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Summary

2021: the orgy of ideology	2
Mauro Casadio, Rete dei Comunisti	2
20/11, Bologna - European Union from pole to imperialist superstate?	6
Rete dei Comunisti	6
We students in struggle demand to be heard: we decide on the school's money! OSA - Opposizione Studentesca d'Alternativa	
From the general strike to "No Draghi Day" and beyond	14
Interview with Pierpaolo Leonardi, USB National Confederal Executive	14
Yo soy Fidel!	19
Rete dei Comunisti, Cambiare Rotta, OSA	19
Contacts	20



2021: the orgy of ideology

Mauro Casadio, Rete dei Comunisti

At the end of this year, we have been subjected to a systematic ideological bombardment that began with the G20 meeting in Rome, which neither China nor Russia attended, and continued with COP 26 on the environment.

These summits repeated speeches and formulas that have been repeated for years, without any practical effect and once again giving birth not to a mouse but to a spider mouse.

Summits that are cloaked in a tiresome and annoying rhetoric and that can be compared to those made by European royal families before the Great War in which they patronisingly displayed the good ties between reigning relatives as a guarantee for the peoples of Europe, and then we know how that turned out.

A parody of those moments was the ridiculous farce at the Trevi fountain where all the heads of state pathetically threw a coin into the fountain together.

The ideological amplification of events is a product which is directly proportional to the difficulties and inability of the dominant groups in the imperialist countries to solve the problems they have raised, which have become unmanageable and beyond their reach.

This interpretation is not just one of our sectarian and extremist opinions, but is a snapshot of a situation that was already evident in August with the flight of the USA and NATO from Afghanistan, where the ideological defeat of the countless "humanitarian wars" that have been foisted on us in recent decades weighed more than the military defeat.

Today, in fact, these can no longer be reproposed, such is the discredit suffered by the imperialist interventionism of the beginning of the century, comparable to the colonial wars of the 19th century.

Even the cynical abandonment of Afghan collaborationists to their fate in the hands of the Taliban is a further element of hegemonic crisis in that the US allies know from the facts that they can be dumped at any time by their "protectors"

But why is it that those powers that until recently thought they were the masters of the world can now only attempt to hide their impotence with the rhetoric of their ideology? The reason lies in the stage reached by the productive forces and the globalisation of capitalist relations.

In history, the hegemonic capitalisms of the various epochs were replaced in their competition with their "peers" by the new up-and-coming economies, as happened to Holland in its confrontation with England and to England with the European imperialisms at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a competition that finally ended in favour of the United States after the Second World War.

This evolution by competition could be reproduced because the material spaces for such growth existed and because the "revolutionary" character of the bourgeoisie was expressed through the continuous change and development of science and technology applied to capitalist production, both civil and military.

It is on this level that the socialist experience of the USSR was also defeated as it lingered on a militarist competition that prevented it from seeing that this revolutionary character of capital was by no means dormant despite the crisis of the 1970s, which is why the world today has been completely capitalised by the upward movement of capital.

The effect that emerges today from such a dynamic is that this dimension of development triggers a phase of crisis starting with that of historical capitalisms. The rise of China, the emergence of intermediate economic powers such as India, Russia, Iran, Vietnam, Brazil and others, has led to a saturation of the economic and financial space that has not yet been

resolved, and has increased hypercompetition, which EU President Ursula Van Der Leyen was kind enough to tell us about.

But Biden also said at his summit with Chinese President Xi that the two countries are "competitors" but not "enemies".

On the other hand, the classic 'solution' of the generalised destruction of capital, i.e. world wars, to relaunch development and assert a dominant hegemony are hardly feasible given the international intertwining of the financial dimension and the destructive level of atomic weapons.

And it is certainly no coincidence that today the discussion on the use of atomic energy, a use that can always be converted into instruments of war, is gaining momentum

If this is the depth of the question, it is no longer sufficient to have an interpretation based on capitalisms and their competition as 'epiphenomena' of a structural arrangement. What is emerging is a limitation of the capitalist mode of production, regardless of the specific historical forms it has taken, which tends towards the valorisation of capital to infinity.

The point is that this tendency comes into contradiction with a limited natural system, and although it is still possible to postpone the terms of such a structural contradiction in the short term, it is clear that what is at stake today is the replacement of the MPC with a systemic alternative, or, as has been repeatedly said, with the mutual destruction of the classes in struggle.

The orgy of ideology to which we are subjected on a daily basis by the mass media, bourgeoisie-organic intellectuals and state apparatuses has exactly this purpose, not to confront the contradiction out of powerlessness but to try to anaesthetise the political reactions of the subordinate classes and the peoples of the periphery.

It is precisely at this point that the environmental question is no longer an issue for intellectual 'elites', born even of the English nobility as "La Repubblica" tells us, but must become the subject of political action for class and communist forces.

In reality, a response is already underway in terms that we could classically define as "democratic", we are seeing it in the squares that are following Greta Thunberg, who is benefiting from media coverage that is in some ways suspicious, even though she is setting in motion youthful masses that, within the contradictions of the system, are not necessarily going where the television stations want them to go.

Greta's accusation that the powerful only do blah blah blah blah is a symptom of a difficulty and division that could emerge sooner or later in that movement.

Large sectors of intellectuals and scientists are also speaking out, denouncing the inadequacy of the choices made by governments in clearly useless and damaging summits, but all these subjects carefully avoid uttering the 'forbidden' word of Capitalism.

So the responsibility is generally man's, even Homo Sapiens's, as if the social and productive order does not have structural contradictions, but it is the fault of politicians, industrialists, governments, etc. **In short, for them too, the story is over and all that remains is a problem of conscience on the part of the various players in the field.**

It is clear that this upheaval among young people and their consciences is not the direct political product of the class struggle, but is the sign that a new conflictual condition is opening up in which the class forces can play a role of conscience and knowledge, both on general issues related to the environment and the climate, and on more directly political issues such as the civil nuclear issue in our country.

The Draghi government and its Minister for Ecological Transition (to where?), Cingolani, are producing a new paradox: they are proposing, along with the entire EU, more or less explicitly, the resumption of civil nuclear power with fourth-generation plants that would be a clean energy source, unlike fossil fuels, coal and oil.

This attempt is supported by a number of political forces in the country, and Berlusconi's former minister Lupi has tabled a motion in parliament in support of "green nuclear power", which Cingolani is trying to cover up with bogus declarations on nuclear fusion, knowing full well that this possibility is a long way off.

Therefore, the field of conflict that is opening up on environmental sustainability is vast and requires a politically antagonistic approach, both in the general battles to denounce and demystify the choices represented in major shows such as COP 26, which will be repeated next year, and in areas much closer to home, such as the attempt to reintroduce civil nuclear power, which was rejected in Italy in two referendums in 1987 and 2011. And this is an appointment of struggle not to be missed.



20/11, Bologna - European Union from pole to imperialist superstate?

Rete dei Comunisti

Saturday 20.11 and Sunday 21.11, at the Cinema Nosadella, Bologna

National Forum of the Rete dei Comunisti on the perspectives of the EU

The decline of the USA, the start of the restructuring of continental industry and the European army are the conditions for a qualitative leap in the EU's international role.

In Von Der Leyen's report on the state of the Union, one peremptory statement stands out more than any other, and it is the one that states: "We are entering a new era characterised by hyper-competitiveness". This statement is based on many elements that had already been present in previous years but which, as far as the EU is concerned, now have an objective need for a political, institutional and military synthesis.

This need began to take shape with the pandemic, which highlighted how relations within the EU had to be modified in the sense of a closer decision-making and operational centralisation.

The Recovery Fund is precisely the realisation of this need, which primarily concerns international economic and financial competitiveness

It directs European companies, especially the so-called "champions", i.e. continental multinationals, towards a high-level technological and pseudo-environmental restructuring in order to keep up with the competition from China but also from the USA, which is now in obvious difficulty.

Not only that, but the size of the European bonds integrated with those issued by the Next Generation EU give the EU the chance to compete with the euro also in terms of world reserve currencies, eroding, together with the Chinese yuan, the position of the dollar, which has been going on since the end of the Second World War with the Bretton Woods agreements.

But the main fact that is forcing the Eurocrats and the economic and financial forces in the EU to move forward quickly on integration is the crisis of US hegemony, which is now apparent to the whole world. The flight from Afghanistan, having done so without "warning" its NATO allies and, lastly, the Auskus strategic agreement with the United Kingdom and Australia in an anti-Chinese function, demonstrate the total failure of the US strategy born after the collapse of the USSR.

The abandonment of the Asian continent, the weak and defensive attempt to reconstitute a "pelagic" alliance without the EU countries and the affront to France over the submarines sold to Australia obliges the European Union to relaunch its role, which can only be strategic. First and foremost, it must take note of the downsizing of the United States as a unipolar world force and the start of an unprecedented multipolar phase in which every state actor is alone in the aforementioned hypercompetition.

The discontinuity created by the unipolar phase of US hegemony inevitably leads to the formation of a European army, which is already present in the plans and public statements of the EU government

Such a level of global competition implies for the EU the need for decision-making centralisation and recompacting within its own community sphere but also aimed at its first external periphery, North Africa, West Africa and the Middle East, which immediately leads to the need for a real restructuring of both a productive and social nature.

For our country, the parallel can only be made with the industrial restructuring of the 1980s, which scientifically aimed at destroying the working class that in the 1970s was the vanguard of the struggles in Italian society, calling into question the redistribution of national wealth, which until then had been entirely to the advantage of the ruling classes.

This reference can give us an idea of what is maturing and how, under the rhetoric of environmentalism, alternative energies, and modernity produced by European civilisation, a period of profound modification of production, public services, and social conditions is in the offing, with tears and blood being shed by the subordinate classes, starting with the so-called middle classes, which are today in a clear vertical crisis.

It is equally clear that *the process of generalised centralisation will penalise democracy in individual countries, as is being demonstrated by Draghi's decision-making, which is far more aggressive and dangerous than that of Craxi in the 1980s.*

In perspective, the downsizing of the industrial apparatus, redundancies, job insecurity, the folding of public resources to the advantage of companies, and the wearing out of the residual democratic spaces will be the features of a long phase that will see an overall deterioration of European societies, and this in an international context where economic competition could overflow into political and military clashes with as yet unpredictable sides.

SOCIAL EFFECTS OF RESTRUCTURING

As the Rete dei Comunisti, since the 1990s we have identified this historical trend and described it as the construction of a "European Imperialist Pole" in a post-Soviet division of the world that saw the emergence of competitive economic and monetary areas around the USA, first with NAFTA and then with the failed attempt of the FTAA for Latin America, and around Japan, recognising in that trend the dangers of a resumption of world conflict. At the time, we said that the duty of anti-imperialists and communists was to fight against their own imperialism, which for us meant opposing and breaking up the EU that was being formed.

A lot has changed since that decade, with the emergence of China as a world economic power, the multiplication of regional forces such as Iran, Russia and Turkey, the end of Japan's imperialist ambitions and now also the hegemonic crisis of the USA. The only organic project that has gone ahead thanks to the multiple crises, which have acted as a driving force for the integration project, has been the construction of the European Union. Today, the European Union is on its way to overcoming the condition of "Economic and Financial Area/Pole" and becoming an imperialist superstate that competes on the world stage like the other powers.

In this paradoxical international discontinuity and continuity of the EU, we believe it is essential to reconfirm the objective of breaking up the European Union, Italy's exit from the EU and NATO, and the construction of an alternative area that we see in what we have called the Euro-Mediterranean Dawn

POLITICAL PROPOSAL

We are well aware that this is not an objective on the agenda, but we know that the next few years, the next historical phase, will be characterised by an increase in conflicts, from the class conflict within the EU to the international conflict, which is certainly political if not directly military.

Therefore, giving a marching directive, clearly indicating who the enemy is, not leaving the coming conflicts politically and ideologically unarmed, is a commitment that must start from the present moment of crisis of our class adversary, on pain of the affirmation of reactionary movements that we always realise too late, despite the fact that for years we have been crying wolf, often in the wrong direction.

UNIONE EUROPEA

FORUM NAZIONALE SULLE PROSPETTIVE DELLA UE

20/11 11.00-18.00

10.00/13.00

21/1

Introduzione:

Mauro **CASADIO** Rete dei Comunisti

Relazioni di:

Chiara **POLLIO** PNRR - Linee generali e riforme Marcella **CRASSO**

La strategia industriale dell'UE: una questione di identità, sovranità e competizione

Luciano **VASAPOLLO** L'euro come caratterizzazione della competizione imperialista

Francesco **PICCIONI** Le origini della crisi di egemonia degli Stati Uniti

Giovanni **RUSSO SPENA** Stati armati di Europa Cinzia **DELLA PORTA** Ambientalismo capitalista: un ossimoro si aggira per l'Europa

Bologna

Franco **RUSSO** UE: nuovo paradigma produttivo e vecchio dispotismo

Sergio **CARARO** L'italia ultima tra i primi grazie al Recovery Fund

Cinema Nosadella

Via L. Berti

2/7

Ciacomo **MARCHETTI** L'ALBA euro-mediterranea per uscire dall'Unione Europea e dalla NATO

Intervengono:

Ciorgio **CREMASCHI** Potere al Popolo! Max **CAZZOLA**

spread.it Matteo **CIARDIELLO** Ex OPG Je sò pazzo (NA)





We students in struggle demand to be heard: we decide on the school's money!

OSA - Opposizione Studentesca d'Alternativa

The schools revolt can no longer be stopped. The schools in Rome (but also in other cities, such as Turin and Bologna) are in action as they have not been seen for years, a level of mobilisation of absolute importance that is part of a "strike climate", launched on 11 October by the conflictual unions, which finally seems to be among the watchwords of the country.

A political class that instead continues to disregard tens of thousands of students who, in the face of the normality of everyday life, whose only certainty is that nothing will change, choose to organise themselves and get involved, braving the nightly cold, sheriff's garrisons, repressive forces and a press that is still too subservient to the line of silence and rigour dictated by the government.

Every morning three, four, five schools are occupied. Even the regime's television stations and newspapers are now forced to talk about this mobilisation. But we don't want to report what the bosses' press says. We prefer to let the students speak for themselves. Below is the OSA communiqué of 9 December 2021.

We students in struggle demand to be heard: we decide on the school's money!

The protests that have been going on for two months in Rome, with almost 40 occupied schools, represent the accumulated discontent of the students with this School and this Present of "sick normality". After two years of Pandemia, in a historical moment of strong changes and conflicts, the students' anger burst out and expressed itself through occupations, pickets and strikes, often spontaneous ones.

If occupations and demonstrations were usually seen in the most politicised schools as ritualistic moments, today they have become a powerful and effective tool used by students from schools all over Rome (whether high schools or technical or professional institutes, from the centre or the suburbs, with explicitly political or non-political school collectives) to make their voices heard by deaf institutions, which would like us to be slaves and silent.

All the governments of the last 20 years, centre-right or centreleft, have worked to make the school a cage rather than a place of collective and individual emancipation

The Draghi government and School Minister Bianchi are responsible for the current dramatic situation in schools: Roman students know that it is to them that we must direct our protests, without accepting, however, any exploitation by the parties responsible for the current disaster, from the Democratic Party to the right-wing Fratelli d'Italia and Lega.

We believe that the goal of this student protest movement should be to unite the struggles of all our institutions in one big battle: we do not accept any more delegations, we want to have a say on the money to be allocated to the school!

In fact, 19.6 billion euros are coming for education, which the government intends to invest in reforms that are only favourable to private companies and to make school an empty place of knowledge once and for all, in order to sell students to a world of work, and to a future made of unemployment, exploitation and unbridled competition among us.

We, on the other hand, think that these funds, although still insufficient, should begin to be invested for the future of us students.

Specifically, we want:

1) FUNDS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING SHOULD BE USED TO SOLVE THE GRAVE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN OUR SCHOOLS, not for "Schools 4.0" or the

purchase of advanced digital equipment that will end up in the usual few privileged schools while in all the others the roofs collapse, the radiators are broken, the pipes fail;

2) **RECRUITMENT FUNDS FOR TEACHERS WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS**, not for training courses where teachers are only taught to assess us and give us notions, but to guarantee all of us students stable and permanent teachers, and therefore continuity and quality teaching;

3) WITH THE REFORM OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, THE PROBLEMS OF THESE INSTITUTES WILL BE SOLVED, so that laboratories and materials, education and rights in the workplace are guaranteed, for an education worthy of the name. Let us block the project to transform technical and professional institutes into temporary agencies for private companies in the area;

4) **STOP SCHOOL AUTONOMY AND MANAGERIAL HEADMASTERS**. The reforms of the last twenty years have increased the competition between A and B schools, giving headmasters enormous decision-making powers over the lives of us students and workers. We want a more democratic school and a real right to study for all;

5) **STOP HENHOUSE CLASSES**. The pandemic has shown that it is not possible to continue like this: we want fewer students per class in order to obtain more health security and a better study path for each student;

6) **STOP COMPETITION, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS COUNTS**. We have been accustomed to a world where everyone has to build their own personal career at the expense of others. We don't accept this, let's change course starting from our schools: we want less attention to the evaluation of individual students and more willingness to listen and discuss among students.



From the general strike to "No Draghi Day" and beyond

Interview with Pierpaolo Leonardi, USB National Confederal Executive

We interviewed Pierpaolo Leonardi on the trajectory of USB, and in general of conflictual unionism, from the preparation of the general strike of 11 October to the mobilisations for No Draghi Day on 4 December, and on the situation of class conflict to come.

Question - In mid-July, grassroots and conflict unionism in Italy managed to converge on 18 October as the date for the general strike against the policies of the Draghi government, which was then brought forward to 11 October. The numbers of strikers, the number of city mobilisations and their participation seem to have proved the organisers of 11 October right. How do you assess that day and its consequences, in the light of the certainly not easy premises, in which the enchantment of the current executive is broken for the first time?

Answer - The need to start the confrontation with the varied and composite world of grassroots unionism was born from the murder of

comrade Adil, logistics delegate of Sicobas, coldly murdered during a picket. An event that retraced the story of the murder of our logistics delegate Abdel, also during a picket line in Piacenza, a few years earlier.

USB decided, together with Sicobas, to call an immediate general strike in the entire logistics sector in protest at yet another murder of union delegates, and from there developed the path that led to the strike of 11 October

There was already a political arena in which a part of grassroots unionism had been confronted for more than a few years, in which USB had never participated, and which in past years had proclaimed general strikes that in reality had gathered little support, in which Sicobas also participated. It was a place where a rather strong antagonism towards us had developed, because we had repeatedly argued that the time of the grassroots union form was over and that it was necessary to work on the construction of the confederal, class and mass union.

However, our decision to contribute to building the strike for the death of Adil, which Sicobas had of course immediately proclaimed, allowed the resumption of the confrontation that had been interrupted for years and which, on the initiative of USB, broadened participation to other trade union organisations that had always been outside the pre-existing circuit.

This enlargement, the awareness that the situation needed the broadest possible response, the dramatic context of the pandemic and the determination of the class enemy to use it to strengthen its command over society and in particular the world of work, led everyone to find, not without effort, a common ground for initiative which then produced the general strike of 11 October.

The political success of the general strike, which became a moment of attraction and participation even for a very wide range of political forces that had long lacked a mass initiative in the social and trade union spheres, was realised with the participation of tens of thousands of people in the local demonstrations and national events strongly desired by the USB

These took place in front of the Ministry of Education, Brunetta's Ministry of Civil Service, and the MISE: symbolic places identified as the three main points of conflict in the violent

productive and social reorganisation supported by the Draghi government and Bonomi's Confindustria.

The very high number of participants, which we estimate at around one million, was indeed an important signal that led us not to exhaust the confrontation with the other organisations but to maintain it while respecting the different identities.

Question: In the weeks following the 11 October strike, there was a desire on the part of the government to restrict the margins of action on the streets in general, an attempt of which the Union of Basic Trade Unions was also a victim, reacting to the attempts to 'put a gag order' on what was emerging as social opposition to the Draghi government. Can you describe the situation of this umpteenth "authoritarian twist"?

Response - The general strike of the 11th has certainly helped to revive the struggles. The cessation of street initiatives imposed by the pandemic had made it very difficult to forcefully express opposition to the political choices of the Draghi government and the European Union, which have tried in every way to use the pandemic for a gigantic redefinition and relaunch of the interests of the bourgeoisie and national and European capital.

The great success of 11 October and the demonstrations of that day certainly represented not only a response and the proposition of an overall platform of struggle, but also an important moment of resumption of the word of the conflict. This immediately led to countermeasures by the repressive apparatus, which tried in every way to prevent the movement that had been created from developing and growing.

Even using the excuse of the 'no vax' demonstrations, it imposed truly unacceptable restrictions on demonstrations, marches and mobilisations of any kind. On several occasions we have had to clash heavily with the prefectures and police headquarters in order to maintain democratic rights and the right to strike, which had already been heavily attacked in previous years and even more so during the pandemic.

It should be remembered that our general strike in March 2020, which was symbolically called in the health sector and lasted just one minute, cost us more than €5,000 in penalties from the Strike Committee!

Question - In the spirit of the general call for a united strike on 11 October, the confrontation between the various conflicting trade union organisations led to the proclamation of a 'No Draghi Day' for Saturday 4 December. This day was articulated with various local demonstrations that saw the participation and active support of political forces - such as Potere al Popolo - and youth organisations, such as OSA and Cambiare Rotta. Can you take stock of this day from the USB point of view?

Response - The success of the general strike of 11 October, the mass response that it had and the simultaneous acceleration by the government of the restructuring processes preparatory to the use of Recovery Fund funds in full support of enterprises, the resumption of mass layoffs, the spread of precariousness, the attack on citizenship income, the new violent attack on pensions and the disappearance of the minimum wage from the political scene have imposed a mass response that has seen all the conflicting trade union organisations, already promoters of the general strike, give life to the No Draghi Day involving a large part of the political forces of the alternative left.

On that day, 29 Italian squares were filled with marches and demonstrations, which broke the spell of unanimity surrounding the former governor of Bankitalia and then of the European Central Bank. The attempt by almost all the political forces, including President Mattarella, to make Draghi look like the only one who could save the country and therefore he should be supported in all his decisions, even if taken without any parliamentary passage and with the government of all completely subjugated by Draghi's little team, has finally found a response of struggle and mobilisation that will have to continue in the coming months to prevent his election as head of state and to oust him as president of the council of ministers.

I want to underline the widespread and truly mass presence of young people and students at the demonstrations all over Italy, and in particular of average students organised in OSA, which then gave rise to a season of school occupations that is still going on despite brutal and unjustifiable repression

Question: The will to fight expressed by the conflictual trade unions has been matched by an attitude substantially subordinated to the policies of the current executive by the CGIL, CISL and UIL, from which the CGIL and UIL, which have called for a strike on 16 December, have not 'broken away'. What was their role and what are the tasks of trade unionism in conflict?

Answer: The capacity for continuous and articulated mobilisation of the forces of conflict, of grassroots and class unionism and of the antagonistic political forces has been counterbalanced by the deafening silence of the unions, accomplices and accomplices of the restructuring processes, from the recommendations to the bosses to lay off workers sparingly, to listening to the sirens of Bonomi and Draghi, to hoping for a new social pact that would guarantee social and productive reorganisation from any organised conflict.

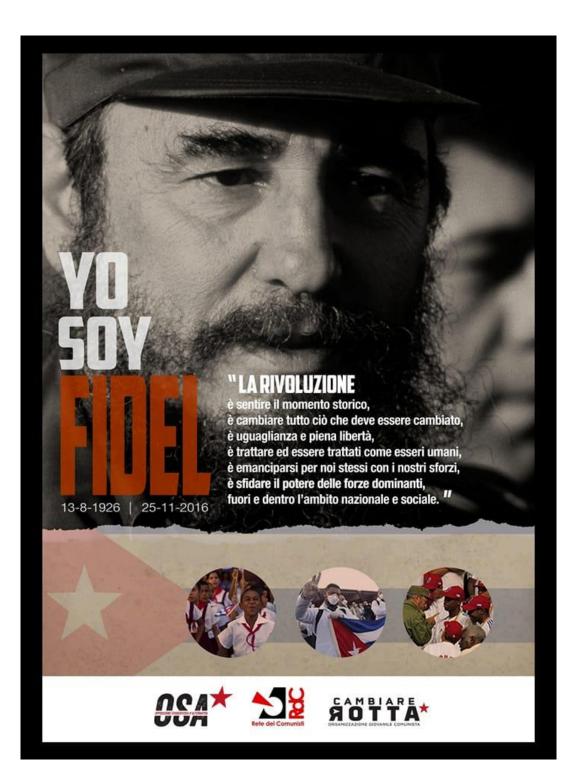
Draghi's pats on the back to Landini in front of the CGIL headquarters, attacked by fascists and not defended by the police, are an indelible image of this.

The strike of 16 December is really a dutiful satisfaction for a base increasingly astonished at the complicit attitude of its leaders and a signal to Draghi that his absolute willingness to pay is reciprocated by the respect of the commitments made to guarantee their greater function and role in the country.

We are therefore only at the beginning of a long-lasting battle and of strong mobilisations that, despite the resurgent pandemic and the immoderate use in a repressive function of those who take to the streets to protect a misunderstood individual freedom, is already identifying new areas of struggle and organisation.

Yo soy Fidel!

Rete dei Comunisti, Cambiare Rotta, OSA



Contacts

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Contropiano

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