International Communist League declaration

Defeat imperialism through workers revolution—Defend Serbia!

NATO "allies" over the bombing of Serbia lie fundamental and escalating inter-imperialist rivalries expressed in the growing trade war between the U.S. and Europe, as well as Japan. The post-Soviet world increasingly resembles the pre-1914 world. It was imperialist machinations stoking nationalist hatreds in the Balkans which led directly to World War I.

Today, NATO bombing is a trip wire for a broader and even bloodier international conflagration, potentially drawing in Greece, Turkey and Russia. While acting as a soft cop for NATO, capitalist Russia's denunciation of the U.S./NATO military attack on Serbia is in line with its ambition to assert itself as a regional imperialist power. Both Russia and the U.S. have huge nuclear arsenals, and the U.S. has already demonstrated its readiness to use these weapons with the nuclear incineration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Who could believe that the French, the British or the Israelis would be any more restrained? Capitalism is an irrational system, and the mad drive for profit and power inherent in this system will inevitably lead to a nuclear third world war if it is not stopped through international proletarian revolution.

Imperialists rain terror on Yugoslavia

NATO's war against Serbia has nothing to do with "human rights" or defense of the Albanian population of Kosovo against "ethnic cleansing." This war is not about the Kosovo Albanians. It is a war of domination aimed at realizing longstanding American plans to insert a substantial U.S./NATO military presence in Serbia through subduing, or if necessary dislodging, Milosevic. While Russia's denunciation of the NATO bombing is in line with its ambition to assert itself as a regional imperialist power, both Russia and the U.S. have huge nuclear arsenals, and the U.S. has already demonstrated its readiness to use these weapons with the nuclear incineration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Who could believe that the French, the British or the Israelis would be any more restrained? Capitalism is an irrational system, and the mad drive for profit and power inherent in this system will inevitably lead to a nuclear third world war if it is not stopped through international proletarian revolution.

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much a split with the SLP specifically but with social democratic politics in general (and certainly with anything that smacks of Tony Benn style "Little England Labourism"). Without going into too much detail I have chosen a different course of action, one might say. Since the summer I have been corresponding with a small London-based revolutionary group known as the Spartacist League—one of fifteen such groups operating under the banner of the Trotskyist Fourth International. Their biggest and oldest section is based in the US other countries include Japan, Russia, France, Italy, Mexico, Ireland, Germany and South Africa. Collectively called the ICL—International Communist League, the structure of each section is that of a homogeneous group of cadre, much like the Russian Bolshevik Party on which they’re based. Their programme calls for the building of a truly multi-cultural workers party embracing all those beneath the yoke of this repressive capitalist world. A world that has grown even more repressive with counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and the Eastern European states—reminding us of their departed naivety.

Their programme is of a truly Marxist nature, I believe. They refuse to operate in a bourgeois parliamentary manner and to embrace any element of the repressive state apparatus, an apparatus that must be crushed before anything even resembling socialism can be built. This is a basic Marxist-Leninist theory, one that I (though still something of a political novice) have understood and figured to be true for a considerable amount of time. It is also a theory preached by many a self-professed Marxist, though seldom put into practice.

The Spartacists stood alone in their defence of the Soviet Union for decades, seeking to out the nationalist bureaucracy and return to the internationalist goals of Lenin’s time. Today, with the "Death of Communism" lie still on the order of the day, the ICL calls for the defence of China, Cuba, Vietnam and North Korea from capitalist restoration at the hands of the West. During the time of the Stalinist sell-out in East Germany they struggled valiantly to defend the gains of the last forty years, organizing a demonstration in Trepkow Park, [East Berlin, protesting Nazi desecration of the Red Army monument]... which was attended by more than 250,000 people. Equally unique was their stance towards Polish Solidarity (The Pope’s Union). Whilst the rest of the left, Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskists alike, cheered the movement on, the ICL stated that it was a counter-revolutionary outbreak intended to return to capitalist austerity. They were proven 100% correct. I would like to detail a little more of what the ICL stands for but I realise that it would take too much time. However, anybody who wishes to find out more—don’t hesitate to contact me.

I hope this letter has proven a point and cleared up any suspicions as well. I thought it beneficial to make my motives clear.

Comradely regards

Lawrence

Young SLP member breaks from Old Labourism to Trotskyism

The following letter was sent to the Socialist Labour Party last December by a comrade who has since joined the Spartacus Youth Group.

