

AUTUMN / FÓMHAR 2019

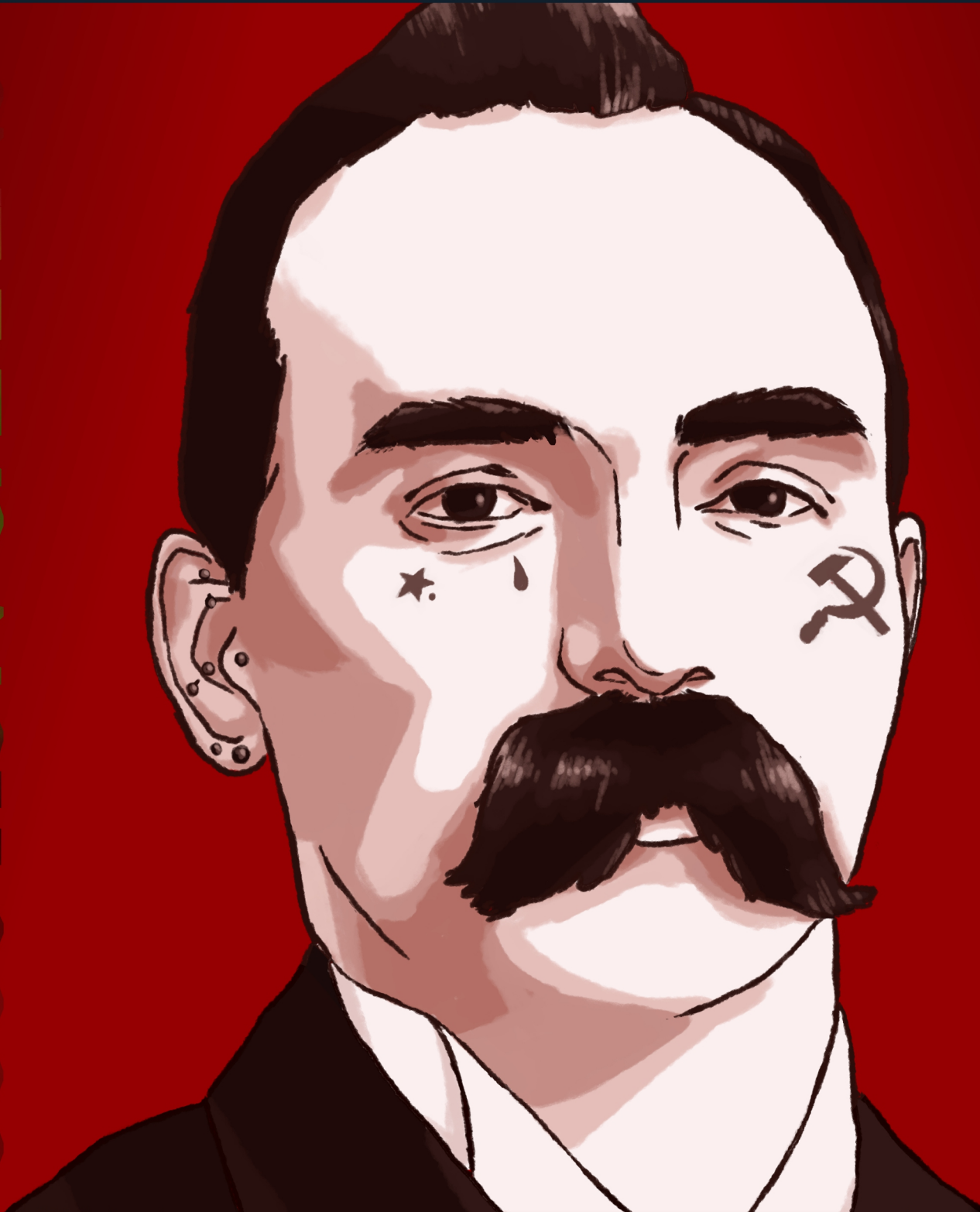
FORWARD #28

A YOUNG VOICE FOR SOCIALISM



Eco-Austerity - Pink Capitalism is Anti-Queer - Elections vs Direct Action

ELECTION-EARRING



CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT

What Connolly Teaches Us About Elections

The recent results of the local and European elections were a brief insight into how each political party is performing, what is the level of engagement of the working class with the electoral process and which messages are resonating from which political parties. The main conclusions to draw before dissecting the rest are as follows:

1. The combined results for the parties most representative of the interests of the ruling class remained largely the same.
Fianna Fáil
(2014 - 267 seats | 2019 - 279 seats)
Fine Gael
(2014 - 235 seats | 2019 - 255 seats)
Labour Party
(2014 - 51 seats | 2019 - 57 seats)
These results for the major establishment parties bring their combined voter support to about 60% of the total vote in 2014. Roughly the same if not a little bit more. What's interesting to note however is who turned out to vote.

