

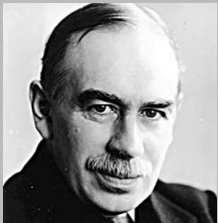
# GREEN LEFT NEWS

Greens,?



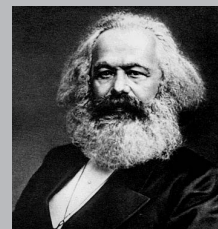
Caroline Lucas  
 Green party  
 leader & MEP  
 For a New Green  
 Deal

Or Keynes,?



John Maynard  
 Keynes  
 "Capitalism is the  
 astounding belief  
 that the most  
 wickedest of  
 men will do the  
 most wickedest  
 of things for the  
 greatest good of  
 everyone."

Or Marx?



"Democracy  
 is the road to  
 socialism".  
 "I am not a  
 Marxist."

## CAPITALISM CAN'T SAVE THE PLANET!

**The runaway 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Depression unravels every day, like 1929, moving from America like a global virus, leaving all banks and many industries on life-support, prompting grave questions and Green answers. And some Red ones too.**

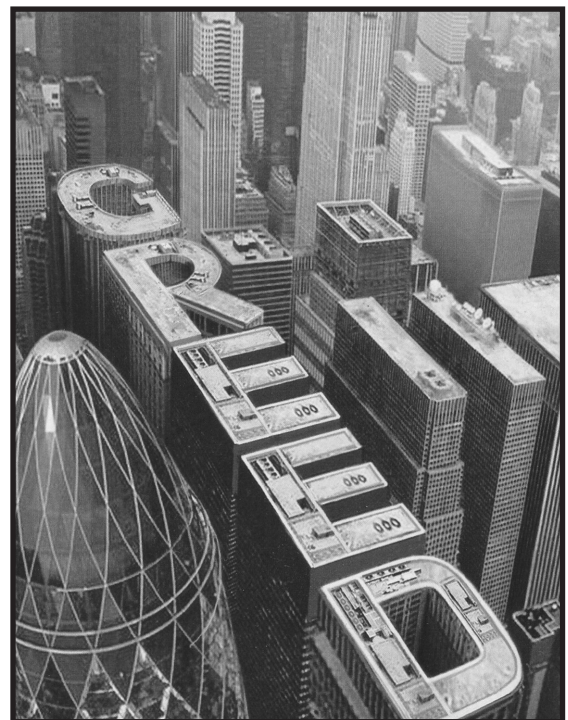
Will this economic and industrial meltdown, decline in oil production and acres of unsold cars provide the world with a low-growth opportunity to reduce Climate Change?

No sign yet: "halting carbon emissions will not see temperatures reduce before the year 3000" (1); excessive CO2 is turning oceans acidic, destroying whole ecosystems; polar ice-caps steadily melt; the deserts spread and forests deplete; UK's "world-leading" carbon emissions have barely changed since 1997. Droughts and floods caused by climate change led to a global food crisis last year. The larger banks and corporations who dominate the world economy remain locked into permanent unlimited expansion, accumulation, commodification and energy war. Thus all the ecological initiatives based on capitalist 'market forces' like the Kyoto Treaty, European Union, Stern Report, etc have failed to avert this ecocidal drift. The United Nations Climate Change conference at Poznan, Poland ended on 13<sup>th</sup> December 08 without a global deal to limit climate warming to 2 degrees C, and anger that the European Union failed to lead the way on targets.

**YES WE KEYN!**

Can Keynesian-style government spending on industrial subsidies, financial bail-outs and infrastructure reflate the economy and restore confidence, employment and easy credit?

