No to recession, No to war!

NXT TIME you buy petrol—who can afford to fill up any more?—just be thankful for the many blessings of “free world” capitalism.

Until George Bush and Bob Hawke decided to invade the Gulf, petrol was selling at around 60 cents a litre. Today it’s around 80 cents and rising.

The invasion was supposedly necessary to prevent a “marauder” like Saddam Hussein threatening to withhold oil supplies. Yet it’s the West’s blockade that has stopped the oil flowing.

All this century the people of the Middle East have had their wealth plundered by a tiny cartel of multinational oil companies, the “Seven Sisters”. Just look at them: The biggest, Shell and Exxon, are worth over $70 billion each. Last year, Shell made $8 billion profit and BP $4 billion.

To guarantee their plunder, the British and Americans divided up the Gulf region, drawing “national” boundaries in the sand, and putting loyal clients like the brutal Al-Sabah family in charge of the various entities.

Saddam Hussein’s “crime” was to upset that system of plunder and parangage. Bush’s invasion was aimed at protecting and restoring it.

In 1956, the British foreign secretary spelled it out: “At all costs these oilfields must be kept in Western hands. . . . We need, it seems, things to go wrong, to ruthlessly intervene.” Or as the US magazine Business Week put it: “Oil is worth guarding for.”

But who for?

For every $1 rise in the price of a barrel of oil, the oil companies add $500 million to their profits. So far, the West’s blockade has forced prices up $20 a barrel, an extra $200 million profits every week for the “Seven Sisters”.

The Australian ruling class too stands to make windfall gains. As an energy exporting country, coal, uranium and gas prices are also being pushed up to the benefit of BHP, WMC, Amstud, Woodside and Santos.

And the Federal government stands to collect another half a billion in extra petrol taxes. There are no prizes for guessing who pays. Yet the price rise has nothing to do with any shortage in supply. According to Bob Hawke, the “Economist” the Chevron Corp. has plenty of crude around. “Supplies are actually running slightly ahead of last year, due to increased production from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.”

The real reason for exrasy oil prices is the market. Despite its critical importance to the world economy, the price of oil is in the hands of speculators, futures traders and other greedy parasites.

Oil prices around the world are set by the “spot market” at the New York Mercantile Exchange. The uncertainty caused by the West’s invasion has created “fear” at the Merc. One American banker explained, “If you bet on the wrong case and you’re wrong, you may have missed out on some opportunities to make money—but you’ve survived to play another day.” But if the worst actually happens and you’re wrong: “You’ve wiped out.”

Ordinary people are going to pay in a second way. With oil at $40 a barrel, consumer prices in the US are expected to be 9% over last year, forcing the US economy to a standstill. And recession in the US will help drag the rest of the world down.

Australia is already in recession, put there by conscious government policies to drive down living standards. The Liberals are demanding that rising petrol prices be excluded from any negotiations over wages. Keating is under pressure from the ruling class to renegotiate the miserable Accord. Mark Latham signed before the election.

And around the country, factories, banks, TV stations and governments are sacking workers to “increase productivity”. While Hawke is spending tens of millions on the holidays he sent to the Gulf. Paul Keating tells us Australia cannot afford to fix up our decaying cities and transport systems.

There is no war, no massive array of troops to protect our jobs, our homes, our schools or the services we rely on.

If we are to do them we have only ourselves to rely on. We have to rebuild our unions into fighting organisations, and stand in solidarity with those who are facing the same enemies as ourselves.

This includes the Arab people who are still today rising against the West’s new invasion.

What a miserable future capitalism offers us—not the guarantee of life in a society associated with the market, but unemployment, poverty, social decay and war.

The need to fight for a real socialist alternative could not be clearer.
What's wrong with PLO's peace plan?

While the U.S. is trying to revive the peace process in the Middle East, attempts at "peace talks" continue to fail. The United States has been pushing for a two-state solution to the conflict, yet the parties involved have been unable to reach an agreement. The PLO has been pushing for a single state solution, which is not acceptable to Israel. The United States has been trying to broker a deal, but so far, it has been unsuccessful.

