

ORGANISE!

The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism

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BUILD THE STRUGGLE NOW



WHAT'S IT TO BE THEN DANNY, SOCIALISM OR ANOTHER CONCESSION TO THE "RIGHT"?

The proclamation of the Provisional government of Ireland during the Easter week of 1916 declaring equal rights and opportunities to all citizens, national independence, religious and civil liberties and the right of the Irish people to ownership of Ireland remains the back bone of the Republican ideology of today.

But what do Republicans mean when they call for the creation of the 'Nation State' and the inalienable right of the Irish people to the ownership of the land. Does this mean a highly advanced libertarian economy or state control of the means of production and distribution?

Struggle

To answer this we must look at the class struggle during this important period of Irish history. The formation of the syndicalist influenced IT&GWU and the new class consciousness rife in Ireland at this

period led to pitched battles between employer and employee. This sustained battle came to a head during the Dublin lock out 1913 which after some notable achievements e.g. the formation of the Irish Citizens Army by the Anarchist Jack White, dragged on to become a demoralising defeat for the workers.

Advent

With the advent of the First World War and the harsh economic conscription

by the ruthless employers working class militancy was checked. This soon changed with the tide of anti British feeling due to the brutal crushing of the Easter rising and the harsh realities of imperialist war. The ITGWU began again to flourish and in 1918 a successful General Strike was held against forced conscription.

With the inspiration of the initial achievements of Russian revolution, Irish workers began to take over factories and stretches of land. These soviets began in Munster and quickly spread to adjoining areas. With the setting up of the first Dail (1919-22) came the acid test between socialism and republicanism. Socialism came a poor second. Sinn Fein, the majority party in the Dail, condemned these examples of 'Workers Control' and on court orders the IRA seized the land from the workers.

Sinn Fein do not seem to have changed much. From being the first major political organisation to give women the right to abortion, the ties of their leaders with the catholic church meant the overturning of this policy at the 1986 Ard Fheis. Gerry Adams, the guru of leftwing republicanism, in his book, 'The politics of Irish Freedom', argues for an ALL class nationalist unity in order to end partition. He also states that socialism in Ireland is not on the immediate political agenda.

Create

This shows the obvious weakness in any specifically political organisation. A class organisation should not moderate its politics in order to win influential friends. With the removal of British Imperialism we also see the end of capitalism in Ireland. A united capitalist Ireland is not beyond imagination. The 'Anglo Irish Deal' and the machinations of the Southern government point to this. It is up to us now to go beyond the limitations of Republicanism and create the conditions for the Social Revolution, a revolution that does not end with British withdrawal but begins there.

INSIDE

I.D.A.T.U.

Russia 1917.

.....

MITCHELL + IDATU.

The suspension by the ICTU of the IDATU and the expulsion of its general secretary, John Mitchell has caused a large amount of confusion and division in trade union circles

This action took place following an interview with the *Andersontown News* claiming that unions in the 'north' had an all too friendly relationship with the bosses and specifically singling out USD-AW as an 'Uncle Tom' reactionary union.

The consequences of this outburst taken by the ICTU should come as no shock due to the Northern Ireland Committees tentative position in the Irish Trade Union movement. Since the formation of the NIC in the 60's, as a sop to loyalism, their record on discrimination and repression leaves a lot to be desired.

When hundreds of young men were being dragged from their homes in the middle of the night and sectarian killings were the order of the day, when 13 people were murdered on the streets of Derry, when a militant union should have been advocating mass class action and propaganda against sectarianism and organising the community against sectarian rioting, homelessness, unemployment and social injustice, what did we hear from the NIC, nothing but a stony silence.

What should we think of an organisation which retains its seats on the Police Board, a supervisory body over the RUC, and what ideas should we draw from a committee that ignores a union, whose officials are

found guilty of discriminating against catholic workers. It should be clear the role of the NIC in the light of the past successes of the organised loyalist working class to pander to the dominant ideology in the north, be it reactionary.

