



REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

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ONE WORLD - ONE STRUGGLE - ONE REVOLUTION



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Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Britain, Germany, and Austria. In addition the RCIT has fraternal relations with *Dördüncü Blok* in Turkey.

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Statement on the Fusion between ALS and the RCIT

Adopted by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) and the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (ALS), 8.7.2016

After 9 months of discussion and collaboration, both ALS and the RCIT draw a positive balance sheet of this process. We conclude that the basis has been achieved to fuse our organizations and that ALS becomes the Mexican section of the RCIT. Hence we fuse our forces by now. The programmatic basis of the fusion is the joint statements on MayDay 2016 and on Syria as well as the RCIT-Manifesto.

Given the importance of the revolutionary process in Mexico as well as the reactionary offensive in Latin America as a whole with all the massive class struggles which this will unavoidable provoke, the RCIT and ALS

– as well as the RCIT's militants in Brazil and Venezuela – will intensify their efforts to intervene in the class struggle and to fight for the revolutionary program. *Lucha Socialista* (the paper of ALS), *Centelha Vermelha* (the paper of CCR) and *Comunismo Revolucionario* respectively *O Comunismo Revolucionário* (the Spanish respectively the Portuguese language journal of the RCIT) shall play a crucial role in this undertaking.

We call revolutionaries in Mexico and the whole Latin American region to join us in our struggle to rebuild a revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for the socialist revolution!



Activists of the Mexican section of the RCIT at a rally in solidarity with the Revolution in Syria on 15.03.2016



Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT and refugees at the MayDay-Demonstration 2016 in Vienna

After the Killing of Burhan Wani: Long Live the Kashmiri Intifada!

Organize the Workers' and Popular Struggle to End the Indian Occupation! For a Free, United and Red Kashmir!

Statement of the International Secretariat of the RCIT and the RWO (Pakistani Section of the RCIT), 21.07.2016

1. The “extra-judicial” killing of 22-year-old Burhan Muzaffar Wani, a popular commander of the petty-bourgeois nationalist and Islamist *Hizbul Mujahideen*, by Indian occupation forces has provoked a massive surge of popular resistance by the Kashmiri people. In the mass protests which followed Wadi’s death, Indian repression forces killed at least 34 demonstrators.

2. This brutal repression is only the latest highlight of the ongoing oppression of the Kashmiri people by the Indian state. The Indian state has stationed about 750,000 soldiers and police forces in Kashmir which has a population of only 8 million. This means that there is about one Indian soldier for every ten Kashmiris! Since the beginning of the popular uprising in 1988, nearly 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed by Indian security forces. In addition, nearly 10,000 women have been gang raped by marauding bands of Indian soldiers.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* and the *Revolutionary Workers Organization (RWO)* express their unconditional solidarity with the liberation struggle of the heroic Kashmiri people who have been fighting for independence for more than six decades. As socialists, we give no political support to the Kashmiri nationalist and Islamist organizations. Similarly, we oppose any attempts by the Pakistani army and ISI to manipulate the Kashmiri liberation struggle for their own benefit in the long-term conflict with the Indian state. However, all this does not obviate the fullest support which the international workers’ movement owes to the struggle of the Kashmiri workers, peasants and poor to get rid of the Indian occupation. The Kashmiri people have demonstrated repeatedly that they are only part of the Indian state against their will. As socialists we fully support their right of national self-determination.

4. At the same time we also support the right of national self-determination for the Kashmiri people living within the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir. We call for the withdrawal of all Pakistani forces from Kashmir.

5. The RCIT and its Pakistani section call the Kashmiri workers, poor and youth to organize for a perspective of *mass struggle against the occupation*. While we defend the heroic guerilla fighters against the Indian repression forces, we consider their strategy as wrong and self-defeating. We call for the building of action committees in the work places and neighborhoods to organize the popular masses. For a general strike against the Indian occupation!

6. We fully support the struggle of the Kashmiri people for independence. We defend the right to return to their homes of all Kashmiris driven out by the Indian security forces. We support the perspective of a united Kashmir which brings together the divided country currently hold by the Indian, Pakistani and Chinese state.

Such a free and independent Kashmir should be a country controlled by the workers and peasants and not by a small clique of capitalists and land owners. This is why the RCIT and its Pakistani section are fighting for *an independent socialist Kashmir*, i.e. a *free, united and red Kashmir*!

7. We combine this perspective with the slogan of a *revolutionary constituent assembly* elected and controlled by all Kashmiri people which should determine the future character of the country. In such an assembly socialists would argue for the perspective of a workers and peasants republic. They would also raise the perspective of a *socialist federation of South Asia*.

Support the Intifada of the Kashmir people against the Indian occupation forces!

For the immediate and total withdrawal of all Indian forces from Kashmir!

For the release of all the political prisoners of the Kashmir struggle

For the right of national self-determination for the people of Kashmir! For a free, united and red Kashmir!

We refer readers to our fundamental statement on the oppression of the Kashmiri people and the perspectives of liberation struggle:

RWO: Pakistan: Prospects for revolutionary class struggle (2102), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/pakistan-action-program/>

Resolution on the Kashmir Question (2010), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-resolution/>



In the Wake of the PSTU/LIT-CI Split, What Lessons Can Be Learned?

An Open Letter to Members and Sympathizers of the International Workers League (Fourth International)

Issued by the International Secretariat of the RCIT and CCR (Brazil Section of the RCIT), 11.7.2016

Dear comrades of the LIT-CI,

Without doubt, the split in the PSTU – the largest section of the LIT – is an important event, not only because it involves nearly half of the Brazilian section’s membership, but also because it reflects fundamental problems within this organization.

As you are well aware, the immediate cause for the split was the shameful, neutral, abstentionist position of the PSTU majority during the institutional coup of the big bourgeoisie in Brazil against the popular front government of Dilma Rousseff, which was overthrown with the complicity of the judicial branch of the state apparatus, the private media as well as the neoliberal right-wing opposition. Even today the unrepentant PSTU leadership refuses to form a united front with the reformist mass organizations FBP, FPSM, CUT, MST, MSTs, etc. aimed at mobilizing against the right-wing, neoliberal government of Temer!

At the same time the PSTU leadership combines such Third Campist sectarianism with the arch-opportunist call for a general strike demanding new general parliamentary elections! What would be the result of such general elections? A strengthening of the right-wing parties? A consolidation of the PT? How on earth can revolutionaries possibly want to orient the working class vanguard to such a parliamentary electoral maneuver which would only stabilize the capitalist regime?!

The PSTU minority, which initiated the split, appears to have criticized this policy and certainly justifiably so!

The RCIT and its section in Brazil characterize the PSTU leadership’s abstentionist position as an outright betrayal of the working class movement. Of course, revolutionaries could not have given any political support to the Popular Front government led by the reformist PT, as the latter made a reactionary coalition with the openly bourgeois PMSB and accommodated to the bourgeoisie by initiating neoliberal reforms. But this was hardly the reason that the PMSB left the coalition and why the united big bourgeoisie overthrew the government in an institutionalized coup. Instead, for the PMSB, the reason was that the Popular Front government did not go *far enough* with its adaption to neoliberalism. In this, the PT was hampered by its broad social base, i.e., the support it derives from the trade unions, the peasant organizations, the organizations of the urban poor, etc. It is precisely because of this base that the PT-led government was forced to introduce social programs like the *Bolsa Familia*.

The big bourgeoisie – with the support of US imperialism – instigated the coup because it wanted to impose a right-wing government which was not limited by its social base

in implementing a full blown neoliberal attack on the working class and the poor. And this is the main reason that the reformist mass organizations of the working class and the poor mobilized against the coup, and are now mobilizing against the Temer government.

The institutional bourgeois coup against the government of Dilma Rousseff was an attack against the popular masses. It was the responsibility of revolutionaries to understand this, and to have called for a united front with the reformist mass organizations against the putschists. Revolutionaries should have participated in the anti-coup mass demonstrations, without having given any political support to the government of Dilma Rousseff. They should have combined the struggle against the coup with a perspective of breaking the working class and their organizations away from the popular front and building a strong revolutionary party. This was in fact the consistent policy of the RCIT and its Brazilian section which we attempted to implement as well as possible given our limited forces. (1)

Comrades of the LIT: An organization like the PSTU, which claims to represent the vanguard, completely fails to give the popular masses any direction if it is incapable of differentiating between the popular front and the putschists; between Kerensky and Kornilov; between Negrin and Franco.

The policy of the PSTU leadership was ostensibly ultra-left, but in fact it was mainly an adaption to the reactionary prejudices of the liberal middle class milieu which despises the PT for its support among the supposedly “unenlightened” workers and poor.

Comrades, many of you may have largely agreed with our criticism of the PSTU’s policy during the playing out of the institutional coup. But lest you think that this was simply an isolated error in judgment by the PSTU’s leadership, we say unequivocally: No, this was no isolated error but the inevitable result of an incorrect political method.

Look at the shameful position of the LIT leadership during the military coup in Egypt, or the pro-Western imperialist mobilizations in the Ukraine against the Yanukovych government with the participation of significant fascist forces. In the case of Egypt, the LIT leadership welcomed the bloody coup of General Sisi of 3 July 2013 as an expression of the ongoing revolutionary process in Egypt! What a scandalous assessment for a coup in which the old guard of Mubarak – with the support of all the Great Powers (e.g., US, EU, Russia, China) – took power, massacred thousands of people and abolished the democratic rights which the masses had achieved in 2011! The RCIT and its comrades in the Middle East opposed the military coup from the start, and called for a united

front of the organizations of the working class and the people (including Islamist mass organizations) to resist the murderous putschists. (2)

In the Ukraine, the LIT leadership hailed the insurrection led by the fascist Right Sector (with the support of US imperialism) at the end of February 2014 as a “democratic revolution.” Surely, revolutionaries could not defend the Yanukovich government, which was clearly a lackey of Russian imperialism. But to have supported, from start to finish, the reactionary mobilizations which were initiated and controlled by the US and EU imperialists and the right-wing and fascist opposition parties! – This is nothing but an outright mockery of Marxism! (3)

Comrades of the LIT: How could all of this have happened? Are such betrayals isolated mistakes? No. When a leadership repeatedly fails to analyze major events of the international class struggle during the past few years, this is no accident; it is rather the product of a terribly faulty method!

These repeated failures are derived from the LIT’s method, which can be characterized as “*fatalist objectivism*” and “*opportunist processism*.” The LIT leadership believes that the “objective process” will inevitably push all political mobilizations and movements in a progressive direction – irrespective of their leaderships, their social class compositions, and the relation of forces. While this method may be justified in a very general way with regards to the crisis of capitalism and the objective need for the socialist revolution, Trotsky scornfully dubbed it “*fatalist objectivism*.” Captive of this overly simplistic method, the LIT leadership completely ignores the *living forces* of the class struggle and the “*the importance of class-conscious revolutionary activity in history*” (Trotsky). Consequently, the LIT leadership’s phrases about the “revolutionary process” hide an opportunist adaption to the liberal middle class.

Yes, capitalism faces an historic crisis and we are living in an historic period in which the socialist revolution is on the agenda. However, and unfortunately, capitalism in decay not only knows that the socialist revolution as a way out of the crisis, but that there is also an alternative: barbarism. In fact, in such an historic period of the capitalist crisis as that which commenced in 2008, *both* the class struggle of the workers and the oppressed *and* the attacks of the reactionary forces are advancing and accelerating!

