

"Lessons from the Paris Commune". Al-Hadaf (Beirut), February 28, 1970. Translated by *The Palestinian Revolution*, 2016. Followed by Illustrated Pages.

1

Revolutionaries around the world are currently celebrating the centenary of the Paris Commune: the first Proletarian spring in history.

The experience of the Commune, in its brevity, could be counted among the most fertile militant experiences in history, whose full comprehension is necessary for the revolutionaries, particularly our current situation. For if you follow the incidents of the Commune, which we will lay out here, you will be struck by the many parallels with the current experience of the Palestinian resistance.

In these pages, Al-Hadaf presents, on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the Paris Commune, a brief outline of what happened, complete with drawings done during that period, according to the common style of the time, by significant painters of the day from France and elsewhere. Al-Hadaf made use of text and drawings from various publications, the most prominent being a pamphlet published by the Democratic Communist Youth Organisation.

2

One of the upshots of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 was the overthrow of the Second French Empire and the establishment of the new Republic, and the bourgeoisie took over the reins of power. The war had ended with a victory for Germany, but Paris continued to fight, the heart of France refusing to surrender.

The working class, had been against the war from the outset, demanded the stepping up of the National Defence. Feudalists and capitalists alike were experiencing a number of troubles, and did not want the National Defence protecting Paris. More than anything else, their hatred had increased towards the armed Parisian masses, and so for them the German military was their natural ally...

For 131 days, Paris was able to stand firm in the face of the total German blockade, and the masses paid a heavy price – in cold, hunger and even This work is made available under a Creative Commons 4.0 International Licence, and must be used accordingly. Please see citation guidelines on the About Us page.



death. On October 28, 1871, a starving Paris was forced to surrender, and the Germans were allowed to stay for one day in an unarmed and deserted neighbourhood of Paris. The Germans had to carry out a parade, but it was a symbolic parade only in Paris, where they felt that they were surrounded by the armed proletariat from every side. They left the city to the rubble of that victory, a victory of questionable doubt.

3

Fear struck the feudalists and capitalists, for they were convinced that their privileges – namely their wealth and their ability to persecute and exploit – were hanging by a thread. The revolution was fast approaching, and if they wanted these privileges they would have to strip the proletariat of their arms – at any cost.

On March 18, the president gave orders to strip the National Gefence of artillery. But the attempt failed, wives and workers alike having resisted fiercely: 'Our artillery is ours!' they would shout.

The masses focused their hatred on the two generals who had tried to strip the National Guard of its heavy weapons. These two generals were notorious for their brutality towards the proletariat, and therefore their soldiers themselves, who had joined the side of the masses, brought them in front of the city council and sentenced them to the death penalty.

Anger swept through the city, and government men and ---- were forced to flee. Adolphe Thiers and his men took refuge with the Germans in France. The masses thus discovered the great betrayal their government had committed against the nation.

4

On March 27, the birth of the Paris Commune was announced: for the first time in history, the proletariat ruled themselves. Their program was simple, brief and clear: 'Land for the land workers, tools for the workers, and work for all; workers, take affairs into your own hands, for the time has come for the proletariat to be freed'.

This was how the conscious socialists spoke, but they also maintained their distinctive weakness: not being wary enough about their class enemies. Their good nature was bordering on naivety, and they weren't brave enough to take the 3 billion franks deposited in the Bank of France in Central Paris. If they



had been, their fate would have been different, for capitalists without gold are beasts without claws, naked, unable to do anything.

What was even more dangerous, however, was the military error committed by the Communards: rather than attacking the enemy and destroying it in Versailles, they started talking about 'bloodshed'. Despite all the violations, all the executions of Communards detained by the class enemy, Paris maintained its defence of Versailles, the excuse being to 'prevent civil war'!

5

The Communards wanted to build democracy and justice, and the class enemy had one answer to this 'madness': 'stability and order'! Communards were humane, and showed this both in words and actions, and the class enemy had one answer to that too: massacres!

