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The description is, not surprisingly, one usually associated with a Fascist dictatorship. As far as the defeat of the Spanish Revolution is concerned, Statist Communism and Fascism were different sides of the same coin. Yet the Spanish experience is no surprise considering the nature of State Communism. It seeks the emancipation of the working class via the actions of a small self-appointed elite, rather than through the actions of working class people themselves. Spain has shown what other betrayed revolutions have also shown (Russia, China, Nicaragua)-that when the working class take power for themselves, for their own benefit, it is those same self-styled 'emancipators', or party who seek to tighten control, attack working class organizations and create a tyrannical concentration of power.

These examples show that the Communist promises are false promises, and will always fail to avoid State Fascism.

In direct contrast, anarchism promises that true freedom and equality can only be realized by self emancipation, and not through the actions of a revolutionary 'elite'. The Spanish Revolution has shown that all forms of government are slavery, and by definition, repressive towards the working class.

Fifty years ago, a truly working class revolution began in response to the threat of Fascism-within a year it had been betrayed by repressive forces within the revolution itself: the Communists. The autonomous workers collectives inspired by the Anarchists were smashed in order to build a war economy-yet, in doing so, the war was lost.

In this fiftieth year, remember the Spanish working class, ordinary men and women, who arose to fight Fascism. Don't be fooled by the Communist myth. They sold out a revolution, as they always will, to gain power over it and for themselves.

"The backbone of the resistance against Franco was the Spanish working class, especially the urban trade union members. In the long run...the working class remains the most reliable enemy of Fascism, simply because the working class stands to gain most by a decent reconstruction of society. Unlike other classes or categories, it can't be permanently bribed" (Homage to Catalonia, p.238)

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The Spanish Revolution



"The danger was quite simple and intelligible, it was the antagonism between those who wished the revolution to go forward and those who wished to check or prevent it-ultimately between Anarchists and Communists." (Homage to Catalonia, p.II4, Penguin)

Counter Information

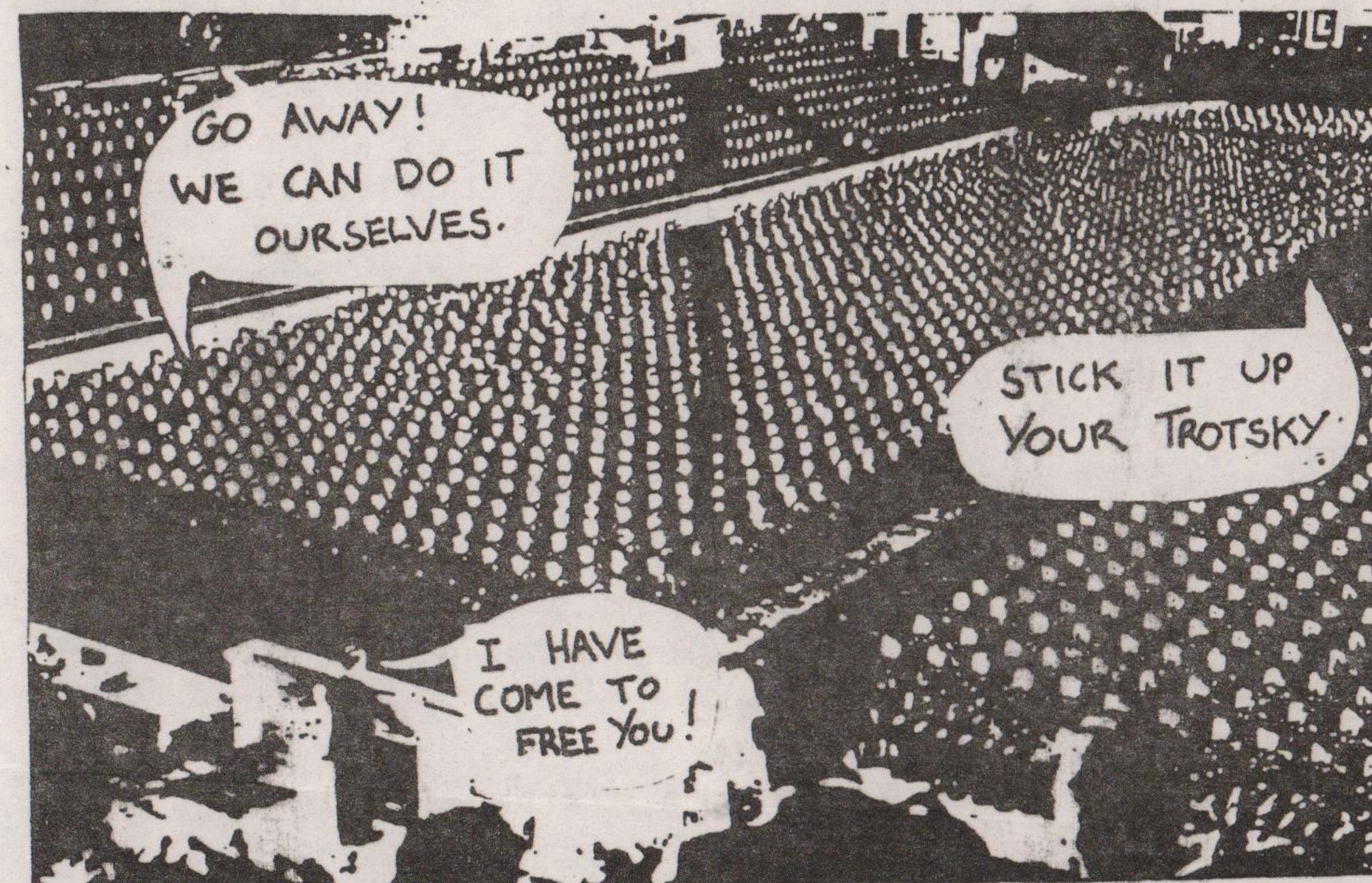
As this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution, it is obviously a great occasion for remembrance-and not without reason because the revolution provided the battleground, both physical and ideological, in the fight against Fascism. Yet the lessons learned, the mistakes made, should not be forgotten either. Perhaps the primary fallacy revealed was that the Revolution and the ensuing war were Communist inspired, and that the Communists defended Spanish liberty. In fact, it was the Spanish Anarchist movement in many areas, through its CNT Union, and the FAI organization that received the great mass of support from, and worked for the betterment of, the Spanish working class-and furthermore, the defence of the Revolution. The Communists, true to their nature, looked not only to the working class and the revolution, but infiltrated the government and its repressive police force, which ultimately sought to reverse the moves towards working class self regulation and autonomy.

