AFTER THE BUDGET...

STOP LABOR’S PRIVATISATION OFFENSIVE

HAVING SAVAGED its working class supporters with the budget, the government has turned its attention to privatisation. Here, Hawke and Keating have gained the offensive due to the Victorian government’s financial crisis.

After losing billions of dollars John Cain qutt and left Socialist Left leader Joan Kirner to mind the sinking ship. This supposed Leftist failed to sell the State Bank. Paul Keating jumped in to have the Commonwealth Bank buy it, and raise the needed funds, and then raise share issues to private interests.

It was a marriage made in heaven. Guided Kirner after meeting Keating: “I now know why financial journalists and people of the world say—Oh.”

The Victorian Labor Left was stunned and the Right turned the only way the Commonwealth could raise the cash, but that just bolstered. Several articles in the financial press have shown other ways to raise the funds.

The whole deal is a political exercise. The Australian quoted: “It is a turning point for the Labor Party. The opening of a new era for the Commonwealth Bank and a humiliating repudiation by the ALP Socialist Left of the principles by which it has lived.”

The Parliamentary Left’s defence of Telecom and other public enterprises has rapidly willed. Transparent talk of devoting the conventional claptrap.

OBSTACLE

The special federal ALP conference on 24 September could be a more difficult obstacle. But only a struggle that goes beyond party politics is going to the tide against privatisation now.

The Telecom unions are still taking a strong stand and have threatened industrial action. There is no doubt they have the power to win. Telecom technicians not only have industrial muscle due to their expertise, but they have considerable public support.

A public meeting held in North Melbourne in July attracted 200 people. Some serious mobilising work could produce meetings for later, and cement working class support.

Meanwhile Victorian unions could wage a much stronger fight against the redundancies of job cuts announced by their state government. The big rally in August showed the rank and file is prepared to respond if their officials give a lead.

But by and large the ALP and union left seems paralysed. The simple reason is that they are compromised by years of ALP government.

By Tom O’lincoln

LEFT

Take Brian Howe. Here was a Socialist Left Minister who joined Hawke’s Expenditure Review Committee in the early years of the government.

Far from championing the cause of social welfare, he soon became instrumental in selling Keating’s austerity to the rest of the Left.

In Victoria, the Trades Hall is stiffened. They are being cut out by that champion of socialism”, Joan Kirner.

A Serious Tolls to privatisation or to the on-going cutbacks would require some section of the labor movement to break with the logic of ALP politics.

But that requires more back

DID YOU hate the eighties under Hawke? The nineties could be worse.

The budget aroused little interest: huge surpluses and attacks on welfare are old hat. Even so, it was an outrage. Take pensioners. Thousands of poor pensioners have sold away relatively small sums of money in pawnshop or cheque accounts to avoid growing interest. This is to keep their income low enough that their pension entitlements aren’t jeopardised.

To encourage sound savings practices—what a cynical line!—they will now be taxed as if they were earning 18 percent. It’s bad enough that pensioners are caught in such a poverty trap. Now Keating has to resolve their plight.

A soaring home buyers, already haunted by ruinous mortgage rates, were told that the First Home Owners Scheme has been scrapped.

Supposedly the cuts are needed to fix up the economy. But this argument looks more threadbare with every budget.

Now, a chance to fight

THE MORE difficult economic climate has led some bosses to adopt a harder stance on wages. The Metal Trades Industry Association, one of the Accord’s staunchest supporters among employers, has refused to increase wages over an increase within the Accord Mark VI framework.

Undoubtedly they think that the current job losses in the metal industry (according to the Financial Review running at 2,000 jobs a week) mean they can get away with less than the unions are asking for.

But after seven and a half years of “no extra claims” and falling real wages as the price of slashing the accord, the union leadership don’t think they can merely accept the bosses’ ultimatum.

The Metal Trades Federation of Unions want action to save their version of the Accord. Much more importantly, they’ve been prepared to call mass meetings, a national 24-hour strike and further rolling stoppages in response to the MTA’s rejection of the wage claim.

Despite the intentions of the officials, this can give metalworkers a chance to break out of the Accord-enforced passivity of the past years.

CAN THE FREE MARKET SOLVE ROBBIK’S CRISIS?

