



Worldwide Crisis and Opportunity

Brexit Vote Shows Need for Mass

International Communist Workers' Party

July 2-- The British vote to leave the European Union ("Brexit") is both a result of global capitalist crisis and a cause of the sharpening of that crisis. It heightens the danger of imperialist war and expands opportunities for communist revolution.

Brexit demands that we redouble our efforts to mobilize masses everywhere for communism.

The masses can't live in the old way. Incredibly, 65.3 million people are refugees today: one person out of every 123 in the world. One in ten lacks clean water – 75.8 million in India alone. One of us out of every nine does not get enough food. Most live in countries ravaged by imperialism. One in five of our class sisters and brothers lacks adequate housing.

We don't have to live like this. And we don't have to live in the "old way" -- capitalism never met the needs of the masses. Workers produce everything. When we break the chains of capitalism's wage slavery we can produce and share everything we need.

That means communist social relations of production. We must organize ourselves as a mass international party that collectively makes and carries out all decisions in the best interest of the world's workers.

Communism means no racism. The Brexit vote mobilized a significant section of the working class around anti-immigrant nationalism and racism – against its own class interest.

In contrast, communism unites the working class. It fights all divisions by "race" and nation, gender and religion. A communist world will have no borders!

Marx noted 150 years ago that the English rulers did all they could to divide English from Irish workers, much as white and black workers were

divided in the US. "It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power," he wrote. They're still doing it.

But British workers also have a proud history of anti-racism. Lancashire millworkers boycotted cotton picked by enslaved persons in the US. Workers led the Anti-Nazi League. British workers joined the anti-Apartheid movement. Recently, thousands have brought supplies to refugees trapped in Calais, France.

Mass mobilization for communism will create the material basis for ending racism and nationalism forever. Conscious communist-led mass struggle against the racist remnants of capitalist society will finish the job.

No borders. No nations. No refugees. Instead:
One International Communist Workers' Party.

The rulers can't rule in the same old way. "Brexit accentuates and deepens global forces that have been building for years," wrote New York Times analyst Neil Irwin. "Governments have been unable to limit any of it. And those forces have self-reinforcing, vicious-cycle dimensions that make it a particularly perilous time for the global economy."

Capitalist competition inevitably leads to global crises of overproduction. "There is a glut of global commodities, particularly oil," wrote Irwin. "There is a glut of labor, with elevated unemployment in much of the world."

Too much labor! In communism there will be no such thing. Everyone will work to produce things we need or want, to take care of each other, to strengthen social bonds and to expand the realms of human creativity.

Capitalism's inner logic demands ever-more-rapid growth. But the global economy is slowing down. World capitalists have not been able to

stimulate it with low interest rates and monetary policy. Brexit could intensify these trends. It has already thrown currency and financial markets into turmoil.

Communism has no use for money and markets. Money allows a handful of capitalists to extract unheard-of wealth from workers' labor. Worldwide, 62 individuals at the top today own more than the 3.7 billion people at the bottom!

Ruling elites worldwide and their politicians are desperate to corral angry and alienated workers and youth. In communism we will share according to need. There will be no elites and no alienation.

Sharpening inter-imperialist competition means world war sooner than you might think.

“Is the post-1945 order imposed on the world by the United States and its allies unraveling, too?” asked the New York Times. Brexit suggests “the potential for a reordering of power, economic relationships, borders and ideologies around the globe.”

In short: the potential for World War III.

Brexit makes the world less stable. The EU is already weaker. It may become more so as other extreme nationalists (some backed by Moscow) are emboldened.

It's not clear which British capitalists-imperialists (if any) would actually benefit from Brexit. If they decide they won't, they'll find an excuse not to carry out the threat to leave the EU.

Great Britain was formed when England, Scotland and Wales united in 1707, joined by Ireland in 1801. The Irish Free State seceded in 1922. Scotland narrowly defeated secession two years ago. If Britain leaves the EU, Scotland may well leave Britain.

Brexit is a setback for US imperialists. The disintegration of the EU would be a geopolitical disaster for them. But a united EU without Britain might organize an army outside of NATO.

Brexit has already undermined the US diplomatic “pivot to Asia Pacific.” That makes US military

presence there even more important. It increases the likelihood of a confrontation with China.

China stands to gain from Brexit and the trouble it is causing the US. It may be better able to play off Britain against Germany. But it is less able to count on the EU as a counterweight against the US. Again this raises the specter of war.

Russian capitalists are also likely winners. Russia Times openly encouraged Brexit. An EU without Britain is less likely to enforce sanctions on Russia. Russia hopes that European turmoil will weaken NATO.

A non-EU Britain will likely strengthen economic ties to Russia. But Europe is Russia's main trading partner, and deepening economic crisis in the EU could hurt Russian capitalists.

US rulers, seeing a weaker Europe, might try harder to build direct relationships with Ukraine and Central Asia. This would increase the chance of a US-Russia military confrontation.

In this period of global “reordering of power” it is all the more important to organize for communism inside the bosses' militaries as well as in the factories, the schools and the streets.

Brexit is revealing the emergence of an objectively revolutionary situation worldwide. Communist revolution is the only way out of the bosses' crisis. But no revolution can happen without the consciously communist organization of the masses.

Join the ICWP and do your part to turn the bosses' crises and wars into mass mobilization for communism!



International Communist Workers' Party
www.icwpredflag.org