"While the reorganization of the regular police corps was gradually taking place, the Communists were making full use of their skill in proselytism, defamation and infiltration to secure for themselves a position of predominance" (The Spanish Revolution, p.206, Bolloten). Although the Anarchists did make mistakes (obviously, joining the government), they did struggle to advance the gains of the revolution and consolidate it, in terms of a new equality and general condition of the working class, rather than stop and then reverse the revolution as the Communists did, as was necessary for their seeking power.

"While the anachosyndicalist leaders (sic) fostered the hope that... participation in the cabinet would enable it to more successfully defend its revolutionary conquests, the Communists leaders on the other hand... hoped that this participation... would enable them, under the cover of a democratic superstructure to gather into their hands all the elements of state power appropriated by the revolutionary committees at the outbreak of the Civil War" (Ibid. p.199)

Orwell, who wrote persuasively about the Communist betrayal of the working class, and indeed, the entire Revolution, mentions one incident in 'Homage to Catalonia';

"I had to tell him that after this affair (the suppression of POUM, a Marxist group calling for the furthering of the Revolution) I could not join any Communist controlled unit (the International Brigade). Sooner or later it might mean being used against the Spanish working class." (p.140)



When the Communist controlled police force attacked the Barcelona telephone exchange, being run by a CNT collective, the counter revolution within the revolutionary forces had begun. The Communists stabbed the progressive Anarchist in the back, for their own power interests. This was justified in order to unite the Republic against the Fascists-it merely succeeded in splitting the Republic, disillusioning its armies and eventually ended in the defeat of the Revolution at the hands of the Fascists.

The atmosphere in this time of betrayal and suspicion was, apparently, horrific;

"During his (Orwell's) final days in Barcelona, he had experienced a poisoned social climate that he always subsequently associated with totalitarianism. 'No one who was in Barcelona then, or for months later will forget the horrible atmosphere produced by fear, suspicion, hatred, censored newspapers, crammed jails, enormous food queues and prowling gangs of armed men'" (Red Flags, Black Flags, Romeister, p.180)