



EU sparks war in Ukraine

The German-led European Union is backing artillery and aerial attacks on eastern Ukrainian cities by the far-right junta in Kiev.

As part of its geopolitical expansionist plans, Brussels has backed violent far-right protests in Kiev's Maidan Square which began in November and overthrew Ukraine's elected President Viktor Yanukovich in February.

report by **Brian Denny**

The neo-Nazi paramilitary 'Right Sector' organisation and the openly fascist Svoboda party acted as the vanguard of Maidan protests which has since installed a puppet regime.

The coup government is an alliance of privatising, free market conservatives, anti-semites and fascists. Svoboda holds five ministerial positions, including key posts of Deputy Prime Minister, Defence and Agriculture as well as the Prosecutor General.

The EU has refused to condemn the massacre of over 40 anti-fascists at the hands of Kiev-backed neo-Nazi paramilitaries in the Odessa on May 2 2014.

The anti-fascist victims, described as 'pro-Russian' in the Western media, had been protesting against the Western-backed coup and were killed when fascists attacked Ukrainian city's trade union centre and set the building on fire.

Those who attempted to escape the flames were gunned down or beaten to death outside. Police did not intervene and Maidan activists prevented fire en-

gines from reaching the scene.

Many Maidan Square protesters are members of the Nazi organisation Ukrainian People's Self-Defence (UNA-UNSO) that have been receiving military training in camps in Estonia since 2006. Many went to fight alongside Georgian forces during their aggression against South Ossetia.

Despite the ongoing state violence, EU foreign ministers plan to send special armed EU police units to assist the junta. This EU gendarmerie has access to armoured personnel carriers and heavy machine guns to carry out a so-called Crisis Management Concept (CMC) mission.

Ukraine's puppet 'Prime Minister' Arseniy Yatsenyuk was also a recent a guest speaker at the EU Charlemagne Prize award ceremonies. Ukrainian billionaire oligarch 'president', Petro Poroshenko has announced plans to lead Kiev into a 'security alliance' with the West and to soon sign the economic segment of the EU's Association Agreement.

This agreement demands the implementation of EU austerity measures which will massively increase unemployment and cause dramatic price rises.

Kiev has also signed an IMF 'letter of intent', dated April 22, to increase the price of gas for private households by 56 per cent as well as the costs for district heating by 40 per cent. This will hit a Ukrainian population whose →



EU rail imperialism p8-9



Cameron's kidology p3



EU expansionist plan p6



Latest p4

**Four page insert—the run up to World War 1
Part III: Resistance, opposition and splits
Divisions within the EU and with the US p7**

→ average earnings are 150 Euros a month.

German monopoly capital is clearly preparing for their economic expansion into Ukraine and for NATO expansion up to the Russian border. However, if Kiev can take control over the east with military means, new conflicts could arise as the interests of expanding German industry will collide with those of Ukrainian oligarchs.

Also see -

page 6 - **EU expansionist ambitions in Georgia**

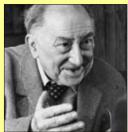
page 7 - **Divisions within the EU and with the US**

Literature

The National Question

Nationalism and Socialism
National sovereignty and defence
of the Nation State

C Desmond Greaves

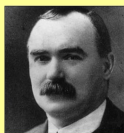


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the centenary of
the birth of
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and

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The implications of TTIP

T TIP regulation is harmonisation to suit transnational corporations. Rather than 'trade', this deal is mainly to suit corporations and reduce regulations. US and unaccountable EU trade negotiators see Britain's health and safety legislation as 'trade irritants'. The NHS has already been 'harmonised' with the US corporate-benefit public health model in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The Minister for Health Jeremy Hunt knows this. At the same time campaigns defending the NHS closures of hospitals and A&E departments are also aware of the dire implications of TTIP to the NHS.

Big corporations are already involved with law-making and are in effect writing national law which will come to Westminster for rubber stamping unless campaigners against TTIP can convince MPs to oppose this imposition. The negotiations have been carried out by the European Commission for Trade in secret. However some minor leaks have taken place to reveal most of the implications for Britain. The much publicised notions and promises of jobs and economic growth are only minor. Instead as the EU admits in a report there will be "prolonged and substan-

tial dislocation of workers".

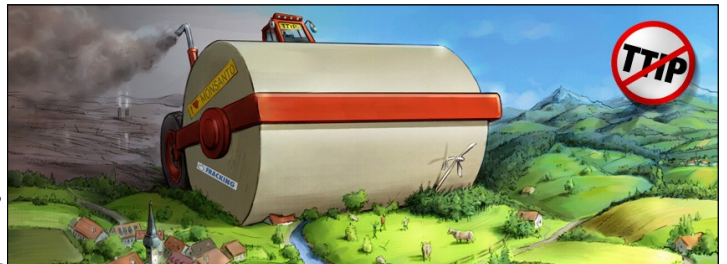
TTIP will include ISDS (investor/state dispute settlement) which makes provision for trans-national corporations to sue governments for loss of profits from government actions. Once in place TTIP will be irreversible.

There is a global plan which includes a Trans-Pacific Partnership with similar aims to bring about a corporate run world. Not included to date is China which holds huge debts owed by the US. Russia is being surrounded by NATO and the EU. Both China and Russia are threatened militarily.

EU trade pacts are also in place with countries in Africa and other Caribbean and Pacific nations.

TTIP is a topic being discussed at the public meeting on 27 June (see details below).

Further details of the STOPTTIPP campaign which CAEF supports can be found on their website at www.StopTTIP.net



CAEF Public Meeting

Friday
27 June
7-9pm

Market Suite
Comfort Inn
Station Street

Birmingham
Adjacent to New
Street Station

Stop TTIP to save jobs and the NHS

Tony Wardle

Treasurer—Exeter and District TUC and
former PCS official

Base Britain's economy on manufacturing for jobs and trade

Ian Scott

Assistant Secretary Birmingham TUC
Questions and discussion

Cameron's kidology

Cameron is talking to his troops and sowing confusion to the electorate ahead of the EU summit on 26-27 June. His very public objections to the nomination of Jean-Claude Juncker is part of a scheme to convince Euroscepticism in his own party and the electorate in general that he is going to be able to obtain changes to EU Treaties and the European Constitution. To amend the Lisbon Treaty would require all 28 EU Member States to agree to these changes. In turn that may trigger referendums, or at least the demand for them. This is especially so in Ireland where the electorate have rejected the changes and then been forced to vote again to get the right pro-EU vote.

Juncker has been a former Governor of the World Bank, Finance Minister and Prime Minister of Luxembourg. He has also been the president of the Eurogroup of 18 Finance Ministers of the Eurozone Member States. This institution has political control over the EU's Monetary Union and the Stability and Growth Pact from which stem the austerity policies applied across the EU including here in Britain with devastating effect. There is more austerity to come unless stopped by the labour movement and change in policies of trade unions and the Labour Party.

