in the university, and with students who are being forced into a lifetime of debt by the costs of student fees. And we also need to make local communities aware that, if their local university goes bust, then the impact on the local community will be massive.

The HE sector in Britain is in a disastrous position due to the madness of the market. We need to stand together as workers, students and communities to defend the sector, defend jobs and working conditions and make sure that going to university is a right for all our children and not just a privilege enjoyed by the rich.



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What's up with the weather? HEAT SPIKES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND CAPITALISM

FEYZI ISMAIL

The weather used to be a casual topic of conversation in Britain. After this year, it is hard to see how it can ever be the same again. With schools and offices closed, trains cut, outdoor events cancelled, ambulances and hospitals overstretched, all of a sudden, this abstract future that is climate change has become a concrete reality.

Apart from a tiny minority who move between an air-conditioned house to an air-conditioned car to an air-conditioned office, if they go to an office at all, most people understand that we have arrived. We are living the changed climate that scientists and campaigners have been warning about for decades. And as in any crisis, the poorest suffer the most, and their health is at far greater risk in the heat.

What is surreal about the current heat spikes is not only the experience of sweltering heat so early in the summer and the shocking headlines – 191 million people across Europe faced temperatures of 35°C or more, thousands of excess deaths and temperatures between 9 and 13°C above previous averages – but that our government is doing nothing about it. Politicians not only seem uninterested but are actively exacerbating the crisis.

Two basic questions we need to ask are, who got us to the state we are in – this dangerous, life-threatening state – and what can we do about it?

The heat spikes we are experiencing are specifically a brief surge in temperature, to do with high pressure settling over the UK, masses of hot air being drawn north from southern Europe and North Africa, with modest cloud and wind, allowing the air to heat to high temperatures.

And while there are individual weather patterns associated with this or that spike, warmer average temperatures in general mean that when the

atmospheric conditions for a heat spike occur, they tend to produce higher peak temperatures than they would have a decade or two ago.

But the weather is also political. We have to look immediately to those in power, to those who can make decisions about whether our working conditions, our homes, transport and so on are going to be protected from the extreme heat, whether our healthcare system is able to cope with excess heating, and whether our energy sources are going to be made sustainable for the future.

It seems they have decided that climate change is not a priority. As the Defence Investment Plan was published, the prime minister informed us that capital projects, including roads and energy – home insulation and carbon-capture schemes in particular – are no longer going ahead as planned, because they are not immediately vital.

Most people consider security to consist of decent housing, healthcare, education, reliable transport, good jobs; leisure, even. Starmer's priority is to strengthen the military and to strengthen 'national security': a vague, jingoistic mission that relies on Nato's claims of a Russian attack by 2030. He has obviously not visited the crumbling schools and universities, the dilapidated hospitals; he clearly doesn't use public transport.

And the funds for this project seem limitless: today it's a further £15bn, which means almost £300bn over the next four years for defence; tomorrow these figures could rise further. Funds have been commandeered from every other government department, yet Starmer also claims that public investment will be maintained, creating 60,000 jobs.

New research shows, however, that at least 10,000 jobs will actually be lost. In part, this is due to the increasingly automated nature of high-end defence manufacturing and the fact that defence

supply chains are highly international.

But also because far more jobs are generated from big infrastructure projects, such as transport and roadworks, or health and education. Not to mention the fact that they are more productive, while defence is by definition destructive.

What the prioritisation of warfare over welfare reveals is that for the ruling class, nothing, not even the collapse of the Holocene, is more important than profits.

But there is another surreal aspect to the current situation. Just as our new reality is starting to sink in, and just when the climate crisis is really beginning to bite, the climate movement is nowhere to be seen. At peak temperatures, the movement essentially consists of small groups of activists putting up signs around tube stations reminding people that we are baking.

A serious response to an existential crisis has to consist of making concrete demands around ensuring all workplaces have sufficient cooling, breaks, and flexible hours, and that people can work from home. Immediate crisis measures must be deployed, as during the pandemic. But we also have to move beyond this.

