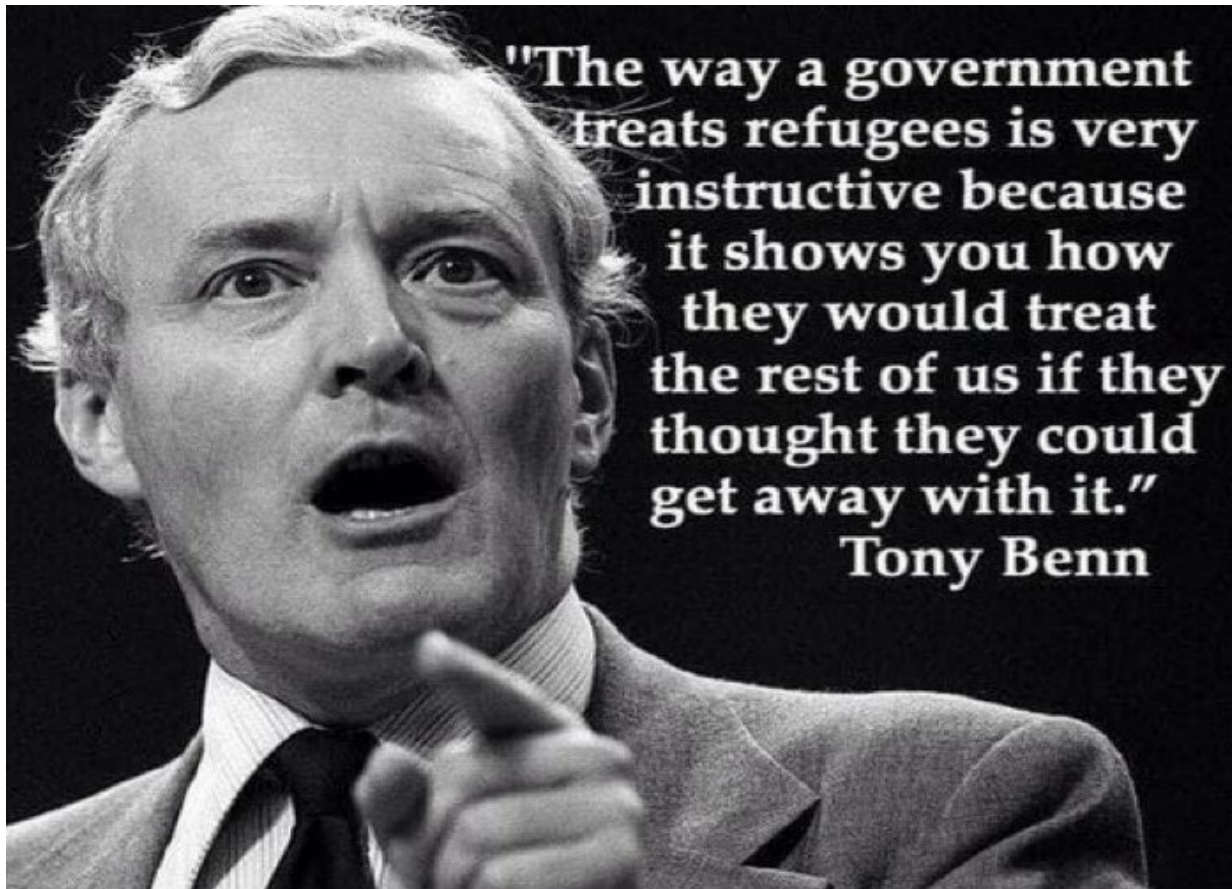


Migration and racism

- Mass migration is a class issue more than a humanitarian one



What does this mean for workers?

- “ Never let a serious crisis go to waste?”
Mirowski
- Migration Beyond Capitalism: Hannah Cross
- Trade Union Tramps and Travellers: Kim
Moody

Migration

- No such thing as “free movement of labour” under capitalism
- 280 million people classed as migrants
- 4% of global population & growing
- Quadrupled since 1960
- Vast majority of migration is not voluntary
“the continuum of coercion”, Tebbit “on your bike”
- Majority of migration permanent
“no right of return”
- Additional internal migration mainly rural to urban
- Mass migration is a catastrophe for a country and an economy (loss of economic, social and cultural capital) for both those losing and receiving
- Some countries lost up to 25% of working population ie Eastern Europe, S. America

Why do people migrate?

- War and conflict
- Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Ukraine, Sudan
Eritrea, Sub Saharan Africa, Palestine
- Few legal routes of migration
- Internal and religious repression
- Criminality

Economic Imperialism

- Economic conditions
- Global economic rules WTO, IMF and World Bank impose “free trade” rules limits economy to primary industry ie mining, agriculture, Free trade agreements NAFTA, EU, TPP etc
- Privatisation, austerity creating inequality, criminal economies
- Sanctions by developed nations
- Education as a tradeable resource and export in undeveloped nations; India , China, S. America, Philippines (remittances)
- Global debt
- Capital flows from undeveloped to developed nations
- Creates “pull” factors to developed nations
- Media created impressions of developed nations
- Developed nations buying up resources and land: Ukraine, Congo

Climate Change

- Undeveloped world bearing brunt of climate change
- Rural and agricultural people suffer most
- Land and water enclosure
- Precursor to war
- Syrian and Sub-Saharan conflict began with a drought
- Increases rural to urban
- Increases economic competition
- Intensifying as the world fails in tackling climate change

Three Challenges (1)

- Cheap Labour is central to the accumulation of capital and this reflects positions on migration and its management. It is sustained in policies related to labour mobility, citizenship and border management. (Laval and Viking cases)
- New workers denied rights
- Disciplined by deportation and immigration rules
- Illegal employment
- Lack of citizenship

Challenges (2)

- National chauvinism presents an ideological foundation for cheap labour and its engine, imperialism abroad.
- It promotes exploitation of migrant workers and promotes divisions among workers.
- Recruits to right wing parties, breaks solidarity and promotes war

Challenges (3)

- Class Prejudice: Influential and wealthier sections of the Liberal and Left deny the domestic class dimensions of the migration regime. Migrant labour tends to benefit the middle and upper classes, while it is deliberately used to drive down working conditions in some sections of the economy. This alienates and ultimately disempowers the working class. The workers most damaged by migration are the last arrivals as competition increases, whatever their citizenship status.
- Lindsay Oil Refinery reporting,

How we win.

- Anti war and anti imperialist
- Reform of economic global rules.
- Worker solidarity, organisation & employment regulation
- Develop safe routes
- Promote the “right to stay” and “the right of return”

The politics

The large scale employer looking at greater profitability or the way to cut costs has several options open, the easiest and laziest being to cut wages. If the workers are well organised they can resist this so there are two options open to the capitalist. Either take the factories to where the cheap labour is or take the cheap labour to where the factories are. In some cases it is preferable to move the cheap labour.

Having thus encouraged immigration, wearing the financial hat as it were, the capitalist in the capacity of right wing politician, dons the political hat and denounces immigration. This has the advantage of setting worker against worker, fuelled by religious or ethnic antipathy, which can last for generations. It does the capitalist no harm at all to have a workforce hated by other workers and living in fear of deportation or expulsion. Nor does it hurt the capitalist politically to have immigration replace wages and the money system as the basic workplace issue.

Albert Metzler: Anarchism ; Arguments for and against