In such a period, it is vital that revolutionaries combine a transitional program for working class independence and for socialist revolution with a concrete policy of the united front tactic. Such a policy takes into account the concrete dynamic of the class struggle; it differentiates between the direct, immediate aggressors against the working class and the oppressed and the rotten reformist and populist traitors who inhabit the upper echelons of the mass popular organizations. Such a Marxist policy allows us as revolutionaries to both denounce the reformist and populist leaderships while at the same time apply the united front tactic which appeals to the base of these mass organizations, by calling for joint actions (and placing demands for such joint action on their leaderships).

Such a policy – or even initially only consistent propaganda and agitation for it – demands the existence of an authentic revolutionary organization. Such an organization must not succumb to forming strategic alliances – or even a joint

non-revolutionary party – with reformist or centrist forces (like the PSOL in Brazil). This would just be another form of opportunism – opportunism in party building. No, such an organization must fight for a revolutionary program and for working class independence. It must strive to build the revolutionary party as the highest organizational form of proletarian class consciousness. It must keep the vanguard aware of the revolutionary character of the present historic period and fight against all forms of petty-bourgeois pessimism (like the one we are supposedly experiencing in a period characterized by the collapse of Stalinism and a regression in the class consciousness).

At the same time such a revolutionary organization must intervene in the class struggle with a correct assessment of the different class forces and must implement the united front tactic to mass organizations which, unfortunately, still rally the majority of the class conscious workers and oppressed behind them. Doing so is the only way to break the reformist and populist workers and oppressed away from their treacherous leaderships!

We fear that the comrades who split from the PSTU have not sufficiently understood the methodological failures of the LIT. They wrote in their public statement: “*We recognize the PSTU as a revolutionary organization. We do not think it is less revolutionary than before. But sometimes it is impossible for revolutionaries belonging to the same organization. (...) We remain, therefore, in the framework of the International Workers League, as a sympathizing section.*” We ask the comrades: If the PSTU is indeed a revolutionary organization, and the only difference is tactical, why the split? In fact, the comrades themselves probably suspect that the political problems are much deeper, but they have yet to draw the correct political conclusions from their organizational split.

The RCIT is building such an organization. We appeal to all comrades from the LIT – majority as well as minority – to reconsider the method of their leadership and to enter into discussions and collaborations with the RCIT! Comrades, now is the time to draw the right lessons from the past struggles and to jointly build a revolutionary world party fighting for the socialist revolution!

Footnotes:

(1), (2) and (3) See on these the relevant documents of the RCIT on our website www.thecommunists.net



Brazil: After Rousseff's Impeachment, Temer's Interim Government Deepens Attacks on Brazilian Workers

The coup was mainly against the workers and social movements

by *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (CCR)*, 12 June 2016

Last May 23, the Minister of Planning, Budget, and Management, Romério Jucá (PMDB [1]), one of the main leaders of the campaign to impeach President Dilma Rousseff, was exonerated by the interim coupist president, Michel Temer. In a recording made by his colleague, Senator Sergio Machado (PMDB), Jucá admitted that the need to remove Dilma from office was in order to put an end to the "Operation Car Wash" (*Operação Lava Jato*) investigation. [2] The crux of this conversation is what Jucá calls "a national pact" — involving all of Brazil's most powerful institutions — to leave Michel Temer in place as president (notwithstanding the multiple corruption scandals to which the latter's name has been linked) and to entirely kill the corruption investigation once Dilma will have been removed from power. In the words of the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, Jucá made clear that impeachment will "end the pressure from the media and other sectors to continue the 'Operation Car Wash investigation'" which played such a key role in toppling the PT (*Partido dos Trabalhadores* — Workers' Party [3]), led by Rousseff and former president Lula. The exonerated Jucá was the leader of Temer's PMDB party in the senate and was one of the "interim president's" three closest confidants.

But in this same recording secretly made by Machado, the two most important bits of information are the roles of the Supreme Court and the Armed Forces in the coup. Without knowing that his words were being recorded, Jucá openly admitted that the Brazilian military supported the plot: "I have been speaking with the generals, the military commanders. They are fine with it, and have said that they will guarantee it." Jucá also indicated that the military is "monitoring the Landless Workers Movement" (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*, or MST [4]), the social movement of rural workers which supports PT's efforts on land reform and the reduction of inequality in Brazil, and which has been in the forefront of the protests against Dilma's impeachment. The second bombshell revelation — perhaps even more significant than the first — is Jucá's unwittingly revealed declaration about the involvement in the plot of numerous justices in Brazil's Supreme Court, the very same institution that impeachment defenders have repeatedly pointed to as vesting the process with "legitimacy" in order to deny that Dilma's removal is a coup. In the recording, Jucá claims that "there are only a small number" of Supreme Court justices whom he did not manage to access.

Just two days after the publication of this report, *Folha de São Paulo* made yet another astounding revelation. The president of the senate, Renan Calheiros, had also been secretly recorded by the same Sergio Machado, in which Calheiros admitted his support for modifying the law that grants witnesses immunity, so that anyone indicted would not be rewarded for becoming informers (the so called "whistleblower prize"). Renan also suggested

that, after dealing with this matter he could "negotiate" with members of the Supreme Court the "transition" of Dilma Rousseff, i.e., the impeachment of the duly-elected president of Brazil. Therefore, in light of the two newspaper reports just cited, it has become perfectly clear that two of the most important figures from the PMDB in the senate, Minister Romério Jucá, the leader this party in the senate, and Renan Calheiros, no less than the President of Brazil's senate, have admitted that they had exercised strong influence on members of the Supreme Court to ensure that Dilma Rousseff would in fact be removed from the office. In short, Brazil's parliament, its Supreme Court, and its Armed Forces were not at all in disagreement about the need to impeach the president and put an end to the Popular Front government at the head of which she stood. Naturally, the bourgeois-dominated media has only focused on the "attempt" of these PMDB politicians to get rid of all the criminal charges of corruption, but only after all the important leaders of the PT, including former president Lula da Silva, were already in prison or had been denounced. But, for the press, the fact that the Supreme Court and Armed Forces were mentioned as being involved in the plan to impeach the duly elected president is simply a matter of secondary interest.

In light of all this, we unconditionally affirm that what has taken place in Brazil during the past year or two was an authentic coup d'état, and the deceptive fight against PT's alleged political corruption was just surreptitious camouflage designed to hide the true goal: To remove from power a Popular Front government which had a strong ties with both Russia and China, the new imperialist powers, and to force Brazil to withdraw from the bloc of Bolivarianist popular governments in Latin America. Clearly, it is no mere coincidence that the US ambassador serving in Brazil since 2013, Liliana Ayalde, is the diplomat who served as US ambassador to Paraguay in 2012, when that country's rightist and fascist movements reappeared on the scene after the end of the military dictatorship which lasted almost 30 years.

The same process occurred in Ukraine, where NGOs financed by American imperialism launched a campaign against the elected government, i.e., in America's eyes, against communism, against social movements, and for liberalism and capitalism, etc. In Brazil the names of these NGOs are: "Revolted Online" (*Os Revoltados On Line*), "The Free Brazil Movement" (*O Movimento Brasil Livre*), and the "Come to the Streets Movement" (*O Movimento Vem Pra Rua*). Behind "Revolted Online" is an evangelical Christian group that works for enhancing connections between the United States and Brazil. According to independent and left-wing websites, among the funders of these groups and NGOs are: The Brazilian billionaire Jorge Paulo Lemann; the notoriously reactionary billionaires American brothers, Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch (better known today as the "Koch Brothers"); the Federation of Industries of the

State of São Paulo (FIESP); and of course direct western imperialist support comes from the embassies of US and EU. On May 12, the WikiLeaks website announced that the current coupist interim presidente of Brazil, Michel Temer, served in the past as a CIA informer.

Over the past two weeks alone, new policies adopted by Temer's government confirm our analysis that an authentic coup d'état has taken place in Brazil, and furthermore that far from the coup's having been directed merely against PT or the government of Dilma Rousseff, it is in fact directed against the entire working class of the country. Following is a description of these recently adopted measures.

1. Ministry of Social Security Now Part of the Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Social Security, which is in charge of the pensions and other retirement benefits of private and public sector workers, has lost its independent status and now belongs to the Ministry of Finance. The implications of this move are that accounting and financial logic will be imposed on the entire social security system in Brazil, severely degrading these benefits for retired workers. The handling of pension reform by the Ministry of Finance is aimed at keeping the workers out of the discussion, justifying this with the often-used argument that Social Security is running a huge deficit. Furthermore, the authentic goal of this ministerial restructuring is to increase the minimum age for retirement from 55 for women and 60 for men, to the age of 65 for all private and public workers.

2. Cost-of-Living Increment – No Longer Obligatory for Calculating the Minimum Wage

The adjustment of the minimum wage is currently based on a formula that includes a "cost-of-living increment" in order to reimburse workers for real wages eroded by inflation. The adjustment which is currently being negotiated in Congress does not necessarily guarantee that the minimum wage will be fully incremented by the rate of inflation. Or, in other words, the worker's real wages are no longer guaranteed. Currently the minimum wage in Brazil is R\$ 880,00 (U\$ 245.00) per month.

3. Pension Benefits – No Longer Indexed to the Minimum Wage

Under the pretext of "disengaging" the economy and improving the profile of public accounts, there will no longer be an automatic increase in the value of pensions based on the current minimum wage. Consequently, retirees will have to depend on the *good will* of the government economic staff in promoting readjustments instead of transparent criteria that will protect them from losses due to inflation.

4. Increases in Pension Contributions and Minimum Age for Retirement, Including for Active Civil Servants

The pension reform being planned by the coup government will severely impact active public service workers by significantly extending the contributory period to their eventual retirement, increasing it across the board for public workers, as mentioned above (paragraph 1), to the age of 65 from 55 for women and 60 for men.

5. Increased Taxes

The coup government claims that its main priority is to reduce Brazil's public debt. "If there is need for a tax, it will be imposed." This disingenuous phrase is from the coupist minister, Henrique Meirelles, who is determined to reduce

the country's public debt on the backs of the working class by taxing this sector of the population. Meirelles' statement recalls the infamous remark by Delfim Neto, a former finance minister during the military dictatorship, who said that first we have to wait for the cake to grow, and only then distribute the increased income to the entire country.

6. Green Light Given to Overturn Collective Workers' Agreements

Bill 4193/2012, authored by Congressman Irajá Abreu (PSD), provides that agreements and collective bargaining accords reached between trade unions and companies may be superseded by the undemocratic Consolidation of Labor Laws (CLT). The result is clear: a loss of worker bargaining power and a reduction in the protection currently given by the state whenever employers disregard the law. In addition to this bill, there are at least six other legislative proposals before Congress that, if passed, will harm the interests of workers.

7. No Women Ministers

While we certainly understand that the mere presence of women in a government in no way assures its progressiveness, the total absence of women does reveal the flagrant unimportance that gender inequality poses for the coup plotters. Symbolically, this is as if to say to the Brazilian society that women are relegated to the background, and occupy a secondary position. Specifically, the reduction of women's participation in decision-making spheres which determine the direction of the country, reverse the trend set by PT governments which sought to increase the influence and the political power that women have.

8. An End to the "Secretariat for Racial Equality"

Any government that is formed without direct elections, and which is composed entirely of economically well off white men of advanced age, can in no way be representative of multiracial Brazilian society. And just so there can be no doubt about the matter, Michel Temer has terminated the "Secretariat for Racial Equality," a step which will directly impact affirmative action policies, will reduce governmental activity against historical prejudices in Brazilian society, and will impair the struggle against inequality between whites and blacks, constituting a huge social setback for the country.

