

Historical Amnesia: State Repression and Crickets from the Left

By Chris Shaw

It is becoming crystal clear that the terms “left” and “right” really mean nothing at present. How else should we interpret the spectacle of an alleged pro-worker party, once officially socialist in orientation, the New Democratic Party (NDP), joining in the vilification of the blue collar workers in the truck convoy? Far worse, the NDP backstopped the Liberal’s outright assault on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by enabling Trudeau and his fellow “Great Reset” comrades in passing the Emergencies Act. This Act with the attendant seizures of bank accounts for those who dared to donate to a cause they believed in is probably the most egregious example of a government committed to ruling by decree. In other words, the Emergencies Act is a pure “state of exception” measure that the “left” would normally oppose with the clear understanding that such could be turned against them in the future.

Far from acknowledging the fascistic nature of the Act, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and his caucus supported it completely and in the process sold out the working class in Canada, including ultimately many of those on the left too terrified by events to think rationally. This support by the NDP will inevitably come back to bite them electorally, not to mention the next time they try to pretend that they care about working people.

How did we come to this? How did we come to a time in this country when dissent about arbitrary and ineffective medical measures to Covid-19, and this is all these measures are, are widely embraced by those who claim a leftist pedigree, the same folks who would have been outraged if the same measures were brought by a right wing government against blockades and protests by environmental or Native activists?

The stench of utter hypocrisy lies over this land and the silence of the left to the repression of fellow citizens will not soon be forgotten. Indeed, when that stench is eventually blown away, so too will be the notion that left and right have any meaning at all.

Perhaps in addition to hypocrisy, the left has forgotten it’s roots? In a form of historical amnesia, it seems that much of the left, individuals and organizations, no longer remember the struggles that used to be the defining features. These included the support for workers to organize unions, it included the actual fight against fascism in Spain and elsewhere, activism in civil rights battles, against imperialist wars, the arms race, and so much more. This is what happens if one forgets one’s roots.

What are the left’s priorities now? Deplatforming people who don’t use the correct pronouns and “counter” protesting actual workers who want their freedom back. Ludicrous? Obviously, and the sorry state of the NDP demonstrates this in stark detail.

The Liberal part of Canada has revealed their truly fascist ideology and goals, following in the footsteps of Klaus Schwab, the director of the World Economic Forum, the latter that clique of billionaires and multinational corporations that have set out to dominate the world and its peoples. And the NDP and others have gone along for the ride, seemingly oblivious to the harms they are doing to the very people they claim to represent.

I was a “red diaper” baby, the child of left activists. My first protest involved me in a stroller being wheeled around at a protest for civil rights.