2. Voter turnout in 2014 was 51.6% or 1,711,930 people. Down 200,000 from the 2009 Local / European election. Voter turnout in 2019 was 49.7%, once more slightly decreased.

The above two points demonstrate that there's certainly a set bloc of people who come out to vote and, generally speaking, don't really change their vote that much. 2019 had some exceptions as the Green Party was extremely transfer friendly and the Sinn Féin vote halved. Pundits commenting on the election have outlined that the working class didn't turn out to vote and I'm inclined to agree.

It has been argued that these demographics didn't vote because they are apathetic to the outcome of the vote or do not feel or see the results of this vote themselves. This argument is extremely accurate although inaccurate to suggest that 'if they had they come out and voted' their lives would have been fundamentally altered. The structure of the local authority is one that is governed by a very short section in the 1937 Constitution: Article 28A explains how effectively local government is deferential to 'determinations by law'. What this means is that the Dail writes legislation that determines how local government is run. At this moment in time, local government is run by centrally appointed County

Managers / Chief Executives who function as executive civil servants. All of this brings us to the conclusion that local government is inherently undemocratic, whittled down and symbolic with few actual meaningful powers.

As a result of this, I would suggest that when voter turnout did yield positive electoral victories for either the Trotskyist cults or Sinn Féin, the 'return' on your vote was not something that you were impacted by because of the inherent trappings within the institutions. I'd extend this argument to the national and European institutions as well. The formula therefore of Vote for X to get Y does not work and the constituent work that does occur is carried out far more efficiently by larger parties that have more state funding and on the ground workers. The electoral left is therefore beat on two counts, it cannot deliver what it promises, it has to likely dilute its message and it cannot function anywhere near the same capacity as the other larger parties can.

It is not enough for there to be a left candidate that has a set of ideas and speaks of them, for those ideas to only exist as abstract theoretical sound-bites, unproven and almost delusional. From that perspective I understand why the left does not capture the imagination: how can it if a significant



portion of its work is confined to securing votes in the ballot box?

As a student of James Connolly it is noting the historical trajectory of the revolutionary movement he cultivated and how he cultivated it. The movement arguably contained three pillars which fed into each other.

The first pillar was the ITGWU which organised unskilled labourers all over Ireland in a way that had not been before, channeling the Industrial Workers of the World philosophy of 'One Big Union' and recruiting everybody that could be recruited into its ranks. This pillar provided the dense layer of popular support as well as rapidly politicising its members through militant industrial disputes. From this pillar also followed subsidiary organisations such as the Irish Citizens Army.

The second pillar was the Labour Party, which was formed to reflect the political voice of the first pillar. This is key to note because it was formed not

to act as an independent political entity but as one that was inextricably bound to the interests of the trade union movement. In fact the LP and the TUC used to host joint Congresses for a certain amount of time to collectively reach decisions on matters impacting the working class.

The third pillar was the Socialist Party of Ireland which was supposed to exist as the ideological 'vanguard' entity that would cross exist among the ITGWU and other Trade Unions, as well as the ICA and possibly the LP and keep them all ideologically firm.

These three pillars formed the overall strategy that Connolly pursued in the overthrow of capitalism. We observe therefore that the political party that was created to represent the interests of the trade union movement was firmly anchored in a militant class orientated entity that pursued its interests mostly outside of the ballot box and through industrial struggle. In other

words, Connolly and members of the SPI participated in what can be categorised as a form of mass work and leading their class in their own interests and against the interests of the capitalist class.

Not a single left wing party in Ireland, and I say this as self-critically as possible of the Connolly Youth Movement, is at this moment in time anchored among the working class. There exist bases from which we operate, but in reality we are disconnected from the class we strive to lead and rebuilding that connection through the nitty gritty work of organising, workplace by workplace and community by community is precisely what we should be doing.

At this moment in time, only the orientation of the Communist movement around the redevelopment and rebuilding of mass organisations can empower the left with electoral politics serving a subsidiary and secondary role to these tasks.

AH



The Failure of Environmentalist Politics

“Governments in capitalist society are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the capitalist class.”

An important question we must ask ourselves is what are the key issues that do not affect the capitalist class, but do affect the wider working class. For a 21st century communist, there is no greater issue that highlights this class divide than Climate change and the potentially oncoming ecological collapse.