No sign yet: American and European governments' multibillion bungs of taxpayers' money to the private banking system were simply pocketed by its kleptocracy (whose reckless credit bubble first caused the crisis), self-awarded as huge bonuses for their spectacular failure and not passed on as intended easy housing credit. "Between them, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds and Barclays have total liabilities of £4.5 trillion; twice the country's entire output and 40 times current government borrowing" (2). UK government now owns 55% of UK home loans: UK's sovereign debts (100% of GDP since February) are deeper than those of Angola, Nigeria, Burkino Faso and Brazil, raising questions of UK's future financial viability. Similar government bungs for national industries like car production could not raise demand but triggered



'CAPITAL' CITY

[www.leonkuhn.org.uk](http://www.leonkuhn.org.uk)

an international scramble for similar economic nationalist protectionist measures, exposing the neoliberal pretensions of the "global market" by proving conversely the inherent limitations of the market and the indispensability of the state. Many poorer nations lacking the means of 'stimulus spending' move closer to debt default, for near examples, Ireland within the Eurozone, and just outside it, Iceland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Latvia, and Ukraine. Further on, debt defaults by Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Argentina are widely feared.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) predicts that up to 40 million people will lose their jobs this year.

February's conference of ministers of the G7 richest countries could only utter pieties, not practical action to resist this slide to protectionism and debts default. So Keynesian-style governmental high-spending shows no sign of abating the global depression, but shows every sign of increasing trade war and currency conflicts between nations and blocs of nations.

**WE CAN'T HAVE SOCIALISM UNLESS WE SAVE THE PLANET  
 WE CAN'T SAVE THE PLANET UNLESS WE HAVE SOCIALISM**

## NO YOU KEYN'T!

Current discussion of the Green New Deal should be clear that high government spending to stimulate a stagnant economy was proposed by JM Keynes in the 1930s, not to change capitalism but to preserve it through inoculation against necessary revolution. Keynesianism was adopted in Germany, most visibly in construction of its Autobahn network, but invisibly in massive, secret rearmaments for war. In America, President F D Roosevelt is better remembered for his New Deal roads, dams and social projects than for his preparations for war. In 1938, he signed the Naval Expansion Bill to outspend all rivals in the naval arms race and by the outbreak of war in 1941, had increased its armed forces 8 fold to 1.5million. Britain was slower, but by 1939 had diverted 40% of its GDP to war production in just 18 months. The mass carnage of WWII requiring reconstruction and renewal, prepared capitalism's longest, post-war boom, assisted by Keynesianism, so be careful how you wish! Trade and energy wars and currency conflicts between blocs of nations once again threaten to escalate to global, nuclear proportions. America's economy may be weakening, but still accounts for half the world's arms trade to continue its global military dominance, Islam replacing "communism" as its target. Those, like Greens, who put the planet first must buck these trends, because it's just too late to pussyfoot. So please vote for Conference Motion C24 and support it at its workshop discussion, and join GreenLeft

## NO PLANET B!

Capitalism can't save the planet, because it can't supercede national rivalry and conflict to find global solutions and instead, has caused 100 years of continuous wars.

Nor can Capitalism provide the social justice necessary for cohesion, because it is based innately upon social division: divisions between the interests of capital and labour, producers and consumers, shareholders and employees, rich and poor people, rich and poor nations, the global and the indigenous.

Because capitalism is innately unstable gambling upon profit and loss, from boom to bust, from greed to fear, from bull-market euphoria to bear-market panic, "all that is solid melts into thin air".

A post-capitalist system based on need and ecologically sustainable democratic cooperation isn't beyond our ingenuity or efforts: EcoSocialism is the light at the end of our long dark tunnel: "EcoSocialism will be international and universal, or it will be nothing. The crises of our time can and must be seen as revolutionary opportunities, which it is our obligation to affirm and bring into existence"(3). To be Green we must be Red: to be Red we must be Green. That's the message of GreenLeft and the EcoSocialist International to the Spring Conference in Blackpool, and to all the progressive movements outside it.

### Tim Summers.

*Secretary for GreenLeft.*

(1).US based National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administrations Earth System Research Laboratory.

(2). The Times, 21/1/09.