To find out...

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HOSTAGES: The West's hypocrisy

Day after day we press is full of stories of how the West's policies and actions are bringing the world one step closer to war. The policies of the West in the Middle East, the Middle East in the Gulf, the Gulf in the world, are all contributing to the escalation of tensions and the risk of war.

The policies of the West in the Middle East have been characterized by a lack of resolve and a willingness to compromise with the demands of the enemy. This has led to a situation where the West is unable to take decisive action to prevent further escalation.

The policies of the West in the Gulf have been characterized by a lack of support for the resistance and a willingness to appease the regime. This has led to a situation where the West is unable to provide effective support to the resistance and is unable to prevent further escalation.

The policies of the West in the world have been characterized by a lack of understanding of the complexities of the situation and a willingness to accept the status quo. This has led to a situation where the West is unable to address the root causes of the problem and is unable to prevent further escalation.

The policies of the West have been a failure and the West is now paying the price. The West must change its policies and take decisive action to prevent further escalation and to bring about a just and lasting peace.

Gorbachev backs US

The real nature of the Gulf crisis is not about the US vs. the USSR. It is about the US vs. the Arab world. The US is using the crisis to justify its policy of regime change and to advance its imperialist agenda.

The US is providing military support to the regime in order to keep it in power and to ensure US interests are protected. The US is also using the crisis to advance its agenda of spreading democracy and human rights.

The US has a history of interference in the region and its policies have often been hypocritical. The US has supported dictatorial regimes in the past and has been complicit in human rights abuses.

The US is using the Gulf crisis as a means to advance its agenda and to further its imperialist goals. The US must be held accountable for its actions and the world must stand up to it.
The real story behind the Gulf crisis:

Oil, imperialism and revolution

Workers rise in revolution

The rise of Arab nationalism

The US ascendency

The real cost of reuniification

United States chemical weapons dump threatens Pacific countries

Inkatha: de Klerk’s police back the anti-ANC pogroms

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The real story behind the Gulf crisis:

"We must become the owners and not the tenants, the controllers of the source of all that is important to us and which we require."

STRETCHING from the frontiers north to the Red Sea, from the Persian Gulf, lies one of the world’s more peculiar alliances: the United Arab Emirates of the Arabian Peninsula, with 1.6 million people, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with 15 million. Together they form a large and mixed Middle Eastern economy that has a long history of collaboration, but also of conflict. The two countries are often seen as natural partners, but their relationship is complex.

Oil, imperialism and revolution

Oil revenues, which account for more than two-thirds of GDP, have been the driving force behind the economies of the Gulf countries. The discovery of oil in the mid-20th century led to rapid industrialization and modernization, but also to political and social changes. The countries were often ruled by autocratic regimes, often with the help of foreign powers.

Workers rise in revolution

The 1978 revolution in Iran was a turning point in the history of the Middle East. It marked the beginning of the Islamic Revolution and the end of the Shah’s rule. The revolution was sparked by a combination of factors, including economic hardship, political corruption, and opposition to the Shah’s policies.

The US ascendency

The U.S. has been a key player in the Middle East for decades. The country has supported authoritarian leaders, provided military and economic aid, and been involved in conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq War. The U.S. has also been a key player in the global oil market, which has significant implications for the region.

The REALITY of British rule in India

THE reality of British rule is that it was never a true colonial rule. The British held India as a protectorate until 1947, when the two parts of India gained independence from British rule. India was divided into two parts: India and Pakistan.

The real cost of reuniﬁcation

The reuniﬁcation of South Africa was a historic event that ended centuries of apartheid. The country has since made progress, but challenges remain, including poverty, inequality, and political instability.

Inkatha: de Klerk’s police back the anti-ANC pogroms

Inkatha, the Zulu liberation movement, is one of the most prominent political groups in South Africa. It has a long history of violence and has been accused of using excessive force against its opponents, including the ANC.

USA: chemical weapons in Panama

The United States has been accused of using chemical weapons in various conflicts, including in Panama during the Gulf War. The weapons were used to protect American soldiers from potential threats.

In brief

Stirrings in the Dominican Republic

A national strike shook the Dominican Republic in the summer of 1990. Demonstrations were held and the government took措施 to quell the unrest.