The Committees of the Rich


ExxonMobil is “One of the world’s

largest publicly traded international oil and gas companies” according to their own website. It has constantly been in Forbes’ Fortune 500 annual list since its inception and it’s parent companies were two of the seven sisters that dominated the energy industry for much of the 20th century. This corporation was vital in shaping how people consume energy in the modern day. Exxon have known about climate change since the 1960s. Rather than sounding the alarm on this incoming disaster, radically changing its own source of energy production away from Oil and Gas and advocating that other multi-national corporations and states do the same thing, they chose instead to deceive the public, hide information and robbed humanity of about 50 years of potential climate action.

We can see that capitalists will not act in the interests of all of humanity, pre-



green
party



cisely because that would mean acting against the profit motive. Capitalists cannot act on the benefit of the earth because it means they would lose profit, and could potentially lose power to other capitalists. In order to maintain power, Capitalists will always put the interest of the company first.

The fact that Capitalists act in this way means that if we are able to combat climate change in any way, we need to change the priorities of our economic system. Simply put, we need to abolish capitalism.

Lenin notes in *The State and Revolution*; 'A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism, and, therefore, once capital has gained possession of this very best shell, it establishes its power so securely, so firmly, that no change of persons, institutions or parties in the bourgeois-democratic republic can shake it.'

The Idealism in Environmental Politics

Just after being elected, Ciaran Cuffe MEP was interviewed by the Irish Times. When asked about his fellow Green Party candidate Saoirse McHugh claiming she would resign from the Green Party if they went into coalition with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, he said, "I think she spoke from the heart, and I admire that. These are all hypothetical questions." When asked if he would consider going into coalition with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael himself, he walked away in silence.

The strategy of the green party is to go into government with any possible party in order to enact "Green" policies. This pragmatism seems noble, but is misguided for two key reasons. Firstly, that the policies that are passed tend to overwhelmingly place the burden of climate change upon the working class and low-income people, and secondly, none of these actions can or will tackle the root causes of climate change.

We know that governments struggle to

pass any legislation that do not benefit, or can at least be tolerated by capitalist powers. The Green policies that we do seem to see get enacted are those dubbed by Author Leigh Phillips as "Eco-Austerity". Policies that are incremental, and refuse to tax the vast wealth of capitalists. An example of this is the "Energiewende" or "Energy Transition" occurring in Germany.

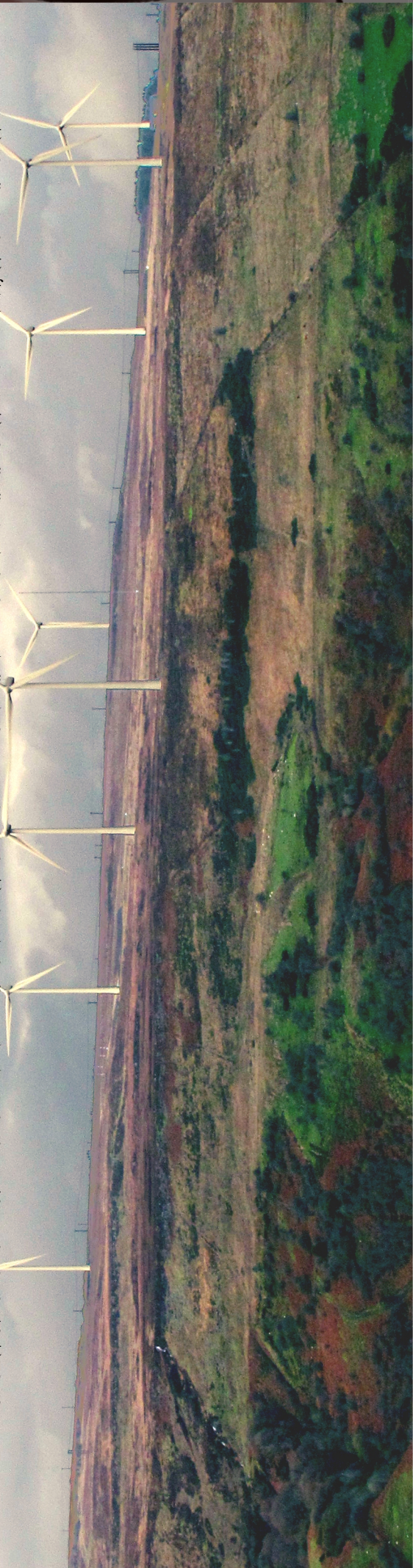
The German state gives subsidies to capitalists and well-off private citizens who actually have the capital to invest in things like solar panels. These subsidies have been paid for by raising the overall cost of energy. This regressive tax primary is hitting working class households, causing Germany, often thought of as a wealthy social-democratic nation, to have some of the highest energy-poverty rates in Europe. Their 'Energiewende' has been an upward transfer of wealth from the working class to the capitalists and people who can afford to pay for private green electricity generation.

