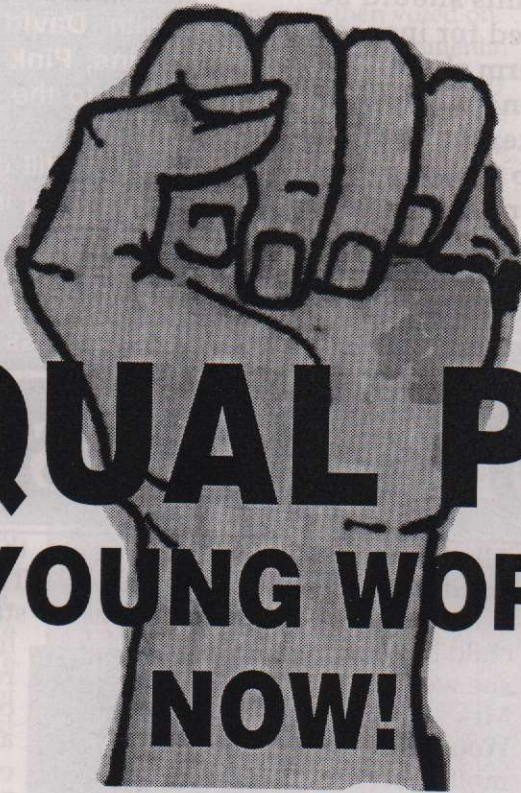


REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

£3.60 minimum wage... £3.00 for under 22's... £0.00 for under 18's!!!

Minimum wage outrage!



EQUAL PAY FOR YOUNG WORKERS NOW!

YOUTH ALL over Britain must stand up for their rights and put an end to this blatant discrimination! The Labour government promised us a minimum wage. But now they are saying that anyone under 18 years will be exempt from the minimum wage. This means the bosses can carry on taking the

piss - making us work in shops, fast-food restaurants and supermarkets for less than £3.00 an hour!

If the government came out with a policy of paying women, black people or any other social minority less per hour, there would be riots on the streets! But yet it's OK to pay young people

less? NO FUCKING WAY!!!!!!

Youth are already discriminated against in the job market. Crappy jobs for slave wages, long hours, harassment by management, all because we're young and 'inexperienced'. How much experience does it take to flip a burger at McDonald's?

Continued on page 2.

REVO SAYS... **£6.00 FOR ALL WORKERS**

In this issue: Revolution in Indonesia Ⓢ Students Occupy University in East London Ⓢ World Cup Fever Ⓢ Louise Woodward - Guilty or what?! Ⓢ Transport Workers Strike!

Fight for equal pay!

(Continued from page 1)

Instead you'll be expected to work for £3.00 an hour. Under the new standards, employers could get away with paying staff aged 21 and over a reduced rate if they are on training courses. So your manager at McDonald's can have you on the job training at the fry station for six months or more for less money. There's a lot of fries! There is also talk of including any tips you get in your wage. So, if you are a young worker at London's Dome Cafe, for instance, you may get even less than the £15 (for an 8 hour shift) that you're getting now!

As Labour implements more cutbacks to welfare and introduces tuition fees, there are going to be greater numbers of youth and

students fighting for a decent standard of living. Let's fight together! We're putting in the hours so we should get paid a decent wage!

REVOLUTION FIGHTS FOR:

-minimum wage of £6 per hour for all workers!

-no exemptions under any conditions

-if a firm says it can't or won't pay the minimum wage or tries to sack workers, its books and accounts should be opened for inspection and the firm should be nationalised under workers control

-a job for everyone

-full rights for young workers!

-a union in every workplace!

-the right to strike

Greedy scum of the earth avoid taxes...

The Rolling Stones, the rockin' old farts, have proved what greedy scumbags they've turned out to be. They cancelled the British leg of their tour because **Charlie Watts** and **Ronnie Wood** stood to lose millions in tax if they stayed in the country for as long as they'd planned. People who buy their records (can't condemn them for that alone) are probably having to pay more tax than those millionaires, not to mention their £-million pay cheques! The least they can do is have a gig every now and then ... tight arses.

