

socialist

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future

HIT BACK IN 2000!

WE ENTER the 21st century with growing international opposition to a world ruled by the multinational corporations and their political cronies. In Seattle, USA, tens of thousands of people from all over the world took part in protests in December against the World Trade Organisation, which is a club set up by the multinationals to promote their interests.

The WTO is desperate to expand its domination and control into developing countries, so that the rich capitalist nations can prosper at the expense of the developing countries.

At the same time, all they can offer people in the major countries is a future of more intense exploitation, with ruthless workplace conditions, longer hours and poor pay, particularly in Britain.

For example, 40% of all Europe's call-centre jobs are in Britain, because New Labour sees them as

BY THE EDITOR

the jobs of the future. And most involve CCTV monitoring of staff, time limits on how long they can spend in the toilet and long hours without a break.

In November, 8,000 BT workers went on strike against their call-centre conditions. While they earn a paltry £5.50 an hour, BT's chief executive recently got a pay rise to take him to a staggering £2.5 million a year, running a company which makes a profit of £98 a second.

In the financial year 1997-98 the average pay for a chief executive in Britain's largest 510 companies was £413,300 - 18 times more than their average worker. But when long term incentives are added, top executives receive £588,500 - 26 times more than their average employee. Blair's government spends all its time promoting the "enterprise economy", with tax breaks for

businessmen, while it cuts disability benefit, gives pensioners a measly 73p rise and deprives young people of benefit if they refuse to take slave wage jobs.

New Labour is propping up a system which is unstable at the core. Share prices continue to soar for Internet companies which have never made a profit. Meanwhile, the real economy is plunging into crisis. NatWest is shedding thousands of staff and the unions say they will resist. Germany's second biggest building firm Holzmann, has gone bankrupt, threatening the jobs of 50,000 workers and in Asia, car giants Nissan and Daewoo face collapse.

The global crisis and the mounting resistance to a system based on greed, should encourage us to make 2000 the year when we build a powerful movement in Britain and internationally to create a society based on co-operation not profit.■

Why Blair wants to stop Ken

TONY BLAIR has let the cat out of the bag about why he is desperate to stop Ken Livingstone from becoming mayor of London. The ballot for the selection of the candidate was, he said, about the "very heart and soul" of what New Labour is about and the "very essence of what we are about as a political party". There could be no return to the 1980s, he insisted.

In other words, a vote against Livingstone is demanded as an endorsement of New Labour, which has all but destroyed the heritage of the party's 100-year history. Blair has turned the ballot into a vote of confidence in New Labour and hopes to browbeat members and unions to back Downing Street's poodle, Frank Dobson.

New Labour is now a party of and for big business, which puts the interests of the multinationals first. It cannot be returned to the past because the basis of Old Labour has disappeared. Globalised capitalism stands above national borders and states and is not, therefore, subject to reform, which is what Old Labour stood for. That is why New Labour has emerged.

Livingstone's opposition to Tube privatisation is welcome, although his policy of selling bonds to raise funds for the system's improvement is no real substitute for substantial public funding.

We should support Livingstone's campaign for mayor in all ways we can, while seizing every chance to make the case for building an alternative to New Labour. ■

Chechnya's right to self-determination

RUSSIAN TROOPS are once again bombarding Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled the country for neighbouring regions.

The IMF-sponsored Yeltsin government has used the pretext of terrorist bomb blasts in Moscow to spread racist hysteria throughout Russia. Chechens, and darker-skinned peoples, are being expelled from Moscow and other areas of Russia.

The war against Chechnya harms the interests of the working people of both Russia and Chechnya. It promotes chauvinism in Russia while it kills large numbers of Chechens and ruins their country.

Chechnya was originally annexed to Tsarist Russia by force. The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 brought new policies of freedom and self-determination to the formerly oppressed nationalities in the Russian empire.

But under Stalin, the revolution decayed, and the regime no longer had anything to do with socialism or

Marxism. In 1944, Stalin ordered the deportation of all Chechens from Chechnya and the very name of this nationality was erased from Soviet literature.

Socialists must oppose "unity" imposed by tanks and artillery. As we approach the new millennium, the principle of the right to self-determination remains crucial in Chechnya as well as for other peoples, such as the Kurds and Palestinians.

At the same time, we should expose the hypocrisy of Nato, which sheds crocodile tears for the Chechens while giving Moscow financial and political support. The major powers thereby reveal the real motive for their bombing of Yugoslavia. It was everything to do with making the region safe for global corporations and nothing to do with the plight of the Kosovar Albanians. As the Chechens don't figure in these calculations and Moscow does, the displacement of 500,000 people doesn't concern the White House or Downing Street. ■

A REVOLUTIONARY LIFE

Gerry Healy

December 3, 1913 - December 14, 1989

THIS MONTH the *Socialist Future* editorial board commemorates ten years since the death of the revolutionary leader Gerry Healy.

Healy was born in Ireland and after a rudimentary education from the Christian Brothers, he came to Britain at the age of 14 to train as ships' radio operator. He joined the Communist Party on the ships where he worked. When he began to question the policies of the Stalinist Comintern, he was expelled from the party in 1937.

He did not leave politics but joined the Trotskyist movement and went on to become the most uncompromising Western Marxist revolutionary of the post-war period.

With the help of two Sri Lankans, Mike and Tony Banda, he built up New Park Publications to disseminate the writings of Trotsky and other revolutionaries.

In 1959 he founded the Socialist Labour League, which 10 years later launched the first daily Trotskyist newspaper in the world. Under his leadership, the SLL was transformed into the Workers Revolutionary Party. The WRP grew into a major force in Britain and internationally.