Dear branch,

Although my absence from recent branch meetings has probably not provoked too much suspicion—there have been pretty overwhelming developments over recent months that I feel only right to inform you about. Developments within my own political thought that I have been pondering over for several months now. This letter will hopefully explain them and I would be very appreciative if it could be read out during the meeting.

First and foremost I must point out my decision not to renew my membership of the SLP. I decided this at least three months ago. This move signifies not so much a split with the SLP specifically but with social democratic politics in general (and certainly with anything that smacks of Tony Benn style "Little England Labourism"). Without going into too much detail I have chosen a different course of action, one might say. Since the summer I have been corresponding with a small London-based revolutionary group known as the Spartacist League—one of fifteen such groups operating under the banner of the Trotskyist Fourth International. Their biggest and oldest section is based in the US other countries include Japan, Russia, France, Italy, Mexico, Ireland, Germany and South Africa. Collectively called the ICL—International Communist League, the structure of each section is that of a homogeneous group of cadre, much like the Russian Bolshevik Party on which they’re based. Their programme calls for the building of a truly multi-cultural workers party embracing all those beneath the yoke of this repressive capitalist world. A world that has grown even more repressive with counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and the Eastern European states—reminding us of their departed naivety.

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Young Spartacus

"I have chosen a different course of action"

Young SLP member breaks from Old Labourism to Trotskyism
From death row, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal

Serbian demonstration bombing

"[US Secretary of State, Robert] Lansing strongly ob­­jected to any introduction of the concept of 'laws of humanity' and to trials of foreign leaders before any foreign or international court. International law, he con­­tended, regulated relations among nations, it had no jurisdiction over what a state chooses to do to its own people.


As a deadly rain of high-tech bombs fell on Serbia, a devastating rain of propaganda falls on America, media­­manufactured lies designed to prime the populace into supporting harsher military measures against a sovereign nation, in the name of protecting human rights.

NATO is but a fig leaf for American "interests," and the bombing of the Serbian state is but a global demon­­stration of the ruthlessness of the American empire. A demonstration? The monstrous atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, after it was virtually beaten in WWII, was not a military necessity, but a political one, designed to demonstrate to the Russians that the American military was the dominant force in the world. And for precisely the same reason — to show that it can be done, no matter what so-called "international law" states. It is to instill terror through­­out the world, in order for U.S. capital to institute what former president George Bush tried to fail, but to fail, to establish a New World Order.

Days before the bombing, NATO signed up Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) as its newest members, thereby virtually isolating Russia. Only Serbia, and the Yugoslav states, have refused to join NATO — their bombing is their punishment.

So too, the Serbian bombing treats Serbs as the U.S. treated Japanese during the War — as props to demon­­strate the power of the empire. Let us consider the claims that the U.S. is concerned about "human rights" or about the "rights of ethnic minorities" as the corpor­­ate press projects hourly: What of America's largest minority— African-Americans? The world­­respected Amnesty International group, speaking through its Secretary General, Pierre Sané, announced just days before the bombing, "Human-rights violations in the United States of America are persistent, widespread and appear to disproportionately affect people of racial or ethnic minority backgrounds." Sané was critical of police violence and executions in the U.S.

Further, internationally, let's see how the U.S. responds to "liberation movements" of the oppressed.

When fighters for Puerto Rican independence began to raise their voices the U.S. didn't support this "ethnic minority," they sought (and continue) to crush, incarcer­­ate and silence them. Consider the case of the Palestin­­ians, the Kurds, the Tamils, the East Timorese, the Colombian rebels — who has the U.S. consistently sup­­ported, the oppressed, or the U.S.-armred governments?

This isn't about "human rights." It isn't about "ethnic minorities." And it also isn't about "genocide." It's about establishing who's "boss" in the next century. It's about keeping Russia in its place. It's about keep­­ing the EU under the thumb of Wall St. The bombing of Serbia is an echo of the bombing of three other coun­­tries in the past six months — of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan. And for precisely the same reason — to show that it can be done, no matter what so-called "international law" states. It is to instill terror through­­out the world, in order for U.S. capital to institute what former president George Bush tried to fail, but to fail, to establish a New World Order.

Lies...

