



# Socialist Bulletin

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# WORKERS DEMAND MORE THAN AKARA AND KULI-KULI ON DEMOCRACY DAY



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On June 12, 2026, thousands of workers, students, teachers and ordinary citizens turned Democracy Day into a day of mass anger against insecurity, hunger and government neglect. Coordinated demonstrations under the #EndBadGovernance and Take-It-Back banners hit Abuja, Lagos, Ibadan, Akwa Ibom, Kano, Kaduna, Edo, Bauchi, Port Harcourt and other states behind a single demand: 'No Democracy Without Security'.

The protest could not have come at a more bitter moment. Since May 15, dozens of pupils, teachers and residents abducted from schools in Oyo and Borno states remain in captivity, Socialist Labour has already laid out in full in our call for their immediate rescue. Over a month later, they are still in the bush. Protesters' placards carried it plainly: "Free All Captives Now."

This is the measure of a government that places more value on its 2027 re-election machinery than on the lives of work-

ing people's children. Safety of life and property is supposed to be the first duty of any state. Under Tinubu, it has become an afterthought dressed up in budget figures.

But insecurity was not the only grievance on the streets. Nigeria's official minimum wage of ₦70,000 a month is now worth barely \$42 among the lowest wage floors in the world, while food inflation climbed back above 16 percent in April, the first rise in nearly a year, reversing months of modest relief. The Nigeria Labour Congress has already rejected the governors' offer of ₦100,000 as a new minimum, insisting it does not begin to cover what a family needs to eat, transport itself and survive each month. It is this daily arithmetic of hunger that pushed protesters to march under banners reading "Reverse All Anti-People Policies," "Demand a Living Wage and Jobs" and "End Hunger."

The state's answer to peaceful dissent was tear gas. In Abuja, police fired canisters at marchers heading towards Eagle Squ-

*Cont'd on Page 2*

## Enough Is Enough... *Cont'd from Page 1*

are, no such repression was recorded in Lagos or other cities. There, instead, the government deployed a different weapon: paid crowds, bussed in to counter-protest under slogans like “Let Tinubu Work.” That the regime could find people desperate enough to rent out their voices for a few thousand naira is not a sign of genuine support, it is proof of the very hunger and joblessness the protest was against. A population with secure wages and real prospects does not need to be paid to defend its rulers.

June 12 showed that the appetite for struggle is alive. The task now is to turn scattered anger into sustained organisation, linking the fight for security to the fight for a living wage, jobs and a workers’ government that treats human life, not elections, as its first priority.

## URGENT NEED TO BUILD SOCIALISM NOW THROUGH COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE

By Bashir Bello

We have for too long suffered from a poverty of ideology in our polity. To many people, socialism appears distant; an abstract utopia that can only be imagined rather than realized. Yet I live among and interact daily with the poorest of the poor in our society, and their lived experiences demonstrate the urgent need for a different social and economic order.

We must therefore redouble our efforts to reach the grassroots through every available means. Socialist Labour must graduate from being a small circle of like-minded individuals into a movement that is openly political, activist-oriented, and capable of confronting the realities of our society. We must connect with trade unionists, the urban poor, students, rural peasants and the rapidly diminishing middle class.

As Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian independence leader succinctly observed, “There is enough to satisfy everyone’s needs, but not enough to satisfy everyone’s greed.”

In our discourse, we must remain pragmatic and persuasive. We should not allow ourselves to be distracted or intimidated by attempts to label every critical voice as sympathetic to “terrorists.” Insecurity in Nigeria is not an isolated phenomenon; it is one

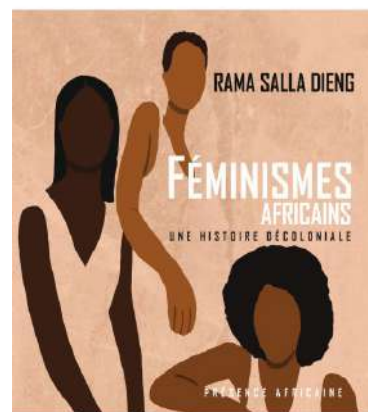
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of the many consequences of the capitalist system imposed in its crudest and most exploitative form. For decades, we have witnessed the devastation of our communities. Peasants have been dispossessed of their lands, while pastoralists, deprived of traditional grazing routes and livelihoods, have been compelled to migrate southward in search of pasture. The resulting competition over scarce resources has fuelled conflicts between herders and farming communities.

