

STOP ISRAELI WAR CRIMES

Hannah Middleton & Denis Doherty

There is absolutely no excuse for the Netanyahu government to act in the way it is, raining down artillery shells and bombs on a trapped people in Gaza. This is indiscriminate bombing but also targeted bombing of schools, churches, mosques, universities, ambulances and hospitals.

Israel apparently considers that the 'right to defend itself' includes the annihilation of anyone in Gaza. Even though Israel is clearly attempting to exterminate all Palestinians inside Gaza, Australia, the United States, and other western nations are backing Israel as it commits genocide.

The west is sanctioning Israeli-perpetrated crimes against humanity.

Israel has fired over 12,000 tonnes of explosives into Gaza since 7 October. The explosive force is equivalent to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan in 1945.

Israel "declared war" after the 7 October Hamas attack. This is not a war. It is a massacre of innocents as Israel, with the 4th largest military in the world, saturation bombs a defenceless people trapped in a small space.

What is Israel's aim? Do the Zionists intend to annihilate or expel all of Gaza's population and annex half or more of the land? Will Egypt be forced to accept the expulsion of Gaza's population into the Sinai Desert as a 'humanitarian' move? It appears that Prime Minister Netanyahu is making a major step towards achieving 'Greater Israel.'

CHILDREN

For Israel, it seems that there are no civilians, no innocents. All Palestinians, including children, deserve and need to be exterminated.

Israel spins its slaughter of Palestinian civilians by using dehumanising expressions for Gazans such as "human animals" and "terrorists."

The children who have not been slaughtered will have been unbearably traumatised. Their anger and hatred will fester until it breaks out again. Israel is training another generation of Palestinian resistance fighters.

HAMAS

Israel does not have the right to defend itself in lands it illegally occupies. Palestinians have every right to defend themselves against forced removal from their land and livelihoods.

Palestinians are defending their right to remain on 22 per cent of the original



Perth rally for Palestine.

Palestine. They are not threatening the 78 per cent of Palestine which is now called Israel.

Hamas is a body many Gazans rely on for medicine, education, and other humanitarian needs. Do the people Gaza support Hamas? Hanan Ashrawi suggests at least 30 per cent of Gazans are members of Hamas. This is not surprising. Who else is going to speak for them or act for them?

The west and its media do not distinguish between Hamas' military and civilian wings.

NUCLEAR THREAT

In an interview with Radio Kol Berama, a religious radio station, the Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said dropping a nuclear bomb would be one option for dealing with Hamas forces in Gaza. A member of the ultra-nationalist Jewish Power party, Eliyahu claimed there are "no non-combatants in Gaza," so using a nuclear warhead there was "one of the possibilities."

At the same time the US military announced that a submarine capable of carrying nuclear missiles had arrived in the region.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry responded by stating: "The failure to immediately dismiss the minister from the government and merely suspending his membership reflects the utmost disregard for all human, ethical, religious and legal standards by the Israeli government."

The *Arab News* reported that Saudi Arabia had also stated that: "The racist statements of Israeli Minister Eliyahu are revealing. Not only does he admit that they possess a nuclear weapon, but he also confirms the reality of the Israelis' abhorrent racist view towards the Palestinian people."

WEST BANK ATROCITIES

With the eyes of the world focused on Gaza, settlers and soldiers in the occupied West Bank have stepped up their attacks on unarmed Palestinians.

The UN reports that the weeks following 7 October have been the deadliest for Palestinians on the West Bank with at least 123 Palestinians killed, including 34 children.

Some 2157 Palestinians, including at least 201 children have been injured.

Bedouins and herders are being specifically targeted by armed violent religious zealot settlers in a systematic frontier war.

All this is accompanied by the violent expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank.

The goal of this violence is to make it impossible for Palestinians to stay on their land. According to the Israeli human rights organisation Yesh Din, about 545 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced from at least 13 communities since 7 October.

AUSTRALIAN COMPLICITY

Australia abstained when 120 nations voted for a UN General Assembly resolution calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce" between Israel and Hamas and the "continuous, sufficient and unhindered" provision of lifesaving supplies into Gaza.

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Guardian

Issue 2078

13 November 2023

How we treat our children, what it says about us

The treatment of children has a huge emotional pull, with good reason. Children depend on adults for the basics of life. They are more fragile than adults in many ways, and harm done to them is lifelong. How a society treats its children says a lot about that society. Because of this, children are often used as a weapon in arguments; the famous ‘won’t somebody think about the children!’ line from *The Simpsons* parodies adults who use children as some kind of trump card in arguments.

Capitalist societies claim to care for children, but put them behind ‘tax payer’s money’ and ‘law and order’ when it comes to the crunch.

In Australia, we have recently had adult treatment of children that does not reflect well on the adult society they live in. An example from New South Wales is the recent news of the STMP.

STMP stands for Suspect Targeted Management Plan. An attempt at systematic ‘pre-emptive’ policing. The idea is simple; police find people who are ‘likely’ to commit crimes in future, and target those people with interventions and heavy-handed policing to try to prevent those crimes. What’s wrong with the program is also simple – letting police harass people just because police think they might commit crimes at some stage invites all sorts of injustice.

The people singled out by STMP included children. It has been shown by Dr Vicki Sentas, lecturer in law at University of New South Wales that the STMP was “heavy-handed, excessive, and oppressive,” and that it was especially damaging for Indigenous people and young people. Dr Sentas found that the police targeted children as young as 10. One family was about to move home after their son was stopped and searched hundreds of times.

It’s notable that STMP was only stopped after Dr Sentas and lawyers in community legal centres did the hard yards of building and reporting solid evidence of the harm it was doing.

Another case in point, in the Northern Territory, where spit hoods are still being used on children as young as 12 years old, years after the 2016 *Four Corners* report that led to a Royal Commission and a supposed overhaul of the NT justice system.

A more general example is the recent nationwide hysteria over raising the age of criminal responsibility. The ACT has raised it to 14, the NT has it at 12, other states are still at 10, or like Tasmania, have a bet both ways with a category of ‘youth’ offences from 10-18. Children who are still developing, who we don’t allow to drive or vote, are being treated as adults by the justice system.

It’s very telling that an argument state governments gave against raising the age of criminal responsibility was a “lack of alternatives” to imprisonment. There are alternatives, but these cost money, and require governments with courage to ignore pressure from corporate tabloid media which switches from ‘think of the children’ to ‘be tough on crime’ in an instant.

In socialist Cuba, by way of contrast, the age of criminal responsibility is the same as the voting age – 16. Cuba does not have jails full of young people because children are respected as people rather than as a means to an end, and due to a variety of rehabilitative programs there are very few people under 35 in the country’s prison system.

How we treat our children says a lot about our society. We could do a lot better by having a society that values children, and adults as people in their own right, not as moving parts in a capitalist system.

STOP ISRAELI WAR CRIMES

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Australian defence minister Richard Marles announced on 25 October that Australia will deploy two additional aircraft to join another at an undisclosed Middle East location, along with “a significant contingent” of 270 Australian troops.

PINE GAP

Australia is assisting the Israeli crimes against humanity through the use of Pine Gap, the US war fighting and spy base located outside Alice Springs, which is collecting an enormous range of communications and electronic intelligence from Gaza and passing it on to the Israel Defence Force.

As well as surveillance of civilian, commercial and military communications, Pine Gap provides detailed geolocation intelligence which is likely to include remote launch signals for Hamas rockets as well as any threatened missile launches from Lebanon or Iran.

The US National Security Agency (NSA) maintains a far-reaching technical and analytic relationship with the Israeli SIGINT National Unit (ISNU) with the two organisations sharing information on access, intercept, targeting, language, analysis and reporting.

CUT TIES

The Australian government must be persuaded to end its complicity in the Israeli genocide in Gaza and to distance itself from Israel in every way possible. Australia can no longer be on diplomatic terms with such a pariah state.

A clear and deliberate message must be sent to the Israeli government that their behaviour is unacceptable and must stop immediately.

This demand must be heard by every government MP and Senator in Australia. The message must get to them using all the means at our disposal – phone, text, email, contact sheet, and actions outside their offices.

ACT FOR GAZA

The size and passion of the many demonstrations that have already been held around Australia demonstrate that the people are more in tune with the times than the government and the Opposition.

Australians must tell our gutless government to reflect the human values of ordinary Australians and to end its slavish subservience to the US and to the pro-Israel lobby in this country. It must stop supporting genocide and cut ties with the apartheid state of Israel.

Leave Gaza immediately: We call for Israel to leave Gaza, end its ground invasion and allow full humanitarian access to the area.

Cut diplomatic ties: We demand that the Australian Ambassador is recalled from Israel. Honduras, Colombia, Bahrain, Turkey, Chile, Bolivia, and Jordan have already done this.

We demand that Israeli diplomats be expelled from Australia until Israel is prepared to talk peace and justice for the Palestinian people.

Ban all military links: Israeli weapons companies in Australia must be expelled immediately. The companies Elbit and Rafael profit from Israel’s attacks on Gaza, driving sales for their products. They must be thrown out of our country.

Since 2017, the Australian Government has provided over 350 military export permits to Israel. The Albanese Government must stop all military export permits to Israel immediately.

Palestinian human rights organisations and the Australian Centre for International Justice have launched legal action against the Albanese government to provide full disclosure of all military export permits since 7 October this year. ✪



Sydney Vigil

STOP USA BLOCKADE ON CUBA

Join us in Sydney to demand that the USA stops the blockade on Cuba with the right to self-determination. Also stop Venezuela & Gaza blockades.

4:15 pm Friday 17th November – 50 Miller Street North Sydney



Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
to the Commonwealth of Australia

Melbourne



PUBLIC EVENT

7th Anniversary of the physical disappearance of the
Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel
Castro Ruz
and
Lecture on the blockade against Cuba

Place: Melbourne Unitarian Church
110 Grey, St, East Melbourne, VIC
3002

Date: Saturday, 25 November 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Support the *Guardian*
by donating to Press Fund

Op-Ed: No right to self defence

Vinnie Molina

An invading force has no right to self-defence. However, since 7 October we have heard, repeatedly, that Israel has 'the right to defend itself.'