(Continued from page 8)

supposedly "new" Serb atrocities, includ­­ing week-old unconfirmed reports of Alban­­ian women being brutalized in Serbian military "rape camps." The Western press has hammered away at the supposed "genocide" being carried out by the Milosevic regime and Serb-chau­­vinist militias and talked of the "compli­­city" of the entire Serbian population in order to justify the terror-bombing of civil­­ians. But what has been going on in the for­­mer Yugoslav defomed workers state since it was ripped apart by nationalist fratricide has been "ethnic cleansing" on all sides, aimed at compacting homogeneous capital­­ist nation-states, with the Croatian and Bosnian Muslim nationalists playing no less bloody a role than the Serb forces.

The Western "human rights" propa­­ganda blitz about the Albanian refu­­gees — many of whom have been forced from their homes by NATO bombing — is a flimsy cover for an imperialist war of domination against Serbia. The strategy of civilian terror-bombing now being pursued by NATO has been employed by the bloody-handed British and US war­­makers for decades from the firebombing of Dresden and Tokyo in World War II to the "scorched earth" policy during the Korean War and the carpet bombing of Vietnam. In concert with the imper­­ialists' class hatred, this strategy is often used against industrial areas especially target­­ing the proletariat. During this war, dozens of bridges and factories have been destroyed, including the huge Zastava car plant in Krugjave, where in 1941 Ger­­man Nazi occupation forces massacred 5000 Serbs in a single day. Hundreds of thousands of Serbian workers have been left without jobs and whole cities cut off without water, heat or electricity. These are not accidents but a deliberate effort to terrorise the population.

The point of the lies and the censorship is not to keep information from the Serbs, who know full well they are being bombed, but from the workers of the US and Europe who may recognise in the perpetrators of imperialist slaughter their own exploiters and oppressors. The arrog­­ant ruling-class spokesman who lie that their deliberate acts of mass murder in Serbia are "tragic accidents" also try to dismiss the horrendous cop killing of black African Amadou Diallo in New York as a "tragic accident." They are the same types who forged false cases to get Mumia Ab­­u-Jamal to death row.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a black journalist on death row in the US. A lifelong fighter for the oppressed and against racist police brutality, as a Black Panther in his youth and later as an award­­winning journalist, this innocent man was framed for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia policeman. Last year his racist frame-up conviction was upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and a new death warrant may be signed for him at any time. With no illusions that the capitalist state lacks either the power or the will to execute Mumia, the ICL and the Partisan Defence Committee fight to mobilise the working class to battle for Mumia's freedom and to abolish the racist death penalty. Join the fight to free Mumia! Contact the Partisan Defence Committee, BCM Box 4986, London WC1X 3XX; tel: 0171-485 1396; Funds are urgently needed for Mumia's legal defence! In Britain and Ireland, send/make payable to Partisan Defence Committee and write "Jamil legal defence" on the back of the cheque. All such funds are forwarded in their entirety to the Committee to Save Mumia Abu­­Jamal in New York. To write to Mumia: Mumia Abu-Jamal, AMRSJ, SCI Greene, 1040 E. Roy­­burn Rd, Farnham, London B5 270, USA.

MAY/JUNE 1999

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(Continued from page 1)

reported every year by the European gov-

ernments. Indeed, these same governments

were into a virtual morass in their efforts of

having to open their borders to the refu-
ges from Kosovo.

The ICL stands in the tradition of V.I.

Lenin, the "Socialism and War," a powerful

handbook of revolutionary international-

ism written in 1915 and circulated clandest­
inely to workers and soldiers throughout

europe during the war, teaches:

"The standpoint of social-chauvinism is

shared equally by both advocates of victory

for their governments in the present war

and by advocates of the slogan of 'neither

victory nor defeat.' A revolutionary con-

sciousness cannot but wish for the defeat of
government in a reactionary war, and cannot

fail to see that the latter's military reverses
must facilitate its overthrow."

