

Alternativa Libertaria

ONLINE NEWS SHEET OF THE FEDERAZIONE DEI COMUNISTI ANARCHICI

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The appearance of a "normal" country



Following the approval of the 2007 Budget the centre-left government appears to be more stable and therefore better able to overcome certain internal contradictions and face the coming challenges:

pension reform and the success of its plans to put workers' severance pay into funds;
labour contract reform;
flexibility as a cure for precarity;
assimilation and regularization of the new Eastern European immigrant workforce and "model" temporary detention centres (CPTs) for migrants;
completion of "European" infrastructural work (TAV, various corridors, etc.);
new national energy plan (gas/regasification, etc.);
confirmation of Italian military presence abroad;
plan to liberalize and privatize strategic sectors;
liberalization plans in commercial services as a laughable form of support for demand.
After its adventures in government, the parliamentary opposition of the centre-right seems to be in a phase of re-organization in the light of the UDC (Union of Christian and Centrist Democrats) distancing itself from the coalition and the dangerous nostalgia of the Northern League movement. However, their objective of fiscal federalism is still within reach.
The industrialists' federation, Confindustria, is more than satisfied with the 2007 Budget and will be working with the government on the task of contract reform (preference for de-centralized contracts with gradual abandoning of national labour contracts) and a return to control over working hours and rhythms as a condition for wage talks.

With the entry into government of a

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Vicenza in Struggle No Dal Molin

The concessions made to the United States government by Italian prime minister Prodi and foreign secretary D'Alema for a new military base in Vicenza (at the Dal Molin airport) is a matter of the utmost seriousness which goes to show this government's militaristic, war-mongering tendency, and provides yet another signal of continuity with the disastrous foreign policy of previous governments.

Hot on the heels of a "blood, sweat and tears" Budget for Italian workers, the increase in military spending and the soon-to-be-confirmed continuation of financing for military missions abroad (in Afghanistan and Lebanon) with the full support of the centre-right opposition coalition, are the most tangible signs of the continuity from one government to the next over the past fifteen years. It is these governments who are to blame for having pushed this country into the war games, thus betraying the pacifist and anti-militarist spirit of the majority of Italians who are against war and who support the withdrawal of Italian troops from abroad.

Conceding another military base in Vicenza, an area that is already heavily militarized, is further proof of the submission of this country to the diktats of the US government which, now more than ever, needs to reorganize its military presence in the world for its global war on terror, with the sole aim of implementing more efficiently its unilateralist, greed-driven policies of aggression against countries that are rich in resources but poor as far as per capita incomes are concerned.

The presence of a military base in any area not only poses problems linked to its violent and destructive nature, but also represents a threat for the local population, which is forced to put up with a progressive worsening of their living conditions.

Apart from being instruments of death and destruction, military bases pollute the air and water, upset the social balance, use up precious energy and cause the social and economic development of the surrounding area to be influenced by military and geo-political policies instead of by the will and needs of local inhabitants.



No Vat!

Does the Pope irritate you? Irritate the Pope!

The Catholic Church continues incessantly with its political goal of a return to the *res publica sub Deo* ("public affairs, under god"), or the domination of civil power by religious power. It is a policy that helps us to understand, in the clearest possible terms, the profoundly reactionary and conservative nature of the historical role of the Catholic Church, its institutional functions and its use as a tool for social control, within the general framework of a capitalist class society based on exploitation and inequality.

The demonstration to be held in Rome on 10th February 2007 is the result of an urgent, pressing need that affects Italy today: the need to defend and free civil society from the policies of the Church, which today intervenes directly as a political force in conjunction with certain "secular forces" at the head of the governing coalition whose strategy is to foster religious divisions in the country, creating compact religious groups.

It is today's response to the increasing secularization of "Western" societies in the name of "frontier Christianity" on a "mission" which unites right-wing forces with falsely democratic consciences. When the political leadership of Catholics is taken over by a pope who is both able and willing to guide them in the direction of the creation of a "Christian State", then we witness the radicalization of religious identity as a political identity, with serious consequences for secularism and citizens' freedom of choice, individual or collective.

When the clergy expects to be allowed to return to a position of being able to decide the policies of a country and its people, then anti-clericalism must become a tool for free thought. When religious identity fits neatly with the political identity of the extreme right, then anti-fascism must become a way of life and of the struggle for freedom and self-management.

