



DIRECT ACTION

2008 - Issue No. 1
Warning!! This is the
only current version of
Direct Action
authorised by the
I.W.W. - Beware of
inferior imitations.

Oh! How we love the sound
Of alarm clocks on Monday morning
Heralding a week of joyous toil
Just as day is dawning

For the Action Direct

The 2006 census confirms some long-run trends in Australian working hours. Women are giving more time to paid work. As a proportion of all paid workers, women's share is inching up relentlessly - from 43.6 per cent in 1996 to 46 per cent in 2005.

Almost half of women are doing their jobs part-time, much more than in most member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Most of them are doing longish part-time hours, and as a result they say their work-life balance is not much better than for full-time women.

A growing number of them live with men doing long hours. The census tells us Australia's problem with long hours is persisting.

Although the proportion working very long hours has pegged back a little from the 2001 peak, just under a third of full-time Australian men worked more than 49 hours in the census week.

This is down a little from 34.6 per cent in 2001, but that is still a lot. It goes a long way to explain increasing average full-time working hours which have gone from 38.2 in 1982 to 41.2 last year, down a tad from 41.9 in 2000.

An astonishing 1.6 million Australians did more than 49 hours' work in the census week.

Many of them are unpaid for their extra hours and not all of them are highly paid managers: they include childcare workers who take work home on weekends, and staff in pubs and cafes who clean up after their shift.

Outside work, the census tells us that there has been little change in the redistribution of unpaid domestic work and women are doing more of it.

from Barbara Pocock "Workers' time is just as important as money" The Australian October 26, 2007

In all these ways - by the division of labour; the supervision of labour; fines; bells and clocks; money incentives; preachings and schoolings; the suppression of fairs and sports; new labour habits were formed, and a new time-discipline was imposed.) It sometimes took several generations (as in the Potteries), and we may doubt how far it was ever fully accomplished...

The evidence is plentiful, and, by the method of contrast, it reminds us how far we have become habituated to different disciplines. Mature industrial societies of all varieties are marked by time-thrift and by a clear demarcation between "work" and "life"... Without time discipline we could not have the insistent energies of industrial man; and whether this discipline comes in the forms of Methodism, or of Stalinism, or of nationalism, it will come to the developing world. What needs to be said is not that one way of life is better than the other, but that this is a place of the most far-reaching conflict; that the historical record is not a simple one of neutral and inevitable technological change, but is also one of exploitation and of resistance to exploitation; and that values stand to be lost as well as gained.

E. P. Thompson, TIME, WORK-DISCIPLINE, AND INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM

"Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana" - Marx

Yes - It is all
ABOUT TIME
'cause, in the end,
time is all you have

But others of the Sons of Los build Moments & Minutes & Hours
And Days & Months & Years & Ages & Periods; wondrous buildings
And every Moment has a Couch of gold for soft repose,
(A Moment equals a pulsation of the artery)

And between every two Moments stands a Daughter of Beulah
To feed the Sleepers on their Couches with maternal care.
And every Minute has an azure Tent with silken Veils.
And every Hour has a bright golden Gate carved with skill.

And every Day & Night, has Walls of brass & Gates of adamant,
Shining like precious stones & ornamented with appropriate signs:
And every Month, a silver paved Terrace builded high:
And every Year, invulnerable Barriers with high Towers.

And every Age is Moated deep with Bridges of silver & gold.
And every Seven Ages is Incribed with a Flaming Fire.
Now Seven Ages is amounting to Two Hundred Years
Each has its Guard, each Moment Minute Hour Day Month & Year.

All are the work of Fairy hands of the Four Elements
The Guard are Angels of Providence on duty evermore
Every Time less than a pulsation of the artery
Is equal in its period & value to Six Thousand Years.

For in this Period the Poets Work is Done: and all the Great
Events of Time start forth & are conceived in such a Period
Within a Moment: a Pulsation of the Artery.

William Blake

The Intelligent Workers' Guide to Carbon Emissions Reduction

For the economic rationalist the worst thing that could happen is that Australia goes ahead and pays the cost of reducing carbon emissions but the rest of the world goes on its polluting way and we all suffer the horrors of run away climate change anyway.