How wrong are our government leaders who sing to the US tune that the world must condemn the Palestinian resistance for the attacks against the occupier.

For more than 7 decades the Palestinian people have been exercising their right to defend themselves from the acts of genocide and permanent occupation of their lands.

The occupier has failed the people of Palestine in breach of its international obligations. Israel has kept the Gaza strip as the biggest open-air prison where more than 2 million people are in overcrowded conditions with limited access to food, water and other essentials.

Israel also fails by keeping women, children and the elderly in a state of fear. The occupation is a brutal daily lived experience of the Palestinian people. The majority of Palestinians have been born under the occupation and are considered stateless.

More than 10,000 Palestinian men, women, young and old as well children and elderly have been killed since the 8 October. Those crimes are the result of an unprecedented assault from bombs with thousands of tons of explosives including white phosphorous. The collective punishment is considered a war crime under international law.

The occupier must let the Palestinian people live. The occupation must end. It is the source of violence in the area. The situation is now so dire that it could spread to other countries in the area, particularly those who share in the Palestinian pain.

Now is the time to find a political solution to the crisis created by the partition of Palestine to accommodate Israel in 1948.

Australian and other governments must press Israel for an enduring ceasefire. Humanitarian aid must be allowed to flow freely into Gaza and other areas affected by the current brutal attacks from Israel. Conditions for an exchange of prisoners from both sides must also be created.

It is urgent to find a diplomatic solution which already has a political framework under the Oslo Accords and UN resolutions. Israel's land grab must end. Australia and the international community must recognise Palestine as an independent state.

A reconstruction plan for Palestine has to be implemented under international supervision. Palestinians have the right to live in peace without the fear imposed by more than 50 years of occupation.

Free Palestine now! 🇵🇸



Palestine rally – Comrades marching with healthcare workers in Melbourne.

CPA greeting to the Syrian Communist Party's 13th Congress

Ammar Bagdache
General Secretary
Syrian Communist Party

Dear comrade,
The Communist Party of Australia (CPA), conveys its warmest greeting to the leadership, members, supporters and friends of the Syrian Communist Party (SCP) on the occasion of the 13th National Congress to be held in Damascus between 09-11 November 2023.

The Syrian Communist Party has played a major role in defending the interests of the Syrian working class since its founding. The SCP has actively participated in defending the homeland against terrorist forces. US imperialist intervention in Syria and NATO aggression began their attacks on Syria and its people nearly twelve years ago.

The CPA stands with the Syrian Communist Party in their struggle to get rid of all occupation forces such as US imperialist forces, Turkish forces and terrorist groups on Syrian soil.

We appreciate your continuing support in standing with the Palestinian people in defending their legitimate rights to exist and live on their own land against the barbaric attacks carried out by the Israeli Zionist government. Innocent Gazan residents have been victim of the current barbaric attacks for the last four weeks. Genocide must stop!

The CPA wishes the SCP 13th Congress every success into the future and we extend our congratulations to the Party leadership, members, supporters and friends of the Syrian Communist Party.

We look forward to strengthening the fraternal relations between our two parties on the basis of proletarian internationalism, the struggle for peace, and socialism.

In working class solidarity,

Vinnie Molina
International Department
Communist Party of Australia
3 November 2023

CPA greeting to the Workers Party of Ireland's Ard Fheis

Cllr Ted Tynan
President
Workers Party of Ireland

The Communist Party of Australia sends warm greetings to the Workers Party of Ireland members, supporters and its leadership on the occasion of its upcoming Ard Fheis (Congress) to be held on Saturday 11th November in Dublin.

The congress is a great opportunity to discuss and review the political program, activity and to elect a new Central Executive Committee to guide the party for the coming period.

The Workers Party of Ireland plays a significant role in the political life of the country, defending the political and civil rights of the people in general and the Irish working class.

Your congress is held in a critical time in the history of the Communist movement. People around the world are demanding an immediate ceasefire to save the people of Gaza. The genocide against the Palestinian people at the hands of Zionism must stop and an independent Palestinian state must be recognised by our governments.

The CPA wishes the Workers Party of Ireland Ard Fheis every success with productive discussions for unity and a strengthened Workers Party of Ireland into the future.

We look forward to the strengthening of the fraternal relations between the Communist Party of Australia and the Workers Party of Ireland on the basis of proletarian internationalism, the struggle for peace, and socialism.

In friendship and solidarity,

Vinnie Molina
International Department
Communist Party of Australia
11 November 2023

CPA for a united front against monopoly capitalism and war!

Rob Griffiths
General Secretary
Communist Party of Britain, CPB

Dear comrade,
The Communist Party of Australia conveys its warmest greetings to the members and leadership of the Communist Party of Britain on the celebration of its 57th national congress to be held in London on 4-5 November 2023.

The CPB Congress is taking place in a period marked by the relentless attacks on the working class by monopoly capitalism and the imperialist struggle for survival. The working people in Britain have mobilised in demand of jobs, the environment and peace.

In recent days we have witnessed tens of thousands of people take to the streets in solidarity with Palestine demanding a ceasefire, humanitarian aid and the end of the occupation.

The CPB and the Young Communist League have been with the workers and people in general in their demands for a better future for all.

The CPA feels proud that the fraternal relations of our two parties' have deepened with the joint struggle against AUKUS and warmongering on China.

This is a historical moment in the struggle for working class power in Britain and elsewhere. The CPA delegation to the 23rd International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties (IMCWP) held in Izmir, Turkiye in October 2023 witnessed the efforts by communists around the world for a world in peace and a common shared future for humanity.

The CPA wishes the CPB 57th Congress every success into the future and we extend our congratulations to the party leadership, members and supporters of the Communist Party of Britain and the Young Communist League.

We looking forward to the ongoing strengthening of the fraternal relations between the Communist Party of Australia and the Communist Party of Britain on the basis of international solidarity, the struggle for peace, social progress and socialism.

In working class solidarity,

Vinnie Molina
President
Communist Party of Australia
31 October 2023

Southern Cross Uni: bad agreement quashed

National Tertiary Education Union

A Full Bench of the Fair Work Commission has quashed the approval of the Southern Cross University (SCU) Enterprise Agreement 2021.

After more than a year of bargaining, management decided to conduct a non-union ballot in October 2022. At the time, management had not agreed to any proposals put forward by NTEU members.

The proposed agreement stripped core conditions including job security, procedural fairness and natural justice, and also offered an inferior pay outcome.

The ballot narrowly succeeded and the agreement was subsequently approved by the Fair Work Commission over NTEU objections.

The NTEU filed a Notice of Appeal, and the matter was heard by a Full Bench of the Commission on 18 October 2023.

The Full Bench found SCU had misled staff in emails that claimed a \$750 sign-on bonus would be paid to all casual staff when a majority of staff voted in favour of the agreement.

This was false as management was only required

to pay, and only intended to pay, once the agreement was approved by Fair Work Commission.

Because of the misrepresentations made to staff the Full Bench found that it could not safely conclude that the majority of staff who voted “genuinely agreed” to the Agreement.

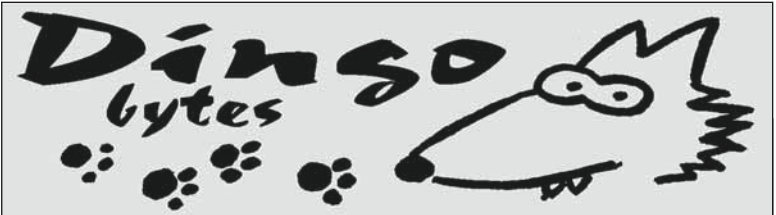
The full bench upheld the NTEU’s appeal and quashed the initial approval of the agreement.

NTEU General Secretary Dr Damien Cahill welcomed the decision.

“This is a massive win for university staff who stood up for fair pay and conditions, and who supported contesting the validity of the ballot,” he said.

“The Full Bench decision now provides an opportunity for Southern Cross University management to address its relationship with its staff and their Union by returning to the bargaining table and working with on a fair deal that is sustainable and keeps pace with pay and conditions across the higher education sector.”

“We hope all universities will take notice of this significant decision. The NTEU will stand against any attempt to circumvent negotiations with Union members.” ✪



“Violence against women is a national crisis,” says Kate Fitz-Gibbon from Monash University’s Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. “These deaths represent the tip of the iceberg of violence against women and children in Australia. Australia’s National Plan commits to ending gender-based violence in one generation. To achieve this, we urgently need increased action, funding, and political attention on the insecurity of women and children in their homes and workplaces. Intimate partner femicide is preventable. These acts of fatal violence are not inevitable in the Australian community. A sustained and long-term commitment to tackling the underlying drivers of violence against women – gender inequality and other forms of oppression – is essential. If we do not invest fully in prevention, we will continue to see the horrific impacts of this violence for generations to come. The status quo is not delivering the transformational commitment to end gender-based violence in one generation. An escalation in efforts and an increase in funding is urgently required.”

