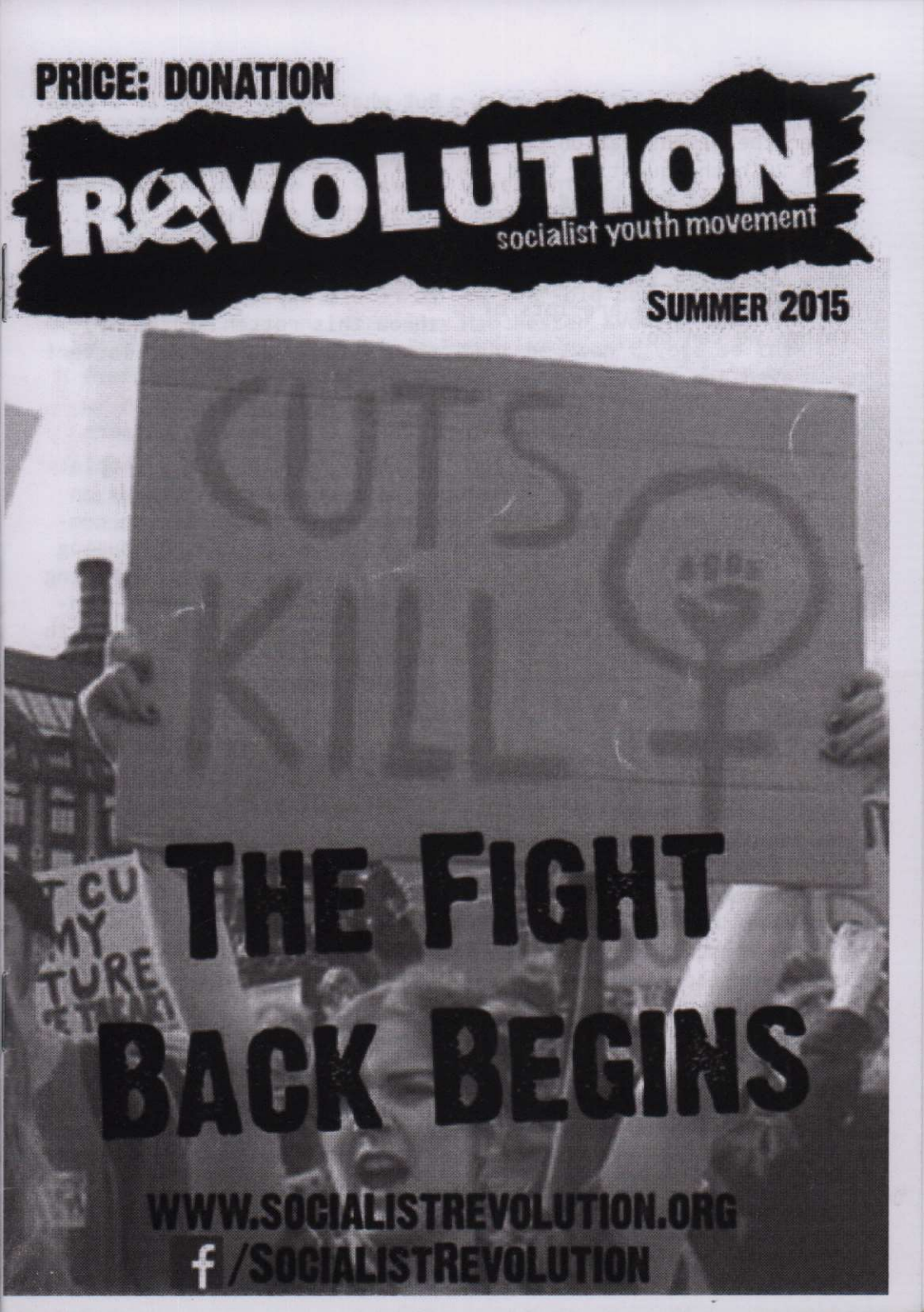


PRICE: DONATION

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

SUMMER 2015



**THE FIGHT
BACK BEGINS**

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Where Next, You Ask?

