

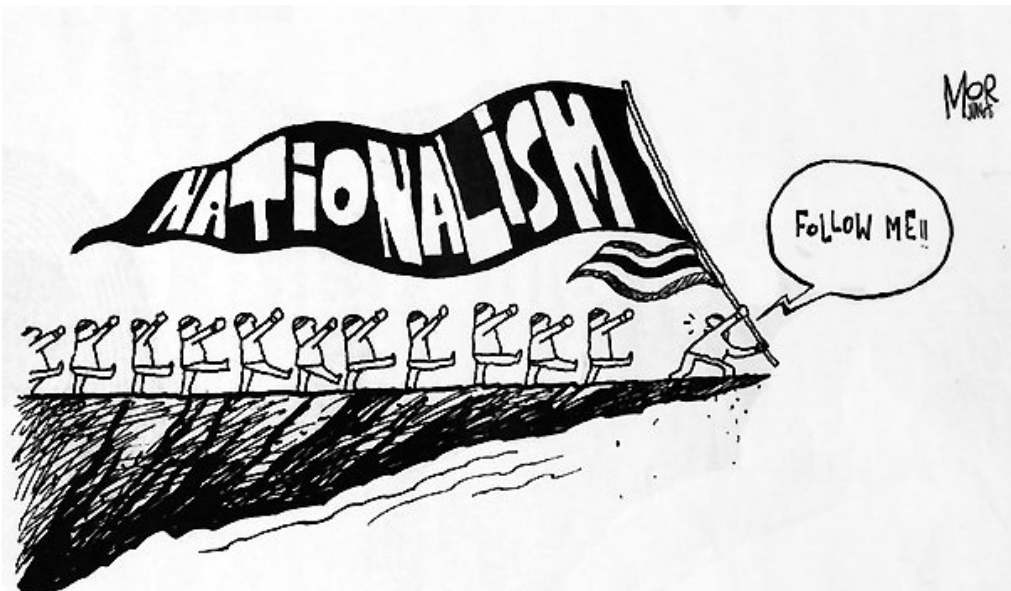
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# AURORA



## UK Riots: Racist Right in the Service of Capitalism



Following the horrendous knife attacks on a children's dance class in Southport, riots and arson attacks targeting Muslim living areas and places sheltering migrants have broken out. Undoubtedly they are fuelled by 'social' media-driven rumours and calls for 'revenge' from capitalism's organised far right which, truth to tell, is not exactly a marginal element in post-industrial, post-Brexit, run-down Britain.

The insular racist propaganda which led up to Brexit has been supplemented by constant messages of Britain being inundated by people arriving by boat, while mainstream politicians like Suella Braverman (*"the Islamists, the extremists and the antisemites are in charge now"* Daily Telegraph) make Enoch Powell look like a perfectly reasonable moderate. Amidst all the talk of sending asylum seekers (portrayed as 'unwanted scroungers') to a very well-equipped 'processing' camp in Rwanda, the Brexit Party resurrected itself as the Reform Party on the same anti-immigrant platform and gathered 4 million votes in the recent election, many of them in the post-industrial cities of northern England. The situation was a tinderbox which only took a spark to set it on fire.

For decades now workers' share of national income has been declining. Now inflation is reducing real wages. Workers face unemployment and under-employment, precarious work with no set time off, collapsing social services, homelessness affecting at least 300,000 people in the country, the NHS in a state of collapse, crumbling school buildings and a stampede of teachers away from an impossible job, etc. Utility companies — notably fuel and water — use our money to speculate on stock exchanges and money

markets and rake in colossal dividends for their rich private investors whilst ignoring polluted rivers, infected water and leaking pipes - never mind people who can't afford to turn the gas on suffering from hypothermia. All this adds up to a situation where 3.12 million people use food banks at least once a week, many of them actually in work but unable to make ends meet. The right wing of the capitalist class, like the remnants of the EDL, pretends all these things are just caused by immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers and Muslims. Identity politics is the name of their game.

### This was the fuel used on 'social media' to stoke the flames

The capitalist class as a whole is looking to lower wages. In 2023 national statistics showed 685,000 immigrants came to the UK, more than double the number for 2016, the year of the Brexit referendum, when the figure was 311,000. This increase is despite all the rhetoric to the contrary. Cameron, for example, pledged in 2010 when net migration was 252,000, to get immigration down to the "tens of thousands, no ifs, no buts". As yet this hasn't happened and bosses here have continued to use migrant workers, both for the lousy jobs British workers don't want to do for rock-bottom wages, and in general, to keep wages down. Brexit significantly curbed European immigration, causing labour shortages for many British firms and institutions, so cheap labour is now increasingly sought from Southeast Asia and elsewhere. Repatriating all immigrants would be a disaster for British capitalism causing whole sectors, not least the NHS,

to collapse. As it is, visa applications to enter Britain by health and social care workers are now declining, part of a general fall, including a 15% drop in student numbers. Additionally, the capitalist class also want to keep the working class divided and keeping the issue of immigration on the boil is a very simple way of doing this.

