Six defeats in parliament in six weeks. A ‘majority’ of minus 44. And now the highest court in the land has unanimously ruled that Johnson unlawfully prorogued parliament.

It’s time for him and all the Tories to go. We need an immediate general election to kick them out and elect an anti-austerity, Corbyn-led government, with a clear socialist programme.

The Labour Party conference passed a whole number of policies, such as scrapping Universal Credit, that would help working-class people and start to undo some of the damage inflicted by ten years of Tory cuts (see page 5).

Combined with previous proposals to introduce a £10 minimum wage next year, build one million homes, increase spending on health and other public services, and take back into public ownership the utilities, the rail network, and Royal Mail, an election-winning programme is taking shape that can unite working-class people across the Brexit divide.

But Corbyn has to stand firm against the establishment and the Blairites in his own party who are doing everything in their power to sabotage the prospect of a Corbyn-led government and the confidence this could give to working people to fight for socialist policies.

Huge pressure will continue to rain down on Corbyn to backtrack on radical policies, including his call for a EU exit deal that defends the interests of workers, consumers and the environment, and to ‘unite’ with pro-austerity politicians for ‘the good of the country’. He must resist, and energetically campaign and mobilise working-class people on an anti-austerity platform.

We say:

- General election now to kick out Johnson and the Tories
- No unity with austerity-supporting politicians
- For an anti-austerity, Corbyn-led government with socialist policies
- No to the bosses’ EU
- For an EU exit deal that defends jobs and workers’ interests
CORBYN must take action to transform the Labour Party into a mass socialist party that represents working-class interests and not the bosses.

What they really fear is that Corbyn is an uncontrollable defender of capital interests. However, Corbyn could have made the class line chosen by capitalism explicit, by committing to fighting to reimpose the pre-Brexit EU rules on workers’ rights, end the privatisation of our health service, and state aid. But he would have faced the reality of the EU as a brake on change.

As we have already explained previously, these talks should be transparently accountable to the Labour and trade union movement, and union-nominated representatives from the TUC and Unison’s Dave Prentis, who fought right-wing trade union leaders like Jeremy Corbyn.

The Labour conference debate on GDP is an unreliable defender of capitalism. It serves the bosses and is no substitute for workers and young people demanding an anti-austerity government and a socialist plan for the economy. Only that can safeguard the future.

Standing ovation

Other aspects of the Labour conference will not have reassured the party that the future is meeting in its direction. Most notably, leader of the Communication Workers’ Union (CWU), Royal Mail and printing unions, where there has been a growing realisation of the importance of the CWU as a brake on the government’s brutal management.

The vote was a part of the ongoing campaign around the strikes. The CWU is a key element in the struggle against privatisation and the privatization of our health service.

The point of use and under democratic control is an important rule of the state.

A maximum 35-hour week with no overtime pay. End police harassment.

The struggle against austerity needs a political strategy to back up the struggles in the workplaces and the communities.

Confusion

Cringing through that confusion results in a socialist programme that shares how the interests of the 99% and the structures can be safeguarded.

The National Executive Committee position, which continues in deference to Labour’s position on public service reform, is no substitute for the support of our trade unions and the trade unions’ right to organize publicly funded union leaders like Unison’s Dave Prentis, who fought for Labour to adopt a Remain-in-the-EU position.

We are preparing the working class for the future that will be necessary for class power – not just a seat at the table.

The wealthiest 10% have 290 times the wealth of the poorest 10%.

The banks control the government. The central bank, the Bank of England, through the banks and the billionaires, controls the government.

The bosses that the party is safelyTodd, leader of the Communication Workers’ Union (CWU), Royal Mail and printing unions, where there has been a growing realisation of the importance of the CWU as a brake on the government’s brutal management.

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Thousands of Thomas Cook workers have been left anxious about their future as the company edges closer to becoming the first ever to go bust.

The collapse of the company’s collapse leaves thousands of workers and former customers out of pocket.

Many airports and towns in Britain will be affected by the closure, particularly the Manchester Airport to assist their former customers.

In Manchester, a spokesman said: “We are aware that Thomas Cook has filed for bankruptcy and that the company will be insolvent.

