



# WORKERS SOLIDARITY

## Irish narchist Paper



# Our

# Globalisation

# Fighting Global Capitalism

The world's 225 richest people have a combined wealth equal to the combined annual income of the world's 2.5 billion poorest people. A 4 percent levy on their wealth would provide adequate food, safe water and sanitation, basic education, basic health care and reproductive health care for all those in the developing countries. It is facts like these that galvanised the massive protests against the WTO in Seattle last September.

Everywhere the rich are getting richer while most workers see little or no improvement in their living standards. In the USA the wealth of the top 1% is greater than that of the bottom 95%. In Mexico 40 people own 30% of the wealth in that country of 95 million people. The housing crisis in Ireland demonstrates how even during an economic boom the gains don't go to the working class.

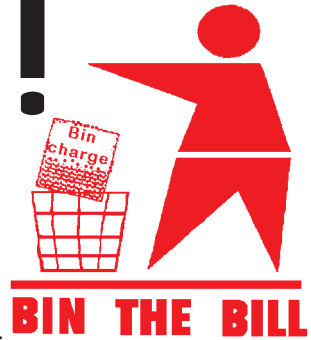
The last 40 years have seen massive economic development and an

increase in human knowledge. In the last 50 years man has gone to the moon and sequenced the human genome. But the capitalist system which delivered these miracles is unable to help the tens of millions who die every year because they lack access to basic medicine and clean water. According to the UN 2.6 billion people have no access to sanitation, 2 billion have no electricity and 100 million are homeless.

This inequality is fundamental to the way that capitalism works. This is why anarchists have and will continue to be at the heart of the anti-capitalist protests in London (J18, Mayday), Seattle (N30), Washington (A16) and Prague (S26). But protest is not enough, we want to change the world.

*Don't miss our post Prague public meetings as advertised in the box on the back page*

# Bin the Bin Tax!!



In December 1996, following a two-and-a-half year long campaign of people power, the then government was forced to abolish water and sewerage charges throughout the State. The principal argument against these charges had been that they were a form of double taxation on ordinary workers, already shouldering an unfair proportion of the tax bill through PAYE income tax and indirect taxation.

In many areas around the country, double taxation remained in the form of refuse charges. Campaigns throughout the country - most notably in Cork and Drogheda - have continued against these charges. Now double taxation has also returned to the Dublin area, with a £150 refuse charge introduced by Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council and talk among councillors on Dublin Corporation of the introduction of a charge there too. No doubt before long the South Dublin and Fingal County Councils will also attempt the imposition of bin charges.

### Shifting the burden

The overwhelming majority of waste produced in this country is produced by industry, big business and large-scale agriculture while only a small fraction is produced by domestic householders. The refuse charge is an attempt to shift the burden of paying for the waste produced by big business on to the ordinary worker. *"It will further punish those who pay most tax and produce least waste instead of taxing those who pay least tax and produce most waste."*

Another agenda at play here is the move towards the privatisation of services, which has already happened in several local authority areas. Privatisation leads to a decline in the quality of services, job losses and worsening pay and conditions for workers. When the

service was privatised in Bray Co. Wicklow, the contract was awarded to Noble - a company which is known to be a major contributor to Fianna Fail.

Of course these agendas are not purely local. Privatisation of services and the introduction of 'local charges' are features of many so-called "Structural Adjustment Programmes" being forced on developing countries by the World bank and IMF.

### Fighting The Charges

Active campaigns have opposed the charges throughout the country, most notably in Cork and Drogheda. A campaign has been established in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown over the past few months and is in the process of building membership throughout the county.

Cork campaigners have been dumping non-collected rubbish outside City Hall, and are currently taking the Council to the High Court in an attempt to force them to collect everyone's rubbish. In Drogheda, with over 90% non payment in some estates, the campaign blockaded the bin lorries - one in an estate and the other in the depot - in late July, refusing to let them go until rubbish was collected.

Cntd p6



# The housing crisis

After six years of massive house price increases it is now almost impossible for the average worker to buy a house in Ireland. Average house prices in Ireland rose from 11.3 times the average income in 1989 to 18.2 times income in 1999. The increases in rent and house prices have, for many workers, completely wiped out any gain made from tax cuts in our take home pay. And for the poorest and most vulnerable sections of the working class the housing crisis is becoming a disaster as the rapidly growing number of young people sleeping on the streets demonstrates.

