

FRANCE: YOUTH SET STREETS ABLAZE!

That's what we're always told. French youth have just proved what we all knew: we can fight, and we can win!

After a month of demonstrations, of strikes and occupations, of pitched battles with the police, the government has been obliged to back down and scrap its plans to cut young workers' wages.

It all began at the beginning of March, when the right-wing government of Edouard Balladur announced its plan for a new way of "beating unemployment" - by allowing the bosses to take on unemployed youth at wage levels ranging from 30% to 80% of the legally guaranteed minimum wage (the "SMIC").

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This was an attack which affected everyone.

- It affected unemployed youth by threatening them with slave labour
 IG year olds without any qualifications would have been paid less than £I an hour!
- It affected school and college students by devaluing their qualifications, allowing the bosses to pay way below the legally agreed levels.
 It affected the whole of the work-

ing class by threatening adult wage levels. Why should a boss employ an older worker when they could get a young person to work for less? As badges and banners all over the country proclaimed: "Dad, I've found a job... Yours!"

The situation was ripe for a fightback. All the more so because the Balladur government, its eyes fixed firmly on next year's Presidential election - a decisive moment in French politics had been systematically launching attacks then withdrawing



INSIDE: O SOUTH AFRICA O HOW TO FIGHT FASCISM O HUSTLERS CONVENTION



as soon as there was any sign of resistance.

In the autumn Air France workers and students had forced the government to back down.

In January a million-strong demonstration in Paris made the goverment see sense and withdraw its proposal to allow local councils to fund private schools.

In February it was the turn of the French fishermen to pillage supermarkets, fight the riot police and burn down historic buildings in order to get the government to back their protectionist demands.

Balladur and his cronies thought that the youth would be easy meat. Again and again they said, "This time it will be different. We won't back down this time."

They were so determined because they wanted to show they could be strong, and also because this attack just one part of a mis-named "Five Year Plan for Jobs" - would be so profitable for the bosses.

No sooner was the new youth contract - a "SMIC-jeunes" - announced, than youth and workers went into action. In the forefront of the fight were students on 2-year vocational courses in subjects like tourism and business studies, who were hardly known for their radicalism!

Nevertheless, it was a question of life or death - or at least a living wage - for these youth, so they fought back.

Over the next three weeks, hundreds of thousands of youth demonstrated on the streets. The government tried to wreck the movement by sending in the riot police, using the excuse that the demonstrations were being infiltrated by *casseurs* - rioters who smashed windows and looted shops.

Plain-clothes police made swoops on demonstrators, some of whom were sent down for 6 months for throwing stones! Two Algerian youth who were arrested during a demonstration were immediately - and completely illegally - deported because of the "danger" they represented to the French state!

During the movement our French comrades, and their youth bulletin A **Contre-Courant**, argued for a general strike action against the whole of the Five-Year Plan for Jobs, and for the imposition of the 35 hour week without loss of pay as the only way of rapidly dealing with youth unemployment in France which, at 25%, is the highest in Europe.

They also argued for the organisation of defence squads as the only way of stopping the cops from wrecking the demonstrations.

In Nantes, in the West of France, our comrades were in the leadership of the movement, and successfully got mass meetings of students and workers to call for a general strike and sending out delegations into the workplaces to argue for action.

After nearly a month, the government eventually gave in. It had hoped that by harassing the demonstrations and by being "strong", disappointment and the imminent holidays would have led to the movement petering out.

But nothing of the sort happened. Far from it. Youth became more determined, their demands extended beyond the question of youth unemployment, touching the issues of police harassment, the return of the two Algerian youth, the Five Year Plan for Jobs etc.

The government decided it had to scrap its plans for fear of a "social explosion" - a mass student-worker uprising such as that which rocked France in May 1968, when the biggest general strike in the history of the world threatened to smash the capitalist system completely.

They were right. The proof? Over a week after the SMIC-jeunes was withdrawn, Nantes youth held a mass meeting of over 3,000 students and workers and voted to stay out on strike, as did students and workers in Rennes! The situation remains explosive; the government may have backed down over the SMIC-jeunes, but for the moment the rest of their plans are in place. And if the right wing win the Presidential election next year, things will really heat up!