In the process it is also a cheap way of disguising the real causes of the present crisis we are all suffering from. Thus, the capitalist left and the right carry out a common task: that of exploiting the working class and dividing it

### Capitalism needs to be overthrown

The root of all the problems we face, from the collapsing living standards which contributed to these riots, to the present wars and the climate crisis, is the crisis of capitalism itself ... everywhere. This crisis began way back in the 1970s when the world's working class faced mounting attacks on their wages, jobs and working conditions. There has been no let-up today, as profit-hungry bosses look to exploit the cheapest labour they can find. Migrant workers have always been used to doing the jobs others don't want to do and unscrupulous bosses and politicians (that is, the ruling class) have played the race card when it has suited them. Today, though, we are in a dirtier, much nastier ball game. When the living and working conditions, never mind the very cohesion of workers as a class are under attack, it suits those who profit from this rotting system to have the people they exploit turn on each other.

This is not just a problem of bigoted 'Little Englanders'. All over the world workers are being manipulated to turn on each other as capitalism's drive for profit fuels worldwide economic crisis, environmental catastrophe, barbaric warfare and colossal inequality of wealth. All this has inevitably led to more migration which ignorant racists and ruthless politicians define as the problem. But the real problem is capitalism and the ruthless sacrifice of everything human and humane for the benefit of an increasingly rich few. There is no need for anyone on the planet to go hungry or to live without the basic necessities of life. The answer is to turn over production to directly meet human needs. Only the overthrow of the capitalist system can achieve this. And only when the working class comes together to face

up to their mutual enemy.

This means the world working class has to take political control of society, socialise production on a global scale and redirect production to the needs of humanity. At present our labour produces all the real wealth of society, but it only piles up private fortunes for a handful of capitalists. They, in turn, protect themselves by turning our anger about the social issues away from them and their system into battles between native and immigrant workers, including those fleeing the violence of capitalism's wars. Hence the riots. There is an alternative to the hate and racism of capitalism. This is a society in which everyone is part of a world community of producers without borders, without states, which ensures that no-one is without the basic needs of life — a world where we decide our own futures in our own recallable elected bodies.

The first step is to understand that our real enemies are our exploiters: the capitalist class who profit from the work we do for them. Only the resumption of generalised class struggle against them and their system will create the political basis for the overthrow of their rule. In the process workers need to organise their own struggles (not leaving it to the so-called 'labour movement') as well as act politically on their own account. That means a new political organisation: not another party to join in the capitalists' electoral circus, but a party with a real anti-capitalist programme, the abolition of the wages and profits system in favour of a stateless community without borders where we decide what and how stuff is produced to directly meet human needs. Such a monumental goal cannot be achieved in one country alone. Capitalism is global and exploits a global working class. The CWO is part of the Internationalist Communist Tendency dedicated to building such an unprecedented world party: a party dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism before it destroys most of us. These are the indispensable steps necessary for our emancipation and it is to this that we internationalists are dedicated. If this makes sense get in touch.

**Racism won't be defeated by calls for law and order, but by working together to create a better world for our kids to grow up in. Since capitalism offers us no future we have no choice but to get together to first of all get rid of the present rotten system.**

## Labour Wins but it's No Victory for the Working Class

After fourteen years of Conservative rule, with five different prime ministers who have spent their time floundering from one crisis to another, a new Labour government has been formed, on the promise that they will change Britain. Although Labour has won this election with the largest majority since Tony Blair's 1997 election victory, and in an election which has seen the all-time largest change in

parliamentary seats, it's a mistake to think this has come from any real excitement for a Labour government. The turnout for the election was 60% of those registered to vote, the lowest since 2001, and when you include those adults who haven't registered, we see the lowest election turnout since the introduction of universal suffrage, at only 52% of the adult population. Labour's share of the vote at

33.87% means this new government has the support of 17.5% of the electorate!

It's not surprising that only 1 in 2 adults voted in this election, as confidence in our politicians and parliament is at an all-time low, with only 12% of adults saying they trust political parties, and it's easy to see why. Public services have been decimated in the face of austerity to pay for bailing out the banks in 2008, during which time

wages adjusted for inflation have fallen between 8-10% for the average worker, all while British politicians have been implicated in scandal after scandal. While at the same time the capitalist class have enriched themselves and the inequality in society increases. Figures for 2021 show the bottom 50% of society own less than 5% of the wealth while the top 1% own 23%!