## We name the greedy bastards!

| The people  | Their wealth      | How many houses could be built on their land                   |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Mick and Tom Bailey (Bovale Developments)             | £400 million each | 2,000 in North Dublin and large holdings in Meath              |
| Joe Moran (Manor Park homes)                          | £100 million      | 9,000 houses in Dublin, with large sites in Cork and Drogheda. |
| Gerry Gannon  | £60 million       | 800 acres, mainly around Howth and Malahide.                   |
| Mick Whelan (Maplewood Homes)                         | ???               | Plans a 5,000 home development on 500 acres near Lucan         |
| Joseph Reilly and Liam May (Castlethorn Construction) | £120 million      | Capacity for 7,000 in Dublin and Meath                         |
| Michael Cotter (Park Homes)                           | ????              | 300 acres scattered around the outskirts of greater Dublin     |
| Sean Mulryan (Ballymore properties)                   | £1 billion        | Property in Dublin and 700 acres in towns countrywide          |
| Liam Carroll (Zoe Developments)                       | £65 million       | Up to 1,000 apartments and townhouses.                         |

The other side of the coin is a handful of people making enormous sums of money out of it. At the top a tiny group of ten individuals (see box on left) own almost all the land in Dublin that is zoned for housing. Their 7,000 acres are worth £3 billion, a figure that has been increasing by 20% every year. By simply sitting on this land these individuals are becoming 20% richer every year. In 1998 55% of the cost of an average new house in Dublin went to the landowner/developer.

The Flood tribunal has named some of the politicians who have taken tens of thousands of pounds in bribes from developers connected to land zonings and planning permissions in Dublin. Although a big fuss has been made about 'corruption' in reality this is the system functioning as it is meant to, politicians representing business while pretending to represent their electorate.

Figures from a range of sources including 'Business and Finance', 13th January 2000, who complain that property "players try to keep a very low profile"

# That's Capitalism



Speaking at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Washington, the foreign minister of Brazil lamented that if the next WTO meeting had to be held in an out of the way place, he preferred that it be held on a cruise ship instead of in the middle of the desert. He then gave an impassioned speech in which he opposed writing core labour standards into the WTO agreement and defended child labour. He went on to describe how in one region of Brazil, more than 5,000 children "help their families earn a little extra money" by hauling bags of coal from a dump yard to a steel mill. He was greeted by a hearty round of applause.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ryanair Chief Executive Michael O'Leary recently sold six million of his own shares in the anti-union airline. This gave him a whopping £37.8 million. To earn the kind of money that this parasite 'earned' in just one day, a Ryanair baggage handler would have to work for more than 2,900 years at the present rate of pay.

\*\*\*\*\*

In an amazingly honest interview, Minister of Finance Charlie McCreevy told the *Racing Post* on March 2<sup>nd</sup> how concerned he is about the happiness of his horse racing buddies. According to McCreevy "the next logical step was to put racing's finances on a permanent footing.

*If that is not done, racing will be at the whim of the government of the day and, when pressure comes for expenditure on things like health and education, racing will go down the political priority list".* Perish the thought that healing the sick or educating our children should be thought more important than subsidising the playtime of his millionaire horsey pals like John Magnier and Denis Desmond.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just in case you're really not sure which side the British government is on, Labour has appointed Sir Michael Burton, a high court judge, to head up the unit that will arbitrate between unions and employers over the new legal right to recognition. Burton made his name during the 1980s by supporting a number of high profile cases against unions. He represented Rupert Murdoch against the print unions and was involved in legal action against the 1984/85 miners strike which led to the NUM's funds being seized. Sounds just the sort of person you want to decide whether workers should be represented by unions at work!

-----  
Web/PDF version  
<http://surf.to/anarchism>

## From the Czech Republic:

### Why we organise against the IMF

The Czech anarchist organisation Solidarita/Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists is working as part of INPEG, the Czech alliance organising the protests in Prague this September. In October one of their members will be speaking in Ireland about these protests (see back). **Vadim Berek, Solidarita's international secretary explains what the IMF means to workers in the Czech republic and why they are organising against the summit.**

The elite of global capitalism will come together in Prague to plan our planet's and its working-class inhabitants exploitation for the next century. The whole event will cost Czech taxpayers about 22,500,000 dollars. A 70 million dollar loan has also been taken to reconstruct the Congress venue for the financiers needs. Their security will be provided by 11,000 cops armed to their teeth. The preparation of the state repression against opponents of capitalist globalisation has swallowed up all the states budget reserve of 3.5 million dollars.

#### IMF/WB and Czech Republic

In 1990 the then Czechoslovak government took a loan from the IMF of 3.9 billion dollars. In turn the government promised to liberalise and restructure the economy. The EU has pressured Czech governments to take loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development under the same conditions.

Now 10 years later the results are clear. Since 1989 working-class families' real incomes have dropped by 13% (farmers by 28%). In 1997 the value of basic social benefits [education, healthcare, housing] had fallen 44% - their share of GDP has dropped from 2.7% (1991) to 1.7% (1998). Purchasing power of pensions is 10% lower than before the 'Velvet Revolution'. The real value of the minimum wage has decreased by 60% since 1991.

Unemployment has grown to 9% (in some regions it has reached 20%) and about 130,000 workers do not receive their wages [In all the former East Block countries companies in trouble save money by not paying wages for months at a time]. Privatisation of the Czech railways is going to take the jobs of some 10,000 railway workers. Recently the World Bank (WB) has used its share in Nova Hut steel works to prevent the creation of a possibly viable steel consortium of the largest Northern-Moravian steel plants. Steel workers already have problems with receiving their wages and during the next few years about 20,000 of them may lose their jobs.