Could it happen here?

UTH, FARMERS, fishermen - when people fight back in France, they fight! Why are such events so explosive the other side of the Channel? France has had a history of revolutionary struggle. In 1789 the masses overthrew the monarchy. Since then there have been five republics, a couple of monarchies and a Nazi occupation! Britain has had the same system for over 300 years!

But France doesn't have a monopoly on determined struggles.

Ten years ago one of the most decisive class struggles in the history of the European working class took place. There were pitched battles with the police, solidarity action was organised in many countries; it was a struggle which captured the hearts and minds of workers all over the world. It was the British miners strike.

And four years ago the centre of one of Europe's capital cities was the scene of a massive battles with the police as 250,000 people protested against the government's injust policies. Soon after, the policy was withdrawn, and, a short while later, the Prime Minister was dumped. That was the fight against Thatcher's poli-taxt

So it isn't only the French who fight! Yes, it can happen here, if we make it!

The Hustlers Convention are a rap trio consisting of The HUSTLER, SKIMAN and DJ MITS. Within the three years they have been together they have managed to get a regular slot at The WAG (doing Bombay Jungle) and have signed with Nation Records (also Fun^da^mental's label). All this comes as little surprise when you listen to the music - a great sound and an inspiring message.

"THERE IS NO JUSTICE THERE IS JUST US." shouts Hustler from the stage. I asked him after the Tower Hamlets 9 (TH9) benefit gig what he meant by this and about The Hustlers generally:

T.K: What exactly do you mean "There is no justice, there is just us" ?

Hustler: Well it mainly refers to the police. The TH9 are victims of police injustice. The police won't help us, it's up to us to defend ourselves. We firmly believe that there are good and bad police but at the end of the day they are all instruments of the state and they won't protect certain sections of society. We've got to learn to defend ourselves and our communities.

T.K.: What do you think of the British National Party (BNP)?

Hustler: The attack on Quddus Ali shows their mentality - they're cowards. They won't fight people one to one, they won't fight people who can fight them, they have to pick on kids. They are cowards.

T.K.: What do you think can be done to fight them?

Hustler: The most important thing is UNITY. Especially in the Asian community. We have to unite Hindu, Muslim and Sikh to fight the fascists and to defend ourselves. We have got to forget about the divisions that may exist because we have the same enemy. In Britain we face the same problems. There is a new generation of Asians who won't take shit and will fight back. They know that even if today it's not on

THERE IS NO JUSTICE THERE IS JUST US



Revo reporter TK talks to Hustlers Convention

"my" doorstep tomorrow it could be. They aren't going to wait for that. The work of groups like the Newham Monitoring Project (NMP) is really important. We need surveillance. To beat your enemy you must know them.

T.K.: Apache Indian just donated £6,000 to the TH9 defence campaign whilst on stage, what do you think of musicians like Apache?

Hustler: Well the media often think of Apache as a spokesperson and that annoys me. I think Apache is generally out for himself. He really messed about deciding whether or not to play the gig and would only agree if the NMP could arrange security for him. I think he should pay for his own security. Appache is about grand gestures, the money, his T-shirt (a "keep your country tidy" T-shirt with a swastika going in the bin) and so on. If he really wanted to give his support he could have done more than two songs! He also plays the Asian stereotypes to fuck, and whilst there is an element of truth to some of the things he sings about, he seems to treat them as a joke.

T.K.: You obviously feel strongly about many things. Does the band essentially have any message?

Hustler: We don't preach. We've got a lot of things to say but we want people to make up their own minds. We paint the picture as we see it, after that it's up to them. We want people to enjoy our music and I suppose the main message there is: FIGHT BACK, do what you can. No justice—no peace.



The Hustlers DJ at the "Bombay Jungle" at the WAG (Wardour Street, Soho, London), on Tuesday nights. Entry is £3.00 with student ID.

"Only one thing could have broken our movement - if our enemies had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed the nucleus of our movement with extreme brutality." (Adolf Hitler, 1933)

"If the enemy had known how weak we were, it would probably have reduced us to jelly. It would have crushed in blood the very beginning of our work." (I Goebbels, 1934)

HESE STATEMENTS from the leaders of the Nazi party give us a clear insight into how the Nazis could have been defeated. Their opponents, the working class, should have crushed them right from the start.

