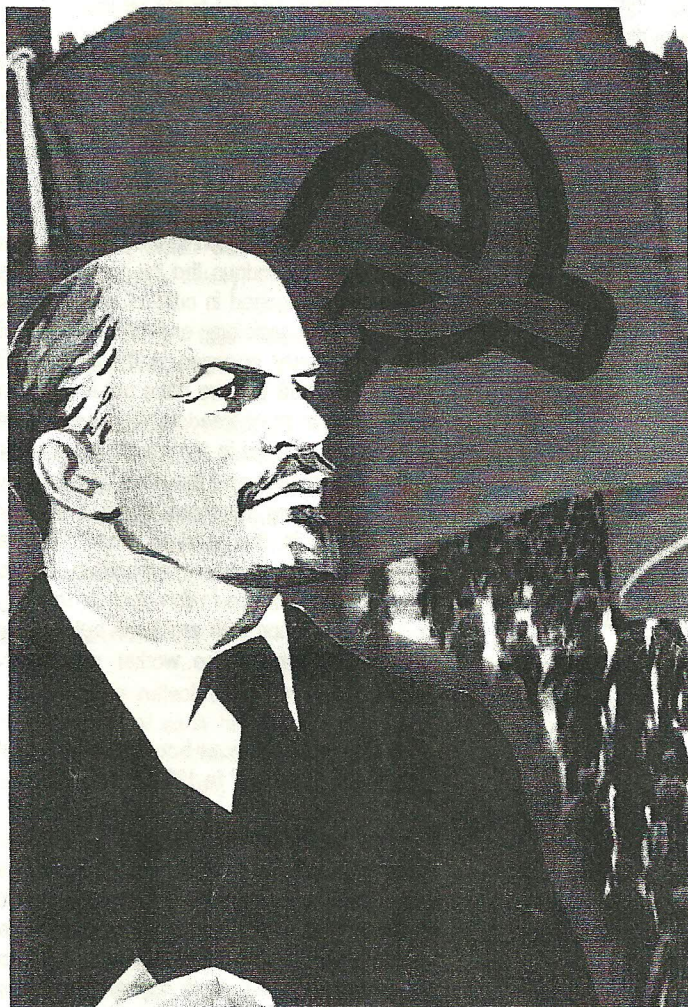


Forward

Youth Culture Democracy

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Winter 2007



**Peace
Equality
Democracy
Socialism**

This October 2007 marks the 90th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Fed up with being slaughtered in the imperialist 1st World War, fed up with the poverty and inequality all around and fed up with the anti-democratic system they were forced to live under the Russian masses, led by the Bolshevik Party, revolted against their rulers and began the momentous and historic process of building socialism. Today all around us we face a barbaric system of war and poverty. We must draw inspiration from those great October days and heed the lessons of history. It is the struggle of working people that will save this planet and bring about peace, equality and socialism for all.

**90th Anniversary of the Revolution
of the Russian People**

Celebrating the Russian Revolution

Interview with leading Marxist Philosopher Hans Holz by CYM General Secretary, October Dublin

For our readers who might not know you would you mind telling us a little about yourself?

After the 2nd world war I started with being a journalist because it was then absolutely impossible for a Marxist to make a career in the university. I first worked for our party newspapers until the prohibition of the party in 1956 and afterwards as a free lance journalist first in Germany and after 1960 in Switzerland.

When the student movement at the end of the 60's developed there came the demand for Marxism at the university's and with the support of the student movement and student unions in Germany I was nominated as a professor of philosophy at the University of Malburg and later on at the University of Honing. I stayed 8 years in Malburg and 18 in Honing years teaching philosophy but always engaged and involved with politics, naturally. After the re-foundation of the Communist Party in Western Germany I was engaged in politics there.

I would say the main point of my work is Marxist theory though in the last 15 years after the collapse of socialism in eastern Europe I have done much base work in the party with the committee for a new party program.

When did you first get involved in politics?

When I was 16, that was in 1943, we were already in the fascist era in Germany I formed a little resistance movement in my school. This was not for political reasons but for moral reasons, against the immorality of the fascist system. I was imprisoned in 1943 and it was there I met in the same cell a young communist worker. It was he who introduced me to Marxism, the elementary points of Marxism. That was my first commitment in politics.

How long did you spend in prison?

Until the end of the war, 2 years.

That must have been extremely hard for a 16 year old?

Yes, well it was a fascist era. Fascism is a very hard thing!

Immediately after the war I began to study the texts of the classic Marxism. Especially I was influenced by works like 'State and

Revolution' by Lenin and I would say also by the Hegel texts of Lenin, and also by the small works of Stalin in dialectical and historical Marxism. And naturally the text of 'State and Revolution' brought in the question of the October Revolution. I immediately understood this was the change of an era, change of the world going over to a new formation of society. Then followed an intense study of Marx and Lenin and the question of revolution at that time was being actualized by the Chinese Revolution in 1949 and the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Revolution accompanied my life!



Professor Hans Heinz Holz

What were the challenges that faced building socialism after the October Revolution?

The special situation of the Russian revolution was that it was not prepared by a long development of capitalism. The transition of feudalism to capitalism in the French Revolution was prepared by 200 years of early capitalism that was not the case in the Soviet Union. That means the revolution was not just a transition of power but it had to build that what capitalist society should have built up before. That was one of the situations. The second was, a great part of the population in Russia was still illiterate and you can't develop participatory democracy without an educated people. There was an immense and huge education program for the first decades of the Soviet Union.

This was the first step to build up a socialist democracy it was not possible to have this social democracy in the first stage and this brought forth special contradictions in the first phase, that socialism could not be built up by the broad masses but had to be built up by the minority of the working class which was a very small minority compared to the peasants and also by the party. The party had to be a

leading power in developing ideas but also administratively and that naturally had the consequence of developing a special form of party bureaucracy. This was not due to any bad will of persons but was from objective conditions.

What were the achievements of the early soviet state?

