

# FORWARD



ISSUE 30 SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

THE SHINNER SURGE

## Health & Housing #GE2020

SOC DEMS'  
HISTORY OF  
SUPPORTING  
FASCISTS

## NHS

'The rich offered  
a few crumbs in  
order to keep the  
whole bakery'

## FEELING THE BERN?

Medicare for All is supported by  
70% of people in the US



## PUBLIC SERVICES: PAID FOR BY THE GLOBAL SOUTH

RM, Corcaigh

At the 2020 Congress of the Connolly Youth Movement a motion was passed to drop support for all social democratic parties in Ireland. One of the main reasons that social democracy deserves our criticism is its inherent link with Imperialism. As socialist republicans who live under the triple-lock of Imperialism (British, American & European) this connection is not something that can be overlooked, a proper insight is needed of how social democracy continues to ravage our planet and disproportionately impact the workers of the third world as there is no such thing as “capitalism with a human face”.

Social democracy almost solely exists within imperialist countries. Using superprofits obtained from plundering the resources of the third world, social democracy affords so-called luxuries, such as universal health care for a section of the working class within the Imperialist core, but is nonetheless ruthless in its exploitation of workers in the global south. Matías Maiello, an Argentine communist describes this as the “corrupting [of] the workers’ leaders and co-opting [of] the

upper layer of the working class in the central countries”. Engels also witnessed such a phenomenon in Britain. He writes “The English proletariat is actually becoming more and more bourgeois”. With this it is evident that firstly, the social democratic system is built on the exploitation

of the third world to yield superprofits. A section of this amassed wealth is used to expand healthcare and education within social democratic countries for the “upper

layer” of the working class, to blur class divisions, leading to a corrupting of working class peoples in these regions.

In social democratic countries, the co-opting of social and political movements is inevitable in most cases. Through what Gramsci referred to as the ‘Integral State’, these movements are neutralised through capitalist hegemony and squeeze any radical energy out of a movement. This can be observed through the failures of movements like Occupy and the apolitical nightmare that is Extinction Rebellion in Ireland. Social democracy stunts the growth of class consciousness by strangling the baby in the cradle, leaving these movements toothless and ultimately destined to fail.