Let me give the example of Kaduna State. In the last decade alone, no fewer than 2,000 hectares of arable land have been lost to so-called development projects. Thousands of families have consequently been displaced from lands that sustained them for generations. Such policies enrich a privileged few while deepening poverty, unemployment, and social dislocation among the majority.

If socialism is to become a living force, it must cease to be merely a subject of intellectual discussion. It must become a movement rooted in the daily struggles of workers, peasants, youth, women, and all those who bear the burden of inequality. Only by organizing these forces and presenting a credible alternative can we upturn the structures that perpetuate poverty, injustice, and underdevelopment. In fact, in the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels urged workers to unite and overthrow operative capitalist regimes that hinder the welfare of workers through their ultra-fascist tendencies.

## African Feminisms



On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2026, ROAPE reposted this interview with the Senegalese scholar-activist Rama Salla Dieng about her book *African Feminism: A Decolonial History* (2021). Dieng reflects on the work, struggles and

lived experiences of the feminist activists she interviewed, and speaks about what it means to be a feminist in Africa today.

In 2020, in Nigeria, feminists played a major role in the #EndSars movement against police violence, by mobilizing internet users to protest.

This interview contains many links to other resources for African feminists: <https://shorturl.at/dGiJE>

## INHUMANITY OF TARABA STATE SANITATION AGENCY



Taraba State has yet again reduced the wages of its 100 or so casual sanitation workers to only ₦10,000 a month. This is a State that expects its revenue to increase by 75% this year. It is also planning to spend a huge 70% of its budget on capital projects. These have a high risk of looting.

The workers were initially engaged by the Sanitation Agency in 2023 with a monthly allowance of ₦20,000. In March 2024, this was reduced to ₦15,000. In May 2026, the workers only received ₦10,000. The ten supervisors are also paid less than the minimum wage at ₦50,000.

There are more than 100 sanitation workers so the total cost was only ever ₦2 million a month. The surplus money in the State's bank accounts at the beginning of this year would have paid a thousand times as much. It could have paid the salary bill for these workers for more than 80 years!

This shows the complete inhumanity of state governments many of which have still to fully implement the ₦70,000 minimum wage. We need action now from the trade unions in any state that has yet to fully implement the new minimum wage back from July 2024!!

For more details see: <https://shorturl.at/5hQK2>



### ABOUT US

We are socialists and Marxists  
The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises have made clear that capitalism is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from it. Attempts to reform capitalism have failed: the only solution is to replace it with a truly democratic socialist society. Capitalist rulers will only give up power if forced to do so. We need a mass democratic movement to bring about socialism. Events, such as the Russian Revolution of 1917, January 2012 in Nigeria and the uprisings in Sudan and Algeria in 2019, show what is needed.

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*about*  
**Socialist Labour today!**  
Together, we organize. Together, we win

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## MINIMUM WAGE - WE NEED ACTION NOW TO WIN!



We all know that members of trade unions are poorer now than they were 5, 10 or 20 years ago. Yet the corrupt elite have never been richer

– for details of how much more money governments now have and the rising profits of private sector businesses see: <https://tinyurl.com/3h29byz6>

The trade union leaders accepted the most recent increase in the minimum wage in July 2024 on the basis that petrol prices would not increase beyond ₦750 a litre. Prices have been approaching double this figure in recent months. In April 2019, the then new minimum wage of ₦30,000 could buy 207 litres of petrol. Now it will buy only 54 litres. For workers to be able to buy the same number of litres as in 2019, the minimum wage would now have to be increased to nearly ₦300,000.

