

WORKERS' fight



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"The emancipation of the working class will only be achieved by the working class itself" (Karl Marx)

WE NEVER HAD A CHOICE, EXCEPT TO FIGHT!

As we go to press, 4 days have passed since election night. Tory and Lib Dem leaders are still locked in protracted horse-trading in order to form a ruling coalition. And maybe tomorrow, the Lib Dems will play out a similar act with Labour.

But what is this secretive horse-trading really about? Over proportional representation? Unlikely. The Tories will not give up an electoral system which has served them so well for so long.

No, this horse-trading is not about policies, but about sharing out posts between the parties' grandees. And it is about packaging the deal so as to put the lid on the acrimonious protests of backbenchers.

The axe is hot in their hands

As to the issues that really matter - the crisis, public sector jobs and funding, pensions, etc.. - there is no real difference between the two would-be partners in crime, nor would there be any if the Lib Dems were to jump into bed with Labour.

All three parties are bent on keeping the "markets" happy - that is speculators. All three have axes in their hands, ready to go into action against public services and the standard of living of the working class, to make us pay even more for the crisis. They all stopped short of detailing their plans during the election campaign, but they made no secret of their intentions.

In this election, the working class could not vote for candidates representing its interests. It could not express its anger against the attacks on its jobs and wages. It could not make its voice heard.

But it has other means. Whoever is in office, the working class remains the only source of wealth in society and the majority of the population.



The 5 May general strike in Athens

Against its collective strength, the tiny layer of parasites who caused the crisis and are now hoping to bleed us dry to boost profits, would be impotent.

Yes, workers will be able to stop the politicians' axe, if they choose to. But this will require a general counter-offensive, a fight back capable of uniting all sections of workers behind common objectives, to make shareholders pay for their crisis.

Get rid of this bankrupt system!

But it is not just the politicians' attacks that the working class will need to deal with.

The social catastrophe threatening Greece today is a foretaste of what the system has in store. Contrary to the nationalist nonsense peddled by the media, Greece's near-bankruptcy is neither due to "profligacy" nor to the euro's "faults" - but to the crisis against which the pound has been impotent.

How can we forget that, despite the pound, the economy began to slump here, before it did in most of Europe? Or that the recession came earlier and was deeper than in most rich countries? In fact, it takes only to see the politicians' fear of "market reactions" to today's "hung" parliament, to measure how much policies are dictated by this crisis-ridden market in which greed "rules the waves".

The speculation which brought Greece to its knees is even more likely to happen here, given the colossal black hole created by the banks. The pound is a hostage of market forces for which it is just a pawn in their crazy gambling. And at the receiving end of this gambling, are the lives of the working class.

So, it is not just the threatening attacks that the working class has to prepare to fight, but the profit system itself - a bankrupt system which is far too dangerous for society for it to be allowed to survive and shape (or rather, destroy) our lives! ☐