9. Ministry of Education to the Rightist DEM Party

The coupist Minister of Education, Mendonça Filho, is affiliated with the DEM party [5] which opposed the PROUNI program allowing needy students to enter Brazil's colleges and universities for free, their expenses being funded by 50% of the pre-salt fund for education and 75% of the royalties from this oil sector. The DEM party is for the complete privatization of education. Last week, in a mockery of sorts and contrary to all good sense or taste, Minister Filho received a visit from a famous porn star of the past, Alexandre Frota, to discuss "proposals for education." This same actor had confessed in a television interview conducted in 2015 that he had once raped a woman after she had fallen asleep.

10. Foreign Ministry to José Serra from PSDB

We remind readers that, since 2001, the PSDB [6] is the party which lost the presidential elections 4 times to the PT candidates, first Lula da Silva and then Dilma Rousseff. On the second day of the government of interim president

Michel Temer, the newly appointed foreign minister, Jose Serra, presidential candidate for the PSDB in the 2010 elections, strongly criticized Bolivarian countries which had been closely allied with previous PT administrations. The now PSDB-led Foreign Ministry issued two diplomatic messages noteworthy in their drastically different tone, against what it called “falsehoods” propagated by Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua, nations which had questioned the legality of the removal of President Dilma Rousseff.

Last week interim Foreign Minister Jose Serra went to Buenos Aires to conduct dialogues with rightist president Macri. Serra was received with cat calls of “coupist!” by Argentinian leftist militants.

The downfall of the unwittingly recorded Romério Jucá (see above) has made Foreign Minister José Serra the big winner inside the coupist government. He is the man of the São Paulo bourgeoisie who has direct links with Washington, so his diplomatic scolding of the Bolivarians is not at all coincidental. Serra is the author of a proposal, which has already been approved by the senate, to cancel Petrobras’ exclusivity in activities related to Brazil’s exploitation of the pre-salt layer, [7] and terminates the state’s obligation to cover at least 30% of investments in all layer-exploration consortia. Information leaked by Wikileaks indicates that Senator José Serra had promised US oil companies that he would end the Petrobras semi-monopoly in Brazil’s pre-salt exploration.

11. Changes to Family Allowances (Bolsa Família)

Official statistics reveal that the *bolsa família* program has freed 50 million Brazilians from poverty, constituting 25% of the country’s population. Under the previous PT governments, social programs like *bolsa família* were regularly adjusted for increases in the cost of living. The last such adjustment took place on May 1, International Workers’ Day, when President Dilma Rousseff authorized a 9% increase to the benefits included in these family allowances. The coup government has ended the indexing

of the *bolsa família*, meaning that it no longer commits itself to making regular adjustments. Even worse, the Minister of Social and Agrarian Development, Osmar Terra, said in an interview with the newspaper *O Globo* that the control mechanisms of those entitled to *bolsa família* benefits must be improved. What does this mean? That the ministry will undertake an “external audit” that could bring about denying benefits to up to 10% of those families currently eligible.

12. Cuts to the Public Unified Health System (SUS)

In the same spirit, Health Minister Ricardo Barros has already presented a “package” of measures that will jeopardize the future of health care in Brazil. In an interview with the newspaper *Folha de S.Paulo*, Barros said he will not “be able to sustain the level of rights that the Constitution provides.” The phrase itself is already a huge attack upon the Brazilian constitution, but reveals something more sinister: the Unified Health System (SUS) is to be reduced in size and weakened. The scenario is nothing new, but its implementation would involve the gutting of one of the greatest achievements of Brazil’s poor and of the Constitution of 1988, all for the benefit of private health companies.

13. Budget Cuts for Public Health and Education

Ricardo Barros also wants to relax the mandatory application of the minimum percentage budgeted for healthcare in Brazil. Today, the federal government is required to allocate for health at least the same sum as it did the previous year, plus an increment reflecting growth in GDP, while states and municipalities must respectively allot 12% and 15% of their budgets to health. With the proposed relaxation, the publicly funded health budget for Brazil’s citizens will no longer have the guaranteed levels of funding it currently has.

Today, the Brazilian constitution obligates the federal government and the states to dedicate 25% of their budgets to the educational system. The PMDB program named “*Ponte para o Futuro*” (“Bridge for the Future”), which was



Workers and poor at the anti-Temer demonstration in Sao Paolo on 10 June 2016

released several months before Rousseff's impeachment, includes a proposal to eliminate this constitutional obligation. As a result, the public educational system in Brazil, already plagued by so many funding problems resulting in poor working conditions, low wages, too many students per classroom, etc., will surely only get worse.

14. Review of the Allocation of Lands to Indigenous Peoples

The coup government's announcement of its intention to review of all acts taken by the duly-elected government of Dilma Rousseff is providing the interim president, Michel Temer with the justification he wants to modify the laws his predecessor enacted regarding the allocation of lands to indigenous Brazilians. From April 1 of this year, Rousseff signed 21 acts expropriating 56,000 hectares of land, setting them aside for indigenous populations. Osmar Terra, the coupist Minister for Social Development, has declared that the allocated "indigenous land is an invasion legitimized by the state." The Deputy Attorney General of the Republic, Deborah Duprat, has said the coup government's review of the allocation of 56,000 hectares of land [approved by Rousseff] is a blow to the Federal Constitution. Groups active in the rights of indigenous peoples have already announced their intention to go to court against the measure.

15. Privatization of Large Publicly-Owned Companies

One of the aims of the coup is to fully restore the neoliberal agenda which was democratically defeated at the polls starting from 2002. (While the ostensibly "socialist" PT also engaged in such privatization, it did so more timidly than what the current coup government is planning.) The Temer government agenda includes privatization of state companies which it argues should have been scrapped. The economic cabal of the coup government has talked about privatizing the federal mint, the post office and federal power plants in the Brazilian states. Two large public banks, the *Bank of Brasil* and the *Caixa Econômica Federal*, are also being targeted.

16. End of the Road for the My House, My Life (Minha Casa Minha Vida) Program?

Despite the speech by Bruno Araujo (PSDB), Minister of Municipal Development, that the *Minha Casa, Minha Vida* program would be preserved, just two days after Rousseff's impeachment, he already revoked authorization for the construction of 11,250 homes.

17. Repression of Social Movements and Parties of the Left

Bad news for Brazil's social movements is the choice of Alexandre de Moraes as Minister of Justice. Moraes is the former Secretary of Public Security of the State of São Paulo in charge of the infamous military police who, according to an Amnesty International report, kills more people each year than all US police departments combined. Last year, de Moraes ordered the violent repression of the movement which occupied schools by students protesting their closing. He also made a statement characterizing the movements that were blocking city streets in favor of Rousseff on the day the Senate voted to impeach her as organized "guerrilla" acts and they should be treated as such. Such a comment is a harbinger of how he, in his new role, will undoubtedly treat the strikes, the occupation of land, the blocking of roads and streets of big cities by

workers on strike, the homeless movement, the leftist parties, etc.

This determined policy of repression gives a clear indication what will be in the near future under the coup government of Michel Temer for the workers and oppressed. It is entirely consistent with the policy of deliberately reducing social and democratic rights which in turn exacerbates poverty and misery while increasing investment security for the bourgeoisie.

18. The Real Possibility of Intervention by Brazil's Armed Forces

The recordings we have cited above clearly demonstrate just how grave a mistake it was to contend, as some leftist groups previously did, that what was taking place in Brazil was only a struggle between two sectors of the bourgeoisie. Firstly, this analysis is superficial because the entire matter boiled down to the Popular Front government's being abandoned by its bourgeois wing, obviating any conflict between two ostensibly opposing bourgeois factions. In truth, over time the Popular Front was continually eroded until it consisted only of the workers' bureaucracy and some popular organizations and their mass bases. So as the conflict evolved, it became more and more NOT a conflict between two bourgeois factions, BUT one between the working class and popular organizations with their bureaucratic leaderships at the top on one side against nearly the entire bourgeoisie on the other side.

Secondly, even if it would have "only" been a conflict between two bourgeois factions, this would not automatically mean that revolutionaries remain neutral. This would entirely depend on the concrete situation and the significance of the program of each side. Trotsky once explained that revolutionaries could never vote for the right-wing ex-general Hindenburg in the German elections of 1932 when he ran against Hitler. However, Trotsky argued, would Hindenburg have called for armed resistance against Hitler in 1933, Marxists would have supported him as the lesser evil.

The history of the class struggle is not familiar *only* with outright military coups. It also has experienced "soft" or "institutional" coups. Hitler, by the way, came to power in an "institutional" way, with no formal coup. The same happened in Honduras in 2009 and in Paraguay in 2012. Those who contend that *only* a military coup is an authentic coup are guilty of formalism.

Conclusion

In the final analysis, can it be said that the Popular Front governments of Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff were no different than the current coupist government of Michel Temer? Let's examine some reasons given by various leftist groups to justify not only their *not* opposing the coup, but even their standing on the coupist side of the barricades.

1. The Economic Crisis

The current economic crisis which started in 2008 spread throughout the entire world. Indeed, we agree that Brazil was not and is not out of the crisis, but things did significantly worsen in Brazil after the events of 2013. What in particular caused things to get worse in

the Brazilian economy was the boycott conducted by the large corporations in which they cut nearly all their investments, ostensibly because of the pessimistic forecasts of the Brazilian stock markets. This in turn caused a rapid increase in unemployment. At same time, the bourgeois-controlled media placed the blame on the incompetence of Rousseff's government. Venezuela was the laboratory for this strategy of undermining an elected government.

2. The Declining Popularity of Rousseff's Government

Many "leftists" in Brazil, the PSTU among them, favored a coup because of the president's declining popularity. Can we possibly call such flagrant idiocy a good reason to support a coup d'état, without even attempting to analyze the class struggle behind it? From now on, will all governments which find themselves in a similar situation under capitalism accept the same medicine? Doesn't the PSTU remember 1973 Chile? How do they explain what's happening in Venezuela today?

In addition to the boycott cited above which exacerbated the economic crisis in Brazil, we all understand that not only are the research institutes themselves capitalist companies, but that they are in the service of large capitalist corporations, just as the media are. The research institutes, the media run by the *O Globo* group, the Supreme Court, the big bourgeoisie, western imperialism, parliament, most reactionaries and the conservative sectors of the middle class including the fascists, all these forces were in an alliance to bring about the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff.

3. The Process of Impeachment is Provided for by Bourgeoisie Democracy

Indeed it is; on this we have no doubt. But is this a good argument to be neutral? What about the need to analyze the class struggle motives behind such an initiative? We repeatedly say that the PT, based on its origins, could never have been able to completely implement the tasks dictated to it by western imperialism. Neither could a Popular Front government, just like some now-deposed populist governments couldn't, like those of Honduras, Paraguay, and Argentina; nor will this be possible for governments for which the road to a coup d'état is still ahead of them, like in Ecuador, Bolivia, etc. And note, we are only talking about Latin America! If we take examples from the rest of the world, or even from history, the list would be far longer. In any event, shouldn't the defence of impeachment or the toppling of a government be contingent on the existence of a revolutionary (or pre-revolutionary) process, with the guidance of a revolutionary party with a revolutionary program? Where is there such guidance in Brazil? Of

course, the extent of attacks now being waged against the workers in our country can in fact open the road to a revolutionary process in Brazil; and not only must we believe in this possibility, but we must help in bringing it about, even if the present conditions are less than optimal, because instead of the Popular Front government headed by Dilma Rousseff we will now have to go up against a thoroughly bourgeoisie regime backed by social-democrats, Stalinists, and opportunists of all kinds, to say nothing of religious and other reactionaries.