Green is Red

So if it is a waste of political energy to try to enact change through going into government with establishment parties, then what course of action ought environmentalists take? The Environmentalist movement is now more than ever waking up to the necessity of politics outside of election time, with the recent rise of Extinction Rebellion.

The number one priority of the radical environmentalist movement is to build mass organisations that are capable of, not just applying pressure to, but eventually breaking and replacing the capitalist state power we live under. This means reinvigorating and radicalising the trade union movement in Ireland. Raising class consciousness and protecting the welfare of people who suffer under capitalism, building tenants unions and eventually changing and taking over the corporations that are destroying our planet and changing their mode of production to preserve, not exploit our ecosystem.

FS





Electioneering for the Apathetic

For their rejection and/or indifference to the repetitive whingeing of career politicians, the youth of Ireland is often subjected to the most unforgiving of criticisms by their various political representatives. While they standing for little else other than re-election, they call the masses time and time again for yet another victory in yet another popularity contest.

Enthusiasm for this procession into hell is a privilege afforded only to its profiteers, therefore the proletarian youth of Ireland has consciously and subconsciously developed an ethos of distrust and disdain for a political system that exists only as a distant spectacle, time and time again defying their interests, it must be asked, and is asked by this proletarian youth; how does any force so destructive for Ireland, have any authority to govern it? The profiteers of this system, ev-

er-changing names in the same cause for capitalism, condemn the rightful apathy of the proletariat, who by neglecting the upkeep of a capitalist charade of freedom, and ignoring its charade of authority, shall surely act to destroy it.

It is observed that a referendum is quite a compelling driving force in contrast to how repelling a force the often-seen election of individual candidates is. So, we theorise this to arise out of the subconscious collective and communal mindset of a proletarian. To play a part in the triumph of an unworthy individual is not within the interests of the proletariat, but to see opportunity to make changes to the ineptitude of the status quo is a prospect to mobilise and enthuse about.

We must recognise that any appeal for change, via the parliamentary process, is ultimately the pretense of only having been allowed change things. This “allowance” is derived from the crass reality that the proletariat is the deciding factor in all of the societal af-

fairs, only when sedated on the vile intoxicating fumes of consumerism, does the proletariat allow itself to be bamboozled into vesting it’s power for change into an alien and removed parliament.

We as communists are apathetic to the superficial divisions of class society, we accept all colours and varieties of humanity in the cause for our liberation. Apathy is a powerful thing and must be directed towards what may unite us, rather than all that has been concocted to divide us.

We must uphold and radicalise this ethos of disdain, nurture this dysphoria of the youth, harness this willingness for change and show the alternative. Reject the fine words and empty promises that have, for so long, lulled the trust of the masses. Through this disdain, realise that the time for reform has long since passed, the time of the youth is now, the time for revolution is always and with this realisation, the time of Ireland will come.

FD MD & DF

Pink Capitalism is Anti-Queer

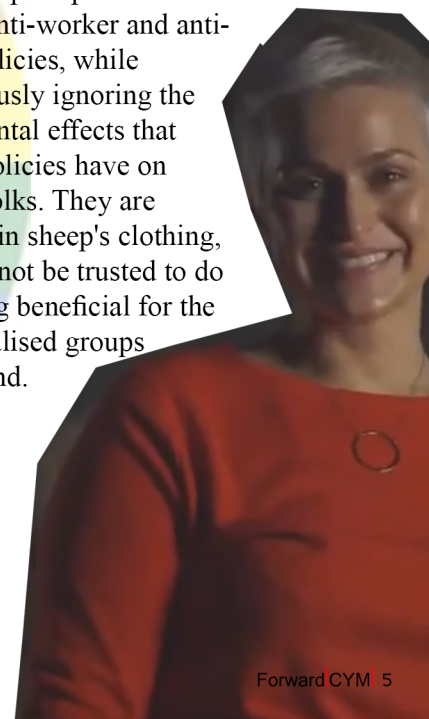
One of the newly elected EU representatives for the Midlands-West of Ireland is Maria Walsh. At 31 years old, she is notable for her youth and the fact she is one of only a few LGBTQ+ members of the European Parliament. Her victory might be seen as a positive step for Ireland’s queer population, and indeed it would be heartening to see, if the party she represents were not one of the worst in Ireland for the LGBTQ+. Fine Gael has attempted to liberalise its views on sexuality and certain social issues in recent years, and Taoiseach Varadkar himself is a gay man, however, despite their overtures to the gay community, they enact policies that harm the most vulnerable in Ireland, which are often overwhelmingly queer and trans people.