After the British miners' strike of 1984-1985 and upheavals within the WRP, Healy continued to carry out pioneering theoretical work. Between 1986 and 1989 he focused on developing materialist dialectics within the revolutionary movement in relation to the world economic crisis and the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

His ashes are buried in Highgate Cemetery, London, near the grave of Karl Marx. ■

Gerry Healy, a revolutionary life is available from Lupus Books, PO Box 942, London SW1V 2AR price £13.50 (inc. p&p)

MSF rally a major success

By an SF reporting team. Photos by Dean Holt and Ben Gold

Shape the future, our multi-media rally against the multinationals at the Africa Centre in London on November 21 proved a tremendous success. A variety of musicians, poets and speakers celebrated diversity and pledged their support for the struggle against the corporations which dominate the lives of everyone on the planet.

Many people joined the Movement for a Socialist Future at the rally, which had won sponsorship from the Fire Brigades Union, London Region, the Clapham branch of the UCATT building workers' union and the Mount Pleasant branch of the Communication Workers Union.

During the rally, people had a chance to look at a photographic exhibition by Dean Holt and a projected presentation of what the MSF stands for. Ian Saville, the socialist magician, brilliantly compered the five-hour event which featured Modeste Hugues, guitarist and singer from Madagascar, Tanzanian musician and poet Freddy Macha, Keith Waithe, flautist and vocalist extraordinaire and Kakatsitsi, a group of master drummers, dancers and singers from Ghana.

There was also lyrical and political poetry from Michael Horovitz and Harry Eyres. Horovitz read from his new work, *A New Waste Land: Britain at the Nillennium*, which is a trenchant attack on New Labour.

Speakers at the rally included Thomas Duermeier, a student leader from Bavaria; Mary Lewis, who is campaigning for the release of her wrongly convicted husband, Steve; Harrison Neenwi, from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni people and Bilal Akman of the North Caucasus Association, who spoke about the plight of the Chechen people.

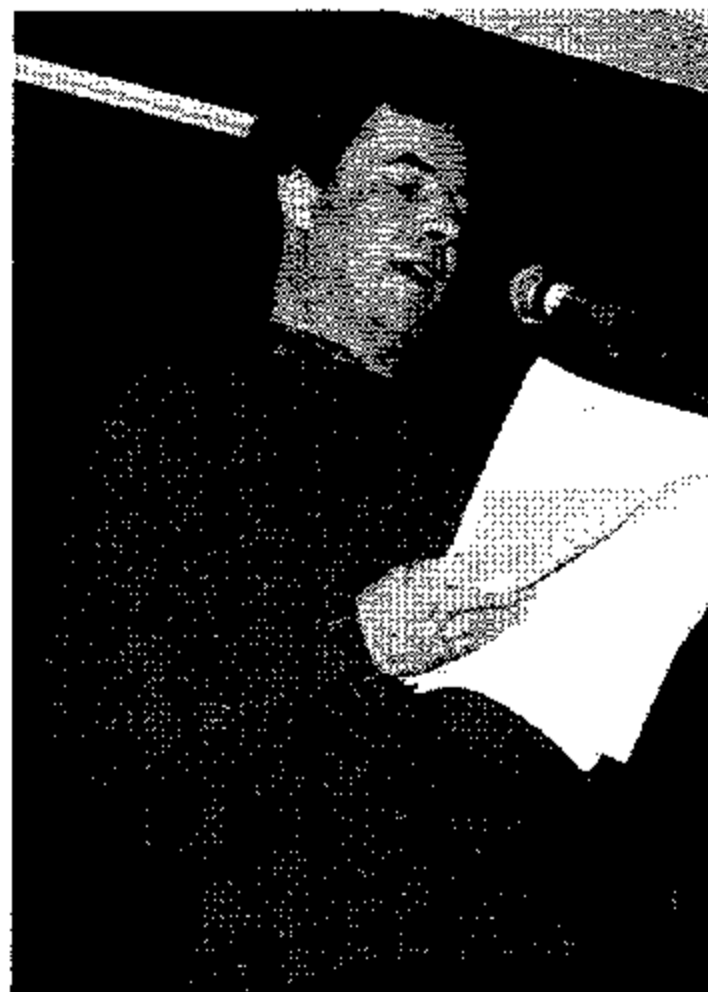
Bringing the speeches to a close were Adam Savant, from the music collective H.E.A.D.F.U.K, Ted Knight, former leader of Lambeth Council and Paul Feldman, editor of *Socialist Future*.

Full report on pages 4,5,6 & 7



"It was a good confluence, different people from a variety of backgrounds and ages with different preoccupations coming together. Some told me my work struck a cord with them. There was a sense of solidarity."

Michael Horovitz



Top: Michael Horovitz,
Left: Harry Eyres

"It was quite remarkable. I can't think of anything like this I have been to. Each speaker made a powerful contribution and gave an awareness of issues. Ted Knight was a powerful speaker and what he said struck a very deep chord in me."

Inge Elsa Laird

poet and co-editor of the magazine *New Departures*

SHAPE THE FUTURE

"There seems to be a networking and alliance building between anti-capitalist groups and an emphasis on what we have in common."

Steve Peake
Kakatsitsi's manager



"We must see the MSF as an alternative..."

Members and supporters of the MSF have to see themselves as the basis of an alternative to New Labour and global capitalism, **Paul Feldman**, editor of *Socialist Future* magazine told the rally.

"We live in a world where the multinationals rule our lives. More than half the world's biggest economies are in fact multinationals," he explained. "They have destroyed diversity, created frankenstein food and devoured the world's resources."