The class enemy had succeeded in isolating Paris from the rest of France, and through the means of disinformation and deception, could mobilise sentiments against the Commune. The German Counsellor Otto van Bismarck saw the difficulties its class ally was going through, so released 100,000 French prisoners of war. On their return, they were isolated in military camps near Versailles, not aware of anything, and were thoroughly brain washed against the Commune. This is how Thiers became stronger and stronger. On the contrary, the Commune leaders did not hesitate in the face of bloodshed and civil war. In Paris, the Communards tore down a statue in the city which, for them, represented slavery and reactionism.

6

Sunday afternoon, 21 May: The Versailles forces mobilised and stormed the Porte de Saint-Cloud, whose defences were weak, while Paris was sleeping peacefully and fearlessly. The Russian [Jaroslav] Dombrowski, a General of the Commune, had gathered some fighters and stopped the attackers. But the mobilisation in the Commune had not begun until after midnight, since thef the Commune's council had taken a long time in coming to their decision.

National Guard fighters assembled in every location, preparing themselves to fight. But the Parisians did not know that the Versailles forces were several thousand strong, nor did they believe that they would fight their class allies. The Parisians failed to protect the strategic points in their city, and likewise failed to employ artillery.



In the meantime, the Versailles forces had begun to creep into the city. The atmosphere was tense, following the raucous night that Parisians had spent the night before, for the first time celebrating in the hall of the royal palace, in Tuileries – they had started to truly live in their city!

7

Monday: Fierce fighting continued, the Communards fighting like lions. Slowly they were retreating from the banks of the Seine, lighting fires in all the buildings they retreated from, the city hall and the old palace – very heavy losses. General Dombrowski and the police chief [Raoul] Rigault was killed on the barricades.

[Louis Charles] Delescluze, the high-ranking socialist leader of the Commune, who had taken part in three revolutions, a former ship slave and now minister of war in the Commune, was also killed on the barricades, an old, tired man, his hair streaked with grey.

The Versailles forces began to advance wildly, killing families, children and women. Near the barricades of Faubourg du Temple, a young man was arrested, and before his execution, he requested three minutes to give his mother his silver watch. The officer let him go, convinced he had given him the means to flee, but the boy returned after three minutes, stood against the wall, next to the bodies of his comrades who had been killed immediately and stood waiting for his own death to come.

8

Monday afternoon: The Parisians finally realised that the men of the Versailles forces were not their class allies and sons of one country. They were brain-washed, professional mercenaries. The fighting spread from house to house, neighbourhood to neighbourhood. Women and children, young men and old men, took up shovels, knives and rifles. The enemy slunk in across the river Seine, from the west to the east, lighting fires across the city. And beautiful Paris, teetering then on the gates of a life of justice, began to burn!

9

Friday: Parisians only maintained control of the eastern side of the city, the area around Pere la Chaise cemetery. As a response to the massacres committed by the Versailles forces, the Communards sentenced to death 63 Parisian bourgeois men, among them bishops of Paris. This act, whose



motives and reasons we can understand, was exploited over the next hundred years to stain the revolutionary reputation of the Commune, and likewise to attack socialism.

All those who shed tears over the 63 people they executed said not one word about the proletarian martyrs who fell in their thousands!

10

Saturday: The Communards had not one cannon left. They had used up their ammunition, and were fighting with bayonets and bare fists.

In the cemetery, the Communards fought from gravestone to gravestone, and were surrounded by hundreds by the end, near the eastern corner of the cemetery, in front of a thick wall. There, more comrades fell, and as for those who were captured, they too were executed against that wall.

Since that time, that wall has become a sacred place for socialists across the world. Today, when you cross the cemetery, the black wall appears out of nowhere, as if it had been darkened permanently by the excess of blood spilt upon it.



بمناسية المذكروث المعوب



■ يحتفل الثوار في جميع اتحاء الارض ، هذه الايام ، بالذكرى المثوية لكومبونة باريس : اول دبيع بروليتاري في التاريخ .