The Eurogroup has become a powerful EU institution as formalised in the Lisbon Treaty. They meet in secret on the day before Ecofin meetings of all 28 EU finance ministers including Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne or his representative. These are also held in secret.

President of the European Commission is the most powerful officer in the EU. The Commission is the

executive of the EU and the only institution which can initiate EU legis-

lation. The European Parliament cannot legislate except in minor unobtrusive ways, but does have to approve the President.

The President is appointed by the Council of Ministers for a five year renewable term following the European Parliament poll. Qualified majority Voting is used by the Council which rules out smaller Member States having any real say in the result. The large Member States have the largest votes and can combine together and obtain their way. Britain does not have enough votes even with smaller Members to prevent Juncker being appointed. In the scheme of EU machinations voting in this poll is supposed to be reflected in the choice of the Commission President. But, hardly anyone had heard of Juncker until Cameron drew attention to him and in any case there is no democracy within the EU and voters have no say what-so-ever in such appointments.

The President in turn appoints 28 Commissioners each with a portfolio which in practice is one per Member State. The Commission is heavily influenced by corporate lobbies drawn from the major transnational corporations. These lobbies formalised in the European Round Table of Industrialists have drafted legislation and treaties for their benefit, their interests and their profits.

However, the toothless European Parliament may censure and remove the President and Commission from office. This nearly happened with the Jacques Santer led Commission



over corruption but they resigned before they were forced out. The European Parliament cannot nominate either the President or Commissioners. The majority of MEPs are from centre right political parties and can veto all nominations except that of Juncker.

The Commission President represents the EU at G8 meetings. The Vice President is the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, and competes with the President in this important area. There is also a conflict of powers with the President of the European Council of Ministers, Van Rompuy. Both presidents attend international meetings (summits).

On the table are propositions to merge the posts of Commission President and Council Presidents to avoid conflicts. This would make the combined post even more powerful, shift it further still from any accountability and is part of the growing anti-thesis of all norms of democracy in the EU.

An objective of Cameron and his multi-millionaire colleagues in the cabinet and Tory Party is to head off holding a promised referendum on EU membership. The labour and trade union movement must tear down the obsession with the EU and support the thrust for a referendum. To win masses of votes the Labour Party, for its own sake, must adopt a policy for withdrawal from the EU and drop support for the austerity policies which stem from Brussels. This would allow the rational development of Britain.

New Affiliations to CAEF

RMT Lancashire District

This RMT unit follows others which have affiliated to CAEF. This was a direct result of *Democrats* being sold and distributed at the conference in London of transport unions across the EU. The conference issued a joint press statement warning of the implications of EU directives on transport.

Essex Construction Branch—Unite

This affiliation follows discussions and an introductory letter, with the *Democrat* enclosed.

Affiliation

Organisations can affiliate to CAEF for a minimum of £20/ annum, and they will receive two copies of the *Democrat* and pamphlets published.

In return CAEF asks for leaflets and other material to be circulated and to support meetings.

EU's 4th Railway Package

The European Commission's plans for a 4th rail package was amended by a majority of MEPs in the European Parliament. Lobbying was led by the European Transport Federation (ETF) campaigning against the Commission's proposals.

This EU Package would bring an end to public ownership including the profitable and state run East Coast Main Line.

A recent poll in Britain came to the conclusion that the majority of people want the railways brought back into the public sector.

See pages 8-9 for EU Rail Imperialism

EU Growth and Stability Pact - latest

The European Commission and government ministers will re-assess the eurozone bloc's rules on deficit and debt limits by the end of 2014.

However, the Dutch finance minister, who chairs the monthly meeting of the eurozone's 18 finance ministers, insisted that the terms be kept to for now.

"All the ministers stressed the importance to stick to the rules as they are now," he told a news conference in Luxembourg on 19 June. "At the end of the year... we will look at whether we can make them less complex."

The EU's stability and growth pact requires governments to keep budget deficits below 3 percent and debt levels to 60 percent. Britain adheres to these criteria and the pact which have been behind the privatisation, PFI and PPP robberies, and austerity policies which are common across the EU. It has also been stiffened in the wake of the eurozone debt crisis to make it easier for the commission to impose reforms and, ultimately sanctions, on reluctant governments.

But the effectiveness of the regime has been called into question this week.

Germany's economy minister Sigmar Gabriel appeared to distance himself from his country's long-standing commitment to budgetary austerity on 16 June, commenting that "no one wants higher debt, but we can only cut the deficit by slowly returning to economic growth."

Critics say that the 3 percent deficit limit enshrines austerity and prevents governments from putting in place stimulus measures to ease the pain of economic recession and boost demand.

Meanwhile, an IMF report presented to ministers by the Fund's managing director, Christine Lagarde, urged them to simplify the pact, which had, it said "become excessively complicated with multiple objectives and targets."

"There is a worry that the framework discourages public investment," it added. The IMF with the European Central Bank and Commission drew up the auster-

ity policies. These included privatisation, public sector cuts and illegal grabbing of funds from Cypriot banks.

Outgoing economic affairs EU Commissioner Olli Rehn told reporters that any moves to ease the implementation of the rules would be dependent on countries first pursuing reform programmes.

"We can first verify that structural reforms are really moving forward and then see if this would justify some extension in the correction deadline," he said.

Rehn, who was attending his last Eurogroup meeting before taking up a seat in the European Parliament, was one of the main architects of the revised pact.

Germany is opposed to any relaxation of the Pact's rules tabled by France and Italy. and 'horse trading' is expected.

Based on EUobserver and other reports



Tax avoidance

A plan to make companies reveal how much tax they pay, country by country, has been abandoned, nullifying efforts of those who had pushed to curb tax avoidance by transnational businesses.

Schemes used by Starbucks, Apple, Google, Amazon and other corporations operating within the law to minimise their tax obligations provoked public debate last year. The matter has since dropped off the political agenda, and lawmakers in the EU, Parliament and member-countries have shelved proposals to toughen new transparency rules by forcing big companies to disclose how much tax they pay in each country where they operate.

Instead the rules to be adopted by 2016

will be limited to disclosure of company policies including the environment, respect for human rights, and management diversity. Even here, companies can keep information secret if deemed sensitive.

Companies in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands are given unlimited status to carry out tax avoidance and are not transparent!

Germany and Britain led the push to limit the new law. Member-States talk a good story about wanting more transparency for transnational corporations; but when it comes to putting their money where their mouth is, they don't want strong rules. The Member States killed this measure, standing by big corporations.

It's just another nail in the coffin of a "Social Europe."

