THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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" The Irish working class as a class can only hope to rise with Ireland. Equally true is it that Ireland cannot rise to Freedom except upon the shoulders of a working class knowing its rights and daring to take them. " ~ James Connolly (The Hope of Ireland, 1914)

Iris an Phobail

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Is there a Plan for Ireland?

We are exposed to disaster, because our economy depends upon the well-being of others

Economic crisis has ravaged our society before, and it will do so again, because we are exposed.

But perhaps we are supposed to breathe a sigh of relief, that the 20% tariff on exports to the USA is reduced to 10%, *for now anyway*.

The on/off activity of Trump on this issue shows how volatile it is.

Information:

As we write, the IMF lists Ireland as the 3rd richest country on earth, based on GDP (total production, including multi-nationals) per head.

Sadly this wealth makes little difference to the lives of most Irish families, who never see it.

We export €72.6bn to USA, that is about 33% of all our exports worldwide. Our GDP is €550bn, so total exports represent about 40% of our economy overall.

Our exports to the USA are mostly medical, pharma and chemicals, they account for 74% of the total, and they are exempt from any tariff, *for now anyway*.

However, even a 10% tariff (or duty) on our unexempted exports to the USA is serious, and it affects a lot of employers.

We import €22bn from the USA, again most of this is for American companies located here.

Foreign Multinationals employ about 700,000 Irish workers, Small Domestic Enterprises employ nearly 70% of our workforce.

The USA is in Deep Crisis:

The US *'Debt to GDP'* ratio is 124%, ours is regarded as critically high at just 43%, they need a fix.

The US Federal Reserve has $6.7 trillion in assets, but only $2.37 trillion of that is in circulation. To protect their currency they sold bonds (QE) internationally, resulting in Japan and China holding near $2 trillion, the UK and Canada another $1 trillion, with the rest between Ireland and others.

Ireland holds US Bonds to the value of $536bn, these are mostly held by US companies based here.

China has already threatened to sell its US Bonds, if it did the US economy would free-fall collapse within an hour.

However, China's economy is run by the same Banks as run the US economy. So they have a problem they cannot fix, thus the current dangerous situation.

Critical Problems for us:

We do not control our own currency, interests rates or exchange rates, that is done by Europe, the ECB and Wall Street.

We do not make our own trading agreements, that is done in Europe.

We do not control access to our domestic markets, the EU decides who can sell product here and whether there are tariffs due; they ignore us, and our producers.

We have been burdened with massive debt, near €70bn of which was imposed on us to rescue the Euro and private Banks from collapse during the 2008 crisis, and another €30bn from Covid19.

The last month has shown us, again, the vulnerability that we face through foreign dependence.

Our Needs:

Is it not time that our state developed an economic plan in which service to the needs of the citizens was priority?

One economic '*expert*' recently said that we would weather this storm, because our economy was strong and on good foundations.

This comment reveals the real mind, this would never be said if one considered the new poverty in Ireland; the fact that young families cannot find a home and with emigration facing our youth again.

Ireland has all the resources anyone could hope for. Everyone could have a proper education, health care, culture, meaningful employment and a happy future.

But for that, we need to establish the '*Empowerment of the People*'.

Bígí linn, a cháirde!

Eagarfhocal

Ba mhaith linn teacht chugaibh le dearcadh nua i dtaobh comóradh traidisiúin ár sinsear. Is pobal muid a choimeádadh faoi chois chomh fada sin, nach mór ocht gcéad bliain.

Tá sé de nós ag poblachtaigh bheith ag déanamh comóradh ar ghníomh ár shinsear, ar chathanna, ar eachtraí tragóideacha, agus lán ceart go ndéanaidís. Tá an traidisiún céanna le feiceáil inár bhfilíocht, inár gceol agus ins na hamhráin, arís, is deas agus is ceart é seo.

Ach, uaireanta bíonn daoine tógtha leis an '*féachaint siar*', agus gafa ann.

Tuigeann muid nach féidir le gach aoinne bheith amuigh i mbun gníomh poiblí, nó ag seasamh in aghaidh an tsean-namhad. Ní dhineann aoinne ach de réir mar is féidir leo.

Le déanaí tá muid tar éis glacadh leis an mhana *"don todhchaí"*, inár gcuid oibre, mar fhocal faire.