#### The Globalisation of resistance

This is why ORA-Solidarita together with other anarchist, environmentalist and socialist groups is taking part in the preparations for international protests against IMF/

WB. These will culminate in a Day of Action on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Opponents of globalisation will try to make the IMF/WB summit impossible in the same way that a coalition of trade unionists, environmentalists, human rights activists and anarchists obstructed the WTO conference in Seattle last year.

During our activity in workplace struggles (like in the engineering factories Zetor, Kralovopolska, CKD DS...) we are trying to put the everyday problems of workers in the context of IMF/WB policy. We make information stalls in front of factories and in the streets. We agitate among workers. We put both direct and indirect pressure on Czech union confederations to take part in the protests.

But the resistance against a multinational capital has to be multinational too. That is why we organised actions of solidarity with protests in Seattle and to highlight globalisation of the resistance movement.

#### Freedom, Self-Management, Socialism!

Contrary to some Czech environmentalists and stalinists, ORA-Solidarita does not believe, that the IMF/WB can be reformed in some way to reduce world poverty and exploitation. They are key institutions of the global capitalist system whose purpose is the accumulation of



### The United Bigots?

When the 'Northern Ireland Assembly' discussed the issue of abortion in June, the prospect of denying rights to women united politicians right across the so-called 'religious divide'. The Democratic Unionist Party proposed a motion to prevent the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to the 6 Counties. The SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party!!) imposed a party whip in favour of the motion. The Alliance Party's deputy leader went so far as to describe the prospect of a woman who had been raped having access to abortion as being akin to a return to "terrorist violence". Sinn Féin's Health Minister Bairbre De Brun didn't even manage to make it into the chamber for the debate. The Women's Coalition's Monica McWilliams could only talk about "confusion" and "divisiveness", arguing to refer the issue to a committee. A case of a United Ireland of Bigots??

profits. As such the institutions are only important to multinational capital if they are maximising its profits (and thus the exploitation of the global working class).

We do not seek a return to a national capitalism's protectionism. This meant the same exploitation for workers and it gave birth to neo-liberalism. Contrary to Trotskyists we do not call for the creation of "workers' states" and the replacement of the IMF/WB by a "Development Bank". This only leads towards a globalisation of totalitarian state capitalism, which we - in the Eastern Bloc - overcame in 1989.

The cause of a today's worldwide misery is capitalism in all its forms and that is why it has to be dismantled. Revolutionary Anarchists fight for a genuine socialism based on freedom and workers' self-management. Socialism means a society and economy organised from the bottom up for a fulfilment of human needs and not for an accumulation of profits for a few. Socialism thus can be created only by a global revolutionary anti-capitalist movement of the working class. That is why the ORA-Solidarita supports and instigates both national and international unification of social resistance movements and fights for their libertarian and revolutionary character.

#### More information:

An interview with Solidarita appeared in Red & Black Revolution No4. It is on the web at [http://lag.blackened.net/revoll/rbr/rbr4\\_solidarita.html](http://lag.blackened.net/revoll/rbr/rbr4_solidarita.html)



## Your Class Needs YOU

The Workers Solidarity Movement is an anarchist organisation. Anarchism is the idea that we should organise society in a non-hierarchical way without bosses. We don't want to live in a society that is divided into order-givers and order-takers. We stand for a real socialism based on freedom and democracy.

A lot of people know that hierarchies and authoritarianism are bad for us. Remember school? Think about what it's like at work? You're told to do something - so you must do it! But must you? Anarchists recognise that hierarchy and authoritarianism exist to serve only one end - the efficient exploitation of workers. But we believe there is another way to do things - society could be organised through workplace and community councils, through grassroots democracy, from the bottom up.

A lot of people accept that there's a need for change, but not many have any real idea of how change can come about. Anarchists want a revolution! We don't think General Elections make a whit of difference. Remember the anarchist slogan - *Whoever gets in, the government still wins*. We reject any system that is divided into rulers and ruled,

## Thinking about Anarchism



## Beyond the 'Days of action against global capital'

**Amsterdam, Geneva, Cologne, Seattle, London, Washington, LA, Prague. What do these cities have in common? In the last four years they have been the site of a new phenomenon, the Global Protest. For decades, the organisations that manage capitalism have met to divvy up the world among themselves. For the first time, their role as dealers of poverty and misery has been exposed by thousands of angry protesters. The symbolic value of these protests cannot be underestimated. If only for a brief period of time, a few days here and there, people have come together to say 'Enough!'**

Already however, the nature of these demonstrations has changed. Consider the difference between these protests.

**Seattle:** Thousands of protesters converge on the city. Despite using tear gas and implementing a curfew, the police lose control. The WTO summit is effectively blockaded. The demonstration is broadcast throughout the world media.

**Philadelphia:** Police arrest 'key activists' off the streets and at gathering centers before the demonstrations start. Bail is set so high that they are not released until after the protests, in two cases at 1 million dollars!