Oppose the EU of Monopolies

Elections to the European Parliament were held across the 28 states of the European Union between May 22 and 25, 2014, the first such elections following the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty on December 1, 2009. The European Parliament consists of 751 members. The UK now has 73 MEPs, up from 72 at the last election, distributed between 12 regions.

UKIP won 24 seats, Labour 20, the Conservatives 19, and the Green Party three. The Liberal Democrats won only one seat, down from 11 at the 2009 European election. The BNP lost both of the two seats they had won for the first time at the previous election.

Turnout across the EU was 43%, but was lower in some newer member states. UK turnout was 35.4%, slightly higher than 34.5% in 2009, but lower than 38.4% in 2004, when four regions held all-postal ballots.

The largest of the groupings is likely to be European People's Party. The second largest group is the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. New groups and allegiances are likely to be formed during the new Parliament. This eighth Parliament will be constituted on July 1.

What are the implications for the labour and trade movement?

The results show an intensification of the dog-fights amongst the EU powers, including the British government, which wants its own share of power, particularly to maintain Britain's role as a centre of international finance capital, as well as to negate the rights of workers from the "new Europe", thereby attacking the rights and conditions of all workers, and to promote the weapons of the political elite of racism and chauvinism. But the results also demonstrate the electorate's opposition to the negation of the sovereignty of the European peoples, and opposition to the austerity agenda promoted by the big powers of the EU.

The people want empowerment so as to have control over their life, they want the rights of the people and the rights of trade unions, the youth and other collectives to be recognised and their exercise guaranteed.

In any case, the elections sort out nothing. Here in this country as well as elsewhere



many smaller parties participated either to take a stand against the EU or to take a stand for a pro-social agenda.

The European parliament lacks any legitimacy whatsoever. It is not based on the sovereignty of the people – in fact, the opposite – it is based on the attempted legitimisation of the power of the EU monopolies.

The "pro-social Europe" has become completely exposed, which is why parties were standing in the context of the national situation rather than claiming that to come to power in the European Parliament brings any degree of empowerment to the people. In class terms, the institutions of the EU represent a concentration of power in the hands of European finance capital, which is driving austerity programmes against the people of sovereign states. There is no accountability of these centralised EU institutions.

CAEF calls on the labour and trade union movement and all progressive forces to unite in action against the EU and monopolies in the wake of the elections. They should cast aside any illusions that the European Union represents an opportunity for working people to collaborate for their own interests. Reality shows that the more the European project has been centralised, the more has the programme of austerity been dictated against the interests of working people, the poor and the youth. The labour and trade union movement naturally tends to proletarian internationalism, but new arrangements, built in opposition to the ones which entrench the interests of the monopolies, are required to embody this internationalism.

The election results have shown that working people have no faith in the EU. The labour and trade union movement must now intensify the struggle against the Europe of the monopolies!

EU polls

UKIP leader admits he's in the wrong place but in the money

On arriving at the European Parliament building, UKIP leader Nigel Farage said he "hated being there" knowing full well the institution has no powers and really wants to be at Westminster.

However, on 18 June Mr Farage announced that he has managed to keep his Europe of Freedom and Democracy (EFD) group in the European Parliament together despite a number of defections. The group comprises 48 MEPs, including Joëlle Bergeron who was elected with Marine Le Pen's Front National last month, but then quit the party after falling out with the leadership. The anti-immigration Sweden Democrats and the Latvian Farmers' Union also joined the EFD group.

According to *Open Europe* Farage's new alliance will be able to claim around €5.6m in European Parliament subsidies a year - €3.8m for the group and €1.8m for the affiliated political party and foundation, of which UKIP is not a member. *Open Europe* is quoted by the *Guardian* as saying, "With millions of subsidies on offer, the European Parliament's rules create strong incentives for parties to form groups, even when these parties are not natural bed fellows. *Open Europe* is quoted by the FT as saying that it is "ironic" that UKIP benefits of European Parliament funding "despite being one of the greatest critics of the way the EU spends its money."

Italy is the next presidency of the European Council. There is an EU President, a President of the Commission and President of the European Parliament.

EU expansionist ambitions in Georgia



Emboldened by its success in Ukraine, a recent EU summit meeting called on Georgia to sign the EU association agreement in June, ahead of schedule. Georgia is already integrated in EU military policy. The parliament in Tbilisi has recently voted to contribute Georgian troops to EU military operations in Africa. Georgia's development, following the 2003 "Rose Revolution," is very similar to what Ukrainians find themselves confronted with since the February putsch. Simultaneous with military-political integration in Western alliance structures, and the country's accessibility for foreign investors, the population is sinking into impoverishment. Polls indicate that only 27 per cent of Georgians have a fulltime job which pays a living wage.

According to the summit's final document, it has been decided to sign "the Association Agreements", including the "Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas," on 27 June that were initialled in Vilnius last November.

The stepping up of the power struggle with Russia over Ukraine has compelled Berlin and Brussels to strengthen their positions as quickly as possible in two other countries of the six countries forming the ring separating Russia's borders from those of the EU.

From a geo-strategic viewpoint, Georgia incorporates various significant aspects. On the one hand it is an important element in the encirclement of Russia, which, over the past two decades, has been confronted with a growing amount of activity by the Western alliance (NATO and the EU) in various neighbouring countries, from the Baltic to Central Asia. Secondly, Georgia has pursued a "united Cau-

casus" strategy. This is a destabilising policy and is interference in the already conflict-ridden Russian North Caucasus, according to the web site German Foreign Policy. Aside from its third function, as bridgehead against Russia, Western geo-strategists attribute also to Georgia a central role as the gateway to the East, between Russia and Iran, in expansion from Europe to Asia. Georgia serves as a sort of "terrestrial Suez Canal between Europe and Asia."

There's the not insignificant matter of Russia's recognition of the independence of the Republic of Abkhazia and Republic of South Ossetia, which occurred after the conflict in South Ossetia. The majority of the world's countries and the EU do not recognise their independence and officially consider them sovereign territory of the Georgian state.

The Georgian putsch in late 2003 was led by a pro-Western segment of the Georgian establishment and carried out by an entourage of the former minister of justice, Mikheil Saakashvili. They could rely on the enormous dissatisfaction within the population. The organisation, on the other hand, was "sponsored by foreign financial backers, such as George Soros."

This sponsorship paid off when, at the end of 2003, the putsch regime was formed. Eight of the twenty ministers were "young people, who had previously ... been employed by western-financed non-government organisations." Following the putsch, Western money, which up to then had been used to

sponsor "civil society" organisations, was redirected to the pro-Western government. Until it lost the elections in 2012-13 the Saakashvili government had implemented an authoritarian rule, in which, for example, there were reports of "attacks on irritating political and economic personalities by officials of the justice and interior ministries." The Saakashvili government had been successful not only in setting the country up for foreign investors but also in preparing Georgia to become militarily involved with the EU. The military share of the country's budget sometimes reaches 25 per cent.