Unfortunately this is only very, very slightly worse than the second worse scenario which is that we do nothing, the rest of the world does nothing and we all suffer the horrors of run away climate change.

For the economic rationalist the best thing that could happen is that we continue polluting away and getting the benefits that come from it. The rest of the world gets its act together, reduces carbon emissions, and generally saves our bacon. We continue to bask in the glow of cheap energy without consequences. Unfortunately this would mean that we would become scabs and our children and grandchildren would despise and spit on us.

The biggest flaw in all this irrational rationalism is that it pretends that Australia and the rest of the world are homogenous communities in which we are all together making sacrifices or share benefits. Such is not the case. Australia is divided into economic classes whose real interests are diametrically opposed one to the other.

If climate change is not stopped its consequences will fall disproportionately upon the worker and upon the poor. It is in our class interests to organise and push and even take direct action to move us out of the fossil fuel energy economy to one using renewable energy sources as soon as possible.

The situation is complicated because there are many workers tied to jobs that are effectively in hock to the polluting industries. The temptation is going to be strong for these workers and their organisations to side with their respective employers in an attempt to hold back change as long as possible. As always the one time would be One Big Onion the AWU is bending forwards further than most but it is doubtful that they will be alone.

Capitalism is a true partnership of equals everybody knows. The capitalist invests the money that has been generated in previous exchanges time out of mind and, if s/he chooses wisely comes out of the deal with more money. The worker invest arduous toil and sweat and mind numbing boredom and, Praise the Fish, emerges from the deal with yet more arduous toil and sweat and mind numbing

boredom. So it goes from generation to generation with the inequality between those doing the work and those enjoying the benefit getting wider.

The point being that massive fortunes have been made in times past by pumping these world altering gasses into the atmosphere. The various dirty polluting industries have for years been taking a smidgen of this wealth and investing it into opposing all restraints put upon their God given right to pollute and befool forever. With a coterie of slimy politicians they have challenged the science, confused the issues, promoted misunderstanding of the bloody obvious and generally blocked any real change for decades.

There is a cost to pay for this sort of thing. We are paying it now as the Murray-Darling river system dries to nothing and as rainfall decreases by tens of percent in the south west. Our children will continue paying it. Short of worldwide revolution, it is extremely unlikely, whatever actions are now taken, that the Great Barrier Reef or the Kakadu ecosystem can be saved. They could have been, maybe, if sensible action had been taken when the problems first



Time for Direct Action

manifested themselves. The hypocrisy of these people who demand that nothing be done until the rest of the world moves when they with their refusal to sign Kyoto and through a thousand other imbecilities following the lead of the chief moron in the White House, did their very best to prevent any such global movement and have directly brought us to the desperate times that we now find ourselves.

Now they are going to play a different game. Now they are going to come out and say: "Hallelujah the scales have fallen from our eyes! Yes we see the need to reduce emissions but we must be careful to protect our industry." Then they will use all their resources to lobby and to obstruct. Every detail, every gram of carbon dioxide will be fought over and for. They will want free carbon permits. They will want low targets. They will want cheap credits. They will want, not to put to fine a point on it, to continue just the way they have been with government grants to help them restructure. And they will win - unless there is a well-organised workers opposition clear sighted enough to insist upon change and to insist that working people should not be forced to bear all the cost of transformation.

It is time that some of the wealth that they have accumulated though their biosphere befouling actions is taken and used to soften the effects of the change; a change that now

has to be made much faster and dramatically than should have been the case. Vulnerable workers are going to be put in very difficult circumstances; workers who will not find it easy to move across into some of the many green energy jobs that will be created. The answer is not to allow the emissions to continue because they as well as ourselves will eventually, and in the not very distant future, pay dearly indeed if we stuff this one up. The answer is to make sure that they are not left behind. That real resources do not go, as usual, to the super rich and the conglomerates, but to where they are really needed.

