

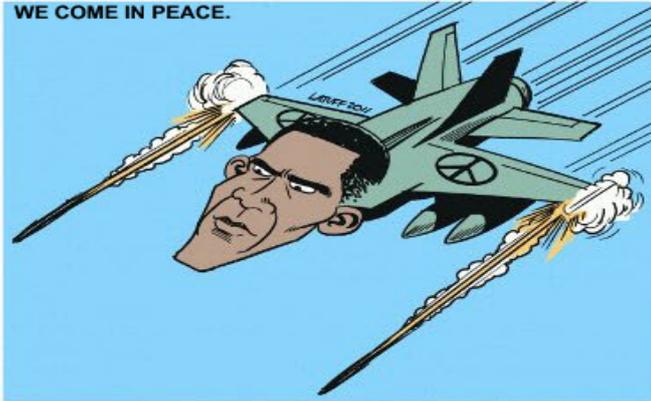
THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 91 March/April 2011.

We will try to produce this bulletin on a regular basis highlighting policies and events that influence our lives but are dictated by corporate institutions and governments beyond our control. If we, the ordinary people desire a world for all our children, we must resist, organise, and take control.

THE HEAVY HAND OF HYPOCRISY.



As Western Cruise missiles blast holes in Libya's infrastructure, killing Libyans to save Libyans, possibly laying the ground work for civil war, nobody is saying where they go from here. How long will the no-fly zone last, don't know. What do we do if the Libyans killing Libyans drags on in a long stalemate, do we send in the Western cavalry to take sides and give one side a wee push, more or less guaranteeing a prolonged civil war, more or less guaranteeing a prolonged civil war and possible occupation. Just to keep the peace mind you. As in Iraq and Afghanistan, the moral policemen are up to the necks in shit.

As well as Libyans killing Libyans, can be added those that are being killed and maimed by the compassionate West's weapons of mass destruction. I know that we are not getting figures of casualties, "collateral damage" but it is inconceivable that such weapons can be rained down on a large city, (Tripoli, population 1,065,405, '2006 census') night after night and the people are unscathed. But doesn't the West always fights clean wars, I hear you ask, we never kill civilians, only combatants. Remember "Shock-and-Awe" in Iraq and the following slaughter across that country including Fallujah December 23, 2004? The idea that this will be a nice clean surgical operation with all of Libya being ever thankful to the West is an illusion. We have been "policing" Iraq since 1991 and Afghanistan since 2001. When does our involvement in Libya end and at what cost? Not just in Libyan deaths and injured, but there is a high possibility of "Coalition of the Willing" suffering deaths and injury.

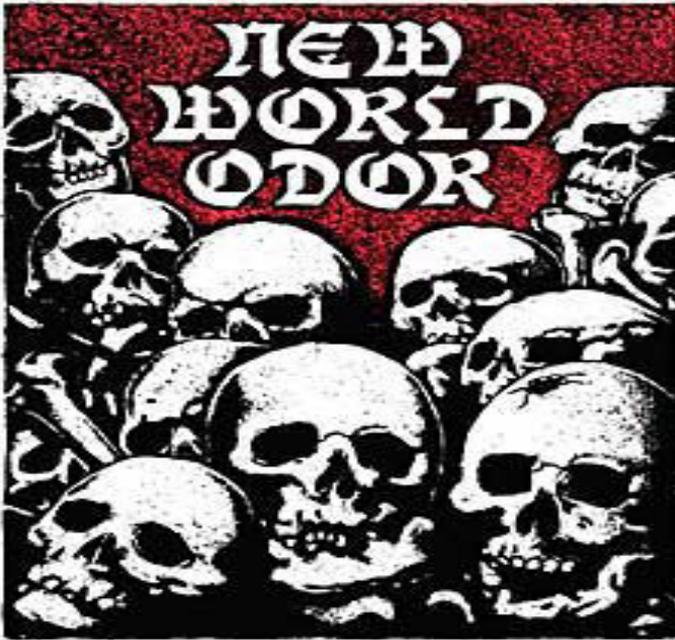
Setting aside the human horror of what is happening in Libya and casting a glance at the financial side, there must be questions. Here is some data on the financial cost of Cameron's Libyan caper, it seems that every Prime Minister needs a war. Most of these figures are from defence analyst Francis Tusa's estimate gathered from Parliamentary Questions.