Lenin stressed that in the case of an

imperialist war against a small nation or

semi-colonial people, it is the duty of the

working class not only to fight for the de-

feat of one's "own" government but to help

the defense of the semi-colonial which is

under the attack of an imperialist aggres-
sion. In the present war, we are for the

military defense of Serbia, without giving

the Milosevic regime a shred of political

support. We called for the right of self-
determination for the Albanian population

of Yugoslavia against the Serb-chauvinist

regime in Belgrade until the Albanian

support. We called for the right of self-
determination of Kosovo against the Serb-chauvinist

dictatorship and the inherent

capitalist restoration and nationalism. But

Lenin, whose

Yugoslavia was born out of World War

II, when Tito's

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nationalities making up Yugoslavia. Tito (second from left), who was from

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racism or the national question in France, where along with the rest of the fake left it denies the right of self-determination for the Basques in France that too has suddenly become champions of the right of self-determination of the Kosovar people. In its 9 April issue, Lutte Ouvrière writes: “If the French government, as well as the other Western governments, were really helping the Kosovars, it would be tone “love and war” and we would not see the endless lines of refugees that we see on TV.” Despite its claimed opposition to NATO military attacks, the logic of this position is that the imperialists should intervene more decisively and really crush the Serbs. By demonizing Milosevic — rather than the imperialists — as the main enemy in this conflict, L.O serves as a left apologist for the bourgeoisie.

In the same vein, the minuscule International Bolshevik Tendency (IBT), which sneers at independence for Quebec and more generally is notorious for its indifference to the rights of oppressed peoples, such as the Catholics in Northern Ireland, today howls for “independence for Kosovo” — apparently they only champion independence for those who have imperialist sponsorship.

In it, this organization preaches conformity to the UN and calls for a conference of European capitalist powers to resolve the Balkans crisis. RC revels in anti-Americanism in order to alibi its support to its own ruling class. RC’s call to shut down the NATO air base in Italy is raised from the perspective of Italian nationalism and in the interest of a stronger capitalist Europe directed against its imperialist rivals (like the U.S.). We Trotskyists appeal not to the bourgeois state, but rather to the proletarian to mobilize labor actions against the U.S./NATO base. RC’s call is rather to be launched against the interests of all workers — Serbian, Italian, Albanian and Yugoslav. We smash the counter-revolutionary NATO alliance through workers revolution!

A four-page supplement issued 10 April by the “Committee of Workers for a Workers’ government” (CWG), never calls for immediate withdrawal of Italian troops from the Balkans. Proposito supported the previous “Ulivo”/RC bourgeois government which invaded Albania.

Social chauvinism means defense of “national interests,” i.e., clinging on the working class to identify with the imperialist aims of the ruling capitalist class. It means the explicit abandonment of class struggle by the reformists and pro-capitalist trade union leaders. Thus, the Italian CGIL- CISL-UIL bureaucrats called off a railroad strike as soon as the war broke out. Serbian workers are not the enemy of Italian rail workers! The enemy is the Italian bourgeoisie.

As Lenin asserted, “Opportunism and social-chauvinism have the same politico-ideological content — class collaboration instead of revolutionary methods of struggle, helping one’s ‘own’ government in its embattled situation, instead of taking advantage of these circumstances so as to advance the revolution.” The reformist trade union leaders are bribed with the crumbs of imperialist profits. In France unions get more revenue from the state and the capitalists than from their own members. Fake left groups like LO and LCR emulate this political corruption by taking their own financial subsidies from the bourgeois state. But he who pays the bills calls the political tune! We strive for the complete independence of the trade unions from the capitalist state!

Under the impact of a major war in Europe involving the imperialist powers, we are presented with the spectacle of erstwhile “revolutionaries” and “anti-imperialists” joining pro-imperialist war rallies. The centrist Workers Power joined the deeply Labourite Alliance for Workers Liberty in a 10 April “Workers Aid for Kosovar Women” rally in London demonstrating NATO and Albanian flags and placards screaming, “NATO Good Luck” and “Workers Hammer and Sickle”.

At “Workers Aid for Kosovo” London demonstration, 10 April, Workers Power bears the standard for a conference on behalf of “poor little Kosovo”, hypocritical cover for bloody imperialism.

When the German Fourth Reich was engineering the destruction of the Yugoslav deformed workers state, they called for immediate recognition of the capitalist-restorationist Slovenian and Croatian declarations of independence. A year later WP’s Austrian affiliate, the Arbeiter-Innenstandpunkt, was involved in a “united front” with the local chapter of Viktor Draks-kovic’s Serb National Rebirth, an organization of Great Serbian monarchists and Chetniks, then in opposition to Milosevic. During the 1995 NATO air strikes, WP refused even paper to defend the Bosnian Serbs against imperialism.