**LA:** From the start protesters are surrounded by the police. Police helicopters keep media choppers away. Alternative news sources are shut down.

bosses and workers. Anarchists stand for direct action and solidarity among and between workers. We see change coming through our own efforts, by our own strength!

When people hear about anarchism, they often say 'That's a great idea but would it work?' Well, what's so great about the present set-up? Rents and house prices have gone through the roof. Wages and pay have limped along while profits have soared. Everyone is working harder, but the gap between the rich and poor has widened massively in the last while. And what about corruption in high places? And politicians and brown paper bags? Racism against Travellers and asylum seekers? The truth is that the present system is rotten and we need to change it. Would it really be that difficult to do better than what we have now?

There's plenty more that could be said about anarchism. If you like what you have read in this paper, and would like to find out more information about anarchism or the WSM, we would love to hear from you.

Regular readers will have noticed our new format. This change - we will now be pro-

The protests to date have been enormously successful. The difficulty in organising such events should not be underestimated. In the last few years networks have been built between people and organisations that span national border. The ability of the alternative media to cover such events, usually through the use of the internet is impressive. Activists have learned new skills and grown in confidence.

However it also seems that these demonstrations are becoming more limited in what they can achieve. As the police wise up to what is happening, more and more the protesters are faced with battling the state on its own turf. Seattle succeeded because surprise was on our side. Unfortunately, we cannot repeat that success. It is time to move the battle on. The Global Protests woke people up, it got them listening. Now we need to organise for the next stage.

The key word in the last sentence is organise. The global protests were organised by loose coalitions of people, united in their opposition to globalisation, though differing as to what should be put in its place. If they are to go further, instead of protesting *against* what exists, we must also be fighting *for* what could be better.

Unfortunately there is no formula to tell us what the next step is. Fortunately however there is a device that will help us on our way. This device is the anarchist method of organisation. New tactics emerge from the organisation's experience of activity, as it analyses and discusses what has happened, as it considers what can be tried next. Like the days of activity, the anarchist organisation is a means to an end. The aim of the global protests is not to overthrow capitalism. Yet clearly capitalism must be overthrown. They represent the first step, protest against the present. The next step is organisation for the future.

Aileen O'Carroll

ducing a larger print run and bringing the paper out more regularly (initially 6 times a year) - is the result of a review which we have been carrying out over the past while. We now want to build up a national distribution network of members and contacts who will ensure that the paper reaches anyone taking part in oppositional politics anywhere in Ireland.

For this we need *your* help. Can you take 10/15/20 or more copies to distribute among your friends/workmates? Please get in touch with us and we will send you on some more copies for distribution.

Remember we've got a world to win, but we can't do it without *your* help!!

### Distribute Workers Solidarity

In Ireland to receive extra copies of Workers Solidarity to distribute contact us at WSM, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8 or by email at [wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.com) Remember to tell us how many you want and what your postal address is! Elsewhere see our web page:

## THE HOUSING CRISIS: Finding a scapegoat

The housing crisis for home buyers and private renters is in part due to the arrival of thousands of people into the country. The vast bulk of these people were born in Ireland but became 'economic' refugees and left for other countries to find work over the last few decades. The lucky ones did so legally but many thousands however were forced to enter the US as 'illegals'.

But an unfortunate consequence of the housing crisis is that it coincided with the arrival of a much smaller number of migrants who were not born in Ireland but arrived here as asylum-seekers. Unfortunate because this has provided the rich with a scapegoat. A strategy that has worked as even some well intentioned people blame these migrants for the housing crisis and suggest we should 'look after our own first'.

The real cause of the housing crisis is neither the tens of thousands of returning Irish born migrants nor the 15,000 or so asylum seekers. The reason housing is in short supply and expensive is because of the hoarding of land and super profits of a handful of speculators. Seizing the hoarded land from the speculators and building houses on it would bring house prices and rents rapidly down.

What of the crisis for the tens of thousands trying to rent local authority housing? It would cost the state an estimated £1.9 bil-

lion to clear this housing list. There are at least three easy ways this money could be raised

1. The 1999 budget surplus could have paid the cost of clearing the housing list 2 and a half times over.
2. Tax evasion by big business and the rich cost the state over £3 billion during the 1990's.
3. Confiscating the profits of the land speculators

The bosses' magazine 'Business and Finance' calculates, using a Construction Industry Federation report, that "the Dublin land speculators would have taken in £957m in 1999 alone. Given that much of the land was acquired without zoning over thirty years ago much of that money is straight profit for the speculator". In comparison expenditure on refugees in 1999 cost the state only 10% of that figure.

Andrew Flood



## ALDI strike

The strike at the Aldi supermarket on Dublin's Parnell Street came to an end on Friday August 18th. It marked the end of a bitter three month struggle for union recognition. There had been mass pickets, sympathy protests at Aldi shops in Letterkenny, Galway and Cork, and generous donations from members of MANDATE and other unions.