First the educational problems, second the social problems that meant a better provision of medical treatment, the overcoming of unemployment, there was no unemployment in the Soviet Union and I would stress the development of all cultural potentiality of man. I was in the soviet union in the 50's and 60's and it was stupendous the the worker in the plants were engaged in cultural activities like the fine arts, sociology and philosophy that they were really engaged in these subjects and all this stuff that we have not in western world. And a great freedom in conditions of doing what they did in the plants, the worker in the soviet union and the socialist countries had much more personal rights than any worker here in the western world. It is a legend that there was no freedom. There were other structures in the decision making and administration with problems but in daily life the freedom of the worker was much greater than here.

Why did you write your book 'Downfall and Future of Socialism' in 1992?

It appeared in 1991 in German and 1992 in English. It was a situation when all leftists were depressed by the collapse. I felt it necessary at that moment to say that the defeat did not mean that there was no future for socialism. I needed to say what was the theoretical background, what were the achievements and also the faults which were done so they wont be repeated next time.

You listed 3 main reasons for the collapse they were the immaturity of economic conditions to begin with, the subsequent development of the corrupt bureaucracy, and finally the impoverishment of theory. Can you comment on these 15 years later?

I would say for the checklist of reasons all three reasons are still very decisive but after 15 years of study I would add many more. I think even more than I stressed in the book the impoverishment of theory was one of the main points because it made an open gate for the infiltration of western ideas, the revisionism as we say. And with the 20th party congress of the Soviet Union, not so much

with the moralistic incrimination of Stalinism that was not the right historical view point, but the decisive thing was Khrushchev made as criteria for the development of the Soviet Union the living standards of the United States. The living standards of the United

States is the living standard of a capitalist country with imperialist expansion, and a living standard that only touches half of the population the other half live in poverty. This should not be an aim. It set a target for all those who were still coming out of the old society with its old ideas and America was a symbol for them. This was the decisive break in of a non-socialist idea. This expanded because the theory was so poor. And the theory began to become poor I would say after Stalin. During the period of Stalin's power there were a lot of intense theoretical discussion in the scientific magazines and it is not true that Stalin was the cause of the impoverishment of theory. It was after him.

Do you think this made way for Gorbachev's reforms?

It was I would say a straight consequential line from Khrushchev to Gorbachev. At any moment at this time it had been possible to counter act but it wasn't done.

You wrote, 'Whoever would learn from history must reflect upon it, what must we reflect upon now?

We need to reflect upon the contradictory development of each historical process and we need to reflect upon the specificity of each contradiction in itself, a contradiction of Russia. So today we need to reflect upon the specific contradiction in China and as our Cuban comrade said yesterday we need to reflect upon the contradiction which are in the development of Cuba. That is the point of reflection so we can learn from history what reasons are for the generation of these contradictions for the solutions of these so we can learn how not to do it again. I think we can realize that there are certain features and constant traits in history. If you read some of the ancient historians, Thucydides, you find very similar structures even in quite other social formations and if you are keeping in mind that history has only a certain range of possibilities because there are anthropological traits that are in mankind than you can learn from history. I think it is a strategy of late capitalism and even of the social democrats to destroy our relation with history, to be anti-historical or a-historical. We Marxists have the task to develop the historical understanding.

What do you draw inspiration from today?
I think for me socialism, or better to say

communism, is the logical as well as the historically only alternative to the capitalist system, for reasons of dialectical logic. I would say one state of time of society can only be overcome by its determinate negation.

It is not that we have capitalism or a utopian idea of society. We have to ask what are the main characteristics of capitalism? Private property in the production means and the accumulation of capital profit of surplus an alternative society must overcome these main traits of capitalism and therefore socialism is the logical result. The historical reason is within in the capitalist system as a necessary moment in the system developed the working class and the working class is the only class which is not part of the profits of the surplus in so far as the working class and the revolutionary movement of the working class is the historical reason why communism is the only alternative to capitalist system. But that does not mean that it comes of itself we can also have the negative chance of barbarism even of the end of humanity. Therefore we must develop the consciousness of the working class.

The working class now has other structures than of the 19th century class therefore we must analyze these latest developments not on the question of whether there is no working class but upon the changes within the working class and we must have ideas of how to mobilize the working class and develop political insight and class consciousness and therefore the impulse to change society. That is my hope and my life work. I am 60 years in the communist movement. It is my whole life to work in this direction to help prepare the minds of men. As Lenin always said, without consciousness we will have no revolutionary moment.

It is an important part of the movement to develop and spread the theory among the people. It is no only a question of academic development, but you must have that to have a good popularization. But the popularization is always necessary that is why I always write for newspapers and not only am writing academic pieces or books. In my academic work I have written 3 volumes on the history of dialectics since the renaissance and 3 volumes on aesthetic problems. That is the academic level upon which you elaborate ideas but then they must be brought and adopted by the masses. That is a large question for trade unions, the educational work of trade unions.

Would you comment on Venezuela today?

Venezuela is not yet socialism and if you look back to the Cuban revolution it was not socialism in the beginning but it developed out

of its internal reasons. I see one danger in the development of Venezuela there is much influence of utopian socialism, that Marxism for the 21st century, the books of Diderik I don't know if you have heard of him. Well he is an advisor of Chavez otherwise he would just be an intellectual. In this function he has a lot of 'queer' ideas influenced by American human rights ideas and if Chavez follows this counsel, he is not the only one, that might be a dubious thing. I spoke with Cuban comrades who were disquieted by the influence Diderik has in Latin America.

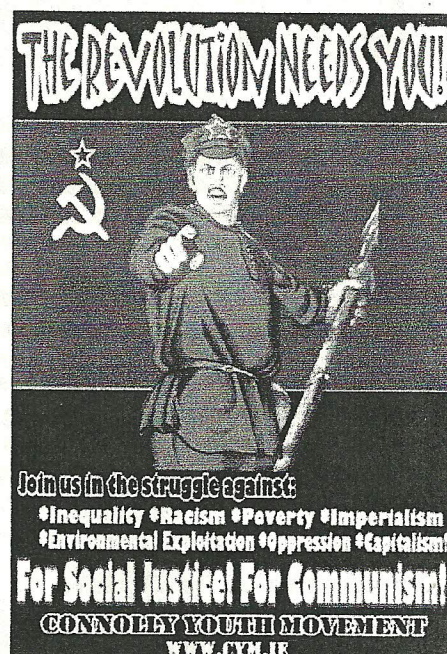
Who is this Diderik?

