

YOUTH - CULTURE DEMOCRACY

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 to found the first Marxist party, the Irish Socialist Republican Party.

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 imperialist rule. Understanding the complexity of politics and class struggle, in 1916 he allied himself with the anti-imperialist nationalists of the Irish Volunteers and led the Irish Citizen Army, Ireland's working class militia, in fighting for working-class freedom and freedom for Ireland.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928–1967)

Ernesto Guevara, later to become known as Che Guevara of Cuban Revolutionary fame, was born in Argentina to parents of some means. Looking for adventure and wishing 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 at first hand the fight back that was under way.

In 1956 Che met Fidel Castro, and three years later they were leading the Cuban people's fight for freedom and socialism. Summarily shot by the CIA-sponsored Bolivian Army for participating in armed struggle there, Che Guevara should be remembered for his commitment to humanity and his passion for socialism.

Angela Davis (1944–)

Born in 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 of the USA she was involved with the Black Panther movement, and was a force to be reckoned with. Realising this, the State framed her for murder. After eighteen months on the run and one of the most famous trials in American 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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JAMES CONNOLLY
-Socialism



CHE GUEVARA
-Solidarity



ANGELA DAVIS
-Liberation



THE CLASH
-Culture

CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT
WWW.CYM.IE

Socialism

Socialism is society organised around the needs and talents of the majority of people. It is designed to allow and create maximum freedom for all and the time for individuals to develop their talents and enjoy life.

Socialism is not just a dream or a moral utopia, nor is it a life-style choice. Socialism is the victory of working people over their bosses and the transfer of ownership from the few to the many. It is realisable only through working-class struggle and victory over capitalism. The Connolly Youth Movement is part of that struggle and is committed to building a socialist Ireland and a socialist world.

A 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 dominant we must show that national liberation must be all-embracing and progressive for humankind, like the fine examples of Cuba, Venezuela, and the 1916 Rising.

No to the EU!

The European Union has from the beginning been for 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 treaty agreements, this economic and political bloc has taken more and more power away from elected national structures. The majority of our laws and rules now come from Brussels, where transnational corporations spend millions lobbying for and often actually writing the laws that suit them—not us.

The EU stands in opposition to democracy, and we must fight against it in order to build meaningful democracies throughout this continent. The CYM works with its allies throughout Europe to achieve this end.

Women's liberation

Women, through their own movements and battles, have won many victories in the last century. From initial rhetorical principles to actual political and economic rights, their position within society has greatly improved. However, at the national level they still earn less than men for the same work, they are still under-represented in elected office, they still carry most of the burden of housework and so end up working a double day, and they still suffer abuse, rape and torture to a far greater extent than men.

At the international level, women are still victims of horrendous war crimes and always the largest number of innocents killed in war; they are trafficked as slaves in increasing numbers for the

whims of wealthy men, and they still suffer cultural and ideological abuse, moulding them into second-class citizens. The liberation of womankind must be continuously fought for but will be achieved only as part of a socialist world, where people are valued as people and not commodities or consumers. Working-class women must lead that struggle.

International solidarity

Socialism is global and is for humanity. Capitalism and Imperialism divide humanity: they pit country against country, men against women, and worker against worker, while they enjoy the spoils. Imperialism invades and rules countries. It robs people's resources and exploits workers globally.

National liberation and the defeat of imperialism involves 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 in Ireland, the level of ideological and cultural control that imperialism and capitalism have achieved is unprecedented. The media, television, music, sport, novels and art in the main all either promote or passively submit to the existing system of rule and dominance. There are of course notable exceptions in all areas, in all countries, as the struggle for socialism is an international struggle.

Culture should be about telling the stories of 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 breath 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 Connolly Youth Movement and to read the CYM programme visit www.cym.ie.

Connolly Youth Movement
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