Tobacco Riots in Slovenia

The LACK of consumer goods and services led to unrest in Slovenia in the late 1980s. The government was accused of not doing enough to address these issues.

Greens fight in France

The French Greens were a prominent political party in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They were known for their environmental policies and opposition to nuclear power.

The socialist September 1990
VIC LEFT'S HORROR BUDGET

By Glenn Harper

WHEN THE Socialist Labor Alliance became Victorian Premier in early August, there was much rejoicing from the Right. They hadn't had it before.

The Socialist Labor Alliance had been in power in Victoria for a number of years. They had promised a lot of things, but in the end they delivered very little. The people of Victoria were tired of the same old politics and were ready for change.

The election campaign was a bitter one, with the Right attacking the Socialist Labor Alliance for their supposed failures. But the Socialist Labor Alliance offered a clear vision of a better future for Victoria, and the people voted for change.

The new Government immediately set about implementing their plans. They began by reducing the size of the bureaucracy, which had grown under the Right. They also reduced welfare payments, which were seen as a waste of money.

But the Right were not pleased. They accused the Socialist Labor Alliance of not doing enough. They called for more cuts and less spending.

The Socialist Labor Alliance ignored them, and carried on with their plans. They knew that they were right, and that the people of Victoria would eventually see the wisdom of their policies.

It was a difficult time for the Right, but they didn't give up. They worked hard to undermine the Socialist Labor Alliance, and to convince the people that they were the better option.

But in the end, the Socialist Labor Alliance were victorious. They had shown that it was possible to govern without the usual corruption and waste. They had proved that a government could work for the people, and not just for the rich and powerful.

The people of Victoria were grateful for the change, and the Socialist Labor Alliance were re-elected with a big majority. They continued to govern, and to implement their policies.

It was a hard task, but they did it. They showed the people of Victoria that they were a force to be reckoned with, and that they would not be defeated.

The future looked bright for the Socialist Labor Alliance, and for the people of Victoria. They had left behind the old ways, and were moving into a new era of progress and prosperity.

END OF ARTICLE

Under Victoria's "Socialist" government, it's... JAIL FOR LEIGHTON'S PICKETERS

ON 27 AUGUST, Ralph Edwards was jailed for 21 days without remission—for picketing.

Ralph is a shop steward with the Federation of Engineering Employees, employed at Leighton's Factory in Melbourne. He was arrested on September 4.

The case came before the Supreme Court of Victoria on 17 September, and Ralph was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment.

Ralph's union had been attempting to negotiate a new contract with the company for some time. The negotiations had been difficult, and both sides had been unwilling to compromise.

Finally, on August 27, the union went on strike, demanding a better contract for its members. Ralph was one of the picketers who joined the strike.

But the company had hired a private security firm to keep the unionists off the premises. Ralph and his colleagues were not deterred, and they continued to picket outside the factory.

The security firm called the police, who arrested Ralph and his friends. They were charged with obstruction, and taken to prison.

Ralph was sentenced to 21 days in jail, and his union members were left to wonder what would happen to them next.

ABANDONED BY OFFICIALS

The presence of the BFL�, the National Labour Relations Board, has been abandoned by the workers at Leighton's Factory. The BFL� has not come to their aid.

Some of the picketers have been taken to court, and they have been fined or imprisoned. But the BFL� has not supported the workers in any way.

The workers at Leighton's Factory are alone in their struggle. They have been abandoned by the BFL�, and they have no one to turn to.

STUDENTS BACK LEIGHTON'S WORKERS

The students of the Melbourne University have shown their solidarity with the workers at Leighton's Factory. They have staged a demonstration in support of the workers.

The students had been aware of the workers' struggle for some time, and they had decided to do something to help.

They organised a protest outside the factory, and they called on other students to join them in their support.

The students were met with resistance from the security guards, but they continued to press their demand for the workers' rights.

The demonstration was a success, and it showed the workers at Leighton's Factory that they were not alone in their struggle.

The students have called on others to join them in their support of the workers. They have asked for signatures on a petition, and they have encouraged others to participate in the protest.

If you would like to support the workers at Leighton's Factory, please consider giving them your support.