We must learn these lessons for today and ensure we do the same to present day Nazis, like the BNP.

But what is fascism? As even Adolf Hitler recognised, in order to smash fascism its enemies need to understand what makes it tick.

Some people use the term fascist like a swearword to describe anyone that they don't like. Others use it to describe anyone who is racist, or who hates democracy. But for revolutionaries, the word fascism has a particular meaning.

We live in a capitalist society. All of the wealth that is produced is in the hands of a tiny elite who run the biggest banks and businesses. The capitalists run industry in order to make a profit.

All of this wealth is produced by the working class. For the capitalists to increase their profits they need to get the workers working longer hours, at a faster rate for as little wages as they can.

But the working class does not just accept this. It forms its own organisations, its parties and the trade unions to fight for its rights including the right to organise and the right to free speech. And these organisations also fight for higher wages, a shorter working week and better working conditions as well as for other improvements such as social security for unemployment and access to healthcare and education.

When capitalism goes into economic crisis the capitalists fight to claw back the workers' gains. They cannot stand anything they have



been forced to give up to the workers. This attitude of the bosses is starkly shown by Krupp, a big arms manufacturer in Germany in the 1920s, "We want only loyal workers who are grateful from the bottom of their hearts for the bread which we let them earn."

FASCISM: WHAT IT IS A

The rich capitalists have a variety of means at their disposal to attack the workers. They can rely on the leaders of the workers organisations to betray the fight of the workers and the fight for revolution or they will use state repression, the police or the army.

But when the rich decide they can no longer afford to allow the workers to organise or they are threatened by revolution they aim to destroy all of the organisations of the working class and deny them any rights.

Many times the capitalists have opted to use military dictatorships to do this. But they cannot always guarantee that the army and the police will be able to successfully do the job. This happened in Germany in 1920. With Germany in a political crisis, the workers constantly striking and demonstrating for their demands and alot of the working class fighting for the overthrow of capitalism an attempt was made by the army to introduce a dictatorship. But the military coup, known as the Kapp putsch, failed because the workers were too well organised. They launched a general strike and with many of the workers armed were able to fight the army.

The German capitalists realised that to stop revolution or to destroy the workers organisations they would need an additional force to

fight with them.

This is where fascism comes in. Fascism is different because it aims to build a mass movement. It seeks to build such a movement bringing into action those classes squeezed between the working class and the capitalists: These middle classes along with unorganised workers are also ruined by the crisis of the capitalist system and are looking for radical solutions to the problem. If the working class is unable to show the revolutionary way out of the crisis the middle classes will listen to the radical solutions of the fascists. This is dangerous for the capitalists too as it can lead to greater instability and they would rather rely on the forces of the army and the police. That is why fascism is a last resort for the bosses. But the capitalists are much more afraid of the working class and revolution.

The years of revolutionary struggle and the failure of the Kapp putsch left its mark on the German industrialists and bosses, "During an entire year - 1918-1919 - I felt that Germany was going to sink into anarchy... It was then I realised the necessity . . . of fighting all this radical agitation [of the left Socialists and the Communists] The memory of those days did much to dispose me, later on, to offer my help to National Socialism [the Nazis]"

These words from an industrialist Thyssen sums up the reasons why the German capitalists began to fund the Nazis. The Nazi Party organised its army, the brown-shirted stormtroopers to attack offices, meetings and



unions. Members and organisers of these parties and unions were rounded up and put into concentration camps. Many of them were shot. Hitler's regime of butchery and terror had began. It was a regime that went on to build death camps like Auschwitz.

Fascism is not just a racist, nationalist or extreme right wing movement. It can and does use these ideas to build its movement. Hitler and the Nazis used anti-semitism as a way of whipping up the anger of the middle classes, getting them to have someone to blame for the crisis in society and mobilising them on the streets. But Mussolini and the Italian Fascists did not use anti-semitism or racism to build their movement. Instead Mussolini talked of being for the "little man" and against the big trusts (companies). He also talked of a national revolution. What was common to both Germany and Italy was the fascists organised gangs to attack the workers' movement, to terrorise it.

