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Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

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There Is No Parliamentary Road to Socialism

NEWSFLASH:- No matter who you vote for the (bourgeois) government will get in.

Parliamentary elections in Australia are a sham. Eligible voters in the forthcoming Federal election are supposed to make their non-choice between Tweedledee, Tweedledum or one of the Tweedledumbers posing as an 'alternative'.

Election '98 is controlled by the bourgeoisie. Its real purpose is to legitimise the system and the policies and actions of the ruling class, giving them the mantle of a "popular mandate", and of limiting and controlling the political activity of the masses of people.

No really fundamental change ever happened in this social system because of voting or elections. The whole Australian parliamentary set-up is a cover for the domination over the exploited and oppressed by the Australian monopoly capitalist ruling class (bourgeoisie).

How does real change happen? It comes through struggle — through uniting people to do what needs to be done to expose and oppose those who oppress the people.

Intense struggle by the people is what forces the Australian ruling class to grant concessions. Political and social change in Australia was forced through by struggle, not by voting. Those old enough to remember can recall that Labor's great god Whitlam rode into power on the back of the people's struggle of the sixties and early seventies.

Australia and its political leaders are not fundamentally controlled or even particularly influenced by the desires of voters. It is the other way around: the election time is when the broad population is trained to accept and support those policies that the ruling class intends to carry out.

Sometimes the Australian ruling class install Labor, at other times its the Liberal Coalition. Some people voted for Labor during the Hawke-Keating years thinking that Labor would bring progressive changes. Did those votes for Labor bring any positive changes? One needs only to ask the question to answer it.

And now some self-described socialists are calling to "throw the Liberals out". That's just another way of saying "vote Labor." The minor "differences" between Tweedledee and Tweedledum ought to fool no one. Think back to the Liberal years of Fraser and the subsequent Labor years of Hawke and Keating — the basic conditions of life for those on the bottom of society were no different!

Lenin pointed out that by virtue of its fundamental economic traits, capitalism in its monopoly stage (Imperialism) is distinguished "by a minimum attachment for peace and freedom, and by a maximum and universal development of militarism". "To fail to notice

this" in the discussion of the question of peaceful or violent change is "to stoop to the position of a common or garden variety lackey of the bourgeoisie."

The idea of the "parliamentary road" which is still publicized by various phoney communists and fake socialists was thoroughly refuted by Lenin and discredited long ago.

Events since World War II have demonstrated yet again that the chief component of the bourgeois state machine is armed force and not parliament. Parliament is only an ornament and a screen for bourgeois rule. To adopt or discard the parliamentary system, to grant parliament greater or less power, to adopt one kind of electoral law or another — the choice between these alternatives is always dictated by the needs and interests of bourgeois rule. So long as the bourgeoisie controls the military-bureaucratic apparatus, either the acquisition of a "stable majority in parliament" by the proletariat through elections is impossible, or this "stable majority" is un dependable. To realize socialism through the "parliamentary road" is utterly impossible and is mere deceptive talk.

Even if in certain circumstances a Communist Party should win a majority of the seats in parliament or participate in the government as a result of an electoral victory, it would not change the bourgeois nature of parliament or government, still less would it mean the smashing of the old and the establishment of a new state machine. It is absolutely impossible to bring about a fundamental social change by relying on bourgeois parliaments or governments. With the state machine under its control the reactionary bourgeoisie can nullify elections, dissolve parliament, expel Communists from the government, outlaw the Communist Party and resort to brute force to suppress the masses and the progressive forces.

When a workers' party degenerates and becomes a hireling of the bourgeoisie, the latter may permit it to have a majority in parliament and to form a government. This sort of thing only serves to safeguard and consolidate the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

Events since World War II have also shown that if Communist leaders betray the parliamentary road and fall victim to the incurable disease of "parliamentary cretinism", they will not only get nowhere but will inevitably sink into the quagmire of revisionism and — ruin the revolutionary cause of the proletariat.

The concluding words of the Communist Manifesto say it all:

The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. PROLETARIANS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

VIOLENT REVOLUTION IS A UNIVERSAL LAW OF PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

The key question in every revolution is that of state power. And the key question in the proletarian revolution is that of the seizure of state power and the smashing of the bourgeois state machine by violence, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the replacement of the bourgeois state by the proletarian state.

Marxism has always proclaimed the inevitability of violent revolution. It points out that violent revolution is the midwife to socialist society, the only road to the replacement of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie by the dictatorship of the proletariat, and a universal law of proletarian revolution.

Marxism teaches us that the state itself is a form of violence. The main components of the state machine are the army and the police. History shows that all ruling classes depend upon violence to maintain their rule.

The proletariat would, of course, prefer to gain power by peaceful means. But abundant historical evidence indicates that the reactionary classes never give up power voluntarily and that they are always the first to use violence to repress the revolutionary mass movement and to provoke civil war, thus placing armed struggle on the agenda.

Hence Comrade Mao Tse-tung's celebrated observation that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun".

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