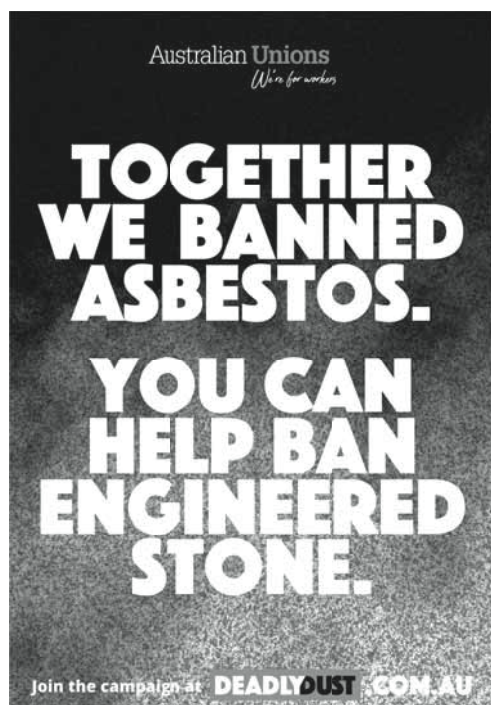
Here’s a request to you dear reader from activists Lock the Gate. Please send a message to the PM, Chris Bawn, and/or NSW Premier Chris Minns along the following lines:

Coal seam gas (CSG) proposals put land, water and culture at risk, and have been rejected by local communities in north-west NSW, including Gomeroi Traditional Owners and farmers. CSG will turbocharge climate change and cause more droughts, floods and fires. We know the path forward for NSW isn’t more gas, but less. Victoria and the ACT both have plans to get off gas by electrifying industry and homes, but NSW does not. We can make dramatic reductions in gas demand in NSW by supporting households and businesses to switch to renewables which would reduce energy costs and help with the cost of living, perpetually. We don’t need the Narrabri Gas Project or the pipelines that go with it – all it will do is drive up energy bills and destroy our region. Stop CSG projects planned for the Pilliga forest and our food bowl on the Liverpool Plains, and associated pipeline infrastructure that will stretch across the Hunter and north-west NSW – harming land, water and culture.

(Readers who don’t live in NSW, don’t worry, Climate Change will affect all of us, so don’t let that stop you writing!)

PARASITE OF THE WEEK: Britain.

Some history of Australia’s AUKUS partner. The retreat from the French port of Dunkirk is commonly presented as a heroic rescue of the British and French armed forces that had been ignominiously defeated by the Nazi army when it overran France in WW2. Dunkirk was one of those events that has been dressed up as a glorious retreat. In fact, Britain shirked the fight with the Germans, deserted its French allies and fled for the English Channel. On the beaches, officers abandoned their men. French troops trying to escape were booted off ships. Yet Dunkirk went down in British history as a peculiarly beautiful episode with hardy Kentish fishermen saving British soldiers while the Germans strafed the sea. All a load of rubbish. There were hardly any small boats. And when the troops got to England they ran amok, causing parts of the south east to be cordoned off. There followed PM Churchill’s speech to parliament in 1940 about fighting the Germans on the beaches. The BBC wanted him to broadcast it but he said he was too busy, so they got an actor to impersonate him, recruiting Norman Shelly, whose line of work was playing Larry the Lamb in the *Children’s Hour* program.



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Stand with the people of Gaza

Since 1989, Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA) has been supporting development and humanitarian programs with its partner organisation in Palestine, the MA’AN Development Center, a secular, national, independent organisation.

APHEDA has launched an emergency appeal to provide funds to MA’AN to provide immediate relief to people in Gaza. There are enormous and urgent immediate needs for shelter, water, food, electricity, sanitation and medical supplies, fuel and communications.

With your support, MA’AN will work with local organisations to provide:

- Access to water, food, medical supplies and shelter
- Psychosocial support for families and individuals
- Dignity and hygiene kits for displaced people

Your contribution can make a significant difference in alleviating the suffering of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, not only in the immediate emergency phase, but also in the early reconstruction phase, for example, in rapid resumption of farming for food security.

The United Nations has reported 7703 people, of whom 68 per cent are said to be children and women, have been killed in Gaza since the start of hostilities.

Additionally, about 1600 people, including at least 900 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery.

Donate at <https://gaza-emergency-appeal-2023.raisely.com>
or contact Apheda at (02) 92649343

Find out more about the
Communist Party of Australia
web www.cpa.org.au
email cpa@cpa.org.au

November 7

Why we celebrate



On or around 7 November Communists in Australia and around the world commemorate the October Revolution, also known as the Russian Revolution. The October Revolution happened on 7 November under the Gregorian calendar then used in Czarist Russia). The result of the revolution was a Bolshevik victory, leading to the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the world's first socialist nation.

The following is an edited contribution by **Dr Hannah Middleton** to the celebration of the Russian Revolution by the Communist Party of Australia's Adelaide Central and Port Adelaide Branches.

The Russian Revolution was the most important political event of the 20th Century. No other event has had such a far-reaching impact on the lives of hundreds of millions of people in every part of our planet.

The revolution matters because it is recent history – it took place only 106 years ago – and because there is no part of the modern world not touched by its shadow.

October 1917 is an extraordinary story which matters because it presents an alternative – that a different world was possible and can be again.

The partisans of 1917 were driven by a hunger for a new and better world, and millions today are dreaming and fighting to be part of such an October.

The Russian Revolution marked a new stage in world history. It proved that the alternative to capitalism was not just a utopian dream but a real possibility that could be achieved through the struggle of working class.

The seizure of power by the Bolsheviks in October 1917 and the establishment of the first workers' state inspired an immense development in the class consciousness and political awareness of the working class and oppressed peoples throughout the world.

The Russian Revolution radicalised the international working class and set into motion a worldwide revolutionary movement.

It marked the beginning of the end of imperialism – a task which we have yet to complete.

Many major social gains were by-products of the Russian Revolution. They have included the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II and the process of decolonisation, of national liberation.

We need to be clear on one matter: despite all the efforts of reaction to disparage and dismiss it, dismantling the revolution is not

a reason to ignore its achievements and its lessons.

ACHIEVEMENTS

I want to look briefly now at just two achievements of the revolution.

On day one of the Russian Revolution, the All Russian Congress of Soviets of Workers, Peasants and Soldiers Deputies decreed the right of Russia's oppressed nations to self-determination – their right to decide to leave the USSR and organise their own separate state or to remain within the new socialist state. Those who chose to remain were guaranteed their right to language and culture. The oppressed nationalities were given autonomy that guaranteed their political, economic, and cultural rights.

We need to study these experiences because they can teach us so much for our struggle for Aboriginal land rights and autonomy.

The revolution in Russia showed the world that the emancipation of women is possible.

Socialist Russia achieved amazing changes for women: the abolition of discriminatory laws, attempts to overcome the unequal sexual division of labour, in opportunities for employment, education, and creativity for women.

It is essential that we remember that these were not just empty decrees but were implemented in practice. And these profound changes provide us with a wealth of experiences to help our campaigns for the rights of women workers and other discriminated and exploited women.

CAPITALISM TODAY

106 years after the Russian Revolution, capitalism is spiralling toward disaster.

There is not a single significant social or environmental problem that can be solved within the framework of capitalism.

One example: Oxfam has reported that "Eight men own

the same wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity!"

We also face the threats of nuclear war and environmental collapse – either of which can bring about the end of all life on earth.

The existence of this inhumane and historically obsolete form of economic organisation is not just the principal barrier to human progress. Its existence is rapidly becoming incompatible with the maintenance of human life on planet earth.

Nothing can stop this descent into disaster except the struggle for socialism.

At time when the world is facing the challenge of the offensive of imperialism, of a right-wing resurgence, of xenophobia and racism, increased violence against women and marginalised social groups, the need for an alternative vision of human development cannot be overemphasised.

If we are to remain true to the spirit of October, we have to actively support all struggles against imperialism.

Today above all this must take the form of our active solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, for the demand for a cease-fire in Gaza and for the liberation of Gaza and all Palestine.

The Russian Revolution embodies the dreams of people throughout the world for a better, civilised society, an end to exploitation, poverty, human suffering and war – because it turned those dreams into living reality.

October 1917 and its aftermath teaches us that the alternative to capitalism is socialism and that humanity is capable of building socialist societies. That is the relevance of the Russian Revolution.

The Soviet Union created records in wiping out poverty, backwardness and illiteracy, establishing equality among peoples and nationalities, between men and women, and so much more.

The tremendous achievements of first socialist state show us what was possible and what is possible to create today.

All this is why we say the era it established – the era of the transition from capitalism to socialism – is relevant today. Capitalism is not end of history.

The Russian Revolution is the living example of what was once achieved and the inspiration of what can and must be our future. ✪

GREEN NOTES

Who's the pariah?

How often do you hear the Western leaders, including Australia's, point the finger at the People's Republic of China as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, and then say they will make stronger commitments if China does? All too often. A closer look shows that China is not the global climate change pariah. Yes, it is the largest current emitter in absolute terms but that does not tell the whole story.

Australia's and the US's emissions on a per capita basis are almost double those of China. Taken on a cumulative basis the US with four per cent of the world's population is responsible for 25 per cent of emissions – emissions remain in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. Compare this with China with almost 20 per cent of the world's population which is responsible for 13 per cent.

Western governments conveniently ignore the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which underpins the Kyoto and Paris Agreements as well as the Glasgow Summit. Adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit it focused on a green economy in the context of sustainable development, equity, and poverty eradication. The first Principle of Article 3 states: "The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their **common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.**"

The responsibilities of developing countries including China are different to those of industrialised countries whose development was built on the use of coal-fired power. Developed countries made a commitment to assist developing countries with finance and technology – commitments that have largely not been met. It took leading industrialised countries almost two centuries to reach their peak in emissions and begin winding them back in the 1980s. They have a target of net zero emissions by 2050. China on the other hand has only had a relatively short period of industrialisation and its emissions are not set to peak until 2030 and be reduced to net zero until 2060. This is in line with UNFCCC Principles. It is a remarkable achievement, even more so considering the hundreds of millions of people lifted out of poverty.

Environmental issues are a top priority in China as it transitions to a green development model. In the years between 2007 and 2022 the share of coal in power generation was reduced from 81 to 56 per cent. China is a world leader in zero emissions technology. Transport is responsible for around one fifth of carbon dioxide emissions globally. 98 per cent of the world's electric buses are to be found in China with some major cities having electrified 100 per cent of their bus fleets. It is also a world leader in electric cars and one of the most energy efficient nations in the world. China has almost 40,000 km of electric high speed rail. It is carrying out a massive reforestation program.

