

Against the Fascists, the working class must unite in elementary self defence. As well as turning out as individuals and small political groups, we must campaign for our unions to take up the task, making it impossible for the jackbooted thugs to show their faces in public. An example was set in Brisbane in May last year, when a CFMEU delegation sent the Australia First Party and Golden Dawn packing.

It is also necessary to fight against the racism which the Fascists try to exploit. Workers in Australia must take a stand against Islamophobia. What is at stake is not the merits or defects of Islam or any other religion. Instead, we need to defend freedom of conscience – **the right to believe any religion or none, the right to practice any religion or none and the right to preach any religion or none.** When it comes to religion, this is the only ground on which the working class can stand united.

Freedom of conscience is not only essential in Australia, but also internationally. It must be defended wherever it is threatened and struggled for wherever it is denied. To allow Muslims to be persecuted or hindered in adhering to their beliefs in Australia is to weaken the struggle for freedom of conscience in places like Saudi Arabia or Iran. Only a united working class can overthrow capitalism and part of achieving this is fighting for freedom of conscience worldwide.

What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is a social philosophy based upon the principles of liberty, equality and solidarity. It is the political dimension of a free society.

What is Communism?

Communism is the principle of “from each according to their ability, to each according to their need”. It is the economic dimension of a free society.

What is the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group?

The MACG is an organisation of class struggle revolutionary anarchists who share political positions, articulated in theory, strategy and tactics.

We aim to encourage struggle by the working class for its own interests and, within that struggle, we aim to advance Anarchist ideas as its necessary philosophical basis.



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NEWSLETTER OF THE MELBOURNE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST GROUP

Vol 4, No 2

March-April 2015

Free

FASCISTS CRAWL OUT OF THE SEWERS

“Reclaim Australia” has called rallies against Muslims around Australia on Easter Saturday. They want people to believe they’re just “ordinary Australians” who are worried about “radical Islam”. What they’re NOT telling you is that they are Fascists – yes, actual far Right Hitler-lovers who hate Jews and Aborigines as well. They’ve just told their followers to “leave your swastikas and your white pride T-shirts at home”. Check the Slackbastard blog to see what he’s dug up on them: <http://www.slackbastard.anarchobase.com>.

Fascism is a movement of the ruined middle classes (e.g. small business going out backwards), who aim to take State power by, or with the assistance of, extra-legal force in order to resolve their problems at the expense of the working class. In attempting this, it makes use of demoralised sections of the unemployed who can think little further than where their next meal is coming from. Though it is not their preferred option, the capitalists are prepared to back the Fascists into power if capitalist democracy is incapable of dealing effectively with an economic and political crisis.

In Australia today, Fascists are attempting to exploit Islamophobia as their most effective means of gaining support. Anti-Semitism wins them no fans, while anti-Aboriginal racism will do them no better. Islamophobia, however, has attracted a degree of popular support. Women are assaulted in the street for wearing the scarf, objections are raised against the construction of mosques and absurd fantasies are conjured up about halal certification. This is right up the Fascists’ alley, so they think they’re onto something. They hope to inflame hatred against Muslims and recruit people by claiming to be the only “patriots” who are prepared to act against them.

Fascism is a deadly danger which must not be allowed to take root in Australia. It is aimed at the complete destruction of all working class organisation and the establishment of rule through terror. It is far easier to nip the Fascists in the bud than it is to stop them once they get up a head of steam - once their jackboot gangs get going they can prove their use to the capitalists as strikebreakers and thugs and attract the scum of the earth to their ranks.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

We anarchist communists know that capitalism is a socio-economic system over-producing products for a wealthy minority. Capitalism breeds destructive competition between private owners of production. An exploited workforce makes goods for private companies which are sold in pursuit of profit and perpetual growth.

The driving force of capitalism is profit. Companies produce goods to make profit, not to meet the needs of people. Under capitalism, profit comes before efficiency and sustainability. The State and government, on behalf of capitalists, is also responsible for today's extensive environmental destruction. Governments do not protect the environment if doing so will reduce company profits.

Various environmental movements, groups and coalitions are making important contributions to awareness about environmental issues. However, their initiatives often fail to involve the working class movement and its allies. They do not question the State, government or companies that exploit social inequality in the pursuit of profit and wreak ecological devastation without fear of consequences.

Anarchist communists link their struggles for the environment to the working class movement and the fight for social, political and economic freedom. Ecological destruction injures us all, especially the working poor. Only the working class can lead a revolution against social and economic domination and build a sustainable world.

Anarchist communists envisage workers' revolutions in trade, in consumption, and in production.

1. A revolution in trade

Global warming is caused by human activities that emit greenhouse gases. The transportation sector is one of the largest sources of emissions. Today, the de-localisation of production means that manufacture and distribution require travel of tens of thousands of kilometres for each product and its components. Transportation plays a key part in capitalist globalisation, and the class struggles going on in this sector are very important. There will be no massive reduction of greenhouse gases until the wage differentials that force different parts of the production chain into different countries are abolished, the international division of labour is greatly reduced, production is largely relocalised, and the various regions of the world have economic independence.

2. A revolution in consumption

Capitalism has an inherent death-logic. The concept of degrowth, advanced by some radical environmentalists, cannot work without a break from capitalism. Healing the ecology of the earth requires a revolution in patterns of consumption so that:

- Production is organised to satisfy need
- Transportation (public transport, road, rail, air) is clean and efficient; and
- Packaging is minimised and advertising abolished.

We need to reconsider what is necessary and what is superfluous in the economic system. There must be a drastic reduction in the consumption of material resources and an enrichment of social and cultural life covering social relations, culture, art, and science.

3. A revolution in production

Anarchist communists demand economic development that takes both sustainability and human needs into account. The problem we face is not "excessive consumption", since most people, especially the popular classes in developing countries, are short of housing, decent health, jobs, transport, education, and more. Wasteful production by and for the world's ruling minority is what endangers us all. Capitalists, corporations and the State systematically under-invest in useful, necessary and ecologically sustainable technology in favour of "high pollution-high profit" technology, weapons of war and the machinery of social coercion.

The need both to reduce resource use and increase production to eliminate poverty can be satisfied in a libertarian communist society. Goods will be high quality and durable, not shoddy and breaking down quickly; manufacturing will use closed loop processes, with 100% recycling and zero waste; and modern technology (e.g. 3D printers) will be used for efficient short run production of many goods, eliminating long distance transport in the process.

Conclusion

The so-called "population crisis" is an illusion caused by the inefficient, unjust and unsustainable practices of capitalism.



While there is a natural limit to the carrying capacity of the planet, this limit is impossible to determine until after capitalism has been abolished and its destructive practices eliminated. If population reduction is called for after the planet's carrying capacity is established, it can be achieved gradually through social consensus.

Through libertarian communism we can reach a point of balance between the capacities to produce, the needs of populations, and the limits of the biosphere. We cannot build our future in opposition to the rest of life. The ideology of domination must be broken everywhere, so that humanity can find a safe future on its planet.