We have to pressure government to abandon plans for a third runway at Heathrow, drilling in the North Sea and the development of Rosebank. The government must be exposed for listening to fossil-fuel industry lobbyists. And pushed to invest in habitable and ecologically friendly housing, schools, hospitals, libraries and other buildings, and sustainable, cheap public transport.

For this, we need to challenge the organisation of the capitalist economy, first and foremost by building a mass movement of working people that has the capacity to call out the government, work collectively and withdraw its labour. The movements against war and austerity are logical places to start.



TOMMY ROBINSON'S UNITE THE KINGDOM RALLY, SEPTEMBER 2025. PHOTO: STEVE EASON / CC BY-NC 2.0

THE FAR RIGHT IN BRITAIN ASCENDANT AND IN TROUBLE

SAM COLCLOUGH

The British far right is in a historically strong position, their presence felt both on the streets and in elections. While this century has been littered with threats of far-right growth, such as the rise of the British National Party (BNP) in the mid-2000s or the establishment of the English Defence League (EDL), the 2024 general election was a watershed moment.

Reform UK won five seats in the 2024 election, a negligible but significant number which masked the level of nationwide support the party enjoyed. The far-right party won over 14% of the national vote. This was the first time any of Nigel Farage's far-right parties had won a parliamentary electoral contest in any seat, and the first time Farage himself was elected to Westminster.

Since then, Reform has been riding relatively high in the opinion polls, typically polling between 25% and 35%. Meanwhile, the past three summers have seen pogroms against asylum seekers and Muslims, from attacks on mosques and Muslim-owned shops in 2024 to arson attempts at asylum hotels in 2025 to the recent actions in

Southampton, Belfast, and Edinburgh.

At the same time, the far right has been able to mobilise greater numbers than ever before in its national demonstrations. The Unite the Kingdom demo in 2025 saw over 100,000 participate in a rally led and organised by fascists.

Reform in a rut

But there is good news. Three recent by-elections have seen Reform lose to three different parties, proving the anti-Reform vote is strong and tactical. In Caerphilly, Reform lost to Plaid Cymru, in Gorton and Denton to the Greens, and to Labour in Makerfield.

Nigel Farage's £5 million 'gift' from a British crypto-billionaire has undoubtedly harmed the Farage brand by exposing him as in hock to the super rich and fundamentally sleazy.

And with MP Rupert Lowe responding to his expulsion from Reform over allegations of bullying by setting up a new even-further-to-the-right party in Restore Britain, the far-right vote is being split.

The far-right street movements

Over the past few years, we've seen a

newly determined army of cadres trained up to intensify and organise the far-right struggle on the streets. This was clearly on display in Southampton where the protests in response to Henry Nowak's murder – when he died in police custody – essentially constituted a national far-right mobilisation.

Of course, political activity never takes place on a blank canvas, but builds on pre-existing political currents. It's no coincidence the recent Belfast riots took place in loyalist communities where racist, right-wing ideas have always been deeply pervasive. However, the recent wave of far-right street activity exceeds anything Britain has seen in a number of decades.

The outnumbering and kettling of counter-protestors at the 2025 Unite the Kingdom demonstration in London was a low point for the left, and represented a profound reversal from the previous summer, when the far-right pogroms following the Southport killings were brought to an abrupt end by anti-fascist and anti-racist street activity.

But the tables were turned again in May, when Tommy Robinson and his gang of far-right thugs were hoping to take over

central London in direct opposition to the Palestine movement, and were outnumbered five to one.

This latest Unite the Kingdom demonstration was funded by a US crypto billionaire. Links to US capital combined with emerging organisational links between the British and the US far right, including the Christian right, resulted in the street movement embracing religious iconography in a way that fails to resonate with their natural British supporters.

Building the alternative

So, yes the far right is in the strongest position it's been in for decades, but at the same time, its fundamental flaws are increasingly visible.

It is patently untrue to suggest that the working class is racist; our class is made up of people of all races and religions and is no more homogeneously racist than it is homogeneously white. But two decades of falling living standards have undeniably encouraged people to turn to the right and blame the 'other'.

