



REVOLUTION FESTIVAL

THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNISM

Reading guide
2025

Revolution Festival — *the school of communism* — is a three-day festival of Marxist ideas hosted by the RCP, aimed at training the next generation of communist class-fighters.

The tens of millions of workers and youth across Britain, and the billions across the globe, have the right to decide their own fate and run society in their own name — without the parasitic billionaires and war criminal politicians, who are willing to carry out genocide, war, and austerity in the name of *their* system and *their* profits.

We need to build a party that can bring about a socialist revolution to wipe away the capitalist system once and for all.

To build this party, first we need to educate ourselves in the revolutionary ideas of Marxism — our most important weapon in the class struggle.

This reading guide has been produced to prepare comrades for the discussions taking place at the Revolution Festival, in order for them to get the most out of the weekend's events. Each talk taking place has recommended material that comrades should read and listen to in the runup to the event.

Friday 14th November

A world on fire — with Alan Woods and Fiona Lali

Reading

- ★ [The world turned upside down – a system in crisis](#)
- ★ [Sri Lanka to Nepal: Lessons from the revolutionary wave](#)

Audio

- ★ [Podcast: A world on fire](#)

Saturday 15th November

Is America heading for revolution?

Reading

- ★ [Where is America going?](#)

Video

- ★ [Where is America going?](#)

100 years of Malcolm X: From nation to revolution

Reading

- ★ [Malcolm X: Death of a revolutionary](#)
- ★ [Revolution knows no compromise: Lessons from the life of Malcolm X](#)

Audio

- ★ [Marxism vs. Black Nationalism](#)

Horror without end: Imperialism and the Middle East

Reading

- ★ [20 years since the invasion of Iraq: The brutal legacy of imperialism](#)
- ★ [Middle East: War or peace?](#)
- ★ [Marxism and the struggle against imperialism](#)

Audio

- ★ [Imperialism and crisis in the Middle East](#)

Marx's Capital: A guide to capitalism's inner workings (Introduction to economics)

Reading

- ★ [Capitalism's neverending crisis: Marx was right](#)
- ★ [What is Marxism? Economics & materialism](#)
- ★ [In defence of Marx's Labour Theory of Value](#)
- ★ Marx: [Value Price and Profit](#) and [Wage Labour and Capital](#)

Shostakovich: The musical voice of the Russian Revolution

Reading

- ★ [Shostakovich: Conscience of the Russian Revolution](#)
- ★ [Shostakovich's 'Anti-formalist Rayok': A scathing satire of Stalin's cultural crimes](#)
- ★ [Art and the class struggle](#)

Europe in crisis: Block everything for Palestine

Reading

- ★ [Italian general strike: A dramatic turn in the world situation](#)
- ★ [Revolutionary communists in Europe and beyond say: "Shut it down for Gaza! For a workers' boycott!"](#)
- ★ [Italy: Block everything! Extend the movement! Organise the strength of the working class!](#)

Audio

- ★ [Trump declares peace in Gaza, general strike in Italy, French government collapses](#)

Mao Zedong: His life, legacy, and limits

Reading

- ★ [In defence of dialectics: A critique of Mao's 'On Contradiction'](#)
- ★ [The Chinese Communist Party 1927–37: The development of Maoism](#)

Audio

- ★ [Podcast: The 1949 Chinese Revolution](#)
- ★ [The Truth About Mao and the Chinese Revolution](#)

The Reformation: Religion, revolution, and the rise of the bourgeoisie

Reading

- ★ [Engels to J. Bloch In Königsberg](#)
- ★ [The Peasant War in Germany by Frederick Engels 1850](#)
- ★ [Frederick Engels: The Decline of Feudalism and the Rise of the Bourgeoisie](#)
- ★ [Cromwell's Commonwealth: Building the kingdom of the bourgeoisie](#)

Feuerbach, philosophy, and the birth of marxism (Introduction to philosophy)

Reading

- ★ [Engels: Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of Classical German Philosophy](#)
- ★ [What is Marxism? Dialectical materialism](#)
- ★ [Introduction to the Revolutionary Philosophy of Marxism](#)

Audio

- ★ [Podcast: The ABCs of Marxist Philosophy](#)

1945: Liberation, revolution, and betrayal

Reading

- ★ [Ted Grant: *The Changed Relationship of Forces in Europe and the role of the Fourth International*](#)
- ★ [The Second World War: Setting the record straight](#)

Video

- ★ [The TRUTH about World War 2: Marxist historian sets the record straight](#)

Monopolies and imperialism: How big corporations dominate our lives

Reading

- ★ [Monopoly capitalism, imperialism, and the world economy](#)
- ★ [Lenin: *Imperialism, the highest state of capitalism*](#)

Free speech and repression: Can capitalism still afford democracy?