At this moment the *Frente Brasil Popular*, (Brazilian Popular Front) which includes more than 60 working class organizations (PT, PCdoB, PCOCUT, CTB, MST, etc.), as well as the *Frente Brasil Sem Medo* (Brazilian Front Without Fear) located primarily in the city of São Paulo, are preparing for a tremendous national day of mobilization on June 10. We in the CCR will participate in this mobilization, presenting our policies, and will make demands, including the call for a true general strike.

* English Language editing by Gerard Stephens

THE INTERCEPT.COM about the recordings
<https://theintercept.com/2016/05/23/new-political-earthquake-in-brazil-is-it-now-time-for-media-outlets-to-call-this-a-coup/>
President Temer was informer/ spy / to USA
<http://www.brasil247.com/pt/247/mundo/231967/WikiLeaks-afirma-que-Temer-foi-informante-dos-EUA.htm>
Ministry of Education with Porn actor to "discuss" proposals ...
<http://www.diariodocentrodomundo.com.br/essencial/policia-federal-censura-dcm-em-suas-instalacoes/>

Footnotes

- [1] PMDB – *Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro* (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Democratic_Movement_Party
[2] For details on Operation Car Wash, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Car_Wash
[3] PT – *Partido dos Trabalhadores*, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workers'_Party_%28Brazil%29
[4] MST – *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landless_Workers'_Movement
[5] DEM – *Democratas*, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democrats_%28Brazil%29
[6] PSDB – *Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira*, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Social_Democracy_Party
[7] Pre-salt layer: For a general discussion of this which also refers to Brazil's own deposits, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-salt_layer

O Comunismo Revolucionário

Portuguese-language Journal of the RCIT

Price: €3 / \$3,5 / £2 (plus delivery charges)

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Long Live the Struggle of the Mexican Teachers!

Message of Solidarity from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 3.7.2016

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to the teachers of Mexico who are fighting against the reactionary education reform of the bourgeois government of President Peña Nieto. In particular we hail the heroic teachers of Oaxaca and all the people of this state who have fought back the terrorist *Policia Federal* despite the killing of 12 persons in the region of Nochixtlán.

The struggle of the Mexican teachers is not only important for all workers, the poor peasants and popular sectors of the country, but for the entire Latin American region and beyond. If you defeat the Nieto's assault on free education, it will be a setback for all neoliberal enemies of popular education around the world!

Together with our comrades of *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* the RCIT dedicates its forces to the creation of a world party fighting for socialist revolution. We call upon all democratic and socialist activists in Mexico to fight:

** For the defense of public education: free, secular, scientific and popular!*

** For solidarity with the people's struggle in Oaxaca! Freedom for all political prisoners! Stop the repression! For a workers', peasants and popular government!*

** For the creation of popular committees of action throughout the entire country which should include all popular mass organizations, trade unions, sections of MORENA, etc. in order to unify the struggle! For a national assembly of delegates of popular assemblies, committees of action and mass organizations in order to plan the struggle against the government!*

** For the formation of popular assemblies in Oaxaca to organize public life as well as self-defense against state repression!*

** For a general strike to stop the reforms and to bring down the government!*

** Down with the government of Peña Nieto! For a workers' government in alliance with the poor peasants and the urban poor!*

** We call upon organizations of the workers and oppressed (e.g. UNT, SME, NCT, CNI etc.) to break with corrupt politicians and corporatists bureaucracies and to build a new mass party of the working class!*

Freedom for All Political Prisoners in Mexico!

Solidarity Address to the Political Prisoners' National Meeting in Olinalá (Guerrero) by the RCIT, 22.4.2016

Estimados hermanos y hermanas!
The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency – an international organization active in 10 countries – sends you its warmest greetings to your national meeting. Together with our Mexican comrades of the *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* we strongly support your struggle for the freedom of all political prisoners in Mexico. The political prisoners have not committed any crime. Their only "crime" has been to fight for the rights of the urban and rural working people and for the organized popular self-

defense against the Narco cartels and the repressive state forces. But these activities are no crime but the highest service to the people! The RCIT stand in solidarity with your struggle!

Liberate all Political Prisoners NOW!

Solidarity with the Struggle of the Urban and Rural Working People to defend themselves against multi-national corporations, big landowners, Narco cartels and the state repression forces!

In solidarity,

Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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Zimbabwe: Mugabe Attempts to Terrorize the People

Report from the International Revolutionary Workers of Zimbabwe, 21 July 2016

Zimbabwe is in a messy situation after Mugabe allies launched a terror campaign to instill fear and send a warning to ordinary suffering people who dare attempt to protest. The youth of ZANU-PF – Mugabe’s party – threatens to crush the popular revolt.

After recently shutdown of Zimbabwe by popular protests demanding that Mugabe should address serious social, economic and political problems in the country, ZANU-PF youths entered the streets of Harare. They demanded that they should be given a chance by the police to take action against the mass movements who protests against Mugabe.

With the burning economic crisis, appalling corruption and high rate of unemployment, shortage of cash, company closing, etc. there is still a significant section of the people that is supporting the regime in Zimbabwe – mostly sectors from the unemployed youth as well as from the rural population which are used by the regime to the city for the demonstrations.

This shows the absence of a genuine working people’s alternative means a huge section of the oppressed will always fall to the populism of the ruling elites and show

gratitude for the carrots thrown to them.

As the *International Revolutionary Workers in Zimbabwe* (IRWZ) we call on the trade unions, mass organizations of the workers, poor peasants and urban poor to fight for the interest of the broad masses! While we support the unity of action with reformist, populist and centrist forces, at the same time we warn against any illusions in the bureaucratic leaderships!

For the formation of a rank and file movement inside the trade unions to organize the ordinary workers independently of the bureaucracy!

For the working class to take power it is necessary to build a revolutionary party that can organize the oppressed to be able to rule via popular councils. Such councils are formed by mass meetings in the factories, universities, villages and districts. They elect representatives from their own ranks who will not have any privileges and have to be held accountable by their base.

For a government of the workers and poor, based on such popular council and protected by militias of the workers! Down with imperialism, capitalism and oppression!

Varombo tamuka!

Popular Protests in Zimbabwe: “We fight for our Rights!”

Report from the International Revolutionary Workers of Zimbabwe, 15 July 2016

As the *International Revolutionary Workers of Zimbabwe* (IRWZ) we express our full support with the popular masses engaged in peaceful protests and stay-aways to demand government accountability after decades of suffering and serious economic decline caused by bad governance, corruption and economic mismanagement.

It is only the determination of the people and their united action that will confront corruption, poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequalities that cause misery to the majority.

We condemn the arrest of Pastor Evan Mawarire, leader of “*This Flag*” movement, on allegations of inciting violence and planning to overthrow the government. He was released without any charges. The solidarity shown to Pastor Evan by Zimbabweans is very encouraging. Let us continue in solidarity with Austin Nyakupinda who is being held at Beitbridge remand prison for no apparent reason. At the same time Linda Masarira is at Chikurubi, the country’s biggest prison, although she committed no crime.

The IRWZ demand the immediate and unconditional release of all detained, end to torture and police harassment, as well as guarantee of the right to free and peaceful!

We say: No to the popular-front regime of Mugabe which is preserving the capitalist system which exploits us workers and keeps the masses of the people in poverty! Although

claiming to be anti-imperialist, the Mugabe government is collaborating with the Great Powers (China, USA, EU, etc).

Likewise we oppose all attacks from imperialism or from counterrevolutionary forces. The Mugabe regime must be overthrown by the workers and peasants – not the great powers and their local agents!

We call on the trade unions, mass organizations of the workers, poor peasants and urban poor to fight for the interest of the broad masses! While we support the unity of action with reformist, populist and centrist forces, at the same time we warn against any illusions in the bureaucratic leaderships!



Zimbabwe: Mass Unrest against the Mugabe Regime!

Report from the International Revolutionary Workers of Zimbabwe, 6 July 2016

On 4 July, Harare turned into a battle zone between commuter omnibus operators and the Zimbabwe Republic Police force. Burning tyres were used as barricades to enforce the strike.

The people are demanding the reduction of police road blocks on all roads and suspension of all spot fines. Furthermore we demand the 2million jobs which were promised by the Mugabe regime during the 2013 elections. We are also demanding that the pensioners are paid in time.

In Epworth, one of the high densely populated suburbs in the East of Harare, witnessed the most fierce battles.

According to unconfirmed reports three police officers died during the battle. Gun shoots could also be heard in one of eastern suburb Zimre Park albeit no reports of injuries or death were received.

In some parts of the country, a spontaneous general strike is taking place. Schools, clinics and shops are closed. Any commuter omnibus which is seen loading passengers is blocked by residents. People are building barricades all over the country.

As usual, the government responds with brutal force and is massively mobilizing its police forces.

In addition the teachers are currently on strike in the

whole country demanding their salaries. Furthermore the civil servants are demanding their salaries. There is wide outrage that about 15 billion are missing from the income of the diamond mining companies. It is therefore hardly surprising that the demand for Mugabe to step down is very popular amongst the workers, peasants and poor.

The International Revolutionary Workers of Zimbabwe fully support the popular struggle against the corrupt police force and the Mugabe regime. We say: *"The people are our strength! The workers are the pillar of our economy!"*

Together with the people we chant on the streets: *"Tajamuka! Tajamuka!"* (We refuse! We refuse!) We call for the formation of popular action committees in all workplaces and neighborhoods to democratically organize the struggle.

The goal should be the organization of an indefinite general strike to defend our interests and to bring down the Mugabe regime! The only solution is the formation of a workers government in alliance with the poor peasants and the urban poor!

It is highly important that militant workers and youth join forces in order to build a revolutionary workers party as part of a new, Fifth International – the world party of socialist revolution.

New Book of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book's subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

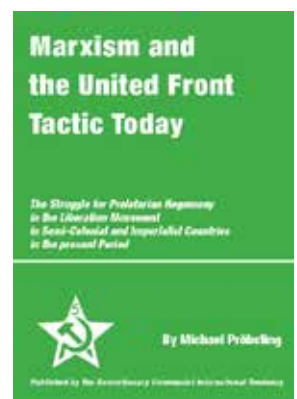
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today's circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic's original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.



South Africa: Not peanuts! For bread and roses!

International solidarity with the Struggle of the CPUT strikers!

Joint Statement of Workers International Vanguard League (WIVL, South Africa) and the RCIT, 1.5.2016

We declare our unconditional support for the brave striking brothers of CPUT (Cape Peninsula University of Technology). The University workers and staff are on strike because, the bosses choose to ignore the unions and they don't want to raise the wage sufficiently (because they claim - wrongly - that they have no money). They are also refusing to implement the basic principle of equal work for equal pay. The struggle of the workers and staff shows us the way forward: class struggle action and industrial action! We support the demands of the workers, including higher wages, equality and an end to outsourcing! We salute the heroic struggle of the students who have forced the write-off of debt and the lowering of fees. Education was supposed to have been fully subsidized by the state. The writing off of the debt has nothing to do with the workers' wages/salaries and conditions of service. We say no to the militarisation of universities and call for an end to victimization of the students. We say no to suspension and expulsion of students who were advancing the cause of free education. We support the strike as it is part of the growing resistance against the government. Why do we say this: It is because even though we have all been fighting for free, quality education for all up to the highest level, the government has cut funding to universities every year since 2000. At the same time, while *Anglo American* and other monopolies have been stealing trillions before and after 1994, they have not been prosecuted and in fact their level of tax on profits have dropped from 48% in the days of apartheid, to 28% now, under a supposedly democratic regime. The government and its allies deepen exploitation and show they are incapable of achieving true equality. They were responsible for the massacre of the heroic brothers in Marikana and heat up xenophobia to divide

the oppressed. Therefore we fight for the formation of a new revolutionary, workers party. Such a party would concentrate to unite and coordinate the struggles of all workers and oppressed and not like the capitalist parties to get seats in parliament and money from the bosses!