"They have commercialised everything and made everything dependent on the operation of market forces and profit. They have taken us to the edge of an environmental catastrophe with global warming."

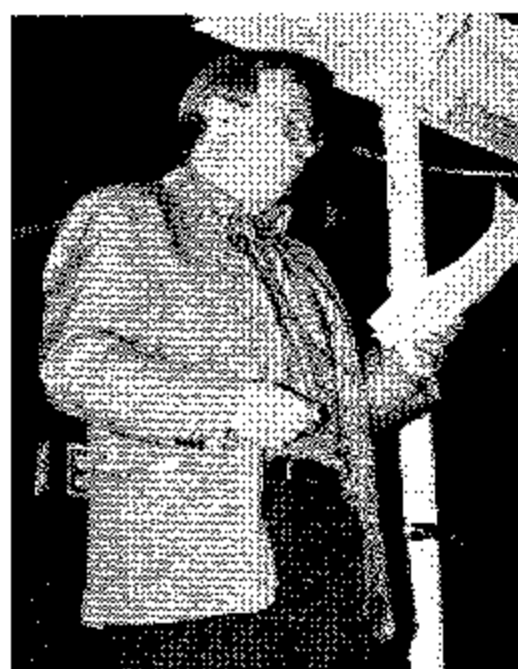
Feldman said New Labour was a "plaything" of the multinationals "This is a government of big business which is destroying the Old

Labour party and is ready for coalition with the Liberal Democrats and even some Tories."

He went on to describe the authoritarian state that New Labour is constructing, with the police – who are now Blair's "Boot Boys" – getting powers to intercept e-mails, take DNA samples and jail more people.

"Why? Because they are frightened. The system dominated by global corporations is unsustainable and is increasingly hated by vast numbers all over the world."

The system had to be swept away and replaced by a society based on co-operation not profit. To do that we had to build a powerful movement that is an alternative to the status quo, he added.



Paul Feldman

"It's a movement and not yet a party, which gives you a chance to say what kind of party we should launch in the 21st century to challenge the system in every way. But surely it must be a party that says that parliament is a fraud, that we don't have real democracy in Britain

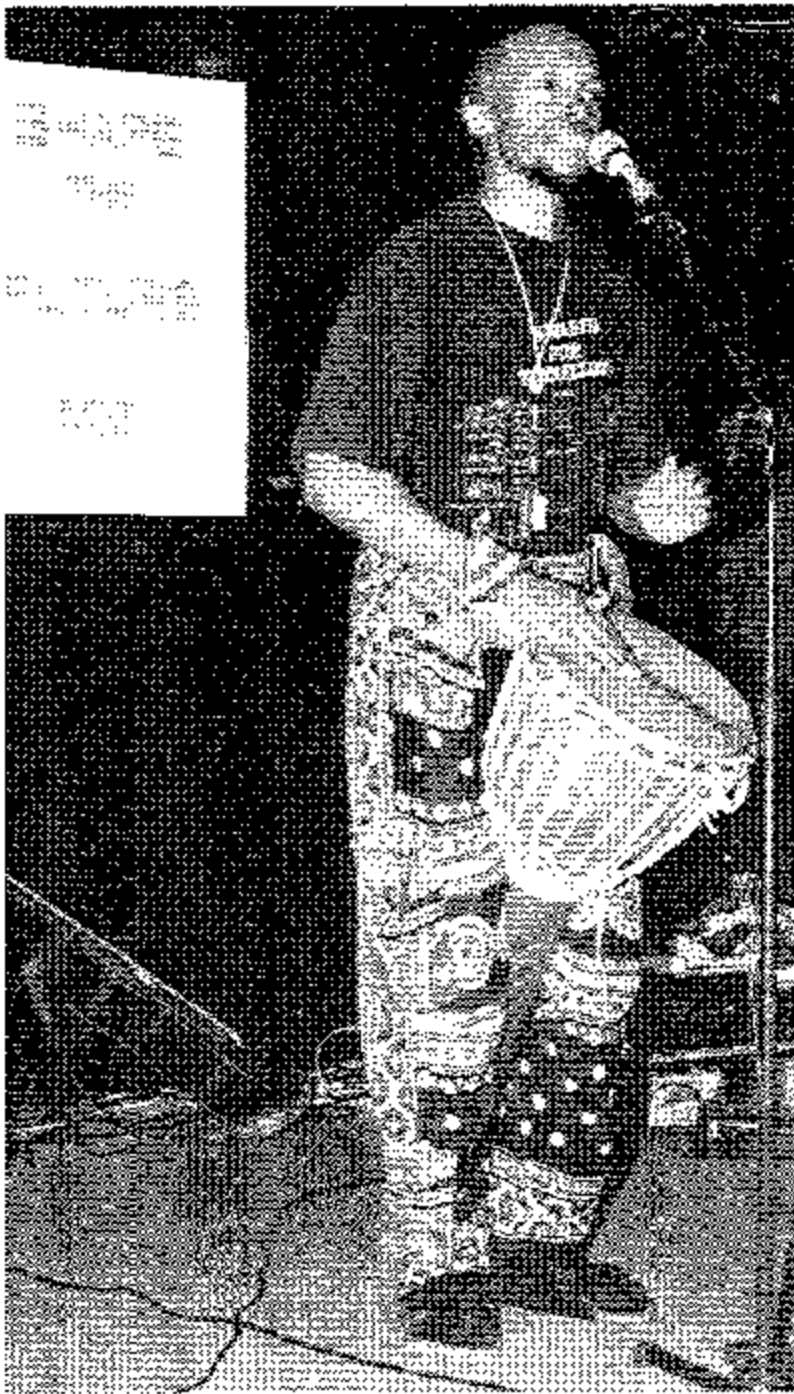
"A party that says the power of the multinationals has to pass into the hands of the people who work in them and who consume what they produce. Then we can use the technology and resources to create a society based on need and not greed."