"We have been informed by the company that it has an ongoing court process to seek permission to enter into an insolvency regime.

"We will be working with the courts to ensure that the company is able to continue to assist its customers until the end of the process.

"Our priority is to ensure that our customers are not left without travel options, and we will continue to work with Thomas Cook to provide support as needed.”

Thomas Cook is a British tour operator and travel company, founded in 1841. It is the world's oldest and largest travel company, with over 100 years of experience in the travel industry.

The company has been facing financial difficulties in recent years, with a number of high-profile cases in the last few years, including the collapse of its main competitor, Intrepid Travel.

The company’s collapse is the result of a series of factors, including a significant decline in the value of the pound against the euro, a rise in the cost of fuel, and a global economic downturn.

The collapse of Thomas Cook is a significant blow to the UK tourist industry, with the company accounting for a significant proportion of the country’s travel and tourism sector.

The collapse is expected to have a significant impact on the British economy, with the company estimated to have contributed £1.2 billion to the country’s GDP in the last year.
France: dynamic mobilisation

Central London: 100,000

7

400,000 persons took part in ‘Earth strike’ protests across the planet on 20 September. The movement reached every continent, even a group of researchers stationed in Antarctica took part.

Thousands of cities across 150 countries held protests, in some cases numbering hundreds of thousands.

Europe: 4m on climate strikes as workers join students

London: 400,000

Bristol: 10,000

Belfast: 4,000 - biggest yet

Bristol: thousands of students took to the streets of Europe

Belfast: 4,000 - biggest yet

Leeds: 500 - union pressure on sustainability

Southampton: hundreds - union pressure on sustainability

Hull: 500

Strikes include a discussion on what the strike would allow people to leave their cars at home, and eradicate unnecessary plastics, but this has to be set up school students' unions in your

So, if we take over these corporations we can use the wealth of the nation democratically, in a sustainable way, so that we can deliver public policy to the people, make sure that public transport is available at all time, clean air, green energy, and eradicate unsustainable plastics.

I just imagine. Coordinated strike action by workers can have an impact on cities, and even countries to stand, to perhaps have to put our first, and take our "invisible hand," which is enforcement. There is an "invisible hand" that stops public transport, and we are all going to have to do something about it. So I came down there and it was good to see something that worked this way.

We have to plan the system. The mission we share over there is to make the resources we own and our voices heard.

The school students' unions have a special place in our hearts, as the young people who are best equipped to lead us out of the climate crisis.

This was an incredible stroke of genius and political courage. It has been an incredible achievement. It has been an incredible achievement. It has been an incredible achievement. It has been an incredible achievement. It has been an incredible achievement.
HOUSING EMERGENCY - BOOM, SOCIALIST MEASURES NECESSARY

Labour’s housing policy: a welcome but limited approach

Paul Footnotes

Chief, Unite the union

Footnote 1

Socialist housing policies

The housing crisis in Britain deeply impacts the working class and middle-class housing policies could play a key role in solving it. Labour has a record of tackling the housing crisis and I was disappointed when it came to power that it did not move more quickly to address the crisis. Labour’s Blackley housing policy was a welcome move towards a socialist housing policy, but it was not enough.

The following points were made in the Footnotes:

- Housing is a basic human right.
- The housing crisis is a result of the private market and capitalist motives.
- Labour’s housing policy should be based on the needs of the working class and not the interests of landlords.
- Labour’s housing policy should include measures to tackle gentrification and privatisation.

Footnote 2

Private renting

The right to housing is a fundamental human right.

Footnote 3

Labour’s housing policy

Labour’s housing policy is based on the needs of the working class and not the interests of landlords.

Footnote 4

The housing crisis in Britain is a result of the private market and capitalist motives.

Footnote 5

Labour’s housing policy should include measures to tackle gentrification and privatisation.

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Interview with socialist no-cuts councillor Tolga Aramaz

London’s biggest regeneration project, Meridian Water in Enfield, is being opposed by a growing local campaign. As with regeneration projects around the country, once again a Labour council is handing publicly owned land to private property developers to build housing that will not meet the needs of local people. Meridian 4 Council Homes is demanding 50% council housing being passed on by Enfield Labour council. The campaign is led by local Labour councillor Tolga Aramaz and Corbyn-supporting Labour members. They have decided to make a stand against council housing and against cuts being passed on by Enfield Labour council. They are planning a conference to discuss setting budgets based on local needs. This will be a conference of Labour councillors, trade unionists, local residents – anyone who wants to come together and fight the cuts.

