



The Ohio Disaster

In the United States, on the 3rd of February 2023, a massive hazardous materials train derailed inside the boundaries of the town of East Palestine, in the state of Ohio. Leslie Run, the flowing body of water that runs through the town and provides part of its drinking water (including, apparently, the tap water), is now feared to be poisoned by the vinyl chloride released from the derailment. Although crews of specialized workers are doing their best to contain the damage, with an even worse incident relating to the mass combustion of the train's contents being avoided – the damage is pertinent, with fish dying in the nearby rivers, along with residents reporting nausea, rashes and other symptoms.

While the state government has claimed that there are no major risks to residents, and the symptoms they're having may well be intense psychosomatic symptoms (essentially, when your body's reactions to protect itself fire off merely because the individual is convinced they may be suffering of an illness), the decision to not supply every resident of the town with bottled water and packaged food, even if merely to lessen worry and make it easier to evaluate the question of the residents' health, is an indictment of how the capitalist establishment always avoids providing support and offering the bare minimum to the working class.

It cannot be ignored that an incident of this gravity was more-or-less predicted by the rail-workers themselves. The recent rail



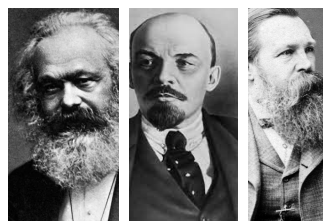
The spill in East Palestine, viewed from afar. Photo: Vox.

strike which was outlawed by the bourgeois cronies, some of whom were even self-proclaimed "socialists", had several demands to increase the standards for security within the rail lines and the train cars themselves. With the demands being ignored, it was only a matter of time until prophecy became reality. Unfortunately, this reality took place in the middle of a populated town.

The response to the event has been further complicated by massive cuts that hit the Environmental Protection Agency. A staffing reduction of 20% relative to 1999, along with a budget drop of 800 million US dollars and no adjustment of the budget to compensate for inflation has created an utterly deficient organization, unable to effectively deal with large disasters. The agency is unable to provide free constant health checks to the residents for a prolonged amount of

time, which may result in adverse health effects going by undetected, and even preventable deaths occurring.

This event is merely an example of preventable incidents, which, via the logic of capital, are deemed acceptable, as the paralysis of an entire town and possible deaths are less expensive in the long run than refitting and improving the safety in the rail system. Only a coordinated worker's movement, utilizing its power to strike independently of the legalistic reservations of the bourgeoisie and of their puppets, can ensure such an incident has a low likelihood of ever happening again.



PART 2/5 - "LINUX AND OPEN-SOURCE" History of Free and Open-Source Software

After the GPL was published, the GNU C Compiler (later renamed to the GNU Compiler Collection) was released under the license. Previous versions had already been released under their own licenses for the past 2 years, but the introduction of the GPL, and the fact that the software was shared for free in bulletin boards and at a low cost by mail, along with being copied around in the hobbyist sphere, made it one of the most popular compilers of

all time and an ideal alternative to proprietary C compilers, which were often sold by operating system developers at absurd prices. The release of GCC turned the FSF from a small collective of developers into a large organization, introducing many developers to free software and bolstering memberships and donations.

This quick growth attracted many qualified engineers, and after almost a decade, the GNU Operating System was nearly complete, with the only piece left being the kernel. This piece would be filled by Linus Torvalds, who released version 0.12 of the Linux kernel under the GPL in February 1992. A few days later, the release of MCC Interim Linux by Owen Le Blanc marked the first time a fully-functional free software operating system was ever distributed.

The quick rise of GNU/Linux from small projects into a fully functional and free operating system meant that, in the 1990s, free software began to be seen as commercially viable, and shrink-wrapped copies of FOSS projects started being sold in stores, with companies providing paid on-the-phone technical support to corporate users of free software products. The first FOSS products to be sold were, of course, Linux distributions. Most of the early well-known ones were sold in stores, and most of the time, they were sold along with guidebooks. However, one particular shrink-wrap release sticks out, as it had direct involvement from the Free Software Foundation: VALinux's release of Debian 2.1, which, by all accounts, was terrible to install. This release was part of a boom in physical releases of Debian, which made the distribution one of the most popular Linux distributions ever.