Freedom

The war is over,
 The battle's been won,
 But now we're fighting all over again,
 And I wonder if we could do it all over.
 If we'd do the same things again,
 I don't think we have learnt from the mistakes we have made.
 And a lot of good people have died,
 And I wonder if we could do it all over,
 We'd change things if we tried,
 We've gone to war,
 We've fought for our rights.
 We've battled the bosses,
 And gone out on strike,
 But now we haven't even got any rights,
 And our freedom's all gone,
 The freedom to be able to walk on your own,
 The freedom to leave your doors open at home,
 And the freedom to be able to stand on your own, and say
 what you think is right
 Now for me those freedoms are important,
 And I don't think we should lose any more,
 So to those who seek to steal them,
 They should arm themselves, an' get ready for war,
 Because the war isn't over,
 And the battle hasn't been won,
 And if we have to fight.
 We'll do it all over again, an' again, an' again, an' again.

W Hill 17/03/98©

Bill Hill (no relation to Joe) is not a member of the IWW. Maybe if we got together there would be things we agreed upon and things with didn't. Bill is a retired life member of the Australian Meat Workers Union having been a strong union member and supporter of unions for 43 years. We print it because Bill is for his class. A bloke of proud Scottish heritage that in his working life was more often seen to be in the background influencing direction rather than chasing the limelight and his many stories of union activism attest to this. Even in retirement union organisers still keep in contact with Bill. He continues to write not only working class poetry but poetry that often has a broader social commentary.

They have the time of your life - Why overtime is Bad for You!

It can make you anxious!

It can make you depressed!

Workers doing overtime are more likely to suffer from both these banes of the 21st century according to a study by Elisabeth Kleppa from the University of Bergen in Norway found in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Everyone knew that longer working hours leads to fatigue and stress, which raise the risk of illness and injury. Now it has been shown that it effects your mental health as well.

Doesn't matter if you're male or female, if you are working extra hours then you are more likely to get the blues. It does matter where you are in the pecking order though. If you are on a lower income or lack the skills the boss wants then you are more at risk. This is, Direct Action can speculate with some certainty, because you are undervalued, lack even basic control over your working life and conditions and get this slight feeling of insecurity. Other contributing factors, we suggest, are the decline in union participation and other expressions of workers organisations that might once have given you some leverage.

You do not have to be doing a hundred hours a week either. Even moderate overtime hours appear to raise the risk of 'mental distress'. So Elisabeth wrote in her study and we believe her. She seems to think that it could be the case that working overtime leads to increased 'wear and tear. Might have a point there. Or perhaps workers with characteristics predisposing

them to anxiety and depression, (such as the lousy education you got), get paid barely enough to get by on and are more likely to have to take jobs requiring long work hours.

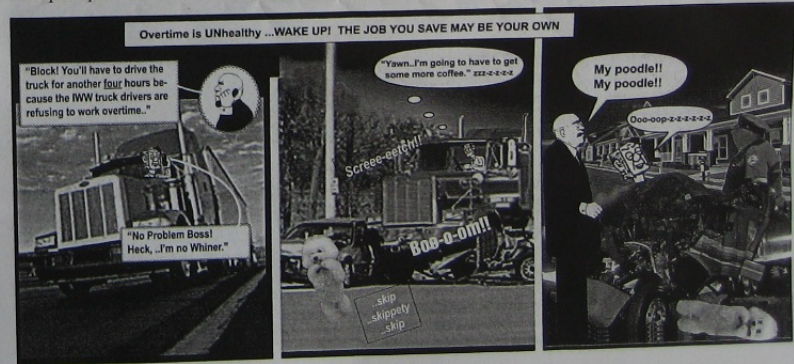
Kleppa assessed symptoms of anxiety and depression in a larger study of Norwegian men and women, using a standard questionnaire. She compared anxiety and depression scores for 1,350 employees who worked 41 to 100 hours per week and about 9,000 workers who worked 40 hours or less.

Questionnaire scores indicating possible depression rose from about 9 to 13 percent for those who worked the overtime. For women, the rate of possible depression increased from 7 to 11 percent.

The link between overtime and anxiety and depression was strongest among men who worked as many as 100 hours per week. Men working such hours also had higher rates of heavy manual labour and shift work, and lower levels of work skills and education.

In the interests of mental hygiene Direct Action is suggesting a program of occupational therapy. Slow down on the job and take things a little easier. Join a union. Better still join two unions and make one of them the IWW. Talk to your mates on the job. Start standing up for each other. Take some control. Start winning conditions that mean you can enjoy enough of the wealth you create without having to drive yourself mad to get it.