Anarchists and libertarians will support the movement to break down the wall!*



(...) The appearance of a "normal" country

large part of the political forces and union class who were previously active in the opposition to Berlusconi, the movements have lost a good deal of momentum and social opposition has been somewhat diminished. There remain - for now at least - only sporadic outbursts within the labour movement and on the social level, such as the Fiom (engineering workers' union, part of the CGIL), the 28 April Network (opposition within the CGIL union federation), some grassroots unions, attempts to reorganize opposition on questions such as energy/environment, secularism, immigrants, precarity and neo-fascism.

FdCA tactics for 2007

In light of the situation, the difficult task for anarchist communists is:

to represent an organizational and political reference point for the many grassroots militants who remain isolated and disoriented as a result of the withering of the movements and the recruiting to Prodi's increasingly neo-liberal stance of that sector of the political and labour world that until recently opposed the liberalism of the centre-right; to promote at community level political initiatives both as FdCA and as part of grassroots associations, networks and alliances of political, labour and social forces in areas such as labour struggles, secularism, the environment/energy, immigration, anti-militarism and anti-fascism.

Syndicalism

Support the creation of committees in the battle for the protection of state pensions, against pension reform, acting on a double level of technical counter-information in the workplace and the search for ways to restore national insurance schemes.

Support for committees and initiatives against precarity. Support for the current policies of the Fiom and the 28 April Network.

Support for attempts to create a more united grassroots syndicalism (such as the recent creation of the SdL-Workers' Union) and dialogue within and between categories.

Secularism

Given the recent rise in clerical intrusion into the lives of people, it is necessary to support the initiatives of movements, committees and individuals in order to protect the individual's rights to choose one's partner and to make a living will.

Environment/energy

Denouncing of and counter-information on the liberalization processes currently under way in strategic sectors of the country (transport, energy, public resources, etc) with serious repercussions on the territory.

Support for movements and community committees in their demands for the right to information on and participation in strategic decisions (energy, infrastructural works, mega plants) in such a way as to be able not only to federate the struggles, but also come up with credible alternative strategies to the current model of managing the territory, often for the financial benefit of the few with the externalization of environmental costs and the privatization of profits.

Immigration

Action aimed at debunking and denouncing the strategy of "good immigration" by means of agencies and sponsors on the one hand and the maintaining or re-conversion of CPTs (immigrant detention centres) as a model form of "civil" confinement.

Support for the creation of mixed migrant-Italian bodies within the community in order to provide a means of exchange and work on joint social projects with regard to rights and freedom.

Anti-Militarism

Support the struggles and mobilizations of committees and movements against the militarization of the community and for the closure of military bases in Italy.

Support the campaigns and mobilizations for the withdrawal of Italian military missions abroad and for the de-militarization of all territories that are the victim of wars.

Anti-Fascism

In light of the re-organization and spread of neo-fascist and neo-nazi political forces in various parts of the country, the FdCA will promote and join mass anti-fascist networks and alliances:

to re-organize the popular anti-fascist fabric of the country, both on a cultural level and a political level;

to denounce any concessions on the part of the State's institutions, central or otherwise, to these new forms of neo-nazism and neo-fascism.

Libertarian practices and politics

Whenever they join struggles and mobilizations, movements and their organizational structures, the FdCA and its members promote:

libertarian practices aimed at achieving a horizontal and autonomous decision-making process rooted at the grassroots level;

libertarian politics aimed at spreading and achieving alternative objectives to the policies of neo-liberals and authoritarians which reduce our living space, impoverishing our work and our culture, as well as developing forms of reorganization and self-organization of our needs, seeking the greatest possible amount of freedom and equality.

FdCA Council of Delegates
Florence, 28th January 2007

No Dal Molin



The protests by the citizens of Vicenza - and in particular the exemplary, determined opposition on the part of the local committees - are the natural response of

the majority of the population (which does not want more military bases) to the decisions of the centre-left government and centre-right local administration, and serve to demonstrate the marked contrast between civil society and the "representative" political institutions.

The struggle being carried on by the local committees against the concession of Dal Molin airport to the US government is an important one. Not only because it is the expression of a mass movement, but because there is every reason to believe that Vicenza can be the birthplace of a nationwide, and even Europe-wide, movement against military bases. A movement that can only serve to strengthen the struggle against war and for social justice.

For all those who fight against war and the militarist attitude that produces war, it is absolutely essential that the decision to allow the new military base in Vicenza be blocked (remembering also that the existing Ederle base has already been expanded several times since 1954).

The Federazione dei Comunisti Anarchici will be participating in the national demonstration on 17th February and expresses its solidarity with and support for Vicenza in struggle.

LIBANO
Voci dal cuore della crisi

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