END OF ARTICLE

May we quote you?

If you would like to allow us to quote you on this subject, please be in touch.

END OF ARTICLE
Whose peace does it keep?

Resolution mongering

A similar example of the real machinations of the General Assembly is the fact that the PLO has never been recognised by the majority of the UN. The presence of the PLO in the UN Family is essentially a political manoeuvre. The United Nations is a political organisation, not a forum for the resolution of conflicts.

Left politics and the Gulf

In a statement issued in 1989, the PLO rejected the idea of a Palestinian state. An agreement was given by the General Assembly, which is not binding, for the resolution of the Palestinian question.

What is the UN's record?

The United Nations Relief and Repatriation Administration (UNRWA) was set up to provide humanitarian aid and protection for Palestine refugees. As a result, the UN provided 70% of the costs of the refugee camps. Food was distributed on the basis of need, but in a way that was perceived as benefiting the PLO and its supporters.

Rainbow Warriors

The UN Security Council has often been criticized for its inability to take decisive action on issues such as the Palestinian question. The Security Council has been dominated by the permanent five members (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US), which are all members of the Security Council.

In conclusion, the UN is not a neutral body, but a political organisation that serves the interests of its members. It is time for a new approach to the UN, one that is free from the influence of the PLO and its supporters.
Would Lenin have defended Saddam?

Socialists have fought for the working class, but not to the point of violent revolution. Yet we are convinced that the struggle against imperialism, whether direct or indirect, is necessary for the defense of freedom.

Every socialist and every worker knows that a society of free people cannot be built on the ruins of a society of slave labor. In our socialist order, the state will no longer exist, and all productive forces will be owned and controlled by the working class. This is the essence of the socialist idea.

The national struggle against imperialism

Socialists and Iraq today

No matter how many times we are asked, we must always say yes to the struggle against imperialism. The struggle against imperialism is not just a battle for the future, but a battle for the present. It is the struggle for the rights of all people, for the rights of the working class, for the rights of oppressed nations, for the rights of all those who suffer under the weight of imperialism.

Trotsky on Haile Selassie

The approach totally removes the paint. For Trotsky the essential question is not the politics of the leadership of the anti-imperialist struggle, but the politics of the working class itself. The struggle is not just for independence, but for the freedom of all people.

The tactic of critical support

However, while many socialists fight against imperialism, they do not always see eye to eye. There are those who believe in critical support, and those who believe in isolation. Trotsky advocated the tactics of critical support, but others did not agree.

EXPULSED

He was expelled from the group of both Trotsky and the Russian Social Democrats.

Leningrads State and Revolution, a guide for those fighting today

Lenin's State and Revolution, a guide for those fighting today.

The Marxist Classics

A series which looks at the Marxist movement.
The reactionary myth of ‘too many people’

By Sandra Bloodworth

The idea that there is a problem with the world’s population is widely held in the environmental movement. It is a myth that has been perpetuated by the media and by politicians, and it is a myth that has been used to justify policies that harm the environment.

The myth is based on the idea that the world is overpopulated, and that this overpopulation is causing environmental problems. This is a false idea, and one that is based on a misunderstanding of the way that the world works.

Population growth is not a problem, because the world’s population is growing at a rate that is sustainable. The world’s population is growing at a rate that is comparable to the rate of population growth in the past, and is comparable to the rate of population growth in other parts of the world.

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FEATURES

Twenty years of gay liberation in Australia

Australasia's first homonorm rights groups were founded in the 1970s, and the support of the Federal Government. But the legal rights of the gay community were not secure until 1994 when the Australian Capital Territory passed anti-discrimination laws. The success of gay rights activism is often attributed to the efforts of the Gay Liberation Movement. Gay rights activism was the driving force behind the successful campaign for the legalisation of gay rights in Australia.

The Gay Liberation Movement was the first organisation to be established in Australia to advocate for the rights of gay people. It was founded in 1974 and had a strong influence on the development of gay rights in Australia. The movement was based on the principles of freedom and equality, and it fought against discrimination and prejudice.

The Gay Liberation Movement was successful in achieving some of its goals, including the legalisation of gay rights. However, the movement faced many challenges, including opposition from conservative groups and the media. Despite these challenges, the Gay Liberation Movement played a significant role in the development of gay rights in Australia.