Keith Richards of the Stones wasn't worried as he pays tax in America. He's just another greedy tax exile from our wonderful host of British musicians who are too tight to fork up what the rest of us are forced into paying every month. **David Bowie**, the **Spice Girls**, **Phil Collins**, **Pink Floyd** and **Oasis** are all to be added to the list of greedy bastards of this type.

We've still got to put up with other greedy celebs living in Britain who vowed to leave if Labour won the election. **Andrew Lloyd Weber**, **Frank Bruno**, **Paul Daniels**, **Phil Collins** ... it's been a year now - keep to your word and piss off!

Louise Woodward...

GUILTY AS SIN?

By Joanne, Exeter

After Louise Woodward was charged with first degree murder, the campaign to free her began. Protesters in her home town of Elton campaigned with slogans such as "We've Lost One English Rose - We can't lose another one", blaming pre-trial publicity for her conviction.

Would we have seen the same outrage and support if Louise Woodward was working class or black? Would she have received the same mass media coverage which screamed about "miscarriages of justice"? Are the residents of Elton, who are now so concerned with human rights, considering the Lawrence family and how the judicial system has failed them? No. Because this trial was about middle class family values and these must be fulfilled.

All women involved in this case stand accused. Deborah Eappen was accused of "neglecting" her child because she worked.

Mrs Woodward, mother of Louise, stands accused of mismanaging the funds raised by supporters. All fail to escape the repetitive representation of women which has been emulated throughout history: that women are inherently lacking or sinful in some way.

This perspective sells papers by creating sensationalist headlines that suggest sexual deviancy such as in the Saudi nurses case, or evil witch qualities that characterised



Playing to the gallery?

the reporting of Mary Bell's book. The media appears to attack the state which has 'failed' women like Louise Woodward, but representing women in this way only absolves the same state of any responsibility, especially concerning child care. We will never know whether Louise intentionally murdered Baby Mathew. But could it have been avoided? Louise Woodward was employed with little experience of child care because we do not have a dependable system of employing nannies. Under state control we could ensure proper training and background checks. However at the moment private child care is often the only available choice for many working mothers. This means tragedies such as the death of a child will continue to occur as long as governments fail to provide adequate nursery facilities that support working mothers.

TAKE THE A-BLOCK!

“We’ve done this building like Castle Greyskull!” That’s how one student at University of East London (UEL) described the administration block (the A-Block), after hundreds of students stormed the building, then secured it using bicycle locks, chains, wood and nails to keep out the police and management’s security guards.



cops and bailiffs evicting the occupation

Step 1: Emergency General Meeting
The occupation began on the Monday, May 18, with an Emergency General Meeting of the Student Union. The meeting was called after Vice-Chancellor Frank Gould announced £2.5 million cuts right before exams. He was counting on the pressure of finals to block student action. He couldn’t have been more wrong. Students immediately occupied one of the lecture buildings.

Step 2: Occupy!
Everyone knew this building was too marginal – management just re-scheduled the lectures elsewhere. So we had a picket on Thursday to close the University – students at each gate, blocking off traffic and picketing students and lecturers whose union, Natfhe, supported us. The police showed up and told us that if we didn’t get off the road by 10 a.m. riot cops would beat us off the road, and nick loads of us. But their plan backfired on them – everyone was so pissed off around 400 of us marched off the road. . .and straight into the A-Block. Everyone ran around in teams securing the building, all smiles because it was such an awesome feeling to turn the tables on management.

