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Affiliate of the Internationalist Communist Tendency

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Mutiny

May Day 2026: No Sacrifices for this System - Against War and All Forms of Nationalism!



The capitalist crisis only gets worse and worse, with world war becoming an increasing reality. Every state is embroiled in an existential struggle within the imperialist pecking order. Their only 'way out' lies in massive destruction of capital, in the hope of being able to usher in a new round of profit-making.

All that's on offer is general imperialist war

Despite promises of peace, ceasefires or the "Board of Peace", imperialist wars are continuing to burn across the globe, whether in Ukraine, Sudan, Congo, Southern Asia, Gaza or Iran, and this does not even take in the "economic war" going on such as the continuing US blockade of Cuba. Not content with this, the capitalist system is gearing towards even more slaughter with growing military spending and a sickening tempo of rearmament. Faced with stagnating profits, the ruling class is willing to accept immeasurable human suffering. The wars in Ukraine and the Middle East are consolidating imperialist alliances and clarifying interests. The US is preparing for war against China by attempting to break up the China-Russia-Iran alliance of convenience. For decades the USA has seen China as its main threat. The Trump administration's policy towards China is largely guided by the same strategic premises of Obama and Biden. Increasing protectionism and sanctions to set back China's economy and military while targeting China's allies are all bipartisan preparation for future war. Hostilities between the USA and China can only continue to grow with the pressures of imperialist competition. The United States' manic war-making across the globe is thus part of the preparation for war against China. By attempting to eliminate China's allies in Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, and Russia, they are gearing up for the main fight. In Latin America, where China has steadily increased its presence over the past twenty years, Trump is sending a message through the kidnapping of Venezuela's Maduro, and the growing threats against Cuba. The brutal war being fought in Ukraine has been taken up by NATO to bleed out Russia and isolate China. The U.S.-Israel permanent war in the Middle East can be seen as a small-scale example of the strategy against China – first the weaker allies of Hezbollah, Hamas, and Houthis, then an isolated Iran itself. This strategy will not go unanswered; the bloody war of positioning won't stop. Workers everywhere are facing mounting austerity, privation, death and displacement as the push for another worldwide slaughter grows. States are choosing "guns not butter". It's the guns which can win them a greater cut of future profit while there's little to be found in "normal" capitalist exploitation. Military spending is increasing at the expense of social welfare. Workers are experiencing a collapsing social situation – we feel it every day when our wages are cut by inflation or increasing workload, when the cost of food and essentials continues to be out of our reach, or when we are evicted and cut off from welfare. Worst of all is when we are told to fight and kill our own class sisters and brothers. What has your nation done for you? What is "our country" supposed to be? We own little to nothing of it – except our labour power, which is exploited in the interests of "our nation". For the proletariat, there's no country to support. Even if they drape themselves with "anti-¬imperialist" slogans, those who support any current war pick one capitalist over another. Any and all proletarian self¬activity is crushed for the defence of the "nation" (that is, profits). Domestic repression exponentially multiplies against workers as seen in the state's response towards workers in Ukraine, Iran, Gaza and the Middle East. In the USA and other imperialist states rearming for war, is accompanied by state repression and racist policies to divide the working class and create a more precarious section of terrified workers to brutally exploit.