After the demonstration on June 20th the question that everyone will be asking is "What next?" How can we build a mass movement to block more Tory austerity and break the government? There are lots of things we can do.

1. Build an anti-cuts group at your school, college or university - get started now before exams end!

2. Join your local People's Assembly groups, reaching out to all local progressive campaigns, trade unions and working class organisations so we can create organising centres in every town and city.

3. Talk to your workmates, join a trade union and start campaigning for better pay, set hours not zero hour contracts Let's start organising young workers, so we can fight for equal rights and pay - join a community branch of Unite for the unemployed.

Let's link all these strands up nationally into a democratic mass movement, backed by the power of the unions to take mass strike action.

But what would happen if a mass movement brought down this government? Labour then Tory and repeat? We need to build a new party that opposes austerity, racism, war and imperialism - it will have to debate whether to reform capitalism or overthrow this rotten system by revolution - we say the latter!

4. Join REVOLUTION!

We think that as young people we face particular attacks on ourselves and organise to combat them. Being denied housing benefits until we are 21, being forced to take zero hours contracts or work internships with the promise of some mythical future work (probably stacking shelves), even when we do get some work our pay is less as well as if we don't work just as hard as anyone else. We can't vote but we can join the army and die in yet more pointless wars.

We need to organise ourselves to fight for our own futures and for our lives right now, but also in solidarity with all the oppressed and exploited peoples across the world fighting against the chains of capitalism.

TORIES WIN - YOUTH LEAD THE REVOLT

8 May:

Surprise! Tories narrowly win. Bullshit. Who's the scab?

9 May:

Everyone very down but then we decide to start to do something about it.

10 May, London:

Dismay turns to anger as thousands march from Tory HQ to Downing Street with placards saying "I pledge to resist" and "75% didn't vote Tory", defying police intimidation and violence.

13 May, Bristol:

Several young women from sixth form organise a demo via twitter and facebook, and up to 4000 turn out flooding Bristol with placards as far as the eye could see. Hannah Patterson, 17, one of the organisers said: "We are just a group of seven young women. It was an amazing turnout, we didn't really expect anything like it. We were talking on Twitter about how hopeless we feel, and we came up with this idea. It is brilliant so many people were there."

23 May, Manchester:

2 students call for a demonstration against cuts, put it on online more than 2000 turn out to protest; 16-year-old Ben Little told Manchester Evening News that he "can't vote so this is the only way I can have a say. Even though I am affected by the country's future I have no say in it." Manchester authorities will have been forced to eat £1.5 billion in cuts since 2010.

20 June:

100,000 predicted to march in London - the launchpad for a hot summer against the Tories?

8 July:

Budget day protests up and down the country as George Osborne unveils massive cuts, attacking the poorest, youth rights, and the unions.

September:

Back to school, college and uni, building for the national free education demo 4 November, and launching another student revolt against the Tories - this time let's win!

Leeds - 27th May - Report

REVOLUTION attended the 500 strong demonstration in Leeds which took place despite the drizzling rain.

There were young workers, students, the disabled, pensioners and a solid turnout from groups such as REVOLUTION and various trade unions. There was an obvious anger because of the injustices of the past 5 years and the fear of the cuts and attacks on the working class that have been announced for the next 5.

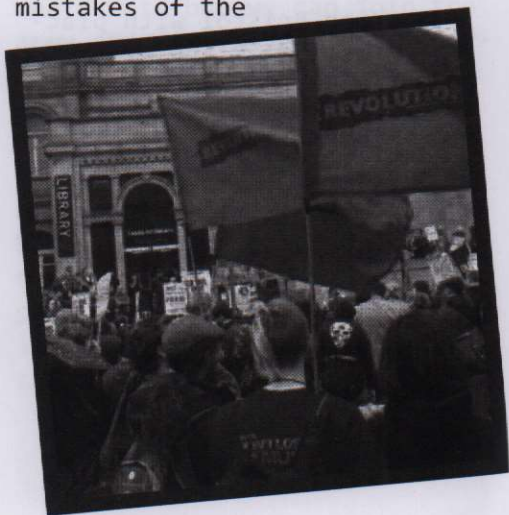
The demonstration was called by Youth Fight for Jobs - a campaign run by the Socialist Party with the backing of a number of unions. After the demo of 4000 shut down Bristol we had high hopes. Even with 500 we could have occupied a road in the biggest financial sector outside London. However, the protest was a static rally with speeches and a few chants.