How can it do this when rich industrialised countries like Australia and the US have not? The Chinese government has not been bought off by private, profit-driven fossil fuel companies. As a socialist society development is planned and based on the needs of society and the environment.



**Something
to say?
Write to
the Editor!**

editor@cpa.org.au

Another step towards Medicare privatisation

Anna Pha

The public health system is in crisis. Bulk billing GPs are hard to find and non-existent in some regional and rural areas. In fact, some areas do not have a GP. Waiting lists for public hospitals remain long, with alarming reports of people dying while waiting for a procedure.

Since the Gillard government froze rebates on bulk-billed consultations in 2013 successive governments have failed to index in line with inflation. As a result, rebates have not kept up with rising costs such as rent, insurance, and staff. Many doctors have either ceased bulk billing or signed up with corporate medical centres that bulk bill and churn out patients like a McDonalds fast food outlet churns out hamburgers.

“Our government has committed \$750 million to the Strengthening Medicare Fund, which will be the start of a major revamp of the primary care system,” Health minister Mark Butler says. The \$750 million is over three years – peanuts relative to the massive underfunding of Medicare.

On a positive note, rebates for doctors treating Commonwealth concession card holders and children under 16 years of age are tripled – with around 11 million people benefiting. Hopefully this will be an adequate incentive for doctors to bulk bill them. The remainder of the population will go without.

This is evidenced by the paltry increases in Medicare rebates for doctors who bulk bill and take fee-paying patients. Rebates were increased on 1 November by around 3.6 per cent, nowhere near enough to even meet most recent CPI rises and hardly reducing the gap patients pay non-bulk billing GPs.

The rebate for a short consultation was increased by 65 cents from \$18.20 to \$18.85 – hardly likely to persuade a doctor to bulk bill.

For a longer consultation, between six and 20 minutes, the increase was \$1.45 from \$39.75 to \$41.20. Depending on the GP and geographic location (higher fees in wealthier suburbs) the fee might be anything up to \$80, \$100 or more. That leaves the

patient making a gap payment of \$40 to \$60 or more per consultation. For longer consultations, the gap is even larger, rising to \$100 or more.

The Albanese government’s Strengthening Medicare Taskforce Report, tasked with finding ways of increasing access to primary health care, recommended new funding models for the public health system. The government’s reforms that came into force on 1 November take a first step towards implementing its recommendations.

Notably, the report’s recommendations do not include universal access to bulk billing which was the cornerstone principle of Medicare and the government’s reforms are clearly not intended to reinstate bulk billing.

BLENDED FUNDING MODELS

The report recommended the management of complex chronic disease through blended funding models integrating fee-for-service with funding for longer consultations and “incentives that better promote quality bundles of care for people who need it most.”

These ‘blended funding models’ individualise funding for patients based on a mix of fee-for-service and flexible specific budgets for each patient depending on health status. GPs and patients would be able to opt into such a system. These specific budgets could be spent on multidisciplinary teams working alongside GPs with greater role for nurses and pharmacists in prescribing medications and other responsibilities.

MYMEDICARE

On 1 October the government introduced MyMedicare, a system where patients can register with a particular GP and clinic with a regular care team such as nurses and physiotherapists. The government is promising additional funding to medical centres that sign up to MyMedicare.

Signing up with MyMedicare comes with the promise of rebates for longer telehealth consultations and bulk-billed telehealth consultations at a new higher rate for children



Photo: Anna Pha

under 16 and Commonwealth concession card holders.

MyMedicare appears to be a vehicle for a blended funding model. The concept is similar to the privatised NDIS model where each participant is supposed to be assessed according to needs, and a dollar allocation made for services which are contracted out to the private or not-for-profit sector. In the case of healthcare, it would be for PHI funds. It is hardly a coincidence that Medibank Private had a representative on the taskforce.

Once the PHI sector got its grubby hands on Medicare the outcome would be disastrous both cost-wise and in meeting the needs of patients. It would add an additional layer of profits and fail to restore universal bulkbilling.

The government correctly recognises that the GP is at the heart of primary health care. They know their patients’ medical history and in cases where patients have a number of chronic conditions, which is increasingly the case, the role of the GP becomes even more important. Pharmacists do not have the necessary medical training.

The warmongering Labor Albanese government talks about reining in spending on the NDIS, social security and health care. It does not flinch at committing \$368

billion on nuclear submarines to serve US imperialism in the region and beyond. It is determined to throw away \$254 billion in tax cuts for the rich.

But it is not prepared to fund universal access to bulkbilling or include cover for dental care under Medicare.

NATIONALISED HEALTHCARE

The CPA advocates for a nationalised health scheme providing quality primary care with GPs, nurses, allied and community health workers, working together on the frontline for maintaining people’s well-being with emphasis on preventative care.

Such a nationalised health system should be under local control, with high quality, and free at point of delivery care, according to need rather than the ability to pay. It should include dental treatment bulk billed under Medicare and funded through progressive forms of taxation and focused on the needs of working Australians and their families, the elderly and the sick.

Cancel AUKUS! Cancel the tax cuts! AUKUS will cost lives. Medicare saves lives.

Fully fund Medicare! ✪

Rally for Palestine in Newcastle, NSW

On Saturday 4 November 2023, CPA members in Newcastle NSW joined the major cities around Australia and the world in taking to the streets to call for an end to the genocide in Palestine. The rally, organised by Palestine Action Group Newcastle, brought over 2000 people out onto the streets, the first major action for Palestine in Newcastle since 7 October 2023.

The attendees marched through one of the main streets of Newcastle and concluded at the Newcastle Train Sheds for speeches. A Welcome to Country was conducted by a local elder who spoke about the shared struggles of Indigenous people across the world and the need for solidarity between Palestinian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Local Palestinian families spoke to the crowd about the struggle in Palestine, and the ongoing atrocities that their loved ones are facing: indiscriminate bombings that had already taken thousands of civilian lives, and restrictions on access to clean drinking water, food, and medical care. They called for an immediate ceasefire, the



establishment of a humanitarian corridor, the return of Palestinian land, and an end to genocide.

The rally was supported by trade unionists in the Hunter region, who endorsed support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. A call to action was made for the blockade of an Israeli ship arriving in Port Botany on 11 November 2023. A Greens representative spoke about the attempts

being made in the Australian Parliament to support a ceasefire and stem the flow of weapons trade to Israel from Australia.

The rally was an important action in the growing support for the Palestinian cause around Australia, with further rallies to come. Communist Party of Australia members based in Newcastle and surrounds will continue to support and build the movement for the liberation of Palestine. ✪

De-privatising prisons a massive win for NSW

After years of campaigning against the privatisation of prisons, the Public Service Association (PSA) of NSW has warmly welcomed the state government’s announcement that it will bring all the state’s prisons back into the public system.

The PSA has long argued that privatised prisons result in unsafe conditions for prison officers, poor outcomes for prisoners, and heavy costs to the taxpayer.

PSA General Secretary Stewart Little said it was excellent that the government had recognised the privatisation of prisons as a policy failure.

“As our union said from the very start, privatising prisons is a fundamentally stupid idea,” Little said.

“You can’t squeeze a profit from a prison unless you cut corners on safety, on wages, and on rehabilitation.

“Time and again we have seen private operators understaffing their prisons to save on wages, which means more assaults

on prison officers and more prisoner-on-prisoner violence.

“Like the police and the courts, prisons are an integral part of the justice system, and they belong in public hands.”

Public Service Association President and Senior Correctional Officer, Nicole Jess, said the announcement of the reform would come as a massive relief to prison officers.

“It’s shameful to think profits squeezed from prisons here in New South Wales have been divvied up in board rooms in New York, London, and Singapore,” Jess said.

“I talk to prison officers every day. Those who work in private prison’s universally report poor outcomes for both prison officers and for prisoners.

“All the money that we save from not having to pay profits to private providers should now go back into supporting prisoner rehabilitation.”

Public Service Association of NSW ✪

What is Zionism?

Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a 1971 book by Dr. Hyman Lumer, *Zionism: Its Role in World Politics*. Lumer was editor of *Jewish Affairs*, a Communist Party USA publication, and a foe of both anti-Semitism and Zionism.

Hyman Lumer

Political Zionism, whose aim is the creation and perpetuation of a Jewish state, had its origins in the last decades of the 19th century, animated by the upsurge of anti-Semitism in Europe which accompanied the rise of modern imperialism. It is quite distinct from the older religious Zionism – the belief in an eventual return to the Holy Land upon the coming of the Messiah.

The two classical presentations of the Zionist doctrine are Leo Pinsker's *Auto-Emancipation* (1882) and Theodor Herzl's *The Jewish State* (1896). Pinsker's book grew out of the sharply intensified persecution of the Jews in tsarist Russia in 1881.

ZIONIST IDEOLOGY

Political Zionism is a reactionary bourgeois-nationalist ideology based on two fundamental fallacies: (1) that the Jews throughout the world constitute a nation, and (2) that anti-Semitism is incurable and eternal.

That the Jews on a world scale, lacking a common territory, language, culture, and economic life, do not constitute a nation in any generally recognised (let alone Marxist) sense of the term hardly needs to be demonstrated. Zionism, however, looks upon the Jews as a nation only in a biological sense: that they are presumed to be the literal descendants of the Jews of ancient times; and in a spiritual sense: that they possess a common background (as some put it, the "same historic memory"), a common religion and, arising from this, the elements of a common culture. Indeed, Zionism sees the Jews as set apart by mystical bonds which non-Jews are incapable of understanding or sharing.

Jacob Neusner, Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University, expresses it in these words:

"The inwardness of Zionism – its piety and spirituality – is not to be comprehended by the world, only by the Jew, for, like the Judaism it transformed and transcended, to the world it was worldly and political, stiff-necked and stubborn. But to the Jew it was something other, not to be comprehended by the gentile. ("Zionism and the 'Jewish Problem,'" *Midstream*, November 1969.)