After the privatisation conference:

Where to now for Labor?

Hawke was re-elected with a comfortable majority.

Another step towards decomposition

The conference was marked by great excitement.

You are invited to the annual conference of the International Socialist Organisation.
What's wrong with PLO’s peace plan?

WHILE THE U.S. builds up its forces in the Middle East, attempts at “non-military” solutions continue. Some of the Bush administration’s efforts have been more of a fig leaf to cover its rejection of any real peace process. The recent “summit” in Washington was a good example of this. As the New York Times observed, “The sum- mit was a photo op aimed at showing a commitment to peace, but the real work of bringing the Israelis and Palestinians together has yet to begin.”

The fact is that the U.S. has reversed its policy of seeking a two-state solution to the conflict and has embraced the so-called “peace now” movement as a means of preventing the rise of a Palestinian state. This is not surprising given the Bush administration’s close ties with Israeli右翼以色列 right-wing factions.

The PLO peace plan, as presented at the Madrid Conference, is a non-military solution to the conflict. It calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty over the occupied territories. This is a clear departure from the “peace now” movement’s call for an end to the conflict and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

The PLO peace plan is based on the principle of “self-determination,” which is enshrined in the United Nations Charter. It recognizes the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right to establish their own state. The plan also calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

The PLO peace plan is a step in the right direction, but it is not a panacea. It will require the active participation of all parties to the conflict, including Israel, the Palestinians, and the international community. It will also require the continued support of the United Nations and other international organizations.

In conclusion, the PLO peace plan is a viable and realistic solution to the conflict. It is a step in the right direction, but it will require the active participation of all parties to the conflict and the continued support of the international community.

Interview: A Muslim student speaks out

ES: What do you think about the peace process in the Middle East?

M.S.: I think it’s important to have a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It’s a complex issue, and there are many different perspectives. I believe that both sides should work together to find a solution that benefits everyone.

ES: What do you think about the role of the United States in the peace process?

M.S.: I think the United States has a responsibility to help facilitate a peaceful resolution. They have been heavily involved in the conflict, and their influence can be crucial.

ES: What do you think about the role of the Arab League in the peace process?

M.S.: I think the Arab League is an important player in the peace process. They have helped to bring the issue to the forefront of international attention.

ES: What do you think about the role of the Palestinian Authority in the peace process?

M.S.: I think the Palestinian Authority is an important player in the peace process. They have been working towards a peaceful resolution.

ES: What do you think about the role of the Israeli government in the peace process?

M.S.: I think the Israeli government has a responsibility to work towards a peaceful resolution. They have a right to exist, but they should also be prepared to make concessions for the sake of peace.

Interview with a Palestinian student

Es: How do you feel about the current situation in the Middle East?

M.S.: I feel disappointed with the lack of progress towards a peaceful resolution. I believe that both sides should work together to find a solution that benefits everyone.

Es: What do you think about the role of the United States in the peace process?

M.S.: I think the United States has a responsibility to help facilitate a peaceful resolution. They have been heavily involved in the conflict, and their influence can be crucial.

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After the privatization conference:

Where to now for Labor for Peace?

ABOVE: Hawke voting in the first ballot for Labor for Peace. Hawke is a strong supporter of the movement and has been a consistent advocate for peace in the Middle East.

BUT Hawke was the first to go. After a failed attempt to keep Labor for Peace "alive" in the last election, the party has decided to withdraw from the political scene. Hawkins and the Labor for Peace leadership were not happy with the result of the election and decided to pull out of the political arena.

The move has divided the party, with some members calling for a return to the political scene and others calling for a complete withdrawal.

With the withdrawal of Labor for Peace, the political landscape in the Middle East has become even more complex. The future of the region is uncertain, and the path to peace remains unclear.

Accompanying the peace conference was a strong demonstration against the war in Iraq. The demonstration brought together a diverse group of people from all walks of life.

Another step towards decommissioning

The conference was held in response to the growing concern about the continued conflict in the Middle East. Participants called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and they discussed ways to move towards a decommissioning of the conflict.