Tinubu's actions on becoming president led to a surge in inflation. Food inflation increased from an already high 25% in May 2023, when he came to power, to over 40% ten months later. It then stayed around this hyperinflation rate until the end of 2024. After an easing in the rate, the cost of food has again become increasingly expensive since the beginning of this year. This makes annual indexation of a decent minimum wage even more important.

Many countries in the world, including Ghana and South Africa, already increase their minimum wages every year. Moving to an increase in three years was an improvement. But given the high rates of inflation we are suffering, we need an increase every year. This should be at least as high as the official rate of food inflation announced by the National Bureau of Statistics or any increase in the price of petrol, whichever is higher.

**We now need to actually achieve an increase in the minimum wage to at least N300,000 so that workers can afford a reasonable life. In terms of negotiations, the NLC is correct to start with a higher figure. We also need a move to annual increases. This should enable the NLC's target figure of one million naira to be achieved in a few years time.**

**All state governments can afford to pay a minimum**

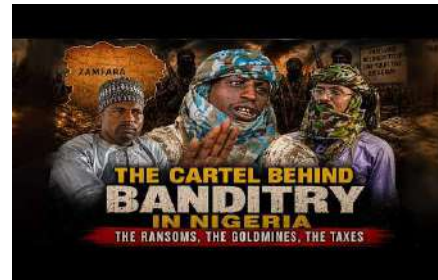
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wage of at least ₦300,000. They have all seen a massive increase in the oil money and other revenues in recent years.

The trade unions at Federal and state level need to take action now over this issue. The politicians are far more likely to make reasonable offers in the run up to the elections. In addition, trade union members also need a Cost of Living Allowance now to compensate for the recent high rate of inflation we have all suffered.

We need all these issues to be discussed at the next NEC meetings of the NLC and TUC and a clear action plan to be agreed. We need similar action to be taken now in all the states to ensure that a decent minimum wage is actually implemented.

## THE CARTEL BEHIND BANDITRY IN NIGERIA



An interesting analysis of banditry, mainly in Zamfara State, seeing it as a growing business empire. It shows how

banditry started with cattle herders protecting themselves with sticks and machetes. They then progressed to AK47s and ultimately acquiring armoured cars and anti-aircraft guns. This happened as their business empire diversified in to kidnapping, gold mining and taxation of local communities.

The founder of SBM Intelligence agrees with us, saying: "We need to fix basic economics, the basic normal economy in order for us to get this thing over and done with. Until we do that, it probably will keep getting." If well paid jobs were available, no young men would risk their lives by joining the bandits.

The program emphasises some political support for the bandits, but this is centred on one case, the allegation that the former Governor of Zamfara State gave them 54 pickups. Much as all major politicians pay out funds to businesses etc to support them.

The also repeat that not a singly bandit leader has been brought to court although many have been killed (how many died in army or police custody is not mentioned). We should remember that the founder member of Boko Haram was shot in police custody hours after being handed to them by the army.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWH\\_bqPfeU8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWH_bqPfeU8)

## TINUBU'S ANTI-PEOPLES' POLICIES ARE NOT REFORMS - By Izielen Agbon



“The most dangerous moment for a bad government is when it begins to reform”. Alexis de Tocqueville.

Upon taking office in 2023, the Tinubu government faced a poverty rate of 42 percent. The monthly minimum wage was ₦30,000 (\$66.7 at an exchange rate of ₦450/\$1). Three years later, in 2026, the poverty rate has climbed to 63% and 30 million poor Nigerians face starvation. The monthly minimum wage is ₦70,000 (\$49.6 at an exchange rate of ₦1410/\$1). Insecurity, banditry, kidnapping, crude oil theft and terrorism has taken a heavy toll on agriculture, road transportation, and oil production. The living standard of Nigerians has decreased.