For many, the idea that casting a vote will improve our lives has become nothing but a fantasy, and they are right. It doesn't make any essential difference which political party controls the state. This is because we live in a class society and in all class societies the state is the tool of the ruling class. In capitalism it is the instrument of the capitalist class and used to enforce its dictatorship over capitalist society. This is why it will always act to protect the interests of the capitalist class and oppress the working class no matter whether it's controlled by Tories or Labour. For the capitalist class, so-called democracy and the parliamentary system are the ideal camouflage, the fig leaf, which conceals the naked dictatorship under which we live. It allows the capitalist class to claim that elections ensure the state is acting in the interests of the majority while in reality it acts in the interests of the minority. Initially the capitalist class fought tooth and nail against giving the vote to workers and only finally did this in Britain in 1928. Only when it realised that its control of the dominant

ideology in society, via the education system and the mass media, the church, etc., enabled it to control the consciousness of the working class, did it give workers the vote. Democracy and parliament are today weapons used against the working class. Today where universal suffrage results in a mere 17.5% of the electorate supporting the new regime, this regime can set about attacking our wages and living standards in the name of the majority. Immediately after the new government was formed, we were told that UK capitalism has a massive £22 billion spending deficit, so we must prepare for tax rises, accept sacrifices and all put our shoulders to the wheel!

Already the new Labour government has announced multiple policies which go against the interests of the working class. They are clamping down on low-level shoplifting; rather than dealing with its cause, poverty, they are attacking those who have no other option. This is while they strengthen the state, with thousands of new police officers, ready to be used directly against the working class. They

plan to set up a "Council for Economic Growth", giving business, i.e. the capitalist class, a direct voice in economic policy making. And they have scrapped winter fuel payments for pensioners not already on benefits.

Capitalism offers nothing for the working class but an ever-worsening standard of living. The idea that this can be changed by electing a majority of workers to parliament is utopian nonsense. It completely ignores the key material relations which uphold capitalist society. The only solution is for the working class to take power. It means the overthrow of our rotten capitalist system by revolutionary struggle, and with it the suppression of parliament and all organs of capitalist power. This doesn't mean democracy goes out the window — it means the creation of organs of workers' power, such as workers' councils, made up of directly recallable delegates, to replace the "democracy of the moneybags" we currently have.

This is no easy task, as it requires the international working class, which is at present a sleeping giant, to awaken and

realise its historical task. Despite decades of low levels of class struggle, with the recent strike wave we have seen a promising start, but only if workers can learn the lessons of this wave of struggle and gain a political vision beyond capitalism.

But first and foremost, we need our own international party, which can promote the real interests of workers both here and abroad: a new world without the exploitation of wage labour, where production exists not to enrich a tiny minority but to meet the needs and wants of everyone. To get there workers must learn to take control of their own struggles, by forming their own strike committees and assemblies to take the fight forwards. By organising their own autonomous struggle — a struggle which can't be held back by the institutional parties and trade unions which keep capitalism safe. The foundations of an international movement of the working class must be built in the here and now. There is no better future for the working class within capitalism's parliamentary charades.

## Can Global War Be Prevented?

At least 50 wars are raging around the world. These are all, in one way or another, a result of the contradictions of the capitalist system which lead directly to imperialism and to war. The two major wars, those in Ukraine and Gaza, provide a panorama of barbaric butchery and cruelty on a scale our rulers cannot hide. All the talk about human rights, rules-based order and the fight of democracy against dictatorship is shown to be hypocritical nonsense. Every day social media shows us what is really going on. The murder and suffering in Ukraine and Gaza represent the true face of capitalism today, but, horrific though these wars are, there is likely worse to come. Both the Ukraine and Gaza wars could slide us into a new world war. If that happens these wars would appear as skirmishes before the real bloodbath unfolds. The news that tactical nuclear weapons are being readied by both Russia and NATO and that France has proposed sending NATO troops into Ukraine show how the stakes are being raised. Russian roulette is being played with nuclear weapons.

Behind these wars is a much more fundamental and dangerous conflict, that of an existing hegemonic power, the US with its allies, trying to maintain the dominance of the world which the post Second World War settlement gave them — against China, a rising power. Their dominance is both economic and military, and China now threatens to undermine them both. Unless the working class intervenes and overthrows capitalism, this conflict will inevitably lead to war.