Fine Gael has been notorious for cutting funds to vital services like mental

health and housing, and in doing so has waged a war on the most defenseless sections of Irish society. These issues affect LGBTQ+ people at a disproportionate rate as compared to the rest of the population. According to an article for Pink News, LGBTQ+ people in Ireland are three times more likely to contemplate suicide than the average population, but despite this, Fine Gael saw fit to cut more than 20 million euros from the mental health budget in 2016. Homelessness and evictions, something Fine Gael often abstains from addressing, are also of special threat to the community. While no concrete statistics exist in regards to LGBTQ+ homelessness in Ireland, in nations like the United States and Canada, gay and transgender people were estimated to make up between 25 and 40 percent of the homeless population. Fine Gael, as a party of landlords and capitalists, has done little to address the housing crisis, and instead has let Ireland’s landlords wreak havoc on the poor. For Ms. Walsh, it is a wonder how she justifies her support

for policies that would harm the very same community she comes from. Of special note is that during her tenure as MEP, she will be sitting with the European People’s Party, a political grouping that contains several openly homophobic parties and representatives. Simply put, Walsh, Varadkar and their ilk attempt to put a rainbow over their brutal anti-worker and anti-poor policies, while consciously ignoring the detrimental effects that those policies have on queer folks. They are wolves in sheep’s clothing, and cannot be trusted to do anything beneficial for the marginalised groups of Ireland.

LMC





The Haunted Halls of Parliaments

Some months ago, I was approached by an old friend with a query. A work colleague of his was exploring the option of running in the local elections on a youth mental health platform and was looking for advice on how best to run the campaign.

Why this person decided the best way to tackle the issue of mental health was through the granting of dog licenses and planning permission, is a story for another article, their main concern was whether to run as a principled independent in an area where they had no name recognition, or to sell their soul at the altar of Fianna Fáil in the hopes that the weight of their political brand would get them over the proverbial line.

The following thirty minutes were spent giving a blistering assessment of the candidate's chances as an independent, their motivations for joining Fianna Fáil and instructing them to engage in a far more radical, productive form of mental health activism than wallowing in the gloomy chambers of a local council.

The candidate ended up not running. However when thinking back on my filibuster, I realise that I had neglected to mention an often overlooked point in the discussion. We are all familiar with the common criticisms of playing the

bourgeois political game, but so often the institutions themselves are left out of the conversation. When critically analysing


whether electioneering is the correct path for a radical left group to take, we must take into account the sociological effect that the institutions of government have on their elected officials; how institutions themselves

can soften even the most hardened radical.

There is a rich literature devoted to studying how the cultural norms and practices of the institutions of power affect the behaviour and attitudes of those elected to them.

Consider the 2010 study "Pinning the Butterfly", which examined the changes in behaviour of newly elected Belgian Members of Parliament who had run with the intention of representing women, the LGBTQ community and the working class. The study concluded that after their elections these new, radical MPs had not changed the institutions they were elected to, but had been changed by them. Incoming MPs acquired existing 'values, skills, loyalties and cognitive maps' through processes of political socialisation after entering parliament. Subsequent to their election, MPs' personal ambitions and goals were filtered and transformed by formal and informal institutional expectations and demands, resulting in attitudes and expectations fitting the performance of specific legislative roles'.

By their very nature, Dáil Eireann's norms are designed to extinguish any opportunity of engaging in serious, radical discussion. Even those who fall slightly outside the bounds of the restrictive, conservative rules of the house are silenced. Recall the late Teachta Dála Peter Mathews, a Fine Gael backbencher and later Independent, brought in by Enda Kenny's leadership under the auspices of weighing in on Ireland's banking crisis. In actuality, his selection as a candidate was an attempt to capitalise on Mathews' minor notoriety from appearing on Tonight with Vincent Browne. Mathews was repeatedly shouted down in chambers for being out of order, expelled, bullied by his own party for attempting to bring then Governor of the Central Bank, Patrick Honohan, before the Oireachtas Finance Committee, until eventually he



resigned from the party. A similar fate befell another of Enda Kenny's B-list celebrity appointees,

George Lee.

