

Europe and anti-capitalism

Adapted from the Weekly Worker July 19 2001

Italian trade unionists standing side by side with anti-capitalist activists on the streets of Genoa provides a welcome boost to the movement. Seattle was also notable for the fact that it had heavy backing from the organised working class. The movement must turn towards the only consistent anti-capitalist force in society - the working class.

Leading up to Genoa the ruling class has continued its twin track strategy of talking tough on one hand and attempting to incorporate the 'softer' elements on the other. Initially, the Italian government insisted that it would seal off Genoa. It refused to talk to the Genoa Social Forum - an alliance of 750 bodies involved in the protests. It became clear that this was not going to stop the protests taking place and the Italian government relented. Now it insists that peaceful protestors are "welcome".

The plans it has made are anything but welcoming.

The bourgeois media has been busy preparing ground to justify repression of the movement and police riot legitimised. The *Daily Telegraph* reported that European and American intelligence agencies were conducting a "manhunt for Algerian terrorists funded by Osama bin Laden amid fears they are planning to attack the G8 summit".

Significant mobilisations on the European continent are of vital importance for the anti-capitalist movement. For European leaders already rattled not just by Gothenburg but by the rejection by Ireland of the Nice treaty Genoa will be another disturbing sign of the growing groundswell against their project. For capital the European Union is a crucial development, but one fraught with the potential for huge political instability. If the EU is successful then it could provide a model for others. This was hinted at by a throwaway remark by Horst Köhler - the managing director of the International Monetary Fund - speaking at the United Nations Economic and Social Council about the development of Africa. In extolling the virtues of the IMF's *New African Initiative*, Köhler argued that its role should be viewed as being "to help underpin a process of deeper regional integration" (IMF website).

This was to be achieved both under the auspices of the

WTO but also through bodies such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Customs Union for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - regional trade blocs.

The EU has developed beyond a mere trading bloc and has begun - albeit hesitantly - to develop political as well as economic organs which operate independently of its constituent parts. It already has its own legal system, parliament (though an impotent one) elected by a European electorate and its own bureaucracy. Next year it will have

its own currency to stand alongside European Central Bank. Proposals for a European Army are already on the table. The Schengen accord - though it is frequently suspended - allows for free movement between EU countries. Crucially from the point of view of capital it allows for the free movement of labour - in essence a single European wide labour market. And also a genuinely *European* working class of course, confronting a European 'super-state' beginning to assume outline form.

That is why we need European-wide trade unions. We need a European-wide trade union centre to unite our struggles. And - crucially - to the extent that the bosses come together in a state, we need a

Communist Party of the European Union to fight and overthrow it.

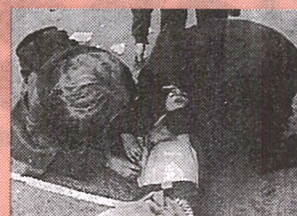
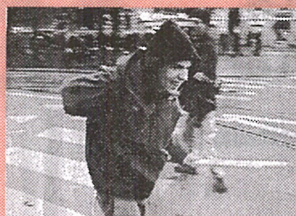
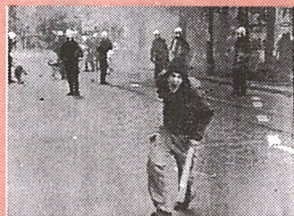
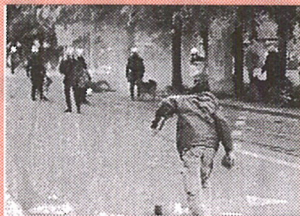
The new movement is taking shape. At the same time, the principal left organisations in Britain have begun to unite. The development of the Socialist Alliances and the Scottish Socialist Party are a part of a much wider process. In Australia the Socialist Alliance is developing. In France the joint LCR/LCO slate for the last European elections won three MEP's.

Logically, we should now be making moves towards a common left slate across Europe in the 2003 Euro elections. Such a move would provide a powerful boost to left unity. Such a slate could focus discontent with European project on the fight for a working class agenda.

It would not be an end in itself. But it would help the left win hegemony over the emerging anti-capitalist movement.

Politics are changing. To make itself relevant again, the revolutionary left must change in pace with the new developments.

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towards a
socialist alliance
party
a communist contribution



Jack Conrad

New Communist Party booklet

Some comrades in the Socialist Alliance say we should settle for a loose conglomeration of leftwing groups and local campaigns. Others want a 'relatively durable' united front. For these comrades the word 'party', when it comes to the Socialist Alliance, is an anathema. It is as if they were anarchists.

Of course such comrades already have their own 'party'. Jack Conrad argues, however, that there is no party. They are groups or, worse, sects. Members who disagree with the prescribed 'line' are expected to gag themselves in public. Either that or face expulsion.

While they might once have served to keep alive the embers of the revolutionary tradition such organisation might have found justification. No longer. The Socialist Alliance must

become a party and seek to arm itself with the most advanced theory.

In reality, we already are a party in many senses. We have a common elected leadership, common election candidates and common finances. The Socialist Alliance is also officially registered as a party. What matters is not the name, but creating a genuine party ethos. Drawing on an extensive study of history, this booklet presents the ways and means of arriving at that end.

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