US preparations for war are being carried out in broad daylight for all to see. The AUKUS pact — a military partnership between Australia, the UK, and the US — is assisting Australia in the building of nuclear submarines. The US is also spending \$500 million to boost the military of the Philippines, and has signed security cooperation agreements with India, Japan and South Korea. The US is trying to surround China with regimes allied to it militarily and opposed to China, while it arms Taiwan and attempts to stir up separatism as a pretext for war. It also is attempting to sabotage China's Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, the creation of a pro-US regime in Ukraine via the Maidan coup, the construction of a modern Ukrainian army and the prospect of its membership of NATO, has lured the

Russian military into the country. The proxy war in Ukraine is drawing Russia and China closer together, in an anti-US alliance of convenience.

US domination of the Middle East, the major oil producing region of the world, has existed since the Second World War. Whereas the US was the major importer of Middle East oil until about 2005, China has now taken its place, resulting in China threatening US domination of the region. It has engineered a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran and brought both countries into the BRICS. The US policy, on the contrary, was to keep the Saudi/Iran conflict on the boil, thereby justifying its military bases and military domination of the area. China has also intervened in the Gaza conflict, brokering a deal between the Palestinian factions for a post conflict Gaza and thereby gaining a foothold in the US patch. In the economic sphere China has opposed the trade of oil exclusively in dollars. This was something which Saudi Arabia agreed to implement for a 50-year period in 1974, but this agreement was not renewed when it expired in June. This could end the dominance of the petrodollar and undermine the international role of the dollar which is a key prop in US economic hegemony. If the global dominance of the dollar is lost the US power to sanction other countries will also be lost, as will their ability to confiscate deposits of their rivals. Sanctions have been applied against Russia, China, Iran and others with the aim of cutting off their ability to trade by excluding them from SWIFT, the inter-bank transfer system, and \$330 billion of Russian assets seized and the interest confiscated. All this is possible because of the dollar's role as the international currency of trade. The result is that Russia and its BRICS partners have started to trade in local currencies and are preparing to launch an alternative transfer system to SWIFT and a BRICS currency. All these military and economic moves are preparation for war.

### Class war is the path to prevent and end world war

Only the intervention of the working class, as a political force on an international scale, is able to prevent war and put an end to war if it breaks out. This is because our labour produces all the

value which supports capitalist society. Remove that labour and the whole capitalist structure collapses. "No war but the class war" must be our watchword. No concessions to the capitalist war programme; no concessions to the national economy.

Revolutionary class struggle — not support for our bosses' enemies (China, Russia, Iran, etc.) like many on the so-called "anti-imperialist" left declare — is the answer to the future wars which our rulers are preparing. This requires strikes, not just in the arms industries but mass strikes which the capitalist class will find harder to suppress and which can grow to bring more and more workers into the struggle. It means fraternisation between soldiers with their supposed enemies on the basis of class solidarity. It means pointing out that the real enemies of workers and soldiers are the capitalist class who have mobilised them to fight their class brothers and sisters. It means supporting desertion on a mass scale which turns into mutinies which have real power to end the war.

This was how revolutionaries responded to the First World War. It led first to the revolution in Russia then the revolution in Germany which put an end to the war. In Germany in 1918 sailors in Kiel refused to sail to Wilhelmshaven and fight the British

fleet. Instead, they took over Kiel, set up workers' and sailors' councils and within days the German Empire collapsed and the war was ended. But this only happened after 4 years of what was then the most horrific war in human history. Unfortunately, the revolutionary wave which these revolts generated were defeated and no such intervention of the working class ended the Second World War. The result was countless millions dead.

Revolutionary class struggle needs to be the strategy on all sides in the war. This requires an international political organisation which exists on a global scale and fights for this revolutionary strategy amongst the working class. The building of such an international party is the key task for revolutionaries today.

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### What We Stand For

*Aurora* is published by the Communist Workers' Organisation (CWO).

The CWO stands for a global society where production is for need and not profit (and is therefore sustainable), where the state, national frontiers and money have been abolished, where collective power is exercised through class-wide organisations like workers' councils. This has to mean the active, daily participation of the majority aiming for the interests of all. Only then can the world be rid of the capitalist offspring of poverty, hunger, oppression and war: we call it communism but this vision has nothing in common with Stalinist state capitalism and the old USSR.

In order to get there we are working to create a world working class political organisation — a 'party' for want of a better word — not a government in waiting but a guide in the struggle for a new world. We by no means claim to be that party but we do aim to be one of the elements which will need to come together in its formation. As the working class is more and more faced with the consequences of a crumbling capitalist system it will have to unite and confront capitalist power.

We are not in competition with other organisations but seek to unite on a clearly agreed political programme to prepare the way for the majority of the world's population, the exploited of the earth, to overthrow the capitalist system and its bloody imperialist appetites.

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