The decrease in the living standard of Nigerian workers was caused by the IMF sponsored neo-liberal anti-people policies imposed on the nation by the Tinubu regime under a “Renewed Hope” agenda. Tinubu’s anti-people neo-liberal policies included a 400% fuel price increase (presented as fuel subsidy removal), fire sale of public resources (presented as privatization), Naira devaluation (presented as exchange rate unification), real monthly wage reduction to \$49.6, stagflation, and increases in taxes (presented as tax system overhaul), school fees, electricity tariffs, transport fares, food costs, housing (rent) and health costs. The policies are presented as “reforms”. Not all policy changes are “reforms”.

A reform is a change in institution, policy, practice, law that improves the welfare of the Nigerian working masses. A reform takes an existing system and correct defects and errors within the existing system framework to the benefit of the working class. Anti-peoples neo-liberal policies prioritize the interests of wealthy elites, private corporations and the ruling class over the needs of the working class and Nigerian masses. Anti-people neo-liberal policies are not “reforms”. The Tinubu regime took a goebellian approach to a Cambridge Analytica playbook for mass propaganda based on the premise that illusion is perception and perception is reality. The anti-people neo-liberal policies can be repeatedly called “reforms” until the suffering of the Nigerian masses are perceived as an inevitable reality.

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Cambridge Analytical was a political consulting firm that utilized military-style psychological operations (psyops) and data analytics to conduct mass digital propaganda. It used mass data harvesting from Facebook to categorize voters by psychological traits and pushed repeated highly personalized messages, videos, and memes to specific individuals based on their psychological vulnerabilities. The company used full-service propaganda and disinformation tactics to sway public opinion on government policies. Joseph Goebbels was Hitler’s Minister of Propaganda. He used media news monopolization, ceaseless repetition of lies, relentless scapegoating of minorities, and mass rallies to emotionally manipulate the German masses into supporting NAZI anti-people policies. He used psychological principles based on the idea that people would believe a colossal lie, provided it is repeated constantly until it achieves the “illusion of truth”. The Tinubu regime uses a combination of both methods to present anti-people neo-liberal policies as “reforms” under its renewed hope agenda.

An organized rank and file workers mass resistance to the Tinubu regime’s IMF sponsored anti-people neo-liberal policies needs to be organized by the trade unions, NLC, TUC, students, women and civil society organizations. This is the only way to force the Tinubu administration to terminate its IMF neo-liberal policies and introduce job creating pro-people policies that will benefit the masses of Nigerian workers.

## CAPITALISM AND THE STATE. IS IT REALLY ALL TRUMP'S FAULT?

-By Richard Mellor

Every political crisis produces its villains. Today, the dominant figure in that story is Donald Trump without doubt a distasteful, degenerate human being. The anger directed at him is understandable. But there is a danger in making any single individual the centre of our analysis. When we do, we lose sight of something more important: the system that produced him, that accommodates him, and that will outlast him. This is not an accident. In the political struggles between different factions of the ruling class, the focus on individuals is actively welcomed because it is a useful distraction from the root cause of the crises we face. That root cause is not a person. It is the system of production we call capitalism.

see the following article for more details:

<https://shorturl.at/Xytpl>

## **FROM REFORM TO REALITY: THE DECLINE OF NIGERIA'S MIDDLE CLASS AND THE CHALLENGE TO TINUBU'S ECONOMIC NARRATIVE** - By Baba Lawan



When President Bola Ahmed Tinubu addressed Nigerians on Democracy Day, June 12, 2026, his speech projected confidence, resilience, and optimism. He spoke of difficult but necessary reforms, improved government revenues, growing investor confidence, and the promise of a more prosperous future. Yet outside the corridors of power, many Nigerians listened through the lens of their daily experiences. For them, the most pressing questions were not about investor confidence or fiscal stability. They were about the price of rice, the cost of transportation, the affordability of rent, and the struggle to maintain a standard of living that seems to slip further away with each passing month.

This contrast between official optimism and public hardship captures one of the most important debates in Nigeria today.

Before now, senior civil servants, lecturers, and other middle-class professionals were among the most stable members of society. Their salaries, though not extravagant, were usually enough to provide food, shelter, education, and health-care for their families. Beyond meeting personal needs, many also supported extended family members, sponsored the education of younger relatives, and contributed to community development. They served as an important pillar of social and economic stability.