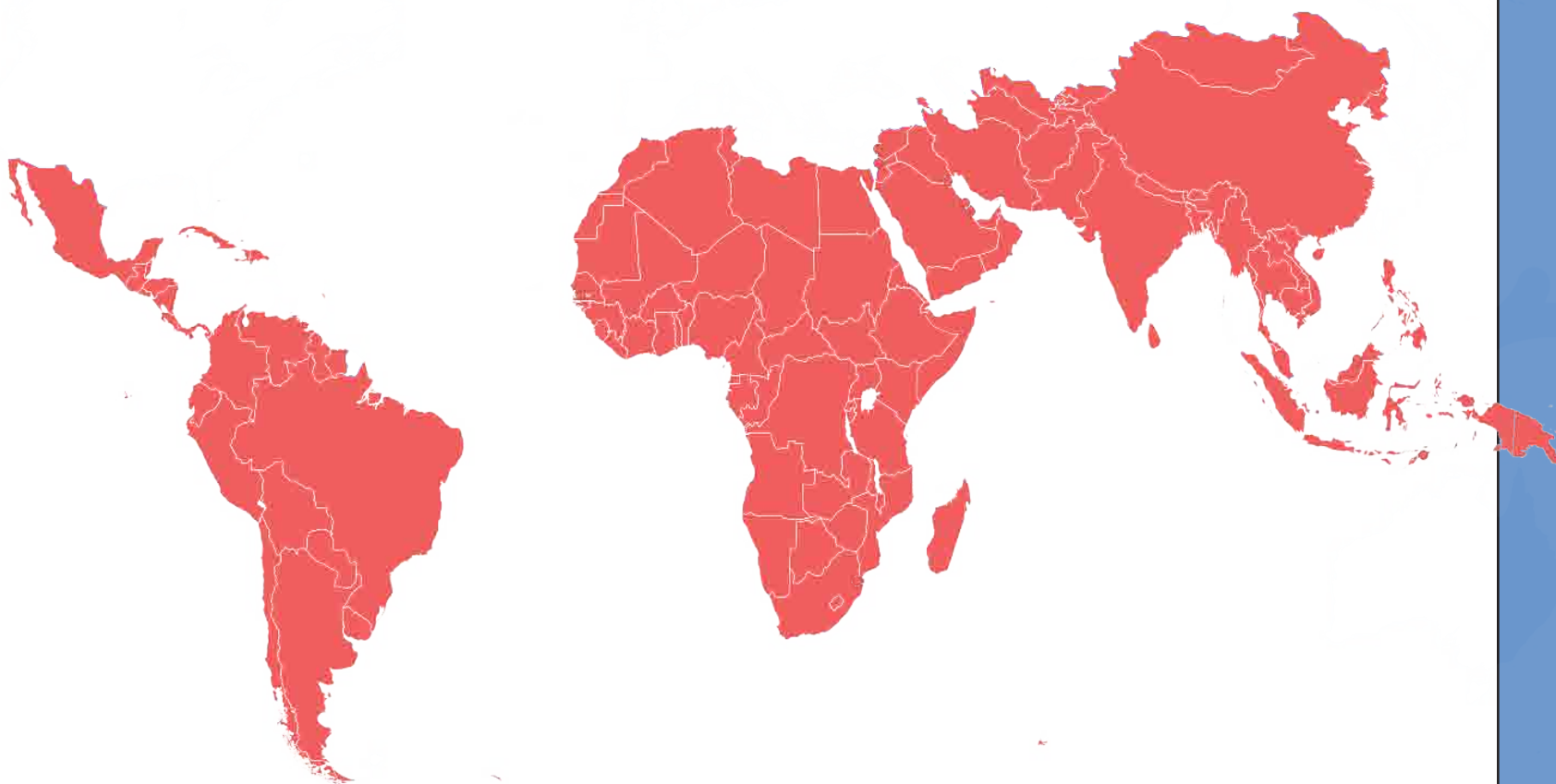
**SOCIAL DEMOCRACY  
RELIES ON IMPERIALISM  
TO GENERATE PROFITS AND  
EXPORT POVERTY TO THE  
DEVELOPING WORLD**

This political system is nothing but capitalism trying to hide its most ugly and inhumane elements. By using dishonest methods, it attempts to crush the working class by sewing disunity among workers and trying to win them over with promises of universal healthcare and free

education. Social democracy is linked with Imperialism, it cannot continue without Imperialism to support it. Social democracy relies on Imperialism to generate profits and

export poverty to the developing world while reaping the rewards gained from exploiting entire nations. It is an obstacle to be overcome, a paper tiger that must be strategically defanged. If we call ourselves communists we cannot critically support what is nothing more than imperialism masquerading as something good and humane when it is anything but.

The task given to us is to show people that the best that they can hope for more than social democracy, but rather a society in which workers have a say in how and when they choose to work all the while enjoying basic necessities like access to healthcare and education.





## FEELING THE BERN?

FS, Gaillimh

The Sanders campaign for the US presidency has undeniably brought back a needed left-wing view of politics into the mainstream American political discussion. However, is it right for Marxists to support a Democratic socialist in the White House, or should we reject this phenomenon completely?

There are specific reasons as to why Marxists ought to appreciate this movement. Electoral politics has generally been the only form of political struggle that the general public have engaged with in any meaningful way. Self proclaimed socialists such as Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Corbyn have seen moderate success in electoral politics which has opened up a space for socialists to introduce their ideas to a much larger audience. Identifying as, and professing socialist politics has become mainstream in the US for arguably the first time since the 1920 election where Eugene Debs, candidate of the Socialist Party of America for President of the United States, received 3.4% of the popular vote. We can conclude that the Sanders campaign and movement does benefit us, purely by making the US working class aware of socialism in a way they may never have before.

