

James Connolly 1868 – 1916

James Connolly was born in Edinburgh Scotland. Forced by conditions to work from a young age he never received much formal education yet despite this he became Ireland's foremost Marxist leader helping found the first Marxist party, the Irish Socialist Republican Party, ISRP. Connolly correctly saw the necessity of national liberation for building socialism in Ireland and saw socialism as the only way Ireland would be independent and free from imperial rule. Understanding the complexity of politics and class struggle, in 1916, he allied with the anti-imperialist nationalists of the Irish Volunteers and led the Irish Citizen Army, Ireland's working class militia, to fight for working class freedom and for freedom for Ireland.

Ernesto 'Che' Guevara 1928 – 1967

Ernesto Guevara, later to become known as Che Guevara of Cuban Revolutionary fame, was actually born in Argentina to parents of some means. Looking for adventure and to gain experience in his chosen profession of medicine Guevara went on two trips around South America. On these trips he gained first hand experience of the poverty, inequality and oppression his continent suffered. He also witnessed first hand the fight back underway. In 1956 Guevara met Castro and 3 years later they were leading the Cuban peoples fight for freedom and socialism. Summarily executed by the CIA sponsored Bolivian Army for participating in armed struggle there, Guevara should be remembered for his commitment to humanity and his passion for socialism.

Angela Davis 1944 – Present

Born in Birmingham Alabama Angela Davis is famous for her commitment to liberation. She stands for black liberation, for women's liberation and ultimately for class liberation. As a member of the Communist Party USA she was involved with the Blank Panther movement and was a force to be reckoned with, realising this, the State framed her for murder. After 18 months on the run and one of the most famous trials in US history she was acquitted. Angela Davis understands the class and economic conditions behind inequality, prejudice and racism that is why she fights for liberation from the capitalist system of wage-slavery that enslaves us all.

The Clash 1976 – 1986

An English punk band that summed up a generation of difficult struggle on virtually all fronts, The Clash combined cross genres of music with passionate left-wing politics and lyrics. With some bands veering towards nihilism, anarchism or 'hippy' idealism The Clash stuck to their working class roots and championed socialism and struggle. Revolutionary moments and revolutionary conditions create revolutionary art and The Clash remain a fine example of this. They will continue to inspire young people and bring soul and heart to the revolutionary movement.

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Connolly Youth Movement

Socialism

Socialism is society organized around the needs and talents of the majority of people. It is designed to allow and create maximum freedoms for all and the time for individuals to develop their talents and enjoy life. It is not just a dream or moral utopia nor is it a lifestyle choice. Socialism is the victory of working people over their bosses and the transfer of ownership from the few to the many. It is realizable only through working class struggle and victory over capitalism. The CYM is part of this struggle and is committed to building a socialist Ireland and socialist world.

United Independent Ireland

National liberation and the defeat of colonialism and imperialism are essential to freedom, justice and peace. Ireland divided and partitioned is weakened, dominated and controlled by imperialism. Socialism cannot be victorious while subject to imperialism and capitalism in this country. National liberation and independence, therefore, are necessary for socialism and are a key part of the CYM’s objectives. In a world where narrow racist nationalism is dominating we must stand for and show national liberation must be all embracing and progressive for humankind, like the fine examples of Cuba, Venezuela and the 1916 Easter Rising.

No to the EU

The European Union has from day one been about protecting and serving the interest of the European industrial and business elites. From the earliest Franco-German steel and trade agreement right up to the latest EU constitutional agreements this economic and political bloc has taken more and more power away from elected national structures. The majority of laws and rules now come from Brussels where multinationals spend millions lobbying for and often actually writing the rules that suit them not us. The EU stands in opposition to democracy and we must fight against it to build meaningful democracies across this continent. The CYM works with its allies across Europe to this end.

Women’s Liberation

Women, through their own movements and battles, have won many victories in the last century. From initial rhetorical principals to actual political and economic rights their position within society has greatly improved. However, at a national level they still earn less than men for the same work, they are still underrepresented in elected officials, they still carry most of the burden of house work and so end up working a double-day, and they still suffer abuse, rape and torture at a far greater percent than men. At an international level, they are still victims of horrendous war crimes and always the highest number of innocents killed at war, they are trafficked as slaves in increasing numbers for the whims of wealthy men, and they still suffer cultural and ideological abuse molding them into second class citizens, at best. The liberation of womankind must be continually fought for and will only be achieved as part of a socialist world where people are valued as people and not commodities or consumers. Working class women must lead this struggle.

International Solidarity

Socialism is global and is for humanity. Capitalism and Imperialism divide humanity. They pit country against country, man against women, and worker against worker, while they enjoy the spoils. Imperialism invades and rules over countries. It robs people’s

resources and exploits workers globally. National liberation and the defeat of imperialism is a global struggle. The building of socialism is global. Workers must not submit and

kneel before imperialism. In particular the CYM supports socialist Cuba and the building of socialism in Venezuela. We also support the Palestinian people in their fight against Israeli occupation and their right to self-determination. We must work together to build international resistance to international oppression.

Culture

In today’s world and in particular on this island, the level of ideological and cultural control imperialism and capitalism have achieved is unprecedented. The media, TV, music, sport, novels, and art in the main all either promote or passively submit to the current system of rule and dominance. There are of course noble exceptions in all areas in all countries, as socialism is an international struggle. Culture should be about telling the stories and tales from the lives of ordinary people, promoting their lives, hopes and dreams. Instead in a divided society the rulers use it to control our minds and keep us enslaved. Globally, a mix of religion and celebrity capitalism is used to create false support and prolong the life of a decaying system. However, working class struggle has its own culture and tradition and it is fighting back. The inevitable and constant war and poverty we see around us breaths life into our resistance and our democratic culture. It is our job to promote and build this culture for another generation.

For more information on the CYM and to read the CYM program check out www.cym.ie



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