He is a German who taught at the University of Mexico. He visited Chavez in jail and had interviews with him and from then he has had contact with him and know he is traveling the world propagating his ideas.

In this respect it is absolutely necessary to elaborate theory and strengthen theoretical discourse.

What about the positives of Venezuela?

I think there are very many positives from the fact that this country resists American Imperialism and this has huge influence even in the bourgeois leftist circles, for example in Argentina, Brazil although Lula is a separate question, also in Ecuador in Bolivia. It is a positive influence and I hope that under the influence of the real situation in the country Chavez will develop more and more in the socialist direction and as I understand he has great respect for Fidel Castro and Fidel will be of great good I think. I admire Castro. He is one of the very great men of the last century.



Red Roots with Green Shoots

"The scientific debate is over, the evidence is incontrovertible" – Minister for the Environment John Gormley.

This might be the case but what is not over is the debate on how to change the environmental trend. It is the firm believe of the Connolly Youth Movement that the capitalist system cannot be reformed to live in harmony with people and the environment for it is the very nature of the system that has driven us to a world of poverty, inequality, war, famine, murder and rape, sickness, and closer and closer to environmental catastrophe.

It is simply not an option to ask, beg or cajole capitalism to respect the environment. The destruction of our planet in the pursuit of ever more difficult profits is a fact of capitalism. It is part of its make up of survival. Nor is it an option to beg the leading industrialists to change their ways, besides being a desperate and pathetic act of the powerless, if they change, someone will take their place in destroying the planet for short term profits. Structural changes that run counter and in opposition to capitalism, like regulations, planning, and cooperation not competition, need to be sought and enforced. If we are to, and we must, change our method of producing goods, services, the reproduction of our lives, the very basis of society needs to change and history will show us you do not do this by begging the powerful. To quote a great American folk singer Anne Feeney "We must use the power we have been sitting on for years", the power of struggle, of peoples struggle for liberation and freedom from poverty, inequality and economic slavery.

The scale of damage and the list of potential effects are endless and difficult to fully comprehend. This is not meant as scare mongering nor is it to blow the damage out of proportion. But it is critical we face the facts. The 'greenhouse effect' from gasses given off by fossil fuels combined with the destruction of carbon dioxide absorbing forests causes climate change, acid rain destroys lakes and vegetation, with it continued destruction of top soils and expansion of deserts, fouling of land and surface waters by industrial dumping and excessive use of chemicals, pollution of the oceans, the list really could go on. It is currently estimated that 50% of all living species will be killed off in this centuries. We may not mourn the extinction of a species of plankton we know little about but the consequences, hard to predict, could be critical to all sea life. Newton's 3rd law states 'for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction' it is the reaction and consequences of the actions of this system we live under that we must face and we must place the blame where it fairly lies. Establishment commentators are quick enough to point the finger at capitalism for any progressive or positive attributes they should use the same criteria when studying the negative. But why would they do this when there careers are built upon cozying up to the leading politicians and business men.



In Ireland we are seeing the visible consequences of climate of change and the latest Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, report has made this clear. 6 of the 10 hottest years over the last century have happened since the 1990's and Irelands temperature is rising at the twice the global rate according to the EPA report. Ireland's average annual temperature increased by 0.7 degrees between 1890 and 2004 with the highest rate of increase occurring since 1980. "With minimum temperatures increasing, the number of frost days has decreased significantly at all stations, especially in the midlands, while the length of the frost season also decreased," it said. The report warns that drier summers may in the future lead to water shortages, impacting upon reservoirs and soil management. The severity, frequency or duration of heat waves is also likely to increase in the future. This is cause for concern, the report said, because of the impact of heat waves on human health, agriculture and water supply. The long lasting impact upon our economy and health are hard to estimate but true to say society is beginning to suffer and will continue to do so at increasing rates towards total devastation unless we tackle global warming with fundamental changes.

On top of this report, and as Forward has reported from the beginning, the case of the Shell consortium, the media and the governments treatment of this islands resources is practical evidence of capitalisms rampant pursuit of profits disregarding the safety and well being of communities. The sale and management of the Corib gas resources has also blatantly shown the role the state plays in managing the affairs of the capitalist class, as Connolly put it. As if further evidence was needed of our neo-colonial status as thousands of imperialist troops pass through Shannon against the wishes of the people on this island.

The Green Party in this country is now part of the Establishment that destroys our environment. They are now part of the problem. There move to join the government is not a new idea and has roots in the global trend within the 'green movement'.

Over the years the movement has failed to study or tackle seriously economic and political questions. From the middle class 'intellectual' roots of the movement they had a fear of class struggle and class politics instead leading a movement concentrating on lifestyle choices and individual acts like recycling. While recycling household waist it a positive act and a good habit it is never going to reverse the environmental trend as it is common knowledge that business and industrial waist is the number one culprit. States have been quick to see the use of 'going green' and the electoral opportunities they present and so too have many academics and activists seen the attraction of a comfortable well paid career in the inner circles of power. This is not the environmental movement that will effect any meaningful positive change.

Once again this magazine will point out the obvious, we currently face a critical choice of paths to take one leading to barbarism and ruin the other to achievable democracy and equality with respect for the environment. This choice of barbarism or socialism is getting more critical day by day and in this year of the 90th anniversary of the Russian Revolution when the people of Russia chose socialism faced by the barbarism of imperialism all around we would do well to follow their example and learn from their struggles.

The Internationale was written by Eugene Pottier to celebrate the Paris Commune of March-May 1871: the first time workers took state power into their own hands. They established in the Commune a form of government more democratic than ever seen before. Representatives were mandated on policy questions by their electors, they were recallable at any time and were paid wages that reflected those of their constituents. The Commune was a working body, not a talk shop. The distinction between legislative and executive arms of government was abolished. It is now the international anthem of communists, socialist and even some social-democrats!

Arise, ye workers from your slumber,
Arise, ye prisoners of want.
For reason in revolt now thunders,
and at last ends the age of cant!
Away with all your superstitions,
Servile masses, arise, arise!
We'll change henceforth the old tradition,
And spurn the dust to win the prize!

So comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face.
The Internationale,
Unites the human race.
So comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face.
The Internationale,
Unites the human race.

No more deluded by reaction,
On tyrants only we'll make war!
The soldiers too will take strike action,
They'll break ranks and fight no more!
And if those cannibals keep trying,
To sacrifice us to their pride,
They soon shall hear the bullets flying,
We'll shoot the generals on our own side.

So comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face.
The Internationale,
Unites the human race.
So comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face.
The Internationale,
Unites the human race.

No saviour from on high delivers,
No faith have we in prince or peer.
Our own right hand the chains must shiver,
Chains of hatred, greed and fear.
E'er the thieves will out with their booty,
And to all give a happier lot.
Each at his forge must do their duty,
And we'll strike the iron while it's hot.



Barricades being erected in the Paris Commune

Éirigí, a lucht ocras, as bhur gcodladh,
Éirigí, a dhaoir na gainne.
Mar anois tá an réabhlóid ag tonnadh,
Is tá deireadh le ré na cainte.
Amach le bhur bpsireoga uile,
A sclabhaithe, Éirigí, Éirigí.
Athraíom anois na seandrochidí,
's teanam I mbaol ar thóir na bua.

Anois a chairde, tagaigí uile
Tá an cogadh deiridh faoi réir.
Aontaíonn an t-Idirnáisiúnta
An cine daonn go léir.
Anois a chairde, tagaigí uile
Tá an cogadh deiridh faoi réir.
Aontaíonn an t-Idirnáisiúnta
An cine daonn go léir.
Níl trust ar bith again I dtaoisigh,
Na súil le slánaitheoir ó neamh.
's muid ag braith ar ár lámha féin,
Chun malairt saoil a bhaint amach.
Os muid a chruthaíos gack saibhreas,
Os muid a throideas gach cath.
Aontaithe le cheile gan aon aigheas,
Is againn a bheas an rath.

Anois a chairde, tagaigí uile
Tá an cogadh deiridh faoi réir.
Aontaíonn an t-Idirnáisiúnta
An cine daonn go léir.
Anois a chairde, tagaigí uile
Tá an cogadh deiridh faoi réir.
Aontaíonn an t-Idirnáisiúnta
An cine daonn go léir.

Since the "War on Terrorism" began Punks like yourself, Jello Biafra, DOA, Henry Rollins and newer acts like Left Over Crack, Dropkick Murphys and Anti Flag have been out really vocal and have had something more smarter to say than "Peace Man!". Does it surprise you that Punk still has the power to move people?

Of course not. Punk was and is about standing up for social justice – all over the world. It was never just a noise, despite what some brain dead glueheads would have you believe. When we said 'smash the system' in 1977 some people misheard it and thought we said 'smash the cistern', and they started giving work to plumbers all over the world. But it was never like that, and it isn't now. The best punk bands, from the mighty Clash back then to the likes of Anti Flag and the excellent King Blues today, know that there is far more to punk rock than just making a noise. And there is no 'still' - punk is an attitude, it transcends generations, fashion fads, etc...

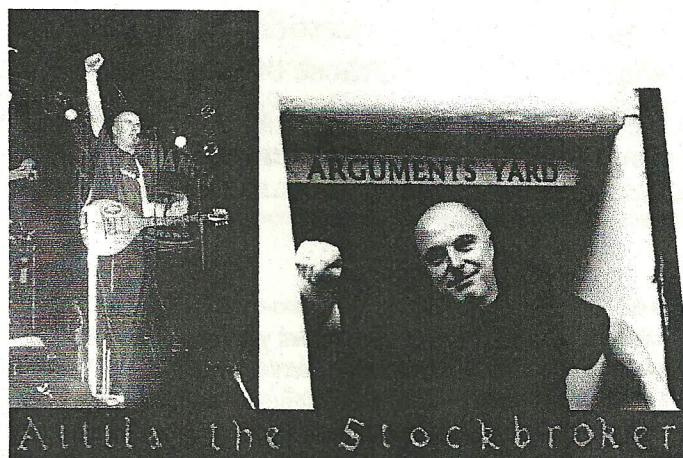
A Skinhead friend of mine told me that he never knew or thought about the crisis in the Middle East before he heard your song "Blood for Oil". Do you think punk has the power to raise awareness and get people active in politics?

Any form of music – indeed any form of art – has the power and potential to do that. It depends on how it's used. Because the starting point of punk is anti-establishment and pro-rebellion ('patriotic' bands and right wing bands are not punk bands: regardless of what they sound like, they are all country and western as far as I'm concerned) then of course it has more potential than most. But the likes of Bertolt Brecht, Hanns Eisler, Jacques Brel, David Rovics and The Wolfe Tones – to name a few - prove that you don't HAVE to play punk rock to make good rebel music! (NB: if you haven't heard of some of these, Google them. It'll be worth your while...!)

Some of your Music is influenced by English Medieval Folk music, how did your interest in folk music come about and do you think it naturally works well with Punk Rock?

I have always loved early music. The simple chord structures of ancient music and those of punk work very well together. I have tried to use medieval music in my

band in the same way that The Pogues, Neck and Flogging Molly use Irish music. I think it works well...



There are lots of punk acts who are somewhat political but is it fair to say that your one of a small handful that really goes out of your way to say "I'm red until I'm dead". You have lyrics that refer to Lech Walensa as a fool and your not shy about your feelings about that loss of Socialism in eastern Europe. Did you ever worry you might piss off some of your own audience and moreover make you unpopular with more wishy washy political punks?

It has certainly been the case that some people have been a bit phased by my defense of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe (I spent quite a lot of time in the GDR before the Wall came down) but I am always open about my feelings. I certainly didn't support everything that went on there, but I think everything that happened since 1989 (massive gulf between rich and poor, Mafia, prostitution, people trafficking, the grabbing of the Soviet people's oil money by Abramovich to 'buy' Chelsea, to name just a few of the 'benefits' which capitalism has brought) proves that simply handing over everything to the West was not the way forward!!! Gorbachev started out with good ideas to make the CPSU more open and democratic (perestroika and glasnost) but ended up as, quite simply, a traitor to everything he had grown up believing in, and a Judas to the Russian people, who are now reaping the dubious 'benefits' of his actions.