Only the working class can finally stop capitalism's wars

The working class – the majority of people of the planet – is the only force capable of halting our further immiseration, the degradation of the planet, and the forward march of all-out war. Workers' economic demands already run up against capitalism's drive for war. When workers fight for higher wages, safer conditions of work, shorter hours, or better staffing, they are met with stiff resistance from the bosses and their state. In various countries, governments declare strikes illegal in the name of national defence, while on the "home front" of warring capitalist states workers are put through misery in the war economy. Capitalist attacks on workers' standards of living have a direct political character. Once the working class's defensive fight also takes on an offensive, political, anti-capitalist character, it will have the tools necessary to end forever the cycle of imperialist booms and busts. The mass slaughter of the imperialist First World War was brought to an end by uprisings, mutinies and strikes. Revolutionary defeatism took concrete form when, in Russia, the proletariat organised in councils seized power and enforced an end to hostilities, and when mass demonstrations in Berlin and Vienna in 1918 forced an end to the war. This marked the beginning of an international revolutionary wave that shook capitalism to its very foundations. Spontaneity and independent action of the class are important and necessary. Yet, they are not sufficient conditions for finally overcoming the capitalist system. Without an organised revolutionary force capable of providing an anti¬capitalist movement with political direction and a revolutionary perspective, every uprising runs the risk of being absorbed by the forces of this system. A revolutionary party, on the other hand, which has fought to gain recognition and establish itself within the class through active participation in the class struggle, can serve as a revolutionary political reference point and work to ensure that the working class does not stop halfway. When the theoretical and practical preparation of organised revolutionaries is combined with the class's capacity for struggle and organisation, this system can be overthrown. This has been confirmed by the historical experience of our class. The absence of a firmly established revolutionary party had dramatic consequences for the German Revolution of 1918–1919. The working class had indeed succeeded in overthrowing the German Empire. But now, with the Social Democrats, a different actor began to set the political agenda. They presented themselves as a moderate 'socialist mass party'. Yet in reality, they acted not as the moderate right wing of the working class but as the left wing of capital. With the window of revolution still open, the Social Democrats (Germany's equivalent of the Labour Party) replaced the class struggle with 'law and order', the councils with parliament, and revolution with reform. This is what the absence of a workers' party fitting its name can look like. Whilst it politically disarmed and disoriented the broad majority of the working class, it gave free rein to the proto-fascist Freikorps against the radical elements. The bloody terror of these units laid the groundwork for the later fascist dictatorship. The defeat of the German Revolution had fatal consequences for the international revolutionary wave. The isolation of the Russian Revolution ultimately led to its transformation into its opposite – the establishment of a dictatorial state capitalism which, to the delight of all reactionaries, masqueraded as 'socialism'.

What is to be done?

Despite the current weakness of our class, there is an acute need for those of us who uphold internationalist principles and reject all forms of nationalism to unite under a common banner. Wherever it is waged, the class struggle inevitably clashes with the ongoing preparations for war. This opens up the possibility that internationalist positions will be taken up in the struggles – particularly among the advanced sections of the class – and that the fight against capitalist war will be placed on the agenda. Against this backdrop, we reaffirm our support for the 'No War but Class War' committees, which bring together revolutionaries on the basis of internationalism and aim to intervene in local struggles. Although they are not a substitute for the party nor a path to its formation, these committees can organise a political response to imperialist wars that goes beyond the capabilities of individual organisations. For such cooperation, which takes an unequivocally class ¬based stance and excludes the political legacies of social democracy (old and new) and of the Stalinist counter-revolution, including its offshoots — namely, Stalinism, Maoism and Trotskyism — we propose the following five points:

- Against capitalism, imperialism and all forms of nationalism! No support for any national bourgeoisie, 'lesser evils' or emerging states!
- for a society in which states, wage labour, private property, money and profir-driven production are replaced by a world of freely associated producers!
- against the economic and political attacks that the current and coming wars will unleash on the working class!
- For the self-organised struggle of the working class, for the formation of independent strike committees, mass assemblies and workers' councils!
- Against oppression and exploitation, for the unity of the working class and the alliance of genuine internationalists!

We once again call on all those who identify with these points and recognise the gravity of the current situation to set up such committees in their regions or to join existing ones.

No War But The Class War!

To find out about public meetings, our social media, and for our website, scan the link below:

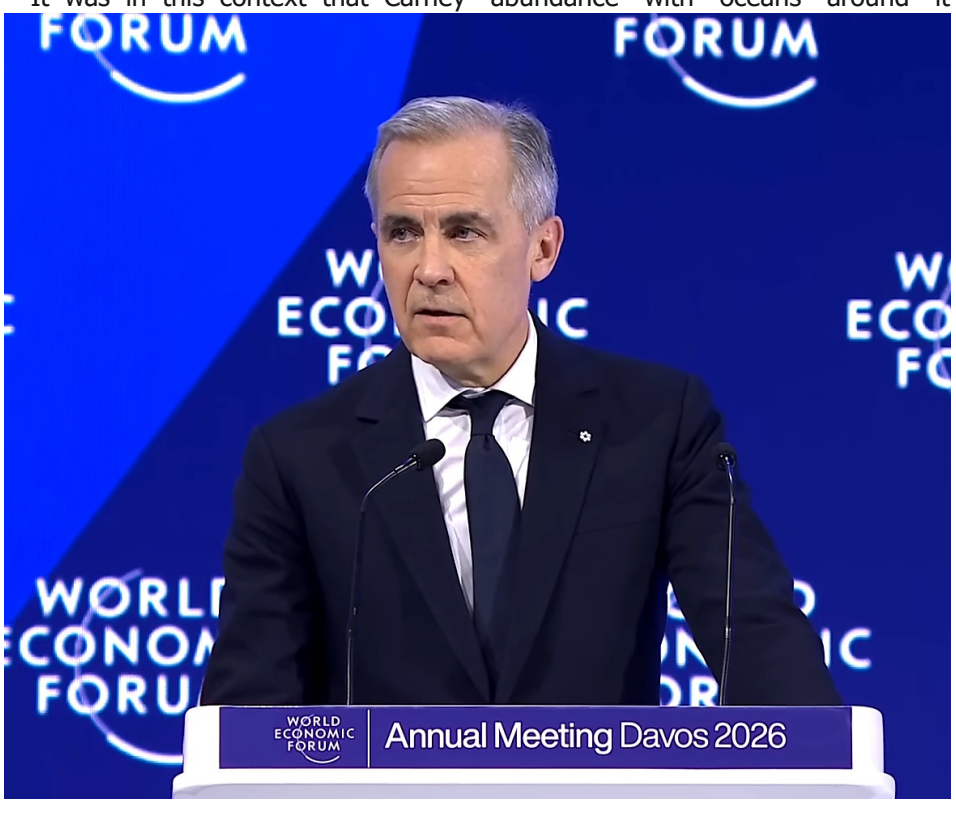
Rupturing in the Same Direction

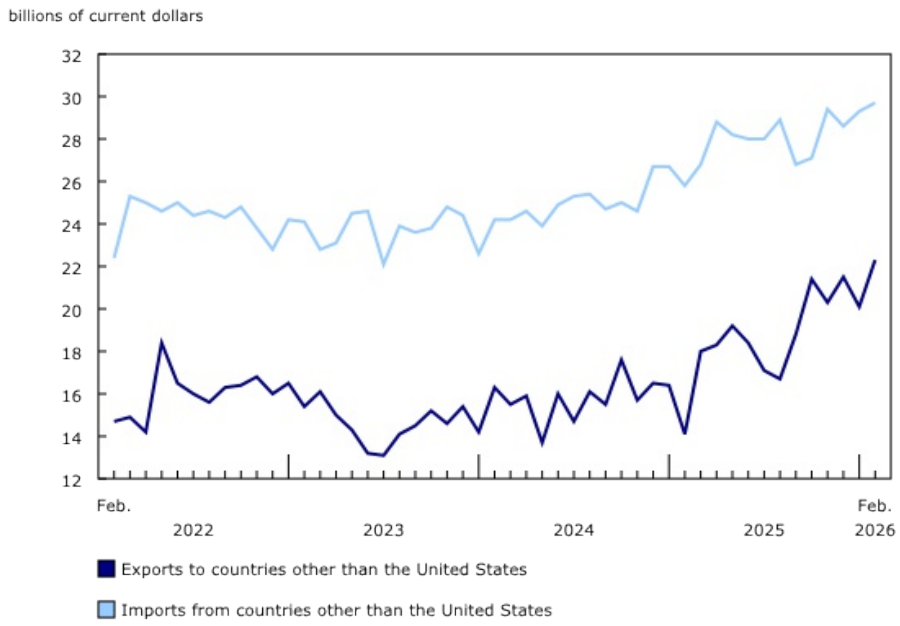
In the mid April federal by-elections the Liberals swept the three contested ridings securing a majority government. This was made possible with two conservative members of parliament crossing the floor in the previous months. For Prime Minister Mark Carney and his Liberals both of these events demonstrate that Canadian society is unifying around the Liberal agenda in the midst of trade tensions with the United States and general crisis. Indeed the conservative MPs that crossed the floor cited support to the Liberal policy in contrast to Pierre Poilievre's confused conservative party. Just as much is evidenced also by the fact that the Liberal's were able to gain a narrow electoral victory in Terrebonne riding which has been held by the Bloc Quebecois for a decade. But beyond the current state of capitalist parliamentary politics, beyond the rhetoric and circus, where is history trending and what does it mean for the working class? Elections alone spell little but the flavour of the capitalist boot that's going to be stomping us, but as the bourgeoisie flounder in a crisis of their own making, the first steps they take in this direction will be inflicting the costs onto the proletariat as they struggle to find some order in the current global showdown.