Today, that has changed dramatically. Rising inflation, currency depreciation, and stagnant wages have severely reduced the purchasing power of these professionals. Many senior civil servants and lecturers now struggle to pay school fees, rent, utility bills, and medical expenses. Instead of helping others, they are increasingly focused on survival. The traditional support systems that vulnerable people relied upon are weakening. Communities that once benefited from the generosity of these professionals are feeling the impact.

The Tinubu administration's removal of fuel subsidies and the liberalization of the foreign exchange market were widely regarded as necessary measures. Yet economic necessity does not eliminate social consequences. Transportation costs rose sharply. Food prices increased dramatically. The naira's depreciation pushed up the prices of imported goods across every sector.

The Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has long argued that reforms should be evaluated not only by their fiscal impact but by their effect on human welfare. By that measure, the evidence is troubling.

The erosion of the middle class is not merely an economic issue. It is a political and social one. A strong middle class serves as the backbone of economic growth, social cohesion, and democratic governance. Until a majority of Nigerians experience tangible improvements in their daily lives, official claims of economic success will continue to be met with the skepticism they deserve.

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAKING THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY ELECTORALLY SIGNIFICANT** - By Hal Draper

At the end of May the South African Communist Party held its "Conference of the Left". In this article two South African socialists consider the experience of the Communist Party in government since 1994 and how it needs to change its approach.

What can the Nigerian Labour Party, AAC and the PRP/MoP learn from debates in South Africa and form the background to increased xenophobic attacks?

<https://www.amandla.org.za/considerations-for-making-the-sacp-electorally-significant/>

In addition, the current issue of the Review of African Political Economy has a special issue on the South African Communist Party and its experience in government. This may have important lessons for any socialists organising in broader electoral alliances like the ANC in South Africa or the Labour Party in Nigeria: <https://h1.nu/1yd50>

In particular this article from Patrick Bond on the experience of three Communist ministers:

<https://www.scienceopen.com/hosted-document?doi=10.62191/ROAPE-2026-0007>

<https://tinyurl.com/mtc8vekw>

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# RESCUE BORNO AND OYO STATES SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS IN CAPTIVITY NOW

By Nurudeen



On May 15, 2026, Nigerians witnessed twin school abductions in Oriire Local Government, Oyo State, and Askira/Uba Local Government in Borno State.

In Oriire, 39 school children and 7 teachers were kidnapped. In Askira/Uba, 48 pupils and residents were abducted from Mussa Primary and Junior Secondary School. These tragedies add to Borno's long history of school abductions, including the infamous kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in 2014, which drew global outrage. According to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in its September 2025 publication which is available online, 91 Chibok schoolgirls are still held in captivity (See <https://h1.nu/1sleY>).

Such acts of terror expose the depth of insecurity across Nigeria and the government's lack of preparedness and/or incapacity to confront it.

Kidnapping has now become a multi-billion-naira business. Victims are often murdered despite ransom payments, and there are reports of government officials negotiating or even paying ransom to bandits. In Oyo State, the horror escalated when a mathematics

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teacher, Mr. Michael Oyedokun, was beheaded by his abductors, with the gruesome image circulated online. Families of those still in captivity live in anguish, knowing their loved ones — children, women, men, and teachers remain exposed to the elements in the bush.

The violence is spreading. On June 10, 2026, suspected bandits attacked Government Secondary School, Iluke Bunu, in Kabba/Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, killing three people, including a vice principal and a six-year-old boy.

No sane society can accept this horror. Section 14(2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) makes clear that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary essence of governments. Every additional day that the abducted school children and teachers remain in captivity is a damning indictment of state failure.

I join millions of others in demanding the rescue of all abducted school children, teachers, and other victims.

We make this demand, not because we have confidence in the capitalist ruling class to guarantee our security but as a basis to making the masses to put pressure on the ruling class to resign if they cannot guarantee the most important constitutional reason for the existence of governments – sacredness of life.

