

#CORBYNWINS

Socialist Party formerly **Militant**

BUILD A PARTY FOR THE 99%

- **Introduce mandatory reselection**
- **Only give the Labour whip to MPs who pledge to fight austerity**
- **Democratise the party – restore trade union rights, readmit expelled and excluded socialists, allow all anti-austerity forces to affiliate**

The Socialist Party welcomes Jeremy's landslide re-election. Despite the best efforts of the Blairites, the right-wing media, and behind them the capitalist establishment, Jeremy Corbyn now has a bigger mandate than ever. The Blairites are reeling in the face of the mass anti-austerity surge that has defeated them. This doesn't mean, however, that they

are reconciled to Jeremy Corbyn's leadership or to the prospect of Labour becoming an anti-austerity party. The issue of what needs to be done to consolidate Jeremy Corbyn's victory – by really transforming Labour into an anti-austerity, socialist, working-class mass movement – is the critical question facing socialists in Britain today. **Continued overleaf**

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The stakes couldn't be higher. Labour was set up 116 years ago by trade unionists, socialists, women suffrage campaigners, the working class co-operative movement, and others, as 'our party'.

But over the course of 20 years under the leadership of Blair, Brown and Miliband it was completely transformed into another party of big business. It was not for nothing that Margaret Thatcher described New Labour as her 'greatest achievement'.

Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity message, and support for trade union rights, free education, council housing, etc. changed the terms of political debate. But because Jeremy Corbyn's victory offered the hope of change, a showdown with the capitalist establishment and their representatives within the Labour Party was inevitable.

Jeremy Corbyn's re-election is vital but only the beginning. This time his victory needs to be consolidated by organising to remake Labour as a party that is working class and socialist, that really can be the voice of the 99%.

LABOUR AT THE CROSSROADS

The Labour Party right-wing will never accept Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Standing behind them are the capitalist establishment, the 1% elite, who have benefitted enormously from the transformation of Labour into Tony Blair's New Labour and the domination of political debate by pro-market ideas which that allowed.

The Labour right have shown how ruthless they are prepared to be to defend the interests of their establishment backers. Tens of thousands have been excluded from taking part in the election on spurious grounds. Also, for the first time since World War Two, all regular party meetings have been closed down, removing the chance for ordinary party members to hold anti-Corbyn MPs and councillors to account. Now they are

attempting to introduce election of the shadow cabinet by the Parliamentary Labour Party. If they succeed Jeremy could win but be surrounded by a pro-capitalist shadow cabinet.

ESTABLISHMENT LABOUR

To prevent the right successfully isolating and then defeating Jeremy means taking on the main bases of establishment Labour, in the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), the national party apparatus, and locally, the big majority of Labour's 7,000 councillors. Challenging the latter will be vital to show in practice what an anti-austerity party really is, in contrast to the actions of the Labour right.

It does not mean a party voting for cuts! The fact is that Labour councils this year will be sacking three times the number of workers who are losing their jobs from the collapse of BHS, denounced by MPs as 'the unacceptable face of capitalism'.

DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES

Jeremy Corbyn must use his re-election to organise for Labour councils to defy the Tories, including refusing to implement the new Housing and Planning Act, with local parties pressing councillors who refuse to fight to resign. The situation where council Labour groups and not the members decide council policy must be reversed.

The national structures of the Labour Party would also need to be opened out and democratised. To mobilise the maximum possible support, there should be a return to the founding structures of the Labour Party which involved separate socialist political parties coalescing with the trade unions and social movements like women's suffrage campaigners and the co-operative movement.

That federal approach applied to today would mean allowing political parties like the Socialist Party and others involved in the Trade Unionist

and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), and anti-austerity Greens, to affiliate to Labour as the Co-op Party still does.

While mandatory re-selection would allow local parties to replace their MPs at the next general election, more decisive action would need to be taken before then to bring the parliamentary party into line. MPs should have the Labour whip only if they agree to accept the renewed mandate for Corbyn and his anti-austerity, anti-war policies.

It is necessary to take on the forces in Labour defending the capitalist establishment, not seek 'unity' around their agenda. A party of struggle with fewer MPs but a fighting socialist programme, would have a bigger impact in defence of the working class than a party with a couple of hundred MPs but which accepts the policies demanded by capitalism. Winning new support it could regain the seats that may be temporarily held by anti-Corbyn MPs and go on to win a general election.

The right wing have moved against Jeremy Corbyn and the most important question now is how the social movement that has begun to mobilise in his defence can be organised for the battles to come.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY

The Socialist Party stands 100% in defence of Jeremy Corbyn against the attacks of the right and the capitalist class. We put forward a programme to consolidate his victory and for Labour to be transformed into a party for the 99% with a clear anti-austerity programme.

That means we campaign for socialism – for the taking of the major corporations and banks that dominate the economy into democratic public ownership – in order to begin to build a society that meets the needs of all instead of providing profits for a few.

IF YOU AGREE JOIN US!