Closely connected with such ideas of innate distinctness is the concept of the Jews as a "chosen people," destined to play a unique role in history, and thereby set apart from all other peoples. In short, Zionism asserts the existence of an unbridgeable gulf between Jew and non-Jew. In its own way, it upholds the racist doctrine of the anti-Semites that Jews are inherently different from other peoples and hence incapable of becoming integrated with them.

Directly related to this is the thesis that anti-Semitism is inherent in non-Jews and hence ineradicable. Pinsker regarded anti-Semitism as biological in nature. He wrote: "Judeophobia ... is not peculiar to particular races, but is common to the whole of



Photo: pexels.com

mankind ... As a psychic aberration, it is hereditary, and as a disease transmitted for two thousand years, it is incurable."

Herzl, it is true, viewed the roots of anti-Semitism as social rather than biological. But he saw it as being nonetheless inevitable since he regarded the social relationships between Jews and gentiles as essentially unchangeable. It was the Jews themselves, he maintained, who carried the seeds of anti-Semitism with them wherever they went.

This idea was echoed in the 1920s by Chaim Weizmann, then head of the World Zionist Organization, who said: "I believe the one fundamental cause of anti-Semitism is that the Jew exists. We seem to carry anti-Semitism in our knapsacks wherever we go. The growth and intensity of anti-Semitism is proportional to the number of Jews or to the density of Jews in a given country."

Herzl wrote: "Above all I recognised the emptiness and futility of efforts to 'combat' anti-Semitism." He concluded, therefore, that the solution to the Jewish question lies not in fighting to end anti-Semitism and to achieve full equality for the Jewish people in all countries where they live, but in separating Jew from non-Jew in establishing a Jewish state in which the Jewish nation, scattered in exile for some 2000 years, could be reunited.

To Herzl and many of his followers, the location of such a Jewish state was immaterial. Herzl regarded Palestine and Argentina as equally acceptable. He fought for the acceptance of a British offer of territory in Uganda. But to others of his followers, chiefly those from Eastern Europe, a Jewish state could only mean Palestine.

For David Ben-Gurion, the primary founder of the State of Israel and its first

prime minister, the basis of the Jewish state in Palestine is "the Messianic vision of the redemption of the Jewish people and all mankind." This is "the soul of prophetic Jewry, in all its forms and metamorphoses until this day, and it is the secret of the open and hidden devotion of world Jewry to the State of Israel." (Address to the 25th World Zionist Congress, 28 December 1960.)

Thus, political Zionism becomes joined with the older religious Zionism with its "Messianic vision" of the return to the "promised land" of the Old Testament. But it was not an ancient longing to return to Zion that gave the impulse to political Zionism; this idea had long existed only as an ossified religious ritual. "Next year in Jerusalem" was uttered yearly by innumerable Jews who had not the faintest expectation – or desire – of returning to Jerusalem at any time.

That impulse was provided rather by the rise of modern anti-Semitism of which we have already spoken, originally in the late 19th century and later, in its most hideous form, in the days of Hitlerism.

ZIONISM AS AN ORGANIZED MOVEMENT

Political Zionism is not only an ideology; it is also an organised world movement. The World Zionist Organization, launched through Herzl's initiative, held its First Congress in 1897. That Congress stated: "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in Eretz Israel secured by public law." (Eretz Israel refers to the biblical bounds of the Promised Land, which extend further than the current borders of the State of Israel.)

The 23rd Congress, held after the establishment of the State of Israel, revised this aim as follows: "The task of Zionism is the consolidation of the State of Israel, the ingathering of the exiles in Eretz Israel, and the fostering of the unity of the Jewish people."

Clearly, Israel is looked upon as the homeland of all Jews, to which the "world Jewish nation" scattered in exile is to be returned. Zionism regards Jews as aliens in the lands in which they live. It seeks to withdraw them from the struggles for democracy and progress in their own countries as being of no consequence to them as Jews. It strives to build a wall between Jewish and non-Jewish workers, maintaining that the only real bond of Jewish workers is that with other Jews, including Jewish capitalists.

It rejects socialism as an answer to anti-Semitism and is bitterly hostile to the socialist countries, insisting that anti-Semitism, being incurable, is no less rife in these than in the capitalist countries. It stands at the very opposite pole from the ideology of working-class internationalism, which calls for the unity of workers of all countries against their common class enemy, world monopoly capitalism, and on this basis for a common struggle against all forms of national and racial oppression as being divisive and destructive of the interests of workers everywhere.

In its extreme nationalism and separatism, in its capitulation to anti-Semitism, and in its efforts to divide Jewish workers from other workers, Zionism serves the interests of the exploiters and oppressors of all workers and all peoples.

People's World (edited for reasons of space) ✳

Zionism ... stands at the opposite pole from ... working-class internationalism.

Colonial powers give 'regrets' – not apologies

Graham Holton

Recently the imperialist nations of Britain, Spain, and Germany, have expressed "regrets" for the atrocities they committed, but failed to acknowledge that the true horror was colonisation. Imperialism was built upon the exploitation and enslavement of subject peoples and nations in South America, Africa, and Asia. The colonial powers need to apologise for their crimes against humanity, return stolen cultural objects d'art and human remains and offer reparations for the injustices committed upon their former colonies.

Massive reparations are unlikely as the ruling classes defend their colonial past and the way they accumulated their vast wealth and power. Different forms of reparations have been suggested, none have been implemented. In the UK, arguments that colonisation wasn't all bad are often aired, echoed in recent comments in Australia during the Indigenous Voice campaign.

In 1984 Jeremy Corbyn urged a boycott of Apartheid South Africa. In 2019, on the 100th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in the Indian city of Amritsar, where 379 unarmed demonstrators were killed, Corbyn, by then Leader of the Labour Party, requested a formal apology for the massacre. PM Theresa May replied, "we deeply regret what happened."

In June 2013, the high commissioner to Kenya, William Hague, said that the British government expressed its "sincere regret" for the abuses committed by Britain and announced the paltry payment of £2600 [AU\$4980] to each of 5200 vetted claimants of British oppression.

Following World War II, the nationalist Jomo Kenyatta of the Kenya African Union (KAU) demanded improved political rights and land reforms from the British

government. In 1952 the Mau Mau rebellion, mainly of the Kikuyu ethnic group, rose up against the white settlers on their tribal lands. Thousands were tortured in concentration camps across the country. An estimated 25,000 people were killed. Kenya attained independence from Britain on 12 December 1963.

Charles Windsor visited Kenya in October 2023 to mark the 60th anniversary of its independence. In a speech at a state banquet in Nairobi, the king admitted to the "wrongdoings" of Britain's colonial past and had the "greatest sorrow and regret" for its behaviour. Britain had committed "abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence" against Kenyans during their fight for independence. There was "no excuse." The king told his audience: "It matters greatly to me that I should deepen my own understanding of these wrongs." Human rights groups had demanded a formal apology, but none was given.

In 2019 the Mexican president, López Obrador, sent a letter to King Felipe VI of Spain requesting that Spain apologise for the abuses committed by the Spanish conquistadores 500 years ago. The king rejected Mexico's request and the Spanish government replied, "We emphatically reject the arguments contained in the letter. Both nations have a common past and Mexico should not resort to anger." No apology was given.

It is only recently that Germany has acknowledged its colonial-era atrocities in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Namibia. On 11 August 1904, the German colonial army decimated Herero rebels at the Battle of Waterberg in Namibia. The German campaign of collective punishment from 1904 to 1908 is recognised as the 20th century's first act of genocide. Nearly 65,000 Herero died, out of a population of 80,000, and half the population of the Nama were killed. In 1985, the United Nations' Whitaker Report classified the killings as a genocide.



Image: DrRandomFactor – Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0).

In 2021, Germany officially admitted to committing genocide during its rule of Namibia, announcing financial aid of €1.1 billion (AU\$1.8 billion).

In the Maji Maji Rebellion in Tanzania, German armed forces killed 300,000 people, in one of the bloodiest anti-colonial uprisings in Africa. While Germany lost its African colonies under the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, thousands of human remains, brought from the German colonies as war "trophies" and for "Scientific Racism" research, still lie in Germany's universities, museum and

institutions. These are the remains of the victims of German Imperialism.

On 1 November 2023 German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier speaking at Songea in Tanzania said: "I would like to ask for forgiveness for what Germans did to your ancestors here. What happened here is our shared history, the history of your ancestors and the history of our ancestors in Germany." He hoped both countries could work towards "communal processing" of the past.

There was no official apology. ✪



The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

www.ipan.org.au

Stop US stationing B52 bombers in NT and using Australia as a launching pad for US aggression. This is facilitated by the US-Australia Force Posture Agreement

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Under the Force Posture Agreement up to 2,500 US troops are stationed in Australia each year practicing for war with our ADF. They are under the command of the US-Indo-Pacific Command with a regional HQ in Darwin and not under the control of the Australian Government. They are a ready-for-war force and can be deployed by the US at very short notice.

Sign the petition calling for termination of this US military troop build-up in Australia

Daily life in Palestine

Editor's note: This piece, received before 7 October, is being printed at a time when demonisation of Palestinians is rife in Australia's mainstream media. We are printing it as an antidote to that.

Amanda Groth

In 2009, when I was 21 I left Australia to work overseas. I ended up in a high school program in the West Bank Palestine. I had no previous knowledge of any politics, history or religious conflicts in the area. I went to teach. While there I met many locals, students, and other volunteers, who all taught me the history of the conflict, and what I was about to experience first hand. I have returned twice to visit them. Some have married, some have degrees, some both. All have an amazing future ahead of them. To this day I remain very close to my students. I don't know where they are, but they are always in my thoughts. In recent times, I have been in contact with one of my students and would like to share her story and her life to show Australia what daily life is like in Palestine. My goal is to humanise and put a face,

a story, to this horrific conflict.

Sophie Bashar, 27, grew up in Nablus Palestine

I'm currently residing in between Nablus and Riyadh Saudi Arabia. I'm an artist, and a graphic designer, I love arts, all kinds of arts and hand crafts, I love spending time creating home decorations, gifts for friends, scented candles to relax and much more! I love music, I'm a huge fan of Miley Cyrus, I love the way she expresses herself and her feelings and how she has grown up to be this amazing woman. I am passionate about cooking and baking, I can simply spend hours in my kitchen making cinnamon rolls or pizza dough, whatever makes my taste buds happy! And I love capturing all that on my social media.

Daily life isn't the easiest, but we somehow make it work. I'm a student so I'm usually on campus. The Fine Arts faculty makes me feel like I'm somewhere else, it's literally an open gallery, paintings everywhere, music, and students singing in every corner, and that smell of freshly mixed paint. I can't get over it. Getting in different studios feels like a teleport! Each has its own ambiance. I spend most of my time there, it's the place where I simply forget about occupation, however it hits you in the face once

the day is over and it's time to get back home.

Transportation outside major cities can be a hardship. Although Palestine – West Bank is pretty small, moving from a place to another takes hours sometimes I would go from the north to the south of Riyadh (which is nearly as large as Jordan) in about an hour but it would take around 2 hours in regular days up to 4 hours sometimes to go a distance of 36 kms from Nablus to Ramallah for example!

Nights are the hardest, mostly because of the shootings! I'd wear my AirPods on noise cancellation to get some sleep and get up early the next day to lectures and so on. That's the day to day life in Palestine, never easy! I worry most about not being safe in my own home, my own bed. I worry about losing the ones I love most, my family. I worry not being able to travel when I should be travelling.

And I worry that my homeland may turn into an open air prison for the most trivial possible reason any time. I want the world to know that we are people, just like you. We have dreams of living safe, having families, having kids and not worrying about losing them, having careers, enjoying life, being to concerts, visiting Amsterdam galleries, going to Disneyland, watching the sun go down in the sea, being free! ✪

Thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers demand better wages



Photo: Dominic Chavez/World Bank – flickr.com (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Thousands of garment factory workers have taken to the streets of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka and the industrial district of Gazipur to demand better wages.

Bangladesh is the second largest garment-producing country in the world after China with nearly 3500 factories where four million mostly women workers are employed, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Trade unions say the workers get about 8300 takas [A\$119.00] as a monthly minimum wage which forces them to work overtime, if employers grant it, to make ends meet.

Protests erupted over the weekend after BGMEA offered to increase the monthly minimum

wage by 25 per cent to reach the equivalent of [\$142] instead of the [\$328] demanded by the workers.

While Bangladesh has been maintaining stable annual economic growth for years, rising inflation has become a major challenge.

Gazipur district, which houses thousands of factories, saw thousands of protesters on the streets, with some throwing stones at shops.

In Dhaka's Mirpur area, where an Associated Press team was at the scene, hundreds of protesters chanted demanding better wages. Some were seen vandalising vehicles. Others chanted slogans as security personnel patrolled the area.

Garment worker Shahida Akhter protesting in Mirpur that she struggles to put food on the table.

"If you reduce the price of

essential goods, our wages won't need to be hiked," she said, complaining about the constant rise in prices.

"Do you know the cost of having a family? If there are babies, we need to spend more," Ms Akhter said.

Bangladesh earns annually about [\$86 billion] from exports of garment products, mainly to the United States and Europe.

The protests came amid rising tensions over the coming general elections between the ruling Awami League party and the main opposition group the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Morning Star (edited to show Australian currency units) ✪

Anti-Jewish rioters 'pathetic cowardly animals'

The 150 or so people who stormed the Makhachkala airport incited by fake news of "Jewish refugees" have brought dishonour to themselves and the Caucasus, governor of the Republic of Dagestan, Sergey Melikov said.

"You are pathetic animal-like cowards – not even beasts, but cattle, because you have no courage," Melikov said during a press event, addressing the rioters. "You're brave only in a mob. You hide behind women. You hide your faces. What kind of men are you?"

Over 80 people have been arrested since Sunday, when a violent mob swarmed the runway at the Dagestani capital's international airport, believing that an inbound flight from Tel Aviv was bringing Israeli refugees. The rumour appears to have originated from 'Utro Dagestan' ('Morning Dagestan'), a Telegram channel linked to Ukrainian intelligence services, which has since been banned for incitement of violence.

More than 20 people were injured in the riot, including several police officers who were deployed

to restore order. Melikov has vowed to mercilessly punish the culprits, describing the riot as a "betrayal" of Dagestani and Russian values.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the Makhachkala riot was incited by "agents of Western special services" from the territory of Ukraine, warning that the US and its allies would use bigotry and hatred to sow chaos and conflict, all in an attempt to preserve their global hegemony.

Putin condemned the Israeli offensive against Gaza as "collective punishment" and "not justifiable" by the atrocities committed by Hamas on 7 October. However, he argued, while the imagery coming out of Gaza is fuelling an emotional response among Muslims – including those in Russia, the fight for a just multipolar world requires one to be clear-headed.

The Dagestan riot was denounced by Russia's Muslim leaders, as well as the head of the neighbouring republic of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov.

Russia Today (edited for reasons of space). ✪



Global Briefs

New York: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) overwhelmingly approved a resolution to end the US economic blockade of Cuba imposed in 1962. This year 187 countries, including Australia, voted for the blockade to be lifted; the US and Israel voted against the motion, and there was one abstention – Ukraine. The voting shows the level of respect and support for Cuba. "The international rejection of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade that the United States has maintained for decades against Cuba is overwhelming," the Venezuelan Foreign Minister commented. He congratulated the "Cuban president and people" who he considered an example of resistance.

BOLIVIA: The government of Bolivia has announced that it is severing diplomatic relations with Israel. "Bolivia decided to break diplomatic relations with the state of Israel in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive taking place in the Gaza Strip," Deputy Foreign Minister Freddy Mamani said. Chile, Columbia, and Honduras have recalled their ambassadors. Bahrain has recalled its ambassador and suspended economic ties. "The decision is based on solid and historical stance that supports the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

FRANCE: The French police have deployed 10,000 officers to guard 950 Jewish sites including schools, synagogues, and cultural centres after multiple instances of anti-Jewish vandalism. The French Interior Ministry has registered 857 anti-semitic incidents since the Israeli invasion of the Gaza strip, which is more than in the entire year of 2022.

LEBANON: Last week Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasralla spoke for the first time on the Israel-Hamas war. Hezbollah has been engaging Israeli forces along the Lebanon-Israeli border forcing Israel to keep some of its forces near the Lebanese border instead of the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. 'What's happening on the border might seem modest but is very important, Nasralla said. He blamed the United States for the war in Gaza and the high civilian toll. "You, the Americans, can stop the aggression against Gaza because it is your aggression. Whoever wants to prevent a regional war, and I am talking to the Americans, must quickly halt the aggression on Gaza", Nasralla said. He also said that further escalation along the Lebanese border between Israel and Hezbollah was contingent on what happened in the Gaza Strip.

TURKIYE: Turkish pro-Palestinian protesters turned their anger against the Incirlik Air Base in Adana, which is home to US Air Personnel and 50 nuclear bombs. The demonstrators demanded the closure of the base. Anti-American sentiment has been rising in Turkiye since the start of the Israeli-Hamas war. Peaceful at first, the protest turned into a confrontation with the police when some demonstrators tried to enter the base. They were stopped by water cannons and tear gas.

RUSSIA: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergai Lavrov held talks with this Kuwaiti counterpart and reiterated Russia's support for the Arab states' solution on the settlement of the Israel-Hamas conflict. "Today we discussed the initiatives that have been put forward and that will be implemented in the coming days, including the holding of the Arab League summit on the Gaza problem," Mr Lavrov said. He stressed that Russia always relied on "decisions, opinions, and assessments of regional countries when considering a certain conflict." Mr Lavrov also made it clear that "like Kuwait, Russia flatly condemns and rejects any terrorist acts, as well as the indiscriminate use of force against civilians and hostage-taking." The Russian FM added that Moscow is very much concerned over attempts to torpedo prospects of the creation of a Palestinian state, and that Russia is "wary of plans to resettle residents of the Gaza Strip to other countries. ... This will ensure neither peace nor security in the region," Lavrov stressed.

Letters to the Editor
The Guardian
74 Buckingham Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

email: editor@cpa.org.au



Dear Editor,
Thank you for printing an obituary to my grandfather Savvas Lioupas in your recent issue.

My pappou was a special, wise and determined strong man whose passion and fight for life was nothing short of inspiring.

For the 18 years I spent with him, I idolised his massive heart that never stopped giving, his warrior-minded mentality that never stopped fighting, and his wisdom that never stopped telling.

He was our solid rock that couldn't be broken. From his tough upbringing, to his migration to Australia, pappou's history encapsulated his courage and tenacity that he kept all the way through till the very end. In the endless days and nights of his stories that I wish I could hear one more time, he would sit across from me in the lounge room, or next to the warmth of the fire outside the back with a packet of Manchester reds and a Heineken, and he would describe the sacrifice and toughest moments of his life in the best broken English and Greek conversation we could've possibly had, and I would sit there and think how lucky I was to have this man as my pappou.

It wasn't only his grit and dedication that made pappou the man he was, it was also the heart and pure care he had for everyone but himself, something I'll cherish for eternity. Always putting others before himself when really he was the one in need showed his selfless nature. The pappou I saw when he became a full-time carer for my yiayia at 78 years old was only a small showcase of how much he had to give. No one else cared more than this man and I'll be forever grateful to have been lucky enough to fall under his care.

The fight he pursued until my yiayia's [grandmother] last day, all the way until his last day, really captured one of his most important traits, a fighter till the very end for what he believed in and for what was right. I love you pappou, may you now rest in peace, but always fighting.