It would not be clearer that the fake lefts are social-chauvinists whose bottom line is support to imperialist war aims in the Balkans, despite the theoretical contortions they go through in trying to reconcile their lip-service opposition to NATO with their support to the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which is now simply the new face of NATO against the social-chauvinists of his time, Lenin polemicized against Karl Kautsky, a central leader of the German SPD who during the first imperialist war maintained “loyalty to Marxism in word, and subordination to opportunism in deed.” Lenin wrote that “Kautsky’s “revolutionaries” in an unprincipled way the fundamental idea of social-chauvinism, recognition of defence of the fatherland in the present war, with a diplomatic stance to the KLA — their bottom line is support to imperialist war aims. They support anti-imperialist movements as much as the enemy of those movements.

Lenin wrote that during World War I, World War I, and an orgy of chauvinism to shatter the Second International and for the “socialists” of that time to lead the working class to the slaughter. Today, as the first bombs were being dropped on the Balkan peoples, what passes for the “left” was already prostrate before its own imperialism. In the face of World War I, Lenin called on the workers to turn the imperialist war into a civil war in all belligerent countries, demanding a split of authentic socialists from the Second International.

The fake left’s ideological proclamation before imperialism reflects their many years support to Western imperialism against the Soviet Union in the name of “democracy” and “human rights.” As long as the Soviet Union and the deformed workers states of East Europe existed, as Trotskyists we called for their unconditional military defense against imperialism and internal counterrevolution. We fought for proletarian political revolution to oust the nationalist Stalinist bureaucracies. In contrast, the fake left supported every reactionary force in the Balkans (including in Serbia) as long as they are opposed to the imperialists’ current main enemy, Milosevic. Thus, in June 1991 when the German Fourth Reich was engineering the destruction of the Yugoslav deformed workers state, they called for immediate recognition of the capitalist-restorationist Slovenian and Croatian declarations of independence.

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Victorious Red Army tramples Nazi swastika, Austria 1945. The destruction of the Soviet degenerated workers state has led to intensified inter-imperialist rivalries and fuelled the rise of fascist terror across Europe.
fight to mobilize the social power of the organized proletariat at the head of all the oppressed masses against Germany’s main imperialist rivals, the priorities of the European capitalists, and is thus the strongest component, the European Union.


---On the Slogan for a United States of Europe, August 1913---

In contrast, Workers Power actually maintains that the EU is progressive, or potentially so, arguing that "to some extent European workers will be better armed to fight against the social-democratic parliamentary and union leaderships, which are transmission belts for racist poison into the working class and social power structures. The workers have simply perverted the conditions of mass mobilization and despair which serve as the breeding ground for fascism. Only active engagement in the urgent social struggles against racial oppression and repression can lay the basis for the unity of the multi-ethnic proletarian resistance against the bourgeoisie. But the labor "leaders" pursue the opposite policy, for example by organizing the racist cops into the trade unions. Cops are not workers! We demand: Cops out of the unions! To once and for all smash the fascists — the armed gangs which capitalist holds in reserve to use against the working class — requires socialist revolution. But the fake lefts who politically tail the social democratic bourgeois workers parties are totally incapable of a bold assault on the capitalist system. It is striking that the electoral platform of the LO-LCR lassu in the European parliaments elections does not even mention "socialism," let alone "revolution." For this reason the programme of the LO-LCR for the time being is to go back to the good old days of the "welfare state" — the program of social democracy! It is a measure of the retrogression of proletarian consciousness since the destruction of the Soviet Union that most of those who once paid lip service to the Fourth International, founded by Leon Trotsky and destroyed by revisionism, have become open mouthpieces for the politics of the Second Internationals, which have already aptly described as a "stinking corpse" at the time of the First World War. But this has also been the case to these pseudo-Trotskists, who openly advocate under the capitalist rule, we fight for New October Revolutions, which requires the reforging of the workers International as a world party of socialist revolution.

Down with Maastricht! For a workers Europe!

Previously a diplomatic appellation to the_BRUSSELS, May 29, 1995_ Today NATO conference, today the European Union is an undetermined enemy to the economic, military and political priorities of the European capitalists, and is thus a divisive force in Europe and non-European immigrants, as well as against Germany’s main imperialist rivals, the U.S. and Japan. As one of its strongest components, the European Union is a new arena in which the fundamental conflicts of interest of the major European countries are expressed.