Four RAF Tornado GR4s, running costs £35,000 an hour, each, once they are in the air. The Tornados fired Storm Shadow, possibly Brimstone missiles during their first two sorties, the MoD won't say how many. Each missile costs £750,000 to £800,000. If a Tornado is brought down there is the £50 million cost of a replacement. The 10 Typhoon fighters are more expensive. The cost to fly them is thought to be £70,000 an hour, though that may reduce to £40,000 an hour the longer the operation goes on. The Trafalgar-class submarine HMS Triumph, which has been in the Mediterranean for more than a week, it has been firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at Gaddafi's air defence systems. Running a submarine costs up to £200,000 a day. Its cruise missiles cost £500,000 each. More than 110 cruise missiles fired in the first three days. A quick calculation comes up with £55 million already up in smoke and misery from cruise missiles alone, with the arms industry rubbing its hands at the thought of all those being replaced. I don't know what proportion of cruise missiles were fired by the UK but I reckon that we would fire our fair share. The navy's two frigates, HMS Cumberland and HMS Westminster, running costs about £90,000 a day. HMS Cumberland was diverted to Libya on its journey home to be scrapped, so every day it is there is above and beyond budget. While this little pygmy war is being played out in Libya, let's not forget our long running and on going £4 billion a year affair in Afghanistan.

I know you can't put a price on human life but at a time when we in the UK are being faced with draconian cuts to every fibre of the social structure of our society, wage cuts and mass unemployment, is this the right policy. Can we really afford to strut around the world bombing democracy into other countries? When we look at the figures of death and misery resulting from our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan can Libya be justified? Meanwhile in nearby Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Syria, protesters are being brutally crushed but no call for a no-fly zone. Well, Bahrain is really a US naval base, which is very handy to have so near all that oil, and Bahrain is also on best buddy terms with that other autocratic despot regime, Saudi Arabia. So we don't want to upset that little power structure do we? Then of course there was no call for a no-fly zone over Israel while it carried out its policy of genocide in Gaza 2008/09

Forty odd years we supplied Qaddafi with hi-tec weapons of mass destruction and then go in with ours to knock his out. No doubt after this is all over we will have to re-arm Libya, now that is good business. It's all hypocrisy and is really about oil, resources and power, the Western powers have proved often enough that when it comes to the people of the Middle East and Africa, they don't give a shit.

CAPITALISM AND ITS ENDLESS WARS.



Britain boasts of being a peaceful nation but when has the UK been at peace? There are young people in their twenties who have never know this country not to be fighting in an overseas war. How many wars can a small country wage while telling its people that we can't afford decent social services? While cutting education, closing libraries and decimating the health service? The dogs of war must be fed but not the social fabric of our society. The arms industry has saliva running down its chin at the thought of another war. Who gains in these endless wars? Not the young soldiers who are sent out to do the killing, not the families of the soldiers, and certainly not the ordinary people of this country. And from past experience of Iraq and Afghanistan, it is not the people of the bombed country.

The only gains go to the corporate giants of this world, the oil industry, the arms industry and all the back-up companies that go to support any war. War is big business, capitalism doesn't just make money out of making things, there is lots of money to be made from destroying things, profit is all it is about, as far as the people are concerned, the corporate world doesn't give a shit. It is not the Libyan revolution that we should be focusing on, but the need for a revolution here to stop these endless bloody wars where the ordinary people of the world pay in blood and sweat and the corporate parasites inflate their already bloated wealth. We have more in common with the people we attack and invade than we have with the corporate parasites that stand to gain all the "spoils of war", corporate capitalism and its state mandarins are the "Dogs of War".

WHY NOT JOIN THEM!!!!

"...ironically, perhaps, the best organised dissenters in the world today are anarchists, who are busily undermining capitalism while the rest of the left is still trying to form committees." Jeremy Hardy

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BULLIES ALWAYS TARGET THE VULNERABLE.

No not the street corner bullies this time but the COSLA/Scottish Government proposals to further decimate conditions of service for those working in Education.

Sick pay reduced to 90% for 6 months and 45% thereafter.