In 2012 Brussels and Tbilisi entered negotiations on a framework agreement, providing for the participation of Georgian troops in EU military missions. It was finally signed on 29 November 2013. The agreement explicitly includes EU interventions "around the world" and "marks Georgia's readiness to engage alongside the EU" in the future.

On 20 February 2014 the Georgian government resolved to contribute 150 soldiers to the EU's mission to be sent to the Central African Republic. Just as in Ukraine, the EU association agreement will draw Georgia into an uncertain future and difficulties with Russia but, perhaps more importantly, will draw it into future wars as the EU continues to expand militarily.

Based on a report in Peoples' Movement of Ireland's News No. 102

First World War

Imperialist parallels then and now

Part III Resistance, opposition and splits

French socialist anti-war leader is assassinated
International Congress of Socialists agree to stop the war

A Democrat insert

We are being bombarded with books, papers, radio and TV programmes, and events to mark the First World War. The bulk of this material concentrates on the war and carnage in the trenches. Our objective is to put a different point of view.

Note. This discussion is to give some indication of the situation in several countries in the period prior to the outbreak of war and months after. Pointers are given to enable students and readers who wish to know more and a fuller understanding of this fast moving events. A full treatment of this period requires a book or two and more research!

Britain

There was opposition to the Boer War of 1899-1902 where a scorched earth policy and concentration camps were used. These policies eroded support for the war. Amongst the opponents was Charlotte Despard, a suffragette, supporter of independence for Ireland, anti-militarism and a delegate to the 2nd International.

Trade union membership mushroomed following the successful strikes at the 1888 Bryant and May factory, gas workers and dock workers' strikes of 1889. The central demand was that of the 2nd International Socialist Congress policy for an eight hour day. Between 1910 and 1914 there were numerous strikes. These took place despite laws against picketing and the infamous 'Taff Vale' judgement which enabled employers to sue unions for lost revenue during strikes. This period was known as 'the great unrest'.

The campaign for votes for women was carried out by suffragettes had widespread support from the working class and some sections of the labour and trade union movement. This included the Independent Labour Party (ILP), Keir Hardie and some Labour Party leaders who supported the suffragette movement. These same people, George Lansbury, pacifists, and Bertrand Russell opposed the growing war preparations.

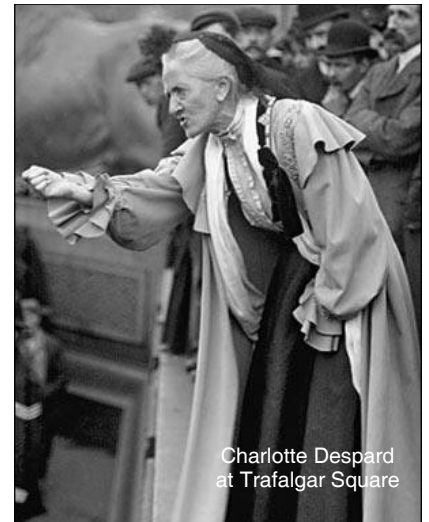
In 1913 the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) made anti-militarism a principle of the suffrage movement. The organisation in Britain was the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) led by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Sylvia and Christabel. When war was declared the WSPU supported the war and suspended activity. Sylvia Pankhurst did not go along with this and formed a suffragette movement against the war.

Trade unions and local TUC's adopted positions against the preparations for war and war itself right up to the outbreak of war. Many examples can be found of this in trade union histories.

Britain's labour organisations held an antiwar demonstration in Trafalgar Square on 2nd August 1914. Speakers included Ben Tillett, one of the founders of the Labour Party along with Keir Hardie. Anti-war policies were ignored, changed and abandoned and switched to support for the inter-imperialist war by trade unions and political parties. Many trade unions then adopted no strike agreements. An exception to all this was the Independent Labour Party (ILP).

The crucial elements of this period in Britain included an extension of democracy through the struggle for full emancipation, the independence of Ireland from the British Empire, the right to sovereignty of nations, anti war principles and quest for socialism. These were best expressed at the time by leaders including Sylvia Pankhurst, Charlotte Despard, Keir Hardie and James Connolly.

These threads were seriously weakened by the serious splits in the suffragette and labour movements.



Charlotte Despard
at Trafalgar Square



Keir Hardie addressing the anti-war rally 1914



Sylvia Pankhurst being arrested and sent to prison and hunger strike



James Larkin
Addressing a
rally during the
Dublin lock-
out of 1913



Irish Citizen
Army

James
Connolly



Royal coat of arms which today still retains the
symbol of Ireland but not the Welsh dragon

Ireland

Up to the start of WW1 England had occupied Ireland for over 700 hundred years. With the 1801 Act of Union, Ireland became part of the United Kingdom and British Empire. Support for national independence went back and forth including several attempts to gain independence or 'Home Rule'. These attempts were either put down brutally or compromised by British Imperialism. The struggle was based on an agrarian one which in turn supported the parliamentary struggle at Westminster. Like the Union with Scotland a century before, Ireland had lost her parliament and instead sent MPs to Westminster.

A joint Tory and Orange resistance to a Home Rule Bill raised the real prospect of civil war in Ireland. In January 1913 the Unionist Council reorganised their volunteers into a paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), whose members threatened to resist by physical force the implementation of the Act and the authority of any restored Dublin Parliament by force of arms.

However, in 1913 an intense labour dispute and strikes took place involving the Irish Transport and General Workers Union led by James Larkin and James Connolly against ruthless employers who used lock-outs and scabs supported by the police. Widespread support for the struggle in Ireland was given by trade unions in Britain. Suffragette and socialist Sylvia Pankhurst and Charlotte Despard stood on platforms with Connolly in Britain.

Out of the inconclusive end to this struggle came the Citizen Army and Irish Volunteers from those who had guarded the trade union platforms and speakers with hurly sticks against brutal police attacks. Gun running took place to match that of Ulster unionists.

Irish socialists stood by the 1907 Stuttgart, 1910 Copenhagen and 1912 Basle International Socialist Congress policies with the Russians and Serbs. In the event of war it was resolved that socialists were "bound to intervene for its being brought to a speedy end" and to make use of the economic and political crises created by the war "to hasten the breakdown of the predominance of the capitalist class".

The Ulster Covenant, a 'solemn vow' to fight Home Rule for Ireland funded largely by poet Rudyard Kipling's personal wealth, was signed by half a million men in 1912. When the Home Rule Bill was passed by Parliament in June 1914 the British establishment believed a war in Ireland was becoming inevitable. This pressure, in part, led directly to Britain entering the First World War in August 1914. The Home Rule Act of 1914 was postponed and Irish supporters of Home Rule were called upon to fight for the British empire.

