

THE UNITED FRONT VS THE POPULAR FRONT

what is an alliance

An alliance means that different classes and their organisations work together because they have a common goal. For example, sometimes the working class and middle class are both oppressed by the same government or ruling group. They will both want to get rid of this government. So they might come together in an alliance to try and do this.

who leads the alliance

But the differences between the classes will still be there, even if they are working together in an alliance. The workers will carry on their struggle to improve their wages and conditions. The businessmen will carry on trying to increase their profits, at the expense of the workers. And "the educated people" will often be more interested in getting better jobs for themselves than in the problems of the workers.

So there will be a lot of struggle and fighting in an alliance between these two groups or classes. Sometimes the middle class will be stronger, and will use the alliance to improve their position. Sometimes the working class will be able to lead in the alliance and put the workers' interest first.

two types of unity

There are two types of unity or alliances between organisations and classes. These are the "United front" and the "Popular front". The popular front includes an alliance with a section of the capitalist class, usually liberals. Such an alliance for instance, an anti-apartheid alliance does not address capitalist exploitation properly. In this popular front there will be those who are prepared to fight against apartheid but not capitalism. The PFP and NAFCOC (an organisation

of black businessmen) are examples.

united front

When organisations are united in a principled way it could lead to a united front. Here organisations take the slogan "March separately, but strike together", seriously. The principled unity is usually an anti-capitalist one. The leadership of the working class, democracy and non-sectarianism in this type of alliance is respected and the aim is to bring in a society under worker control.



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