I therefore call on civil society organizations, labour movements (NLC, TUC), religious bodies, market associations/traders, professional groups, and all well-meaning Nigerians to join the mass actions being called for the rescue of the victims.

Fundamentally, it should be recognized that capitalism breeds inequality, poverty, hunger, and insecurity. Nigeria's ruling elite profit from this system while ordinary people suffer. To address these crises holistically, socialism - a system that prioritizes the needs and aspirations of workers and the poor above the greed of the few - is the way out.

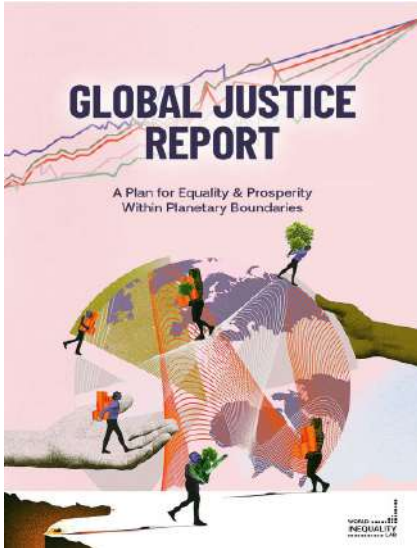
The struggle for Socialist transformation of Nigeria is not abstract. Participation in mass actions by the oppressed segments for the freedom of victims of abduction, against arbitrary killings, economic deprivation and political exclusion is part and parcel of struggling for socialist transformation of society.

Even after Tinubu ordered this to end the practice continued.

We need to continue to build protests against police brutality and killings. But this will not finally end until we have a far fairer society and the police are re-established as a new force to provide services to all the people rather than just the rich elite.

<https://tinyurl.com/9xyn9jve>

## THE GLOBAL JUSTICE REPORT: A PLAN FOR EQUALITY & PROSPERITY WITHIN PLANETARY HABITABILITY



The Global Justice Report, produced by academics of the World Inequality Lab, attempts to set out a new vision for global progress in the 21st century: grounding human development and equality in planetary habitability. It explores the conditions under which the

world could move toward this horizon and traces an economically and ecologically consistent transition path from 2026 to 2100.

Concretely: Per capita monthly national income should converge to €5,000 in every country, closing a 16-fold gap.

Education and health for all: Per capita education spending rises to 8,400 Euros per year across all countries in 2100. This is over 2,000 times the current level in Nigeria. Health spending rises to 14,400 euros. This is over 200 times the current level in Nigeria.

Global wealth & income taxes: A global wealth tax (rising from 0% at 10 times the world average wealth to 20% per year on billionaires) and a global income tax (rising to 90% at the very top), both targeting around 1% of the world population.

Economic growth is allowed in all countries, even the richest. So result is still 1.8°C which is much more than the current nearly 1.5°C. More importantly no mechanism to enforce these plans. We would need much stronger and more active trade unions.

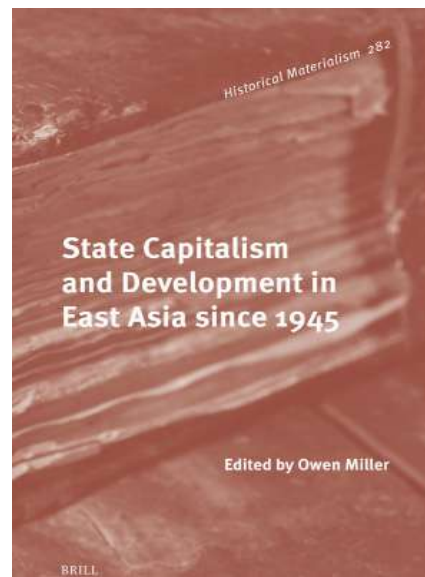
The report puts more emphasis on inequality between countries rather than within countries. The per capita GDP in Britain is now seven times that in Nigeria. Minimum wage share of per capita GDP has fallen by nearly 20 times since 1981 and over nine times since 1998. So we need to worry more about reducing inequality within Nigeria than economic growth to catch up with the developed economies. The best way is to fight for a better minimum wage.