We call for joint committees of workers, staff and students (and even parents) to be formed to support the strike. It is intolerable that there is no end to discrimination, that there is still outsourcing and younger workers have fewer benefits. It is intolerable that the curriculum and university structures are untransformed. University leaders should be directly elected and subject to instant recall; they should not earn more than the average staff member. We demand an end to cronyism and nepotism.

Our class is international and the battles we fight are also international, a victory for the workers in South Africa is a victory for all of our class! Therefore we call for international solidarity with the workers struggle in South Africa, not just for our brothers and sisters at CPUT, not only in support of the students, but also for the miners, agricultural workers and all those who are exploited by the bosses! The struggle for an end to exploitation and oppression is international.

Long live international solidarity! Victory to the CPUT workers!

Workers International Vanguard League (WIVL, South Africa): <http://www.workersinternational.org.za>, workersinternational@gmail.com

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, USA, Germany, Britain and Austria): www.thecommunists.net, rcit@thecommunists.net

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USA: Stop the Police Terror!

Defend our black brothers and sisters against the murderous police-state! Defeat chauvinism in the workers' movement and win it over for the struggle against oppression!

By Johannes Wiener and Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 11.7.2016

After the recent murders of two black brothers – Philando Castile and Alton Sterling – by white policemen, the task for revolutionaries in the US is to intensify the struggle against police violence. The *Revolutionary Communists International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the murdered, and warmest greetings to all those who are fighting against racism and police violence in the US.

We want to say clearly that the police and the (in)justice system in the US are waging a war against the masses of black people and, to a somewhat lesser degree, against the Latinos and poor whites. This war means that (statistically) nearly every day police kill a black brother or sister; 30% of all people who are killed by the police are black (while they represent only 13% of the total population). In the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, police in the US killed nearly 1,000 black brothers and sisters. (1) In addition to these murders, we also must pay serious attention to the daily harassment of blacks and Latinos in “traffic controls,” stop and search operations, and the terror of prison. Police in the US are not security forces, but rather an army of occupation in the black ghettos! And their behavior is not very different from that of regular armies of occupation in colonies.

The Dallas Shooting

In response to the horrific ongoing police violence against blacks, last week a black brother, Micah Xavier Johnson – in an act of counterproductive individual bravery – shot and killed five white policemen in Dallas, before he himself was killed by a police-robot. As revolutionaries, we understand that individual terrorism (the isolated killing of policemen, soldiers, bosses or politicians) is counterproductive to the cause of the revolution and black liberation. We maintain this not because we have any sympathy with the racist state apparatus, the function of

which is to ensure that the rich stay in power, the prisons are filled with our black and Latino brothers and sisters, and the masses of the poor are too afraid to fight for their rights.

Why are such acts counterproductive to the cause of liberation? Because we need to smash the whole state, its entire repressive apparatus, and not merely eliminate a small part of it. And the capitalist state apparatus can only be smashed by the masses of the working class and the oppressed (blacks, Latinos and poor whites) – and not by a small armed group. Therefore, all actions of liberation fighters must be directed towards strengthening the political consciousness and the self-organization of the working class. Individual terrorist acts don't serve this goal.

The rich and powerful only exploit such acts of isolated heroism as a pretext for enacting more reactionary laws against the masses of the people and the black liberation and revolutionary movements. We are fighting for the day when we can dissolve the police and the army as a whole; but such counterproductive acts are just pushing this day further into the distance.

Nevertheless, we express our sympathy for this brave brother, Micah Xavier Johnson. His lone act expresses how weak the revolutionary movement is in the US, in that it provides no constructive outlet to such dedicated fighters who, while their hearts are in the right place, cannot be convinced to dedicate their energy for a long and successful struggle. We must also to pay close attention to the fact that Micah suffered from the psychological effects of having participated in the US-imperialist occupation of Afghanistan. This personal experience seems to have had a very negative impact on his personality. Like many other young men from poor backgrounds, he was mentally destroyed by the same US military machine that physically destroys the masses of the Afghan, Syrian and Iraqi peoples.



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

**Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:
Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism**

Israeli Training and Consultation for US Police

Following the murder of 18 years Michael Brown by Ferguson police in Missouri the local police dressed in combat soldiers rampaged through the streets of Ferguson, pointing assault rifles at unarmed residents and firing tear gas into people's front yards from behind armored personnel carriers, all bringing to mind the occupied West Bank. Noteworthy, is the revelation that many of the policemen who were deployed in Ferguson were trained by Israel security forces using their own experience of terrorizing the Palestinians.

Political commentator John Miranda recently stated that police brutality is directly linked to the training some officers receive in Israel.

"As for the increase in police brutality within the United States, I think this definitely can be pointed towards the Israeli training that the Department of Homeland Security is giving all of American police officers. Some police officers are actually being flown to Israel for the training, not all of them but some, and then those that are flown to Israel, they come back home and they train the head officers in the training that they've gotten in Israel. All these incidents, it is not just happening to African Americans. Police are literally being brutal with all Americans."

Right-wing Americans blame president Obama for the killing of the police officers in Dallas. For his part, during a press conference in Spain, instead of attacking racist police killings, President Obama stated *"whenever those of us who are concerned about fairness in the criminal justice system attack police officers, you are doing a disservice to the cause."*

Oppression of Black People and Social Injustice

In addition to calling violence against police a *"reprehensible crime,"* Obama also cautioned *Black Lives Matter* against extreme rhetoric.

"If we paint police in broad brush, without recognizing the vast majority of police officers are doing a really good job and are trying to protect people and do so fairly and without racial bias, if our rhetoric doesn't not recognize that then we're going to lose allies in the reform cause," he explained. *"In a movement like Black Lives Matter, there are always going to be people who say things that are stupid or are imprudent or are overgeneralized or are harsh."*

And this is coming from a president that during his term in office young black men were nine times more likely than other Americans to be killed by police officers. According to the findings of the British Guardian study there were 1,134 deaths at the hands of law enforcement officers in 2015. (3)

This should not surprise us as under President Obama:

- 25% of black households live below the poverty line as compared to eight percent for white households.
- One out of three black children lives in poverty.
- Blacks are twice as likely as whites to be unemployed.
- Blacks earn \$13,000 less per year than their white counterparts.
- The unemployment rate of African Americans has consistently been twice as high as for whites over the last 50 years.
- For every \$100 in wealth of a white household, the black household only has \$6 in wealth.

At the same time the capitalist class is becoming richer under Obama and the income inequality worse under

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Greece - A Modern Semi-Colony

The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial Country with Specific Features

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – *GREECE: A MODERN SEMI-COLONY*. The book's subtitle is: *The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial Country with Some Specific Features*. It contains six chapters (144 pages) and includes 12 tables, 35 figures and 4 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

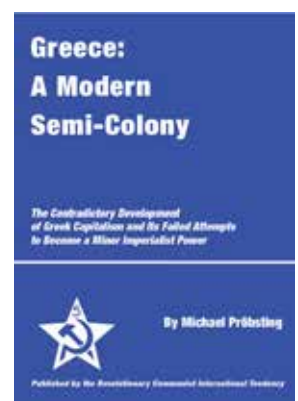
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which gives an overview of its content.

Greece is at the forefront both of the capitalist crisis in Europe as well as of the class struggle. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that what the Arab Revolution has been for the world in the past few years, Greece has been for Europe.

Subsequently, the question of the class character of Greece is of crucial importance both for the domestic as well as for the international workers movement: Is it an imperialist

state, a semi-colonial country or something else, and what are its specific features?

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Marxists' theoretical conception of imperialist respectively semi-colonial states. In Chapter II we give a brief historical overview of the development of Greek capitalism. In Chapter III we deal with Greece's failed attempt to become a minor imperialist power. In Chapter IV we outline the historic crisis of Greek capitalism from 2008 until today. In Chapter V we elaborate the most important programmatic conclusions and in the last Chapter we present a summary in the form of theses. The book contains 12 Tables, 35 Figures and 4 Maps. ■



Obama than George W. Bush. *"In the 2009-2010 period, a time of modest economic growth, the top 1 percent of U.S. earners captured 93 percent of all the income growth in the country. Got that? Now compare it to how the mega-rich made out during the Bush upswing years of 2002 to 2007. During that time, the top 1 percent of earners captured just 65 percent of all the income growth."* (4)

How Best to Counter Police Violence?

We need to develop a successful strategy against police terror. What we need are not appeals to President Obama, who at the time of the shooting in Dallas was attending a meeting of the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world – NATO. Obama condemned the killing of the policemen in Dallas calling it a *"vicious, calculated and despicable attack on law enforcement"*. (5) It is absurd that Obama has the gall to make such a statement at the same time that he is planning with other imperialists how to conduct vicious, calculated and despicable attacks on civilians in a number of countries. How can Obama expect to be taken seriously by any sane human being when US troops harass the masses in Afghanistan and their bombers terrorize the people of Iraq and Syria – all under the pretext for fighting against terrorism? We need to kick out of the movement for black liberation all the "leaders" of the black community who stir up illusions of the good intentions of this cynical enemy.

Whenever someone is shot or mistreated by the police, we need to set up an independent investigation conducted by a jury comprised of members of the victim's local community. This jury should be assisted by experts who have the trust of the community. The individual cases of all persons incarcerated in prison need to be reviewed by a similar jury. All prisoners who have been jailed for minor non-violent drug offenses, or for stealing from corporations and the rich (while at the same time not harming the poor), or for other minor, non-violent offenses, should be freed immediately.

At the same time, we should begin an independent investigation of all police departments. Police officers who have killed or mistreated people should be jailed immediately. We need to set up action committees in all neighborhoods which are open to all those who want to resist police terror. We need to have eyes and

ears everywhere, both to immediately help the attacked brothers and sisters along with documenting the police brutalities. We need to form self-defense groups which will convince the police to stay peaceful in a language that they really understand. Such self-defense groups should be elected by the community and be responsible for keeping our neighborhoods safe from all criminals who mistreat the masses of the people (whether in uniform or not).

In addition to this, it is urgent that we struggle for the full equality of black, Latino and migrant workers in the workplaces. Down with both Clinton and Trump – both are enemies of our class and will just introduce more attacks against our rights!

It is crucial to fight inside the workers' movement – in particular the trade unions – against all forms of chauvinism and for solidarity with our black brothers and sisters.

The RCIT calls for the formation of an independent revolutionary mass movement for black liberation. Such a movement should focus on winning over black workers and the impoverished masses of the ghettos for a joint struggle with all oppressed people – Latinos, white workers, Asians, Muslims and Native Americans! In addition, we need to build a multinational revolutionary party which can lead and coordinate the struggle against the racist, oppressive capitalist states; against unemployment and for decent housing; which can put an end to the wars and occupations directed towards other peoples, as well as against the black people inside the US! Down with US-imperialism – There's no liberation without revolution!