"Fighting for values and principles..."

Ted Knight, former leader of Lambeth Council, said that as a member of the Labour Party, he was part of a group waging a fight for principles against its leadership.

He pointed out that the party,

SHAPE THE FUTURE



"For me it was more than a political event; it was also a very good cultural and very informative event. I enjoyed participating."

Freddy Macha



"I was very happy to be involved and for people to hear my music. The event also provided me with a wonderful opportunity to meet different musicians. Most of all it was brilliant for me to hear what people were saying about real things.

The ability to turn the talking into practice is much more difficult but it was great to hear all these things."

Modeste Hugues

which was created by working people to advance their interests, would soon celebrate 100 years of its existence. "Undoubtedly, over the years, the Labour Party was able to bring about changes within the structures of society.

"That has changed. And the importance of the change has got to be understood," Knight emphasised. The integration of British companies into the globalisation process had brought dramatic changes, not just inside the Tory Party but within Labour itself.

People had voted in their millions in May, 1997 to throw out the Conservatives in order to bring about changes in



Ted Knight

society. But the Blair project had taken over. Opposition within the Labour Party was silenced.

"Values and principles were pushed to one side. The class war was declared dead, finished. Now what is important is for us to move forward with the employers in a partnership which will benefit us all, we are told.

"Labour, under the Blair project, has become an uncritical admirer of unbridled capitalism, desperate to pave a way for capitalism to make its headway. New Labour treads ground which even the Tories were frightened to touch."

People did react, however. The battle over Ken Livingstone's right to stand as candidate for mayor was significant. It was not a media struggle, but a real one, which needed support, Knight said.

"It isn't acceptable that this Labour Party, which was created by workers as a voice for them, should be allowed to be taken over and to destroy what it previously stood for.

"Whether it can be won back or not is a big issue. Perhaps it can't.

While we fight back we should have no illusions. We should say it is necessary to have an alternative, to build an alternative."

"We need a movement to bring us together..."

Adam Savant, from the music collective H.E.A.D.F.U.K, told the rally how the group encouraged self-expression and challenged the status quo by occupying buildings in which to hold parties.

"The subversive nature of the events can be a powerful influence on people," he explained. "We also have a long history of direct action. The party network is a unifying activity for all involved."

The network had the power to bring thousands of anti-capitalist supporters together.

But there was a lack of coordinated action. ☹



Keith Waithe Duo

International

Ireland

Frank Hayes sent revolutionary greetings from Ireland, saying: "Real music and real art express the living reality of of this moment of world history. It stands in sharp contrast to the diet of irrelevant commercial pap which the global 'entertainments industry' shoves out 24 hours a day."

He added: "In Ireland, just like everywhere else, the globalisation of big business makes a tiny group richer every hour while most of us get relatively poorer. In the end, Irish society ceases to provide the basic needs of the people as the capitalist government jumps to the order of the transnational corporations." ■

"Huge amounts of activity take place nationwide but the effect is lost through the absence of a collective banner."

That is why the concept of the MSF was important, Savant added. "We need a movement to bring together all the revolutionary forces and those involved in counter-culture."

"One law for the rich..."

Mary Lewis spoke about her campaign to expose the frame-up of her husband, Steve, falsely accused and convicted of two rapes in east London and sentenced to 15 years in jail. She revealed how the prosecution had not made vital DNA samples available to the defence, and the way in which reliable witnesses were disbelieved.

Mary accused the system of corruption and said there was collusion between police, some

lawyers and the forensic science service.

"It's one law for the rich and another for the poor in this country," she said. "If Steve had had money, he would not be in prison today."



Mary Lewis

"We are not terrorists..."

Bilal Akman of the North Caucasus Association, spoke about the position facing the Chechen people as they came under attack by the Russian army. He described the unspeakable suffering of the people, with women having to give birth in

tents in sub-zero temperatures.

"We are labelled as 'terrorists' by Yeltsin to justify what is happening. But that is a lie. We are a proud people and not terrorists."

The Chechens, he said, had fought for hundreds of years for their independence from Russia and would eventually achieve it.

"Opposition to MAI growing..."

Thomas Duermeier, a leader of the student movement in Bavaria, Germany, explained how it was campaigning against the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which was aimed at undermining the developing world's economies.

He showed how the details of the MAI had been kept secret from members of parliament in Canada, and even in Germany. It had become an issue in the Canadian elections because the country had already

greetings to the rally

Russia

Sergei Novikov, a member of the Political Council of the Russian Party of Communists said: "Transnationals invent and create needs and then impose on us these artificial needs by means of the mass media they control. They want us live as they want, love as they want, wear what they want us to wear, sing what they want us to sing, think and feel how they want us to."

The invasion of the transnationals was particularly humiliating in the former Soviet Union. Moscow, Leningrad and other cities were swamped by foreign advertisements, and many people felt it was like in an occupied country.

His message spoke of the occupation by workers of the Vyborg pulp and paper mill, who had resisted armed attack. Novikov added: "The transnationals may be smashed but only by a radical change of the old order of things for a new, socialist one. But for this we must organise not only within, but also over national borders in a new anti-imperialist International fighting for a new socialist future for the whole mankind." ■

Mauritius

Marie Aubeelock, secretary-general of the People's Party in Mauritius, explained how the government had "bought and bribed" its way to win a recent by-election on the island. Meanwhile, multinational developers were ruining the environment while the government stood by. "We encourage you to keep up the fight without let-up to bring down global capitalism. We are convinced that the liberation of workers worldwide from this nightmare created by corporate globalisation cannot and will not fail." ■

suffered from the North American Free Trade Agreement. "In Germany we now have a coalition between the Social Democrats and Greens. But they carry on with neo-liberal policies and go on with this project," he said.