<https://shorturl.at/7GTOB>

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## STATE CAPITALISM AND DEVELOPMENT IN EAST ASIA SINCE 1945

- Edited by Owen Miller (2023)



A review based on the introductory chapter - The Emergence and Development of Capitalism in East Asia: The State Capitalist Approach by Owen Miller and Gareth Dale.

This chapter helps to answer at least a couple of important questions for socialists.

These are in what circumstances can a nation state like Nigeria develop/industrialise and are states like China and North Korea socialist? Along the way, it also gives us deeper insights into what we mean by both capitalism and socialism.

“In the second half of the twentieth century the East Asian region {defined as China, Taiwan, North & South Korea and Japan} underwent one of the most profound human transformations in history. It was a transformation that moved hundreds of millions of people from rural life to cities, from agricultural work to industrial and office work” (page 1). This directly impacted almost one-quarter of the earth’s population.

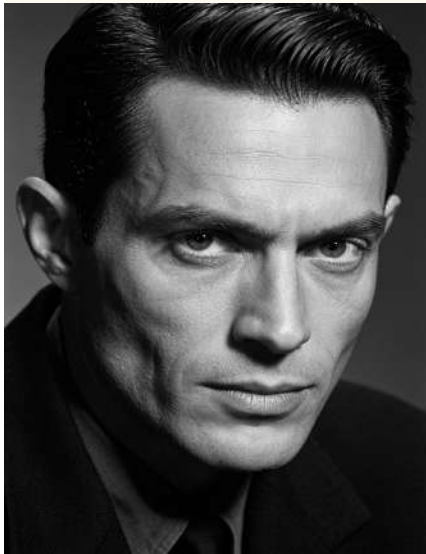
As a result, poor post-colonial countries undertook rapid economic development to become the largest economy in the world (China) or having per capita GDPs comparable with the most advanced nations in the world (South Korea). Their political forms are “stretching right across the political spectrum, from ‘communist’ China and North Korea to ‘capitalist’ Japan and South Korea” (page 2).

In addition, “recent decades have witnessed several regions of the ‘Third World’ approaching economic comparison with those at the top.” (page 22). As another example, in 1960, Malaysia was a British colony with a per capita GDP similar to that of Nigeria. Now its per capita GDP is comparable with Britain or France.

The first chapter can be downloaded from here:

<https://shorturl.at/uWHx7>

## MARXISM AND THE TRADE UNIONS - By Hal Draper



This is a wonderful introduction to the Rank & File Strategy. This is the approach that Marxists should adopt around trade unions and strikes. It was taken from a talk by the US Marxist, Hal Draper in 1970. This remains a relevant strategy for all Marxist socialists.

How do we win strikes and, if necessary, fight against the trade union bureaucracy?

“Marxism was and is the only kind of socialism that establishes an integral link between socialism and the struggle for social revolution and trade unionism. That link does not exist for any other kind of socialism. In terms of socialist theory, Marxism is the only one which establishes an integral link between trade unionism and the social revolution which sees the trade union movement as a revolutionary fact, even if and when the trade unions themselves are not revolutionary.”

“Marx puts the stress upon the basic goal – that the primary aim was to get the class as a whole moving, and that any such movement of the class as a whole was in itself and of itself progressive and revolutionary in its implications, because the class was.”

“The Marxist attitude on this point is that the job of the socialist vanguard is to help get the mass of the working class moving as a class, independently of the ruling class and the state.

Moving where? Toward the social revolution in general, to be sure, but in the first place on behalf of its own class interests. The central idea of Marxism on this question is that insofar as the working class does this consistently and without drawing back from the consequences, it thereby moves in the direction of social revolution.”