ولعل تجربة الكوميونة ، على غمرها ، مسن اختصب التجارب الفسالية التي تحين علسي الثوار استيمايها ، وخصوصا في وضعاالراهن: الن تنها حداث الكوميونة ، كما ستسجلها هنا » يلف الانتباه بمحودة مقطة ألى اوجه التشايه المعادة مع التجربة التي تخوضها المفاومسية القلسطينية في هذه الفترة

ان « الهدف ») نقدم في هذه الصفحسات ، بطاسبة الذكرى الثوية الوصولسة بادبس ؟ غرضا مختصرا للتجربة ، بزودا برسوم سجلها في طلد الفترة ، وفق الاسلوب السالم اتداك ، لابا سرسامي العصر في فرنسا وخارجها ؛ وقد استمالت « الهدف » ، بالرسسوم وبالتص (ولكن بتصرف) من مشورات مختلفة الرفضا ملحق اصديته منظمة الشبية الثابعة للصوب الشدود . الدائم ، الدائم . الدائم . الدائم . الشيوعي الدانعركي -





■ كانت من بين نتائج الحرب الفرنسيسة الالمانية ١٨٧٠ سقوط الامبراطوريسة وانساء الجمهورية . وتسلمت حكومة نشل البودجواذية الكبيرة زمام السلطة في البلاد . قد انتهاالعرب بالتصاد الالان الا ان بارس كانت ما تزال تقال، ورفض قلب فرنسا الاستسلام .





■ ل ۲۸ آذار اعلنت ولادة كمـ الا ۱۸ اداد اطلت ولاده تعبولة باريس " لال سرة في التاريخ لم تتن المبرولستاريا الا سيدة نفسيا ، و المرابع الكيونسة مختصرا وواضعة وبسيطا : الالرش للفلاجين ، الانوال للفلاجين ، الانوال للعلمال ، والقمل للجبيع ، ايها المعمل ، نولوا أموزكم بالفلاجيس ، فقسد أن أوان نظرر البروليتاريا».

هكذا كان الاشتراكيون الواعون يتحدثون - الا انهم كانوا ايضا يحتفلون نفسقهم الخاص : قتد كانوا غير حذري كفاية الراء اعداءهم الفليين ، ان طبيتهم كانت تقويد حد السلاحة ، و لسيتهم الثانية من الشجاعة للاستيلاد علمي الدين المنابع موضوعة فين عائدت موضوعة فين عموضة فرنسا وسط بارسى ، وقو اطوار اذلك كان محصوصة فد اختلف ، فيدون اللاسبيم الراسحاليون بلا مخالب ، اكثر من عرابا) يسبح الراسحاليون بلا مخالب ، اكثر من عرابا) وغير قادرين على فعل اي شيء . .

الا أن ما هو أخطر من ذلك كان الخطأ المسكري الآن ما هو اخطر من ذلك كانالخطا المسكري اللي ارتكبه الكيونيون : فبدل مهاجية العدو وتصيرة إلى فرصاي ه صاروا بتعدلون عسس «حتى الدماء ١١ ع وبالرغم من كل الانتهائات ، واعدام الكعبونيين المتقلب من طرف العدو العام عناس بارس إلى وقسمه الدفاع ازاء طرساي ، وكانت العجة : بجنب العسسوب الاهلية ! الا





■ طهر يوم الانتين :

اديد البارسيون خير اندجال قوات فرساي ليسوا رفاقا طبقين وابناه بلند واحمد ، ولكنهم مرتزقة محترفين متسولة المفتهم .

اتسع القتال من حي الى حي ومن بيت الى اخر .

الساء والاطبال والنبيسان والنبيوغ عقوا المعاول والسيوف والبنادى .

العدو دخل متدفقا عبر تهم السين ، من الغرب الى الشرك ، مضرما النار في الدينة .

واخبلت باديس الجميلية ، الوافقة انذاك على ابواب حياة عادلة ، تحترى ! ■

34

بعد الدرصي و دول مقبرة ((الدرائي الدرائي) من بادرس ، دول مقبرة ((الدرائي) بردا على الجازد التي كان برنكها جؤود فرساي نقد ((آكاوميونيون) حكمالاعدام بـ ١٢يورجوازيا بادرسيا بينهم مطران بادرس . .