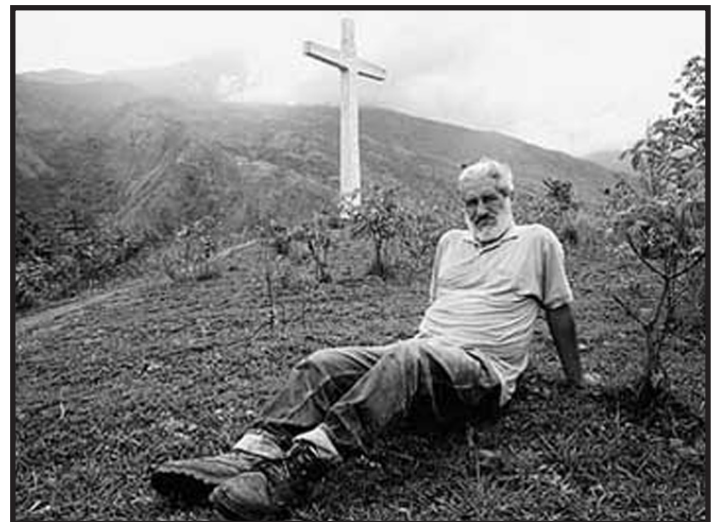
(3). Closing sentence of An EcoSocialist Manifesto #1, by Joel Kovel and Michael Lowy, Paris 2001.

# HUGO BLANCO, PERU'S ECOSOCIALIST ANSWER TO CHE.

**Derek Wall writes about Hugo Blanco, the indigenous leader and ecosocialist from Peru.**

One of the things that went right in 2008 was the victory of Peruvian indigenous people. Over 50 different indigenous groups in Peru, got together and used non violent direct action to protest at the planned sale of their land. As part of a free trade agreement with the USA, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, once a pioneering socialist leader, sought to make it easier for multinationals to seize the communal indigenous land. Alan Garcia's plan would have accelerated climate change, first by allowing much of the Peruvian Amazon rainforest, which is a carbon sink, to be logged and secondly by allowing more oil and gas to be extracted. The indigenous lead a largely ecological lifestyle but use modern technology to improve their lives and where necessary to campaign politically. There succesful and militant protest stopped a huge amount of environmental damage.

In 2009 Hugo Blanco the Peruvian indigenous leader who publishes Lucha Indigena (Indigenous struggle) is planning to tour Britain. I think the tour could be of historical importance and could reinvigorate green politics in our part of the world. Hugo Blanco led the Quechua peasant uprising in the Cuzco region of Peru in the early 1960s when he was a young man and traditional socialist affiliated to the Fourth International. At the time peasants could still be branded



by landlords. Hugo was sentenced to death, imprisoned for many years and exiled in Sweden after a campaign that gained the support of such figures as Ernesto Che Guevara, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Bertrand Russell succeeded in winning his freedom. Returning to Peru he despite being in his 70s is still highly active.

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I am lucky enough to be in email contact with Hugo and to be in touch with his son, Oscar who lives near Bristol and is like his father a passionate ecosocialist. Oscar told me that his father was radicalised in a green direction by spending time with the Zapatistas who led an indigenous rebellion in Mexico in the 1990s. While Hugo has clear affection for his comrades in the traditional socialist movement, he argues that socialism must be ecological and must draw on the experience of indigenous people.

### **Hugo spoke of this in 2003**

[The indigenous movement] has shaken various parts of the continent: Chiapas, Ecuador, Bolivia with great force; but it is also equally significant in Peru, Guatemala, Chile, the USA, Canada and nearly all the countries of the continent. Against neoliberal individualism, it asserts its age old collectivism. Faced with racism, of which it is a victim, it does not respond with an inverse racism, but with its will for integration. The indigenous Ecuadorians have led the overthrow of two governments by appealing to all the people to join the struggle; it is also what the Bolivian cocaleros did, like the peoples of Chiapas with their cry "No more a Mexico without us!"

To end I would like to stress that my generation and the preceding generations have struggled for a world of equality. You, those of the new generations, you struggle not only for that, but for the survival of the human species, because the big multinationals have brought about an ecological disaster which endangers, among other things, our species. The destruction of nature in a world ruled by them is so rapid that I do not believe that, if it remains subject to this system, humanity could survive another hundred years. Your struggle is, then, fundamentally a struggle so that humanity can pursue its existence." (<http://www.isg-fi.org.uk/spip.php?article93>)

In an article entitled Our Culture Hugo explores the nature of this struggle in more detail:

We don't seek a return to the past. We know we must make the best in general of advances in human culture.

That does not contradict our resolve to go back to our own roots. Our past will be vividly present in our future.