Reading

- ★ [Lenin: The State and Revolution](#)
- ★ [Lenin: The Proletarian Revolution And The Renegade Kautsky](#)
- ★ [Trotsky: Terrorism and Communism](#)

Hugo Chávez and the Bolivarian Revolution

Reading

- ★ [The Venezuelan Revolution: A Marxist Perspective](#) (esp. "Encounters with Hugo Chávez", "Theses on Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Venezuela", "Chávez: Capitalism Must Be Transcended")
- ★ [Permanent Revolution in Latin America](#) by John Roberts and Jorge Martin (Chapter 3; Venezuela: The Almost Revolution)
- ★ [Alan Woods: A tribute to Hugo Chávez](#)

Video

- ★ [Chávez speeches with English Subtitles \(YouTube Playlist\)](#)

Progress, revolution, and reaction: What drives history forward? (Introduction to historical materialism)

Reading

- ★ [Trotsky: The History of the Russian Revolution \(Chapter 1. Preface\)](#)
- ★ [What is historical materialism?](#)
- ★ [Marx: Economic Manuscripts — Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy](#)

1917: How the Russian workers took power

Reading

- ★ [Alan Woods: Bolshevism — The Road To Revolution](#)
- ★ [Trotsky: The Lessons of October](#)

Audio

- ★ [1917: The Russian Revolution and the art of Insurrection](#)

The decline of British capitalism and the British revolution

Reading

- ★ [British Perspectives 2025: The unending crisis of British capitalism](#)
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Sunday 16th November

A History of Palestinian resistance

Reading

- ★ [Marxists and the call for Intifada: What it really means](#)
- ★ [Palestine: The failure of the two-state solution and the communist alternative](#)

Surrealism and Marxism: Dreams, art, and class struggle

Reading

- ★ [Death of André Breton – Revolutionary](#)
- ★ [Manifesto for an Independent Revolutionary Art \(Rivera & Breton\)](#)

Art & Paintings

- ★ [Surrealist Poems](#)
- ★ [Joan Miró: Famous Paintings](#)
- ★ [Max Ernst: Europe After Rain](#)
- ★ [Salvador Dalí: Metamorphosis of Narcissus](#)

Bubbles, debt, and speculation: Why capital is becoming fictitious

Reading

- ★ [Global debt: A ticking time bomb](#)
- ★ [Capitalism's debt crisis: Expropriate the billionaires!](#)
- ★ [What Is money?](#)

Audio

- ★ [From barter to Bitcoin: What is money?](#)

The modern British state: Reform or revolution?

Reading

- ★ [Law and Marxism: The state and the constitution](#)
- ★ [The struggle against reformism](#)

Audio

- ★ [\[Podcast\] What is the state and how do we smash it?](#)
- ★ [\[Podcast\] SpyCops exposed: Fake boyfriends, blacklisting & police infiltration](#)

Capitalism and the oppression of women

Reading

- ★ [The Fall Of Woman: Property, oppression and the family](#)
- ★ [Marxism and the emancipation of women](#)
- ★ [Engels: The origin of the family, private property, and the state \(Chapter 2\)](#)

Audio

- ★ [\[Podcast\] The fall of woman: Engels, Morgan, and the family](#)
- ★ [Women's oppression and the family](#)

Migration and borders: The communist position

Reading

- ★ [Alan Woods & Ted Grant: On the National Question \(part 1\)](#)
- ★ [Why Marxists must fight for open borders](#)
- ★ [Migration Crisis: Who is to blame?](#)

How to build a revolutionary party — and how not to

Reading

- ★ [The Leninist Handbook \(available through branches of the RCP\)](#)
- ★ [Lenin: *What Is To Be Done?*](#)

Audio

- ★ [How Lenin built the Bolshevik party](#)

Should communists welcome a 'multipolar' world?

Reading

- ★ [The widening fissures in world relations](#)

Audio

- ★ [Podcast: Multipolarity vs. world revolution](#)

Civil war and revolution in Spain: 1931–1939

Reading

- ★ [Trotsky: *Lessons of Spain*](#)
- ★ [Ted Grant: Introduction to *Lessons of Spain*](#)
- ★ [Felix Morrow: *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain*](#)

Defying US imperialism: Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution

Reading

- ★ [60 Years of the criminal US imperialist blockade against the Cuban Revolution](#)

Video

- ★ [Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution](#)

Thomas Sankara, Traoré and the fight against imperialism in West Africa

Reading

- ★ [The revolutionary reawakening of Burkina Faso](#)

Video

- ★ [The collapse of French imperialism in West Africa](#)

Ireland: Republicanism and revolution

Reading

- ★ [Alan Woods: *Ireland – Republicanism and Revolution*](#)
- ★ [James Connolly and the Easter Rising](#)

Lenin and Trotsky: What they really stood for

Reading

- ★ [In Defence of Marxism magazine, vol. 51](#)
- ★ [Trotsky: In Defense of October](#)
- ★ [Trotsky: Stalinism or Bolshevism](#)
- ★ [Alan Woods and Ted Grant: Lenin and Trotsky – What they really stood for](#)
- ★ [Rob Sewell and Alan Woods: In Defense of Lenin](#)

People, planet and production: What would Socialism Look Like?

Reading

- ★ [What would socialism look like?](#)
- ★ [Engels: Socialism: Scientific and Utopian \(Chapter 3\)](#)

Science, the Crisis in Cosmology and the Big Bang

Reading

- ★ [Alan Woods and Ted Grant: Reason in Revolt – Marxist philosophy and modern science](#)
- ★ [In Defence of Marxism magazine, vol. 48](#)

Audio

- ★ [Podcast: Reason In Revolt](#)