And if anyone out there is shocked by what I have to say: hear this. Life expectancy in Russia is now TEN YEARS LOWER than it was in the Soviet Union. For all the liberals whinging about 'human rights' under Communism, what more basic right is there than the right to LIFE?

Atilla interview cont....

Is there anything happening in the world that really pissing you off right now that you would like more attention to?

The plight of ordinary people in the former Socialist countries and the fact that so many of them would be overjoyed to have the old order back! (which of course will never be reported in the western media).

What do you make of 'Sir Bob' and 'Sir Bono' and there quest to save the world?

Geddo was horrible to me on a TV programme in Australia once and I nearly hit him (I should have done) For whatever good they have done, great, but I don't think charity is the way forward. We should be OVERTHROWING the bourgeoisie not begging them for money!

Forward, the CYM magazine, has a regular Football section which deals with the sport, the role of capitalism in it and the fight back by the fans. Your a Brighton and Hove Albion fan and you have been vocal about your love for the game and the plight of Brighton being homeless for along time. Are you worried that Football is lost to Capital forever or do you see more hope?

We JUST got a 'yes' to our plans for a new stadium – after SEVEN YEARS. I think football at the top level now is a rich men's toy and the soul has completely gone out of it. Rich bastards taking over our clubs or, as in Brighton's case, seeking to destroy them and sell of the ground at a huge profit for 'redevelopment'

You featured on the last 'Runnin Riot' LP, Built in Belfast on the track "Armchair Anarchist", How did that come about and do you like working with other artists?

I am happy to work with anyone who shares my ideals. I am especially happy to come to Ulster (as I have done since the early 80s when, to be honest, most British acts were a bit scared to) and spread my ideas across the stupid sectarian divide. I did a live spoken word CD in Belfast (especially ironic that you never heard of that one!) I guess I have done 30 or so gigs in Ireland over the years, nearly all in the North. Runnin' Riot epitomise everything that is positive and anti sectarian in the scene.

Whats a typical audience for at your gigs if there is such anything? Mainly Punks and Politicos or wider than that?

I literally have no typical audience. I do every conceivable type of gigs from Oxford University to hardcore punk shows and my audience age range is from about 12 to 80!

That's the great thing about doing poetry/acoustic stuff: the 'noise barriers' aren't there.

Of course, I have my band Barnstormer too – and with the band we get a far more typical punk crowd, though not exclusively.

Whats in the pipe line for Attila? Can we expect an new album out anytime soon any plans to play in Ireland perhaps?

New CD 'Live in Norway' next month. Definite plans to come back to Ireland and hopefully Dublin in the near future!

<http://www.attilastockbroker.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/attilastockbroker>

Forward

Forward is the quarterly magazine of the Connolly Youth Movement. You can pick it up from Connolly Bookshop or from any of our members or stalls. Also if you wish a copy to be posted to you please contact connollyyouth@hotmail.com.

The CYM welcomes contributions from members and non-members. To submit an article or to discuss writing for *Forward* just email CYM-forward@hotmail.com.

- For the latest upcoming events
- For education classes and courses
- For links to International comrades
- To join the struggle

www.cym.ie

The Irish Connection: From Kabul to Dublin Heroin production in Afghanistan

"The drugs problem is a symptom of a deeper disease..." stated the British Ambassador to Afghanistan recently and he could not be more correct. The drugs problem, whether it is drug production in the east or drug consumption in the west, is a symptom of a deeper disease, a disease that has inflicted untold tragedies upon entire nations and peoples, a disease that has caused misery, death and famine for centuries, the disease of imperialism. The British Ambassador, however, is incorrect when he continued "...and as we tackle instability, tackle disorder and the insurgency, we are facing some very big challenges on all those fronts, but as we tackle them we will see poppy production go down."

The root of drug production in Afghanistan, as in Columbia and elsewhere, is the global economic and political system that forces farmers, of all sizes, to grow drugs ahead of food or materials. Drug production for consumption in the west is profitable. When you add to this the political dimension of war lords, criminal gangs and CIA led sponsorship you get instead of what we call 'banana republics' 'heroin dictatorship'. Drugs, as always then becomes an issue of control and usury. No war on terror or counter insurgency measures can change this only a direct assault on the economic environment that creates this situation can bring about change. And this is a matter of urgency as will be seen.

But who will conduct this assault? Not the current elite for they profit off drug production directly and also indirectly through the degradation of working class communities and cultures. Let us not forget it was the CIA that introduced heroin to black communities in the US to destroy the militant movements. It is also this system based upon inequality that causes such mass alienation and depression among young people that drugs becomes an attractive option to escape reality for just a short while. Drugs is the easy escape however it is nothing even close to freedom as it further and deeper enslaves you in the system of misery.



A recent UN report cited Afghanistan as the number one opium producing country in the world, producing a whopping 93% of the world's opiates. 2006 and so far in 2007 has seen record harvests for Afghanistan with 193,000 hectares of opium poppies being grown. These undisputable facts show up the farce that is the government in Kabul and condemn the US led invasion and occupation as another humanitarian disaster. Imperialism, however, is happy for the US got what they wanted, linking oil in the Caspian Sea to gas reserves in Asia. From the elites point of view Afghanistan is a success!

Some Irish people may not care about the US led 'war on terror', may not oppose the use of Shannon or Shell's control of energy resources off Mayo but if you care about heroin destroying communities, families and lives and are serious about tackling this epidemic you must listen and study seriously the system that forces this crisis upon us. In Dublin alone there are 13,000 heroin addicts and the waiting list for methadone clinics is measured in years not weeks like most countries. Over 90% of the heroin in Ireland is from Afghanistan. The ease of production and distribution is enabled by the US and their allies there.

Governments create and capitalize off decreasing working class consciousness and increasing disillusionment with politics. Drugs and suicide are just two of the most serious symptoms of the alienation capitalism creates. Successive Irish Governments have condemned many young people to the horrors of heroin addiction and condemned many communities to the terrors of drug gangs and drug feuds. It is time we connected all the dots and throw out this system that is rotten to the core. This is a matter of urgency, a matter of life or death.