On 28 November 1913, Irish nationalists responded by setting up the Irish Volunteers "to secure the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland" The government's ability to face down the unionist threat was thrown into question by the "Curragh incident", when army officers tendered their resignations rather than fight the Ulster Volunteers, forcing a climb-down by the government.

In contrast the stand taken by those led by Connolly was a threat to the British Empire and growing British war preparations. This was well understood by the Government in Whitehall who were prepared to move troops to Ireland to quell any uprising but now could move them instead to the Western Front.

France

The defeat of the Paris Commune in 1871 decimated the French left when 20,000 Communards were executed and over 7,500 jailed or transported. Napoleonic imperialist principles were then re-established with colonies in Indo-China, Africa and the Pacific during the New Imperialism period. The labour movement was disoriented for at least two decades.

In 1894 trade unions were made legal and the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) was formed in 1902 of local workers' associations and labour exchanges. The government used these labour exchanges for surveillance to dampen down revolutionary tendencies. They were dominated by anarcho or revolutionary syndicalists.

At the same time Jean Jaures was an avid anti-militarist, a Socialist deputy to the National Assembly, leader of the French Socialist Party and founder of *L'Humanite*.

The French Socialist Party and Socialist Party of France merged to form the Unified Socialist Party and French Section of the Workers' International. In 1913 Jaures opposed legislation for an extension to a three year draft period and campaigned for a diplomatic understanding between France and Germany. In line with the 2nd International he worked hard for general strikes in both France and Germany in an attempt to force both governments to back down and negotiate.

The Socialist Party organised mass rallies and protests up to the start of the war. Tragically Jaures was assassinated on 31 July 1914 just before he was due to attend a conference of the Second International on 9 August. Many of these socialists argued against internationalist principles. They said that socialists should support their nations in wartime against the aggression of other nations, support war credits and loans.

To head off the policy of the French Section of the International and Jean Jaures, the Sacred Union was set up. The Sacred Union included some of the left and it was agreed not to oppose the government war policy and not to go on strike during the war. This caused a serious split in the CGT.

Germany

Two socialist leaders who opposed preparations for war by Germany were Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

Rosa Luxemburg was a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and moved a successful resolution at the 1907 International Congress in Stuttgart. This stated that all European workers' parties should unite to stop the war. Rosa worked with Jean Jaures and others with the objective of organising a general strike when war broke out. In 1913 she told a large meeting: "If they think we are going to lift weapons of murder against our French and other brethren, then we shall shout: *We will not do it!*"

On 25 July 1914 the executive of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) called on its membership to support demonstrations against the impending war. Then at the outbreak of war on 4 August the executive did a *volte face* and voted for war credits which the Government needed to pay for the army and navy.

Karl Liebknecht was a socialist and active in the 2nd International and founder of the Socialist Youth International. (A famous quote of his is: "If you have the youth you have the future".) In 1912 he was elected to the Reichstag where he opposed Germany's participation in the war. Although on 4 August 1914 he abstained in the vote for war credits to avoid breaking the SPD's unity, in December he was the only Reichstag



Jean Jaures



Rosa Luxemburg



Karl Liebknecht MP addressing an anti war rally



Women working in a shell making factory whilst men were lined up to be sent to the front



Railway strike in Tiflis Russia 1905

Sources referred to in this supplement include

Christopher Clark: *The Sleepwalkers - How Europe Went to War in 1914*
 TA Jackson: *Ireland Her Own*
 C Desmond Greaves: *James Connolly*
 Bob Holman: *Keir Hardie*
 Katherine Connelly: *Sylvia Pankhurst*
 Shirley Harrison: *Sylvia Pankhurst*
 Margaret Mulvihill: *Charlotte Despard*
 George J Barnsby: *Socialism in Birmingham & the Black Country 1850-1939*
 Wikipedia with large pinches of salt
 Google and other sources for pictures

Part IV will discuss the war, recruitment and draft and opposition to the war and further splits in the labour and trade union movement and amongst the suffragettes.

Further copies of each of the parts I-III are available:

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 10 copies - £2 post free

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member to vote against yet further loans. Amongst those who were in support of war loans were 110 fellow SPD members. As elsewhere in Europe socialists and trade unions in Germany ended up split.

Austro-Hungarian Empire

The Austrian socialist Victor Adler is an example of the period leading up to war. At a conference in 1885 in Austria he helped form the Social Democratic Workers' Party and became the chairman. Later he was a member of the Imperial Council or parliament of the northern and western part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. From 1905 he was a leader in the quest for universal suffrage which was achieved in 1906. He fully supported the 2nd International and became leader of the Socialist Party in Vienna but then publicly supported the Imperial government's war and imperialist policies. This fell in line with other social democrats and socialists in other countries.

Russia

Industrial unrest was prominent in Russia and included a failed revolution of 1905 to topple the Tsarist regime. In 1912 a massacre of miners on strike took place. This was just one of several massacres. Russian socialists sent delegates to the 2nd international and stood firm with the Serbs and Irish for the anti-war policy and the Bolsheviks opposed war. During the first part of 1914 half the industrial workers were on strike. Just prior to the outbreak of war trade unions were made illegal or restricted. Mobilisation was to create the biggest army in the world.

Internationals

After the 1st International was disbanded in 1876 the 2nd International Workers' Association of socialist and labour parties, including Britain's Labour Party, was formed in Paris in 1889. The 2nd International initiated May 1 as International Workers' Day and March 8 as International Women's day and the campaign for an 8 hour working day. It adopted an antimilitarist doctrine and vowed to organise general strikes to bring Europe to a halt if war were declared. After war was declared this was not carried out as several national parties supported their government's war policy. At the time this was aptly labelled 'social patriotism'. After much internal discussion this International was dissolved during the war in 1916.

Conclusions

Following the splits and dominance of pro-war factions in Germany, Austria, France, Britain, Russia and Ireland, socialists literally lined up to march to their trenches, became 'cannon fodder' and kill each other on the battlefields. This was based not on internationalism but to make war on the side of those who were governed by a ruling class in their own country, imperialism and mistakenly against the 'foreign' invaders.

The basic principles in 1914 still stand today - an extension of democracy through the struggle for full emancipation, a unified Ireland, the right to sovereignty and self determination of nations, anti war principles and quest for socialism. These will not be achieved with a European Union today over which socialists are split.

Divisions within the EU and with the US

Horst Teubert

German Foreign Policy Group

In real life, the conflict about Ukraine is a disaster for the people living - and increasingly dying - in this once peaceful country. From the perspective of power policy and cold-blooded strategy, it sheds some light on the struggle for hegemony between some of the big European states on the one hand and between the EU and the US on the other.