You have the time of your life.



Comment not needed

France's ruling conservatives are celebrating the mothballing of what they've long derided as the most destructive legacy of Socialist rule: the 35-hour workweek. Late Wednesday, a government text gutting the left's decade-old labor innovation was voted into law, provoking cheers from rightist politicians that France Inc. could now better fulfill one of President Nicolas Sarkozy's key campaign slogans: "work more to earn more."

Source: BRUCE CRUMLEY
 Goodbye to France's 35-Hour Week
 Time Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1826227,00.html>

The Land of Karoshi

"The time I spent has been wasted."

On one early March day in 1999, even before the cherry blossom buds began to swell, a 23-year-old man named Yuji Uendan killed himself in the depths of depression caused by overwork. He was found in his apartment in Kumagaya City, Saitama Prefecture, on the outskirts of Tokyo, with these words scribbled on a whiteboard used for his daily workout menu.

The late Mr. Uendan had worked for nearly 16 months as an inspector of semiconductor producing equipment in the subdued yellowish light of a clean-room at a Nikon factory in Kumagaya, dressed from head to toe in a white dust-free garment. The young man was employed by the manufacturing contractor Nextar (currently known as Atest) and was temping at his employer's client, Nikon, a major Japanese camera and optical equipment maker.

Uendan worked 11-hour rotating day and night shifts with overtime and extra business trips that brought his work hours to as long as 250 hours a month at times. In his final stretch of work at the factory, he had worked 15 straight days without a day off. He was suffering from stomachaches, insomnia, numbness of extremities. His weight had dropped 13 kilograms.

...
("Karoshi is a Japanese term meaning "death from overwork, and a look at the Oxford digital dictionary shows that it has been adopted into English since 2002 as well.")

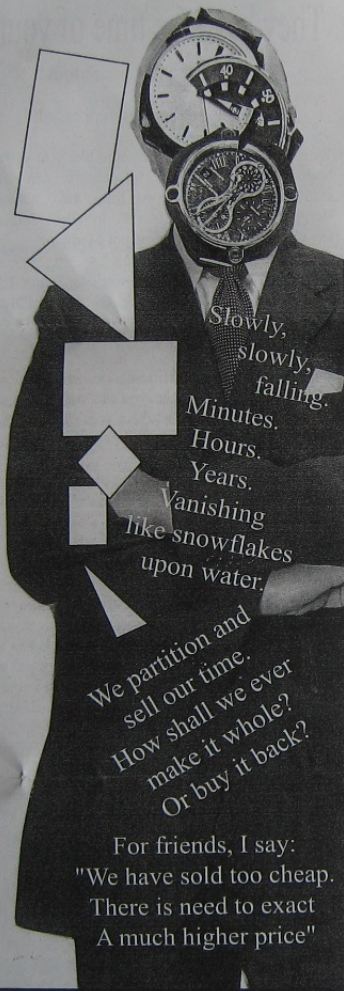
"In recent years, an increasing number of temporary workers have been forced to work as long as fulltime employees do. Also, it's very common for manufacturing contractors to illegally supply their clients with employees as temporary staff," says Koji Morioka, an economics professor and the author of *The Age of Overwork*.

The issue of "karojisatsu, meaning "suicide from overwork, is a serious and profound issue in Japan. Mr. Kawahito estimates that roughly more than 5,000 suicides per year are the result of depression caused by overwork.

Source: Misako Hida (Japan)

<http://www.labourstart.org/ilocompetition2008.shtml>

In a vacume light crawls along at 299 792.458 kilometers every second. Thus the farther we look out into space the further back we look into time. It takes light about 250 000 years to get across the galaxy designated NGC 474 (left) and one hundred million years to get to us. In spite of the fact that we can obviously see it so the light has obviously completed the journey some people persist in believing that the world was made about 6000 years ago by a deity whose main concern was ensuring that male babies have their foreskins removed and that people do not have sex with anyone of the same gender.