The FSF, which sponsored physical releases of Debian, would not take advantage of the popularity of the OS. Despite many Debian contributors also being members of the FSF, the organization didn't certify the distribution as a fully free software one, because its developers hosted an unofficial repository that contained proprietary software to

make installing firmware and fonts easier. This showed one of the most glaring flaws of the FSF: caring about the minutiae of consistency where it simply did not matter, instead of taking advantage of the software's popularity to promote other pieces of free software.

FOSS's brief period of general success attracted the eyes of some petty-bourgeois intellectuals, which began to study ways in which they could utilize the community aspect of the model while not having to comply with the requirement in the GNU GPL to keep all versions of the software FOSS forever. The man who would eventually find success in pitching a profitable FOSS-based model to companies was Eric Steven Raymond, a vocal homophobe, racist, and supporter of racialized police violence. In 1997, Raymond published the essay "The Cathedral and the Bazaar", in which he pitched FOSS as a public and rapid development model that allowed for fast iteration. After the book was published, circles around Raymond sought to commercially rebrand free software as open-source software, casting away what remained of the FSF's social activism, which by that point was beginning to be almost exclusively focused on the GPL.

After the year 2000, open-source began to be adopted as corporate branding, and permissive FOSS licenses, which removed the requirement to share the source-code to publicly released versions of software, were quickly adopted by corporate developers. Eventually, most developers began to identify with open-source, and free software was overshadowed. The broad adoption of open-source, and the idea of absolute freedom of redistribution appealed to developers, which began to utilize permissive licenses more and more. Eventually, companies began to reap the benefits of the infrastructure that was created by the free labor generated by open-source projects, which they could use to develop their own proprietary projects upon.

An example of this parasitic relationship is the one between most corporate providers and OpenSSL, a secure communications library which powers millions of computers. The library, despite being used on millions of commercial devices around the world, faced critical underfunding, being mostly supported by individual donations before receiving small corporate grants after negligence resulted in Heartbleed, one of the biggest vulnerabilities to face the computing world.

In 2007, the FSF released Version 3 of the GPL, which made it impossible for any GPL software to be legally considered as Digital Restrictions Management software. It didn't disallow GPLed DRM, but it made it so that if the protection was cracked, the copyright holder had no legal recourse to prosecute the violator. The new version of the license also forbade "tivoization", which is the practice of creating a machine that runs free software but making it so the actual software running on the machine could not be replaced by other versions.

The changes in the new version of the license were not appreciated by Linus Torvalds and the Linux Foundation, which at that point were both sustained solely by the good graces of gigantic technology companies. Torvalds refused to relicense Linux under the GPLv3, as Linux development relied too much on support from manufacturers of home media sets and IoT devices. This marked a definitive split between the Free Software Foundation and the Linux Foundation. A few years later, in 2012, Debian joined Raymond's Open Source Initiative. But free software's problems wouldn't be limited solely by inter-project politics.

**PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTED BY
THE REVOLUTIONARY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IN
NEW YORK**

The UN's wish and purpose is to manage the imperialist partition of the world!

From the disastrous MINUSTAH "peace mission" in Haiti, where soldiers under the command of the UN constantly repressed any attempt at institutional change in the country as a means to keep United States diplomats comfortable, without having to worry about any working class movements showing up on their doorstep, to their failure to stop the conflict in Ukraine, the UN has shown itself for what it is: A tool to appease all imperialist powers, from NATO to the Russia-China bloc - an organization that either provides them with direct assistance, or stays out of their way.

NATO and the CSTO: United under the banner of imperialism

Despite differences in their rethoric, both NATO and the CSTO (Russia's alliance) want the same thing: cheap access to the natural gas reserves situated in the east of Ukraine. While the invasion was formally started by Russia, a conflict has been brewing for years.

The western economic bloc, represented economically by the European Union, and militarily by NATO, broke its deal with Russia and rushed east, seeking total economic integration as quickly as possible - Russia,

Join the Revolutionary Technical Committee!

From technicians to artists, we're always in need of more people! Join the RTC and contribute towards building a technical revolutionary apparatus!