Supply Teachers to be paid on Scale Point 1.

Maternity leave slashed.

Probationer Induction scheme to support new teachers abolished.

Two year pay freeze.

A total of £81 million ripped from the most vulnerable education workers creates a two tier workforce encouraging greater casualisation, undermining children's opportunities.

These proposals must not be the only thing we reject. Give Swinney at Holyrood, Watters at COSLA and the rest their 90 days redundancy notice! They are in breach of contract eroding schooling conditions where even more children will fail to thrive. Why use energy fire fighting when we can make the sources take the hit for these inhumane proposals that centre on the weakest without a voice. We need to identify these proposals as red herrings and redirect this REJECT campaign to a DESELECT campaign. Give them their P45 at the soonest possible opportunity, loud and clear.

We know that cuts like these to support Bank Bailouts create cycles of debt further lining the pockets of those same Bankers. Its charades, these proposals are ideological, they are about changing the system for good, not just robbing Peter to pay Paul. Reject these COSLA/Scottish Government proposals but industrial action must target the bullies who are sticking the boot in, in the first place, here and in Westminster. **By Wee Sniffer.**



WI NEED TEACHURS!

FIT FOR WHAT

Under the previous Labour Government FIT Notes replaced Sick Notes in April 2010. The Coalition has continued to target “the sick”, leading to a huge backlog of Appeals.

The Medical Questionnaire for new ESA* claimants has been fine tweaked from the old one for longer term Incapacity cases, but the methods of conducting the interviews are the same. Dozens of claimants end up at Corunna House, in Cadogan St., near the old Anderston Bus Garage, and few are awarded enough points to be classed as either unfit for work or could be fit in future with help, altered hours etc..

While filling out the Medical Questionnaire well, may help, the fact is that ATOS the agency contracted to conduct the interviews are paid on results. Like “bounty hunters” they aim to get people off benefits & often people are awarded Nil or few points despite their GP instigating hospital tests, often not even started when the ATOS “expert” makes their decision. ESA Claimants are reduced to basic benefit on Appeal, which for those on their own NI contributions, is ironically better than they were under Incapacity when Appeals led to only means-tested claimants being eligible, and at less than the basic rate.

THE OLD DIVIDE AND RULE.

Now Ian Duncan-Smith, one of many Millionaires in the Cabinet, has new more draconian measures than even 'New Labour' brought in. At worst case a punter could face a 3 year ban from benefits. Although some will fall “foul” of this, most will be forced, as at present to comply and go through the motions of seeking work, placements, re-skilling, much of the time by dubious bodies like the Wise Group. 21C Capitalism needs a “reserve army of labour” to keep wages in check , undermine terms & conditions, casualise contracts & drive expectations down. Above all these Rulers in Lab/Con/Lib, and in Scotland & Wales add , want this 'reserve army' - whether on the sick or signing on, or in limbo before retirement, caring for disabled or elderly, or in households where their partner is the only earner - to think individually, to internalise their anger, and not think of common cause. A small group of claimants, including former benefit advisors made redundant, have followed their counterparts in Edinburgh [2], and started to leaflet Corunna House. People coming in & out, often in poor health, a state of anxiety, angry or bewildered, are understandably pre-occupied with their own situation. It becomes every “man (or women) for themselves”, not quite “dog eats dog”, that is more akin to jobseekers at interviews, where hundreds chase every post.

The point of such leafleting, and the more in depth approach by Edinburgh claimants[2], is to highlight to those who discuss what ATOS are doing, and their individual problems with benefits, that they are not alone. It takes a positive appreciation to grasp that you do what your Rulers least want: to self-organise, to adopt the wobbly[3] slogan, “*an injury to one, is an injury to ALL*”.

The crap we, and our mates endure, in and out of work, will carry on until a real shake up changes our mindset to say: we are fit for a better future, we produce the wealth, plundered all over the world by corporations & Governments. Those occupying banks & showrooms of Vodafone etc., have shown the way. We will feel better, no matter what burden we are carrying, if we help create an alternative to this system, from the ground up [4], a big society to overturn all elites!