'Sé is cúis le seo ná go gcaithfimid smaoineamh ar na haidhmeanna a bhí ag ár shinsear, ach nár éirigh leo an sprioc a bhaint amach, is é sin, an Phoblacht a chosaint agus a thógadh in ainm na daoine.

Tá an gníomh sin fós le críochnú agus, fad is atá muid ag féachaint siar, ba cheart súil eile a choimeád ar an todhchaí – ar an sprioc sin atá amach romhainn fós.

As seo amach, is le sin inár n-intinn a bheimid ag caitheamh Lile na Cásca.

Big Brother Has Arrived

The European Commission has mandated that every member state must provide citizens with access to digital identity wallets by the end of 2026, saying:

"EU Digital Identity Wallets will provide a safe, reliable, and private means of digital identification for everyone in Europe.

Every Member State will provide at least one wallet to all its citizens, residents, and businesses allowing them to prove who they are, and safely store, share and sign important digital documents."

These '*wallets*', stored on your smartphone, watch, tablet or RFID body-chip will connect all your diverse data, including medical and bio data, education, banking and employment, travel, residence and much more.

Access to your digital wallet will allow state agencies to know everything there is about you, including your friends and associates, your habits and even your cultural and political views.

Last month both the Parliament and EU Council agreed to rollout a Digital Driving License, that will be acceptable throughout the EU area; it will be added to your Digital Wallet.

Your Digital Wallet will soon fill up with data about your life.

Make no mistake, this is a major intrusion on personal privacy and liberty, in the guise of providing sensible regulation and making life easier on us all.

Digitisation of everything, including Central Bank Currency, has been EU policy for many years, it is now coming into our homes and privacy.

The policy will be that all citizens must have one of these Digital Wallets, like an Identity Card, not having one will see people excluded from society.

Remember how the EU's Green Digital Passport was used during the Covid19 Lockdown?

Digitisation in the form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is coming with it, we already have AI controlling and monitoring much of our social interactions.

Just wait until the Humanoid AI Robots arrive, they will read and use this data to '*manage*' us all.

Elon Musk says there will be about 10 billion of them in the world by the year 2040!

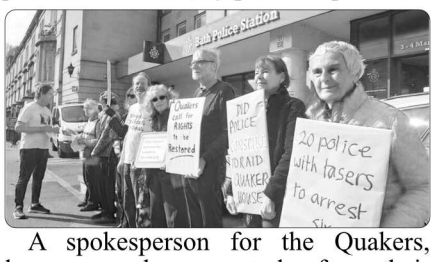
VIDEO

Quakers Arrested

At the end of March over 20 UK Police officers (with tasers) entered a meeting hall run by the Society of Friends (Quakers) and arrested 6 young women.

The 6 were attending a meeting about the crisis in Gaza and what might be done to support the Palestinian people.

It is understood they were pre-emptively arrested (i.e. no crime), on *"suspicion of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance"*, by peaceful protest.



A spokesperson for the Quakers, known and respected for their exclusively non-violent approach to everything, said:

"This aggressive violation of our place of worship and the forceful removal of young people holding a protest group meeting clearly shows what happens when a society criminalises protest.

Freedom of speech, assembly, and fair trials are an essential part of free public debate which underpins democracy."

The meeting organisers, *'Youth Demand'*, had called for shutting down London, to protest the UK selling arms to Israel and profiting from genocide.

We have to wonder why the UK authorities feel that they need to arrest 6 women, for fear that London would be '*shut down*'? We suppose that their real fear is in the very existence of anyone who would speak against their agenda.

Of course, the British authorities have always supported the fascist state of Israel in their genocide against the Palestinian people. In fact, the UK is the historic instigator of the attacks on, and the breaking up of Palestine with their infamous Balfour Declaration in 1917.

Wear an Easter Lilly

To respect ourselves and the deeds and memory of our own ancestors, we should wear an Easter Lilly with pride.

Our fore-fathers stood for an Irish Republic, as proclaimed in 1916, not for a neo-colony dependent on, and enslaved to foreign Banks and Corporations, the EU, the USA and their warmongering alliances.

We should wear an Easter Lilly to say that we want a bright future, where sovereignty rests with the people, not with the vested interests who continue to sell-out Ireland.

VIDEO

Éireann go Brách!