But there is a growing international movement against the multinationals, which is helped by the use of the Internet, he added.

Duermeier described the struggles students had put up in 1997 against tuition fees and for more resources for education. The universities, he explained, are badly overcrowded and in one place there were 300 students on a course intended for 30.



Thomas Duermeier

Over 150 universities came out on strike. In Regensburg, his own university, there was the biggest demonstration since the war, with 8,000 on the streets.

"Help us to defeat Shell..."

Harrison Neenwi, from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, told the rally about the struggle of his people against the multinational Shell oil company. He explained how Shell had collaborated with military regimes to plunder the area, destroying the eco-structure in the process. "All they are interested in is profit, nothing else," he told the rally.

The company stood back when activist Ken Saro-Wiwa was framed and judicially murdered, along with his comrades. Shell had helped supply the regime with weapons in exchange for the right to extract oil.

"When you buy Shell petrol you

are giving them blood money," said Neenwi. "We are demanding that the company restores the environment to the way it was before they did all their damage.

"The Ogoni people have rights and we will continue our fight for as long as we have to."

"Welcome to this unique event..."

Corinna Lotz, the secretary of the MSF, reported that all the artists and performers were giving their services and talents free, and speakers had travelled long distances. "In a world of globalisation, we should be working towards co-operation. Instead, we witness the annihilation of people like the innocent population of Chechnya. Our event is important for these reasons." She urged the audience to join the MSF, and help create a future based on co-operation not profit. ■

A CENTURY OF STRUGGLE.

As the Millennium approaches, *Socialist Future* has compiled a summary of the century's key historical events, which highlights a hundred years of struggle for socialism, self-determination and democratic rights.

- 1900** Formation of the Labour Party in Britain; Boxer Rebellion in China
- 1902** Australian women win right to vote
- 1903** Bolshevik faction emerges in Russian Social Democracy
Emmeline Pankhurst forms National Women's Social and Political Union
- 1905** Revolution in Russia fails to overthrow Tsar
International Workers of the World created in America
- 1906** 60 Labour MPs voted into Parliament
Revolution in Persia
- 1907** Peasant revolt in Rumania
- 1910** Mexican revolution begins
- 1911** Miners shot at Tonypandy, South Wales
- 1912** ANC set up in South Africa
- 1913** Great strike wave in Dublin led by Larkin
- 1914** First World War begins
- 1915** Zimmerwald conference of socialists opposed to war
- 1916** Easter Uprising in Ireland
Arab revolts against Turkish rule



Red Guards 1917

- 1917** Tsar overthrown in Russia
Bolshevik Revolution
- 1918** First World War ends
Revolutions in Austro-Hungarian empire, in Bavaria, Germany, Austria and Finland
Single women over 30 and

- married women over 35 win vote in Britain
- 1919** Founding of Third Communist International in Moscow
Revolutionary leaders Luxemburg and Liebknecht murdered in Berlin
Soviet power established in Hungary
General strike on Clydeside - tanks in George Square
Wars of Intervention launched against Soviet Russia
American women win the vote
- 1921** Chinese Communist Party created
- 1922** Soviet Union established
Irish Free State created
Turkish Ottoman sultan deposed, republic declared
- 1923** Revolutionary uprising in Germany
- 1924** Death of Lenin
Minority Labour government in Britain
- 1925** Syrian revolt against France
- 1926** British General Strike
- 1927** Revolutionary struggles in China
- 1928** Gandhi becomes leader of Indian Congress, which calls for independence
Universal adult suffrage in Britain
- 1929** Wall Street crash precipitates world slump
Trotsky expelled from USSR
- 1931** Labour forms national government with Tories
- 1933** Hitler takes power in Germany
- 1934** Long March of Chinese Communists begins
- 1936** Spanish Civil War begins
Strike wave/occupations in France
Palestinian uprising against

- British rule
East London workers halt fascist march led by Mosley
- 1937** A wave of sit-down strikes begins in US car industry
Tunisian uprising against French rule
- 1938** Founding conference of Fourth International
Congress of Industrial Organisations created in USA
- 1939** Nationalists defeat Republicans in Spain
Nazi-Soviet pact
Second World War begins
- 1940** Assassination of Trotsky
- 1942** Nazi army defeated at Stalingrad
- 1943** Red Army wins major tank battle at Kursk
Stalin dissolves the Third International



French resistance fighters

- 1944** Allies invade Normandy
- 1945** End of Second World War
First majority Labour government - NHS set up; welfare reforms
Women win the vote in France
- 1946** Civil War in China and Greece
Vietnamese struggle against France begins
Syria gains independence from France
Women win the vote in Italy