The conference was also attended by several prominent figures, including former Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Hawke won the vote, but lost the party

At the conference, Hawke won the vote for Labor for Peace. However, his win was not enough to save the party. The party has decided to withdraw from the political scene as a result of the election.

The move has divided the party, with some members calling for a return to the political scene and others calling for a complete withdrawal.

With the withdrawal of Labor for Peace, the political landscape in the Middle East has become even more complex. The future of the region is uncertain, and the path to peace remains unclear.
German reunification—whose victory?

Kohl faces a victory hangover

In the last couple of months the USSR has sunk further into social and economic chaos.

The ruling class clings desperately to its control

No answer to the chaos

Shatalin’s 500-Day Plan for the USSR:

Soviet food producers and processors fear that their hard work and efforts will be in vain if the government does not implement the 500-Day Plan proposed by the government. The plan aims to stabilize the economy and improve living standards. It includes measures to increase agricultural production, reduce inflation, and improve industrial output. Despite the challenges, there is hope that the plan will bring about needed reforms and improve the lives of ordinary citizens.
VOTE ‘LEFT’ IN PSU ELECTIONS

THE PUBLIC Service Union (PSU) is holding elections across Australia in November.

The PSU is the largest union in the public service, representing over 100,000 workers. The PSU is playing a key role in organizing and supporting public service workers to ensure they have a say in their workplaces.

Left gains at unis

STAFF are voting in Melbourne, as the PSU is organizing for better pay and conditions. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

FAIL

Both groups are divided and fragment the social democratic movement. We need a strong left to fight for the working class. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE LUCKY COUNTRY

Wages changes offer chance to fight

HEALTHCARE workers “look forward to meeting the challenge of the new year,” says the Australia’s national organisation, the Australian Medical Association (AMA). The AMA is working to ensure that healthcare workers have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

Vic unionists defy library cuts

THE AUSTRALIAN press is experiencing a crisis. The closure of libraries is a clear indication of the cuts to public services. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

Teachers fight for jobs

VICTORIA’s secondary teachers are on strike today in solidarity with their colleagues in the public sector. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

SLOW

Right tells new policies had also been put up on two other Labour MPs. Their stance in Broadmeadows yesterday was a clear indication of their priorities. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

Runway

FLIGHT crew performance at the airport was met by an angry crowd when a plane took off. The crew was forced to land at the station, as the PSU is organizing for better pay and conditions. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

The Police’s greatest hits

The Police are celebrating 50 years of service to the community. The PSU is organizing for better pay and conditions. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

Cheaps Shots

The Cheaps Shots band is playing at the local pub tonight. The PSU is organizing for better pay and conditions. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.

May we quote you?

Both the Australian and the Financial Times have published stories about the situation in Victoria. The PSU is organizing for better pay and conditions. The PSU is working to ensure that staff have a voice in their workplaces and that they are treated fairly.
**Saddam’s fatal weakness**

Is Saddam the new Hitler? A death in the family? A new challenge for the Middle East?

**Saddam’s fatal weakness**

The primary weakness is a failure to understand the nature of the new multi-power system and its new economic and political perimeters. Saddam has made several serious mistakes that have contributed to his downfall.

1. **Economic Dependence**: Saddam’s economy is heavily dependent on oil exports. The drop in oil prices has significantly reduced Iraq’s revenue, making it difficult to fund its military and development programs.
2. **International Isolation**: Iraq has been isolated from the international community due to its support for terrorism and its violation of human rights.
3. **Mistreatment of Arabs**: Saddam’s mistreatment of other Arab nations has strained relations and reduced Iraq’s influence in the region.
4. **Inability to Adapt**: Saddam’s inability to adapt to the changing political landscape and the rise of new regional powers has weakened Iraq’s position in the Middle East.
5. **Domestic Unrest**: Internal unrest and growing dissatisfaction among the Iraqi people have eroded Saddam’s authority and stability.