But what of Mitchells intentions, when he called USDAW an 'Uncle Tom reactionary union'. Could it be a case of membership figures and playing on nationalist feeling, or a genuine concern for the lack of union organisation in the north. It would appear to be the former, in which case he is playing an extremely hazardous game. In the past, such sloganeering has led to bitter antagonism between workers and on one occasion sustained fighting between workers of the Irish based ITGWU and the British based NUTGW.

Mitchells concern for the lack of effective unionism in the north will hardly be resolved by the formation of IDATU branches in the 6 counties. Their record in the Dunnes strike shows that the IDATU bureaucracy are just as incapable as any other union of effectively representing their members wishes.

As Anarcho-Syndicalist we advocate the building of a mass union capable of combating sectarianism in the work place and in the community, a movement which would bridge the artificial barriers of religion and partition, paving the way towards our ultimate goal, a united Ireland based on libertarian communism.

1917-

October 1987 marks the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It marks the overthrow of Tsarism and its replacement by 'socialism', this of course, depends very much on your definition of 'socialism'

There are many people who believe that what exists in Russia IS socialism, in particular those in the Communist Party and also the whole of the pro capitalist 'western' media who portray Russia as the 'horror of socialism'.

As Anarcho-Syndicalist we believe that 'socialism' did exist in Russia but that the workers revolution was hijacked by the Bolsheviks and as a result the revolution was strangled to death by the grip of Bolshevik bureaucracy and state control.

Claims

This will of course will be denied by the likes of the Communist Party, Militant and other 'left' groups. Their claims about Russia have for years gone uncontested, their 'version' of events in 1917 and subsequent years are a catalogue of lies, distortions and half truths, nicely packaged, polished up and sold as the truth.

The Marxist/Leninist and Trotskyist 'left' claim that socialism was developed by the Bolsheviks, that the 'real' revolution in Russia took place after the storming of the Winter Palace and the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks in October 1917.

Lenin stated clearly somewhere among his collected works (Being an 'intellectual' he did little else but write and theorise, while the workers got down to the job of social reconstruction.) that the working class would not go beyond a 'trade union' consciousness, unless 'led' by a revolutionary vanguard of party intellectuals, or professional revolutionaries.



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However, the sequence of events in the Russian revolution proved him to be an inadequate theoretician.

Seize

From the beginning of the year after the overthrow of the Tsar, workers began to take over the factories, peasants began to seize land from the large landowners. The workers formed their own committees to coordinate the work in areas and industry and on the land. These Soviets were the revolutionary expression of the workers and the peasants. All this long before October, long before Bolshevik control and at a time when the Bolsheviks were split over the question of whether to support a 'left socialist' government, or work towards a revolution. A revolution that was already in progress. The Russian workers had surpassed Lenin, they were months in advance of the Bolshevik central committee. All this from people who could only develop a 'trade-union' consciousness without the aid of the Bolsheviks?

The aim of the Bolsheviks by September became the seizure of power. Their propaganda committees began using the popular slogans of the rank and file, 'All power to the Soviets', and an end to the War, 'Peace, Bread and Land', in fact what they desired was 'All power to the Bolsheviks' and 'Peace, Bread and State Control'.....The Bolsheviks began to grow, their ranks swelling with enthusiastic workers, attracted by the revolutionary slogans of the party. In later years, 1919 and on, it wasn't ordinary workers who began to flock to the party, but the dispossessed middle classes who had up until the revolution supported the Tsar.

The Bolshevik seizure of power in October 1917 and the declaration of a workers state signalled the beginning of the end of the workers revolution.

In September 1917 on his electing as Chairman of the Bolshevik controlled Petrograd Soviet, Leon Trotsky said that..."...we will observe the individual rights and complete freedom of ALL factions.....we will never stifle a minority..."

By the following year, however, before the outbreak of the Civil War and the prolonged 'Wars of foreign intervention', that the left of today use as an excuse for all the 'errors' in Bolshevik control, the Bolsheviks had already begun to legislate and 'guide' the heart out of the revolutionary movement.

Gains

The Bolsheviks continued to make major gains on the Soviets and began the process of turning the Soviets from an instrument of the revolution into a slave of the party. The secret 'political police' The Cheka began very soon to remove from the scene those who did not agree with Bolshevism. The movement for workers cont-

rol of the factories and land was legislated out of existence and became subordinated to the Russian Trade Union, which by this time were merely an instrument of the 'Party'.