Questions from a fellow worker

FW: *Who or what will inspire the working class into collectively seizing the day?*

Wobbly: You and I will, when we get organised ourselves and communicate to others and when they help to get their friends organised. This won't come out of nowhere. We're more or less confronted now with the force of circumstance e.g. the North Pole will melt this summer. We'll also become more and more aware that we already run the world; but we run it for some other class, for our rulers' interests.

FW: *Will anything change with out violence?*

Wobbly: I think the workers organised in One Big Union can pull off a relatively peaceful social revolution. There have been relatively peaceful political revolutions within the last fifty or so years: Iran, the Philippines, East Germany, Hungary.....all proving that when the overwhelming majority of the people, the workers, want the same kind of change, they can get it with relatively little violence. See my post on the Declaration of Independence for more on how a peaceful revolution could come about in the USA.

FW: *The ruling class will not go silently.*

Wobbly: Our rulers are essentially cowards and form only around one percent of the population. If the working class says one big collective,

democratic, "NO!" to them, they'll fold.

FW: *What in human experience leads you to believe the working class will rise in collective rebellion effectively upsetting the status quo?*

Wobbly: You're right. While there have been many workers' rebellions, there has not yet been a successful end to class rule. Our rulers underwent a few defeats too when they confronted the old ruling aristocratic class. The transition to full blown bourgeois democracy took years, even in the USA. The historical diff in civil rights and voting rights between 1776, 1866, and 1966 demonstrates this. Those differences didn't come about because people did nothing, threw up their hands and said, "It's impossible."

FW: *How will the instinct for survival lead to a change in the social class hierarchies, when a few of the powerful have the ability to destroy all.*

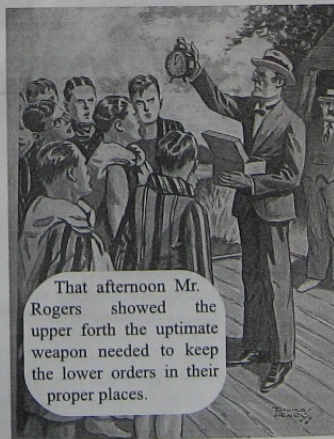
Wobbly: The few only have the power the many give to them with their subservience and their labour. By continuing to give our incompetent rulers the power, we allow them to destroy the planet and continue to murder us. Again, five thousand children died today and will continue dying everyday in the world because of a lack of clean water. All this while some ruler worries about how to pile up more of the old dough-*ray-me*.

FW: *And would the struggle continue between workers and anyone else in the workers' State not of their class?*

Wobbly: The class struggle is over the social product of labour. Workers create the social wealth and by extension the power. They give away their rights to this wealth and power when they sell themselves into wage-slavery.

The social revolution which the IWW is organised for does not end up in a 'workers' State'. It ends up in a co-operative commonwealth of freely associated producers. If the old rulers wish to live outside this commonwealth and produce wealth for themselves, they can; but I doubt whether they'd know how to do it.

Thanks for your intelligent, incisive questions, fellow worker!



That afternoon Mr. Rogers showed the upper forth the upimate weapon needed to keep the lower orders in their proper places.

A call by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) to all who care about fairness and decency in this country and especially to all those presenting themselves as left wing or progressive.

Fellow Workers

As you might have heard a group of politicians (the Revolutionary Socialist Party) (recently split, we are informed, from the Democratic Socialist Party) have taken it upon themselves to expropriate without consultation or compensation, the title of our paper "Direct Action." This was the paper started by the IWW in world war one and brutally suppressed by the government then, restarted by the IWW in the late 1920's and published by the IWW in several editions from 1990.

In this publication of theirs, that they are calling Direct Action, the RSP make reference to the IWW in the past tense only. They make no reference whatsoever to the editions of Direct Action after 1990. This is particularly dishonest because I wrote to them before publication commenced reminding them of our existence and the fact that we maintain ownership of the title "Direct Action".

This ownership is given to us not by some legalistic copyright but by the persecution, imprisonment and deportation of the members of our organisation in Australia; working men and women who worked for their class; who fought to build a paper to educate that class, to organise it and to put it on the path to emancipation.

Basically the RSP show themselves as thieves prepared to steal any title not nailed down by some form of bourgeois copyright.