A support group (which included trade unionists from the Workers Solidarity Movement) had covered central Dublin in 'Boycott Aldi' posters, organised regular mass pickets and engaged in 'dirty shopping'. This was when supporters would enter the store, fill shopping trollies, take them to the checkout and then walk out of the shop declaring that they wouldn't give their custom to an anti-union firm. Managers were left picking up the goods and putting them back on the shelves, possibly the only real work some of them had ever done!

When the workers joined MANDATE (the union for shop and bar staff) management had responded by refusing to talk to the union. They then sacked two union workers for "poor performance" (despite having offered one of them a management job only days previously because his work was so good!) and suspended three others for refusing to clean toilets as well being cashiers.

This was an important strike. Six young workers were taking on a giant multinational which plans to open fifty stores in Ireland. During the strike Aldi advertised seeking staff on a "self-employed" basis. This means no sick pay and no holiday pay.

The strikers needed MANDATE to publicise their case to other union members and call for mass pickets big enough to close the shop. Instead they got flying visits from their own general secretary, Owen Nulty, and ICTU president Inez McCormack, who posed briefly for photos and then vanished.

Tom Kitt, junior Minister of Labour Affairs, was brought in as a 'mediator' and negotiated a deal. The five dismissals were rescinded, a voluntary severance package was agreed (none of the strikers wanted to return to work alongside the people who scabbed on them and the management who tried to break them), and references were provided. The fourth item was the agreement of "a mechanism to resolve potential further disputes, which includes the new Code of Practice on Voluntary dispute Resolution".

This means nothing. Union recognition was not won. The six young strikers showed great tenacity and militancy. People like them are the hope of the trade union movement. The overpaid careerists currently running our unions are a waste of space. If they want to be partners with the bosses let them piss off and join IBEC.

Alan MacSimóin  
(ALDI strike support group - personal cap.)

Web/PDF version  
<http://surf.to/anarchism>

## OUT ON VIDEO:

20th Century Fox



**At the beginning of Fight Club, the unnamed narrator is cracking up. His job is meaningless, his life is empty, and his attempts to fill it by accumulating stuff - Ikea furniture, Calvin Klein clothes - are failing. His constant travelling, and acute insomnia, mean he's no longer sure where, why, or who he is anymore.**

He attempts to fill the void by attending support group meetings for diseases - testicular cancer, brain parasites - he doesn't have. There, cocooned by the suffering of the other members, he finds peace, and is able to sleep again. But the peace is shattered when another 'tourist' starts attending meetings. Now he can't release his emotions because the presence of another spectator makes him conscious of his own deception - and the insomnia returns. Until he meets Tyler Durden.

Tyler is everything he isn't - worldly-wise, good-looking, and amoral. And so when he returns home to find his apartment ('his life') destroyed by a gas leak, he moves in to Tyler's delapidated squat, a million miles from his plush apartment. And together they start Fight Club. Fight Club starts small. After a night's drinking, both realise that they've never been in a fight, and trade punches. It's painful, but the pain - unlike his job, his furniture, his whole life - is real and immediate. Soon the fights become the focus of their lives, and others, seeing them, want to join. They don't fight because of any grudges they hold, or for the victory. The fight itself is all that concerns them - a few minutes of direct experience, not bought or sold, not analysed or me-

diated, but real pain, authentic emotion.

For its members, Fight Club is a liberation. For the rest of the week they have boring and meaningless jobs, bossed around by their superiors, but for one night a week they are all equals. And because of that night of intensity and adrenaline, everything else becomes controllable - your boss is no longer intimidating when he is just another potential opponent.

As Fight Club grows, with more and more members and branches appearing all over the country, so do Tyler's ambitions. The focus of the club shifts from the fights, and towards attacks on the corporate society that created it. Advertisements are subverted, corporate art and fast food chains vandalised, until the final attack on the headquarters of the major credit card companies, an attempt to wipe everyone's slate clean.

Fight Club is an anarchist inspiration to some, fascist propaganda to others, and it's easy to see why opinions are divided. It's an attack on the emptiness of consumerism, the way society robs us of real choice, the void at the heart of capitalism. But the solution it portrays is just as bad. The fighters feel real when they fight, but it's a reality that strips away their individuality.

Their equality is fake - Tyler is always the leader. This becomes more obvious as Fight Club becomes Project Mayhem, where the first rule is not to ask questions. The way it explores these questions would be reason enough to see this film, but it's also one of the best-looking films of recent years. Rent it.

Ray Cunningham

## ***Drowned, suffocated and beaten to death***

# 'Fortress Europe' - legalised murder

They are the sort of deaths which rarely merit more than a passing reference in the mainstream media - a battered ship which sinks in the Mediterranean, a stowaway found dead in the cargo hold of a ship or plane, a nameless asylum seeker who takes his/her life, no longer able to take the pressure in one of the EU's many 'detention centres'. Now and again, as with the 58 Chinese people found dead in the back of a truck in Dover in June of this year, the cases are so horrific that they cannot be ignored. Then they become big news for a day or two only to sink off the political agenda just as quickly.

These are the victims of 'Fortress Europe' - the human cost of a policy which places the needs of capital over the rights of people. It is a policy which has had horrific consequences. "UNITED for Intercultural Action", a European Network "against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees" has been monitoring deaths associated with 'Fortress Europe' since 1993. The results\* make horrific reading.