To counter this appeal, we need to build campaigns around the things that really matter to people: better wages and working

conditions; reliable housing, healthcare, and education; affordable access to essentials like fuel and water; and the end of the threat of conscription and war.

Central to this should be the Together Alliance which organised a national demonstration of over 500,000 people in London on 28 March this year, bringing together trade unions, community groups, and a number of socialist and progressive parties.

It was a wonderful celebration of diversity, sent a strong message to the far right, and gave opponents of racism and other oppressive ideologies confidence they're not alone.

But since the success of 28 March, the Together Alliance has been relatively quiet. With the far right simultaneously ascendant and vulnerable, now is the time make a noise. We need to deepen and widen the struggle and push the racists back to the margins.

The past few years have seen a number of promising initiatives quickly fall away: Enough is Enough, We Demand Change and Your Party. If we are to continue to beat back the far right, we can't repeat these mistakes.

THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS



An epidemic of violence against women and girls



by **Terina Hine**

The mass rape of Gisèle Pelicot in France shocked the world. For a decade, Pelicot's husband had drugged his wife and invited more than fifty men to rape her. It was a case so abhorrent, many of us found it hard to believe, it really was the stuff of nightmares.

And now we are told this was not an aberration. Rather, according to the UK National Crime Association, there is a 'truly international network' of organised, drug-facilitated sexual assault. Members of this ring of abuse have been identified in 'dozens of countries spanning every continent'.

In just a few days, hundreds of women survivors from 22 countries joined a support network set up by two British victims, Zoe Watts and Amanda Stanhope. Like Pelicot, both women had been repeatedly raped by their partners while unconscious. It is clear this behaviour is not isolated, but is organised and growing.

The World Cup, a fun sporting event for the majority, is a time when abuse of women is likely to increase. Domestic abuse rises by around 11% following national team matches and when England loses by 38%, according to research by the National Centre for Domestic Abuse. This is not a result of football itself, but the circumstances surrounding the games – alcohol, late nights, emotional highs and lows and many players are hardly role models.

This year's tournament has two players accused of rape: neither have been sanctioned. Thomas Partey, a former Arsenal

player, is scheduled to go on trial next year at Southwark Crown Court after being charged with seven counts of rape and one of sexual assault, (Partey has denied all the charges). Japan's Kaishu Sano, who has denied gang-raping a woman in a Tokyo hotel made a settlement with the victim. Japan's Football Association characterised the incident as a 'personal mistake'.

There is much speculation that the rise of the manosphere, accompanied by a societal shift that diminishes women's rights, is making abuse worse and more prevalent.

In the US, a Gallup poll in April found that the proportion of Americans who believe it's acceptable to have a baby outside marriage has fallen to 58%, the lowest in twelve years, and the number who believe birth control is acceptable has also fallen by 7% in just a year, to its lowest level since polling began in 2012.

At the same time, a third of young American men claim to admire the misogynist influencer Andrew Tate. Generally, social attitudes in the UK are more liberal, but the influence of the manosphere is prevalent, and in 2022, 71% of young British men said that the man in a family should be the main breadwinner.

British teens spend more than three and a half hours per day on their phones. The boorish, offensive 'older brother' has been commercialised and monetised. Louis Theroux's documentary on the manosphere revealed it to be a monetised scam, preying on the vulnerabilities of young men. Algorithms push the content. Women become the scapegoat. And in a time when jobs are scarce and the future looks bleak, an easy scapegoat is appealing.

On TV, depictions of violence against women rose 120% between 2004 and 2010, while depictions of violence against teenage girls rose by 400%. Naked, battered female corpses have remained commonplace on our screens since. A third of children report seeing content encouraging sexual violence towards women.

While most do not go on to commit violent offences, negative impacts on attitudes, behaviour and relationships are common. Normalising misogyny and sexual violence are dangerous with real-world impacts.

Misogynistic abuse of female teachers in schools is on the rise. Boys have been found making AI images of female staff, joking about raping girls, and laughing it off if challenged. Reports of female teachers being belittled and patronised, referred to as 'love' and told 'it must be that time of the month' are not uncommon.

