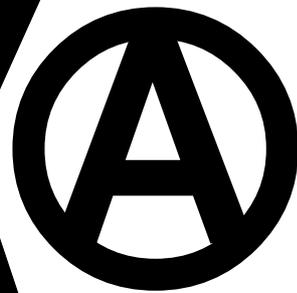


# resistance

## anarchist bulletin

Issue 6  
Ireland  
Free/Donation



# GANGSTA'S PARADISE

FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS in Afghanistan, we have been triumphantly informed of the many victories of the Northern Alliance over the hated Taliban, their seizure of territory and their 'liberation' of many areas of the country.

### We're So Happy

Images have graced our screens of smiling children and jubilant crowds, men shaving beards, and flying kites, welcoming the new rulers much as they did the Taliban years earlier. But how much is really known about these new saviours who, as George Bush candidly announced, are now funded at least partly by the US?

### Origins

The Northern Alliance is a marriage of convenience, a mafia of rival factions that got together last time in 1996, when non-Pashtun forces quickly re-aligned in response to the Taliban's seizure of Kabul (there had been a previous alliance in 1992). In the years before the Taliban took control of most of Afghanistan, these parties had divided much of the country among themselves while battling for control of Kabul. In 1994 alone, an estimated 25,000 were killed there; most of them civilians, in rocket and artillery attacks. One-third of the city was reduced to rubble, and much of the rest sustained serious damage. They wreaked havoc in all areas under their control. Stories of mass butchery echo throughout the lands once ruled by these warlords, who have repeatedly tortured and killed civilians and soldiers indiscriminately. In short, the Northern Alliance, is an alignment of power-hungry gangsters seeking to exploit ethnic tensions for their particular slice of the pie.

### People's Front Of...etc

The main factions that make up the Northern Alliance today are:

The ethnic Tajik Jamiat-I-Islami, (Islamic Society) headed by Alliance leader, Burhanuddin Rabbani whose followers, before S11, controlled most of the Persian speaking areas of NE and W. Afghanis-



stan. Along with his military sidekick, Ahmad Shad Masoud, he also controls the poppy fields of Badakhstan, and holds the Afghan seat at the UN.

The ethnic Uzbek Junbish-I-Milli-yi Islami, led by General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Their traditional sphere of influence has been Mazaar -i-Sharif, and they have enjoyed both Uzbek and Russian support over the years.

The ethnic Hazara Shia groupings of the Hizb-I-Wahdat led by Karim Khalili and Mohaqiq whose strings are pulled by Iran.

These self-appointed leaders are nothing but war lords with no respect for human life. It's an all too familiar tale of a bloodthirsty proxy army backed by the West to pursue their regional interests, just as in Chile, Indonesia and Haiti to name but a few.

### What We Believe

Bush and Blair now want to try their hands at building a new government to 'represent' all the people of Afghanistan. As anarchists, we don't believe that an ethnic Hazara, Uzbek or Tajik ruler can 'represent' the people of Afghanistan any better than a Pashtun leader can. Being represented means surrendering control of your life to others. As usual, the US, through its client states in the area, will seek to exploit the ethnic tensions, playing the factions of against one another in order to divide and conquer while sucking the country dry of drugs and oil. ★

## THE SHANNON FILES

STRANGE LIGHTS have been seen in the skies above Shannon airport in the west of Ireland, and we're not talking about the extra-terrestrial variety. Among others, a World Airways (WA) DC 10-30 was spotted after midnight on November 24th landing at Shannon, even though all WA scheduled flights there were supposed to have come to a halt in 1986.

WA, however, are doing very well out of S11 – they were awarded \$175m to provide chartered services to USAF's air mobility command.

This at a time when many airlines, including Aer Lingus, are going to the wall. A possible 35,000-40,000 workers, directly or indirectly employed at Shannon, are facing an uncertain future. Not so for those most to gain from the war – the military and their corporate allies.

The national demo at Shannon is on December 15th. ★

## ANTI-WAR PROTESTS

EARLY NOVEMBER saw around 1500 protesters at a major anti-war rally in Dublin. Apart from the presence of the AFI, (Anarchist Federation Ireland) there was a heavy anarchist contingent with members of the Workers Solidarity Movement (WSM), and the newly formed 'Anarchists Against The War'.