The Wearing of the Green

Oh, Paddy dear, and did you hear the news that's going 'round?
The shamrock is by law forbid to grow on Irish ground
No more St Patrick's Day we'll keep, his colour can't be seen
For there's a crewel law against the Wearing of the Green

Oh, I met with Napper Tandy and he took me by the hand
And he said, *"How's poor old Ireland and how does she stand?"*
"She's the most distressful country that ever yet was seen
For they're hanging men and women there for Wearing of the Green"

Then if the colour we must wear is England's cruel red
Let it remind us of the blood old Ireland has shed
Then take the shamrock from your hat, and throw it on the sod,
And never fear, 'twill take root there, though underfoot 'tis trod

When laws can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grow
And when the leaves in summertime their colour dare not show
Then I will change the colour too I wear in my caipín
But 'til that day, please God, I'll stick to Wearing of the Green.

AUDIO

Local Property Tax Increase Expected

The Minister for Finance says that increasing Local Property Tax (LPT) is necessary, in order to keep it *"fair and affordable"*!

Apparently, he kept a straight face while saying this, probably because he was advised to do so by his well-paid team of advisors.

LPT is used to fund Local Authorities, replacing funding that was taken away at the time of the so-called Bank bailout. That Local funding was never replaced, thus LPT continues as just another tax.

We all know that the prices of homes has been increasing non-stop, preventing most young families from finding a place to setup home. The Minister is now saying that the increased value of homes means that the LPT charges must also increase.

Government is also planning to change the Local Adjustment Factor which allows Councils to adjust the LPT charge upwards from the current 15% allowed to 25% from next year.

However, the ability of Councils to adjust the LPT rate downward will be capped at 15%.

This was always an unjust tax, home owners will be charged extra simply because an unregulated, free-for-all, housing market has inflated prices. LPT is a tax placed on people regardless of their income, or their ability to pay.

The change is expected for 2026, Council budgets generally won't be agreed until about October.

They Refuse to Look

In March, Cllr Peter O'Donoghue asked Cork County Council to seek an independent, transparent and public inquiry into the handling of Covid19 and into the 22,000 recorded excess deaths in the state since January 2021.

Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

He pointed out that an EU report shows that cancer deaths here are expected to increase by 47% leading up to 2040.

He explained that the Covid19 cost us over €30bn and caused economic disaster for thousands, yet according to Oxfam, '*our*' billionaires increased their wealth by 58% during lockdown.

Peter explained how discrimination was normalised, civil liberties curtailed and even the basis right to choose whether to take medication was denied.

The Council refused to ask for an inquiry into these questions.

VIDEO

Instead, the obviously non-independent chairperson/Mayor directed ridicule at Peter and asked that there be no vote. Council members decided to wait on what Government itself calls an "*evaluation*" of Covid19, announced last October.

The Government "*evaluation*" will not be a statutory inquiry, it will have no power to compel either witnesses or documents, and it will have a *"no-blame"* approach.

The Government evaluation is *"not intended to cover clinical questions or vaccine efficacy or outcomes"*. In other words, even Government refuses to look.

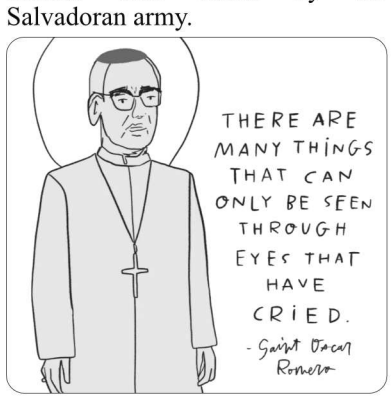
Who Speaks for Humanity?

As the Big Powers ravage Palestine and Syria, and as the unchecked massacres continue in the Congo, we must ask who is speaking out for humanity?

The 24th March marked the 45 anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Óscar Romero in El Salvador, here are some inspiring thoughts from him:

"I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression. All this is what constitutes the primal cause, from which the rest flows naturally."

Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador spoke out against poverty, social injustice and the death squads, he was murdered by a right wing death squad while saying mass. Hundreds of mourners at his funeral were killed by the Salvadoran army.



Despite this, the Big Powers continue to support right-wing dictatorships to this day, their words of democracy, peace and the rule of law are just lies.

Here is our report on Syria:

VIDEO

ISRAEL CONDEMNED
Big Power Politics Allows them to Continue

This is Stephen Kapos, detained for questioning in the UK. Listen, he has earned the right to speak about Genocide

VIDEO

Despite the fact that millions the world over have protested the wrong, and have done so continuously …

Despite the fact that they act in direct violation of International Law, and against countless Resolutions of the United Nations …

Despite the prayers of all denominations, and despite the inhumanity of what is happening in Gaza, and now also in Syria, the criminals continue ...