Representatives of the Trades Council, YFFJ and a number of unions and campaigns spoke, many of them SP members.

After listening to this for a while, a member of REVOLUTION went to speak to the organisers, who had earlier said anyone wanting to speak could do so. But when we tried we were denied the right to speak.

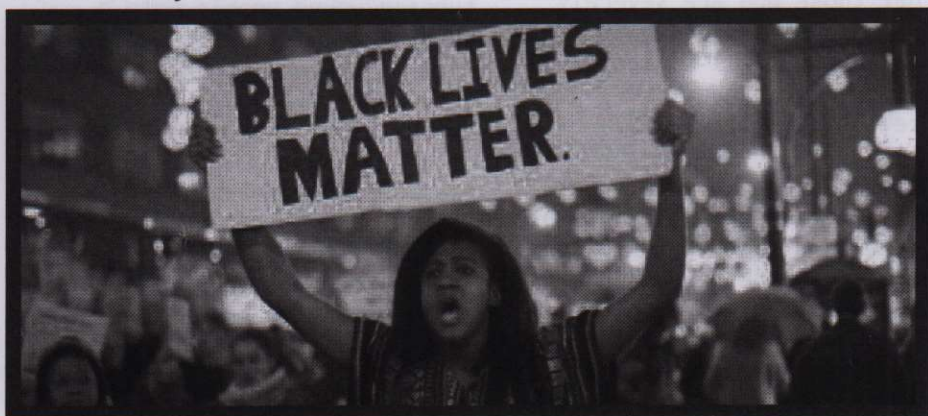
As the crowd dispersed we handed out leaflets and networked but the chance for direct action had been wasted and we went our separate ways with no attempt by the SP organisers call escalating actions or even an assembly to plan for them.

The demonstration in London on the 20th of June gives us the opportunity to build a movement that is democratic and militant, one which understands we must not wait five years or simply support reformist parties to win elections in the future. We can learn from our mistakes of the



past five years. We need to organise now to save ourselves, our class and the thousands of vulnerable people whose lives are threatened by the bastards in government, the bankers and bosses across the globe who want to make us pay for their luxuries. We can build a movement, we can fight and then maybe we can win.

Community outrage continues against racist police



Young black activists continue to spearhead mass community campaigns against the institutional racism of the US State. The last month in Baltimore a black man called Freddie Gray was arrested without charge and ended up in a coma with spinal injuries 30 minutes after being taken away by police. He died in a coma a week later. Activists called for a week of protests in the city with thousands attending. These spread across the country and forced the police to charge the 6 officers involved, they will stand trial for Freddie's murder. Since then the movement has won notable victories as atrocities go viral and force punishments upon officers. However targeting individuals after the crime is not enough. Young black people need to defend their communities from racist police and the movement needs to target the system that produces them-capitalism.

How Will the Tory Youth Cuts Hurt You?