Girls are expected to wear increasingly sexualised clothing, mocked whether they do or don't, padded bras are sold to pre-pubescent children. Sexualised advertising and images saturate the media. Children and young people are exposed to an unprecedented range of content, there is no watershed on the internet, and with this proliferation comes normalisation. Advertising has always relied on sex to sell, but increased exposure and the constant drip-drip of images to young audiences has a pervasive effect.

One in three women and girls experience physical or sexual violence during their lifetime. Last year, there was an estimated 2.3 million cases of domestic abuse, disproportionately affecting women. Reported incidents of rape rose by more than 500% over the last two decades. How much of this rise is due to increased reporting and the fact that it only became a criminal offence to rape within marriage in 1991, we can only speculate. However, we do know that many women and girls fail to report sexual abuse because of the reception they receive by the justice system. With the increasing use of sedative drugs, many victims do not know what happened to them.

Although the government has rightly named violence against women and girls a national emergency, action is still lagging and limited. This must change, and urgently.

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SOAS Uni, London, WC1H 0XG

12 - 1:15PM
**LESSONS FROM A REVOLUTION:
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR 90 YEARS ON**
WITH **LUCY NICHOLS**
2:15 - 3:30PM
MARXISM AND FEMINISM
WITH **LINDSEY GERMAN**
3:45 - 5PM
**PARTY AND CLASS: WHAT KIND
OF ORGANISATION DO WE NEED?**
WITH **SHABBIR LAKHA**
5 - 7 PM
SOCIAL

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

MORGAN DANIELS

1848

19th: First ever women's rights convention held at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York

1912

14th: Woody Guthrie born in Okemah, Oklahoma

1953

26th: Fidel Castro leads an attack on the Moncada Barracks, Santiago de Cuba, marking the beginning of the Cuban Revolution

1972

26th: Mass action involving 90,000 workers across the UK sees five dockers released from prison; the 'Pentonville Five' had been jailed for refusing to stop picketing a container depot

2018

13th: More than 250,000 people march through London in protest at Donald Trump's state visit to the UK

MARXISM 101



MEETING OF THE PETROGRAD SOVIET, JUNE 1917

REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA



by **Alex Snowden**

Russia's three interlinked revolutions – 1905, February 1917, October 1917 – transformed a huge country, inspiring hope for working-class and oppressed people globally. Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky and other Marxists of their generation analysed these momentous developments, as well as being protagonists in them. Trotsky later wrote an epic historical account of 1917, his *History of the Russian Revolution*.

The 1905 revolution gave birth to a new form of workers' power: the soviet. These democratic bodies built on the legacy of 1871's Paris Commune, which had shown how workers can collectively challenge the existing state apparatus. Karl Marx drew strategic conclusions from the Commune about the need for workers to overthrow the capitalist state and begin creating a new workers' state on a profoundly democratic basis.

In October 1905, the Petrograd Soviet met for the first time. Emerging from a huge strike wave in the rapidly industrialising city, it gathered together delegates elected by workers in the factories. It was a broad-based body of the working class and quickly gained tremendous authority among Petrograd's workers, helping to spread strikes and playing a coordinating role.

Soviets rapidly developed in other cities too. They became united fronts of the whole strike movement, a movement that was generalising and developing a revolutionary and political character. Russia's Marxist activists – notably Trotsky in Petrograd – played an active role in these workers' councils.

Russia's revolutionary movement continued to ebb and flow until 1907, but was ultimately defeated by the highly authoritarian Russian state. However, the soviets re-emerged in 1917.

Mass demonstrations and strikes in February 1917 created a crisis for the Tsarist regime. When mutinies occurred and troops refused to attack demonstrators, the old autocracy crumbled.

In this revolutionary crisis, two forms of democracy emerged. One was the Provisional Government, which maintained capitalist order on a more liberal and democratic basis than under the Tsar, while the other was a new generation of soviets. Councils of workers, peasants and soldiers represented the interests of countless millions of people. A state of 'dual power' developed, where both Provisional Government and the soviets had considerable authority.