Should the Sanders campaign be successful we will see the implementation of popular policies that will make a huge benefit to the lives of the average working class American. Medicare for All, for example, is Sanders' flagship policy and is supported by 70% of people in the US. This would provide a tangible example to the average American that socialism is a positive influence in their daily lives, and could be more likely to support a revolutionary movement when the time comes. For a disaffected and apolitical working class person, they will know that it is the socialist movement, and the socialist movement alone, that has their interests at heart.

We know as Marxists, and as scientific socialists, that the parliamentary road to socialism will always fail. As Audre Lorde said; 'For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house'. We have seen that reformism will always fail to bring about the long lasting change, and destruction of the dictatorship of the

bourgeoisie. So when the time comes that the working class start to see the reformist road to socialism fail, we as Marxists must be there to accept those people into our revolutionary organisations in order to create our own tools of emancipation; the militant trade unions, the communist party and finally the dictatorship of the proletariat. There will be a considerable amount of disaffected "Democratic socialists" who would be willing to hear a Marxist perspective on the political situation, so instead of taking the disengaged and aloof position that tells these people "I told you so", we must understand that mass support for Democratic Socialism came out of the genuine want for better conditions and a better life.

Despite this, it is imperative that Communists hold a position that is both grounded in the particularity of class consciousness (or lack thereof) of the working class in the US — but also ruthlessly critiques the leadership of supposedly socialist organisations in the US. Organisations like the DSA will most likely fall to revisionism when the time comes. Instead of focusing on building a revolutionary party, they have focused on the spectacle of bourgeois elections.

Revisionism is a term that often gets used when it shouldn't in Marxist circles,

so when I speak about revisionism in this context I mean to say when Parties and organisations jettison the principle idea that the state is not there to reconcile class conflict, but to subjugate the working class for the benefit of the capitalist class. There is no evidence that this path to socialism will succeed, yet the strategy of dismantling the bourgeois state and creating a dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of a worker's republic has had tangible successes, historically the USSR but also present day Cuba. All of these states certainly have flaws, but they have completely succeeded in the goal of overthrowing the capitalist grip on the means of production, and improving the living standard of the average working class person.

We must be wary of organisations such as the DSA or Our Revolution in the USA who will at best seek to create a 3rd Social Democratic Party to contest elections and at worse, advocate keeping the Democratic Party on life support by running candidates like Sanders via its official channels. Once the Democratic socialist path inevitably fails, what is important is that there are Marxist organisations ready to provide a path to liberation for the masses.





# HOW THE WELFARE STATE NEUTERED REVOLUTION IN EUROPE

JF, Baile Átha Cliath

The political space for social-democracy arose from an existential terror on the part of the imperialist powers - an overpowering fear of workers' power. Faced with the establishment of workers' democracy across the globe, alongside growing socialist movements in their own countries, the West took drastic measures. It redistributed a tiny portion of its super-profits, amassed through bloody imperialist exploitation, to smother the class interests of the Western working class with moderate material concessions. The working classes of Europe and North America were tricked, often with grim complicity, into aligning their interests with that of their profiteering masters. This minor redistribution was a small price compared to the very real threat of losing all of their authority and power, as had happened to the exploiters in socialist countries. In other words, the rich offered a few crumbs in order to keep the whole bakery. As both ideologies attempt to uphold existing class power in moments of crisis, communists have named social-democracy 'the moderate wing of fascism'.

The Nordic countries - Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden - pioneered the welfare state, developing improved healthcare, housing, and a social security net while retaining capitalism (and exploitation of the global south). It is important to note that encroaching upon this region was the world's most organised revolutionary workers' movement. When the working class and peasantry took power across the fallen Russian empire, the elites of Scandinavia responded by improving rights and conditions at home. Violent repression had crushed Finland's attempted socialist revolution but the limits to unadul-

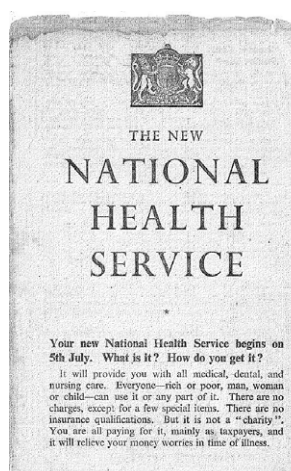
terated state violence had been demonstrated in the rest of the tsarist empire. Social-democracy - that is, meeting some of the workers' demands while not answering the fundamental question of ownership and power - was a long-term means of weakening the socialist movement.