WARS AND REVOLUTIONS

- 1947** India and Pakistan win independence
Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria become part of Soviet bloc
Tito takes power in Yugoslavia
- 1948** Burma and Ceylon become independent
Tito breaks with Stalin
- 1949** Communist victory in China
Indonesia independent
- 1950** Start of Korean war
- 1951** Mossadeq nationalises oil in Iran
- 1952** Beginning of Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya
- 1953** East Berlin and Polish workers rise up against Stalinism; Stalin dies
- 1954** Start of nationalist revolt in Algeria
King Farouk overthrown in Egypt by Colonel Nasser
Vietnamese defeat French army at Dien Bien Phu
- 1956** Nasser nationalises Suez Canal. Britain and France invade Egypt
Khrushchev denounces Stalin in secret speech
Hungarian and Polish workers revolt
Independence for Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia
- 1957** Ghana wins independence
- 1958** Ho Chi Minh launches guerilla war to reunite Vietnam
- 1959** Cuban Revolution led by Castro
Singapore independent
- 1960** Sharpeville massacre
Independence for many African states
- 1961** Launch of Civil Rights movement in southern USA
- 1962** Algeria, Jamaica, Trinidad win independence
Vietnam war begins

- 1964** Palestine Liberation Organisation set up by Yasser Arafat
- 1966** Seamen's strike in Britain
- 1967** Black workers revolt in US cities
- 1968** General strike in France, student revolt throughout Europe
"Prague Spring" crushed by Soviet tanks
Tet offensive in Vietnam against US forces
Civil Rights movement starts in north of Ireland
- 1969** British troops occupy north of Ireland
Revolution in Libya
- 1971** End of Bretton Woods post-war currency agreement by United States
Independence for Bangladesh
- 1972** Bloody Sunday in Derry with 13 marchers shot dead by British troops
Dockers jailed in Britain, TUC threatens General Strike
- 1974** Miners' strike brings down Heath government in Britain; oil prices triple and inflationary slump starts
Revolution overthrows fascism in Portugal
- 1975** Americans defeated in Vietnam, which is reunified
End of dictatorship in Spain
Mozambique and Angola win independence
Revolution in Nicaragua
- 1979** Shah of Iran overthrown
Thatcher comes to power
- 1980** Solidarity trade union movement launched in Poland
Black majority rule established in Zimbabwe
- 1984** Miners' strike for jobs in Britain



Women of the Intifada

- 1985** Miners' strike ends
Gorbachev becomes general secretary of Soviet Communist Party
- 1986** Perestroika and glasnost launched in Soviet Union
- 1987** World stock markets crash
"Intifada" revolt begins in occupied West Bank and Gaza
- 1989** Stalinist regimes in Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and East Germany toppled. Polish and Hungarian regimes crumble. Berlin Wall comes down
Revolt by students and workers in China
- 1990** Mandela released from prison in South Africa
Huge anti-Poll Tax demonstration in Britain
Namibian independence
- 1991** End of the Soviet Union. Yeltsin seizes power
War in former Yugoslavia
- 1993** Yeltsin bombards Russian Parliament
Eritrea wins independence from Ethiopia
- 1994** ANC wins South African elections. Mandela is president
- 1997** New Labour sends Tories to worst defeat since 1832
Strike wave in South Korea
- 1998** Suharto overthrown by mass revolt in Indonesia
- 1999** East Timor wins independence ■

Six women who shook the world

Amazons of the avant-garde: Exter, Goncharova, Popova, Rozanova, Stepanova, Udaltsova

Review by Corinna Lotz

THIS SPARKLING group of paintings is a great way to brighten up a dark December day.

Far from being historical artefacts, they shimmer and dance before the eyes with jewel-like colours. Each artist has a distinct personality as shown by the wonderfully crafted and textured paintings on canvas and wood.

More than that, these works are lasting evidence of a unique period in the history of our century. For the first time, certainly in Europe, north America and the far-flung Russian empire, women played a key role in a decisive artistic movement.

This fact continues to astonish as illustrated by Norman Rosenthal of the Royal Academy who opened the show: "These were not women," he said emphatically, "they were artists."

He was right to stress that the six painters on display were artists first and foremost. But they were special because their work was on an equal level, and sometimes even higher than that of their male contemporaries, who were often also their partners.

It was perhaps because they did *not* consider themselves as a "women's movement" or "feminists" that they became so great. Why, historian Ekaterina Dyogot asks in the exhibition catalogue, *have* there been great women artists?

The answer for the "Amazons", as they were dubbed, lies in the special cultural conditions which arose in Russia during the early years of this century. At the top of society was the repressive Tsarist autocracy which continued to live in

the images of medievalism and religious orthodoxy.

But below the decadent aristocracy, a revolution was taking place in the world of art and culture in and around Moscow and St Petersburg.

It was to these centres that the women in this exhibition were drawn. All except Stepanova came from wealthy families and had economic independence.

They were amongst the "new women" who began to appear at this time – independent females who began to enter professions such as medicine, law and art.

