

The

RabbleRouser

Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

GPO Box 474D, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1997

It is Right to Rebel!

Celebrated by the oppressed around the world, March 8th - International Women's Day - is a holiday that came out of the *struggle* of women. In particular, the struggle of thousands of immigrant women clothing industry workers in New York, USA provided the inspiration for the demand that there be a special day to celebrate the struggle of women.

In 1908 women began to stage walk-outs and strikes at various sewing factories, against the slave wages and harsh working conditions they endured. In spite of many arrests and heavy fines, in spite of brutal beatings by police and hired thugs, the women, many of them teenagers, continued to fight. Middle and upper class women inspired by the strikers came out to the pickets to give their support and were arrested too.

After months of small shop actions the women escalated the struggle by calling for a tradewide general strike. Over the objection of the union leadership, the mass meeting of 22 November 1909 resounded with cheers of approval for the general strike resolution.

The strike lasted for months and ignited strikes in other areas. Though the strike itself was only partially successful in terms of changing work conditions, the women's struggle did challenge the thinking on what 'uneducated' immigrant women could do and filled many women and other workers and oppressed people with a strong sense of pride and strength.

In 1910 the anniversary of these demonstrations, March 8th, was declared International Women's Day by an international conference of revolutionaries and communists. The great leader of the Russian Bolsheviks and the October 1917 Revolution, V I Lenin, was among those who voted at this conference to celebrate the tradition of International Women's Day.

Despite the determined efforts of the imperialists and their running dogs to snuff out the red sparks of International Women's Day with picnics, dinner parties and the wet blanket of parliamentary cretinism-- March 8th has been celebrated across the world by class-conscious women and men as a day of struggle. And as a day when we commemorate the revolutionary legacy of the great proletarian feminist fighters like Chiang Ching who struggled all her adult life to keep China on the revolutionary road.

This International Women's Day we raise our voices in rebel chorus: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!

Learn from our revolutionary sisters in Peru: Women's liberation is only possible through the abolition of class society. Our enemy is not so much this or that reactionary politician. The parliaments simply administer the system with the backup of the ruling class's power. Refuse the politics of bourgeois cruelty unleashed upon the people from the corridors of power in Canberra. Prepare the ground for revolution in Australia as part of our role and duty to advance the cause of proletarian internationalism and world revolution.

ONLY COMMUNIST REVOLUTION CAN TRULY LIBERATE WOMEN!

WOMEN IN MAOIST CHINA: HOLDING UP HALF THE SKY

There have been times when patriarchal traditions chains were broken and the masses of women forged ahead towards true liberation! When Mao Tsetung's revolution was victorious in China (between 1949-1976) the revolutionary masses of people created a movement for true equality and liberation—that broke up ten thousand years of women's oppression! No more sale of women. No more domination by husbands and families. No more beatings, no more street harassment, no more rape, no more enforced, compulsory motherhood, no more dying in childbirth no more powerlessness or hopelessness. This took years of struggle led by the vanguard party. It took organisation of the masses of women, and much struggle to transform the thinking and behaviour of men. And above all it took the seizure of power by the proletarians and oppressed people led by a communist party guided by the revolutionary communist politics of Mao Tsetung.

In 1976 Mao died and his enemies in the Party (led by Deng Xiaoping) who had been trying to restore capitalism staged a military coup. Proletarian rule and socialism were overthrown and capitalism was brought back. All the old, ugly and oppressive ways of class society are now in full effect in China, especially the oppression of women. Once again, feudal traditions are in force in China and prostitution and rape has returned, alongside beauty pageants and breast implants.

But the theory and practice of Maoist Revolution shows the way forward for women's liberation. It shows how the oppression of women is fundamentally linked to the division of society into classes and bourgeois property. It shows how once the grassroots people have power, they can dig away and eliminate all the things which cause inequalities in society. It shows how getting rid of women's oppression is a crucial and component part of the overall struggle to get rid of ALL forms of oppression.

PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU: WHERE WOMEN HOLD HALF THE GUNS

Since 1980 communist revolution has been raging against the old order in Peru. The People's War in Peru, led by the Communist Party of Peru, and guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, is known for its uncompromising commitment to women's liberation. The fight against women's oppression is a key part of its whole programme, strategy and goals.

Many thousands of women have rallied to the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist banner of the Communist Party of Peru (called Shining Path in the reactionary media). They have joined the People's War because they like the idea that all existing governing structures must be destroyed in order to rebuild society from the bottom up. Seeing no hope in pitiful reforms these women are attracted to a struggle aimed at digging up the systematic roots in class society that oppress women. They've been trained in the science of revolution and given a gun.

From the very beginning, the mainly indigenous and peasant women of Peru have made up half of the revolutionary fighters and leaders in this war of liberation. For oppressed people everywhere, the revolutionary women in Peru are an awesome inspiration. These fearless sisters are us; they are part of our common struggle, not just to survive, but to bring about a new liberated day.

The revolutionary women in Peru are shining light on a brighter future—where there are no rich or poor; where racism and national oppression have been uprooted; and where women are not treated like dirt. These women are proving that the future belongs to the dispossessed. And they challenge us and give us heart to step up the struggle for revolution in every corner of the world.

STEP UP THE STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia the basic goal is the same as in Peru:— the masses rising up; seizing power; and, radically changing all of society to serve the revolution worldwide. Such a revolutionary struggle is possible in Australia. In addition to the necessary objective conditions, as in Peru it is going to take a revolutionary party to lead such a struggle — a revolutionary communist party, guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, that can lead us in the battles against the system now, whilst preparing to lead us in an uprising, when the conditions for that emerge.

This International Women's Day, all who dream of a new society free from all forms of oppression can learn from the revolutionary women in Peru. For they are fighting in concert with all our struggles against the system, for an end to all forms of oppression and a brighter future for all humanity.

RECONSTITUTE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA ON THE BASIS OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM!

Contact the Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia (CRCPA)...

Write to: CRCPA, GPO Box 474D, MELBOURNE VIC 3001