The IWW in Australia has a long history. Some of our members might have been irascible and belligerent. We have had our ideas and we have fought for them and defended them against all comers. But whenever solidarity was called for, whenever a just cause or an under-dog was struggling then we have been there. In recent years we have remained a small group and one lacking in resources but this should not mean that basic principles of fair play and solidarity should be trampled underfoot in this way.

I suggest everyone reading this write expressing their outrage at this thievery to:

Editor: Doug Lorimer
editorial@directaction.org.au

Assistant editor: Allen Myers

Design/layout: Dani Barley, Kathy Newnam
layout@directaction.org.au

Website manager: Jorge Jorquera
webmanager@directaction.org.au

Subscriptions manager: Marce Cameron
subs@directaction.org.au

and let them know what you think of them.

This situation is especially ironically because, in the debate between those advocating direct as against political action (which is as old as the organised working class movement), the RSP like the DSP it split from is a political outfit. They do not believe in direct action as a means of effecting change. They believe

in political action which is why they have always been putting people up for elections, telling us to vote labor and giving their support to all those third world governments. Really they should call their publication "Action mediated by the State and the Party" that at least would be honest. To call it Direct Action is a manifestation of the dishonesty of the leadership of this organisation which, given its youth, does not bode well for its future integrity. We call upon the rank and file membership of the RSP (if there are any such) to make their voices heard against this injustice.

In solidarity

Miek - (Sec,Treas AusROC)

Postscript: Apologies to [http://www.leftwrit.es.net/2008/06/05/revolutionary-socialist-party-Comment by Peter Wood](http://www.leftwrit.es.net/2008/06/05/revolutionary-socialist-party-Comment%20by%20Peter%20Wood) - July 16, 2008 @ 3:05 am

One of these is not like the other:

Direct action is:

- (a) putting a whole lot of cutlery away because your housemates are not doing the dishes often enough; or
- (b) blocking coal trains to an export terminal; or
- (c) brewing your own beer instead of complaining about the price of a pint at the pub; or
- (d) planting a guerrilla garden; or
- (e) standing united with the people at your workplace to win better conditions from the boss: or
- (f) "As a small Marxist propaganda party facing the difficult task of rebuilding in a period of protracted downturn in working class struggle, we need to return to Lenin's conception of building the party around the paper. Direct Action is our primary outreach, campaigning, recruitment and educational tool."

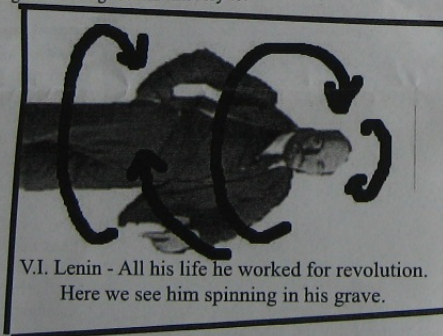
Its time to get the troops out of Afghanistan.

IT seems that the mainstream "left" parties of capital - Rudd Labor here in Australia, Obama in the US and the Labour leadership in Britain have been thinking. While enthusiasm for the illegal Iraq invasion, conquest and subsequent balls up has fallen this has not led to a fundamental shift away from military force as a way of solving problems. Instead all sides are turned to Afghanistan as a legitimate field to earn glory in.

Why this is so is baffling. It was in the interests of Bush (and the neocon bastards that used him) to pretend to confuse an action of bloody criminality for an act of war. All the other disasters that have dogged the last seven year stem from this. What we have, of course, is not the new American Century but deaths in the hundreds of thousands and refugees in the millions. For the adventure in

Afghanistan morphed into Iraq (as everyone new that it would); the usual multinational corporations have made their millions and their billions. While problems that really need tackling (such as global warming, third world poverty and AIDs) have been left to fester as time runs out.

I can not help but remember that the day the press announced that Australia was sending troops to Afghanistan two old ladies stood outside my local supermarket rattling tins to raise funds for our regional hospital. It seemed to me then, as it does now, that something was wrong somewhere with our sense of priorities. I had, with others, been signing petitions and writing letters about the situation in Afghanistan; the suppression of women and religious minorities especially. No one seemed to be paying much attention as far as I can



V.I. Lenin - All his life he worked for revolution.
Here we see him spinning in his grave.

recall.