In fact over 2063 people have died in and around the European Union since 1993 as a result of the anti-refugee policies of governments across Europe.

*"Instead of finding a safe place and a better perspective for their life people have drowned, suffocated, been beaten to death by racist attackers, gagged to death by policemen or committed suicide in despair.*

*These deaths can be put down to border militarisations, asylum laws, detention policies, deportations and carrier sanctions..... As possibilities for legal entry for refugees and migrants are more and more restricted, and as borders are made more impermeable, people are forced to take more and more dangerous routes."*<sup>1</sup>

Thousands die attempting to reach the 'promised land' of the EU. 'Traffickers' are blamed for these deaths (when anyone bothers to ask who is responsible) but very few ever ask why the traffickers have such power over human lives.

### **Globalisation**

As governments throughout the EU dance to the 'globalisation' tune, the free flow of capital is accompanied by the erection of barriers against the free movement of people. In Britain, for example, Tony Blair's New Labour government has deported or excluded over 113,100 people since coming to power in May 1997.

The human cost alone should be enough to oppose the introduction of ever more stringent border controls. There is however a more fundamental principle at stake. As anarchists, we argue that the rights of individuals to travel freely and to live where they choose must take precedence over the rights of states. Unfortunately, though, many of the people attempting to make it into Europe are not doing so from the point of view of 'exercising a choice'. Much more often, it is a journey of desperation - fleeing from persecution or extreme poverty, hoping to establish a new life in a new place.

People do not lightly make the decision to uproot themselves from their home countries and to travel halfway across the world. If, however, they do so - for whatever reason - they deserve a chance to make their way freely to somewhere more hospitable,



to travel without restriction, to work and to get the support of a community. Simple humanity demands this. Unfortunately simple humanity has little role in the world of the Single European Currency.

### **No immigration control**

Many people would in fact agree that the current 'Fortress Europe' policies are too stringent, and would like to see them reformed. Some balk, however, at the notion of the complete abolition of immigration controls. Yet, those who do not unequivocally state their opposition to the notion that a small group of people can decide who is allowed to live where, are unconsciously accepting the supposed logic of the architects of 'Fortress Europe'. Because the policies of 'Fortress Europe' do not envisage only allowing people born within the EU's borders to live here.

The key qualification is the size of your bank balance. Wealthy businessmen have had no difficulty buying Irish passports - even when in some recent cases the sources of their wealth were to say the least dubious. Yet people born in Germany of immigrant parents can never become German citizens. The Irish Department of Justice has also on more than one occasion looked at the possibility of withdrawing the automatic right to Irish citizenship currently given to children born in Ireland to immigrant parents.

Ultimately, it is money and access to money which is being used to dictate who can come

into the EU. And money is in fact what this is all about! The 'globalisation' of capitalism in recent years marks a further entrenchment of the imbalance in wealth between the 'developed' and 'developing' worlds. This increasing imbalance has led to an increase in the number of people from Eastern Europe, Africa and elsewhere attempting to make their way to the 'developed' world in search of a better life - indeed in some cases in search of survival.

EU governments have responded by building ever stronger walls around 'Fortress Europe', by making clear their intention to criminalise ever further people who try to come here to make a better life for themselves and their families. The extension of 'Fortress Europe' is another aspect of the globalisation of capitalism. Resistance to it is a challenge for anarchists and radicals throughout Ireland and the EU.

*by Gregor Kerr*

*(Anti-Racism Campaign, personnal cap.)*

\* on the web at <http://www.united.non-profit.nl>

<sup>1</sup> UNITED for Intercultural Action press release 14/6/2000

## **Bin the Bin Tax**

Contd from p2

In Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, the campaign has got off to a good start. There has been a march of 300 people to the Council offices in Dundrum, and over 1,000 people have attended public meetings across the county. Non-payment is very high, with only 23% fully paid up. In building the campaign, the experience gained in fighting the water charges will prove invaluable. The next stage will be to build the membership throughout the different areas and to strongly resist any attempt not to collect the rubbish of non-payers. No doubt the Council will be testing the mettle of the campaign from early Autumn - probably only on some routes at first.

We appeal to any readers in the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown area - or in any other areas where refuse charges exist - to get involved in their local campaigns, or to get in touch with us and we will pass on relevant contact details to you.