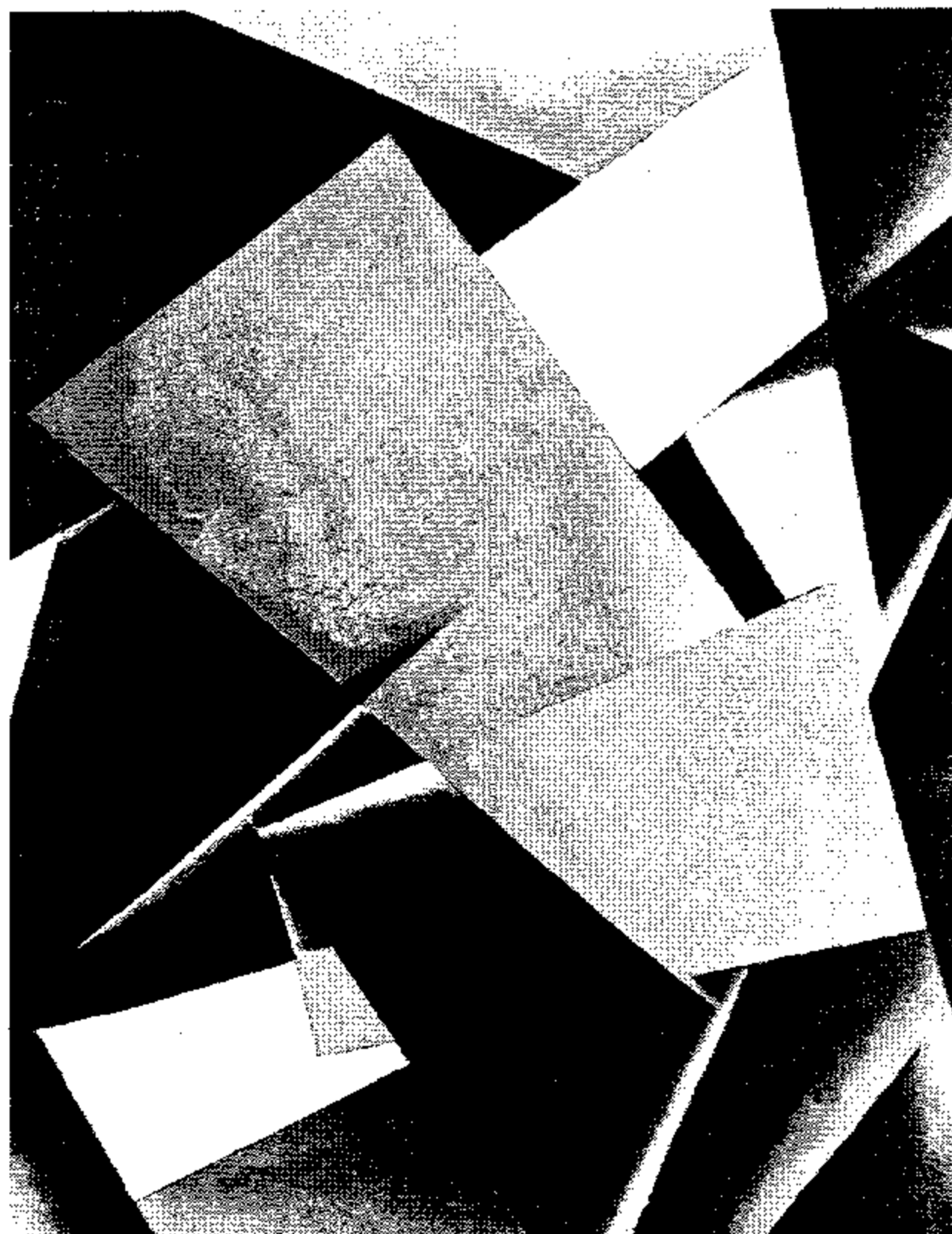
They travelled extensively through Europe, many working as artists in Paris, which in the pre-war

years was a crucible of the modern movement. Their paintings from 1912-1915 show a fruitful symbiosis between Russian and European avant-garde movements.

All six were inspired by the Cubism of Picasso and Braque. The Cubo-Futurist break-down of forms passes over to a synthetic simplification of planes. They took part in a revolution in art which one of its first historians, Camilla Gray, called *The Great Experiment*.

This ran parallel to the social and political changes in Russia between 1905 and 1917, and in many ways foreshadowed the Bolshevik revolution.

Olga Rozanova's *Non-Objective Compositions* of 1916 are works of



Exhibitions around London

Observers: Five Painters: Cuillin Bantock, Graham Boyd, Germaine Dolan, Sheila Girling, Shirley O'Neill. At deliART the deliBAR, 117 Charterhouse Street, EC1 near Charterhouse Square.

Open Monday-Friday 8am-8pm
Saturday 10am-6pm Tel: 0181 340 5667. Until January 8.

CRW Nevinson The Twentieth Century at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. Largest-ever showing of this futurist-inspired British artist highlights the dynamism of the big city, war and daily life.

Tel: 020 7416 5320 (enquiries)
www.iwm.org.uk Until January 30.

Christmas at the National Gallery includes *Millennium Bugs...and other Beasties* gallery trail for children, concerts, lectures and guided tours. *Renaissance Florence: the art of the 1470s* in the Sainsbury Wing until 16 January.