Lenin and Trotsky recognised that the soviets could become something even more significant than democratic arenas and revolutionary organising centres. They could be the democratic, popular basis for a new social order. The task of the working class was to overthrow the capitalist class and its state machine (not merely the Tsarist regime, as had happened in February), with soviets becoming the foundations for a new workers' state.

Two other crucial points were closely

linked with this perspective. Firstly, an understanding that the revolution must transform economic conditions. It would have to be a social revolution, not merely a democratic revolution.

Hence the key Bolshevik slogan that became prominent from July 1917 onwards: 'Peace, Land and Bread'. It united soldiers, peasants and workers by expressing demands for an end to war, the redistribution of estates to the peasants, and relief from food shortages in the cities. The Provisional Government could not deliver such changes. Only social revolution could achieve these aims.

Secondly, an alliance of workers and peasants was required. Workers were a significant minority of Russia's population, but peasants were the great majority. Workers would be the leading force in the October revolution, as they were concentrated in large numbers in the factories (and urban neighbourhoods) and had the collective power to bring the system to a halt. However, in a vast country with huge numbers working in agriculture, the peasants had to be part of any revolutionary alliance.

After the European uprisings of

1848-49, Marx and Engels concluded that the rising capitalist class was too frightened of the working class to lead a revolution successfully. The working class would have to act independently and assert its own power. For workers, revolutionary aims could not be limited to establishing greater parliamentary democracy, but must extend into transforming economic and social relations.

Lenin and the Bolsheviks grasped the need for socialist revolution, led by the working class. In Russian conditions, though, they tended to assume that this would follow revolutions in Europe, where industry was more advanced and the working class more numerous.

Trotsky, following the 1905 revolution, was highly innovative in arguing that Russia's working class could in fact pursue socialist revolution regardless of events elsewhere. Lenin fully supported this position after February 1917.

Lenin and Trotsky recognised, however, that 'socialism in one country' would be unsustainable. After the conquest of power in October 1917, the spreading of revolution internationally was an urgent priority.

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

Counterfire is a revolutionary socialist organisation that has been central to the Palestine, anti-war and anti-austerity movements over the last two decades. We are committed to transforming our society from one based on the profit motive to one built on the needs of working people.

Real change can only be achieved by working-class people organising themselves to challenge their bosses and the government that stands behind the bosses. It depends on mass movements, popular protests, and on workers taking action. We believe that this kind of popular opposition requires a dynamic extra-parliamentary left, rooted in workplaces, communities, and colleges.

We also believe that all the struggles against oppression are connected. Racism, sexism, and every other form of oppression and discrimination are a product of a society based on the exploitation of working people by a tiny minority of capitalists. War, climate change, and inequality are all symptoms of a chaotic system based on market competition.

In the process of helping to build every kind of resistance to capitalism, we bring to bear the lessons of the past and a Marxist analysis of the present. Counterfire puts the case for a revolutionary socialism that ultimately seeks popular control of society and genuine liberation for all.

Our members are actively involved in the protest movements and workers' struggles around the country, organising and supporting protests and picket lines. We have Counterfire branches across the country helping to build solidarity with struggles locally and nationally, and popularise socialist ideas and analysis.

As well as putting on a wide range of debates, public meetings and other events around the country, we run one of the best-read websites on the left which has scores of contributors and tens of thousands of readers every month and we distribute thousands of copies of the left's first free paper – which has now expanded to 12 pages.

Join us and get involved today.

COUNTERFIRE & MOVEMENT EVENTS

Counterfire organises regular national and local public meetings discussing key topics of the moment. Our events are open to all, and listed below along with key movement dates for your diary. See counterfire.org/events for updates.