**FILL THE FORM VIA THE LINK:
revteccom.tk/join.html**

seeing that its neighbours were now open game, rushed to form its own economic and military alliances. This culminated in both sides seeking to destabilize Ukraine, promoting their own coups and armed groups, with the NATO bloc supporting the neo-nazi Svoboda and Azov groups, and Russia supporting the nationalist Donetsk and Luhansk "People's" Republics.

Both sides, representing fractions of the bourgeoisie rather than the interests of the working class, ferociously engaged in nation-building efforts, as a way to present the conflict as a "clash of civilizations", with every calamity being used to justify an even bigger one. They know that as long as people view themselves as being separated by races and nations instead of being separated by class, plenty of soldiers will be willing to serve their false causes.

**BY THE REVOLUTIONARY TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE IN THE BRITISH ISLES**

On the SNP

After Nicola Sturgeon's announcement of her resignation as leader of the Scottish National Party on the 15th of February, the expected front-runner to replace her, Kate Forbes, wasted no time in proclaiming her bigotry everywhere she could be heard. When this first began, many expected it to sink her campaign, but she has proven far more resilient, topping multiple polls of SNP voters for their preferred leader (although Don't Know remains firmly in the lead). Whilst many have reacted with surprise and dismay at this fact, as the SNP's outwardly progressive standpoint (considering the fact that, in recent months they have proven themselves by far the least transphobic of the UK's major parties) had led to many to believe that such a homophobic candidate could not hope to succeed. In reality, however, this is entirely expected for any nationalist organisation, no matter how deeply they have wrapped themselves in progressive-liberal or social-democratic ideas.

The proponents of the Scottish nationalist movement have, over the

years, taken great pains to cast themselves in history not as the beneficiaries of and enthusiastic participants in the colonial brutality of the British Empire, but instead as noble freedom fighters, celts oppressed for centuries by the perfidious English. This is blatantly historical revisionism - the Scottish were as closely tied to the Empire as any of the English, and where they were overshadowed in importance it was due not to a Scottish opposition to participation in colonial exploitation but simply a fact of their smaller population compared to England.

Yet, the nationalists in Scotland ignore such facts, casting themselves as an imperialised people that attempts to evoke the echoes of those actually imperialised - the idea of a "Celtic Union" with the Irish (who were, of course, victims of Scottish colonialism in Ulster) is one such example. Scottish nationalism is therefore one of the most cynically bourgeois "national liberation" movements in the modern world: where most national liberation movements at least involve at least some level of marginalisation which national movements can feed off of to grow support, Scottish nationalism revolves largely around wanting admission to an imperialist trade bloc, as well as some hand-wringing about perceived "democratic deficit" within the UK (the pointlessness of democracy aside, those in Scotland have far more opportunities to vote for their government than those in England).



**Published by the Revolutionary
Technical Committee**

Firstly, we would like to apologize for the lack of topics we have brought up in this month's issue. The whole of the Committee had way too much work this month and we're concerning ourselves with external tasks relating to agitation within some sections. In due time, all texts written for that purpose will be translated and published in our periodical.

We have no central publishing house, so we ask you to print out and distribute versions of our periodical yourself. Put them inside folders, plaster all the pages on walls, or even go around handing out copies (make sure you're accompanied by at least one person), we depend on the willingness of our readership to go and distribute our work in the appropriate spaces.

You are allowed to charge a small markup for the periodical, for this issue, due to its length, the maximum markup stands as at most 5% of the total price of printing, so, if an edition cost 1\$ to print, you can charge 1.05\$ and make a profit of 5 cents.

We also ask you to sign your periodicals (there's a spot for it on the front page). It doesn't have (and we don't recommend it) to be signed with your real signature, but please keep it consistent throughout all copies you print so every unique publisher can be identified.

Catalog Sheet

Published by Onwards, Barbarians!

Author: Collective Stewardship of Onwards, Barbarians!

Work: Onwards, Barbarians! Issue N° 2, February 2023

Pages: 3 whole, 3 work

Onwards, Barbarians! Periodicals

CSWW

A-05-002

revteccom.tk/csww.html