The move to take more land and industry into the control of the workers themselves was stopped by Bolshevik decree who insisted that senior management should run the factories under the 'direction' of the Party. The 'Counter Revolution' was well under way.

Fate

What this demonstrates is that the failure of the 1917 revolution in Russia was not because of the Wars, the backwardness of the country, the failure to spread the revolution successfully to other countries, together these were certainly factors that helped, but the real reason that the revolution failed is because of Marxism/Leninism and Trotskyism. The political doctrine of 'State Control' and the 'Dictatorship of the Proletariat', were what sealed the fate of the revolution.

Lenin

As Anarcho-Syndicalists we recognise that the life force of any revolution must be Freedom, not the political dogma and political dictatorship of the people. As we have already seen, Bolshevism was as a political ideology, far exceeded by the revolutionary practice of the masses. The need for Lenin to contain the revolution so that it proceeded according to His plan was in complete opposition to the natural order of things. We do not believe that the revolution could have succeeded without 'leadership', but what was needed was a strong rank and file commitment to Libertarian Socialism a 'leadership of ideas', not the 'dictatorship by the party.'

In Brief

3 JUDGES?

The Southern Government have been making noises to their fellow repressive counterparts across 'the water' about the possibility of introducing a three judge court system for hearing 'terrorist' cases. Haughey and Co are obviously worried by the failure of the SDLP to make any real gains in the nationalist communities as a result of the 'Deal'. More worrying for them is the fact that people realise that the Deal does not mean an end to repression, it merely means more of the same but with the seal of approval from the Souths government!

On the introduction of the three judge 'special courts'. Once again it won't make a damn of difference to the numbers of men and women thrown into jail on the flimsiest of evidence. The most it will do is to add the seal of public and in the case of the SDLP and the Dail, political approval to the legal system in the 6 counties. As long as 'justice' remains exclusively the property of capitalism, British or Irish, then there will be NO JUSTICE !!

Bible Belt News

Back in the Norths bible belt and Ballymena Council have refused to open the books on the councils employment records to the FEA. Not that it matters, the FEA will go ahead anyway. The town council have called this 'intrusion' into council affairs an 'infringement of civil liberties'. So maybe Ballymena council will say the same about the fact that in a town with a catholic population of about 15 percent that the council only employ 3 percent catholics. Will the DUP highlight this obvious discrimination against the nationalist community?

ORGANISE
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Join

If you agree with what you have read in this paper and would like to find out more about the 'ORGANISE' group and its politics then write to the address below.



* At the time of going to press, the 'Abbey Meats' dispute continues. The workers have called on the ICTU to officially 'Black' the firms sister plant in Cork, so far, as expected, no reply has come from the ICTU. The 10 workers at the centre of the dispute have been made an offer of £10,000 each to 'disappear', they haven't and the strike goes on.... *

Where We Stand!

- 1) We aim to create a free and classless society. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them with 'WORKERS CONTROL' of production and distribution for NEED not for profit.
- 2) We believe that only the working class themselves can change society from the present system of chaos and inequality to a system based on mutual aid, cooperation and equality.
- 3) This change must be achieved by the conscious participation of the workers themselves. We oppose all those who would set themselves up as 'new leaders'.
- 4) The only way to achieve this revolutionary change is by the formation of an independent workers organisation, the 'Anarcho-Syndicalist Union', within industry and the community, independent of and opposed to ALL political parties and trade union bureaucracies.
- 5) The Anarcho-Syndicalist union is one controlled by the workers themselves, it is opposed to the sectionalism of traditional trade unionism and is open to membership by those workers inside and outside of industry and will unite not divide the working class. Any and all delegates will be elected by the full membership and will be subject to immediate recall by that membership.
- 6) The class struggle is worldwide and must recognise no artificial borders or boundaries. We must fight all attempts by capitalism to divide our class by setting worker against worker, employed against unemployed, man against women and protestant against catholic.
- 7) The role of 'ORGANISE' is to support workers in struggle, to expose the weakness of traditional trade-unionism and to work for the creation of an Irish Federation of Anarcho-Syndicalists.