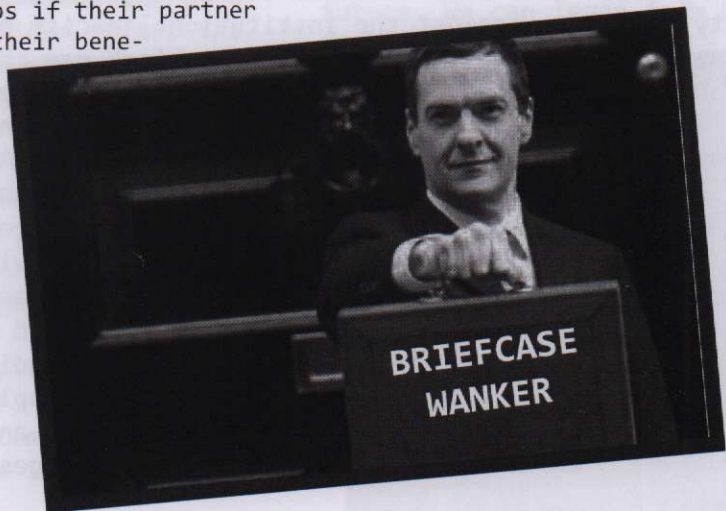
Those receiving benefits

The government plans to lower the benefit cap by £3,000 and freeze most benefits for two years from 2016-17. This means that those who are severely disabled or children with lots of siblings will no longer receive all the money they were previously entitled to.

Universal Credit means that all benefits will be paid together and that they will only be paid to one person in each household. This is a disaster for women's independence as they will struggle even more to find the financial means to escape unhappy or abusive relationships if their partner controls their benefits.

The government aims to create 3 million more apprenticeships. The minimum wage for these jobs is about to rise, but only to £3.30 an hour. This is £5.45 less than the London Living Wage - the amount that someone needs to earn to be able to realistically scrape by in London. Apprenticeships are a way of turning young people into a cheap workforce who have to live with their parents until they can get one of the few better-paid jobs available.

Plus, young people will only get six months of Job Seekers Allowance before they have to start an apprenticeship or a training course. And there'll be no more housing benefit for those under 21.



Illegal Immigrants

Those people who don't have permission to work in the UK but who for whatever reason (hunger, fleeing war etc) decides to risk it could soon face criminal charges and have their wages seized by the government. Will this mean higher wages for everyone else? No, it will mean that employers pay these workers even less and this could drag wages down overall. The only way to stop the undercutting of wages is to stop illegalising migrants and unionise to enforce (and raise) the minimum wage.

Workers

6.5 million of us are members of a trade union and all other workers feel the benefit of this. But the government wants to attack the organisations that brought us the weekend, the minimum wage and maternity pay. Despite only 36% of people voting in the recent election, the government wants to insist that trade union ballots are invalid unless over 50% of members vote. And despite the fact that only 24% of the voting population elected the Tories, they want 40% of a union's membership to vote for strike action for it to be legal. Total hypocrisy aimed at outlawing strikes.

Everyone who isn't rich

Thatcher started the sell-off of council houses and now this government is planning to sell off housing association stock. This isn't about allowing us to all own our homes, it's about creating more private landlords and getting rid of social housing.

Humans

Though legislation to scrap the Human Rights Act won't be introduced this year, the Tories still want to get rid of things like our right to free speech and association, our right to privacy and our right to a family life.

Resistance can bring down the Tories

The Tories only have a 15 seat majority and 19 likely allies in parliament. Demonstration, strikes and occupations can force their hand and even rob them of their majority in parliament. But we can't just bring down this government - youth and workers need to replace them and take power ourselves. While we organise to fight the cuts we also need to build a new party, one that's against cuts and against capitalism.

Solidarity with the Ukrainian Resistance

The US-UK backed regime in Kiev continues its repression in preparation for the Greece-style austerity that is to be unleashed on the population. It is fast becoming the most reactionary government in Europe for a whole generation. Over the last year it has systematically bombed cities in the Donbass region, banned left wing parties and carried out massacres of anyone resisting. Now it has banned symbols of 'communism' leading to arrests and torture of people found with red flags. It has appointed a Nazi as chief of the Kiev police who turns a blind eye as fascist gangs attack ethnic minorities, LGBT people and the left across the city, including recently at the University campus and at gay pride. The suppression of the left and democracy has now opened the flood gates and with fascists in parliament all sorts of reactionary laws are being proposed including the banning of abortion.