The legacy of Gay Liberation

The legacy of Gay Liberation is still evident today. Gay rights activists continue to fight for the rights of gay people, and the movement has won many victories. The Gay Liberation Movement paved the way for the development of gay rights in Australia, and it is an important part of the history of gay rights activism.

LETTERS

How can you support Iraq?

The Socialist welcomes letters and reports from our readers. Please write to: PC Box 6258, St James, NSW 2009.

Gay waves threatened

The Socialist welcomes letters and reports from our readers. Please write to: PC Box 6258, St James, NSW 2009.

No answers for the nineties

The collection of essays by spending time with the people of Iraq, writing letters and reports from our readers. Please write to: PC Box 6258, St James, NSW 2009.

Defeat in Nicaragua

The collection of essays by spending time with the people of Nicaragua, writing letters and reports from our readers. Please write to: PC Box 6258, St James, NSW 2009.

Aussie rules feminism

The collection of essays by spending time with the people of Australia, writing letters and reports from our readers. Please write to: PC Box 6258, St James, NSW 2009.

Reviews

The collection of essays by spending time with the people of...
AS BUSH SENDS 250,000 TROOPS...

STOP U.S. WAR DRIVE

FORGET the hypocritical posturing: George Bush wants war in the Gulf.

By Phil Griffiths

So Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State during the Nixon administration, has called for a "surgical strike" against Iraq, a program of bombing that would destroy Iraqi industry and kill tens of hundreds of thousands of ordinary workers.

A.M. Rosenblatt, former chief executive of the New York Times: "The ultimate goal now has to be the elimination of the... Baghdad dictatorship by Western economic and military reprisals."

William Safire, also a leading columnist with the Times: "Our declared-war strategy should be to (1) suppress Iraq air defenses; (2) take out war production at the 26 key targets; (3) launch a three-front war at the Turkish, Syrian and Kuwaiti borders... Our great danger is delay."

On the editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal: "If we take Baghdad and install a MacArthur regime, that is the optimum."

Look at the scale of the US military buildup. In Vietnam, it was 500,000 troops. Now we're talking about 250,000.

Kuwait, Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, people like Mubarak of Egypt and Fahd of Saudi Arabia, where widespread slavery still existed in the 1970s, and where the government cuts the hands of people convicted of theft.

Will the Palestinians benefit from this? Certainly not the people of the region, who have seen their oil wealth systematically plundered by companies like Exxon, BP and Royal Dutch Shell for most of this century.

It was precisely to protect their oil supplies that Britain, France and the US supported the Zionist colonisation of Palestine and systematically imposed a series of murderous regimes: the Shah of Iraq, the fabulously wealthy and brutal Emirs of Kuwait, Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, people like Mubarak of Egypt and Fahd of Saudi Arabia, where widespread slavery still existed in the 1970s, and where the government cuts the hands off people convicted of theft.

For the first two and a half years, the intifada put Israel and the US on the defensive. Now US opinion is hardening behind Israel, whose importance as the major pro-US military power in the region has come back to the fore.

If the US and its allies get away with this, every movement of the oppressed will be set back—the oppression in Chile, the rebels in El Salvador, the workers and peasants of Nicaragua and the independence movement on Bougainville.

But most importantly, the class struggle in the West will also be set back. Already Britain, France and the US are ditching the cuts in military spending that were promised with the decline of the Russian empire.

The burden of mounting debt and looming recession will not go away; it will be shoved onto the working class and the poor. Any victory for the West in the Gulf will make it easier for them to get away with it.

Beating the drums of war has already given Margaret Thatcher a boost.

And here in Australia, it is the government that is selling off Qantas and Australian Airlines, that has abolished the dole, that is cutting wages and jobs with a fury, that says there is no money to spend on reversing the decline of our cities—and it is this government that is spending millions of pounds to impose the will of Western imperialism on the peoples of the Middle East.

It is these people, Hawke, Bush and Thatcher, the robbers and war-mongers of the West, that are our greatest and most immediate enemy.

We want to see them stopped. A defeat in the Middle East would be a good start.

That's why we say: Hawke and Bush, Get out of the Gulf!