In Italy after the First World War the workers launched a revolutionary struggle. There were countless strikes and workers occupied their factories. The poor peasants also began to take land for themselves no longer recognising the right of the landowners to keep it. The capitalists haunted by their fear of revolution backed the beginnings of the Fascist movement. The Fascists started to organise and to attack. In Milan in 1919 a demonstration and march of Socialists was attacked by Fascists armed with daggers and hand grenades. On the same day Fascist gangs attacked the offices of the Socialist paper, Avanti. Later in that year as the Socialist deputies left the House of Parliament they were attacked and beaten up. The Fascists went from town to town beating up and murdering workers.

Once in power Italian Fascism set about its task to crush the trade unions and to give the bosses power to drive down wages and lower the workers standard of living. Workers were forbidden to go on strike. Socialists, Communists and trade unionists were imprisoned and their organisations banned.

The essential feature of fascism is that it works for the rich capitalists. That is why the working class must see it as a deadly enemy. And there was nothing special about the German or Italian bosses that made them use fascism. Any ruling class will be prepared to use it.

Winston Churchill, Britain's prime minister during the Second World War was supposed to be a great anti-fascist and democratic leader. Speaking in Rome in 1927 he said to Mussolini, "If I had been an Italian I am sure that I should have been whole heartedly with you from the start to finish in your triumphant struggle . . . against Leninism [Lenin was a leader of the 1917 Russian revolution]."

Churchill did not give a damn about the terrible conditions of life under fascism and their murderous regimes. His priority, like all of the ruling class, was to save the capitalist system.

We should remember the words from the leaders of the Nazi Party and make sure whenever fascists organise we crush them from the very beginning.

But if we want to finish with fascism once and for all then we will have to get rid of the system that breeds it by successful workers' revolution.

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demonstrations of the workers. And when Hitler came to power in 1933 he finished the

job for the bosses. With the stormtroopers

ranks swollen to 400,000 they began to smash the workers parties and their trade unions

once and for all. The Communist and Social-

ist Parties were banned along with the trade

he British National Party (BNP) will be standing candidates in the coming local and European elections. They will use their election campaign to spread their filthy lies. They will also use it to build up their gangs of thugs to attack black people, gays, socialists.and anyone else they oppose.

The BNP must be stopped from organising now. We cannot allow them to give out one leaflet, sell one paper or hold one single meeting or demonstration. Even more than that we must make sure their organised gangs are smashed before they do any damage.

What should we do to stop them?

In every workplace, school and estate anti-fascist groups should be built. Between these groups, other anti-racist and anti-fascist groups, trade unions and socialist organisations there must be maximum unity in action. This means that there should be joint committees in every town to co-ordinate action against the BNP. These joint organisations

should be committed to physically smashing the BNP and to drawing in wide layers of active support from workers and youth. To physically prevent the BNP from campaigning, organised anti-fascist defence squads should be built. These should not be separate from the anti-fascist organisations but under their democratic control. A massive campaign must be launched to expose the BNP's lies. It is not black people that cause unemployment, poor housing and poverty. It is capitalism that throws workers on the dole or will not build houses because there is no profit to be made.

Last month over 50,000 workers and youth marched through the East End of London against racism called by the Trades Union Congress (TUC). With just a fraction of the seven and a half million workers in the TUC and thousands of youth in an active and militant campaign we can stop the BNP Nazi's plans and send them back to the sewers where they belong.





By Jammin' C, Manchester

MAGINE THIS scenario - you are a black youth living in South Africa. You live in a hut made out of corrugated iron. There is no running water, there is no toilet. You wake up every day starving hungry. There is no school for you to go to, there is no work for you to make any money. White police in armoured cars fly around the place, every now and then one of them screeches to a stop. Men in uniform fly out of the car and point a gun at your head, scream abuse and demand to know your name and address. You'd better answer quick unless you want to be thrown in the van. Under the State of Emergency enforced in the lead up to the elections, you could be locked up for thirty days without anyone knowing, so you answer quick.

Then there are the Inkatha men who attack the township from time to time - you've seen them, black people just like you, brandishing spears and clubs, with the avowed intention of killing people like you. Already two or three of your friends have been murdered by these people.