**The New Hitler?**

Women and Islam in the Middle East

Women and Islam in the Middle East, by Janyee Gore

- The Islamic revolution in Iran has led to increased opportunities for women in some parts of the Middle East.
- In Egypt, women have gained more rights and freedoms, such as the right to vote and hold public office.
- In Saudi Arabia, women have made significant strides in education and employment.
- In some countries, there has been a decrease in forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

**A Death in the Family?**

The death of Saddam Hussein has brought new opportunities for the region.

- The United States and other Western powers have shifted their focus towards stabilizing Iraq and preventing the rise of Islamic extremism.
- There is a growing call for a democratic and prosperous Iraq, which could lead to increased regional stability.

**The New Challenge for the Middle East?**

The geopolitical landscape in the Middle East is rapidly changing, with new players and alliances emerging.

- The Arab Spring has led to increased demands for democracy and human rights across the region.
- The rise of Turkey and Iran as regional powers has altered the balance of power.
- The United States and other Western powers are seeking to reassert their influence in the region.

**Change**

The changes in the Middle East are significant and multifaceted.

- There is a growing recognition of the importance of inclusive governance and economic development.
- The rise of new leadership in some countries has brought hope for a more prosperous and stable future.
- The role of women and their rights are gaining increased attention and acceptance.

**The Future in the Middle East**

The future of the Middle East is uncertain, but there are reasons for optimism.

- The region is undergoing significant transformations, with new opportunities for growth and change.
- The importance of education, women’s rights, and economic development is gaining recognition.
- The region is moving towards a more peaceful and stable future.
How can we end military madness?

A

S GEORGE BUSH pre

aturally appears to be

a military-styled Ameri

can. But his recent ac

tions suggest that he is

more likely to be a mili

tary man, rather than a

peaceful leader.

A recent article in The

Wall Street Journal noted

that Bush has been busy

dieting and exercising to

prepare for his upcoming

campaign. This is not un

usual for a military man,

who typically values

fitness and discipline.

However, Bush’s current

actions are more consis

tent with a militarized

approach to foreign policy.

His recent statements on

Iran and North Korea sug

gest that he is prepared to

use military force if neces

sary to achieve his goals.

This is a worrying trend,

as it suggests that Bush

may be more interested in

militarization than in the

peaceful resolution of dis

putes.

Central to this mili

tarization is the belief that

violence is the only way to

solve problems. This is a

dangerous mindset, as it

can lead to unnecessary

losses of life and property.

It is important to remem

ber that peaceful solutions

are always possible, even if

they may not be the easiest

option.

In conclusion, while

Bush’s recent actions are

positive in terms of his per

sonal fitness, they are de

structive in terms of inter

governmental relations.

We must work towards

peaceful resolutions to

problems, rather than

relying on military force.

Socialism and war

2

The term "socialism" has

often been associated with

war and conflict. This is be

cause socialist societies of

the past have often been

characterized by class war

and revolution.

However, it is important

to note that socialism is

not inherently tied to war.

In fact, some of the most

peaceful societies in history

have been socialist.

For example, the Soviet

Union was a socialist state

that lasted for over 70 years

without any major wars.

The Soviet Union’s success

in maintaining peace can be

attributed to its emphasis on

social justice, equality, and

cooperation.

In conclusion, while

socialism has had its share

of struggles, it is not inher

tently tied to war. With the

right leadership, socialism

can be a force for peace and

progress.

The German ideology: a Marxist
guide to human nature

The German ideology is

attributed to Karl Marx and

Engels, who developed a

theory of class struggle that

viewed human nature as

shaped by social conditions.

According to Marx and

Engels, human nature is

formed by the class in

which one is born, and this

class is determined by the

mode of production.

For example, in a capitalist

society, the class in which

one is born is determined

by whether one is a worker

or a capitalist.

In conclusion, the Ger

man ideology is a Marxist

guide to human nature

that views human nature as

shaped by social conditions.

It is important to note that

this ideology is not with

out its critics, and its ap

plication to modern society

is often debated. However,

it remains a significant

influence on political and

social thought to this day.
The fight for the Amazon

The destruction of the Amazon rainforest is one of the greatest tragedies of the century. In the 1980s, the destruction of the rainforest began to accelerate and by the 1990s, it was clear that the Amazon was in serious trouble. The Amazon is home to one of the world's most diverse ecosystems, with millions of species of plants and animals. It is also home to millions of people, including indigenous peoples who have lived in the area for thousands of years. The destruction of the rainforest is having a devastating impact on the environment, as well as on the people who live there.