General politics in Canada have been defined by the past year by the American tariffs. Immediately after starting his second term Trump decided it was time to throw American weight around to rivals and allies alike in the hope of securing better terms for American trade and as a crude form of diplomatic pressure to achieve political concessions. It has also shown that tariffs disproportionately act as a tax on American consumers, which inevitably means that American workers are paying to plug a deficit built on defense spending and propping up a dying system. While the United States is the only nation in a position to apply such pressure given its dollar supremacy, international political status, and military might, the policy has not gone completely as planned. It has tarnished America's reputation in the western alliance, and has resulted in hardship for the working class the world over as they are forced to pay for the trade glut. After securing a new trade deal heavily in American favour with the EU Trump again threatened new tariffs on Europe in a row about annexing Greenland. More and more the United States' traditional allies are viewing it as an unreliable power which is putting them in between a rock and a hard place economically and politically and are seeing America's great rival China as a more stable entity. While this does not mean that a war between the great powers is not on the table, it does mean that this current period is the calm before the storm where the bourgeoisie get their bearings and start to rapidly mobilise the class for war.

It was in this context that Carney captured international attention at the Davos forum, where hespoke of a rupture with American hegemony in light of Trump's policies. He urged middle powers to work together via practical diplomacy to steer the course of great power rivalry. But the use of the word rupture seems to be more rhetoric than reality. Just as arctic sea ice can break apart and follow the same current, Carney's "rupture" is more so the necessity for Canada to find wiggle room in the crisis as it flows within the western alliance towards the tendency of generalized imperialist war. Carney's trade deal with China which lifted the ban on Chinese electric vehicles is an expression of that search for alternatives and breathing space and an attempt to sure up about future prospects and decouple from the increasingly uncompetitive American auto-industry while not forming a complete break. Carney knows that an actual decoupling with the American economy would be costly and risky. Producing the necessary pipeline infrastructure to mass transport Albertan oil to the sea is no simple feat technically or politically. Nevertheless, this kitchen sink approach to plug a political and economic problem comes with a change in diplomatic tone which has thrown a wrench into the traditional 'western bloc'. In this sense, Canada personifies the new era of bourgeois competition, in that beyond Cold War blocs, capitalists are scrambling to find alliances in the short and medium term to weather the storm from the big dogs, politically and economically. All the same, the crisis motivating this showdown lies at the heart of capital, so even if leaders like Carney want to cling onto a liberal order, they will do so not opposing the general trend towards war as leftists would hope.

Ultimately what we are witnessing is not a crisis between nations diplomatically but a general crisis of profitability driving a tendency towards generalized war. In February this year Carney announced "Canada's first Defence Industrial Strategy". This plan aims to meet a 5% GDP spending on defence by 2035 committing hundreds of billions to future defence spending. Commitments to new armaments is just one part. The fundamental strategy is the increasing militarization of the Canadian economy. Inside the policy is the commitment to dual-use manufacturing and the propping up of domestic military production over foreign suppliers. The budget for new infrastructure is not set aside for merely new Arctic bases, although that exists, but massive government spending in strategic infrastructure. Since the Trudeau government, Canada has been attempting to sell itself to Europe as a key military partner not simply on the basis of the troops or equipment it can deploy but economically. Canada's sell to Europe has been that it is an advanced technological nation with natural abundance with oceans around it





should the European continent become a future battlefield. This conception goes hand in hand with Carney's militarization of infrastructure, and a trend towards autarky in the preparation to war. This means cuts and disciplining the working class, and it means confronting the profitability crisis by preparing to destroy the constant capital of other economies through war in order to kickstart a new accumulation cycle. Carney's maneuvering shows a bee-line, and not a detour, from that general tendency.