<sup>1</sup> Motion passed at founding conference of Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Campaign Against Service Charges, 6/5/00)

*Conor Mc Loughlin*

*(Watson co-ordinator in the Campaign Against Service Charges in Dun Laoghaire)*

## **Subscribe:**

Send £5 to WSM, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8 and we will send you the next 6 *Workers Solidarity's* and the next 2 issues of our magazine *Red & Black Revolution*

**International rates** (for 6 WS + 1 R&BR), Britain 5 STR, Europe 7 Euros or equiv, rest of world 10 USD. Send cash or cheques made out to WSM to PO Box 1528, Dublin 8

# Your money or Your life

## The World Bank and its actions.....

**If you've ever owed money to a bank, you'll know it's not a pleasant experience. Depending on whether they think you're good for the money, the bank will either screw you in the short term or milk you dry over the longer haul. Banks are in the business of making money and generally they'll stop at nothing to get their way.**

Right now across the world, the lives of millions of people are in the hands of two of the most powerful financial institutions ever created - the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). These banks hold the lion's share of the debt currently owed by the 'Third World'. This debt first accumulated in the '70s when poorer countries borrowed in order to develop their economies. But when the world recession hit in the '80s huge numbers of countries found they couldn't repay their loans - this was when the IMF and WB first stepped in.

### TURMOIL

To understand why the so called 'debt crisis' has happened we need to look back at why the WB and IMF were set up. This relates to when the world economy collapsed for the first time 70 years ago - an event often called The Great Depression. One of the major consequences of the Great Depression was a realisation by those in

power that the world's economic system was unstable. This instability has given rise to massive poverty and social turmoil and one of the most worrying consequences of this was the trend towards revolution in Europe,



**MORE WORLD, LESS BANK!**  
**HUT DOWN the IMF and WORLD BANK!**

## Anarchist news on the internet

It's not surprising that the national media - owned by the state or by the super rich - refuses to advertise anarchist news or activity. But now you can bypass the censors if you have access to the internet.

In your web browser go to <http://surf.to/anarchism>

This page, designed to be friendly for new internet users shows you key sites on the internet linked with Irish anarchism, international and Irish radical news and a huge variety of anarchist history and theory.

We can also send news and announcements to you by email as events happen. Just send a message to [lists@tao.ca](mailto:lists@tao.ca) with the text **subscribe ainriail**



Asia and South America.

When World War 2 neared conclusion, bankers and financiers from the Western countries met at Breton Woods to consider how best to minimise future economic instability and collapse. One of the key decisions taken was to set up IMF and the WB. These two institutions would be financed by the Western powers and their primary role would be to 'manage' the international financial markets - releasing money in times of shortage, withdrawing cash in times of surplus.

The WB and the IMF played a major role in avoiding a world depression when they took over responsibility for the 'bad debt' incurred by 'Third World' countries by the mid 1980s. Much of this debt was initially owed to private banks like Barclays, Credit Lyons, Chase Manhattan etc. In order to stave off a disaster (and the collapse of a number of major Western banks) the IMF and WB moved in and 'lent' money to a wide range of countries who were about to default on these loans. This saved the big 'private banks' from disaster and it also put the IMF and WB into an unassailable position of power - that they have never relinquished since.

### FORCE

Since the mid 1980s nearly 70 countries in the world have been 'forced' to adopt 'Structural Adjustment Programs' designed and developed by the WB and the IMF. Backed up by the massive economic power of the United States, Japan and the European Union these SAPs (as they are known) were supposed to 'revive' Third World economies. Instead they've led to disaster and massive poverty. Because of SAPs, local economies and wages have collapsed; basic services like sanitation, water, health and education have fallen apart. Meanwhile the burden of debt has been forced onto the poorest of the poor with the result that poverty has increased, life expectancy has deteriorated and infant mortality has soared.

While it's not difficult to see why the SAPs have failed (instead of promoting investment they sucked the money supply from local economies) it is important to remember that these programs were never intended to be anything other than harsh. More to the point the SAPs have played an important role in the long term economic strategy of the West. This strategy is all about making Third World economies more dependent (the word they use is *integrated!*) on Western needs and in particular more open to exploitation by Western multinationals; SAPs also guarantee the West a massive supply of cheap labour.

### DEMOCRACY...?

The power that the IMF and WB now have is enormous. They are dictating to millions

of people about how they should live and in what way. For many their policies mean an early death, or if that doesn't come then a life of harsh exploitation and low wages.

What do anarchists say about what should be done? There are a few points that need to be made. Firstly we have to ask why it is the world economy (and the lives of millions) is under the control of just a small number of Western bankers? Should this be happening and why do we have to accept it? Secondly, in the world right now, there is a massive surplus of wealth. The personal fortune of Bill Gates alone would sort out most of the major health and educational needs of billions of people (with change left over). So the problem in other words is not the generation of wealth but how it is distributed. And the problem of wealth distribution as we all know, is one of power and politics. Lastly we need ask ourselves why the 'Third World' is in such debt? If we look at the issue we will see that much of the problems of the Third World stem from the historic exploitation of the African, Asia and Latin Americas by the West - or to use a more accurate term, the problem stems from imperialism. This is a legacy that we

shouldn't accept and a legacy that has to be fought against.

Anarchists want a democratic economy. We want every 'unit' of the world's economy (down to smallest workplace, office and farm) to be organised along egalitarian lines - election of managers, assemblies to organise work and work conditions; participation and active decision making by workers in all the aspects of the work that they do. This is the sort of 'macro-economics' that we are planning for in the long term. But first - and this cannot be forgotten for one moment - we must wrest real power and control from the hands of the WB, the IMF. This is why we will be participating in the solidarity work - known as S26 - around the current IMF meeting in Prague in the Czech Republic at the end of September. S26 is an important step in bringing world attention to bear on the crimes and injustices of the present 'debt crisis'. Be there and show your anger!