We love and care for Pachamama. We fervently yearn to return to basing our economy on our rich biodiversity, through agriculture and natural medicine, along with any modern advances that do no harm.

We don't want our social system to be based on the deep-seated, antisocial individualism that the invaders brought here. We intend to recover and strengthen at all levels the vigorous, collectivist solidarity and fraternity of the ayllu, making use, as well, of universal knowledge that is not harmful.

We dream that the past 500 years of crushing blows are just a passing nightmare in the ten thousand years of building our culture. <http://counterpunch.org/blanco08162007.html>

I believe that the current ecological crisis, of climate change and species loss, is severe yet the response of the green movement is inadequate, we need to be thinking more deeply and taking more focussed action. I have been inspired by the climate camp, the green policies of Jerry Hicks in his trade union battles in Amicus but above all I have been inspired by Hugo Blanco and other involved with the indigenous campaign. We need to give solidarity and learn.

You can read more about Hugo on his blog here <http://hugoblancogaldos.blogspot.com/>

If you would like to get involved with his tour next year you can mail Oscar on [oscar\\_bb@hotmail.com](mailto:oscar_bb@hotmail.com)

### **Derek Wall.**

Former Green Party Principal Speaker and member of Green Left

## **NATO AND THE US WAR MACHINE**

**On April 4th many of us will be going to Strasbourg to take part in a major demonstration organised by Stop the War Coalition and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament against NATO and to support a pan-European peace camp being established there.**

The significance of this date is that it is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of NATO and President Obama is to speak at the event. The Greens have long opposed membership of NATO and there has never been a time when it is more necessary to question the role and aim of NATO both in Europe and globally. Under the Bush regime, NATO followed the line dictated by the neo-Cons in Washington and took several extremely dangerous and aggressive turns. One of these was a clear intention to encourage a 'cordon sanitaire' around Russia and an encouragement of many former Soviet states to join NATO. This policy has been pursued vigorously in both Ukraine and Georgia. The NATO summit last year in Bucharest indicated a division between the USA and states such as France and Germany about the incorporation of Georgia into NATO. This encouragement from the US encouraged Georgia to launch a war against the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, where there had

been a power sharing government with Russian backing. This led to a ferocious response from Russia, which led to the devastation of parts of Georgia and the independence of both regions, now recognised by Russia. The question is – what would have happened if Georgia had been a full member of NATO? Under the terms of the membership treaty there would have been an obligation on all member states to have come to the aid of Georgia. This could have led to a full scale war between NATO and Russia – the nightmare scenario.

The proposal to site US missile defence bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, ostensibly to protect the US from incoming Iranian missiles, has also led to huge resistance in both countries particularly the latter and incensed Russia. This is a hugely dangerous increase in tensions in Europe and Russia responded by threatening to place its

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own missiles on Europe's frontiers. Although the Obama administration has made some peaceful overtures to Russia, there is no indication yet that they are prepared to drop the plan. Indeed, the Czech Foreign Minister has said that it is just a question of time until these systems are installed. Russia's overtures for a Eurasian defence treaty and the renewal of negotiations on nuclear disarmament treaties were repulsed by the Bush administration. The new regime in Washington has indicated more willingness to negotiate but with figures such as Robert Gates continuing as Defence Secretary, who was a hawk under the Bush regime, the portents are not good.