And the War Drags On

Seven years is a long time for a war. What working people need to do is to confront the fact that at this stage it is probably not winnable for any reasonable cost. All the signs are there that we have put ourselves into exactly the situation that over-stretched and caused the dismemberment of the Soviet Union. It is too late to do anything positive in Afghanistan now.

If there had been a possibility after the Taliban for real change it has been squandered: squandered in the giving of support to the Northern Alliance and its even grimmer hangers on; squandered in the US dealing with and strengthening the various war-lord elements while the central government withered (not that we have anything good to say about central government mind you but it just depends on what the alternatives are); squandered as the opium trade, largely crushed by the Taliban whilst they were in power, has now developed into the major industry and source of funds for same Taliban militias - as well as for a raft of high placed hangers on in the irredeemably corrupt Karzai government; squandered as the machinations of Pakistani intelligence have gone unadmitted and not confronted; squandered in the horror tales dripping out of Bagram Airbase; squandered as the billions of dollars (about 15 US) of aid have been diverted into widespread corruption and the people lack aid, while a small very corrupt elite and a very healthy army of

Qatar is NUMBER ONE!

Qatar remains on top of the per capita CO2 emissions rankings.

Congratulations go to the rulers of this tiny State in the Middle Eastern region of our planet. They are allowing the globe to be warmed up the fastest and thus are the winners in the climate change promotional sweeps. They are followed by the ruling classes of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United States of America. Australia's ruling class comes in 8th place. Not a bad showing really, when you think about it: eighth out of the 176 nations examined at "Nation Master".

http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/env_co2_emi_percap-environment-co2-emissions-per-capita
Indonesia is 102, just ahead of Tonga and Zimbabwe. Coming in at 176th and last in the per capita CO2 emissions race is the ruling class of The Democratic Republic of Congo. And how about Indian and Chinese ruling classes? They are being painted by many rulers of the world, including Bush

western firms and consultants drag home the loot; squandered as the resistance that has already consigned one of the super-powers of the twentieth century again attracts the loyalty of a section of the citizenry, especially the rural and the poor who have about as much in common with urban democratic norms as they did with communist ones; squandered as other sections of said populace start to wonder if there dealings with the current regime will leave them hanging from the lampposts of Kabul sometime soon; squandered as the civilian, "collateral" damage of air strikes and unhappy foreign troops induce a smouldering rage that can never be quenched except in the blood of the perpetrators or their countrymen or, failing this, somebody foreign.

This is not to say anything about the bravery or the skill of any Australian military that have gone to Afghanistan. It is the politics that gave them a job not suited to military force in the beginning and it is politics that has made mistake after mistake ever since.

The only real course of action now is to get out. Workers as it is a sad fact that it is unlikely that politicians of any stripe or colour will start to move in this direction by themselves, it is, as usual, going to be up to you to insist. A broad popular base against this and every war that capitalism would drag us into very much needs to be built again. In this country - and in the world.

and Brendon Nelson, as obstructors to any kind of agreement on stopping this mad race to heat up the globe. Well fellow workers, India ranks 113th and China is 80th. Truth be told, the workers of the world will never be allowed to live in harmony with the Earth while the ruling capitalist/monarchist classes remain in charge of the productive apparatus of nation States. Wage-slavery keeps worker/producers in an environmentally suicidal dependency structure.

What time is it?
Time to organise

One
Big
Union.



Songsheets for Industrial Workers

Blast from the past!

CHRISTIANS AT WAR by John Kendrick
(Tune: "Onward, Christian Soldiers")

Onward, Christian soldiers! Duty's way is plain:
Slay your Christian neighbours, or by them be slain.
Pulpiters are spouting effervescent swill,
God above is calling you to rob and rape and kill,
All your acts are sanctified by the lamb on high;
If you love the Holy Ghost, go murder, pray and die.

Onward, Christian soldiers, rip and tear and smite!
Let the gentle Jesus, bless your dynamite.
Splinter skulls with shrapnel, fertilise the sod;
Folks who do not speak your tongue, deserve the curse of God.
Smash the doors of every home, pretty maidens seize;
Use your might and sacred right to treat them as you please.