3rd World Health service 3rd rate State!

It is by now common knowledge and widely accepted that we have a third world health service. One that puts the needs, wishes and desires of the capitalist class ahead of and sacrificing the provision of a quality health service that meets patients needs. Every move and reform we have seen recently seems to have the purpose of centralising the service to cost cut rather than improve provision - that is to save money at our expense. Cancer patients having to travel miles for treatment, patients getting sicker in hospitals rather than being cured, women about to go into labour being put up in nearby hotels because there is no room for them, waiting lists and cues out of this world.

The policies of this government, of this state, and of the imperialist European Union have been to revitalise capitalism by finding new areas of profit and so we have steadily witnessed the privatisation of vital infrastructure in transport, telecommunications and now health and education. It seems the state would rather go bankrupt itself than withhold capital from the bosses.

The European Union is driving the creation of a two-tier apartheid health service, where the family fortune you are born into determines the level of care, the chance of survival, you will receive. Are we to believe that the wealthy are better than us, are more human than us, are deserving of a better service than us? What is worst of all is the EU carries out these devastating policies in the name of democracy. The opening up of services for the exploitation and creation of capital this is EU democracy. The right of capital, non-human, takes precedence over the right of people, human. A strange democracy they promote.

A recent 'consumer health care survey' (even note patients are viewed as consumers not as humans who are in need and have a basic right to treatment) noted Ireland has some of the worst waiting times across Europe. Ireland was considered poor in terms of direct access to specialists without referrals, getting major non-acute operations in less than 90 days and access to cancer therapy within 21 days. It received only an intermediary grade in terms of the ability to see a family doctor on the same day. Ireland was deemed poor in terms of its MRSA infection rate and only intermediary when it comes to cancer survival rates and heart disease mortality.

Notably it was the Nordic countries, with a traditional social democratic attitude (for the time being) to health care and its citizens, who fared by far the best across Europe.

WAR IN IRAQ

The war in Iraq is Imperialism on display. Like previous imperialist wars, working people from both sides slaughter each other to walk away with nothing. The wealthy never fight these wars yet they are the ones who steal any benefits. The working class in Iraq and the US are the victims of this atrocious war.

Email from US troop to Michael Moore

(taken from *Will they ever trust us again: Letters from the war zone*)

I just returned from Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division after being there for 11 months.

I was the lowest common denominator in 'President' Bush's foreign policy. I am just a working-class man who joined the army to pay off my student loans and all of a sudden 9/11 happens, and the next thing you know I wake up one day in Afghanistan. One year later I am in Iraq and cannot figure out what the fuck we are doing there.

It amazes me how blind people are, especially my fellow soldiers, who suffer at the hands of Bush but still continue to vote for him. Ah, the power of the media and the fear that they instill. I am more afraid of my government than I am of the middle east and their leaders.

You do not have to wear a uniform to serve your country.

Edward Dalton, March 2004

Case Study of Private Armies in Iraq

US security firm Blackwater

A US congressional report released last week said Blackwater had been involved in at least 195 shooting incidents in Iraq since 2005. In 84% of those cases, it said, Blackwater personnel were the first to open fire.

An official Iraqi investigation stated that guards from Blackwater had not been shot at before they opened fire last month on Iraqi civilians in Baghdad, killing 17 people.

An Iraqi government spokesman said yesterday that the investigation had found "no evidence that the Blackwater convoy came under fire directly or indirectly. It was not hit even by a stone," he said.

A US embassy spokeswoman in Baghdad refused to say whether Washington would consider handing over any Blackwater staff for prosecution.

US War Statistics

- 162,000 US troops in Iraq
- 3,680 troops killed
- 28,093 troops wounded
- 81,399 civilian casualties
- Over 40,000 troops have deserted since 2000

I needed health care, money to go to college, and I needed to take care of my daughter. The military was the only way I could do it.

Darrell Anderson

1st Armored Division, 2-3 Field Artillery

The US created Coalition of the Willing (what's left of it anyway!)

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

Comrades, today I would like to talk on the fundamental tasks of the Young Communist League and, in this connection, on what the youth organisations in a socialist republic should be like in general.

It is all the more necessary to dwell on this question because in a certain sense it may be said that it is the youth that will be faced with the actual task of creating a communist society. For it is clear that the generation of working people brought up in capitalist society can, at best, accomplish the task of destroying the foundations of the old, the capitalist way of life, which was built on exploitation. At best it will be able to accomplish the tasks of creating a social system that will help the proletariat and the working classes retain power and lay a firm foundation, which can be built on only by a generation that is starting to work under the new conditions, in a situation in which relations based on the exploitation of man by man no longer exist.

And so, in dealing from this angle with the tasks confronting the youth, I must say that the tasks of the youth in general, and of the Young Communist Leagues and all other organisations in particular, might be summed up in a single word: learn.

The teaching, training and education of the youth must proceed from the material that has been left to us by the old society. We can build communism only on the basis of the totality of knowledge, organisations and institutions, only by using the stock of human forces and means that have been left to us by the old society.

I must say that the first and most natural reply would seem to be that the Youth League, and the youth in general, who want to advance to communism, should learn communism. Naturally, the first thought that enters one's mind is that learning communism means assimilating the sum of knowledge that is contained in communist manuals, pamphlets and books. But such a definition of the study of communism would be too crude and inadequate. If the study of communism consisted solely in assimilating what is contained in communist books and pamphlets, we might all too easily obtain communist text-jugglers or braggarts, and this would very often do us harm, because such people, after learning by rote what is set forth in communist books and pamphlets, would prove incapable of combining the various branches of knowledge, and would be unable to act in the way communism really demands.

One of the greatest evils and misfortunes left to us by the old, capitalist society is the complete rift between books and practical life; we have had books explaining everything in the best possible manner, yet in most cases these books contained the most pernicious and hypocritical lies, a false description of capitalist society.

It would be still more dangerous to set about assimilating only communist slogans. Had we not realised this danger in time, and had we not directed all our efforts to averting this danger, the half million or million young men and women who would have called themselves Communists after studying communism in this way would only greatly prejudice the cause of communism.