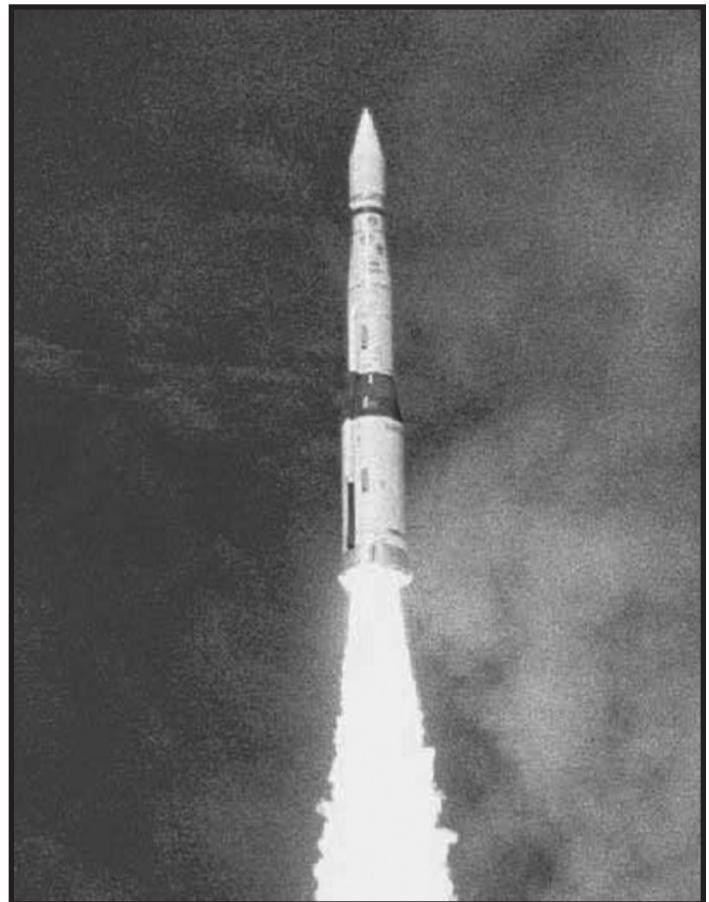
NATO's involvement in Afghanistan, in a war which most military experts agree is unwinnable, also going to be a major drain on both resources and manpower. Obama is calling for more support and more troops from European states. The reality of that are more casualties both among Afghans and UK troops in that country. The military industrial complex is looking to this war to increase profits and boost production in the arms industry. With the current economic crisis, which is the most significant since the 1930s, it is vital to take the historical lessons on board. The economic slump was not solved by Keynesian economics alone, but by rearmament in most major economies and the outbreak of World War II. The energy crisis and the attempt by the US and its NATO allies to gain the huge oil and gas stocks in Central Asia. The war in Afghanistan is in many ways a replay of 'The Great Game' of the 19th century when Russia and Britain clashed over control of Afghanistan and Central Asia. The UK is contributing hugely to NATO's wars, both in terms of expenditure and troops. This is a huge drain on our economy, limiting expenditure on health, education and transport. It also continues our central involvement in 'the war on terror' which is continuing to divide communities in the UK and to criminalise the Muslim community. The closure of Guantanamo Bay is not the end of human rights violations and NATO's war in Afghanistan will drive this process forward.

Finally, there is the larger and long term question of what the role of NATO is? At one time it was relatively clear in that it was supposed to be a defensive alliance against the Soviet Union. Now it appears to be a vehicle for driving forward US military and economic ideology in the world. We, as Greens, should be opposed to all military blocks, whether coordinated by the European Union or the US. The choice is not a false one between one and the other but requires a move away from a structure clearly intended to further the interests of US imperialism worldwide towards a European and global structure which works towards peace and equality.

On April 4th the people of Europe will unite in Strasbourg to tell the US President and the NATO heads of state that NATO should be abolished and to call for an end to its global wars. The US war machine must be stopped in its tracks in Europe and globally or we will all pay the price.

**Joseph Healy**

*Co-Convenor Green Left and Green Party Delegate to Stop the War Coalition.*



**Green Left** is an association of Green Party members who believe that the only path to an ecological, economically and socially just and peaceful society has to be based on an anti-capitalist political agenda. As well as the Headcorn Declaration Green left supports the **ECOSOCIALIST MANIFESTO**.

Green Left is not a part of the Green party of England and Wales, and does not stand candidates in elections.

**Co-convenors: Joseph Healy & Sarah Farrow**

**JOIN GREEN LEFT**

If you wish to join GL send a cheque for £5 (or more) made out to 'Green Left' to:  
 Peter Murry (Acting GL Treasurer)  
 18a Oxgate Gardens  
 London NW2 6EB  
 e-mail: yrrumuk@yahoo.co.uk

Please also complete and send the following with your cheque:

- NAME
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- GREEN PARTY MEMBERSHIP (name of Party)
- EMAIL
- PHONE NUMBER/s

On receipt of your subscription the Treasurer will send you an email confirming your membership

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