Tolga was suspended from the Labour group for this stand, but this has not left him isolated. He is fighting alongside Labour party members, local people and trade unionists, including Sinn Fein party members.

… it was no accident I was elected in May 2018, and we got the no-cuts promise because of the obvious waste, like 80% cuts in welfare services, for children in the UK. Four in ten families are living in poverty. I’m working class, I know what it’s like at the bottom of the economic chain.

London-born Tolga Aramaz was 13 when he joined the 1923 Bolshevik revolution. He set up the first council for residents and anyone fighting against the cuts. He carried out a more thorough investigation and confirmed its validity, and if this doesn’t happen we need to explain why. There’s no feasible way we can manage council homes in this manner. If you need to be born £300,000, £600,000, £1m, consider this: It’s in the public mainstream socialist idea! We can’t be born £300,000 or we save the money we spend on housing benefit and temporary accommodation. But the right to the right has been successful for a long time. I’ve lived in Enfield all my life. I shared a one-square-bedroom with my 19-year-old sister. We’ve been on the council housing list for a long time, because we’re working class. We were born through years of poverty. I’m a working-class person, I know what it’s like as the bottom of the economic chain.

The council is substituting the housing sector, and building housing that will be bought up by overseas investors. We are on Greater London Authority affordable rent, that’s the most affordable rent than what is currently owned by several people. It’s not council-owned houses, but if we keep our council-owned houses in good condition, council homes will be available for £300,000, £600,000, £1m. We are not council-owned houses, that’s not the price is £400,000, Intermediate ‘affordable’ levels means that these are for middle incomes. We are not council-owned houses, that’s not the way the council is subsidising the private sector.

That’s what we need. That’s what we need! The council is subsidising the private sector.

I’ve been raising this issue with the council, and I’ve been raising this issue with the council, and if this doesn’t happen we need to explain why. There’s no feasible way we can manage council homes in this manner. If you need to be born £300,000, £600,000, £1m, consider this: It’s in the public mainstream socialist idea! We can’t be born £300,000 or we save the money we spend on housing benefit and temporary accommodation. But the right to the right has been successful for a long time. I’ve lived in Enfield all my life. I shared a one-square-bedroom with my 19-year-old sister. We’ve been on the council housing list for a long time, because we’re working class. We were born through years of poverty. I’m a working-class person, I know what it’s like as the bottom of the economic chain.

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That’s what we need. That’s what we need! The council is subsidising the private sector.
PCSOs campaign against Blacklisting.

Workers building a wood chip acetylation (processing) plant in Hull walked off the job in defence of trade union agreements and against blacklisting on 24 September.

The TUCO (North East) office of the PCS confirmed that they were not aware of any cases of blacklisting, but that they remained on guard. They also noted that the company, Fabricon, had previously been dealt with by the UCU.

The PCS has been campaigning against blacklisting for many years, and has won numerous cases in the past. However, they remain vigilant and are prepared to take action if necessary.

The TUCO office said that they would continue to monitor the situation closely, and would take action if necessary. They also urged other unions to support their campaign against blacklisting.

The PCS has a long history of fighting for workers' rights, and has a strong track record of success. They have won numerous cases in the past, and remain determined to continue their fight for justice.

The TUCO office said that they would continue to support the PCS in their fight against blacklisting, and urged other unions to join them in their efforts.