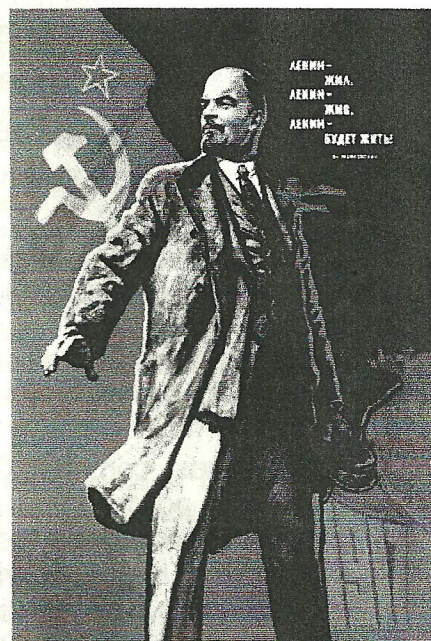
You have read and heard that communist theory – the science of communism created in the main by Marx, this doctrine of Marxism – has ceased to be the work of a single socialist of the nineteenth century, even though he was a genius, and that it has become the doctrine of millions and tens of millions of proletarians all over the world, who are applying it in their struggle against capitalism. If you were to ask why the teachings of Marx have been able to win the hearts and minds of millions and tens of millions of the most revolutionary class, you would receive only one answer: it was because Marx based his work on the firm foundation of the human knowledge acquired under capitalism. After making a study of the laws governing the development of human society, Marx realised the inevitability of capitalism developing towards communism.

You should not merely assimilate this knowledge, but assimilate it critically, so as not to cram your mind with useless lumber, but enrich it with all those facts that are indispensable to the well-educated man of today.

Your duty does not lie only in assembling your forces so as to uphold the workers' and peasants' government against an invasion instigated by the capitalists. Of course, you must do that, that is something you clearly realise, and is distinctly seen by the Communist. However, that is not enough. You have to build up a communist society.

You must train yourselves to be Communists. It is the task of the Youth League to organize its practical activities in such a way that, by learning, organising, uniting and fighting, its members shall train both themselves and all those who look to it for leadership; it should

train Communists. The entire purpose of training, educating and teaching the youth of today should be to imbue them with communist ethics.



Comrade Lenin 1870 – 1924

It was not difficult to drive out the tsar – that required only a few days. It was not very difficult to drive out the landowners – that was done in a few months. Nor was it very difficult to drive out the capitalists. But it is incomparably more difficult to abolish classes; we still have the division into workers and peasants.

What is required is that the proletariat re-educate a section of the peasantry; it must win over the working peasants in order to crush the resistance of those peasants who are rich and are profiting from the poverty and want of the rest. Hence the task of the proletarian struggle is not quite completed after we have overthrown the tsar and driven out the landowners and capitalists; to accomplish that is the task of the system we call the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The class struggle is continuing; it has merely changed its forms. It is the class struggle of the proletariat to prevent the return of the old exploiters, to unite in a single union the scattered masses of unenlightened peasants. The class struggle is continuing and it is our task to subordinate all interests to that struggle.

Football, Capitalism and the Fight Back by Fans!!

It has been called soccer and footy; some call it the foreign game; others the garrison game more call it the beautiful game. For most of us it's just plain old football and football has been at the centre of cultural life for the working class ever since the modern game first emerged from the grotty industrial cities of Victorian England. Without the victory of the labour movement for the five-day week in Britain, workers would simply have had no time for football. And without workers we would have no players and no fans.

Yet there lies the paradox. Like everything else in a capitalist society the bosses own football created by workers. As soon as capitalists realised that they could charge people into watch football matches they bought themselves into the positions of club owners turning a cultural item that rightfully belongs to the people into a 'profitable industry' for the bosses.

Today after well over a century of professional football we can clearly see the price fans have paid for the role capitalism has played in the game. Corruption is wide spread and the very credulity of the game now hangs in the balance.

Football Clubs like Manchester United and Bayern Munich have become giant faceless corporate brand names with the ubiquity of McDonalds and Coca-Cola. Although capitalists have always been there in the background of the modern game they are now it the process of ruining it as they pretend to manage it.

In the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster back in 1989, the "Taylor Report" on football supporter safety, recommended all-seated facilities. Club owners then seized on this opportunity to justify jacking up prices. Prices went from under 10s to 25s and beyond. The top clubs of the English 1st Division rebelled because some of the money they generated was being used to develop the game in the lower divisions. These clubs went on to form the English Premiership.

English fans would suffer further at the hand of the corporate vultures such as media mogul Rupert Murdoch who's Sky Sports Channel bought up the 'rights' to show weekday and Sunday matches. Today Sky Sports has almost a monopoly on the 'rights' to show English and Scottish Football. Ordinary fans have all but lost the chance to see their own game on terrestrial television.

To add insult to injury football fans now have the gloomy prospect of having their beloved local club bought over by a foreign billionaire with little connection to the club or sport. Some might think this is a good thing. In practice however the reality is a little different. Since the Russian Mafia Oligarch Roman Abramovich took over at Chelsea he has invested an estimated \$440 million. Yet ticket prices have risen over 70%. It is also widely believed that Abramovich's spending spree has over heated the players transfer market.



Fearing the worst, rebel Manchester United supporters have decided to go it alone as American billionaire Martin Glazer, the owner of the New York Yankees took over at the Club. The renegade fans, fed up with years of being ripped off by their own club with ticket prices, needless replica jersey changes and general poor treatment of the fans, have decided to form their own breakaway club, FC United of Manchester. The new club now plays in the semi-professional Northern Premiership and has won promotion for two consecutive years since its foundation three years ago.

This is following a pattern of rebellion amongst fans. The owners of Wimbledon FC had threatened to move out of South London after years of having to rent Selhurst Park from rivals Crystal Palace. The clubs onetime millionaire chairman Sam Hammam had made plans to move Wimbledon FC to Dublin. This prompted fierce opposition from both Wimbledon FC fans and National League fans who feared if English Premiership games were played in Dublin this would undermine the domestic game. Sam Hammam left Wimbledon for Cardiff City and new club owners moved to Milton Keynes renaming the club MK Dons FC. Wimbledon fans have rejected the move and have formed their own AFC Wimbledon and are now playing Football in regional semi-professional Football.