No justice – no peace! Long live black liberation - down with police terror!

Footnotes:

(1) <http://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

(2) <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/u-s-police-routinely-travel-israel-learn-methods-brutality-repression>

(3) <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2015/jun/01/the-counted-police-killings-us-database>

(4) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/11/income-inequality-obama-bush_n_1419008.html

(5) http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/09/us/politics/obama.html?_r=0

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In Response to the Self-Proclaimed “Leadership” of the World Socialist Movement

A Reply to the Recent Polemic of the ICFI/WSWS against the RCIT

By Johannes Wiener, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30 April 2016

Note of the Editorial Board: Several weeks ago, the World Socialist Web Site (WSWS) of the “International Committee of the Fourth International” (ICFI), published a slanderous polemic against our organization in three languages.¹ A few days later, we published a brief reply, promising to deal with ICFI’s accusations in greater detail at a later date. What follows is our response.²

The ICFI describes itself on their website (wsws.org) as “the leadership of the world socialist movement”³. This – let’s call it “over-confident” – statement is in no small part presumptuous, given their having groups only in the US, Britain, Canada, Germany, Australia and Sri Lanka. In fact, all of their groups – except for the one in Sri Lanka – are located in rich, imperialist Western countries. Despite the existence of this organization for several decades, in practice they have been unable to win over groups and fighters outside the imperialist metropolises (or, for that matter, in any new country). Given this fact, it is clear that the ICFI believes that “the leadership of the world socialist movement” can consist of a small group of intellectuals who reside mostly in the richest states of the world – undoubtedly an essentially imperialistic perspective. To believe that you can lead the world socialist movement without having a single fighter in Africa or Latin America nor even one comrade in the Arab world is either a thoroughly bankrupt view of the notion of a “world socialist movement” or unabashed hubris.

While we in the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have sections and activists in 10 countries, with the majority of our members living in semi-colonial countries, we are fully aware that we are still a small organization and are still terribly behind the objective needs and tasks of our class. However, in contrast to the ICFI, we do not have the temerity to mislead revolutionary fighters by making empty declarations about our current status or role, which have no connection whatsoever with the reality of class struggle.

Furthermore, from the well-polished format of its website, it is clear that the ICFI consists almost entirely of an Internet-group of journalists with no active connection with real class struggle – and who are rather mostly concerned about donations to their website. This emphasis on contributions would be amusing if it weren’t so sad, given the financial status of the ICFI leader, David North, who in his professional career is known as David W. Green, CEO of *Grand River Printing & Imaging* – a company that has annual earnings of about \$25 million, according to its website.⁴

In their recent polemic against the RCIT, the ICFI focused its attack mostly on our position that, over the last 25 years, Russia and China have become imperialist great powers. We in the RCIT have published a number of economic

studies and political analyses about these developments.⁵ What most jumps out at any neutral observer from their recent polemic is that the “theoreticians” of the ICFI are entirely unable to disprove any of the multitudinous facts which we have provided in our studies, let alone present a single bit of economic data of their own. Rather, their entire “argument” against our position vis. the imperialist nature of Russia and China today, rests on two exceedingly disingenuous assertions:

“What political purpose, it must be asked, is served by adding the word “imperialist” to descriptions of China and Russia? In practical political terms, it serves very definite functions. (...) First, it relativizes, and therefore diminishes, the central and decisive global counterrevolutionary role of American, European and Japanese imperialism. (...) Second, and even more significantly, the designation of China and Russia as imperialist—and thus, by implication, as colonial powers suppressing ethnic, national, linguistic and religious minorities—sanctions the pseudo-left’s support for imperialist-backed “national liberation” uprisings and “color revolutions” within the boundaries of the existing states.”⁶

This argument might possibly have some contextual coherence if it were to appear in the editorial-opinion columns of *Russia Today* (RT), but certainly not in the discourse of an organization which purports to represent (let alone lead) the revolutionary workers’ movement. How does considering Russia and China as imperialist great powers in any way relativize the crimes of Western imperialism?! Using the same simplistic, undialectical method of the ICFI, Lenin himself could be accused of having relativized the crimes of German imperialism just because he considered Tsarist Russia to be an imperialist great power. Armed with such specious logic, authentic socialists probably should also have joined the chorus of the Stalinists against the revolutionary 4th International, declaring them pro-imperialist because they supported anti-imperialist struggles of *all* oppressed peoples – not just those who happened to be oppressed by imperialist great powers who were at war with the Soviet Union at that time. The RCIT consistently fights against *all* imperialist wars and aggression launched by the EU and US, but such severe condemnation cannot come in place of a rigorous scientific analysis of the class character of the various states in the world.

Ignoring the National Question

An independent, revolutionary anti-imperialism must be directed against *all* great powers. It must condemn and fight against *all* imperialist wars, whether it be the occupation of Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Mali, and Central African Republic, Haiti or the assaults on Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Libya by the Western imperialists

and their allies, or the occupation of Chechnya, East Turkestan as well as the military intervention in Syria and South Sudan by imperialist China and Russia. Covering the period from the end of the 19th century until today, we know that, quantitatively, the crimes of US imperialism in particular have far outnumbered those which have been committed by Russia and China (mostly due the strength of the US compared to the relative weakness of the latter two countries). But this doesn't make any *qualitative* difference. One could also argue, for example, that the crimes of Dutch, Swiss, Swedish, Australian or Austrian imperialism are quantitatively much fewer than what the US has committed during the last 50 years, but this shouldn't stop socialists from characterizing these smaller countries as imperialist states (although of a lower rank).

Truth be told, it is as a *general principle* that the ICFI opposes the national liberation of oppressed peoples. In actual practice, however, it seems that they're in particular against the national liberation of oppressed peoples who reside in a country which is in conflict with US and EU imperialism. The authentic Marxist tradition has a very different approach to such questions. The 4th International, as based on Lenin and Trotsky, acknowledged that the oppression of nations is a paramount aspect of capitalism. Lenin emphasized in his writings on imperialism and the national question that the „*division of nations into oppressor and oppressed ... forms the essence of imperialism*“.⁷

Therefore, for Marxists, the liberation of oppressed peoples is a central motif in the overall liberation of all workers and oppressed. It is patently absurd and reactionary to believe, like the WSWS, that “*Many pseudo-left organizations (including the RCIT, Ed.) cooperated closely with the imperialist powers to spread the poison of bourgeois nationalism.*”⁸ Again, the self-proclaimed “*leadership of the world socialist movement*” demonstrates a complete lack of dialectical understanding when they reduce nationalism to being merely a plague spread by imperialism – with or without “*the help small left-wing organizations.*” As long as imperialism exists with its systematic oppression of peoples, nationalism will arise; but this is particularly so during the present period, marked as it is by the decline of world capitalism, when imperialists must tighten their grip in order to continue their accumulation of extra-profits derived from the work of semi-colonial peoples. Nationalism of oppressed peoples is a natural reaction to this imperialist oppression, given the absence of a revolutionary mass workers party to lead them. The Bolsheviks always understood, in contrast to their epigones like the ICFI, that nationalism of the oppressed people is not exclusively reactionary, but also contains a progressive side insofar as it manifests opposition to the oppressor nation. As Lenin wrote: “*The bourgeois nationalism of any oppressed nation has a general democratic content that is directed against oppression, and it is this content that we unconditionally support.*”⁹

Of course, Marxists are in principle opposed to the *nationalism* of the oppressed, but this opposition is not something which Marxists can express by simply not supporting and participating in justified national liberation struggles, and only resorting to denouncing them as “poison.” We, therefore, must combine the struggle for the right of oppressed peoples to self-determination with our struggle to put the working class to power. This

was also the position of Lenin and Trotsky, the latter of whom wrote: “*The resolute struggle of the Bolshevik party for the right of self-determination of oppressed nationalities in Russia facilitated in the extreme the conquest of power by the proletariat.*”¹⁰ He answered to those who opposed the right of self-determination: “*...many others used this very same argument against the program of national self-determination: Under capitalism it is utopian; under socialism, reactionary. The argument is false to the core...*”¹¹ About the struggle for the right to self-determination, Lenin had to say this: “*We say: In order that we may have the strength to accomplish the socialist revolution and overthrow the bourgeoisie, the workers must unite more closely and this close union is promoted by the struggle for self-determination...*”¹²

For the ICFI, support by the RCIT for the right of self-determination of the oppressed peoples in Russia and China is particularly “poisonous,” even stating that: “*The documents written by its international secretary and leading theoretician Michael Pröbsting—notwithstanding references to Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, buttressed by radical-sounding rhetoric—read like strategy papers authored in the foreign and defense ministries and think tanks of the imperialist powers.*”¹³ Such nonsense parrots quite similar but absurd “accusations” made by the Stalinists against Trotskyites to “prove” that the latter were working in the service of Hitler, the Japanese Tennō, or the western colonial powers.

The main problem of the ICFI is that, while they claim to stand in the tradition of Lenin and Trotsky, they have utterly broken with Trotskyism and its method. The ICFI accuses us of “acting in the interest of western imperialism by defending the national minorities in Russia and China.” However, they should be aware that Trotsky was accused of the very same thing when he developed his program for the Soviet Union under Stalinism. Even the ICFI is forced to admit that Russia is a capitalist power (although they deny its imperialist nature). Trotsky on the other hand supported the right of the Ukraine for self-determination in 1939, when the Soviet Union was still a (degenerated) workers' state. Trotsky's words at the time sound like they were directed against the ICFI: “*If our critic were capable of thinking politically, he would have surmised without much difficulty the arguments of the Stalinists against the slogan of an independent Ukraine: “It negates the position of the defense of the Soviet Union”; “disrupts the unity of the revolutionary masses”; “serves not the interests of revolution but those of imperialism.” In other words, the Stalinists would repeat all the three arguments of our author.*”¹⁴

The Tactic of Slander

A well-known tactic of theoretically impotent people is to replace argument with slander. The ICFI is a prime example for this. In their polemic against the RCIT they write: “*In a programmatic article—bearing the pretentious title “Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference. The failure of sectarian ‘anti-imperialism’ in the West: Some general considerations from the Marxist point of view and the example of the democratic revolution in Libya in 2011” — Pröbsting attacks all of those who refused to greet the NATO war in Libya in 2011 as a revolution and a victory for the working class.*”

In actual fact, however, in the very same essay we wrote quite the opposite: “*At the same time, however, fight against NATO! For the defeat of the NATO armed forces! For direct*

actions of the workers' movement, especially in the NATO countries and in the countries where the imperialist forces and their accomplices have bases, in order to impede their military action and if possible to prevent them. (...) We argued to fight inside the rebel movement against the bourgeois leadership of the TNC which tried – together with NATO imperialism – to contain the revolution and reduce it to the regime-change. We called for the deepening of the revolution by the formation of workers' and popular councils and militias and the transformation of the democratic revolution into a socialist one. For this reason we fought against the NATO attacks, since they just helped to contain the revolution." ¹⁵

With regard to Syria, the ICFI misleadingly quotes the RCIT so as to give the false impression that we are only opposed to the Russian intervention. Our opponents write: "In an "Open letter to All Revolutionary Organisations and Activists" from last December, they [the RCIT] write[s], "In Syria the revolutionary liberation struggle is continuing but is facing huge threats. The murderous dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad—with the wholesale support of Russian imperialism as well as that of Iran—is continuing its war of destruction against its own people.""¹⁶

Once again, in the very same document we unequivocally state: "...all the Great Powers are united in their determination to liquidate the Syrian Revolution since they fear both a destabilization of the imperialist order throughout the entire region as well as growing waves of refugees coming to Europe. (...) Down with the military intervention of Russian as well as French, US, British and German imperialism! No to any negotiated settlement by the Great Powers! (...) Down with imperialist aggressions and wars! In Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Mali, Somalia, and North Korea: Defeat the imperialist NATO and Russian forces and their local allies! We are on the side of those resisting the imperialist invaders without giving any political support for nationalist, Islamist or Stalinist forces!"