Meanwhile in Sligo town, protestors have been holding regular candlelight vigils outside the GPO. A 'Samba 4 Solidarity' took place on the 24th. For more info contact: [jessamine\\_oc@yahoo.com](mailto:jessamine_oc@yahoo.com) ★

## ANARCHIST NEWS

FOR MORE INFO about anarchism in Ireland, check out: [rebelweb.cjb.net](http://rebelweb.cjb.net) ★



## The 1798 rebellion

FOUNDED IN 1791 in Belfast and Dublin, The 'United Irishmen' were a testament to a new period of heightened political awareness in Ireland. Following in the footsteps of the French Revolution (1789), which their founder Wolfe Tone called 'the morning star of liberty in Ireland', they sought to bring together anglicans, dissenters, and catholics in the pursuit of a common goal – catholic emancipation.

Reforms gained early on, however, were soon lost when Britain went to war with France in 1793, and Irish society was polarised along its traditional sectarian divide – catholics hoping for French success, protestants remaining loyal to the crown. The United Irishmen, however, radicalised in expectation of a French victory and future military assistance, broadened their demands to nothing short of full scale revolution and hoped to achieve this through the mobilization of the masses. Their wishes nearly came through when 15,000 French troops tried to land off Bantry Bay in December 1796 but failed due to bad weather.

The aim of Britain, meanwhile, was to provoke a rebellion before the French could arrive, and to facilitate this, they started a major campaign of oppression arresting many of the United Irishmen's leaders. It worked, and the rebellion was put forward to May 23rd 1798.

In the south, it was to have 3 phases, starting in Dublin city, spreading outwards to counties Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow, and then onto Westmeath, Laois, Carlow and Wexford. In the north, risings were planned in Antrim and Down. Unfortunately, the timing of the risings both north and south were betrayed. In Dublin, it was completely undermined, and although risings did take place, they were eventually quelled at decisive battles at New Ross, Arklow, Vinegar Hill and Ballynahinch. The rebellion had failed.

But what were the reasons for this failure? First of all, the United Irishmen, in spite of their success in increasing their membership to 50,000 by 1798, never overcame the class conflict within their ranks. Even though more labourers and artisans joined after 1793, its leaders, like Lord Edward Fitzgerald (in the south) and Robert Simms (in the north), were predominantly middle class, while the fear of 'mob rule' was never far from their minds (even if it meant the fatal delaying of the rising, as for example in the north). The victory of this leaderless 'mob' at the battle of Oulard perhaps shows what

might have been achieved if the rebels had placed more trust in their own abilities. Unlike Reynolds, who betrayed the timing of the Dublin rising, they didn't have ancestral homes to lose.

Secondly, in spite of all their efforts, the United Irishmen were never able to stamp out the sectarianism that threatened to undermine the very basis of what they claimed to stand for. The sectarianism of the predominantly catholic Defenders wishing to again revenge for the expulsion of 7000 catholics out of Armagh in 1795 was grossly underestimated, while the massacre of protestants in Wexford town was overestimated and sowed the seeds of future hatred and mistrust.



Emblem of United Irishmen

And yet, in spite of everything, in spite of the attempts of both republicanism and unionism to revise the historical facts of the rebellion, and to shroud them in the myth of their own particular tradition, the rebellion does have something to offer anarchists today.

That it reminds us of the dangers of revolution hijacked by those claiming to lead the working class is perhaps too obvious. That it warns us of the absolute necessity of class solidarity irrespective and in spite of religious preference is also patently clear. That it gives us a tantalising glimpse of what can be achieved when people, like the people of the so-called Wexford Republic, refuse to be manipulated by sectarian elites, decide to exercise control over their own lives, establish local committees to organise themselves, a militia to defend themselves and start printing their own ration coupons, and all in the space of three weeks...then we can really begin to appreciate just what human nature is capable of. ★

## CAPITALISM RUBBISHED

VICTORY was won by Cork-based Householders Against Service Charges (HASC) when the Irish Supreme Court found that Cork Corporation (CC) are legally obliged to collect household waste in spite of non-payment of service charges (see **resistance #4**). HASC had been dumping rubbish outside Cork town hall in protest against the charges. CC have also agreed to end legal proceedings against HASC members in return for the end to the town hall protest. ★

## SS PSNI

IT MAY TAKE slightly longer to daub on walls, but otherwise, what is the real difference between the old, sectarian RUC, and the new, 'community-friendly' PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland)? The answer: NONE. As anarchists, we believe that the police are the armed-wing of the state whose primary role is to protect the interests of capital, and to maintain the status quo i.e capitalism. The end of sectarianism against catholics in the north does not mean the end of sectarianism. The old RUC, and the new PSNI, like police forces everywhere, are by their very nature functionaries of the state and collaborate with it against the interests of the working class, irrespective of religion, and whatever symbol they decide to wear on their hats. ★



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## Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation Ireland (AFI)** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: **the ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and the **working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism. As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

**Organisation** is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact:

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