I do not for a moment suggest that either of the above men would be considered anything close to radical, revolutionary or representing a working class interest. The above examples serve to highlight how the "way of doing things" impacts on those elected to these institutions.

Censorship of language and appearance, dressed up as maintaining "dignity" and "respect" has an equally powerful impact as the restrictions on speaking time and debate. Many years ago I had the opportunity to intern in a prominent left-wing TD's office. This TD was a member of the former "Technical Group", a loose coalition of representatives cobbled together for the purposes of gaining more speaking time in the chamber. For anyone unfamiliar with the rules of the Dáil, if you want to ask a question it has to be submitted to the Ceann Comhairle's office for review and approval before getting through. Questions are most commonly rejected on the basis of their phrasing; too "combative", too "aggressive", too "attacking", not "specific" enough. As a result of the constant rejection faced by more radical members of the Technical Group, the office I worked in became an editor's room for all parliamentary questions proposed by left-wing technical group members. Every day, hours were spent polishing language, removing the core from questions until they were milquetoast enough to be accepted into the Order of Business, by which time many of them were almost unrecognisable from their original form.

This time spent whittling questions until they pass parliamentary standards is time taken away from engaging with constituents and mobilising opposition. This is to say

nothing of "softer" forms of institutionalised control, like Fine Gael's failed attempt to institute a jacket-and-tie dress code after the election of Mick Wallace or county councillors donning their ceremonial robes.

When considering whether left wing groups should engage in electioneering we often cite the more common arguments of bourgeois democracy being unable to produce revolutionary change or that the realpolitik of governance leads groups to compromise their principles; however the importance of ritual and tradition in these institutions is equally important.

It is as if the walls of these hallowed institutions have a way of seeping into the brains of their elected officials.

So perhaps when considering that foray into electoral politics in the hopes of bringing about substantive change, one should pause and think. Much like that local election candidate, is there another form of activism you could use which doesn't run the risk of numbing your spirit?

SW

Welcome Slovenia
to the Euro!

2007

Slovenija,
dobrodošja v
euro območju!



Elections vs Direct Action

Disillusionment with electoral politics is at an all time high. Voter turnout in Ireland and across the OECD has been steadily declining for the past 50 years - for understandable reasons. Whether you vote for Fianna Gael, Fianna Fáil, Labour or Sinn

Féin the result is the same; a committee of landlords, millionaires and media figures managing the nation in their own self-interest. The people of Ireland are clamouring for affordable housing, higher wages, improved healthcare services - the list is endless. What they receive in return is skyrocketing rent, an expanding property bubble, stagnating wages, increased privatisation and a government unwilling to intervene.

Leftist parties are not showing themselves to be a credible threat to the centre-right who maintain almost a century of dominance in the Dáil.

The alternative is direct action.

Broadly speaking, direct action is any action or strategy that cuts out the middleman and solves problems directly, without appealing to politicians, corporate interests or any other form of power. Direct action is not a march with catchy chants and witty placards, it's occupying an empty home, it's blockading a street to protect the local water supply from being privatised or it's physically preventing a family from being evicted from their home.

Every successful political movement throughout history, from the battle for women's suffrage, to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, has made use of some form of direct action.

It can transform us from passive subjects to active participants in the shaping of our society.

There are endless examples of successful direct action across Irish History.

In the decades after the turbulence of the Great Famine, The Land League was established as a political organisation to assist poor tenant farmers and to abolish landlordism. The hundreds of thousands of members and sympathisers of the Land League organised resistance to evictions and withheld rent from exploitative landlords. Entire communities would even socially and economically ostracise agents of landlords.

Despite centuries of dominance, the undeniable power of direct action began to loosen the grip of the British empire on rural Ireland. By the early 20th century, over 300,000 tenants had bought back 15 million acres out of a total of 20 million acres across the

country, essentially bringing an end to the era of absentee landlordism in Ireland.

In recent years direct action has entered the public consciousness once again, most notably with the widespread resistance to water charges across Ireland led by Right2Water Ireland. Irish Water was established in 2013 and soon began to install water meters to fine households and by 2014, approximately 100,000 people marched in Dublin against the charges. With the Gardaí forced to set a seclusion zone protecting government buildings, protestors blockaded roads and bridges in the city centre, blocking buses and cars for several hours. Community groups also began physically removing water meters and blockading roads and meters to prevent crews from installing meters. Many attempts to install water meters across Ireland were abandoned in the face of constant resistance.