Kevin Doyle  
(S26 Cork - Personal cap.)



#### ANARCHIST OPEN MEETINGS

Once a month, the Dublin branch of WSM hosts an open meeting. Sympathisers and readers interested in finding out more about anarchism are welcome to come along and join in the discussion. These meetings take place at 8:00pm in the Bachelor Inn (upstairs), Bachelors Walk (beside O'Connell Bridge).

**Monday September 18<sup>th</sup>: From Seattle to Prague:-** An eyewitness report on the N30 Seattle anti-WTO demonstrations, and discussion of the forthcoming protests in Prague.

**Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>: Trade Union Activity - Why Bother?:-** Given the extremely low level of genuine rank-and-file activity in almost all Irish unions, what is the point of union activity?

#### THE S26 PROTESTS

**Dublin** - Tuesday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Demonstrate at the Irish Financial Services Centre, 1-2pm

**Saturday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**, Meetings and Stalls in the Temple Bar Music Centre from 11:00am. March at 2:30pm from Central Bank, Dame St.

**Cork** - Tuesday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Protest at South Mall Financial area, Cork city, 12-2pm. Contact WSM Cork for details about where to assemble.

#### CONTACTS

**Anti Racism Campaign (Dublin)** - meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Irish Vietnamese Centre, Hardwicke St., Dublin 1. Tel. 087-6996046 or 087-2338143. On the web at <http://get.to/arc.dublin> ; **Immigrant Solidarity (Cork)** - meets every fortnight at NASC (The Immigrant Centre), Sharnan Crawford St. Tel. 021-4317411 for details. Web: <http://go.to/immigrant.solidarity> ; **Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Campaign Against Service Charges** - Ring Richard Boyd Barrett at 087-6329511 or 01-8788170 or Lisa Maher at 01-4934696 ; **Cork Householders Against Service Charges**, 55 North Main St. Cork. Protest - Bring Your Rubbish! City Hall, Anglesea St. every Monday night, 7:30pm. Campaign meeting after protest. ; **Irish Mexico Group**, 5 Merrion Row, Dublin 2, <http://zap.to/chiapas>; **SIPTU Fightback**, 22 Melrose Avenue, Dublin 3, <http://flag.blackened.net/revolt/siptu.html>

Workers Solidarity Movement, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8 or email [wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.com)  
WSM Cork, PO Box 31, Sorting Office, Cork or email [cork\\_wsm@yahoo.com](mailto:cork_wsm@yahoo.com)

Send your order, +20% for post and packing, to WSM Bookservice, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to WSM Books.



#### ABC OF ANARCHISM

by Alexander Berkman

..answers the questions you always wanted to ask; is anarchism violent, can we live without government, how can society be organised, who can change society, is a revolution necessary? £2.00

#### ANARCHISM

by Daniel Guerin

..the essential ideas and how they were taken up by the anarchist movements in Italy, Russia and Spain. One of the best introductions to anarchism available. £7.95

#### PARLIAMENT OR DEMOCRACY

by Kevin Doyle

Detailed research and examples from recent history showing how parliaments evolved from being councils of advisors to the rich and powerful to representing and running society exclusively in their interests. How parliamentary socialism failed as the rich continue to get richer at the expense of the poor ...examines the anarchist alternative. £2.00

#### FRA CONTADINI

by Errico Malatesta

..a fictional conversation about whether the bosses have a "right" to their property, whether the government is necessary, whether socialism can work. £1.50

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS -all welcome

### Anarchist Globalisation:

#### S26 Prague and the anti-capitalist movement

A speaking tour featuring a Czech anarchist involved in the organisation of the Prague demonstrations and an Irish anarchist who participated in them.

**Dublin:** Tuesday, October 10th, 8pm, Irish Vietnamese Centre, 45 Hardwicke Street, off North Frederick Street

**Cork:** Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 8pm, Tig Fili, McCurtain Street, Cork

**Belfast:** contact us for details

#### CHOMSKY ON ANARCHISM

Noam Chomsky's interview on 'Anarchism, Marxism and hope for the future' alongside his 'Notes on Anarchism'. £1.50

#### KEEPING THE RABBLE IN LINE

by Noam Chomsky.

Global warming, free trade, gun control, fascism, human rights, the democracy deficit, and much more. £9.95

#### MUTUAL AID

by Peter Kropotkin.

Probably his most important book. He argues that, in nature, co-operation is as important as competition. £6.00

#### THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR:

#### ANARCHISM IN ACTION

by Eddie Conlon

..why the war started, the workers' response, the role of the anarchists, was a revolution possible, the anarchist contribution in industry and on the land, their role in organising the anti-fascist militias, the Stalinist sabotage of the revolution, why Franco won. £1.50

-----  
Web/PDF version  
<http://surf.to/anarchism>