NATIONAL (ONLINE)

[Counterfire] Fight to save Higher Education
Tuesday 7 July, 6:30pm
Register on Zoom:
bit.ly/ucu7july

BRISTOL

[Counterfire] The Fraud: one year on, with Paul Holden
Wednesday 8 July, 6:30pm
Kit Form, 37 Jamaica Street, BS2 8JP

BATH

[Counterfire] Farage, Fascists and Pogroms: how do we stop the far right?
Thursday 9 July, 7pm
The Grapes, 14 Westgate Street, BA1 1BQ

DURHAM

[Durham Miners' Gala] The Big Meeting
Saturday 11 July
Parade through the city followed by speeches from 1pm at the Old Racecourse, DH1 3BN

MANCHESTER

[Counterfire] Counterfilms: We Are Many screening
Sunday 12 July, 3pm
Cultplex Cinema, 50 Red Bank, Cheetham Hill, M4 4HF

MANCHESTER

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Wednesday 15 July, 7pm
Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, M2 5NS

TOLPUDDLE

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival
Friday 17 - Sunday 19 July
Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, Dorchester Road, DT2 7EH

LONDON

National March for Palestine
Saturday 18 July, 12pm
Central London
Follow @stwuK for updates

LONDON

[Counterfire] Marxist Summer School
Sunday 19 July, 12pm
SOAS University, Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XG

DERBY

[Stop the War] What's behind the drive to war and what can we do about it?
Monday 20 July, 6pm
Dubrek Studios, 67 Bridge Street, DE1 3LB

NEWCASTLE

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Tuesday 21 July, 7pm
Tyneside Irish Centre, 43 Gallowgate, NE1 4SG

DEVON & CORNWALL (ONLINE)

[Counterfire] Storming the heavens: How the great revolutions happened
Tuesday 21 July, 7pm
Register on Zoom:
bit.ly/4eMnS6X

BRISTOL

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Wednesday 22 July, 6:30pm
Kit Form, 37 Jamaica Street, BS2 8JP

PRESTON

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Thursday 23 July, 6:30pm
Preston Town Hall, Lancaster Road, PR1 2RL

HARINGEY

[Counterfire] Has the ruling class lost the battle for ideas?
Tuesday 28 July, 6:30pm
All Good Bookshop, 35 Turnpike Lane, N8 0EP

IPSWICH

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Wednesday 29 July, 7pm
Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, IP1 3JH

DUNFERMLINE

[Counterfire] Can Burnham change Labour?
Thursday 30 July, 7pm
Twice Told Tales Bookshop, 7 High Street, KY12 7DL

CREWE

[Counterfire] Lessons from a Revolution: The Spanish Civil War 90 Years On
Thursday 30 July, 7pm
Hopes and Beams, Broad Street, CW1 3UD

BRISTOL

[Counterfire] Capitalism and the media - book launch
Wednesday 12 August, 6:30pm
Kit Form, 37 Jamaica Street, BS2 8JP

INTERNATIONAL

International Day of action for Palestine
Saturday 10 October

In the UK: National Demonstration in Central London assembling at 12pm. Follow@stwuK for more updates.

INTERNATIONAL

International action against militarism and conscription
Friday 20 - Sunday 22 November

In the UK: Student Strikes at schools and universities nationally on Friday 20th; and National Demonstration in Central London assembling at 12pm on Saturday 21st. Follow@stwuK for more updates.

LOCAL GROUPS

Counterfire has local branches across the country building the movements of resistance and popularising socialist ideas by organising public meetings, local activity and distributing our free newspaper.

To find out more about a branch near you or to help set one up where you are, please contact the national office.

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ART & CULTURE

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR: 90 YEARS ON

CHRIS BAMBERY

In 1983, one year into its existence, Channel 4 ran a six-part documentary series on the Spanish Civil War. It's available on YouTube and there are few better ways to mark the ninetieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War with a fascist uprising than to watch it.

The scripts were written by Neal Ascherson and James Cameron, both of the left. The narrator is Frank Findley, one of Britain's great actors.

The strength of the series is that it's based on interviews with surviving participants from across the political spectrum, including leading fascists. Before you object, that helps cast light on their contradictions, divisions and brutality.