Features

How Marx became a Marxist

The historical development of Marxism is a complex and multifaceted process. It began with the work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who developed a theory of capitalism and class struggle that was based on the idea that the struggle between the working class and the ruling class was inevitable. Their ideas were later developed and refined by other thinkers, such as Engels, who added a socialist dimension to the theory.

The logic of class struggle

Marx's theory of class struggle is based on the idea that the struggle between the working class and the ruling class is inevitable. The working class is defined as those who work for a living, while the ruling class, or bourgeoisie, is defined as those who own the means of production. The working class is exploited by the ruling class, and this exploitation leads to a class struggle.

Marx moves to Paris

Marx's move to Paris in 1843 was a significant moment in his life. It was during this time that he was able to develop his ideas more fully, and he began to write extensively on the subject of class struggle. His ideas were later published in a series of books, including "Capital," which was written in the 1860s and 1870s. These works laid the foundation for the development of Marxism, and they continue to be studied and debated today.

The workers' potential

One of the key ideas of Marxism is that the working class has the potential to change the world. The workers are the ones who produce the wealth of society, and they are the ones who are most affected by the inequalities of capitalism. The workers' potential is to rise up and overthrow the system of capitalism, in order to create a society based on the principles of democracy and equality.

The revival of the Amazon

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Behind Victoria’s crisis

S

UDDENLY it seems the State of Victoria is a disaster. In fact, we are at an "emergency" level, a national crisis. The situation has escalated dramatically in recent weeks, with escalating violence, unrest, and economic decline. The state government has announced a state of emergency, but the situation continues to deteriorate. The impact on the economy and society at large is profound. The government has been criticized for its handling of the crisis, and there are calls for a change in leadership. The situation is dire, and urgent action is required to address the root causes of the crisis.

The loan arrangements

VICTORIA does have its own special crisis, arising out of the $1.5 billion loan arrangement with the Victorian government.

The loan arrangement was struck between the Victorian Economic Development Corporation, which until recently was run by Premier Peter Bullen, and the Victorian government. It was intended to provide funds for economic development in the state, but in practice it has become a tool for corruption and self-enrichment, with Premier Bullen and other high-ranking officials benefiting from the arrangement.

The loan arrangement has come under increasing scrutiny, with allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The loan was meant to stimulate economic growth in Victoria, but in reality it has led to a significant increase in the state’s debt burden, with little to show for it in terms of economic development.

There are calls for an independent investigation into the loan arrangement and the role of Premier Bullen and other high-ranking officials. The government must take urgent action to address this crisis and restore public trust in the state’s institutions.
Is Apartheid about to crumble?

By Philip Whitefield

IS APARTHEID about to come tumbling down?

On 2 February this year, State President FW de Klerk unveiled proposals that seemed to open the road to the abolition of the country's racist system. Nothing about them has surprised anyone who has kept abreast of political developments.

While de Klerk's proposals seem to be a move towards ending apartheid, they are also seen as an indication that the white minority is really losing political power in South Africa.

The proposals include the introduction of a constitutional amendment that would allow for the election of black members of parliament. This is seen as a major step towards ending apartheid.

The proposals also include the introduction of a new constitution that would give black people more political power. This is seen as a move towards ending the country's racist system.

The proposals have been met with mixed reactions. Some people have called them a step in the right direction, while others have said that they are not enough.

The proposals have also been met with some resistance from the white minority. They have said that the proposals are a move towards ending apartheid, and that they are not ready to give up their power.

The proposals are seen as an indication of the country's commitment to ending apartheid. They are also seen as a step towards creating a more democratic society in South Africa.

The proposals are seen as a step towards ending apartheid, and they are likely to be met with resistance from the white minority. However, they are also seen as a step towards creating a more democratic society in South Africa.