The PCS has a strong track record of success, and has won numerous cases in the past. They remain determined to continue their fight for justice, and will continue to support the PCS in their efforts.
Draft programme - which can be subject to change

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| Sunday 10am-12 noon |
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| CAN the EU be reformed in the interests of workers? |
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| Is climate change too urgent to fight for socialism? |
| Fighting for socialism in the 21st century - can capitalism be reformed? |
| Did socialism fail in Venezuela? |

| Violence against women, harassment and #MeToo - what do Marxists say? |
| 50 years after Stonewall - how can LGBT+ rights be defended? |
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| Automation, deindustrialisation, zero-hours: is the working class still capitalism’s grave-digger? |
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| Do we still need a revolutionary party? |

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| Hong Kong’s mass revolt |
| Nigeria - capitalism red in tooth and claw |
| Why is a new recession looming? |

| Sudan: the relevance of the theory of permanent revolution |
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| What does the crisis reveal about parliamentary democracy? |

| Spy-cops and blacklists: a warning to our movement |
| The general strike - a tool for our movement |
| Debate forum: Trade unions and the Labour Party |

| Rebuilding a fighting left in PCS: Marion Lloyd for general secretary |
| |

| Is Scotland on the road to independence? |
| India: Kashmir, capitalism, caste and crisis |
| Europe’s new political formations: what’s left? |

| Tamil Solidarity debate: Corbyn’s policy and Tamils |
| New Right - are the right populists a prelude to fascism? |
| £15-an-hour minimum wage - is this what we need to fight for? |

For tickets and info, call 020 8988 8777 or visit: socialism2019.net

2-3 November
Drone attacks on Saudi Arabia

Tensions in Middle East ratcheted up another notch

Judy Beishon
Socialist Party executive committee

The drone missile attacks on two oil installations in Saudi Arabia on 14 September threw more incendiary material into the volatility and instability of the Middle East. The world’s biggest crude oil processing plant was hit, immediately disabling over half of Saudi crude output - equivalent to about 5% of the global supply.

US president Donald Trump immediately blamed Iran for being behind the attacks, as did the Saudi regime.

The drone attacks came as a massive shock to the elites in the Gulf states and others across the globe, as it brought home how vulnerable their energy supply and economies are to disruption arising from such sudden, unexpected attacks.

Certainly, it seemed unanticipated by the Saudi regime. This, the biggest arms purchaser in the world, didn’t have the necessary defences at the ready to stop the destructive attack, despite the fact that it was carried out by fairly low-tech missiles.

The Saudi authorities were able to release reserve supplies of crude to temporarily make up the export shortfall, but the infrastructure damage was severe and will take time to fully repair.

Humiliated

As well as an economic shock, this was a major humiliation for the Saudi monarchy - and the more so because it didn’t dare make any immediate military response.

It has already, over years, used a massive amount of hi-tech weapons to destroy Houthi civilians and armed opponents in Yemen, the latter claiming responsibility for the attack.

But it feared triggering an escalation that could draw in Iran, the country it was blaming for the attack, potentially leading to other infrastructure being hit and risking the outbreak of a wider regional war.

However, this week at the UN general assembly Saudi representatives are seeking support from other countries for some kind of action against Iran, without having evidence that Iran - an ally of the Houthis - was directly involved in the attacks.

Saudi Arabia’s superpower ally, the US, has held back from a military response too, as it also did in June when one of its surveillance drones was brought down by Iran.

Trump made bellicose remarks, but has been heeding the advice of advisors who have urged caution, fearing yet another intervention failure in the region and the possible unleashing of a regional war.

Donald Trump and Boris Johnson rallied round the murderous Saudi regime, which continues to prosecute a brutal war in Yemen

Any further significant disruption to oil exports from the Gulf region could tip the already slowing world economy fast into recession

Holding back militarily has been made easier for Trump after having sacked earlier in September US national security advisor John Bolton, who had pushed for harder action against Iran.

Instead, Trump decided just to send extra US troops and missile shield equipment to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he needed to at least be seen to be doing something. And UK prime minister Boris Johnson has refused to rule out sending British forces.

US secretary of state Mike Pompeo hastily visited Saudi Arabia and the UAE, stressing that Trump wanted a “peaceful resolution”. Part of this resolution, though, is more sanctions on Iran which will further devastate its economy and the health and wellbeing of the population.

So, for now, it’s a military ‘stalemate’ but one in which more clashes are likely. As well as the hit on a US drone in June, there were several explosions on oil tankers in the Gulf area in May and June.

US military bases and ships in the region are vulnerable to attack, as are oil-carrying vessels in the Strait of Hormuz which runs between Iran and Oman. Over a fifth of world oil and a quarter of liquefied natural gas pass through a bottleneck of just a few kilometres of navigable water in that strait.