The series starts with an explanation of the build-up to the civil war, starting with the fall of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic in 1931. The mass of Spain's landless agricultural labourers and the working class believed this would resolve the country's glaring inequalities, hopes which were to be cruelly dashed.

It also charts the responses of the ruling class and middle class as they reacted to the new republic by moving further and further rightwards. These two forces were to collide, creating the eventual military uprising in July 1936 and the subsequent civil war.

The series goes on to feature the working-class reaction to that uprising and their defeat of it in Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia and Bilbao. In Barcelona and Catalonia, this would lead to a revolution.

As the fascist rebels advanced on Madrid, they unleashed mass terror not just against the left and the working class but against all who they saw as being part of a 'Jewish-Bolshevik-Freemason' conspiracy against the nation.

The fourth episode looks at the emerging fascist dictatorship under Franco: it is chilling, including interviews with Ramón Serrano Suñer, Franco's brother-in-law and his foreign minister, who met Hitler, Himmler and Mussolini.

Episode 5 centres on the Republican government's destruction of the revolution in Catalonia and the brutal repression of the revolutionary POUM. It's done even-handedly but makes clear the key contradiction within the Republic.

On the one hand the Republic and its chief prop the Communist Party wanted to wage a conventional war with a conventional army. The problem was the

FRIDA KAHLO More than the image

CICI WASHBURN

All over London you will see big adverts for Tate Modern's 'Frida: The making of an icon'. With the strap line of 'Revolutionary artist and global icon.' The word revolutionary gave me some slight, yet misguided hope for this exhibition.

When you enter the exhibition, you immediately learn that only 33 of Frida Kahlo's artworks are on display and it's purely about her legacy and popularity. It feels like more of a shrine and collection of memorabilia than about the artist herself.

Frida Kahlo was a revolutionary, a socialist and intensely political. The exhibition vaguely hints at this but in a misleading way. She was a member of the Communist Party, although both her and her long-term partner Diego Rivera were influenced by Trotsky for a period.

Diego Rivera is referred to and her portraits of him are included, but her and his politics are excluded and the exhibition doesn't even mention Trotsky with whom she had an affair.

Her original diary, written 1944-54, is displayed but I don't think the curators have read it. It is part an autobiography, part a means for her to explore ideas for paintings. In it, she describes her struggle between health difficulties and political activism: 'I have to fight with all my strength to contribute the few positive things my health allows me to the revolution. The only true reason to live for.' You would



not know from this exhibition what Kahlo lived for.

This is an exhibition that views Frida Kahlo through her multiple 'identities', as though she wore one like an outfit and changed them.

The introduction to the exhibition says, 'The first section explores how Kahlo constructed her identity through her art and personal style.' As though she displayed and invented her disabilities, politics, gender and sexuality.

The exhibition talks about how she 'presented herself as a disabled person'. Despite showing artwork, medical instruments, powerful photos

and plaster casts that show Frida had an accident, it presents this as an identity and completely neglects that she faced illness her whole life, as she had polio as a child, and the impact her operations and illness had on her and informed her artwork.

In the room that links her to the surrealist movement, the Tate even says that Kahlo insisted she did not paint dreams but her own reality, yet the Tate seems intent on ignoring Frida's realities.

Explaining why Frida has become a 'world legend', radical art critic and writer John Berger wrote, 'in part due to

the fact that in the dark age which we are living under the new world order, the sharing of pain is one of the essential preconditions for a re-finding of dignity and hope'.

He goes on to suggest that some forms of sharing of pain can lead to resistance. There is nothing in this exhibition that makes any attempt to explore this idea or indeed any other ideas.

Despite all this, I would still very much recommend you visiting, because Frida Kahlo is an incredible artist and revolutionary.

The 33 Frida artworks are an unusual selection with some paintings I hadn't seen before. There are also many of her very interesting still-lives as well as works by her friends, contemporaries and those inspired by her, which makes for an exhibition with a variety of interpretations and mediums.

What makes this exhibition disappointing is that the remarkable, revolutionary life and work of this artist that is loved globally is presented through an extreme perspective of identity that is unique to the present time and obscures the meaning and rawness of her pain, her rage, her depth, her struggles, the world she lived in, and her politics which are what make Frida Kahlo extraordinary.

It is fascinating to see this stark example of how the prism of identity politics can rob us of meaning, life, context and struggle.

Frida: The Making of an Icon is on at the Tate Modern in London until January 2027

enemy had far greater strength in such a conflict, in large part because Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy were supplying them with arms and men.

In contrast, those like the POUM urged the waging of revolutionary war combining

conventional and guerilla war with political moves such as giving land to the peasantry.

The physical destruction of the revolution did not alter the outcome of the war. The Republicans launched successive assaults which were initially successful but

then found themselves outgunned and outnumbered resulting in defeat.

So, spare an hour to watch each episode. It's time well invested.

All episodes of *The Spanish Civil War* (1983) are available to watch on YouTube

INTERNATIONAL
I
ANTIZIONISM

ALL OUT FOR PALESTINE 10 OCTOBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST

SHABBIR LAKHA

The word ‘ceasefire’ has lost all meaning.

For Israel, ceasefire means continuing to carry out airstrikes on Palestinians in Gaza, killing over 1,000 since the ‘ceasefire’ began. It means carrying out drone strikes on civilians in Lebanon and blowing up whole towns and villages.

Last month, an independent UN inquiry found widespread evidence that Israeli forces have deliberately targeted children. Hundreds of Palestinian bodies have been found in mass graves across Gaza, many of them bound and blindfolded.

Israel now occupies 70% of Gaza and huge swathes of southern Lebanon, shoots anyone that comes close to the invisible border and has made clear it has no intention to withdraw. In the West Bank, settlements are being expanded at pace while Palestinian refugee camps are subject to regular invasions and Palestinian homes and villages victims of regular pogroms by military-backed violent settlers.

Israel would not be able to continue to mass murder and pillage without the military, financial and diplomatic support it receives from the US, UK and other Western powers.

It’s become clearer than ever that Western support for Israel is part of a wider drive to rearmament and more war.

Britain refused to stop supplying Israel with parts for F-35 fighter jets because it

would affect the supply chain for Nato. Last month, the military carried out war games under Charing Cross tube station where they boasted about using the same AI targeting system trained by Israel in Gaza and Lebanon.

In Germany, Volkswagen is turning one of its biggest manufacturing plants to production of missiles for Israel’s Iron Dome. This is one part of a massive overhaul of the whole economy towards mass rearmament, including the German government committing to borrowing €800bn for military spending and the reintroduction of conscription.

But while our leaders live in a looking-glass world where there is a ceasefire in Palestine and Lebanon, where Israel is merely ‘defending itself’ and elderly priests in the UK holding up placards are the terrorists, and where working-class people will happily accept widespread cuts to wages, welfare and public services to feed the insatiable war machine, it’s increasingly clear that the rest of us are not buying it.

Last month, three thousand trade unionists and activists from across Europe and beyond came together in London for the International Anti-War Conference. Trade-union leaders representing millions of workers and organisations with roots in communities across Britain and internationally were united in opposition to the war drive and the continuing genocide.

The conference agreed to make 10 October, marking three years of Israel’s

genocide, an international day of action for Palestine. In Britain, there will be a national demonstration in London on that day. It will be an opportunity to show our leaders that their best attempts to bury the issue, to criminalise our movement, and even to use fascists to drive us off the streets as they did on 16 May, have failed.

It will be an opportunity to show that all the marches, blockades of ports, general strikes, university occupations are not isolated actions but the component parts of an international, united mass movement that is capable and determined to defeat the warmongers.

It will also be followed by international actions supporting dockworkers who are planning to shut down ports across the continent to stop weapons getting to Israel, and on 20-22 November international student strikes and protests to oppose militarism and conscription.

Raise the motion to support the international days of action at your trade-union branch, local campaign group or with trade unionists and activists you’re in touch with. Let’s build these as massive festivals of resistance.

Scan the QR code to download the model motion or go to stopwar.org.uk/resources