Xavier Tocchetto



Something to say?

Write to the Editor!

editor@cpa.org.au

WORTH READING – political economy

Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism

by Vladimir Lenin

This classic remains the best framework to understand capitalism's international political economy. It outlines the characteristics and development of free market capitalism into monopoly capitalism. Subsequent capitalist development has shown the key aspects of Lenin's theory to be correct more than 100 years since it was written, just as the basic ideas of Marx's *Capital* have been proven correct by developments in contemporary capitalism. An essential starting point for understanding the principal international developments today.

Available at cpa.org.au

Super Profits and Crises: Modern US Capitalism

by Victor Perlo

This is a great book for beginners as well as those with a greater knowledge and understanding of Marxist political economy. It not only presents the theory but also its application today, unlike many theoretical texts. It covers such topics as exploitation of labour, labour and value, real wages, productivity, the rate of profit, corruption and decay of capitalism, monopoly, state monopoly capitalism, racism, the militarisation of the economy, US imperialism, economic crises and the business cycle, the structural crisis of world capitalism, socialism versus capitalism, and much more in simple everyday language.

Available at cpa.org.au

Engels – On Marx's Capital

by Frederick Engels

Compiled in 1940, the works collected here are but a small part of what Engels wrote in connection with Marx's *Capital*. Great for someone looking for an introduction to Marxist political economy, especially if they don't have the time to read the three lengthy volumes of Marx's *Capital*. Engels who collaborated with Marx in the writing of *Capital* provides a clear summary of the theory. It makes essential reading.

Available at cpa.org.au

Political Economy: A Marxist Textbook

by John Eaton

The thought of reading *Capital* can be daunting. John Eaton's book breaks open Marx's great work on political economy and invites us back to Marx's superb work. Eaton's is more than a 'primer.' It stands alone, but also vividly and accessibly describes and explains capitalist development, surplus value, capitalist accumulation, the circulation of capital, crisis, and imperialism. First published in 1966, this book remains relevant, because the crisis of capitalism remains tragically relevant. Eaton guides the reader through Marx's critique of political economy and invites us to return with confidence to that magnum opus. Marx helps us to understand the world so that we can change it.

Production, Power, and World Order: Social Forces in the Making of History

by Robert Cox

Robert Cox's book looks at the world and how it turns. Cox set himself the task of bringing an understanding of historical change in international relations through an appreciation of the relationship between power and social relations. He approached his work as an historical materialist. The book argues that hegemony requires dominance in economic, political, social and ideological spheres. This, of course, is achieved when class interests are airbrushed away

and class collaboration becomes complete. Cox famously remarked that theory is always for someone and for some purpose. So too it is for communists. Published in 1987.

The Enigma of Capital: And the Crisis of Capitalism

by David Harvey

Bourgeois political economists regard economic life as essentially a harmony of interests within society. Marxist political economists describe economic life in terms of conflicts of interests between classes. David Harvey's book examines the crisis that is tearing capitalism and the world apart. He focuses on just how devastating economic crisis is for the working class and how these crises act to create a path to challenge capitalism's claim to legitimacy. He argues that the battle ahead will be between those that wish to lurch forward to the next crisis and those that value social justice and economic equality. Published in 2010

The Hollow Colossus

by Charles Andrews

One common definition of political economy is that it is a study of the relationship between a population and its government. It's a bit trite, although we can see the tragic relationship between capitalism and the working class. Charles Andrews lays bare the tragedy that is late capitalism. He uses the USA, the capitalist colossus of the title, to describe how things effectively peaked for capitalism in 1973. The 'good times' for capitalism that came after WW2 were short-lived. Since the economic upheavals of 1973, the oil crisis and recession, there has been an almost continuous downward economic spiral of crisis. Andrews outlines how social reform in the US has stalled, how working conditions have deteriorated and how the intensification of technology has exacerbated the problems facing the working class. Published in 2015.

The Long Depression: Marxism and the Global Crisis of Capitalism

by Michael Roberts

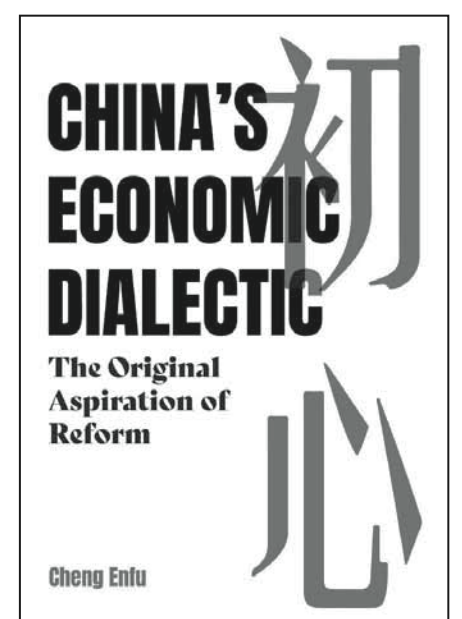
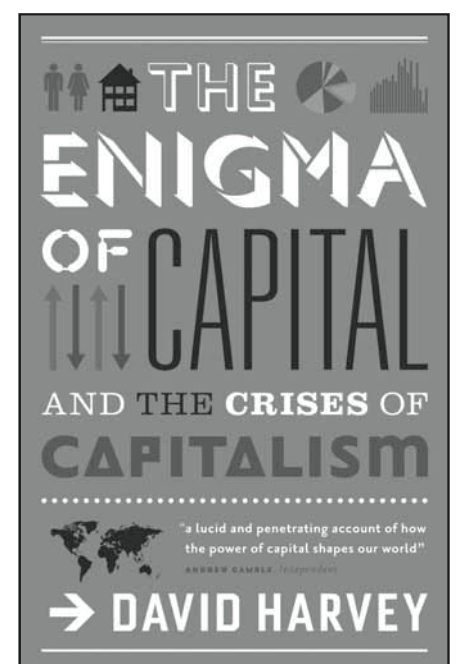
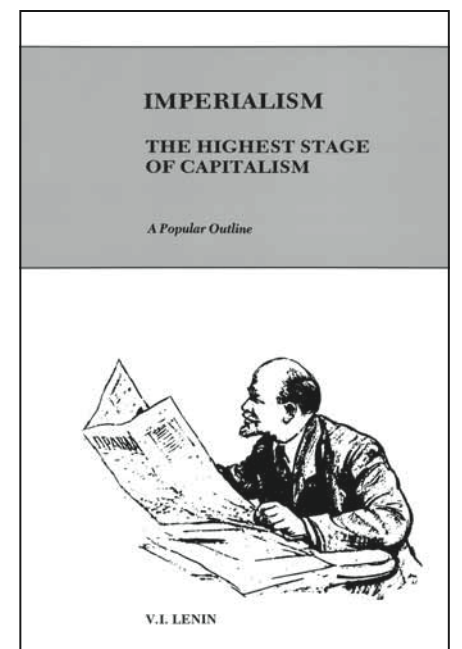
Michael Roberts argues forcefully that the global capitalist economy is experiencing a long depression. Marx's theory of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall is being proven. The only way out for capital is an intensely severe economic depression, and the wholesale devaluation of capital, as a precursor for a return to profit and a return to happier days for the masters of the universe. There has been a tragic history of this in action. Roberts puts forward a different, infinitely better option. Get rid of capitalism and build a better, fairer and more just economic system. Yes, capitalism is a depressing thing, at least for those who suffer at its hands. All the more reason to be rid of it. Published in 2016

China's Economic Dialectic: The Original Aspiration of Reform

by Cheng Enfu

Cheng Enfu is Professor of the Center for Innovation of Marxism at Northwestern Polytechnical University, and a chair professor at Shandong University.

This book is a highly recommended Marxist analysis of the economic history of China under the CPC. It captures the inner logic of China's political economy, showing the full significance of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics.' China retains its 5 year plans and the large role of the state. The state's dominance over the private sector guides China's economic development. A fascinating read. Published in 2021.



Colombia's 'War on Drugs' – environmental and human tragedy

Graham Holton

The Colombian government's "War on Drugs" has been encouraged by the US government since the 1980s. In February 2023 the government of President Gustavo Petro announced it would stop the eradication of illegal coca crops by aerial spraying, called fumigación in Colombia. Colombia is the only country in the world that permits aerial spraying of drug producing crops.

The fumigation of large areas of plants is banned in the USA and Europe. The use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War is well known. Less is known about Colombia, because the government has repressed information about the areas sprayed during the past 40 years. Aerial spraying has done massive environmental damage and caused numerous ailments in humans and animals.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy and Sue Brandford in *Chemical Warfare in Colombia: The Cost of Coca Fumigation* (2005) reveal that the US corporation Monsanto manufactures Roundup Ultra, a spray that contains 41 per cent Glyphosate, POEA (polyoxyethylene tallow amine), and Cosmo-Flux (an adjuvant product to create a fine mist). The Roundup used on home gardens has only one per cent Glyphosate.

Aerial spraying, has been used for more than forty years in an attempt to wipe out the production of cocaine. The consequences have been devastating with severe social impacts on Afro-Caribbean people, peasants, small farmers, and the Indigenous.

By 1999 the Department of Putumayo had 58,000 hectares under coca cultivation, out of a total of 160,000 hectares for the country, requiring large areas of deforestation causing a loss of biodiversity. The chemical processing of the coca leaves to produce a paste leaks into the soil and environment causing a further impact on birds, animals, fish and aquatic life. In 2004 an area of coca covering 136,555 hectares was sprayed, with 114,000 hectares surviving, showing the plants had adapted to the poison. Spraying over such a long period has created weeds which are immune to Roundup.

Vargas, Guardiola, and Almanza describe the environmental disaster created by cocaine production in *Fumigación en Colombia* (2003): "The indiscriminate felling of forests causes the loss of biodiversity, not only in the plant world but also as a result of breaking the chains of transformation and the life cycles that link together so many organisms, such as micro-organisms in the soil, birds and insects (which have a pollination function), reptiles, small mammals, and carnivores among others." The coca fields are planted along the contours of the land and kept bare of all other plants, causing widespread top soil run off.

