

NORTHERN RESISTANCE



MANCHESTER ANARCHIST BULLETIN

JUNE/JULY 2007

FREE/DONATION

Blair to Brown...

This is not regime change



IT'S JUNE 24TH. Gordon Brown has come to Manchester for his coronation. After ten years of lies and broken promises, are we now to get a change in the way the country is run? Is there any chance of really changing policy and not just the leader? If they did change, would it actually mean anything? As anarchists, we are certain that a shift from Blair to Brown means little to the working people of Britain.

Gordon Brown is not a new face. He does not come with new policies. He has been a key member of the Labour government since it was elected.

BROWN'S RECORD

- As Chancellor, he's signed the cheques that have bankrolled the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- As Chancellor, he's the one who decided that public sector pay rises would be at

or below the rate of inflation (which in reality means pay cuts.) To make it worse, the pay rises are then staggered, a con which means we get even less.

- As Chancellor, he's the one who decided to scrap existing public sector pension schemes in favour of far worse ones. He's the one who wants low paid workers to live in poverty when they retire.
- As Chancellor, he's set up huge pay rises for doctors and dentists.
- He's supported schemes for building schools and hospitals using PFI – councils and health authorities paying huge rents to private companies in return for new schools and hospitals.

BROWN'S PLANS

- He thinks getting Christian fundamentalists, dodgy car salesmen and supermarket owners to run schools is a good idea.
- He's all in favour of wasting billions on

new nuclear submarines.

- But he'll make everything better by giving us "Britain Day".

WHY ARE THEY ALL SO BAD?

Gordon Brown will be following in a long tradition of Labour politicians who've shafted the working class since the day they were first elected in 1906. Here are a few examples of what Labour has done for the working class:

- Strike busting in the 1920s, sending troops in against Dockers in the 1940s, using troops against fire fighters in the 1970s
- Cutting pay in the 1930s, 1960s and 1970s.
- Fighting wars in Iraq in the 1920s and today.
- Building Britain's first nuclear weapons. Then building Britain's first nuclear submarines.
- Introducing prescription charges.

We don't need any illusions in Brown and Labour. They cannot change, because they have nothing to change into. Labour is just another capitalist party. It's just another party that works in the interests of the rich and powerful to defend their right to make a profit. ★

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There are AF groups in Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham, London, Bristol, Surrey, East Kent and more

Fight the Pipe



The struggle goes on to try and stop an already destructive gas pipeline being constructed in South Wales, from Milford Haven to Tirley in Gloucestershire. If finished it will be 197 miles long and will go right through local communities. It is one of the largest ever constructed (48 inch diameter), and one that National Grid have never had experience in constructing before.

BIG, BAD AND DANGEROUS

This pipeline is not only one of the biggest being built, it is also one of the fastest at 94 Barr pressure, which is usually designed to travel in straight lines, but this one does not, it both curves and changes in height, weakening the structure of the pipe. Sections of the pipe are also above ground, a method which is regarded negatively even by National Grid themselves:

“Installing underground pipelines provides the safest, most secure and practical method of transporting gas.

Above ground pipelines are not favoured due to their visual impact, their need for frequent maintenance and the fact that they sterilise the land preventing its use for agriculture and other purposes. All of National Grid’s gas transmission pipelines are underground”.

In Trebanos the National Grid intend to use explosives to move rock, Trebanos is situated along a faultline and lands.

DESTROYING THE PARK

This pipeline it will tear right through Brecon Beacons National Park. The national park wrote a 70 page report, stating that it will be unsuitable for agriculture, and trees cannot be safely planted within a 10 metre range, it will go through ancient woodland, threaten natural habitations, protected species, and areas of special scientific interest.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This is not even taking into account the effect it’ll have on climate change. This pipeline only serves to cre-

ate more quick fixes when the real solutions has not been taken into account because it is not in the interest of money or of the businessmen to do so.

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE

There has been a large resistance to this, from both the local community and activists outside, which has put a thorn into the plans of National Grid. There is an established protest camp in Brecon and there have been many actions taken against the pipeline, including a 6 hour blockade of the LNG construction site, and a carnival against the pipeline in Trebanos. The protesters have fought against the threat of eviction, and now the camp has stood up for five months.

The fact that this is a local struggle is extremely significant; it has lead to the community taking the power away from the bosses and the companies, and back where it really belongs which is to the community itself. We, as anarchists support such struggles and similar struggles that are happening in this country, in Rosspport and around the world.

If you want to get involved, get in touch with the fight the pipe campaign, fight the pipe in Manchester is now holding regular meetings. Anybody is welcome to the meetings. Check out: www.fightthepipe.co.uk ★

about ourselves

The **Anarchist Federation** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today’s society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the **ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and the **working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism’s destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we’re to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above.

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This bulletin has been produced by Manchester Anarchist Federation. Contact us at manchester@af-north.org or visit our website www.af-north.org ★

Want to know more?

AF Pamphlets:
Beyond Resistance, a Revolutionary Manifesto (£1.50)
Aspects of Anarchism (£1.00)
Defending Anonymity Thoughts for struggle against identity cards (free)

Write to our London address, or read them free on the web at www.afed.org.uk/ace

Manchester Anarchist Federation Meetings

June 26th: What distinguishes us from the left?

Venue: The Hare and Hounds, Shude Hill, Manchester M4

July 10th: An Anarchist’s Story - a film about Ethel MacDonald. the Glasgow anarchist who travelled to Spain in 1936.

Near Victoria Station.

All Welcome