“Marx’s conception of the elementary process of social revolution is that it is the process by which the mass of people press beyond the limits of capitalism in the course of their class struggle (whether they think that is what they are doing or not). It is in this sense that every strike is a sort of rehearsal for revolution – not in the minds of the strikers, but from the point of view of the Marxists.”

To read the full article, please download the following:

<https://shorturl.at/ACfBk>

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## ‘PRESIDENT FOR LIFE’: INSIDE TRAORÉ’S BURKINA FASO



A short 15 minute video from Sky News showing the conflicting views of the regime of Ibrahim Traore in Burkina Faso. A nationalist hero for many, but he has failed to defeat the Islamist rebels who may control 60% of the country and unleashed repression against dissenting voices. He recently said that democracy was not needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyuephkkl15s>

For another assessment of Traore’s four year rule see this article by Bettina Engels: <https://h1.nu/1yd4d>

Human Rights Watch documented widespread war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Burkinabè forces alongside their auxiliaries called the Volontaires for the Défense de la Patrie (Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland, VDPs) and by JNIM. Their findings demonstrate that killings and other grave abuses of civilians lie at the heart of the junta’s military tactics as well as those of JNIM.

Government and allied forces in Burkina Faso have killed more than twice as many civilians as Islamist militants have since 2023, according to a tally of incidents documented in this report by Human Rights Watch: <https://h1.nu/1yd4v>

# Summary of Workers Strikes - June 2026

*We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community. All these strikes need our support and solidarity. We call on all trade union branches to send messages of support and to organise solidarity visits to any strikes in their localities. To read more about how to organise effective strikes, see: <https://tinyurl.com/solidarityunity>*

The Nigerian Union of Teachers called its members in Oyo State on an indefinite strike from 1st June. This was against the kidnapping of school teachers and pupils. On May 15, 2026, armed men attacked three schools in Oyo State taking pupils and teachers captive.

The **Academy Staff Union of Universities (ASUU)**, University of Cross River chapter commenced an indefinite strike on 20th May. This is about salary arrears, non-implementation of agreements reached with the national body and other issues.

The **Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU)** of the Moses Orshio Adasu University, Makurdi (MOAUM – former Benue State University) commenced an indefinite strike on June 1st, 2026. The strike is over the inefficiencies and underhand dealings by the Governing Council of the state owned institution.

Medical and dental lecturers at the University of Lagos commenced an indefinite strike on 18th May, demanding full implementation of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure for academics in the College of Medicine, including arrears from July 2024. The industrial action was declared by the Nigerian Association of Medical and Dental Academics.

Resident doctors at **Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH)**, Sagamu, Ogun State, commenced a 10-day warning strike on 23rd June over unpaid allowances, manpower shortages, and worsening working conditions. They returned to work on 25th June after the State Government promised to pay the professional allowances by the end of July.

The Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), at **Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex (OAUTHC)**, Ile-Ife, Osun State, embarked on an indefinite strike over unresolved welfare and working condition issues on 22nd June 2026. NARD threatened national solidarity action in a statement issued on 25th June.

The Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) at **Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH)**, Ogbomoso, Oyo State are holding a two week warning strike. The doctors' demands include the immediate payment of the Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF), the passage of the Medical Residency Training Act (MRTA) into law and the implementation of the new Professional Allowance table for eligible doctors and rehabilitation of doctors' call rooms. The strike had been suspended for two days to provide medical care to abducted schoolchildren and their teachers upon their release.

The Association of Resident Doctors, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, held a three-day warning strike from June 16, 2026. This was over unresolved welfare issues and alleged failure by the Lagos State Government to meet several demands affecting its members.

Cross River State Intercity Drivers Union started a "total shutdown and industrial action" by all commercial drivers from 15th June 2026. Their grievances include excessive taxation, extortion and harassment by government agencies as well as extortions by security agencies. On 18th June, the Governor, suspended ticket sales, levy collections and related charges imposed on intercity transport operators.

Members of the **Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG)** and the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN)** at the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission were on strike for 12 hours on 1st June. The issues included institutional governance, staff welfare, promotions and training opportunities. The strike was suspended after negotiations with management.

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