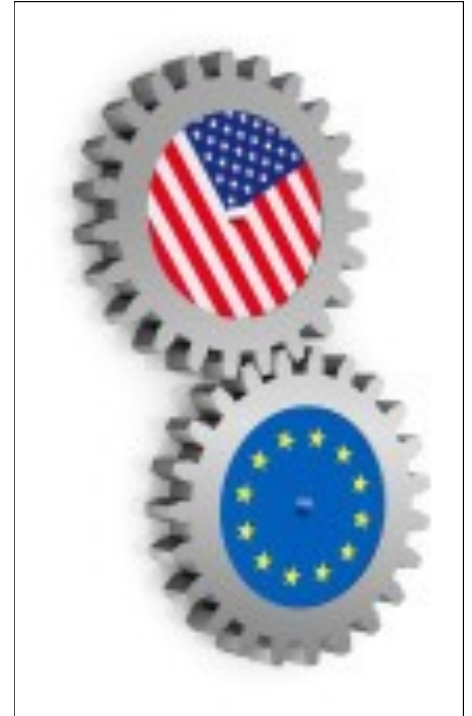
On the one hand, the conflict about Ukraine is a result of German expansion towards the East. Since 1990, Germany has been systematically expanding its economic influence and its political power in Eastern Europe. To secure its eastern zone of influence, Germany pushed through - against France - the EU's eastern enlargement which was realised in 2004/2007. The next step initiated by Berlin in 2007 was to fix the next belt of countries to the EU by concluding association agreements with them. When Kiev denied to sign the association agreement in November 2013, Berlin started to try and overthrow the Ukrainian government. The EU supported it - although some European countries, amongst them France, do not have special interests in Ukraine. In the EU, they have to follow Germany.

On the other hand, the US is interested in exerting strong influence on Ukraine. The reason is simply that this would help weaken Russia and secure American world power. When the conflict about Ukraine arose in November 2013, the US immediately stepped in to increase its influence in the country and reduce Russian influence. Washington was supported by its closest European allies like the UK. But there was an important difference between Ger-

man and US/UK policy towards Kiev. Germany clearly wants to increase its influence in eastern Europe which means that it has to push Russia back - but not all too aggressively: Economic cooperation with Moscow is very important for Berlin, Russia being the most important supplier of its energy resources and an important market for German products. Whereas Germany has to show a bit of consideration for Russia in order to maintain economic cooperation, the US and its closest European allies, not having strong economic interests there, can act much more offensively.

For Germany, it is not only about economic cooperation with Russia. "The world order which Berlin is striving for is a multipolar one in which the EU is economically closely interwoven with Russia to be able to compete with the global powers America and China on the world market", the influential newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" wrote in May. The article went on that some German politicians believed that Washington pushed extremely powerfully for sanctions against Russia just because they might "damage Europe more than America" - "not only economically but also geostrategically", limiting Berlin's leeway for cooperation with Moscow.

In June, the weekly "Die Zeit" published an article confirming this view. The author declared not only maintaining but deepening relations with Russia would be in the interests of the EU; Brussels should by no means push hard against Moscow and should definitely not, by doing so, "submit to a strategy made in Washington"... "Of course" transat-



lantic cooperation would be important, but if necessary, the EU should stand up against the US Transatlantic relations should be redefined; Brussels had to take its "own concepts for the future of the west" as the "basis of a new and more promising transatlantic Grand Strategy". In the last months, several German experts have pointed out that their aim is to be "at eye level" with the United States.

Not all European countries share the idea that a German dominated EU should be a rival to the US. For them, the plan to make Jean-Claude Juncker the next president of the European Commission is just another provocation: Juncker stands for an ever closer EU; his occasional criticism against German austerity policy notwithstanding, he is generally known as a reliable follower of Berlin's policy. Should he really become the next Commission's president, this might be a contribution to further rising tensions between some of the leading powers of the EU.

EU rail imperialism

European Union rail directives demand the separation of track and infrastructure as well as the privatisation of rail networks.

This system is most advanced in Britain after the Tories implemented EU rail directive 91/440 twenty years ago which began the privatisation of British Rail.

report by **Brian Denny**

This brought in rail franchising whereby companies bid to run the contracts with the help of extremely generous subsidies from the taxpayer. Today it costs four times the amount of taxpayers' money than under British Rail.

This market-driven dysfunctional system has lurched from one crisis to another with private monopolies sweating the assets, attacking jobs and conditions and even handing in the keys after bean counters had calculated that it was no longer profitable to run the franchise.

The franchise system virtually collapsed in 2012 when Virgin launched a judicial review to challenge a decision to give the West Coast to rival FirstGroup.

Since then the Department of Transport has been simply handing out contracts without even bothering with a bidding process. The latest outfit to be handed this licence to print money was Virgin Trains, a



joint venture between Virgin and Stagecoach, in June.

Meanwhile over at Northern Rail, current franchise holders SERCO and Abellio have parted company over a joint bid for the new franchise due to come on stream in 2016.

This on top of the fact that Northern Rail and Trans Pennine Express will be joining the Thameslink, Southern, Great Northern operation all on the basis of introducing Driver-Only Operation, increasing fares, reducing ticket office opening times and job cuts.

SERCO is currently under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office in relation to public contracts and were once banned by the government from being awarded any further work.

Yet the government has seen fit to hand Serco the franchise for Scottish sleeper services on a 15 year franchise worth £800 million.

Even pro-EU SNP Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown has admitted that the Scottish government had no choice in the matter as, under EU rules, the tender had to go with who wins the bid.

"We don't like the franchise process, not least because you have the absurd anomaly whereby state-owned companies from the rest of Europe can bid but you can't have a public sector bid from the UK.

"It just doesn't make sense and it disadvantages UK industry.

"French, Dutch or German state-owned companies like Arriva can



have a large part of the UK network but UK state-owned companies can't," he said.

In the latest example of this anti-patriotic front, the government has handed the massive Southern/Thameslink franchise over to a consortium involving the French state operator SNCF, which will mean that fares in London will subsidise fares in Paris.

This government is quite happy to have state ownership of our railways as long as it isn't the British state.

As a result of this German state railway company Deutsche Bahn is



seeking to run 'open access' services on East Coast route which has been publicly-run after National Express walked away from the franchise in 2009.

Under EU rules an 'open access' rail operator is not part of a franchise agreement and simply needs the permission of the rail regulator to run services. Deutsche Bahn already owns another open access operator on the East Coast route, Grand Central Open Access.

Now DB, through its Arriva subsidiary, has set up a company called Alliance Rail Holdings which has applied to be an 'open access' opera-

Watch your language

Globalisation

This word and term is used in an attempt to fool all of us into believing that this notion is inevitable. Another term used with same objective is that we all live in a global village—some village. Does this include China and Russia?