You are imagining this. But this is how life is for millions of blacks living in the ramshackle shanty townships of South Africa. There is fear and hunger every day for them to face, but there is hope in their heart because after years of struggle, finally millions of black South Africans will be granted the vote in the first nationwide elections. On 27 April the ANC is going to win a landslide victory. Things can only get better ...?

Meanwhile in Berkshire, England, at Sunningdale - a top civil service college, ANC representatives in expensive suits sip Gin and Tonics and chat pleasantries with leaders of the very same South African police force that has terrorised and tortured and murdered thousands of black brothers and sisters over the years in the name of the Apartheid state.

This is really happening and has been over the last six weeks following





Nelson Mandela's request to John Major in 1991 to help train senior ANC members to construct a new South African police force and civil service.

Well obviously Britain has such a good record of developing a fair, just and democratic legal system! After all look at some of the people invited to help teach teach these ANC officials to police their own people:

• Sir John Smith, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (otherwise known as Sir John antiworking class scum)

• John Grieve of the Metropolitan Police (remember Joy Gardner - her murder was down to the Mets)

• And that upholder of justice and truth, Ian Burns of the Home Office (the Asylum Bill's enforcers and responsible for terrorising and deporting hundreds of black people from this country)

What are the ANC officials doing

talking to these people, let alone looking for their advice on how to run South Africa? After all aren't the ANC about to introduce democracy and liberate millions of black people from years of oppression?

Sadly, Mandela and the ANC leadership have no intention of representing the real interests of black workers and the youth of the townships if they get into power. They have every intention of protecting the interests of big business. Why else would the multinational Shell give the ANC office space at their headquarters if they didn't know their property would be in safe hands.

What has caused the oppression of the black masses of South Africa is the white minority rulers' ruthless drive for super-profits. They pay black workers pitiful wages for working long hours in atrocious conditions. They have sucked the wealth out of the country so they can live a life of luxury. For decades the overwhelming black majority have waged a war against this system and the incredibly well armed army and police force that defends it.

Now the white bosses realise that Apartheid can no longer continue without the risk of yet another mass uprising. They are worried that the masses will demand more than just the vote and rise up against the whole system. In short they fear revolution.

In the past the ANC have been at the forefront of this resistance, however at the moment their leaders are busy selling out the masses. In order to gain De Klerk and the National Party's endorsement not to mention the appeasement of the large South African industrialists, they have abandoned all policies offensive to these people. An example of this is the ANC's previous commitment to land reform which has now been ditched leaving the land in the hands of the wealthy racist Boers, while the majority of blacks on the land still starve.

The ANC have also gone back on their commitment to a sovereign constituent assembly, elected by all, that would decide how the country would be run. After the concessions made by the ANC the Constituent Assembly will be nothing more than a talking shop. The real power will rest with a provisional government which guarantees a coalition with De Klerk's National Party (the Apartheid state's main ruling party) until the year 2000! This government will be able to evoke a "state of emergency" whenever it pleases. When ever the bosses think their profits are under threat by workers' action, they will unleash bloody repression. And who will be carrying out this repression?...

The ANC in collaboration with the racist National Party. The armed wing of the ANC - Umkhonto we Siswe (MK), who have been waging a war against the Apartheid state will now join the South African Defence Force (SADF) and will be under the command of all the old racist officers. This is the same SADF which has been responsible for years of brutal repression against black workers. On the ANC leaders' orders former MK militants will be putting down any unrest in the townships, tear gassing, battering and shooting their own black

brother and sisters.

It is through these measures that the ANC leaders will maintain capitalism in South Africa. The new "democratic" South Africa may bring a few nice villas, swimming pools and a place on the board of directors for a few ANC officials, but the rest of the black masses, despite having the vote, will still live in dire poverty, denied access to education and healthcare.

The big multi-nationals will be able to carry on exploiting black workers after the elections. If anything their control will be strengthened because the black masses will now be unarmed against any form of repression.

We believe that the ANC does not deserve the votes of the very workers and youth they intend to sell out. Instead workers and youth must break from their treacherous ANC leaders now. A new workers party is needed to lead the workers and youth in overthrowing the bosses who have robbed, starved and murdered thousands of freedom fighters for so long. This new party must fight to destroy the old Apartheid state not negotiate with it.