But this turn towards Europe is not exactly the "rupture" Carney's rhetoric suggests. While Carney may boast of pragmatic diplomacy of middle powers America still sits in the leadership of the western alliance despite the fraying edges and the twists and turns. Rather than being a war of all against all, the bourgeoisie still gather around imperialist blocs to guarantee their survival. Much of Carney's budget is connected to NORAD commitments with the United States. Canada's attempt to project power into the Arctic front still exists in tandem with the United States be it military exercises or the development of an icebreaker fleet. There are plans to have a permanent CSIS presence in the Arctic as part of the American lead Five-Eyes coalition to counteract Chinese intelligence. While Carney did not heed Trump's call for military support to open the straits of Hormuz he did not hesitate to state that it is Iran which is responsible for the instability in the region aligning diplomatically with American policy. A crippled Iran is advantageous to the US-NATO bourgeoisie, and Russia, China, and Iran clearly realise that this conflict signifies a shot across the bow to their interests as well, to which the working class on both sides is being mobilized to soak up the costs at home and to die at the front.

As we have said for years, calls for national unity are nothing but calls for our class to tighten our belts as the world heads towards generalized war. Real wages have continued to decline in the face of the "cost of living crisis". Last year, food banks had to reduce their services despite an increase in visitors, because of reducing funds. Savings by working households have continued to fall in a climate in which just five years ago in Prince Edward Island 70% of households had less than one month's income saved. Much of these facts are mirrored by the working class internationally, including American workers who are likewise being asked to pay for the crisis. This means that there is no noble crusade that Carney is taking on in steering the ship away from capitalist crisis. The renewed militarization at home, the consolidation of existing alliances, and the attempts to decouple from the US resemble the same back and forth of the low countries prior to WWII, which all the same got drafted into that global conflict to come. Attempts at neutrality really only forestall the class massacre to come to come, or as was the case in the Spanish Civil War, directly foreshadow the coming bloodbath. In the face of this cost of living crisis so concerning to the parliamentarians, draconian anti-strike legislation has been whipped out against workers fighting for wage increases such as at Canada Post. Last year Quebec's National Assembly passed bill 89 which allows the government to declare a strike illegal if it hampers the "public good". Capital and its parliamentary bodies have clearly demonstrated what it perceives as the public good, profits. For capital mired in such a crisis of profitability there can be no negotiations with labour. Workers must accept their deteriorating conditions for the sake of national unity as international economic and military competition intensifies. Despite capital's attempt to impose class peace, the struggle of the working class continues. In Nova Scotia long term care workers are on strike for higher wages and are facing government intransigence. In Toronto the workers at the Toronto Zoo are in a period of strike action again after the 2024 strike. In Montreal on April 16th strikers blocked a street in an action. But so long as strikes remain isolated they will fight from a point of weakness. What is needed is a class wide response to the crisis of capitalism against the calls for national unity which workers have no interest in. Only banded together as an international class can we challenge the deterioration of our conditions and hamper the slaughter capital is preparing.

What Does Klasbatalo Fight For?

We fight for the political independence of the working class, which means we reject all cross-class alliances with the capitalist class, including its left-wing. We believe the working class must fight on its own terrain: first, to defend itself against the bosses' attacks; and, second, to achieve its ultimate task, that of establishing the world communist future which will rid the planet of exploitation, oppression, and war. It is towards this goal that we fight for the creation of the world communist party, whose purpose is to clarify the confusions among the class and to unify it towards its ultimate end; we believe this party to be the most potent weapon of our class. While we are for the party, we do not believe ourselves to be the party, nor do we believe that our organization alone will become it; rather, we see it as the product of both the wider class struggle, and of the real work of revolutionaries, of which we see ourselves as only one of many elements. We do not see this party as a government-in-waiting, for the emancipation of humanity depends on the active struggle of the whole working class, and this struggle cannot be replaced by the dictates of a minority.

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