

Workers Party of Ireland

mailto: wpi.international@gmail.com

website: workersparty.net

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Contribution of the Workers Party of Ireland to the Internationalist Event in Athens

(23rd November 2025) – Timely Messages of the October Revolution in our contemporary struggle for socialism under conditions of imperialist war

The Workers Party of Ireland conveys its thanks to the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) for hosting this important meeting and for last night's magnificent political and cultural event. Our Party also extends fraternal greetings to all the parties present today.

The Workers Party of Ireland, together with our comrades across the world, celebrates the 108th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution led by Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, on 25 October (7 November) 1917. The October Revolution remains a seismic moment in the history of the world. For the first time in human history, workers proved their ability to overthrow the capitalist order and establish a workers' state.

By establishing the world's first socialist state, the Bolsheviks set the stage for the creation of the Soviet Union, an event that would profoundly shape the future and lay the basis for the political, social and economic liberation of humankind by creating a new social system which abolished private ownership of the means of production, rejected the barbarism of capital and created the conditions for the establishment of a new type of civilization where the working class were masters of their own destiny.

The Great October Socialist Revolution transferred power to the working class, broke down the machinery of the bourgeois state and established the world's first workers'

state. The object of the October Revolution was to abolish all forms of exploitation and oppression and to construct a new society based on socialist ideas. The Bolshevik Revolution was at the core of a political phenomenon the impact of which was felt across the world. It was indeed “*ten days that shook the world*”.

The October Revolution took place because the Bolsheviks were armed with two indispensable weapons (which remain relevant today) – first, a dynamic revolutionary theory and secondly, a disciplined revolutionary party committed to leading the working class to power. As Lenin stated: “*Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement*”. (*What is to be Done?*) In the period preceding the October Revolution the Bolshevik Party won to its cause the majority of the workers and poor peasants. Throughout 1917 Lenin set out the political structures of the new workers’ state, most comprehensively in the “*State and Revolution*”.

Uniquely among all the parties in Russia only the Bolsheviks recognised and trusted the instincts and impatience of the working class. Lenin recognised that the objective conditions for revolution existed. He also recognised that it was necessary to develop and maintain mass support in any revolutionary action against the provisional government.

The October Revolution provided inspiration to the workers and oppressed of the world. It had a massive impact throughout Europe. In Ireland, in February 1918, some 10,000 people attended a rally in Dublin to greet the success of the October Revolution. The first Congress of the Peoples of the East convened in Baku in September 1920 was attended by almost two thousand delegates who represented around 40 nations. The October Revolution introduced an era of revolutionary change both within Russia and beyond.

It is impossible to commemorate the Great October Socialist Revolution without also acknowledging and applauding the many achievements of the first workers’ state. The industrialization of the economy, the expansion of medical and health services, the development of educational provision and training, the measures taken to provide for culture, literature and sport, the development of agriculture, scientific and technological progress and the improvement in the material conditions of working people were among the many accomplishments of the revolution.

The October Revolution was a decisive and transformative break with the old world order and laid the basis for the political, social and economic liberation of humankind. It brought about a new social system which abolished private ownership of the means of production, rejected the barbarism of capital and created the conditions for the establishment of a new type of civilization throughout the world.

For the first time in history the revolutionary ideas of Marx and Engels were translated into practice vindicating the principles of Marxism-Leninism through the establishment of a workers’ state. It commenced a new stage in international solidarity and encouraged and inspired the international revolutionary movement. The

October Revolution invested the workers' movement with a revolutionary consciousness and objective, the function of educating, organising and mobilising the mass of the working people in the struggle against capital and the task of building a new society.

The October Revolution demonstrated the vital importance of a revolutionary vanguard party and a politically conscious working class. The development of class consciousness remains a central task of the ideological and political work of the Communist and Workers' parties. In every struggle it is the task of our parties to proclaim that the only possible economic foundation for a genuine democracy is the social ownership of the means of production.

Notwithstanding setbacks and reversals, the experiences of the Great October Socialist Revolution remain valid. We have learned to expose the betrayals of the social democrats and opportunists; to vigorously take up every struggle against capitalism; to remain steadfast in our commitment to socialist principles and to remain committed to the struggle for socialist revolution.

Today, as over a century ago, Europe is confronted by many of the same questions, conflicts and problems: how to understand and respond to capitalist exploitation and imperialist war and the battle against reformism, opportunism and national chauvinism.

At the time of the first World War, the focus for Lenin was the possibility for revolutionary change. From the outset he urged workers to take up arms, not against their fellow workers of other nations, but against the reactionary and bourgeois governments of their own countries and the world.ⁱ

While the biggest parties in the Second International betrayed the workers of their own countries and Europe as a whole, those groups committed to proletarian internationalism formulated a different response. These remain lessons for today.

Lenin's article on "The Position and Tasks of the Socialist International," clearly set out the attitude of revolutionary Marxism to the war and he engaged in a relentless struggle for this revolutionary line.¹

Lenin pointed out that the military blocs confronting each other at that time were not engaged as they contended in a "defensive war" and that the pretence of "defending the homeland" was nothing more than justification for an imperialist war. We cannot ignore this when assessing the current conditions of imperialist war.

The imperialist epoch, then as now, is an epoch of war. For the European bourgeoisie contemporary history is falsely posited as the struggle between "democracy" and "dictatorship". The social democrats endorse this narrative

¹*The Tasks of Revolutionary Social-Democracy in the European War, Collected Works, Vol. 21, 15-19*

providing the ground work for continuing anti-communist slander and the demonisation of the socialist project while the opportunists provide cover for rival imperialist forces under nationalist pretexts.

Imperialism has once again brought a major war to our continent, while other conflicts continue around the world fuelled by rivalry among current and aspirant powers, and competition for resources and the opportunity to exact profit. The production of the means of mass destruction has assumed shocking proportions. The accumulation and technological refinement of nuclear weapons continue. Tens of billions of dollars are spent by the imperialist powers on weapons of war (which we have seen in the genocide against the Palestinian people) while public services such as health, education, housing and environmental protection are disregarded. The expansion of foreign military bases continues to pose a threat to peace. Imperialism poses an ongoing threat to the peoples of the world through subversion, coercion, intervention, occupation and war.

The war that is being waged in Ukraine today is another imperialist war. Russia and Ukraine are today capitalist countries and each of these regimes serve the interests of the capitalist class. This war is the outcome of escalating inter-imperialist rivalries in the region. While we should never forget the role of the EU, US and NATO which systematically promoted the economic, political, and military encirclement of Russia, and are now once again ramping up for war, neither should we forget the lessons taught by Lenin about the Second International which sought to justify imperialist war under false slogans which betrayed the workers of Europe.

The Great October Socialist Revolution demonstrated that the birth of a new society is possible, that workers can create a state in their own image. The Revolution graphically illustrated the vitality of Marxism-Leninism and the potential for workers to transform society and the world. The ideas of the October Revolution continue to foster the revolutionary ingenuity and imagination and provide the basis for building the revolutionary capacity to bring about radical and lasting change.

The lessons of the October Revolution remain valid. As capitalism continues to generate war, poverty and catastrophic climate change, workers can build a world free of inequality, exploitation and oppression. The October Revolution has shown that socialism can be made a reality. Through revolutionary struggle the world can be changed, and workers have a new socialist world to win.

Gerry Grainger

International Secretary

Workers Party of Ireland