Onward, Christian soldiers! Eat and drink your fill;
Rob with bloody fingers, Christ O. K.'s the bill.
Steal the farmer's savings, take their grain and meat;
Even though the children starve, the Saviour's bums must eat.
Burn the peasant's cottages, orphans leave bereft;
In Jehovah's holy name, wreak ruin right and left.

Onward, Christian soldiers! Drench the land with gore;
Mercy is a weakness all the gods abhor.
Bayonet the babies, jab the mothers, too;
Hoist the cross of Calvary to hallow all you do.
File your bullets' noses flat, poison every well;
God decrees your enemies must all go plumb to hell.

Onward, Christian soldiers! Blighting all you meet,
Trampling human freedom under pious feet.
Praise the Lord whose dollar sign dupes his favoured race!
Make the foreign trash respect your bullion brand of grace.
Trust in mock salvation, serve as pirates' tools;
History will say of you: "That pack of G-- d-- fools."

DUMP THE BOSSES OFF YOUR BACK.

Are you poor, forlorn and hungry?
Are there lots of things you lack?
Is your life made up of misery?
Then dump the bosses off your back.

Are your clothes all patched and tattered?

Are you living in a shack?
Would you have your troubles scattered?

Then dump the bosses off your back.

Are you almost split asunder?
Loaded like a long-eared jack?
Boob--why don't you buck like thunder?

And dump the bosses off your back.

All the agonies you suffer,
You can end with one good whack--
Stiffen up, you ornry duffer--
And dump the bosses off your back.

John Brill - Melody: "Take It to the Lord in Prayer"

THE PREACHER AND THE SLAVE (JOE HILL) (1911)
Tune: "Sweet Bye and Bye"

Long-haired preachers come out every night,
Try to tell you what's wrong and what's right;
But when asked how 'bout something to eat
They will answer with voices so sweet:

CHORUS:

You will eat, bye and bye,
In that glorious land above the sky;
Work and pray, live on hay,
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.

The starvation army they play,
They sing and they clap and they pray
'Till they get all your coin on the drum
Then they'll tell you when you're on the bum:

Holy Rollers and jumpers come out,
They holler, they jump and they shout.
Give your money to Jesus they say,
He will cure all diseases today.
If you fight hard for children and wife --
Try to get something good in this life --
You're a sinner and bad man, they tell,
When you die you will sure go to hell.

Workingmen of all countries, unite,
Side by side we for freedom will fight;
When the world and its wealth we have gained
To the graters we'll sing this refrain:

FINAL CHORUS:

You will eat, bye and bye,
When you've learned how to cook and to fry.
Chop some wood, 'twill do you good,
And you'll eat in the sweet bye and bye.

Perth addendum (c. 1971)

Short haired Marxist-Leninists come out every day
Start to tell you about the correct Party way
But when asked how 'bout having your say
They will smile not so sweetly and they'll brag:

You'll get your say when the state withers away
(Not today)

You'll get your say when the state withers away
Work, work till you drop

Its for the common good -- thanks a lot
You'll get your say when the state withers away
(Not today)

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Send me information &/or

Join me up

I

Affirming that I am a worker and not an
employer,

Do wish to join and/or get more information
about the IWW.

Contact details

.....

.....

(cut out and send to AusROC or nearest
branch)

Contacts:

IWW - GHQ, PO Box 23085, Cincinnati, OH 45223-3085,
USA

IWW - Australian Regional Organising Committee
(AusROC), Post Office Box 1866, Albany, Western
Australia 6331
Entropy4@gmail.com
(08)98428750 0423473807

IWW Melbourne General Members Branch, Post Office
Box 145, Morelands, Victoria 3058 - Delegate telephone
0448 712 420 - Meet on the last Saturday of the month at
Loophole, 834a High Street Thornbury (Next meetings
Saturdays August 30th & 25th September 2008)

IWW Sydney General Members Branch, email contact
ireneakkersdyk4@hotmail.com

IWW Brisbane grouping - P.O. Box 703, Stones Corner,
Qld 4103
Email to grvegg@riseup.net

IWW Perth grouping - email to swillsqueal@yahoo.com.au

IWW Bunbury - email to patch.blah@gmail.com