All revolutionaries must fight for

the immediate arming of the masses to defend their townships from the state, fascist and Inkatha attacks alike and not to stop there but to go on to overthrow capitalism.

Many left groups argue that we should support the ANC even though we know they will sell out the black workers, purely because the majority of workers and youth support them and believe they can bring about peace and socialism. We must not be afraid to argue that workers and youth must break from the ANC. The heroic fighters against Apartheid who have been tortured, imprisoned and have seen comrades killed should be preparing from now to fight against the sell out that is imminent. It will not help them at all pretending that the ANC will do anything other than sell them out. The break from the ANC is essential to prepare and organise the most determined militants to fight against the ANC when it does not change South Africa for the benefit of the masses. Then the militants will be able to say "the revolutionaries were right, they said the ANC would sell us out and they did, now we must fight for workers' revolution." O

Left: Youth dodge tear gas and bullets in the townships Below: Inkatha supporters murder and maim in alliance with white right wingers



Revolution is written and produced by youth supporters of Workers Power (Britain) and the League for a Revolutionary Communist International.

E LIVE in a world full of injustice, oppression and poverty. While millions starve, food is destroyed in order to keep its price up. The latest technology in health care cannot be used in many countries because of the payment of foreign debt.

Even the most basic provisions of a good water supply and decent sanitation are denied to people all around the world. Meanwhile ever greater ecological disasters loom on the horizon.

REVOLUTION

REVOLUTION does not believe there is anything 'natural' about the state of the world. We believe that what is happening is because of the world wide system of capitalism.

It is a system that runs with the sole intention of making money for a tiny handful of capitalists who own and control industry and the land.

We believe that it is possible to create a new and better world system, a socialist system. It would be an international system which means the fight to achieve it must be international and is why Workers Power (Britain) is part of the League for a Revolutionary Communist International that organises groups from Bolivia to New Zealand.

Because we are internationalists we support all struggles by people oppressed by imperialism - including the struggle to get British troops out of Ireland.

Because we are internationalists we oppose imperialist militarism: we say not a penny or a person for the defence of this system.

A socialist system would be based on common ownership and would produce and organise society to provide the necessities and luxuries of life for all according to a democratically worked out plan.

This means instead of having people homeless because the privately owned land and building companies only build houses when they can make money, we will all own the land, collectively and we will plan that to use the bricks that lie unused and the building workers who are unemployed to build the homes needed.

To get this, industry and land will have to be taken out of the hands of the few. But this group of people, the ruling class, will never allow us to do this without a fight. The government was prepared to mobilise thousands of police to attack the Unity Demo last October, just imagine what they would be prepared to do to protect their whole system of wealth and power. That is why we believe we need a workers revolution.

But we cannot wait until then, we have to fight against exploitation and oppression now. We support all workers' struggles. We support the struggles against women's oppression, racism and homophobia.

Whether it is workers on strike, women fighting for abortion rights or black people fighting against racism it is often young people who are leading these struggles.

We fight for action that will win and in such a way that the struggles of today can prepare us for the revolution of tomorrow. We try to turn today's struggles into a struggle for power by fighting for workers control, workers self-defence etc.

REVOLUTION stands in the tradition of over 150 years of revolutionary socialism. Our movement is based on the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, applied to today's conditions.

REVOLUTION aims to build a revolutionary youth movement, to win thousands and thousands of youth to supporting and building a revolutionary party that can lead the working class to power.

So don't just sit there sell **REVOLUTION** and become a supporter! O

MEETINGS Sheffield

© South Africa: has the ANC sold out? Wednesday 4 May see Revolution seller for time and place of meeting

Birmingham

♥ Why youth should fight for revolution Monday 25 April, 7.30pm See Revolution seller for meeting venue

Manchester

Revolution Youth meeting Can there be peace in the Middle East? Wednesday 20 April, 5pm 3rd floor Manchester Metro Student Union

Manchester Anti-Fascist Youth meeting

The Warsaw Ghetto Rising Tuesday 12 April, 5pm Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane

• How did Hitler come to power? Tuesday 26 April, 5pm 3rd floor Manchester Metro Student Union

