

# Why you should be a communist

Depending on who you ask, university is a chance to:

- a) partake in the great wealth of knowledge humanity has assembled on its long journey out of the savannah;
- b) laze around in a drunken/stoned/hungover stupor, gazing blankly at Jeremy Kyle at the expense of the hard-working British taxpayer;
- c) mould yourself into the image of whatever sort of yuppiedom sweeps you up at the milk-round after graduation (*fat chance of that at the moment, though*).

Of course, the ample variety of societies nipping at your heels at this very freshers' fair testifies to the fact that students have proven, in spite of all the *Viz* stereotypes, genuinely hungry for a better view of things and an existence more

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## COMMUNIST STUDENTS

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you, but not up-front, preferring on the whole to lure you somewhere for 'coffee' first.

In the interests of being more up front about things than the various God squads, here are five reasons you should be a communist:

**It's traditional.** The stereotype of the starry-eyed leftie student has this basis in reality: uni is the first opportunity in many people's lives where seriously investigating radical ideas is possible and, to a limited extent, even encouraged. Take it - before the alienated drudgery of wage labour (*if you're lucky!*) slowly eats away at your soul.

**Marxism is powerful because it's true.** It's true because, unlike the various religions on offer, it encourages dissent, heresy and violent disagreement in pursuit of that very same truth. This is the simplest possible definition of the difference between science and bullshit.



**The world is in a mess.** There's an economic crisis on, and by current projections it won't be gone before you graduate. None of the preening non entities in parliament, nor the fraudsters and thieves at the top of Canary Wharf, nor the two bloodthirsty ogres competing for the US presidency, have the slightest clue what to do about it. All they can offer is more punishment for people who aren't themselves - whether through austerity measures at home, or pointless wars abroad.

**The world doesn't have to be in a mess.** The capitalist system drives itself to crisis. It drives nations to war, and encourages any kind of gibberish (*from racism to Bible-bashing*) that'll deflect the blame somewhere else. We can get rid of it - if all the teeming billions at the sharp end of this system, all over the world, decide we want to. There aren't enough bullets in the world to shoot us all.

WE

London Communist Forum,  
Monday October 22

**'Capitalist realism and education'**  
With Mark Fisher, author, 'Capitalist Realism' (Zero Books)

Plenty of time for discussion. All welcome.

19.00 - Calthorpe Arms (upstairs),  
252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR

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YOU.

The far left is in a sorry state. It conforms to the well-trodden Monty Python stereotype ("*Splitters!*"); when faced with an 'ordinary person', all it can offer is platitudes about how things like war and cuts are bad, and how we have to (*in some unspecified way*) fight back. Communism is not about worshipping Stalin or Mao (*or even Trotsky or Marx*), and it's definitely not about just saying 'no' to things in a vaguely pouty sort of way.

The human being is more than a tailless ape - or it can be, if it wants to be. Only a society without exploitation or oppression can make that happen. **Help us fight for one.**

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