Intensive cocaine production is bad for the environment, but eradicating it from the air is horrendous. The signing of Plan Colombia in 2000 showed the government's willingness to cooperate with the US in the militarised eradication of coca in the Putumayo, spraying an area of 12,836 hectares of coca plants.



Extracting the cacao beans after harvest.

Photo: Thomas Cristofolletti, USAID – flickr.com (CC BY-NC 2.0 Deed).

Soon there were thousands of health complaints, mainly respiratory, miscarriages, eye infections, gastro-intestinal, and dermatological.

The spraying destroyed maize, yucca, and fruit trees on farms and caused the death of 373,944 animals, mainly fish, pigs, horses, rabbits, and an unknown quantity of the native bird population. While the majority of small farmers have up to 18 hectares, 40 per cent of families survive on only 2.3 hectares. The loss of their farms' capacity to grow food forced over 200,000 to leave for Ecuador.

The Colombian landscape is damaged through the constant deforestation caused by clear cutting fields for coca cultivation soil erosion, and the chemical pollution caused by aerial spraying of glyphosate herbicide. Aerial spraying has been repeatedly condemned by human rights and environmental activists, because of its effect on human populations and local soil and water systems.

The Dutch journalist, Marjon van Royen, found that plots denuded of coca plants are abandoned and cause serious problems with erosion during seasonal rains. Because of the continuous high demand for coca, once a plot is destroyed, planters simply move further into the forest, clearing new lands for coca production. This vicious cycle of unsustainable cultivation-eradication has caused the environment in coca producing zones to suffer substantial decline.

According to the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the area under coca cultivation in Colombia has expanded to 245,000 hectares, and cocaine production increased to 1010 tonnes a year. Colombia's security forces confiscated 505 tonnes of cocaine.

Cocaine production programs have been a complete failure, creating an acute humanitarian crisis in impoverished rural areas. Those who have profited from the US-financed program have been the politicians, the paramilitary and security forces, and the drug cartels, who benefitted from the higher prices created by US anti-drug laws. ✪



Like funerals postponed

"The humanitarian situation in Gaza was dire before these hostilities and has now severely worsened. This exacts unjustifiable and specific costs on women and girls. The demand to immediately relocate 1.1 million people from northern Gaza, while the entire territory is under siege, is extremely dangerous," UN Women said. UN Women is the United Nations body dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women, and is on the ground in the Gaza Strip providing support. "We reiterate the Secretary-General's call ... for unrestricted access for humanitarian actors into Gaza, including the United Nations, to provide aid to the most affected. This is essential to address the desperate, immediate needs of women and children, including to food, water, and protection. We also join in his call for the immediate release of hostages."

As of 2 November, following four weeks of bombardment by Israeli forces, 6086 women and children have been killed and 735,000 women and girls displaced from their homes. The UN Population Fund estimates that there are 50,000 pregnant women, with 5522 expected to deliver within the next month. These are the cold hard statistics, but behind every statistic there is untold human suffering, desperation, and destruction.

"We thank God every day we wake up alive. We are like funerals postponed, dressed and ready to die, waiting for our turn," says 44-year-old Hayam Farahat in southern Gaza. "We can't take this anymore", she says. Their grief is compounded by the loss of relatives they cannot visit, trapped by the dangers that lurk outside. Every morning, Farahat and her family wake up and give thanks for their safety. "We are waiting, wondering when it will be our turn to face the unthinkable," she says. As she speaks, air strikes again explode and Farahat says she must leave to be with her family. She ends the conversation by saying that her deepest wish was that, if they were hit by an airstrike, that it would happen while she and her family slept.

Amani works as a psychotherapist in the Gazan Ministry of Health. Her mission is to provide support to patients processing the traumas of living amid years of conflict. She also carries the heavy burden of protecting her own family. "In every single moment, an eerie uncertainty surrounds us. I live in continuous fear of what could happen to my children and family," she says. "My primary responsibility is to offer unwavering support, but the sheer gravity of this duty is crushing." Amani is a mother of four, and has seen her oldest son, Firas, begin to abandon his dreams of a future as a lawyer amid the conflict. She says: "In the shadow of this war, the dreams and aspirations of my children have been condensed into a singular, fervent plea: to survive." "Pain and fear now dominate our lives", she continues, her voice trembling. "This is a conversation I never wished to have, yet I find myself trapped by never-ending thoughts, unrelenting nightmares, and a life of torment."

"It is imperative that we ensure immediate access to services for women and girls and ensure the prevention of gender-based violence," says Sarah Hendriks, UN Women Deputy Executive Director, ad interim. "As the international community seeks to respond to this crisis, we must also wholeheartedly support and invest in women-led organisations, which are at the front-line of the humanitarian response, and promote the meaningful participation of women in humanitarian and political processes."

UN Women calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for the establishment of humanitarian access to facilitate the immediate entry of humanitarian assistance, including food, water, fuel, and health supplies for women and girls in the Gaza Strip.

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The Guardian

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Published by
Guardian Publications Australia Ltd
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, 2010

Printed by
Spotpress
24-26 Lillian Fowler Pl
Marrickville 2204

Responsibility for electoral comment
is taken by **T Pearson**,
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, 2010

Rushing towards tipping points

Graham Holton

A tipping point is a moment when things change so much there's no going back. Climate tipping points are the critical thresholds at which a tiny perturbation can seriously change our global climate and environmental systems. Reaching a tipping point will cause a dramatic impact on the climatic and environmental systems that we rely on for our daily lives and for societies to function. Crossing these points cannot be counteracted by more action. Shifts in the Earth's environmental system, such as global sea-level rise, will have devastating irreversible changes.

Numerous scientific papers and reports conclude that climate tipping points are fast approaching. A study by Daniel Zarrilli, Special Advisor for Climate and Sustainability at Columbia University, finds that once the Earth comes close to a climatic tipping point, some changes in the climate will be irreversible. For example, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current regulates our climate. If it shuts down it will have "massive social and economic consequences."

In 2008, the first major assessment of climatic changes identified nine tipping points, involving polar ice sheets, oceanic currents, and the major rain forests around the world. In 2021 Katharyn Duffy of Northern Arizona University mapped the relationship between increasing temperatures and carbon uptake in the Amazon's forests. Her team examined twenty years of data on the transfer of carbon dioxide between plants, land, and the atmosphere. At higher temperatures, the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by plants through photosynthesis declines sharply, whilst the carbon dioxide released continues to rise, producing far more CO₂ in the atmosphere. The thermal maximum for photosynthesis was exceeded in recent hot periods.

In 2022 the World Economic Forum examined the results of more than 200 studies from the past fifteen years, concluding that there are five tipping points of serious concern. With global warming now at 1.2°C, four of these five will be reached if global warming exceeds 1.5°C. Every fraction of a degree makes this outcome more likely, but not yet inevitable. Current levels of greenhouse gas emissions risk triggering climate tipping points.

Greenhouse gases are the gases in our atmosphere that raise the surface temperature of the Earth. Radiant heat from the Sun warms the Earth's atmosphere when absorbed by water vapour (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide (N₂O), and ozone.

Since the 18th century, humans have increased atmospheric methane



Photo: Rawpixel. (CC0 1.0).

concentrations by over 150 percent and carbon dioxide by over 50 per cent. A report by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2016 concluded that carbon dioxide causes three quarters of all global warming and will take thousands of years to be fully absorbed by the carbon cycle.

Australian climate scientist Will Steffen, and his colleagues have said in 2022 that there are "ample reasons to suspect that climate change could result in a global catastrophe." David Armstrong McKay of Stockholm University has shown that global warming of 1 degree Celsius would risk triggering six tipping points. A major tipping point is the Greenland Ice Sheet, with Greenland and Antarctica losing ice six times faster than 30 years ago. The melting of those ice sheets is the largest contributor to sea-level rise.

Other tipping points include: West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapse; the ocean circulation in the polar region of the North Atlantic; coral reef die-off in the low latitudes; the sudden thawing of permafrost in the northern regions; and abrupt sea ice loss in the Barents Sea.

The OECD report Climate Tipping Points: Insights for Effective Policy Action concludes that to stop reaching these tipping-points,

we must drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions through enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are at the heart of the Paris Agreement.

Following the Agreement will accelerate transformations towards carbon net-zero and enable countries to adapt to the impact of climatic changes. Given the potential for the catastrophic impact associated with our changing climate system's tipping points, not implementing the strategies of the Agreement could lead to immeasurable economic and environmental collapse in the near future.

The Earth's tipping points are interlinked, producing cascading impacts of serious concern. For example, the extinction of a strongly connected species in a given ecosystem can trigger cascading extinctions, leading to an ecosystem's collapse. Jared Diamond argues in *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* (2005) that the removal of the forest cover of Easter Island (Rapa Nui) led to the collapse of its ecosystem with a devastating impact on its human population. All environmental systems are interconnected. If one system fails it places added pressure on other systems to collapse.

These findings are confirmed by the Interconnected Disasters Report 2023 (25 October 2023) published by the United

Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, which analysed six interconnected tipping points, representing immediate and increasing risks across the world. The surpassing of these thresholds will have dire consequences for humans, animals and the environment.

We are now moving close to the brink of multiple risk tipping points. Urgent action is needed to avoid crossing these tipping points and to prepare for the coming consequences. Fundamental changes are required to save our planet, the only planet known to have life, from a potential catastrophe.

We need serious action on climate change now. Capitalism is not delivering that serious action. ✳

5 Tipping Points

- Greenland Ice sheet
- Coral die-off
- Permafrost Thaw
- West Antarctic ice sheet collapse
- Barents Sea Ice loss

The Earth's tipping points are interlinked, producing cascading impacts of serious concern.



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