But there is resistance; thousands of socialists are working underground across the country and many more are organised amongst the militias in the East. They recently called an International Solidarity Forum for the Donbass. The Russian



backed government in the Luhansk People's Republic tried to ban the international conference for being too left wing. But thanks to left wing militia leader Alexei Mozgovoi it took place in a town under their control. The conference was an important stepping stone towards building international solidarity. But tragically, only days afterwards, Mozgovoi was killed at the front under suspicious circumstances. However, as his co-commander Alexey Markov of the communist 'Ghost' Brigade says "Our flag resists. The Ghost Brigade's flag will be seen in Kharkov and Kiev very soon, and will be the best memorial for our commander...A person can be murdered, but not their ideas...we are going to carry them through the war, through the misery, through the death. With these ideas, we will live, and build a better life".

Women s movement in Argentina

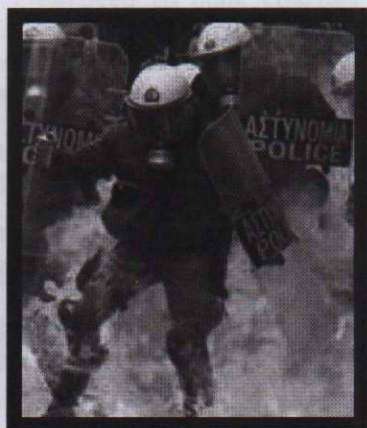
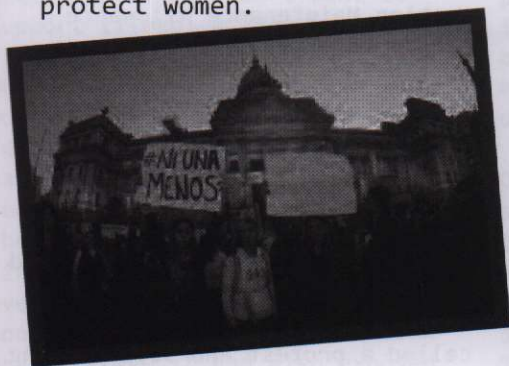
In early June, thousands protested in Argentina and across Latin America against violence towards women. In Argentina, a woman is killed every 31 hours and the transport system in Buenos Aires is the sixth most dangerous in the world for women to use.

The protests happened in the wake of a number of high-profile femicides and women marched in t-shirts displaying the names and faces of the victims.

They are demanding that the government collate official statistics on violence against women and that legislation is introduced to protect women.

Showdown in Greece

The Syriza Party is not revolutionary, but it has won the support of millions and got elected because of its promise to stand up to the global bankers and put people before austerity. Now it is facing a deadline from the IMF to pay up or else. Greek workers and youth should not rely on Syriza (it has already broken loads of promises) but come out on the streets in a general strike demanding the debt is repudiated, and seizing the banks and other enterprises to restart Greece's broken economy, producing for need not capitalist greed.



The United Front tactic and the 2010 Student movement

The United Front tactic and the 2010 Student movement.

Since capitalism began revolutionary socialists have faced the same problem. Although capitalism has an inevitable tendency towards crisis and class struggle- like the recession and resistance that is tearing through the world today. And although it creates the perfect conditions for socialism- ever better technology creating abundance. And although it creates its own gravedigger- the working class, people with no interest in the chaotic and unequal system but who create abundance and are capable of using it to eradicate poverty. All this doesn't necessarily mean that working people become revolutionary socialists.

A lot of this is down to the fact that capitalism goes to huge trouble to suppress class consciousness in an attempt to assimilate people into a system that is against their interests. They do this through schools, work, the media and failing this by using the police, prisons and courts. But this doesn't stop people resisting when capitalism inevitably tries to fuck them over.

But luckily for us communists

after the Russian revolution formulated a handy, tried and tested way of fighting alongside non-socialist working people, helping them win immediate aims and in the process persuading them of the need for revolutionary action and socialism. They called this the United Front. And here is a very brief example of how REVOLUTION put it into practice back in the 2010 student movement.