Russia and China as Imperialist Great Powers: An Enigma for the ICFI

In concluding this response, let us briefly reply to the ICFI why we consider Russia and China to be great imperialist powers. The ICFI asks: "What political purpose,

it must be asked, is served by adding the word "imperialist" to descriptions of China and Russia?" ¹⁷ Then they go on with their conspiracy theories describing how the RCIT and the "pseudo-left" are operating in the interest of the western imperialist nations. We remark briefly that the very Western imperialism with which –according to the ICFI – the RCIT is secretly collaborating is obviously not very pleased with our services. For this reason I was personally charged with sedition by the Austrian state in 2012/13, because of my Antizionist stand against Israel. Similarly, Michael Pröbsting, our international secretary, currently faces the very same charges because – in contrast to what ICFI journalists claim – we *do* consistently fight against western imperialism. ¹⁸

But let us go back to the question raised by the ICFI. Clearly, there is no political "purpose" in considering Russia and China imperialist powers, although there are obviously political conclusions one has to draw from such a political-economic analysis. I will limit myself here to just a few brief arguments – none of which the ICFI has even tried, let alone been able, to disprove – and which we have elaborated in detail in the documents we referred to above.

1.) China has more billionaires than the US. ¹⁹

This number even excludes the billionaires who live in Macao and Hong Cong. Can the ICFI name a semi-colonial country that can have a larger bourgeoisie than the strongest imperialist power on the earth, the USA? The billionaires in China are Chinese are not, after all, foreigners who moved there because of the "laissez-faire" Chinese state or the low taxes.

2) China's foreign investments have increased nearly 14 times from 2004 to 2013. ²⁰

Since then foreign investments of China have increased even more to the point where today more investment capital is flowing out of China than flowing in. ²¹ We seriously ask the ICFI whether, in their opinion, it is a normal phenomenon that an allegedly "semi-colonial" country massively invests overseas in other Asian, African or Latin American countries.

3) China is currently building the Nicaragua Canal as rival project to the Panama Canal. ²²

China's transformation into an imperialist power

A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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Chinese billionaire Wang Jang is constructing the Nicaragua Canal in the interest of Chinese imperialism, so that China will no longer be dependent on the US-controlled Panama Canal. Can the ICIF name any other nation who can so successfully challenge US hegemony in such a strategic aspect in their own “backyard”?

4) Russia stands up to NATO without consequences

Russia, with its enormous military power, was able to challenge western imperialism in the Ukraine. They could invade and annex the Crimean Peninsula without NATO’s being able to do anything effective against this – even though the NATO allies were strongly opposed to this unilateral takeover. When a semi-colonial country does something like this, for example Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait or Argentina’s military offensive to retake the Malvinas, we generally can predict the outcome. Added to this, the two examples cited were geo-strategically much less important than Russia’s actions in Crimea. Let us not forget, too, that Russia was able to stand up against the plans of NATO to bomb their ally Assad in Syria in August 2013.

The ICFI – correctly – publishes regular warnings about the dangers of major wars and even a world war. They describe how there is an ongoing major conflict between the US, EU and Japan on the one side and Russia and China on the other. But the ICFI leaders seem unfazed by their own logical contradiction: on one hand they claim that Russia and China are not imperialists, i.e., they are semi-colonial countries – subordinate to the great imperialist powers; while on the other hand they claim that there is a real danger of world war. Can a rational person imagine two semi-colonial countries successfully challenging the unity of all imperialist powers, resisting them, and even becoming stronger?! No, this is absolutely impossible. The much more reasonable, authentically Marxist position is that Russia and China have in fact become imperialist powers in their own right, and that it is they who have become strong enough to challenge the “old” western imperialist powers. This is the reason they are fighting – not over the carving up of Russia or China – but rather about who controls the semi-colonial world; who controls the South China Sea, the Black Sea, Syria and Nicaragua.

In its polemic against us, the ICFI claims that *“in Africa and Asia, their supporters (the RCIT, Ed.) cooperate with extreme right-wing nationalist forces.”* however, they are incapable of citing a single bit of evidence for such slander. Obviously, no such example can be easily given, based on the fact that their claim is a bald-faced lie about the politics and practice of our comrades in Asia and Africa (Pakistan, Sir Lanka, Occupied Palestine, Yemen and Tunisia)

In summary, the entire polemic published by the ICFI/WSWS against us is somewhat amusing, given its title *“A case study in theoretical charlatanry.”* In light of its groundless attacks against us and its ridiculous impotent resorting to slander to misrepresent our positions, it is fair to say that, if one deletes the word “theoretical” from the title of their article, it perfectly describes the methods and policies of the ICFI itself.

Footnotes

- (1) Johannes Stern: Behind the designation of Russia and China as “imperialist”: A case study in theoretical charlatanry, WSWS, 14 April 2016, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>; Warum werden Russland und China „imperialistisch“ genannt? Eine Fallstudie über theoretische Betrügerei, WSWS, 15. April 2016, <https://www.wsws.org/de/articles/2016/04/15/proe-a15.html>; L’«impérialisme» de la Russie et de la Chine: Une étude de cas de charlatanisme théorique, 30 avril 2016, <http://www.wsws.org/fr/articles/2016/avr2016/ruch-a30.shtml>
- (2) Michael Pröbsting: The Involuntary Self-Exposure of the WSWS. A Brief Reply to a Lengthy Attack by David North’s WSWS against the RCIT, 18.4.2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/reply-to-wsws-short/>
- (3) <https://www.wsws.org/en/special/icfi.html>
- (4) See e.g. <http://www.revleft.com/vb/threads/63156-WSWS-rumor>; <http://slackbastard.anarchobase.com/?p=30939>; <http://www.bolshevik.org/1917/no30/no30-GRPI-WSWS.html>
- (5) Here you can find a collection of the RCIT documents dealing with China and Russia as Emerging Great Imperialist Powers: <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>
- (6) <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>
- (7) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/oct/16.htm>
- (8) <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>
- (9) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/self-det/ch04.htm> (emphasis by Lenin)
- (10) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1939/07/ukraine.htm>
- (11) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1939/07/ukraine.htm>
- (12) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/jul/x01.htm>
- (13) <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>
- (14) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1939/07/ukraine.htm>
- (15) <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/liberation-struggle-and-imperialism/>
- (16) <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>
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- (20) <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/01/china%E2%80%99s-overseas-investments-explained-10-graphics>
- (21) <http://bruegel.org/2015/06/chinas-outward-foreign-direct-investment/>
- (22) <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-canal-insight-idUSBREA4309E20140504>

Defend Refugee Rights! Support the Arab Revolution! Defeat EU Chauvinism and Imperialism!

Open Letter to All Revolutionary Organizations for an International Solidarity Campaign

Issued by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22.05.2016

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters!
We are living in a period in which the forces of reaction are gaining more and more strength. Imperialist governments in the EU are constructing walls to prevent the entry of refugees into the continent and their free movement once inside, augmented by the terrorizing of those who have made it; they impose "state of emergency" regimes and wage wars in North Africa and the Middle East. Zionist forces have launched an offensive in Europe to criminalize and pressurize activists who express solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. At the same time, right-wing racist forces are achieving big gains in elections. In the Arab countries, the revolutionary process has been put on the defensive and the Great Powers (the US, EU and Russia) are attempting to liquidate the Syrian Revolution by any means necessary. And the racist, apartheid State of Israel continues to crush heroic Palestinian youth with brute force.

Shamefully, left-reformist forces like the ex-Stalinist *Party of the European Left* (PCF in France, LINKE in Germany, SYRIZA in Greece, etc.) either support such attacks or don't raise a finger to mobilize against this reactionary offensive. This underlines once more the extreme urgency for authentic revolutionaries to unite in order to strengthen the struggle to build a *new World Party of Socialist Revolution*.

In such a situation it is urgent that revolutionaries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East as well as in other parts of the world join forces to fight against this counterrevolutionary offensive. Hence, the RCIT proposes to all revolutionary organizations and activists to launch a joint international campaign of solidarity around the following demands:

** Defend the Arab Revolution against its foreign and domestic enemies!* Down with the reactionary regimes in Syria, Egypt, the Gulf monarchies as well as Tunisia! Defend Yemen against the Saudi Aggression! Smash the imperialist Apartheid State of Israel – Victory to the Palestinian Resistance!

** International solidarity with the ongoing Syrian Revolution!* Continue the struggle until the whole Baathist state apparatus is smashed! Down with the military interventions of Russia and NATO! No to any negotiated settlement by the Great Powers! For the Kurdish people's right to national self-determination! Down with the reactionary *Daesh!*

** Down with imperialist aggressions and wars!* In Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Mali, and Somalia: Defeat the imperialist NATO and Russian forces and their local allies! We are on the side of those resisting the imperialist invaders, but give no *political* support to nationalist or Islamist forces!

** Fight against chauvinism and militarism in Europe!* Open the borders to refugees! Lift the state of emergency in France!

No deployment of national armies on European streets! Defend Muslim migrants against Islamophobic racism! No to the criminalization of pro-Palestine solidarity activists! For a united front of mass organizations of the workers' and migrants' movements to drive racist and fascist forces from the streets!

** Equal rights for migrants!* Equal wages and full citizenship rights! Equality for migrants and national minorities' languages in education and public administration! For a public works program with jobs for all refugees and all unemployed native workers! Native workers and migrants – fight together against your common enemy: the ruling class in the EU and Russia and the dictatorships in the Middle East and Africa!

It is urgent for revolutionaries to fight within mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed – even though they are often led by reformist forces – in order to put pressure on them to join the struggle for such demands.

Naturally, as Marxists, we combine such a focused program with a socialist perspective which fights for a revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist regimes and for the founding of workers' and peasant republics.

If you agree with the fundamental outline of these revolutionary positions and perspectives, we urge you to contact us so that we can discuss and decide together how to launch such a campaign. For example, World Refugee Day on 20 June might be an excellent opportunity for an international day of action.

We encourage organizations and activists who share the general outlook of this *Open Letter* to contact us and send us their ideas and criticism so that we can take concrete steps towards joint discussion and collaboration: rcit@thecommunists.net

The RCIT has sections and activists in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Britain, Germany, the US, and Austria.

For a more extensive overview of the RCIT's viewpoints, we refer those who are interested to our website www.thecommunists.net. In particular we want to draw attention to the following RCIT documents:

* Revolutionary May Day Statement 2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/mayday-statement-2016/>

* An Open Letter to All Revolutionary Organizations and Activists, <http://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-revolutionary-unity/>

* The program of the RCIT: *The Revolutionary Communist Manifesto*, www.thecommunists.net/rcit-manifesto

Each of these documents has been published in several languages.

Open Europe's Borders for Refugees! Solidarity with the Arab Revolution!