ان هذا العمل ، الذي تستطيع فهم بواهشه واسبامه ، قد استعمل طوال منه سنة لتطبيخ السمعة الثودية للكوميونيين ، وكذلك للتهجيم على الاستراكية . أن للذن الحروا ددوعا حسارة على ١٣ شخصا الذين العدوا ، لم يتذاروا ، تلمة واحدة شهداه البروليتاريا الذين سقطوا بالالاف ؛ ■



مناسبة ال ذكرع ما المشع الم

است - است - الكوميونيين مدفع راحد . نقدت الذخائر وصاروا يقاتلون بالحسراب





■ الاحد : انتهى القتال . جيء بخمسة الاف باريسي الى سجن ال روكيت ١١ ، وقد اوفقاحد الصباط الي صحح ، روييه ١٠ وقد اوضافات القصاف الاسرى في صف واحد واخذ السي المجن واخر المن البسار ، واحدا بعد واحد ، اما المجن الذي تاليا كان حظهم المترز الى البسار فقد كانوا يرمون بالرصاص على التو .. حدت الشيئ نصه في سجن ١٠ مازا ١١ وق ١١ حديث

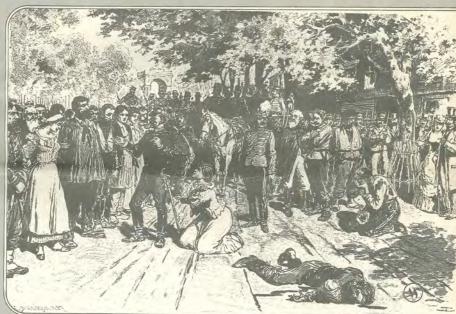
السيرة للشد في سجود مدراً هروي المسكريسة في الإيام التالية شرغت المحاكم المسكريسة بالعهل ، وكانت حصة كل قضية ربع دفيقسة فحسب ، وكان اولئك الذين بظهرون تجرياهما او بيتسمون بشجاعة ، او ينظرون باستفامسة يحكمون بالوت . وكل بن لم بيد وكأنه كليب

كان مصيره الموت . واخذ الاطفال وأمهانهم يصرحمون بالجنود « افتلونا نحن ايضا » .

رقة قتلوم ...
توقة قتلوم ...
تكومت الجثت كالتــــلال في اليادين وقـــــي
الإحياه ، وقد سكب الكان قوقها وأضرمت فيها
الثان ، وإنتشرت فوق بارس دائحـــة عن لا

نحتمل .. وقربكلمة النويتري كان ثهر منالدم بسيل.. وحكمة الخرق اول ربيع بروليتاري في التاريخ

بالدماء الل



■ کتب ۱۱ بیرز ۱۱ ، کبیر خلادی فرسای ۱ یقول لوطلاله الطبقین بعد آن حقق انتصاده : ۱۱ الارقی منطاق بجتهم . . . ان هذا النظر المخیف سیکون درسا وبعد ذلك به بنه سنته ۱۰ کان الشریف ناصر یقول المرش الاردنی : ۱۱ بهترین الف فتیل ۱ اعطیك عمان نظیف : ۱ بهترین الف فتیل ۱ ملک بدت نیز ۱ و بهترین التا ۱ مترین مرفحات مزرجات ۱ ملک بدت نیز ۱ و بهتری مرفح التا ۱ و مشیق

للبندورة "! ولكن بين بيرز ؛ وبين وصفي التل ، مشت سنة نبت قيها ؛ في التراب الذي غذته جثت المناضلين بخصب حديدي ، اكثر من ربيع واحد للكادجين : من موسكو الى يكين ؛ ومن هانوي

الى هافاتا ..
وما زال الرجال والنساء والاطفال بخصيون الارض ، نحو مستقبل تتصر فيه قيم التحسرر والاشتراكية ... =