And, they are supported by the so-called *'civilised world'* …

We must learn the lessons, this has happened before, and will continue until it is stopped.

We need to end imperialism.

"You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two"

Is the EU going to rob us again?

World financial markets have historically gone through a run of boom and burst cycles - we have seen a few.

Since the Wall Street crash in 1929 these cycles have been punctuated by wars and various efforts at '*printing*' currency i.e. Quantitative Easing (QE).

The US continues its strategy of war, boosting their economy by stealing resources and markets.

War is big business, but it is barbaric and cannot substitute for the creation of actual wealth.

With QE, the belief was that '*printing*' currency would kick-start economic growth.

Since 2008, the ECB has increased the money supply by 500%, adding €7.4 trillion. The US Federal Reserve has increased by 900%, adding $9 trillion.

Note: the US Fed current balance is $6.7 trillion, that follows about 2 years of *Quantitative Tightening,* a reversal of the QE policy.

But, the policy has failed.

This failure has given rise to US moves to protect its own economy, trying to bring productive capacity back to itself.

Thus the tariff wars.

Ursula von der Leyen says that this is a: *"Major Blow to World Economy",* she is correct in that.

However, the EU has deployed another strategy, one on which it has worked to develop for years.

The EU has launched its plan for a **Savings & Investment Union**, to manage capital markets and with a central control over member states.

They want to use private deposit funds to add to the EU's capital for investment, the strategy will be rolled out later this year. It will include teaching people *"financial literacy"*, so that we can invest wisely.

The strategy will also include an automatic Pension scheme, which citizens will have to specifically opt-out of to avoid.

Estimates are the Europeans have over €10 trillion in deposit accounts, and the EU wants it.

The new Union, once complete, is expected to take over things like corporate solvency and taxation. It will also allow corporations to by-pass local (i.e. national) rules in favour of EU regulation. This would have major impact on whatever is left of our economy after the US imposes its trade tariffs.

Imagine such a strategy beside ECB Digital Currency control?

Is that enabling the EU, like a thief, to pick a pocket or two?

Why is the US Defence Department to Advise on Reorganising Our Military?

Have we handed over our security to the US Government?

Ian Wexler, former legal advisor to Guantanamo Bay detention camp, is head of the US agency hired to advise on how to expand our Army, Navy and Air Corps.

Wexler was at Guantanamo when UN human rights experts demanded their closure, describing what they saw as *"arbitrary detention without trial, outside of the rule of law"*.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, a UN human rights investigator who visited Guantanamo found detainees still suffering *"profound and ongoing"* harm. She described *"systematic practices of rendition, torture and arbitrary detention"* with many prisoners never even charged with a crime.

Wexler now leads the US's **Institute for Security Governance** (ISG), part of their military. ISG says it is *"working to align foreign military institutions with US defence structures"*, and our state is paying them to do this here.

Last month Government approved a Bill intending to drop the Triple Lock on our neutrality.

The Triple Lock means that to deploy anything over 12 soldiers overseas needs approval by the Dáil, the President and by the United Nations before it can happen. This safeguard was agreed by previous Governments in order to make us accept EU Treaties and as proof that we would not enter any military alliance.

But of course we are already members of NATO's '*Partnership for Peace'* (i.e. war!) and we have joined the EU's PESCO, a military initiative for EU defence co-operation. PESCO organises '*Battlegroups*' in which we participate every year, sending hundreds of soldiers, this already violates our Triple Lock.

We know that the US and UK military continuously patrol our seas and skies, we also know that NATO has had military commanders here training our soldiers, at Kilworth and elsewhere.

Now, the US is directly telling us, at our expense, how to expand our military - is this being neutral?

Where is the democracy in this?

By a huge majority, neutrality is the preferred policy of the Irish people. However, it seems that we are not to be asked to vote in a referendum on this question. Such are the *powers-that-be* who rule over us from Leinster House.

BODENSTOWN
Sunday 8th June 2025

- *Speakers*
- *Marching Bands*
- *Meeting*
- *Re-building*
- *Organise!*
- *Arise!*

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'Housing Action Group'

every Saturday 1pm to 3pm
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CORK CITY

Demanding that Government setup a National Emergency Committee on Housing & Homelessness

www.HousingRights.ie