Joint Call for an International Day of Action on 20 June 2016

We, the undersigned organizations, call for a joint international day of action on 20 June – *World Refugee Day*. Together we express our unconditional solidarity with the refugees who have been forced to flee their homelands as a result of the devastating consequences of brutal dictatorships, multinational corporations, and Great Powers aggression. On World Refugee Day we reiterate our dedication to:

** Fight against chauvinism and militarism in Europe!* Open the borders to refugees! Lift the state of emergency in France! No deployment of national armies on European streets! Defend Muslim migrants against Islamophobic racism! No to the criminalization of pro-Palestine solidarity activists! For a united front of mass organizations of the workers' and migrants' movements to drive racist and fascist forces from the streets!

** Equal rights for migrants!* Equal wages and full citizenship rights! Equality for migrants and national minorities' languages in education and public administration! For a public works program with jobs for all refugees and all unemployed native workers! Native workers and migrants – fight together against your common enemy: the ruling class in the EU and Russia and the dictatorships in the Middle East and Africa!

Similarly we reiterate our solidarity with the Arab Revolution:

** Defend the Arab Revolution against its foreign and domestic enemies!* Down with the reactionary regimes in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, the Gulf monarchies, and Tunisia! Defend Yemen against the Saudi Aggression! Smash the imperialist Apartheid State of Israel – Victory to the Palestinian Resistance! For the Kurdish people's right to national self-determination! Down with the reactionary *Daesh!*

** Down with imperialist aggression and war!* In Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Mali, and Somalia: Defeat the imperialist NATO and Russian forces and their local allies! We are on the side of those resisting the imperialist invaders, but give no *political* support to nationalist or Islamist forces!

We view this joint international campaign as a step towards the urgent need for authentic revolutionaries to unite in order to strengthen our common struggle to build a *new World Party of Socialist Revolution*.

Signed by:

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Venezuela, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, USA, Germany, Britain and Austria)

Dördüncü Blok (Turkey)

Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (Mexico)

Activities of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT, www.thecommunists.net) and the Dördüncü Blok around 20th June 2016



Internationalist Week of Action around the 20th June 2016: Solidarity with Refugees in Europe and worldwide! Open the borders! Stop deportations!

Report on the Activities around the 20th June 2016, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 26.6.2016

The 20th June is the *World Refugee Day* and a very important possibility to show internationalist solidarity with refugees. This year the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency organized a number of meetings and participated in demonstrations around this important day.

Our comrades in Brazil hold a meeting in the camping of *Frente Brasil Popular* in Sao Paulo. They discussed about the revolutionary period we live in, the imperialist wars, the counterrevolutionary attempts in Latin America and the importance of solidarity with refugees and all oppressed. Our comrade Joao Evangelista held a speech on the need of anti-imperialist actions.

In Israel/Occupied Palestine our comrades met with activists at a concert which was organized to fundraise for legal defense of an anti-fascist. The anti-fascist activist attacked the Zionist Yoav Eliassy aka "the Shadow" who is a well known fascist rapper. They discussed about the need of organizing self defense against fascists as well as in defense of refugees, migrants and nationally oppressed. Especially in Occupied Palestine it means also to stand in absolute unity with the Palestinian resistance against the Apartheid state Israel.

Our supporters in Britain participated in the actions around the *Aid Convoy to Calais*. They also discussed with other activists and sold the *LIBERATION* (newspaper of the RCIT supporters in Britain). The Aid Convoy to Calais was an important sign of protest against the racist politic

of the British government. It attracted a number of workers and oppressed, mainly migrants to get active around the *World Refugee Day*.

The comrades in Austria participated in two demonstrations. One demonstration was against the fascist organization of the *Identitäre Bewegung*, a Europe wide fascist organization with origins in France (Le Bloc identitaire). The other demonstration was on the 20th June itself and was focused on slogans in solidarity with refugees. The RKOB also participated in a public meeting with migrants and refugees from Iran who belong to the national oppressed minority of the Ahwaz people. Comrade Michael Pröbsting was invited to hold a speech to the brothers and sisters.

Also our comrades from the *Dördüncü Blok* in Turkey (with whom the RCIT keeps comradely relations) participated in a rally on the World Refugee Day. They raised the slogan of international solidarity as well as slogans against imperialism and racism.

All in all it was an important and successful week of actions for the comrades of the RCIT and our comrades from *Dördüncü Blok*! We look forward to fight together with our brothers and sisters who are coming as refugees to Europe. We stand together against racism, against imperialist war and bloody dictators like Assad in Syria and Sisi in Egypt! We demand: Open the borders and let us fight together for the right to stay. Long live international solidarity!



Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT at a Demonstration in Solidarity with Refugees on 19.03.2016 in Vienna

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Cuba's Revolution Sold Out? The Road from Revolution to the Restoration of Capitalism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new book. It's called *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?*. The book's subtitle is: *The Road from Revolution to the Restoration of Capitalism*. The book is in English-language. It has 5 chapters plus an appendix, 108 pages and includes 19 Tables and Figures. The author of the book is *Michael Pröbsting* who is the International Secretary of the RCIT.

In *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?* Michael Pröbsting analyses the character of the Cuban Revolution 1959-61, its bureaucratic degeneration, and the recent march of the Castro leadership towards capitalism.

The author demonstrates how the Cuban Revolution, despite the initial modest intentions of its leaders, was spurred forward to more radical policies by grass roots struggles of Cuban workers and peasants. In fact, the very abolishment of capitalism by the Cuban regime was no part of the original game plan of either Castro's Movimiento 26 de Julio or of the official Cuban communist party (PSP), but rather was a product of precisely such pressures from below.

Cuba's Revolution Sold Out? describes in detail how a number of relatively recent political, economic, and social measures were

purposely taken by the Cuban government to open the road back to capitalism. Pröbsting elaborates the key role of the world's new great imperialist power, China, in Cuba's state policy as exemplified in the June 2011 Sino-Cuban agreement for a first Five-Year Plan of cooperation between these two states.

Cuba's Revolution Sold Out? examines these developments from the viewpoint of Marxist theory, the nature of the ruling bureaucracy in Stalinist states, and the process of restoration of capitalism under such regimes.

In conclusion, the book proposes a socialist program for political and social revolution in Cuba to halt the advance of capitalism and to eradicate the country's bureaucratic dictatorship.

Price: 8 Euro / 12 US-Dollars /
7 British Pound
(plus delivery charges) ■



Look for details of the books at www.great-robbery-of-the-south.net

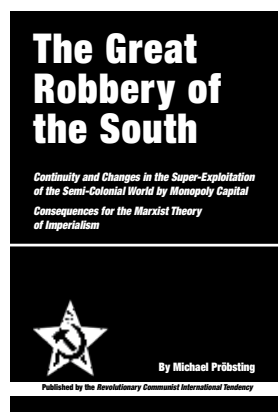
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital*. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism. The book is in English-language. It has 15 chapters, 448 pages and includes 139 Tables and Figures. The author of the book is *Michael Pröbsting* who is the International Secretary of the RCIT.

In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting analyses the super-exploitation and oppression of the semi-colonial world (often referred to as the "Third World") by the imperialist powers and monopolies. He shows that the relationship between the small minority of rich capitalist countries and the huge majority of mankind living in the semi-colonial world forms one of the most important elements of the imperialist world system we are living in. The Great Robbery of the South shows that the past decades have been a complete confirmation of the validity of Lenin's theory of imperialism and its programmatic conclusions. *The Great Robbery of the South* demonstrates the important changes in the relationship between the imperialist and the semi-colonial countries. Using comprehensive material (including 139 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that never before

has such a big share of the world capitalist value been produced in the South. Never before have the imperialist monopolies been so dependent on the super-exploitation of the semi-colonial world. Never before has migrant labor from the semi-colonial world played such a significant role for the capitalist value production in the imperialist countries. Never before has the huge majority of the world working class lived in the South – outside of the old imperialist metropolises.

In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting argues that a correct understanding of the nature of imperialism as well as of the program of permanent revolution which includes the tactics of consistent anti-imperialism is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future. Order your copy NOW! \$20 / £13 / €15 plus p+p (21\$ for US and international, £9 for UK, €10 for Europe)



The Author: Michael Pröbsting is a revolutionary activist since 35 years. He is the author of many articles and pamphlets in German and English language. He published books or contributed to books on Rosa Luxemburg (1999), on the World Economy (2008), on Migration (2010) and the Arab Revolution (2011). In addition to *The Great Robbery of the South* and *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?* he also published in 2014 the book *Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice. Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of Organized Struggle for Bolshevism*. He is the International Secretary of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*.

What the RCIT Stands for

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is a revolutionary combat organisation fighting for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in a number of countries. The working class is composed of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labor power as wage earners to the capitalists. The RCIT stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers' movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky.

Capitalism endangers our lives and the future of humanity. Unemployment, war, environmental disasters, hunger, and exploitation are all part of everyday life under capitalism as are the imperialistic oppression of nations, the national oppression of migrants, and the oppression of women, young people, and homosexuals. Therefore, we want to eliminate capitalism.

The liberation of the working class and all oppressed is possible only in a classless society without exploitation and oppression. Such a society can only be established internationally.

Therefore, the RCIT is fighting for a socialist revolution at home and around the world.

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for only this class has the collective power to bring down the ruling class and build a socialist society.

The revolution cannot proceed peacefully because a ruling class never has nor ever will voluntarily surrender its power. By necessity, therefore, the road to liberation includes armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasants' republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in councils democratically elected in rank-and-file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods, and schools. These councils, in turn, elect and control the government and all other state authorities, and always retain the right to recall them.

Authentic socialism and communism have nothing to do with the so-called "socialism" that ruled in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and which continues to do so in China and Cuba, for example. In these countries, the proletariat was and is dominated and oppressed by a privileged party bureaucracy.

Under capitalism, the RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of the workers and oppressed, while simultaneously striving to overthrow this system based on economic exploitation of the masses.

Towards these ends, we work from within the trade unions where we advocate class struggle, socialism, and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy perniciously connected with the state and capital via status, high-paying jobs, and other privileges. Thus, the trade union bureaucracy is far from the interests and living conditions of

its members, based as it is on the top, privileged layers of the working class – a labor aristocracy which has no real interest in replacing capitalism. Therefore, the true struggle for the liberation of the working class, the toppling of capitalism and the establishment of socialism, must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their "representative" from the upper trade union strata.

We also fight for the expropriation of the big land owners as well as for the nationalisation of the land and its distribution to the poor and landless peasants. Towards this goal we struggle for the independent organisation of the rural workers.

We support national liberation movements against oppression. We also support the anti-imperialist struggles of oppressed peoples against the great powers. Within these movements we advocate a revolutionary leadership as an alternative to nationalist or reformist forces.

While the RCIT strives for unity of action with other organizations, we are acutely aware that the policies of social democrats and pseudo-revolutionary groups are dangerous, and ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class, peasants, and the otherwise oppressed.

In wars between imperialist states we take a revolutionary defeatist position: we do not support either side, but rather advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class in each of the warring states. In wars between imperialist powers (or their stooges) and a semi-colonial countries we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed countries.

As communists, we maintain that the struggle against national oppression and all types of social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) *must* be led by the working class, because only the latter is capable of fomenting a revolutionary change in society. Therefore, we consistently support working class-based revolutionary movements of the socially oppressed, while opposing the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism, etc.), who ultimately dance to the tune of the capitalists, and strive to replace them with revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class be victorious in its struggle for liberation. The establishment of such a party and the execution of a successful revolution, as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks in Russia under Lenin and Trotsky remain the models for revolutionary parties and revolutions in the 21st century.

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries!
For a 5th Workers International to be founded on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

No future without socialism!

No socialism without revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

