

MAY DAY MEETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS 2008

Let's plan for a future

We are bombarded daily with messages that our lives are beset with major problems beyond our control, such as climate change or the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. Simultaneously it is suggested that the solution is multiple individual actions such as recycling tins or refusing carrier bags. In the case of the wars we are asked to accept that unpleasant as they are, Blair had to take the country to war because he knew it was the “right” thing to do.

We are also asked to worry about our “security”. Politicians tell us that they constantly worry about our security and as a result we must have the EU constitution, a European army, ID cards, CCTV cameras, more prisons, and more restrictive legislation. The ruling class is planning a future for us which will be ever more controlled (and which will multiply the opportunities for more “inadvertent” loss of our personal data).

The ruling class idea of security has nothing to do with what we need to keep us secure: water, food, energy supply, housing – and jobs. In fact, our ability as a nation to secure those absolute essentials of life is diminishing by the day. No amount of virtuous recycling by individuals can match an infrastructure which is so neglected that it leaks away more water than anyone can save. And we now import the majority of our energy requirements, so individual actions here will never address the problem.

On the 17 March 2008 the plunging stock market wiped about £8 billion off the value of the UK's 200 largest final salary pension schemes – a major part of our deferred wages wiped out at a stroke. Not only can the ruling class not provide for our security, just as Karl Marx predicted, it cannot control the monster it has created, finance capital.

So we say

- Problems created by the ruling class can be addressed by the working class here if we decide to do so.
- Let us define the REAL problems. When we talk about security we mean peace, security of water, energy and food, a place to live and the means and opportunity to produce to meet our needs.
- Collective action can solve problems and build a future.

Let's plan a working class future for Britain.

On the 40th anniversary of the founding of the CPBML, we invite you to attend our forthcoming May Day meetings – London and Edinburgh – for an evening of comradeship and celebration.

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