The Irish government was forced to capitulate in the face of direct action and by April 2017, the Irish Water billing scheme was officially abolished.

Following the success of the resistance to the water charges, protests against the housing crisis began to grow.

In December 2016, a group of housing activists, trade unionists and homeless people began occupying Apollo house in central Dublin. Food, furniture and clothes began pouring in from supporters. Over the course of almost 4 weeks, over 200 homeless people were given somewhere safe and warm

to stay.

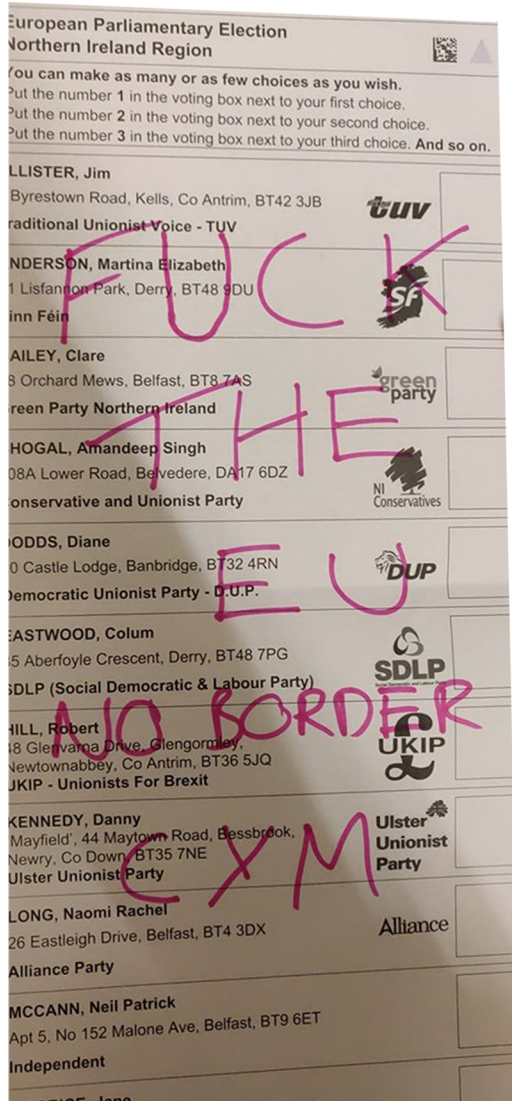
In the past two years several houses have been occupied across Ireland. Connolly Youth Movement have been occupying a house in Cork city for almost 2 years, as a form of direct action and protest against the worst homeless crisis since the founding of the state. Occupying derelict buildings is not a long-term solution to apply to society at large, but these forms of direct action force the state to address the issues facing Ireland.

The huge support and publicity surrounding the Summerhill and North Frederick St occupations in Dublin have similarly shown the value of well coordinated and motivated direct action. For direct action to be successful, it cannot come about only when raw emotions are at their highest; it must emerge from a solid foundation of politicisation and experience, as well as a strong sense of class consciousness.

There is a time for electoral politics, but the conditions for the rise of the left in the Dáil and around the world must be cultivated. Climate change is racing ahead, wealth is being further concentrated into the hands of a few individuals and, since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, there is no major power capable of challenging the form of neoliberal capitalism we see steadily tightening its grip on the world.

In the words of Malcolm X, "we cannot afford to play within the rules dictated to us by the ruling class... power never takes a step back, except in the face of more power."

DP



The Spoiled Ballot

‘Spoiling a ballot’ is the act of defacing one’s electoral ballot so as to invalidate it, meaning that the vote is not counted.

This proposes the question, why would someone spoil their ballot? Is it ever the correct action to take?

The north of Ireland’s European elections had a turnout of 45.41%, and in the south, 49.7%. this means both sides of the border less than half of those registered to vote didn’t vote (not even considering those not registered!). this could be for a number of reasons. According to Pew Research Centre, a study of those who didn’t vote in the American elections in 2016 found that the biggest reason for not voting was dislike of candidates and campaigns, and the second biggest

reason was that they were simply not interested.

So, we then come to the question, why are voters disillusioned with electoral politics? Are they right to be?

As the Connolly quote goes, governments in capitalist societies are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the rich. Successive governments have implemented austerity, even parties which are self-proclaimed leftists, such as the labour party which campaigned on a manifesto of anti-austerity and an end to cuts, however in reality, the from 2014-2016 the labour party presided over the department of housing and a massive 90% increase in homelessness. Clearly not the heroes of the working class they pretend to be.