Because capitalism is organized on the basis of particular nation states, itself the cause of repeated imperialist wars to redress the balance of power, to enable a stable and pan-European bourgeois state. The perspective of a progressive European Union would thus be reached by Joseph, Schröder & co. But a whole lies. As Lenin noted long ago, a capitalist United States of Europe is either impossible or reactionary, or capitalist.

"Of course, temporary agreements are possible between capitalists and between states. In this sense a United States of Europe is possible, in agreement between the European capitalists... but to what end? Only for the purpose of jointly suppressing socialism in Europe, of jointly protecting colonial booty against Japan and America."

---On the Slogan for a United States of Europe, August 1913---

"While endorsing the U.S./NATO massacre of Serbia, the Japanese ruling class is well aware that American imperialism’s role as top world cop is also directed against them, America’s main imperialist rival in the Pacific. Since the destruction of the Soviet Union, the former "truce" treaty less and less suits the real interests of the Japanese bourgeoisie. Already the second biggest military spender in the world, Japanese imperialism is pushing the revised military guidelines to prepare its five-battle-destroyer army and navy.

Asserting "Not one man, not one yen for the imperialist military," the SGP emphasized that the struggle against imperialist war cannot be conducted separate and apart from the class struggle: "Japanese workers must join with workers from Indonesia to the Philippines in the struggle for socialism, in the unconditional military defense of China, North Korea and Vietnam against imperialist attack. For proletarian political revolution. What is needed is an uncompromising proletarian party to lead the working class to victory." The sharp escalation of interimperialist rivalry, reflected in the growth of bourgeois militarism in the U.S., Europe and Japan, exposes a fundamental law of capitalism. Imperialism is not a policy that can be made more humane, as the Bolsheviks thought, but the "highest stage of capitalism," as Lenin defined it: "Imperialism is capitalism at that stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital is established, in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance, in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun, in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed." Lenin sharply polemicized against Kautsky’s theory of "ultra-imperialism," which claimed that the great capitalist powers could peacefully agree on the joint exploitation of the world by international agreements -- the highest stage of capitalism, he continued to the contrary, that "the only conceivable basis under capitalism for the division of the globe between the imperialists... etc., is a calculation of the strength of those participating, their general economic, financial, military strength, etc."

The small imperialists are engaged in a ruthless struggle to improve their relative competitive position by increasing their power at the expense of their domestic working class, by plundering the colonial and semi-colonial world and by seizing markets at the expense of rivals. With the Maastricht Treaty, the EU enters into the ranks of the world party of capitalist imperialism. As Lenin asserted, "imperialists and great democratic illusions, no matter what form they may assume, whether of one imperialist coalition against another, or of a general alliance embracing all the imperialist powers, are inevitably nothing more than a 'truce' in periods between wars." (Lenin, Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism)

The view held by fake leftists like Workers Power that a European capitalist superstate can be constructed by peaceful means is simply a modern-day variant of Kautsky’s theory. Another variant is the view that the existence of nuclear weapons will render all wars against imperialists — at least the "democratic" imperialists — from resorting to a new world war. In a polemic with Peter Taaffe’s Committee for a Workers International, the SGP pointed out that this demonstrated touching faith in the democratic imperialists, who gratuitously attack the U.S. and the daily defied enemies at the close of World War II. Today’s "leftists" who expect rationality and restraint from the imperialist rulers have deliberately short memories: the bloody-handed carpet bombers of Vietnam have little rationality and even less scruples.

There is an element of fatuousness in the presumption on the part of the American bourgeoisie that Russia’s weakness makes her easy prey for American intervention. The Russia of the tsars was not strong when it chose to mobilize against Austria (and therefore Germany) in World War I, and was defeated in such "rational" calculation; they all expected the war to be over in a few short months. This is how wars start, and our centrist leaders are leading the bourgeoisie they tail in this regard. We are not dealing with a rational social system, but rather with imperialism. Only world socialist revolution can save mankind from a barbaric outcome.