Similar measures were taken throughout the imperial core (the US under FDR, Britain under Labour, etc.) - all deeply rooted in the battle against communism. Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that he 'saved the system of private profit and free enterprise'; Clement Atlee of Labour introduced the NHS while actively supporting the violent overthrow of socialist projects in Albania, Greece and Korea. Inspired by the unprecedented rise in living standards in the socialist world, alongside giant strides in the rights of women and national minorities, the effort of the global oppressed to take power for themselves took a major leap forward while the imperialists' fear intensified.

Yet as social-democracy arose with workers' democracy, it died in its absence. The Swedish Social-Democratic Party (SAP) took its right-wing turn concurrently with the counter-revolution in the Soviet Union. As the forces of capital took control of the CPSU, the forces of neoliberalism asserted themselves in the SAP, allowing for a political consensus on the privatisation and marketisation which now characterises Swedish society. Without the threat of a neighbouring workers' state, and with the labour movement sufficiently weakened, the Nordic countries have embraced mainstream liberal European economics. The same right-wing shift

of historically left parties can be seen across the world at this exact moment.

'What would happen if capital succeeded in smashing the Republic of So-



viets? There would set in an era of the blackest reaction in all the capitalist and colonial countries, the working class and the oppressed peoples would be seized by the throat'. Has this prophetic warning from Stalin not been the reality of our lives, the course of the last three decades? Capital not only smashed socialist countries, but simultaneously smashed the public sector and welfare systems of capitalist countries, leaving us gasping for air with corporate profit in-

creasingly taking precedence over our lives.

In the final analysis, social-democracy is a sham imitation of socialism. The working class won material gains across the Western world but compared to the gains of the socialist world these were laughable. Socialist countries were generally underdeveloped and exploited countries prior to their revolutions yet at an extraordinarily rapid pace they built universal healthcare, housing and education - not to mention the improvements in cultural and social life. Social-democracy keeps the billionaires in charge, while socialism puts the working masses in charge. Social-democracy brushed away the nastier aspects of some of capitalism's social ills - socialism eradicated them root-and-branch, sharing the entire wealth of society for the betterment of all.

Today, embroiled in its final crisis, capitalism will not be offering us social-democratic concessions. The global wave of far-right governments offers a better reflection of how elites will react to the growing socialist movement. The recent undermining of moderate social-democrats like Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders further demonstrates the impossibility of reforming the current system for the better. Clearly the social-democratic moment is over. The urgent necessity of socialism asserts itself like never before. We must struggle to empower our class with the aim of seizing power for ourselves - and sweep away the sly promises of social-democracy for a society run by and for us.

**THE WORKING CLASS WON MATERIAL GAINS ACROSS THE WESTERN WORLD BUT COMPARED TO THE GAINS OF THE SOCIALIST WORLD THESE WERE LAUGHABLE.**





## THE NORDIC MODEL

KW. Doire

Inequality has been steadily on the rise for many, many years and as people grow increasingly frustrated, they seek an alternative. This search has time and time again led to the mention of countries like Sweden and Norway. Often when we discuss the Nordic model, it is met with praise and envy. Many self-proclaimed progressives hold it in high regard as the pinnacle of democracy. The social benefits such as free healthcare, free education and reliable pension payments are a definite cause for jealousy when compared to the ruthlessness of the capitalism most of us know and live under. However, while we may praise certain benefits of this model, we must also be honest about its many shortcomings in contrast to our own goals.

To compare countries like Norway and Sweden to nations such as the USA, Britain or even our own island of Ireland, would draw striking dissimilarity and we would be rightfully frustrated while our own state fails to grant us these securities. We should not settle with what we have, or rather what we don't have, nor should we be appeased by small concessions granted only to keep us in line and to make current political parties seem more electable, when the reality is that the interests of the people are not at heart. Settling for these small concessions not only affirms this as a workable strategy to maintain power over the people, it also sets back the work made by many to advance these ideas and proposals. It is also worth noting that these concessions are not praise-worthy, they should in fact be the bare minimum granted to all civilians. We must understand that this model feeds into capitalist realism, and acts as a social democratic ploy to cast a shadow on the achievements of socialism in eastern Europe.

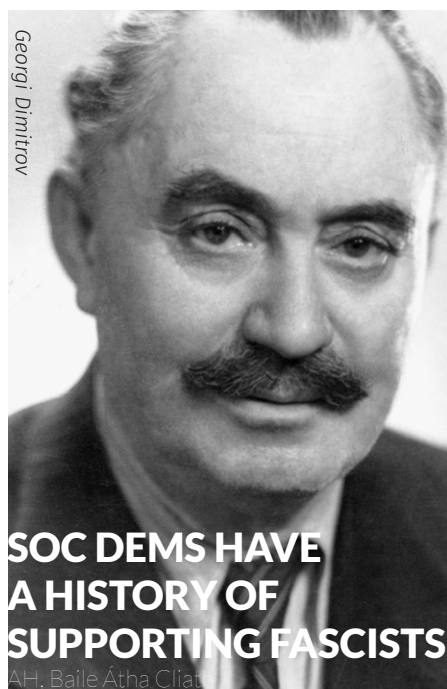
It exists almost as if to affirm that capitalism is the only viable option, and feeds into the western idea of restricting socialism to its most minimal form. Furthermore, the Nordic welfare model cannot be presented as an alternative to both socialism and capitalism, it works mainly as a form of appeasement, keeping the working class quiet while still supporting free market capitalism. As communists, we understand that capital must be abolished, therefore there is no place for capitalism of any kind, regardless of how soft or severe. "Compassionate" capitalism is still capitalism.

They impose high tax rates on their citizens, while corporate tax remains low. Workers may be paid better than their counterparts in other neoliberal capitalist hellscape, however they are still exploited. Surplus value created by the worker does not return to them, and in true capitalist fashion, returns to the employer as profit. To further criticise these conditions, we must examine the links these countries hold to the capitalist death machines of the world. These countries are members of the European Union; a megaphone for anti-communists, capitalists and imperialists alike. Denmark, Iceland and Norway are also NATO member states, therefore actively support the evils of imperialism on a global scale. The role of these establishments is to ensure the ruling classes continue to enrich themselves at the expense of the many. Any involvement with these establishments must be called out for what it is. As well as supporting the imperialist death march and the wreckage it leaves behind, it is a huge contributor to the Earth's climate problem. The environmental impact cannot be ignored. Towards the end of February, a large number of young people at the annual congress of the Connolly Youth Movement understood and recognised the climate emergency, and reiterated that an environmentally sustainable society was not compatible with capitalism. In our heavily industrialised world, the climate crisis is as clear as ever and our situation grows dire.

The Nordic countries may seem like progressive powerhouses when compared to many harsher states, but they have had some of the highest levels of resource use and CO2 emissions globally, severely overstepping sensible boundaries. This is largely due to resource extraction in the global south, outsourcing ecological impact to different communities.

To conclude, yes the Nordic model has provided notable benefits to citizens, but these are basic concessions that should be granted without question to the working class. Striving to replicate the Nordic model as an end goal isn't viable, we must uphold the working class, and minimal concessions to fulfil capitalist ends cannot be assumed to be progressive. This is not sustainable. It is still exploitative. It is still inequality. It is still capitalism.





## SOC DEMS HAVE A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING FASCISTS

AH, Baile Átha Cliath

Georgi Dimitrov, the leader of the Communist International from 1934 to 1943 described fascism as “The power of finance capital itself. It is the organisation of terrorist vengeance against the working class and the revolutionary section of the peasant and intelligentsia. In foreign policy, fascism is jingoism in its most brutal form, fomenting bestial hatred of other nations”. It is crucial he notes equally, that “fascism and the fascist dictatorship itself, assume different forms in different countries, according to historical, social and economic conditions and to the national peculiarities..”. In identifying fascism as the most powerful consolidation of finance capital and unique to the conditions of each state, we can

trace how it develops and how social democratic countries permit it to develop.

The reason working class people, old and young are drawn to fascism and fascistic ideals is not because they're full of hatred or instinctively bigoted, the reason is whittled down to the problems capitalist society faces and social democracy facilitates. In order to uphold the private market, be it for employers or landlords, political decisions are taken that impoverish significant sections of the working class. In the 26 counties of Ireland for example, 760,000 people live in, what officially constitutes, poverty. In the 6 counties, that number is 300,000. One million people in 2020.

It is the contention of communists that poverty fuels fascism. In the absence of a coherent popular movement presenting a scientific and socialist programme for change, easy slogans about foreigners and other ethnic minorities, such as Muslims, become avenues to vent legitimate frustrations. This is precisely the strategy that has been undertaken by the National Party. They have pin-pointed the frustrations of working people and proceeded to direct these frustrations at other working people who happened to migrate here, follow a different creed or express their gender/sexuality outside the social norm.

The other important way in which social democratic society permits for the rise of fascism is in rehabilitating it as a movement, refusing to acknowledge its existence and ultimately allowing the institutional framework to be taken over by fascism. Fascists in social democratic countries have the right to express their ideas, to build hatred, to organise against ethnic minorities and groups, to spread disinformation and to run candidates. Social democrats, who often repeat the lie equating fascism and communism, are more than happy to give a few token statements, as they often do, but in reality will watch and

even make deals with fascists.

A recent event in Germany that went largely unreported saw Angela Merkel's successor leave her succession bid because her Christian Democratic Union party made a pact with the AfD (Alternative für Deutschland), a Party that openly agitates and spreads racist talking points. We have seen this all happen before and when social and economic crises engulf Europe once more, we will see it acutely and in front of us.

Once the social democratic parties in Ireland can no longer fulfil the needs of the ruling class, other organisations or factions of larger organisations will receive financial and political backing. In fact, as I write this, people such as Gemma O'Doherty, Ben Gilroy and those behind the 'news' site Gript.ie continue to court the anti-choice lobby in the United States for financial assistance. The fact of the matter is, is that the ruinous austerity of the establishment parties, the slide to the centre by Sinn Féin and away from its base of the working class, and the absence of a strong Communist movement, conditions are as ripe for our growth as they are for theirs and they are aware of this.

It is not far fetched nor beyond belief to see or believe that the National Party in the future would find itself making political pacts and horse trading with the other establishment parties. They are all opportunists and will not hesitate to do so irrespective of the blatant fascist characteristics of the NP.

As Dimitrov surmises, “the establishment of unity of action by all sections of the working class, irrespective of the party or organisation to which they belong, is necessary even before the majority of the working class is united in the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and the victory of the proletarian revolution”.