With ‘left wing’ parties pouring more and more resources and time into parliamentary politics at the expense of grass roots organising it’s no surprise that the amount of wealth held the working class is so low, with no signs of a stop in its decline. Imagine, for a moment if the resources, leaflets, time and money put into elections every few years was put into trade and tenants unions, building a worker’s movement which can pose a challenge to organised capital. Would we fair better in the fight against capitalism?

To return to the original question, what does a spoiled ballot do? Typically, spoiled ballots are an indication of political discontent, a type of ‘none of the above’ in the absence of such an option. A major consensus among the general population is that no one is worth voting for, so why bother? When not voting, the implication is laziness, that one didn’t care enough to leave the house, when the ballot is spoiled, the implication is that the voter did not approve of any candidates that stood for election, so why then, do those who do not approve of any candidates not make this heard, and spoil their vote? Had those who didn’t vote spoiled their ballots they would outnumber all parties who received votes put together! This would pose many issues for the democratic le-

gitimacy of those parties which stood for election, when more than half of the population doesn’t support you, can you be considered to have a democratic mandate? The final question this would lead us on to would be; should I spoil my vote? One case where northern Connolly youth movement members spoiled their ballots was in the European elections of 2019, in which the choice was between pro EU, pro-Irish unity parties and Anti-EU Unionist parties, both these options were thought unthinkable, thus what option is left but to reject the question?

In elections, the best rule is vote left, as far left as you can, but sometimes, none of the above may be the best option.

CR



The Failed Soft Touch of Sinn Féin

There appears to be a common theme among 'leftwing' parties who enter into mainstream politics; a soft approach which tends to leave its grass roots members disillusioned as the party will continue to pander to an entirely different demographic than the ones it once represented.

Blatant ignorance or maybe the refusal to accept a bad electoral result, leaves party members frustrated and confused. Sinn Féin's result in the latest election shows exactly this theme of a soft approach and how it can hurt both, its members and its ability to effectively help the working class.

Pandering to the Upper-class Vote

A major issue within the electoral system is focusing on getting new votes from the 'middle' and 'upper' classes. Sinn Féin for example has pandered to the middle class and has chopped and changed the party accordingly. Once a fiercely leftists' militant group, they have softened their ap-

proach as a left-wing organisation in order to get these votes, Common phrases that were often thrown at Sinn Féin were "When Gerry Adams steps down I'll give you a vote" or "If you were more in favor of the EU, I would give you the vote" and so on. The party unfortunately acted upon these softer wishes and have seen a decline in both their votes and member interest.

"We are not talking about a heave at this stage, but she has to ship a lot of the blame for this, like the rest of us." said one Sinn Féin TD to the Irish Examiner this June. "Have we run too far and fast into the middle? Probably we have. Clearly, people don't see us as being ready for government yet."

A party that has adapted the soft approach and turns to focus on elections can insult the long-term supporters, as they may feel abandoned or no longer included in the party's new policies and overall vision.

The Attraction of Careerists

With every seat a party gets comes influence, respect and an attractive

wage. This is where a party must be careful in who they choose to represent them, they must pick someone who's heart is in it for the cause, not for the perks. This is something a party becomes rife with once they take on a soft stance in order to please possible voters. In the same way it happens in the workplace, careerists can be manipulative and toxic to a party's community as they will back stab and cause tensions in order to get ahead.

Those who join a party with the soul intention of making money and gaining influence can lead to the downfall of what a working-class party should look like. Instead of being radical and rebellious, they become centrists to make sure they hold onto power and wealth.

A party that is growing in mainstream politics must be aware of the pitfalls that come with such a system. They must keep the fight against the oppressors up at all times and never pander or change policies in order to suit those who would have never voted for them in the first place.

TM

Cover Graphic by M. Courtney-Lee

AGITATE | EDUCATE | ORGANISE

WWW.CYM.IE

The Connolly Youth Movement is a youth organisation committed to fighting for democracy, freedom and unity in this country. The CYM takes part in the struggle to build socialism in Ireland and everywhere around the globe.

Since 2008 the crisis in Ireland has deepened which has seen many talented and gifted young people leave this island in search of a better life abroad. We as a youth organisation are fundamentally opposed to any government using its youth as a safety valve in trying to ease economic and political tensions. So we are determined to stay and fight the injustice brought on this and future generations.

Working with progressive movements to develop young workers' and students' consciousness in their own proud history and culture. As a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth we struggle in opposition to imperialism and for liberation around the globe of all oppressed peoples, including ourselves.

The CYM has branches in Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

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CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT

