

# THROUGH CLASS UNITY AND RESISTANCE Freedom



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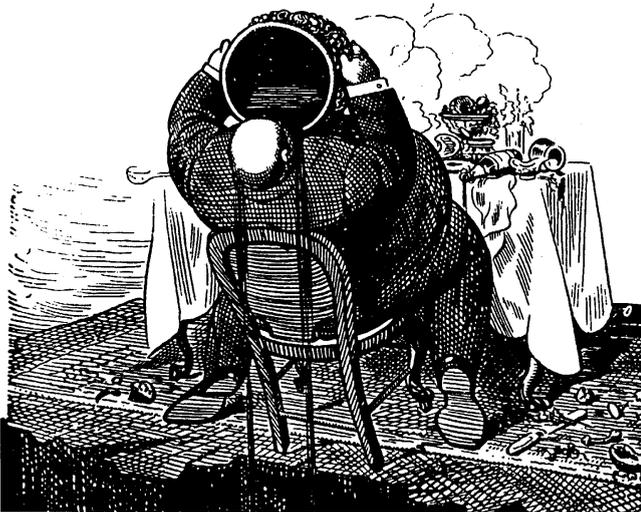
**Freedom without Socialism is Privilege, Injustice  
Socialism without Freedom is Slavery, Brutality - BAKUNIN**

## **World Community Not Global Economy**

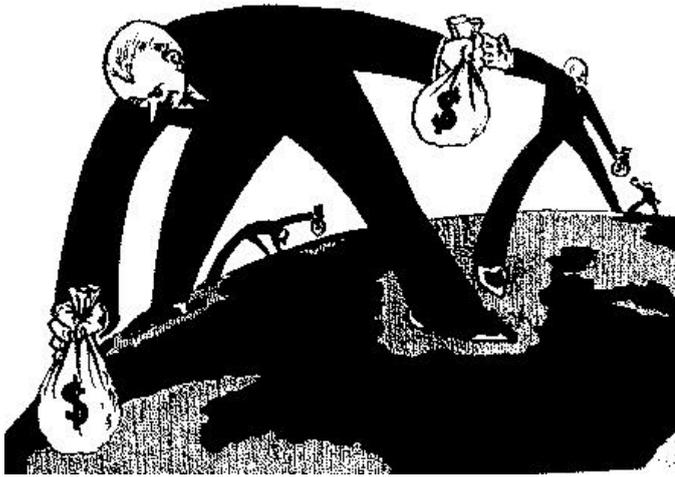
***“But what is the economy about? It is about working hard just to survive, while making profits for others to live at our expense. The economy is a human misery. By striking, workers reduce the misery!”***

The idea of globalisation is now well known both among those who support it and many who try to criticise the present world order, but this idea can be misleading. It is not about the weakening of good democratic nation states in favour of bad unaccountable corporations. It is the democratic states themselves and the big corporations that are setting up international frameworks like the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The plan which governments and corporations are trying to agree on is to dismantle the barriers to the free passage of money and commodities while keeping up the barriers to the movement of people. Nation states are in no danger from the process of globalisation because they are to remain prisons for the peoples. These states are getting weaker but are increasing their powers of repression. Here in South Africa it is the ANC that is defending capitalism and is dragging COSATU along with it. For those people from other countries who cross its borders without permission it builds prisons while at the same time relying on such immigrants to do the most shitty jobs. The state and capital are two sides of the same coin.

We need to think why we are opposed to the WTO and free trade. The problem is not free trade because the opposite of free trade is protected markets, which are still markets. The problem is not corporate rule because the opposite of corporate rule is government rule, which is the control of our lives by politicians rather than businessmen. The problem is not the loss of sovereignty to an undemocratic and unaccountable institution because we are no more in control of the sovereign democratic state than we are in control of the WTO. The problem is not just private capitalists because state run enterprises rely on the same exploitation and drudgery. The problem is not big business because small business lives by the rules of the market just as much. The problem is not that the free trade of the WTO is not fair because all trade is about the trading in human misery.



The problem is capitalism as a whole, the fact that humanity is divided against itself, politically into separate nation states, economically into separate capitalist enterprises (whether private or state run) and individually into separate atomised worker/consumers competing with each other. Capitalism separates us from the means of production, forcing us to sell ourselves as wage labourers in order to buy the things we need in order to survive. Workers produce these commodities and the means to produce them but what we produce exists separate to us as capital. In this upside down world we are the objects, while it is the things – money, commodities, capital – that are the subjects. Capital, while it appears in the form of things, is not a thing but a social relation. It is nothing but our own power, our own activity existing against us as an alien power. Some people, those with political or economic power, gain from this division. They identify with capital and think of it as a natural order. For most of us it is a misery. It seems here that we are dealing with abstractions but these are real abstractions that dominate people's lives. We may not be



experts on the WTO, but we are experts in the power that money has over our lives. Ultimately the social relation of capital and labour is that between us and our alienated activity. All we have to do is take it back.

If the attack represented by the bosses is to be defeated, workers are going to have to break the laws. We need to take action without following the rules, we need to connect with other groups of workers. The trade unions will tell us to stay within the law but our real strength lies not in following the law but in supporting each other. Uniting all the different groups is a way forward, a way of getting beyond our divisions is to see that we are all in the same position.

everything!

Moving onto work and the resistance to it, we encounter groups and ideas of the old left. Claiming to be experts in this topic of capitalism certain groups try to send us down dead ends. While privatisation is an attack on consumers and workers alike we must not fall into some nostalgia for nationalised industry. Just because the industries belong to the government does not mean that we own or control them. Of course it was people like us who built and work them; under private or 'public' ownership they have always been a capitalist enterprise. The old Left, whether labour, Stalinist or Trotskyist, have been tied to a failed project of identifying our emancipation with state control. They have

Whether in a job or unemployed, we share the reality of not having control over our lives under capitalism, while at the same time acting together gives us the power to do

always tried to make us put our faith in something outside us – in left wing politicians, in a 'workers government' etc. – the only answer for us lies in organising and controlling our own struggles separate from all those who would seek to represent us.

What the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has shown is that the old idea of 'socialism' as state control of industry rather than private control was a dead end. Our future lies beyond the nation state and separate enterprises, against the plans of our rulers for a single global economy. We need a world community! The only way to that community is by building unions and communities of struggle in the here and now.



**based on an essay written by *Some Unknown Proletarians***

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