Key:[1] *Employment & Support Allowance;*

[2] *Edinburgh Coalition v Poverty: 0131 557 6242 on Tuesdays 12-3pm ,*

emailecap@lists.riseup.net

http://www.edinburghagainstopoverty.org.uk/ ;

[3] *Wobbles are rebel workers, opposed to wage slavery, influenced by the Industrial Workers of the World, which has a Clydeside branch*;*

[4] *Byword of Westgap, a community resource and advice centre in Partick, not tied to Council plans or tied to the “expert” advisor mentality, contact 342-4343, Mon to Thursday 10-4.*

* *Contact via my email hereandnowscot@email.com*

by **Jim McFarlane -**

Disability Allowance Examiner.



GET IN TOUCH.



Don't be shy,
ann arky would like to hear
your views, news, gripes and
opinions, so drop a note to;
annarky@radicalglasgow.me.uk

GET INVOLVED.

ANARCHISM ONLINE.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk

Glasgow anarchist's website.

www.radicalglasgow.me.uk

Local resource home of the Anarchist Critic

www.iwwscotland.org

Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com

Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in
communities and workplaces.

www.libcom.org

Anarchist/libertarian/communist news and resource site.

www.classwar.uk.org

Militant anarchist group, publishers of the
newspaper of the same name.

www.freedompress.org.uk

The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong
since 1886.

www.anarchistfaq.org

Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anarch-
ism is and why you should help it come about.

www.solfed.org.uk

The Solidarity Federation, British section of the
International Workers' Association.

www.katesharpleylibrary.net

Library of Anarchist history.

www.citystrolls

Think of your City and make it happen.

www.redpepper.org.uk

A radical independent magazine.

www.akuk.com

Anarchist publications.

www.schnews.org.uk

Free alternative news site

www.indymediascotland.org

Scotland's alternative news site.

FREEDOM

Britain's Longest Running Anarchist Newspaper

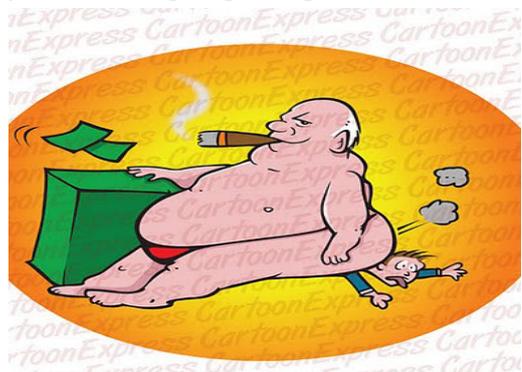
Established 1886 - 125 Years Fighting the System

www.freedompress.org - copy@freedompress.org

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BONUSES FOR PARASITES OR JUSTICE FOR ALL!!!

With the boss of Barclay's, Bob Diamond, being
burdened with a £6.5 million bonus, heaped on top of
his more than ample salary, while the rest of us face
savage cuts to our standard of living, we are supposed
to get used to seeing more of this sort of thing. Why
does the British public accept the injustice of this
system? Those responsible for the financial mess are
rewarded with bonuses in the millions while the sick,
the vulnerable and the poor are having their benefits
cut. The ordinary people are seeing services cut,
libraries disappearing, schools closing, unemploy-
ment rising, as well as fuel and food prices rising at
an alarming rate, we are seeing the privatisation of
our health service. Meanwhile the culpable parasites
still suck the system dry and are protected by their
millionaire friends in government. There is an alterna-
tive but the rich and powerful don't want you to think
about that, just knuckle under and accept the
"austerity cuts" leave the wealth and power to the
pampered parasites. The choice is ours, take what
they throw at you, or fight back for a better system
based on mutual aid, justice and sustainability. A
system that sees to the needs of all those in that
society, not to the pampered profit drive few.



QUOTE: We must understand that outside the
sphere of parliamentarism, as sterile as it is absorbing,
there is another field incomparably vaster, in which
our destiny is worked out; that beyond these political
phantoms, whose forms capture our imagination,
there are the phenomena of social economy, which,
by their harmony or discord, produce all the good and
ill of society. ... Know well that there is nothing more
counter-revolutionary than the Government. Whatever
liberalism it pretends, whatever name it assumes,
the Revolution repudiates it: its fate is to be absorbed
in the industrial organization.—

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1851), *The General Idea
of the Revolution in the Nineteenth Century*.

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