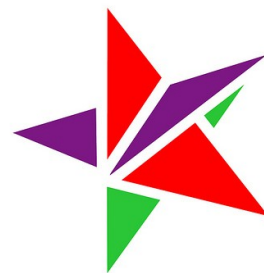


# Socialist Resistance



## The Con Dems' politics of class hatred

The spending review George Osborne has presented is the biggest package of cuts in Britain in living memory — £81 billion of cuts, the sacking of 500,000 public sector workers, with an additional 500,000 job losses in the private sector as a consequence, plus a massive attacks on health, education, the arts, transport social housing, welfare, and local government. This goes alongside massive deregulation and privatisation and a vicious demonization of the public sector.

The real face of the coalition was exposed when Osborne's speech was grotesquely greeted by Tory and Lib Dem MPs with prolonged cheering, stamping of feet and waving of order papers. Neither the Tories nor the Lib Dems had a mandate for this onslaught in the election.

What we have is a right-wing Thatcherite, small state, slash and burn, Tory Government, propped up by the Lib Dems. Their project is to put an end to the age of welfare which opened up with Beveridge after the end of the Second World War

It will be the poor who will be the hardest hit particularly by the decisions to slash council

spending. The cut in housing benefit and means tested tenancies in social housing will drive hundreds of thousands out of the richer boroughs in a huge exercise of social cleansing.

Alongside all this, we are told that the debt must be repaid and the 'there is no alternative'. But this crisis is their crisis, not ours. It is those who are responsible who should pay. Obvious alternative measures include a tax on wealth, the cancellation of Trident and useless aircraft carriers, the ending of the war in Afghanistan, and the creation of a million "green" climate jobs.

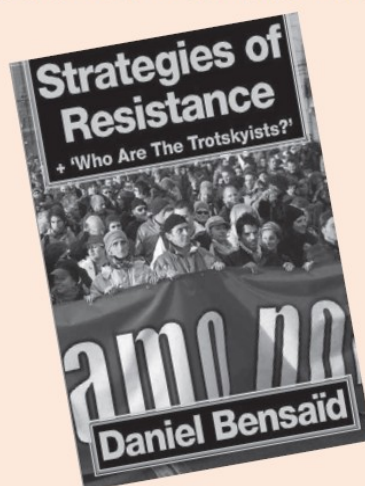
Remarkably, the Tories are still ahead in the opinion polls! This

is partly due to the dire response of Labour as an opposition since the election. They allowed themselves to be trapped into the Brown/Darling formula of halving the debit over 4 years — which itself implied massive cuts even if they were less than the coalition.

There is a desperate need for a united response to this situation. However this needs to be organised. In the coming months we have to start putting the framework in place for a well rooted national campaigning organisation.

**The Coalition of Resistance conference on November 27<sup>th</sup> is where that work can begin.**

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# Strike to save education

The combined implementation of the 'Browne Review' and the draconian cuts in funding for universities announced in the Spending Review will devastate higher education. These have the following consequences:

\* A massive transfer from public to private funding and the expansion of the debt mountain faced by those leaving higher education. At the same time the government will cut the funding that universities receive.

\* A major restructuring of higher education with a layer of wealthy, primarily privately funded universities with the bulk of the public funding, and a group of poorer teaching-based institutions, with the growth of a new profit-oriented private sector.

\* A shift in the role of state from funder to regulator with a new super-quango, the 'Higher Education Council'. The government wants to transform non-elite institutions into a subsidiary role of teaching the curriculum imposed by the elite institutions.

\* A rebalancing of the curriculum towards science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The effect of this will not be to focus science teaching on solving the problems that capitalism has

education for the vast majority of the people. While the ConDems bear the brunt of the blame, the Labour Party also has responsibility for this crisis. It was the Blair/Brown Labour government that introduced tuition fee loans in 1997 and created the Browne Review.

We need a mass united resistance against the government, which must involve student protests, industrial action by university workers, and action focussed on the new generation of younger students who face exclusion from higher education.

In France, student and trade union are leading a massive wave of protest and industrial action. But the NUS and UCU are instead talking about using the today's demonstration only to 'influence' the government.

After today's demonstration, we must launch a major programme of fightback and resistance. Linking up with other activists fighting the government cuts, nationally and globally, is raised by the opportunity of the Coalition of Resistance and its conference on 27th November.

**COALITION OF RESISTANCE**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1H 9DB  
(Near Kings Cross/St Pancras Station)

**27th November 2010  
10am-5pm**

"It is time to organise a broad movement of active resistance to the Con-Dem government's budget intentions. They plan the most savage spending cuts since the 1930s, which will wreck the lives of millions by devastating our jobs, pay, pensions, NHS education, transport, postal and other services."  
Tony Benn

Please register now and circulate widely  
[www.coalitionofresistance.org.uk](http://www.coalitionofresistance.org.uk)



created, such as climate change but rather to serve the needs of industry and private sector.

The government wants to turn back the gains made since the 1960s in creating higher

## Join **Socialist Resistance**

★ Socialist Resistance is an organisation as well as a magazine and if you agree with most of what you have read we think you should join us. We share four common choices:

1 General agreement with our main document, *Savage Capitalism*, which explains why now only a socialist response that centrally addresses the environmental crisis is adequate to the current period.  
It's online at [http://socialistresistance.org/?page\\_id=21](http://socialistresistance.org/?page_id=21)

2 Commitment to activism in the labour movement and/or campaigning organisations.

3 Commitment to building our socialist organisation alongside anti-capitalist parties like Respect in England.

4 A monthly contribution to our costs. We ask for £10 or more for the employed; £5 for university students; and £2 for others.

Send a cheque payable to 'Resistance' along with your contact details to us at PO Box 62732 London SW2 9GQ.

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