Red Bull; the "energy drinks" firm bought out Austria Salzburg and changed the clubs name to Red Bull Salzburg along with the club colours from their traditional violet and white to red. However a large section of rebel fans have joined their fellow renegades in Manchester and Wimbledon in forming their own club retaining the original name and colours.

Domestic football in Ireland may be far removed from the glamour but money talks here just the same. Two of Dublin's largest football clubs Shamrock Rovers and Shelbourne FC have faced major financial troubles in the last few years. Despite a massive protest by KRAM (Keep Rovers at Milltown) Shamrock Rovers have been without a permanent home since 1989 when the clubs owners, the Kilcoyne family sold their ground at Glenmalure Park, Milltown. The club was intended to move to Tolka Park but so far away from the traditional home on the south side of the city the move proved to be a disaster. The club have been moving from stadium to stadium ever since.

As the game has suffered at the hands of capitalists it has created vibrant fighting fans. Bray Wanderers Supporters Club alongside the people of Bray fought and won the battle to keep their stadium, the Carlisle Ground in the town centre. Bray Urban District Council wanted to sell off the property to developers who wanted to build a Supermarket and car park on the site. However after a lengthy battle with the fans and the towns people the Wanderers were granted a 100 year lease on the site.

Donegal club, Finn Harps FC, has for many years now been run as a Co-operative by the fans and local business people and the club remains hugely popular in the Northwest.

Supporters clubs seeing the danger of corporate interests in the game have taken on new responsibilities. In Germany and Italy fan clubs have kept ticket prices low and defended the right to have standing room terraces despite pressure from both the European Union and the club owners to enforce all-seated stadiums.

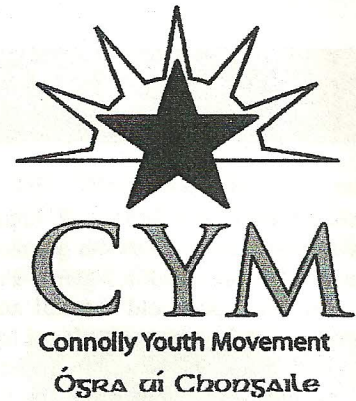
Capitalism has given Football fans a number of stark choices for the future. Will football be simply another product to be bought and sold that only the wealthy can afford to enjoy? Or will fans fight so football can be something that unites people, builds community spirit, and enriches the lives of working people?

Connolly Youth Movement

Youth – Culture – Democracy

Ógra Uí Chongaile

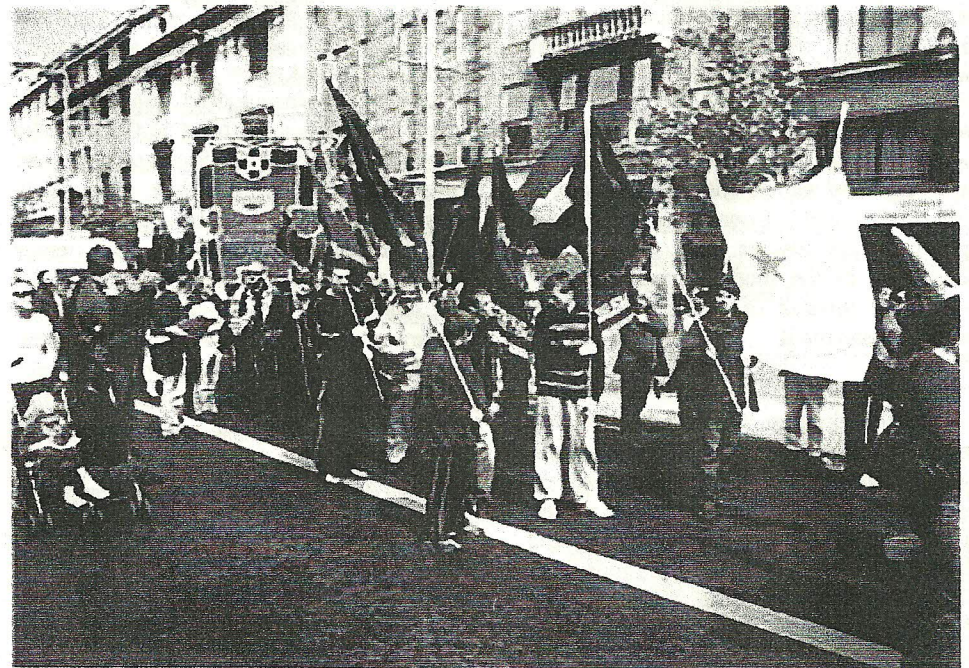
Óige – Cultúr – Daonlathas



The Connolly Youth Movement (CYM) is an all-Ireland youth organisation of communists, republicans and democrats, united by their dedication to a Socialist Ireland and Socialist World. The CYM contains workers and students from the major traditions on this island and from many of the new communities settling here. We are committed to the united movement of ordinary people and work closely with the Communist Party as part of Ireland's, and indeed the world's, labour movement.

We aim to win over a majority of people on this island to the cause of a Workers Republic as the only means of achieving national and social freedom, the two sides of one struggle here in Ireland. Youth have always played a key role in progressive struggle and the CYM keeps this tradition alive and well in this country.

We are guided by the historic struggle for working class and social emancipation and draw lessons from all over the world. Specifically we draw influence and heart from Ireland's foremost Marxist, James Connolly and from Ireland's many great patriots, Tone, Lalor and Pearse to name but a few. We also draw inspiration from leaders like Lenin, Castro, Ho Chi Minh and Luxemburg.



- We seek the reunification of Ireland and an end to all forms of imperialism and exploitation. The unity of working people is the only way to achieve this.
- We are opposed to the European Union and see it as an undemocratic imperialist alliance of former colonies seeking to impose its will on peoples.
- We support the trade union movement and actively encourage young people to join and get involved in their union. However, we oppose the 'Partnership' arrangement as it cripples unions fighting capacity.
- We are members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and uphold a strong internationalist spirit. We actively support socialism in Cuba and elsewhere around the globe.

Join us in our Struggle!
Connolly Youth Movement Ógra Uí Chongaile

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