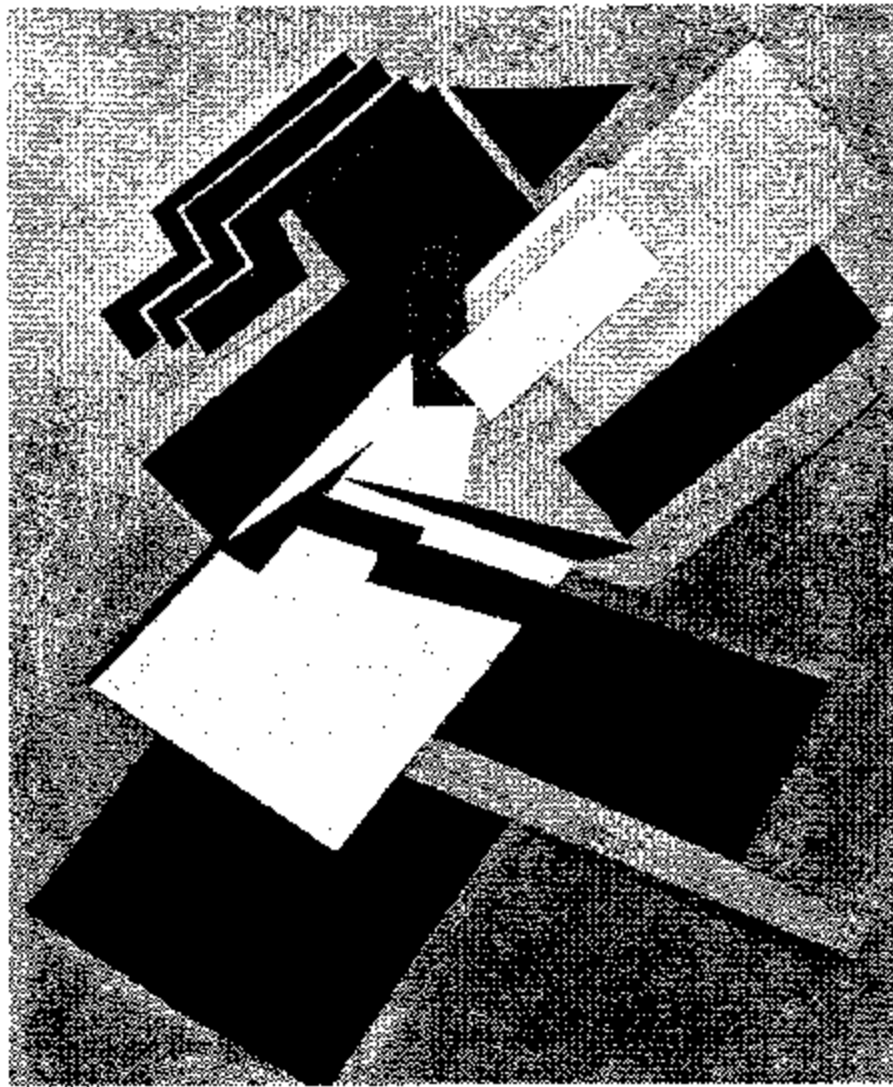
Information Tel: 0171 747 2885
www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Magnum our turning world photographs 1989-1999

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Magnum, 400 photographs explore events since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Barbican Art Gallery until March 12. Tel: 020 7638 8891. Barbican Art Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2. www.barbican.org.uk

Kenya: Promised Land? looks at the rifts in Kenyan Society through photographs by Geoff Sayer. An Oxfam country profile at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1. Tel: 0171 326 6230. Email: gallery@soas.ac.uk. www.soas.ac.uk/gallery. Until Dec. 10 and 20 January-24 March. Free admission. ■

Left: Liubov Popova *Painterly Architectonics*, 1918. Below: Olga Rozanova *Non-Objective Composition (Suprematism)* 1916. Bottom: Varvara Stepanova photographed by Alexander Rodchenko, 1924



grandeur and beauty rivalling those of Kandinsky and Malevich. In 1917, the year of the successful socialist revolution, she made *Green Stripe*, one of the most daring simplifications of abstract form ever. The simple vertical band shimmers at the edges, vibrating in the white space around it. The intense green at the centre seems to

move within a translucent skin. While it first appears straight up and down there are subtle variations of colour which give the painting a mysterious organic feeling.

While Rozanova achieved a high sense of pictorial movement, Popova specialised in what she termed *Painterly Architectonics*. The play of spatial planes and illusions of three dimensions appear in the most powerful way in her canvases from 1917-1921.

For a few years, between 1917 and the death of Lenin in 1924, freedom and new ideas transformed all the arts – embracing painting, sculpture, architecture, music, theatre, textile design, poetry and literature.

The artistic innovation which began with pioneering artists such as Goncharova suddenly acquired a much broader, popular scope which broke free from the moneyed middle classes and sought to transform the life of the masses.

The subsequent fate of the "Amazons" is a microcosm of what happened to the avant-garde of the revolution itself. Out of the six, Rozanova and Popova died tragically young of illness, Goncharova and Exter remained abroad. Udaltsova's father was killed in 1918 and her husband executed in 1938. She and Stepanova played down their involvement with the avant-garde as the Stalinist terror set in. ■

*Amazons is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly until 6 February. Open daily 10am - 6pm. Late opening Fridays until 8.30pm. Tel 0171 300 5760/0. www.royalacademy.org.uk Admission £6.50/£5/£4.50.

Students march against New Labour

By a Socialist Future reporting team

THE FIRST official demonstration by students against the government's policies rallied over 8,000 marchers in London on November 25.

Called by the National Union of Students and supported by college trade unions, slogans demanded the return of grants and scrapping of tuition fees.

Shelley Donaghue, president of King Alfred's college in Winchester was on the demonstration with a banner from her college. "Students can't afford to go to college anymore," she said. "It's turning into how it used to be. Only the elite can afford to go to university. It's a shame that it should be a Labour government that has introduced tuition fees. It's pathetic. It's quite easy to be cynical. Blair's just gone back on what he said. You are going to get those students who fall down the crack in the middle. Students whose parents haven't got enough money can't afford to go."

Lottie, Sarah and Clare from University College London joined the march because tuition fees "create bigger and bigger divisions between those who have money and those who don't".

"We're meant to have a mixed economy and therefore we should have free education and a free health service and equal

opportunities. The fact is that most of us are going to come out of university with £14,000 of debt."

Darren Stoller of City and Islington College, north London said that when he was 18 years old, students could get grants to go to university.



"Now over the years it has turned into loans, and now there are tuition fees with no help from the government," he said. "Tuition fees should be scrapped and grants brought back. If they want people to better themselves, they have to help towards it."

"If we have to pay for our education that shows that they are not helping us. Health and education are basic rights that a government should provide. Health is falling down, just look at the NHS, and look at education."

● Drop-out rates at some universities have reached 40%. The highest rates are to be found at those universities with students from poorer backgrounds, according to official figures. Around 50,000 students leave after just one year. ■

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- use technology to improve people's lives

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