The word 'Global' is used as a prefix to corporations. This is incorrect, either they are national, multi-national or trans-national corporations. A long term objective of these corporations has been to remove all restrictions on the movement of capital, services, goods and labour.

A further objective is to trample all over trade union and workers' rights, collective bargaining and is part of forcing low wages and 'sweating' of workers across the world. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has highlighted these moves in a report as part of the 'race to the bottom'.

The IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organisation have led the way in gross violations of all these rights which are enshrined in EU policies and the EU's single market. The attack will be part of TTIP (see page 2).

**Oppose all
Con-Dem
cuts and
austerity poli-
cies -
They
Emanate
From
Brussels**

tor under the name of 'Great North Eastern Railway Open Access'.

East Coast has warned that the proposals would damage passenger services, hit the taxpayer and lead to the "cherry picking of services".

Research by transport union RMT has revealed that if Deutsche Bahn is successful it would mean that 70 per cent of UK rail services will be run by overseas rail companies.

It also warns that all these franchises will be allowed to make huge cuts as outlined in the now famous government-backed McNulty report which calls for the introduction of Driver Only Operation, fare increases, ticket office closures, job cuts and allowing 'alliances' between franchisees and Network Rail ie cutting track maintenance in the name of profit.

In another twist revealing the absurdity of EU rules, French state rail operator SNCF is facing a bill of around £100 million after discovering that hundreds of platforms will need to be rebuilt because new trains for its regional network are too wide.

The blunder has been followed by criticism of EU rules demanding the separation of track and train, which French transport minister Frederic Cuvillier has described as 'absurd'.

"When you separate the rail operator from the user, it doesn't work," he said.

The French have slowly been implementing the same market-driven dogma for years and rail infrastructure is now the responsibility of a separate company, RFF, which is the equivalent of Network Rail in Britain.

RFF is accused of giving the wrong platform dimensions to SNCF when new Régiolis Regional Express Trains from Alstom were being designed, and an RFF spokesman admitted that it had 'discovered the problem a bit late'.

In a more deadly result of EU rail privatisation mania, six people were killed last year when a French train crashed at Brétigny-sur-Orge station to the south of Paris. It was caused by a faulty connecting bar; the same cause of the 2002 rail disaster in Britain at Potters Bar which killed seven and injured 70.

French rail union CGT said the disaster was just the latest incident caused by the "rampant liberalisation of the French railway" and the race towards subcontracting and cost-cutting.

EU rail directives effectively transfer control of rail networks from elected governments to monopoly capital and allow dominant states like Germany and France to conveniently 'cherry-pick' EU rules to their advantage ie they only buy their own trains and ignore EU competition rules.

State German and French railways dominance in the rail sector is creating the basis for 'rail imperialism' in which these states aggressively take over networks across Europe, cut jobs and services, derecognise trade unions where necessary, sweats the assets and expatriates the profits back home.

The sane answer is for member states to re-nationalise their railways but various EU rail directives, including the Fourth Rail Package; of course, outlaws this option.



Quiz No. 141

What are the following ?

1. Loautumnve
ever x 4
2. JOANB
3. Nero ✓
4. pidpidpidpidpidpid
5. A B ^C D E F G
6. pochicx

Answers No. 140

1. Postman
2. Criminal
3. Right between the eyes
4. Three men in a boat
5. Son of a gun
6. Mother in law

Oh we are singing for liberation
Oh Bella ciao, Bella ciao,
Bella ciao , ciao, ciao
We are singing for liberation
From the Euro Super State.

We want our own laws not Mrs Merkels
Oh Bella ciao, Bella ciao,
Bella ciao. ciao. ciao,
We want our own laws not Mrs.Merkels
We want Britain's sovereignty

Free movement of Labour means we get poorer
Oh Bella
Free movement of Labour mean we get poorer
to make the Euro bosses rich.

We don't need Europe; it costs us millions
Oh Bella
We don't need Europe ; it costs us millions
We can manage by ourselves

They cut our benefits , they cut the workers,
Oh Bella
They cut our benefits they cut the workers
to suit the Europlan.

Tune - 'Bella Ciao'
An Italian Partisan anti-fascist song between 1943-45

Guitar chords and tune can be found on the Internet



Words - Tony Grace

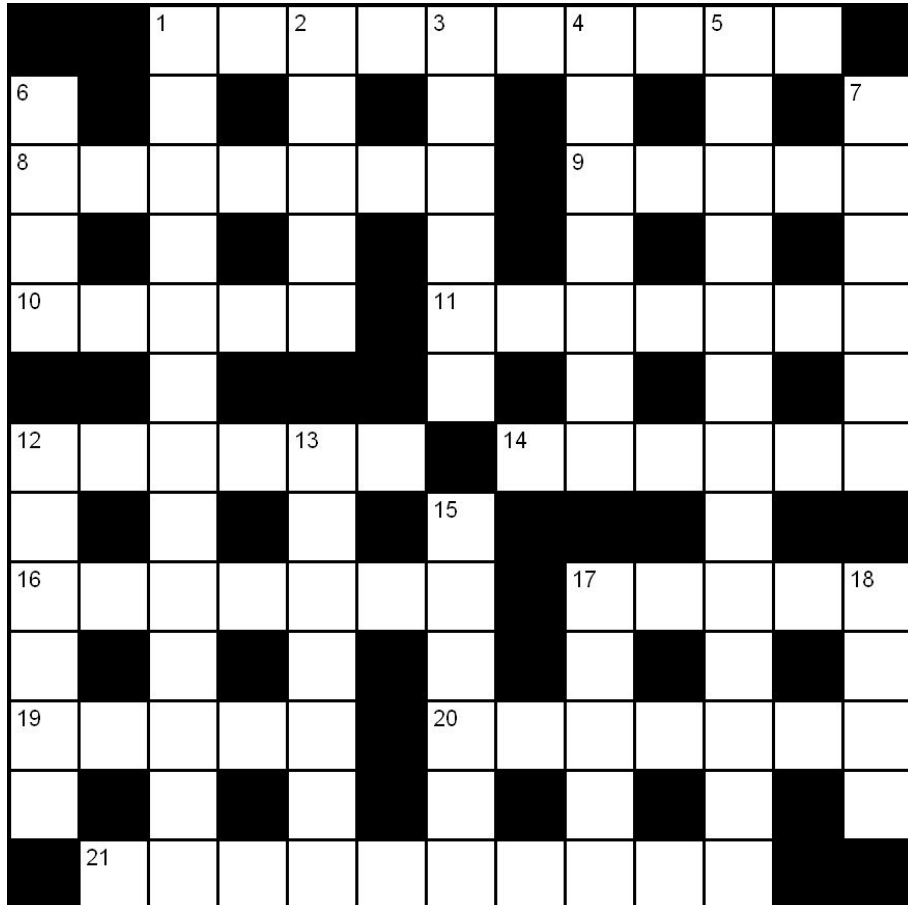


ACROSS

- 1 Crab (10)
- 8 Operational home for planes (3,4)
- 9 Young eel (5)
- 10 Express feelings (5)
- 11 Died out (7)
- 12 Small hand tool (6)
- 14 Muck (6)
- 16 Frighten (7)
- 17 Feudal lord (5)
- 19 Live (5)
- 20 Fleshy ear part (7)
- 21 Container (10)