Any further significant disruption to oil exports from the Gulf region could tip the already slowing world economy fast into recession.

Also, part of Trump’s calculations will be that although the US has become self-sufficient in oil due to its shale industry, sustained damage to global supplies would sent the oil price rocketing and increase the cost of fuel at US petrol stations.

Meanwhile the terrible war in Yemen goes on. A possible trigger for the attacks on the Saudi oil plants was the worst yet Saudi air force attack on Yemen on 31 August, which killed 156 civilians.

The Houthis claimed to have fired the missiles on the Saudi oil plants from inside Saudi Arabia itself. This could have been the case, maybe with help from the heavily oppressed minority Shia population in the east of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi regime has been unable to achieve a victory so far in Yemen despite its far superior military resources. To add to its problems the international coalition it assembled for the onslaught is gradually falling apart: Morocco has withdrawn from it and the UAE has largely done so too.

This is part of the shifting balances and alliances of the ruling classes in the region, in competition over trade, influence, prestige and connections with the world imperialist powers.

Power struggle

The iranian regime gained in influence across the region as a result of the failed interventions of the US and other western capitalist governments in Iraq and Syria. It wants to maintain and build on that position but at the same time is facing a deepening economic crisis made worse by US-led sanctions - inflation has risen to 40%, making it an increasing struggle for most Iranian people to make ends meet.

An outbreak of protests in Egypt over the last week, defying heavy repression to demand the resignation of president al-Sisi, is a strong reminder to the elites across the region of what they fear most.

None of them are able to satisfy the basic needs of working people and the poor, including in Iraq and increasingly in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states. It’s only a matter of time before protests again spread across the region as they did on a massive scale in some countries in 2011.

As part of building such mass movements it is crucial that working-class based, democratic organisations are created which must be independent of pro-capitalist representatives. Capitalism has proved over and over again its rottenness. The movements will need to turn to socialist ideas to chart the way forward.
Climate Crisis: Socialist Green New Deal Needed

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On 20 September four million young people and workers around the world took to the streets to strike and protest against climate change (see reports pages 6-7). A few days later Greta Thunberg berated the "empty words" of the world’s leaders at the UN climate summit who are "failing" young people.

A report from investment data company Arabesque S-Ray has revealed that 80% of the biggest 200 companies globally are unlikely to meet targets set out in the Paris Climate agreement of limiting rising temperatures to 1.5˚C by 2050. 30% of them don’t even disclose what their greenhouse emissions are.

Addressing the environmental crisis was placed at the top of the agenda for this year’s Labour Party conference, with 128 motions calling for a Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal refers to the New Deal, a programme of state-backed investment in 1930s USA implemented in order to respond to the crisis of the Great Depression. Its popularity shows the growing understanding that the investment needed to develop green technology is not going to come from the capitalists.

Billions of pounds that have been pumped into the bank accounts of big business since the start of the economic crisis - with the aim of stimulating investment - still sit there, uninvested. They will only invest when they think that a profit can be made.

A Green New Deal and a large-scale programme of state-backed investment could start to bypass the role of the parasitic capitalists. But to remove the parasites completely requires wealth and industry to be taken into public ownership and under democratic workers’ control. This includes the nationalisation of the banks. Workers should not be the ones to pay for an environmental crisis caused by the bosses.

Capitalism’s chaotic market is incapable of the planning required to coordinate the steps needed to solve climate change. Workers and the trade unions have a central role to play in developing this plan. There has been debate in the run-up to the Labour conference about the details of the motion, including concerns from the GMB union which represents some workers in the energy industry.

A plan to stop emissions should go hand in hand with campaigns to save workers’ jobs in the steel industry, at Honda in Swindon, at Ford Bridgend and at Harland and Wolf in Belfast.

The transformation of these industries should harness the expertise of this highly skilled workforce and ensure an expansion of well-paid jobs, in publicly owned, environmentally friendly industries, with workers in their trade unions deciding how they are run.

A Labour government carrying out the Green New Deal would be a big step in the right direction towards addressing the climate crisis. But it must be funded by the wealth currently hoarded by the super-rich, and new green industries must be publicly owned and run democratically by workers and the trade unions.