Step 3 - the Autonomous University of East London
We immediately held a mass meeting to debate strategy on how to build the occupation, and set up committees for specific practical tasks, such as food, security, press, etc. These meetings

continued throughout the occupation and were crucial to keeping students involved and debating out differences in strategy, which were then voted on. The debates were on the fundamental issues facing any occupation, be it by students or workers. Do we use necessary violence to defend the building against the police? Should the NUS back us (the cowards pulled out after we took the A-Block)? What tactics do we need to spread it? There

was also a lot of debate on political issues like May ‘68 and the Indonesian revolution. We decided to call the occupation the A-UEL (autonomous UEL), and even set up a web site!

The end of the beginning
The occupation did get smaller as exams approached and people got tired from lack of sleep. In the end, the police and bailiffs evicted us. But now A-UEL students have the experience of organising a 14-day occupation under their belts, they’ll be back next year – along with 3,000 first-year students who will be the first ones facing £1,000 tuition fees – management must be shitting themselves!

by Andy, outside agitator

Barking Bites Back

what Revolution did in the occupation

Rank and file democracy The twice a day mass meetings ran the occupation really efficiently, with a dozen sub-committees, but one thing missing was that there was no one overseeing the work and taking a lead in planning strategy. Sometimes important decisions voted on in the mass meeting weren’t carried through as a result, so we argued for an elected and recallable action committee to lead the fight.

Students Union The NUS scabbed on the dispute. Most occupiers reacted by ignoring them. We argued that the misleaders needed to be replaced by accountable and fighting leaders – and that meant fighting them, not leaving them in office to betray again.

Joint action with workers The students weren’t just on their own, lecturers, library, catering and creche workers all actively supported the occupation. So did Ford car workers and Essex fire-fighters. This is where our power is, workers and students fighting together, so we needed any action committee to include workers representatives along with student reps.

Spread the action At its height, 800 were involved, but 12,000 other UEL students were not. Hundreds of thousands more in other colleges were also passive. We argued for a conference to spread the action and take the fight to the real enemy – the Labour government.

Politics are the answer We discussed revolutionary politics 24 hours a day. We also held a meeting with 20 of the occupiers. Everyone wanted to know the “big picture”. The best thing about occupations is that students start to learn something worthwhile!

...and outside the occupation

As soon as Revolution at Warwick University heard of the occupation, we got stuck into publicising it. We had to do this since our student union officers were ignoring the faxes from the UEL occupiers. We went round campus, getting people to sign a petition in support of the occupation and calling for an Emergency General Meeting. We only needed

150 names but we ended up with around 200. The NUS attempted to sabotage the meeting by forgetting to publicise it, resulting in a low turn-out. Although the officers won support for their meek resolution, it was only through Revolution’s campaign that they did anything. The support for the occupation by Revolution and other students carried on regardless, showing the way for future student protests.

We Need a Revolution in Education!

Calling all School, FE and HE students- Revolution meeting to discuss the fight for free education and how to organise. ALL STUDENTS WELCOME – we can put you up if you’re from outside London. **Sunday, 12 July, 11 a.m.** Phone 0181 981 0602 for details

REVIEW

The leader of the Russian revolution found time during 1917 to write a crucial text on the Marxist position on the state and 'the tasks of the proletariat in the revolution'. He was driven by the practical needs of the revolution in Russia at the time: to show that the 'opportunists' had distorted Marxism and to refute the anarchist claims that all states are reactionary. In his work, **State and Revolution**, Lenin reiterates and emphasises what Marx and Engels meant by the 'withering away of the state', and he shows that in order to 'win the battle of democracy', the working class must first become the ruling class.

Lenin outlines in *State and Revolution* the Marxist position on the state, its origins, and what its purpose is. He then shows the need for revolution and the need to replace the state with a workers' democratic dictatorship, a workers state.

In order to create a 'classless, rulerless society', the working class has to raise itself to the position of the ruling class; this seems contradictory and anarchists will argue against this. How can this paradox be explained?

The Marxist position on both democracy and the state is that whilst class antagonism exists neither can be neutral and they can only serve the interests of the ruling class. By preserving the status quo, and codifying laws and 'bodies of armed men' to defend existing property relations, the state under capitalism is a bourgeois state. Lenin quotes Engels to show how the state came into being from society itself, and yet it resumes a position of power above that society. The state "is a product of society at a certain stage of development; it is the admission that this society has become entangled in an insoluble contradiction with itself,

V.I. Lenin's State and Revolution

that it is cleft into irreconcilable antagonisms that it is powerless to dispel." In order that the antagonisms of the bourgeoisie and proletariat do not "consume themselves in sterile struggle, a power seemingly standing above society became necessary for the purpose of moderating the conflict, of keeping it within the bounds of 'order'; and this power, arisen out of society, but placing itself above it, and increasingly alienating itself from it, is the state." (Lenin, *State and*



Revolution 1973 ed., p7)

Engels indicated how far removed the whole idea of the state is from primitive classless societies. He points to the 'special public power' that it exercises over society. This "public power exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed people but also of material adjuncts, prisons and institutions of coercion of all kinds, of which gentile (clan) society knew nothing." (p10)

Unlike liberalism, Marxism does not see the state as a neutral force keeping in check the conflicting interests of groups in society. Engels went on to say that "the state arose from the

need to hold class antagonisms in check, but as it arose, at the same time, in the midst of the conflict of these classes, it is, as a rule, the state of the most powerful, economically dominant class, which through the medium of the state becomes also the politically dominant class, and thus acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed class." (p14)

If the state is fundamentally serving the political interests of the economic ruling class, it follows that so-called liberal democracy is but a 'bourgeois facade' that attempts to conceal the true nature of the state. Lenin sums up this Marxist position by reminding us that 'democracy' in bourgeois society merely involves deciding "once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament - such is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary- constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics." (p54)

Lenin shows that there can be no 'peaceful road to socialism', instead we need a revolution. Previous revolutions in Europe had shown that in a revolutionary situation the state is seized by the victorious class and modified for its use (e.g. France, 1789). The experience of the Paris Commune in 1871, however, taught Marx and Engels that there existed the need for the working class to smash the bourgeois state altogether. In the preface to the 1872 edition of the **Communist Manifesto**, they wrote, "One

REVIEW

"everyone becomes a bureaucrat and so no one is a bureaucrat."

thing is especially proved by the commune, that the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready made state machinery and wield it for its own purposes". The bourgeois state can neither be altered by the 'democratic process', nor can the revolutionary working class simply take over the bourgeois state; the state must be destroyed. This, by the way reveals that Marx and Engels were not dogmatists. They started from the real world - and drew theoretical conclusions from it, not the other way around as some critics claim.

The first task of a successful revolution is to create a new state based on the 'dictatorship of the proletariat'. This would essentially entail the democratic rule of the majority (proletariat) over the minority (the bourgeoisie). Lenin gives a very clear picture of how a workers state would differ from the capitalist state.

Instead of a parliamentary talking shop which serves the purpose of duping the 'common people' whilst the real business of state is conducted behind closed doors, a workers state would ensure that any 'representative institutions' would be working bodies. "The Commune was to be a working, not a parliamentary, body, executive and legislative at the same time." (p55)

The administration of the workers state, and the control over the economy would be carried out and overseen by the workers themselves through democratically elected and instantly recallable representatives.

This would "reduce the role of state officials to that of simply carrying out our instructions as responsible, revocable and modestly paid 'foremen and bookkeepers' ... This is what we

can and must start with in accomplishing the proletarian revolution. Such a beginning, on the basis of large scale production, will of itself lead to the gradual "withering away" of all bureaucracy." (p58-59)

Neither the administrators nor the elected representatives of the workers' state would be given privileges in the way that bourgeois parliamentarians are. They would, as the example of the Paris Commune indicated, be paid workers' wages, "all under the control and leadership of the armed proletariat." (p59-60) This is a crucial point to make and should be remembered, especially after the Stalinists took over and bureaucratized the workers' state in Soviet Russia.

The case of the Paris Commune, for Marx and Engels, and later Lenin, was an example of a new type of state in which the dictatorship of the proletariat was actually the highest form of democracy seen at the time. The working class becomes the ruling class- but a democratic ruling class.

The 'democratic ruling class' can then proceed to dissolve itself as a class. As the democratically planned economy increases production and meets the needs of the whole of society rather than the needs of the privileged few, classes will begin to disappear and

consequently so will the state. As production in a workers state is controlled by all, the machinery of the state in Marx's words, 'wither away'. As the position of administration becomes open,

The bourgeois state can neither be altered by the 'democratic process', nor can the revolutionary working class simply take over the bourgeois state: the state must be destroyed.

The state only exists as long as there are antagonistic and irreconcilable classes. During the revolution there will clearly be a need to repress the capitalists who will do anything to destroy the creation of a socialist society. Anybody who says otherwise is trying to fool themselves. The capitalists will not disappear overnight. We must be clear that we therefore need to have a democratic workers state, or 'semi-state', to prevent the old ruling class organising against us.

Lenin shows that there is a clear need for the creation of a new form of dominant political and economic power during a revolution. A democratic state needs to be created - the old one

smashed - so that the cause of social conflict, unequal control, distribution and use of economic and social power can begin to be dealt with. "This can be achieved only by the proletariat; and by achieving it, the proletariat at the same time takes a step towards the socialist reconstruction of the state."(p53) The dictatorship of the proletariat is not the solution, but gives the opportunity for the working class to build a socialist society.

by Max, Manchester

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REVOLUTION!

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KOSOVO

fight ethnic cleansing!

by Adam in
Coventry

The Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide against national minorities is back. After their war against the Bosnian Muslims, the Serb army is now waging a war on Kosovo. Kosovo has a huge majority of ethnic Albanians, 90% of its population. They are denied basic rights by the Serbians: the right to teach their own language, to work in the civil service and to run state institutions. That is why they want independence from Serbia. Thousands of Kosovar youth and workers have taken to the streets protesting against Serbia's occupation of their homeland.

Serbia's response to these demands has been to declare war on Kosovo. The Serbian forces have gassed and clubbed protesters, even burnt down entire villages, killing hundreds, under the pretence of fighting "terrorism". The "terrorists" of Kosovo are really a national liberation guerrilla army, the UCK who are demanding independence for Kosovo and attempting to oust the Serbian army. The UN and NATO want to calm the situation down, not to preserve the right to national

independence or any other fundamental rights. The imperialists aren't friends of democracy, they're pushing for a solution that puts their interests in trade and profit first.

What can we do to help? In Britain we need to support convoys of workers aid to Kosovo, food, medicine, (and guns) and to support the rights of refugees to enter and remain secure in countries like Britain.

Revolution in Austria

Revolution in Austria has been involved in the Kosovar solidarity movement in Vienna and elsewhere from the beginning. Revo members helped organise a big demo against Serb aggression and in support of Kosovo, and they've held joint public meetings with young Kosovar workers and students.

On the demo, the Green Party called for food, medicine and a policy of non-violence. What use is non-violence when your house has been burnt down and your family murdered by Serbian snipers? Instead Revo members stood up and called for weapons to be sent by the Austrian workers movement as well as food and said loud and clear that we supported the Kosovars' fight for independence, guns in hand, which got a huge response from the Kosovars.

Revolution members have also argued against Nato or the UN intervention, and have been discussing with young Kosovars about the way forward- are small outfits of UCK guerrilla fighters enough or do the Kosovars need to build a mass military campaign based on the armed workers to beat the Serb army? Ultimately a Federation of Socialist Balkan States will free not just Kosovo workers from national oppression but also the exploitation of imperialist countries and their own ruling class.

"VINDALOO,
VINDALOO!
v i n d a l o o ,
v i n d a l o o ,
n a a n , n a a n !"

World Cup Kicks Off

by Kuldip, Camberwell

As we go to press, the football World Cup is in full swing. With two or more matches a day, TV, the papers, pubs and even the singles charts have been taken over.

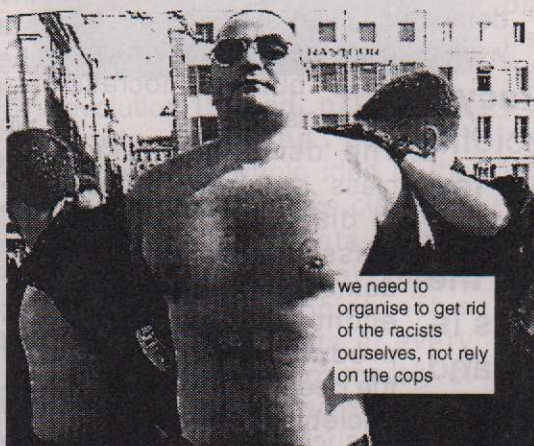
Much has been made during the course of the tournament about the differences in character of the nations competing. We hear about the skillful Brazilians, the temperamental Argentineans, the disciplined Germans, the flair of the Dutch. Commentators talk about the battling African nations and the colourful Jamaicans, not forgetting the passion of the English.

Whilst much of this seems harmless it means nationalism and xenophobia are given a free reign during the course of the month. It is no accident that the violence in Marseilles kicked off just after a Sun sponsored double-decker bus drove into the Quai des Belges, blaring out "God Save The Queen" and handing out bowler hats.

Of course, Tony Banks, Sports

Minister, was quick to denounce "brain-dead louts" and a "moronic minority" for the trouble.

REVOLUTION agrees that there is a



minority of hard-core racists like James Shayler (pictured) who whip up chauvinistic hysteria. As one of the rioters put it, "The French would be Krauts if it wasn't for the English." This simply mirrors the official history of England where every war from World War II to the Gulf is viewed as the goodies (England)

versus the baddies (everyone else). This is very convenient for the ruling class,

who want to enlist popular support for their military campaigns to boost their privileges. **How can they complain when it backfires?**

What the World Cup violence shows is that we need to kick racism and nationalism out of football, and out of society as a whole. The vast majority of fans enjoy the World Cup, either at home or in France, precisely because it is a tournament that brings together fans and teams from across the globe. It is a real opportunity to mix with Latin Americans, Africans and Asians and enjoy something in common.

Only working class fans can "kick racism out of football". And we can only do that by organising on the terraces, in our schools, workplaces and colleges to expose whose interests are served by racism and nationalism. And that means taking on and defeating the racist and nationalist policies of the "brain-dead louts" of that "moronic minority", the New Labour government.

"you don't get revolutions in this day and age ..."

by Richard, Hackney.

so what about **INDONESIA?**

THE **INDONESIAN** revolution has begun!

On 22 May Suharto, the dictatorial ruler of 200 million South East Asians, did the one thing he said he'd never do - he resigned.

What made it happen? At school and college we're told that history is made by the decisions of 'Great Men' like Suharto. But Suharto made his "decision" because the actions of millions upon millions of ordinary Indonesians forced him to.

The people turned against him. They were sick of living in poverty under a one party state that imprisons dissidents; where prices are put up whilst Suharto's family own \$46 billion and the top 400 Indonesian companies are controlled by just 25 families. And they were sick of a regime that spends more money paying back its \$70 billion debt to Western banks than it spends on homes, schools and hospitals.

Young people came right to the front of the struggle to get rid of Suharto.

Youth take the lead

In February students began peaceful demonstrations, demanding democratic reforms. They wanted a real election, not one with Suharto as the only real candidate. Then in May the students took the crucial step of coming out of the campuses and taking to the streets - at Sudiman University 65 protesting students were shot with plastic bullets.

Then the government dug its own grave. Under pressure from Western companies to pay them billions in debts, Suharto put fuel prices up by 70%.

Indonesia exploded. On 14 May in the capital Jakarta the poorest youth from the shanty towns rushed into the city centre and

set it alight. Some targeted Chinese shop-keepers, which could have divided the movement along ethnic lines and let Suharto off the hook. But most youth recognised their real enemies: Suharto, the police, and the millionaires standing behind them.

Suharto sent in the army. But when the conscript soldiers arrived in Jakarta the demonstrators cheered and waved at them. The young soldiers - themselves the sons of poor peasants and workers - returning clench fist salutes, soon broke ranks and mingled with the people.

At this stage the most intelligent leaders of the Indonesian ruling class knew they could not go on as if nothing was happening. Unless they did something the youth, the poor, the workers and the soldiers would rise up together to threaten not only Suharto's rule, but also the whole rich elite who would face a popular armed uprising.

Dictator no. 2

Suharto resigned. In his place the Generals appointed Jusuf Habibie, one of the former dictator's most loyal yes-men.

The first thing Habibie did was to clamp down. Students occupying the parliament building were evicted by loyal troops.

Habibie has promised "democracy" and "freedom". But no-one knows when the elections will be, and the leaders of the rebels in East Timor, who are fighting against Suharto's genocide of their people, are still in jail.

He promised stability, but the country is still being bled dry and turned upside down by price rises, factory closures and massive debt payments to the rich Western banks and multi-nationals.

The Indonesian Revolution has begun all right. But it is not over. It proves that revolution is not a thing of past - it is the most modern thing there is. There will be revolutions for as long as there is **capitalism** - the system that leaves billions poor while a handful rake it in, that leaves whole countries in the Third World in poverty to fund the multi-millionaires in America, Europe, Britain and Japan.

Forward to Socialism!

The Indonesian Revolution began as a fight for democracy. To win that fight the workers, youth and peasants will have to carry on the movement against the unelected Habibie. They should rally huge demos and link up with workers to build strikes to get immediate elections to a mass assembly. But it would be fatal to stop there.

The real cause of Indonesia's backwardness, poverty and oppression is the world-wide capitalist system. The Indonesian working class and peasants need to take their revolution forward from the fight for democracy to the fight for socialism: a system of democratic planning through direct working class democracy. They need to take power not just from Suharto and Habibie but from the whole capitalist class in Indonesia. This means breaking up the army by turning the rank and file against the officers, winning over the peasants by demanding land for the poor in the villages, and setting up workers', students' and soldiers' councils in the cities to overthrow the government and rule Indonesia.

This would be the first step in a revolution that would sweep across South-East Asia, setting the other staggering economies of South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and even China and Japan ablaze.

World Revolution! We mean it ...

Britain's Crimes

Blair and foreign secretary Robin Cook talk about a "new ethical foreign policy".

- Tony Blair is selling tanks, planes, riot vehicles, bullets and guns to the bloody murderers of the Indonesian regime.
- Suharto used British arms to massacre the people of East Timor in a systematic attempt at genocide.
- The water cannon and gas used against the Indonesian students were made in Britain and sold by British

companies.

- The tanks protecting the Presidential palace from the President's people are British.
- British banks and companies are sucking millions out of Indonesia by forcing them to pay back "debts".

Blair knows who his friends are - big business in the West, dictators in the East.

Bad news Tony - we know who our friends are too. Students, the poor in the cities, workers in the factories and offices, we'll remember Indonesia when we have to bring down a lying, thieving government ourselves.

REVOLUTION

LAWRENCE'S RACIST KILLERS STILL FREE

IN APRIL 1993 Stephen Lawrence, a young black man, was racially murdered by a gang of white youths. At the time the police did next to nothing to bring the killers to justice. Five men: Neil and Jamie Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris were all charged with the murder, but two of them were never tried and the other three were acquitted at a private prosecution in 1996. They are all still free.

An assistant on behalf of the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Paul Condon, was forced to apologise for their handling of the case. It is clear that the racist police force are guilty of letting Stephen's killers get away with murder.

The five prime suspects are due to appear at the inquiry, after trying to wriggle out of going by appealing to a judicial review. They will attend but lawyers aren't allowed to ask them if



they killed Stephen. The inquiry saw a video of Neil Acourt practising the knife thrust which killed Stephen whilst saying "I reckon every nigger should be chopped up and left with nothing but fucking stumps". David Norris is seen saying "I'd skin the black cunt alive, torture him, set him alive, blow his arms and legs off and say 'Go on you can swim home now'."

Even prejudiced judges have spoken out against the innocence of the five suspects. Lord Justice Brown pointed out that "one might think that if they were innocent, they would be clamouring to clear their name, but that is not the position".

Revolutionaries have always said that

the police in all imperialist countries are racist. In Britain, France, Germany and the USA, fascists often recruit from police ranks. Like the civil service and the judiciary, the police are central pillars of the state. The laws and legal systems they use are inherently racist as they come from the justification of slavery and the oppression of the Third World. The Lawrence case highlights how the Metropolitan Police force are no exception to this - and shows the need for communities to protect and defend themselves from racist thugs, whether they wear a uniform or not.

STEPHEN LAWRENCE'S KILLERS ARE DUE TO ATTEND THE ENQUIRY ON MON 29 JUNE AT HANNIBAL HOUSE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE SHOPPING CENTRE LONDON SE1 RING 0181-981 0602 FOR DETAILS

RAIL STRIKE...SUPPORT THE RAIL STRIKE...SUPPORT THE RAIL STRIKE...SUPPO

THIS MONTH has seen the beginnings of a fight against the privatisation of London Underground. Rail Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) staged a 48 hour strike against the move by the Labour Government to privatise the maintenance of the Tube. Tube workers are demanding that any selling off the London Underground Limited (LUL) should not mean an attack on wages and conditions. They have good cause to be worried about the impact of privatisation.

Since the Railways have been privatised 42,000 British Rail jobs have been lost. Rail workers have been expected to work up to 70 hours a week. Meanwhile, companies like Railtrack make up to £1 million a day in profits - the greedy bastards! But Rail maintenance workers stand to lose £40 a week and work more unsociable hours. That is why they recently voted to go on strike and are planning a series of strikes over the summer.

But railworkers aren't the only ones who have had it hard under privatisation. Since rail privatisation,

fares have increased by 20%. We are forking out more money for unreliable, unsafe and overcrowded transport. Meanwhile as transport becomes more expensive and unreliable, people turn to cars to get about. If the market is left to its own devices, experts predict that by the year 2021, morning traffic will have increased by 36% in cities and by 88% on motorways.

And worse ... the increase in petrochemicals in the atmosphere is estimated to cause as many as 10,000 premature deaths a year in Britain.

The Solution

So what do we do about it? The car is a menace - it's dirty, it's expensive and it's no fun waiting in a gridlock for 45 minutes to travel 2 miles. But we aren't going to stop car use unless people have a viable alternative.

Despite all the talk of a commitment to an integrated transport system, Blair and Prescott are shifting the burden of transport costs onto us - like raising taxes on diesel - while allowing private racketeers to make millions on the rail and buses.

What we need is a public transport system owned and controlled by both workers and transport users. If we have a price subsidised rail and bus network that is fast, clean and efficient, that not only takes people to and from work but also gives us access to leisure activities, then millions would abandon the car for the bus and the train.

Prescott argues that we can't afford to buy back the railways and the buses. Who's talking about buying them back? Branson and his cronies have made enough out of us already. We should expropriate their property without compensation.

We need to build a campaign for a nationalised transport system that meets the needs of those who use it, not the profit quotas of Railtrack and Branson. The campaign has to start by supporting the strikes of RMT workers on the Tube and the Rail. They have the power to bring the transport system to a standstill. Alongside a militant campaign of demonstrations and lobbies, we have the power to tell the government what we need - a transport system run and controlled by us, and subsidised by the rich.