Student politics are dominated by the National Union of Students, which is controlled by very moderate students behaving themselves until they are old enough to become corrupt MPs. But the NUS has the power and influence to organise a huge number of students. In 2010, REVOLUTION set up a campaign with other socialists called the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts. When the coalition government came to power and immediately decided to triple tuition fees and scrap Education Maintenance Allowance thousands of young people were obviously pissed off (but didn't necessarily think they needed to overthrow the government).

This is where the United Front came in. The NUS leaders didn't want to cause a fuss but they had to do something or they'd lose support. So under pressure they called a protest and 50,000 young people marched in London. But NCAFC knew the NUS leadership just wanted to let off steam and

then quietly go back to their routine. We had other ideas. NCAFC organised a bloc that marched on Millbank, the Tory HQ, and thousands besieged and occupied it, smashed it up and REVOLUTION's banner was flown atop the building. The next day it made every headline.

Aaron Porter, NUS leader, quickly came out to attack the young radicals saying he was "Disgusted" that a "minority of idiots are trying to undermine a peaceful protest". But REVOLUTION saw an opportunity and proposed through NCAFC that we hold more demonstrations and a mass walk-out. The response was massive and roughly 300,000 walked out of school and uni. In some places these were the biggest demonstrations for a generation. Most ended in occupations of Universities.

The NUS leadership was now in trouble. The radical tactics had won support and got the country's attention. They didn't want to support illegal action but if they continued to refuse to work with NCAFC against the fees rise they would expose themselves as useless. Eventually they cracked and Aaron Porter announced that he had been "spineless" and apologised. The united front had scored its first victory. Not only had it won over huge number of previously non-radical people to revolutionary strategy it had also exposed the moderate leadership as "spineless" forcing them to back the il-

legal occupations and further protests.

This process would continue over the following weeks as the occupations held NUS bureaucrats to account in front of mass meetings of students and young people. Week by week they were shown to be useless in defending students with their ineffectual and defeatist 'funerals for education' instead of protests and building links with workers. But still they could not turn their back on the campaign without turning their back on the mass of students.

Eventually this reached fever point and the NUS leaders, by being associated with the radical and largely illegal movement of thousands, risked their precious future careers in business and parliament. They split, most of them abandoning the movement. When the day of the vote was announced they refused to book coaches in most cities. In Leeds this completely discredited the NUS and instead we turned to the workers of Leeds raising over £6000 in a matter of weeks for 8 coaches from union and workplace donations.

On the fateful day the NUS leadership still made pathetic attempts to win back the mass of young people and they held their 'funeral for education' before it had even died. Only a few hundred attended. The NCAFC March on Parliament was 25,000 strong and tried to storm parliament despite 3000 riot po-

lice waiting in the square to attack the protest using horse charges reminiscent of the miners' strike.

Despite the heroic effort the vote was passed and the movement went into decline. Revo had been clear from the beginning if the workers didn't back up the students with strikes then we could not win, militancy alone can scare a government and force concessions (and break the Lib Dems backs by reducing their support from 30% to 13% never to return as a major party) but without the economic power of striking workers you cannot bring a government down, and that is what was necessary to stop the rise.

But it was not all in vain, the student movement showed that an organisation like NCAFC with no money, no full time officials and previously very little influence, through utilising the United Front, can win the leadership of millions against an

organisation that has thousands of full time staff and a budget of millions. This is an crucial lesson to learn because its not down to a lack of militancy that workers did not join the youth, a year later they would be having their fight against the government.

They did not join because no organisation like NCAFC and no use of the United Front exists amongst the anti-cuts or trade union movement and so there is no one to challenge the moderate leaders when they hold the movement back, like they did for the workers a year later in the millions strong pensions strike. And so another legacy of the student movement is that hundreds of activists, myself included, learnt that it is necessary to build similar organisations across the whole workers' movement. So that next time the revolutionary energy of the youth will be backed up by the power of the working class and then nothing will stop us!