DOWN

- 1 Support with evidence (13)
- 2 Tsarist edict (5)
- 3 In levels (6)
- 4 Inventor (7)
- 5 Willing to take risks (13)
- 6 Stare (4)
- 7 Squirm (6)
- 12 Fabric decoration (6)
- 13 Qualify (7)
- 15 Warm again (6)
- 17 Song words (5)
- 18 Level (4)



Crossword No. 141

Rest in peace and we salute their support over many years

Frank Parker

Long serving activist in Birmingham TUC and CAEF Executive Committee Member who died in May. A teacher and trade unionist who opposed the Common Market when it was first thought of. He was able to speak on many subjects.

Dr Sheila Lewenhak

A long standing member of CAEF along with her late husband. Sheila Lewenhak took four *Democrats* for discussion in the nursing home in her last years.

Appeal

We thank those of you who have sent a donation over the past period which included some generous gifts.

However, our Campaign and paper still faces a minor financial crisis as we are again spending more money than is coming in. Initially one way this could be easily resolved is if members renewed their annual subscriptions. Renewals are indicated by the letter 'R' on right of the first line in the address on the label.

Standing or banking orders are a way of painless payments.

Useful Websites

CAEF does not necessarily agree with everything in these sites

Campaign against Euro-federalism with data from current and some back issues of the Democrat.

www.caef.org.uk

EUobserver reports daily on EU matters with links to other newspapers and sources. This is a very popular website:

www.euobserver.com

Scottish CAEF:

homepage.ntlworld.com/foster-prendergast/scaef/index.files

Trade unionists against the EU Constitution (TUAUEC):

tuauec.org

No2EU yes to democracy:

NO2EU.com

TEAM the European alliance of EU critical organisations. Lists links to other organisations across Europe:

www.teameurope.info

Democracy Movement, a broad movement with a large number of supporters:

www.democracymovement.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB):

eurofaq.freeuk.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, for Labour Party members:

lesc.org.uk

Peoples' Movement Ireland:

people.ie

National Platform of Ireland:

nationalplatform.org

German foreign policy group of journalists:

german-foreign-policy.com

Open Europe—an influential think tank of leading business people:

openeurope.org.uk

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):

eulobbytours.org

Data on other sites welcome

*Solution
No. 140*



Campaign against Euro-federalism

To join the Campaign I enclose £15 membership fee (£10 for unwaged)

Please make cheques or POs to **CAEF**

Name

Date / / 2014

Address

email address

.....

..... Postcode

I agree to abide by the rules of the Campaign

CAEF objectives, aims and rules can be found on the CAEF website or by request

As a member you will be sent copies of the Democrat

Return to CAEF, PO Box 46295, London W5 2UG

[d130]

Campaign against Euro-federalism

The *Campaign* opposes:-

- the EU Constitution which hands over more powers to unelected and unaccountable bodies and reduces further the influence of Britain in the EU;
- the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, part II of the Constitution, because it takes rights away;
- the introduction of a Common Foreign and Security Policy and an EU Foreign Secretary;
- the formation of a European Army and battle groups as part of rapid reaction forces would be a threat to peace.

The *Campaign* is a democratic organisation and primarily oriented to the labour and trade union movement and people whom these organisations normally represent, including democrats, socialists, trade unionists, students and pensioners.

The *Campaign* is for democracy and accountability, independence, jobs the pound and against racism.

The Democrat

Available on subscription of £5 for five issues. The paper is posted free to members of CAEF—membership is £15 (£10 unwaged), affiliations £20 minimum.

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Arthur Smelt points to

The Way Ahead

When people in the US elected Barack Obama as president, many hoped there would be a discernible change in the political agenda. They were wrong. Obama has continued where Bush left off. There was a promise to close Guantanamo. It never happened. Warfare continued. The use of drones on countries not at war with the US, increased. Unfortunately this iniquitous foreign policy is not confined to the US. Drone experiments go on elsewhere including the EU.

In the UK we find that no matter which political party manages to persuade the electorate to vote them into power, very little changes. We have the example of support for EU where serious democratic deficits exist along with corruption and waste. Tory, New Labour and Liberal Democrats all support EU and have not been prepared to allow the electorate to decide whether or not they wish to be included in case the vote goes against EU. We are constantly being told of the wonderful advantages that come with being part of the EU. The leadership in Brussels tell us the Eurozone crisis is over, recovery is on the way. Recent reports indicate that unemployment in Germany and France, the two strongest EU states, has recently increased. A large part of the public, here and throughout Europe are not deceived. This is why we see anger, apathy, distrust and indifference resulting in mass abstention and voting for parties seen as anti establishment, as has happened recently.

Implicit in our everyday lives is the idea that we live in a democracy whereby our elected representatives will represent our best interests. Reality is that many politicians have their strings pulled by corporate and oligarchic interests. The rest is a game of let's pretend. Another form of dictatorship.

Mark Carney the Governor of the Bank of England, recently addressed a

conference in the City where he is reported as having said: "Prosperity requires investment not just in economic capital, but investment in social capital." He also pointed out that Capitalism is at risk of destroying itself unless bankers realise they have an obligation to create a fairer society, not a "heads I win tails you lose" system. He also drew attention to the lack of ethical standards along with "light touch regulation," and rising inequality.

Throughout Europe millions of ordinary people are suffering hardship as a result of systems promoting ruthless self interest resulting in serious damage to the fabric of society.

Unemployment is causing problems with regard to physical and mental health, increase in criminal activity and migration. The same is happening in Africa where powerful corporations are making huge profits from extracting mineral wealth. Thousand of Africans are desperately trying to get to Europe in the hope of a better life and Somali fishermen have resorted to piracy because European factory ships sweep up their fish. The focus is then on emigration not its causes.

Throughout the world we are witnessing all manner of climatic disasters. Huge forest fires, floods, famine, storms and earthquakes. There is a dire need to adjust the way we view the world and how problems are dealt with to minimise human casualties and environmental damage. The nature of the society we live in has to change drastically if real attempts are to be made to deal with serious problems which are on the horizon. Diminishing fossil fuels is a very real issue which will result in a serious fuel shortage and all that that entails. Waste of resources on war is sheer insanity,

Widespread government ineptitude has generated anger, disillusionment and a misguided anti establishment attitude which is promoting extremism.