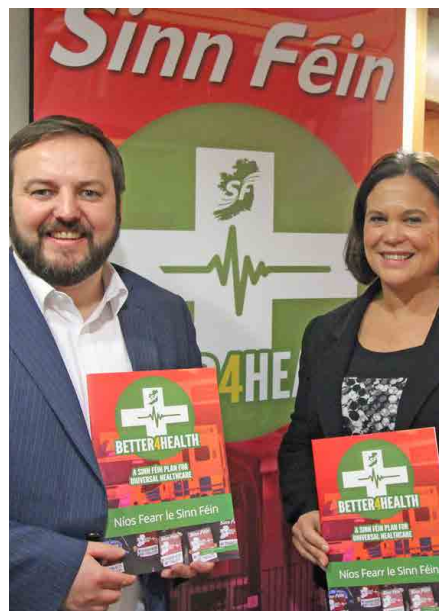


## THE SHINNER SURGE

CR, Béal Feirste

In the most recent general election in the 26 counties of Ireland, Sinn Féin gained a total of 15 seats on their previously held 22 seats, taking them to a total of 37. Furthermore, they received 24.5% of first preference votes, nothing to scoff at. Until recently, voting in Ireland was extremely familial – if your dad voted for Fianna Fáil, so would you. However, this has begun to shift dramatically. There has been much in the way of speculation as to why the election produced the results it did, according to Irish Times' Fintan O'Toole, for example, this was some nationalistic move, akin to Donald Trump's success. Sinn Féin's own explanation is that it was a rejection of the two "establishment" centre-right parties. However if this is the case, one must ask, why did Fianna Fáil return one seat more than Sinn Féin? Here's an alternative analysis.

An Irish Times poll concluded that the most important issues to the 2020 electorate were health (40%) and housing (32%). Here we can see the working class of Ireland recognise their position, they can see very clearly the problems capitalism produces, namely, the health and housing crises. Here Sinn Féin had the opportunity to exploit the gap in anti-austerity politics that Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil structurally support. Sinn Féin campaigned on a "new Ireland", an Ireland with universal healthcare, plenty of social (note that they say social, not public) housing, and while these are policies which would improve the material conditions of the working class, it must be understood that these changes will go as fast as they came when a further right wing government gets into power again.



A party which strives at reform of the capitalist system with no serious commitment to its end, reform, not revolution. The first significant problem with this position is that as we saw in Britain, these reforms will be torn down faster than they were brought in, as was done by Thatcher's government. Secondly, it does nothing to challenge the rife exploitation of workers inherent to capitalism, because of social democracy's inherent spinelessness, it merely seeks to make our chains softer, rather than break them as socialism does. This is clear through their austerity, their adminis-

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tration of British rule in Ireland, their encouragement of young people to join the colonial PSNI-RUC, their rejection of pay parity to nurses (until public and union pressure forced their hand), their members and MLAs buying up large swathes of west Belfast, the area with the highest child poverty in Europe, to extract profit and their inaction on anti-trade union legislation in the north. I have here outlined why Sinn Féin is not the solution to our current problems faces in Ireland, though I am not a nihilist in this situation, while we as communists reject electoralism, we must instead, agitate in the workplace and the home place, we must educate our peers, family, friends and co-workers on the situation in



Ireland under capitalism and the science of Marxism Leninism which will overthrow it and we must organise in trade and tenants unions, the working class will advance and protect their interests against the ongoing attacks by the state and the capitalist class. This is how our class will win victory in the red decade of the 2020s.





ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SIGNS OF OUR TIMES IS THE READINESS WITH WHICH OUR STRUGGLING MIDDLE CLASS TURNS TO SCHEMES OF STATE OR MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL, FOR RELIEF FROM THE ECONOMIC PRESSURE UNDER WHICH IT IS STRUGGLING. THUS WE FIND IN ENGLAND DEMANDS FOR THE NATIONALISATION OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM, FOR THE EXTENSION OF MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY, FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PARCEL SYSTEM IN THE POST OFFICE, FOR THE NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. IN IRELAND WE HAVE OUR MIDDLE CLASS REFORMERS DEMANDING STATE HELP FOR AGRICULTURE, STATE PURCHASE OF LANDS, ARTERIAL DRAINING, STATE CONSTRUCTION OF DOCKS, PIERS AND HARBOURS, STATE AID FOR THE FISHING INDUSTRY, STATE CONTROL OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL TENANT AND LANDLORD, AND ALSO NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. THERE IS A CERTAIN SECTION OF SOCIALISTS, CHIEFLY IN ENGLAND, WHO NEVER TIRE OF HAILING ALL SUCH DEMANDS FOR STATE ACTIVITY AS A SIGN OF THE GROWTH OF THE SOCIALIST SPIRIT AMONG THE MIDDLE CLASS, AND THEREFORE WORTHY OF ALL THE SUPPORT THE WORKING-CLASS DEMOCRACY CAN GIVE. IN SOME DEGREE SUCH A VIEW SEEMS JUSTIFIABLE. THE FACT THAT LARGE SECTIONS OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS JOIN IN DEMANDING THE INTERVENTION OF THE STATE IN INDUSTRY IS A SURE SIGN THAT THEY, AT LEAST, HAVE LOST THE OVERWEENING BELIEF IN THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WHICH CHARACTERISED THEIR CLASS A GENERATION AGO; AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE A MULTITUDE OF THINGS IN WHICH THE 'BRAIN', 'SELF-RELIANCE', AND 'PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY' OF THE CAPITALIST ARE ENTIRELY UNNECESSARY. TO ARGUE THAT, SINCE IN SUCH ENTERPRISES THE PRIVATE PROPERTY-HOLDER IS DISPENSED WITH, THEREFORE HE CAN BE DISPENSED WITH IN ALL OTHER FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY, IS LOGICAL ENOUGH AND WE REALLY FAIL TO SEE IN WHAT MANNER THE ADVOCATES OF CAPITALIST SOCIETY CAN CONTINUE TO CLAMOUR FOR SUCH STATE OWNERSHIP AS THAT ALLUDED TO - OWNERSHIP IN WHICH THE PRIVATE CAPITALIST IS SEEN TO BE SUPERFLUOUS, AND YET CONTINUE TO ARGUE THAT IN ALL OTHER FORMS OF INDUSTRY THE PRIVATE CAPITALIST IS INDISPENSABLE. FOR IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT EVERY FUNCTION OF A USEFUL CHARACTER PERFORMED BY THE STATE OR MUNICIPALITY TO-DAY WAS AT ONE TIME PERFORMED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FOR PROFIT, AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE THEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED BELIEF THAT IT COULD NOT BE SATISFACTORILY PERFORMED EXCEPT BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

BUT ALL THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE WOULD, WITHOUT UNDUE DESIRE TO CARP OR CAVIL, POINT OUT THAT TO CALL SUCH DEMANDS 'SOCIALISTIC' IS IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE MISLEADING. SOCIALISM PROPERLY IMPLIES ABOVE ALL THINGS THE CO-OPERATIVE CONTROL BY THE WORKERS OF THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION; WITHOUT THIS CO-OPERATIVE CONTROL THE PUBLIC OWNERSHIP BY THE STATE IS NOT SOCIALISM - IT IS ONLY STATE CAPITALISM. THE DEMANDS OF THE MIDDLE-CLASS REFORMERS, FROM THE RAILWAY REFORM LEAGUE DOWN, ARE SIMPLY PLANS TO FACILITATE THE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS. STATE TELEPHONES - TO CHEAPEN MESSAGES IN THE INTEREST OF THE MIDDLE CLASS WHO ARE THE PRINCIPAL USERS OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM; STATE RAILWAYS - TO CHEAPEN CARRIAGE OF GOODS IN THE INTEREST OF THE MIDDLE-CLASS TRADER; STATE-CONSTRUCTION OF PIERS, DOCKS, ETC. - IN THE INTEREST OF THE MIDDLE-CLASS MERCHANT; IN FACT EVERY SCHEME NOW ADVANCED IN WHICH THE HELP OF THE STATE IS INVOKED IS A SCHEME TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN OF THE CAPITALIST - TRADER, MANUFACTURER, OR FARMER.

IT WILL THUS BE SEEN THAT AN IMMENSE GULF SEPARATES THE 'NATIONALISING' PROPOSALS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS FROM THE 'SOCIALISING' DEMANDS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKING CLASS. TO THE CRY OF THE MIDDLE CLASS REFORMERS, "MAKE THIS OR THAT THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT," WE REPLY, "YES, IN PROPORTION AS THE WORKERS ARE READY TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT THEIR PROPERTY."

*State Monopoly versus Socialism, James Connolly, 1899*

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