Writing on the aftermath of Hitler’s conquest of the Third Internationary leader and founder of the Fourth International Leon Trotsky wrote: "The catastrophic commercial, industrial, agrarian and social crisis, the international economic ties, the decline of the productive forces of humanity, the unbearable sharpening of class and international contradictions mark the twilight of capitalism and fully confirm the Leninist characterization of our epoch as one of wars and revolutions. It is the "Marxist Fourth International" (1934) by asserting: "It is indisputable at any rate that in our epoch only that organization that bases its program and tactics on the line of the Fourth International can enter into the ranks of the world party of the proletariat can root itself in the national soil. The only fruitful war means now the struggle for the Fourth International!" We seek to carry forward the work begun by comrade Trotsky: Reforge the Fourth International!💋
counterrevolution in Poland, the chief of the UN which invaded Haiti and Somalia and is starving Iraq, and the prime minister of capitalistic "South Korea." Russia the SLP now beseeches to bring us peace! Scarrill’s opposition to the Vatican-sponsored SolidarnoSt was used by the Thatcher government as a union-busting spearhead against Scarrill and the British miners before and during their 1984-85 strike.

Militants in the SLP who want to oppose British imperialism must understand that the "old Labour" political tradition which is still at the back of it is anything but anti-imperialist. The "little England" nationalists of the pre-Blair Labour Party, who sacrificed the self-interest of their own imperialism from India to Ireland to the "virginity testing" of Asian women seeking admittance into Britain. The line of Labourism is the so-called parliamentary road to socialism—although the ruling class would hand over state power to the proletariat after a democratic election; in the meantime, they seek to participate in the "human" administration of the capitalist system. You can’t fight an imperialist revolution against the capitalist system which breeds war.

The working class must fight national and racial oppression

Under Lenin and Trotsky, the Bolshevists understood that the struggle against the imperialist war meant in practice an accommodation of the working class to the capitalist system, which breeds war. The working class and minorities must advance together, or they will fall back separately. The working class and minorities must advance together, or they will fall back separately. The working class and minorities must advance together, or they will fall back separately.

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In 1939, to manufacture a pretext for the Nazi invasion of Poland, Hitler had German troops dress up in Polish army uniforms and stage an "incursion" into Germany. In 1964, US president Lyndon B Johnson fabricated a North Vietnamese "attack" on American warships in the Gulf of Tonkin in order to send ground forces into Vietnam. During the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War, the Western press purveyed outlandish lies, like the one about Iraqi forces murdering 300 incubator babies in a Kuwaiti hospital, to justify the imperialist slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqis.

The Big Lie is the handmaiden of imperialist war. Now the British/US/NATO rulers and their kept media are churning out a deafening drum beat of supposed "human rights atrocities" by the Serbian forces under Slobodan Milosevic with the aim of building popular support for NATO's war of domination in the Balkans and for the concerted terror-bombing of the people of Serbia and Kosovo. An Independent (30 March) headline screamed: "Kosovo's men of ideas are dragged from homes and shot", retaining "confirmed" reports of "executions" of Albanian notables — who turned up alive and well a day or two later. There were the Yugoslav pilots supposedly captured in Bosnia whom NATO promised to parade in Western television as tractors and horses pulling wagonloads of terrified refugees tried to escape. One survivor recalled, "They were coming very low and fired down. In the Independent, Fisk confirmed "evidence of strafing as well as aerial bombing".

For days after the bombing, every sort of lie was piled on to deflect attention from the ever more obvious fact that NATO bombs had blown away dozens of Albanian refugees in cold blood. On 16 April, the New York Times ran a diversion headline: "U.S. Officials Suspect Deadly Chemical Weapons in Yugoslav Army Arsenal", which went on to say that there is "no evidence that the Yugoslav army or the Serbian forces had used or were planning to use lethal chemical agents." Then State Department yuppy James Rubin announced that they had "developed (new) evidence of mass killings by Serb forces. NATO spokespeople in Kosovo produced high-altitude photos of mass graves which, they claimed, the Muslim Albanian victims themselves had dug — as evidenced by the fact that the graves supposedly pointed towards Mecca!

The truth is NATO has been bombing civilians, innocent men, women and children, since the war began. When two video-guided NATO missiles crashed into a Serbian passenger train crossing a bridge two days before the bombing of the refugee convoy, US general Clark described it as an "unaccident accident". Yet the pilot launched a second attack against the train after seeing that he had hit it once! This attack, too, was then buried in the Western press under a numbing stream of "justified" lies.