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The Imperialists Enslave the African People - Then as Now!

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The cartoon on the cover symbolizes the European slave traders and an African woman slave.
Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Zambia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria. The RCIT has fraternal relations with the *Economic Liberation Association* (Zambia), the *Marxist Group 'Class Politics'* (Russia) and *Sınıf Savaşı* (Turkey).

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Successful 2nd World Congress of the RCIT

Report by Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the RCIT, 06.01.2017

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) held its Second World Congress in two parts at the end of the year 2017. The first part took place in Lusaka (Zambia) and was hosted by the RCIT Section in Zambia together with the comrades of the *Economic Liberation Association* (ELA). (Read a more detailed report about the congress in Lusaka here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-congress-africa-report/>)

The second part was hosted by the comrades of the Mexican section of the RCIT, *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* (ALS), and took place in Mexico City from the 20th until the 30th December. After an intense campaign of solidarity work with victims of the earthquakes, the delegates were interested to listen to reports from activists of the *Solidarity Brigade Naucalpan*.

In addition spokespersons of self-defense units, the *Policía Ciudadana y Popular de Guerrero* (PCP), were invited to discuss the political situation in Mexico, the specific oppression of the indigenous people, the concrete achievements of the PCP and the importance of an international organization. All participants were highly interested in discussions with the comrades of the PCP who gave a vivid insight to their work. The importance of self-defense is not only a theoretical question but rather a crucial part of revolutionary practice.

This became once more obvious on the fourth day of congress after shocking news interrupted our procedure. Comrade Lalo, activist of the befriended organization *Colectivo Acción y Resistencia* (CAR), was murdered in the evening before. As it was said at the funeral: We lost one of us, one of the fighters against the capitalist system! We will never forget our comrade; we will never give up the struggle for liberation! (Read the announcement of the congress on the murder of comrade Lalo here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/esp%C3%B1ol/lalo-presente/>)

The RCIT is not only a cadre organization, it is a pre-party organization with vivid links into the masses of the workers and oppressed. This became once more obvious at the congress in Mexico (as well as the congress in Lusaka) which was not only full of important programmatic discussions and clarifications, including a number of adopted documents (see below). The RCIT congress was also a reflection of the successful exemplary mass work that the international organization and all of its sections are implementing in their day-to-day work. Furthermore it helped delegates from different continents to share experience and to deepen the political homogeneity of our tendency.

The successful Second World Congress of the RCIT was an important experience and another step forward in building a future World Party of the Socialist Revolution!

No Future without Socialism!

No Socialism without Revolution!

No Revolution without a Revolutionary Party!

The documents adopted at the Second RCIT World Congress can be read here:

Imperialism, the Oppression of Women and the Struggle for Liberation, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-the-oppression-of-women-and-the-struggle-for-liberation/>

Resolution on the Lessons 100th Anniversary of the October Revolution, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/lessons-100th-anniversary-of-the-october-revolution/>

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>



Delegates at the second part of the 2nd RCIT Congress in Mexico City, December 2017

Advance the Unity of Revolutionaries in Russia and Internationally!

Declaration on Collaboration between the Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia) and the RCIT, 15 January 2018

After a period of discussions the *Marxist Group 'Class Politics'* (MGKP), a Trotskyist organization in Russia, and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have decided to collaborate.

Given the importance of Russia as an imperialist rival to other Great Powers (U.S., EU, China, Japan) the RCIT and MGKP announce their intention to intensify their efforts to deepen their analysis of Russian capitalism as well as to jointly develop and fight for a revolutionary program in that country. Furthermore we will develop joint statements on important issues of the world class struggle. Finally, we intend to prepare the political basis for fusing our organizations. In this process we will work on joint statements and translations of important documents.

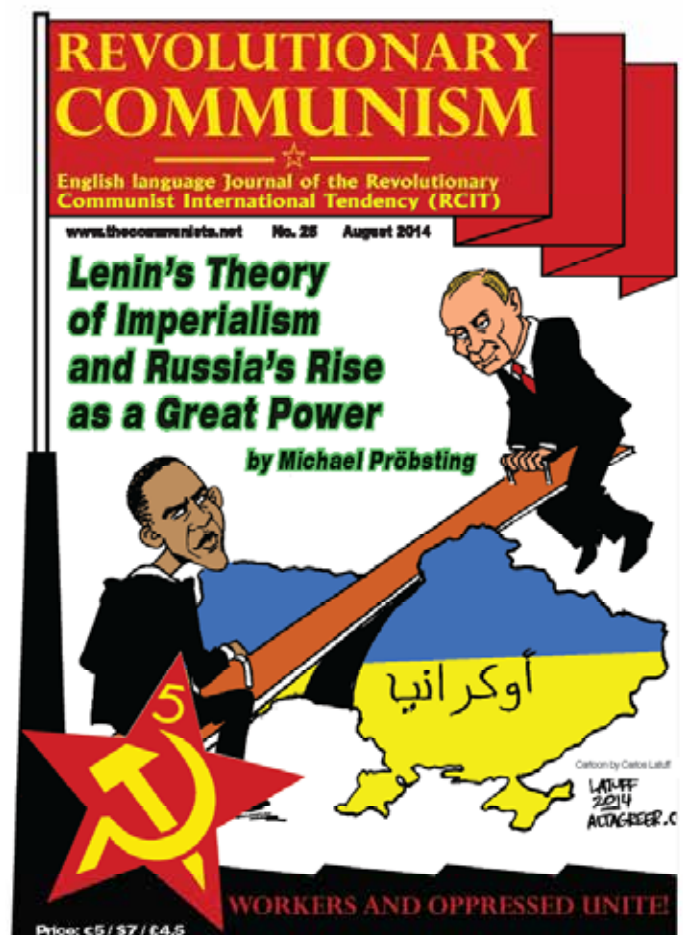
In the coming period we will also focus on discussing remaining differences which we hope to overcome (e.g. conditions for critical electoral support for reformist parties, when to apply support for the right of national self-determination of oppressed people, estimation of the first period of the civil war in the Ukraine in 2014, assessment of nuclear power and various others).

We call upon revolutionaries in Russia and internationally to join us in our struggle to rebuild a revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution!

See also: Interview of MGKP to RCIT: <https://www.thecommunists.net/forum/mg-russia-interview/> respectively <https://mgkp.github.io/blog/2017/11/06/interview>.



RCIT PUBLICATIONS ON RUSSIA AND IMPERIALISM



Syria: No to Turkey's Attack on Afrin! Defend the Syrian Revolution against Annihilation!

**The Syrian Revolution must reject sectarianism
and strive to create multinational unity among Arabs, Turks and Kurds!
Rally all forces against the Assadist-Iranian-Russian Aggression in Idlib!**

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22.01.2018

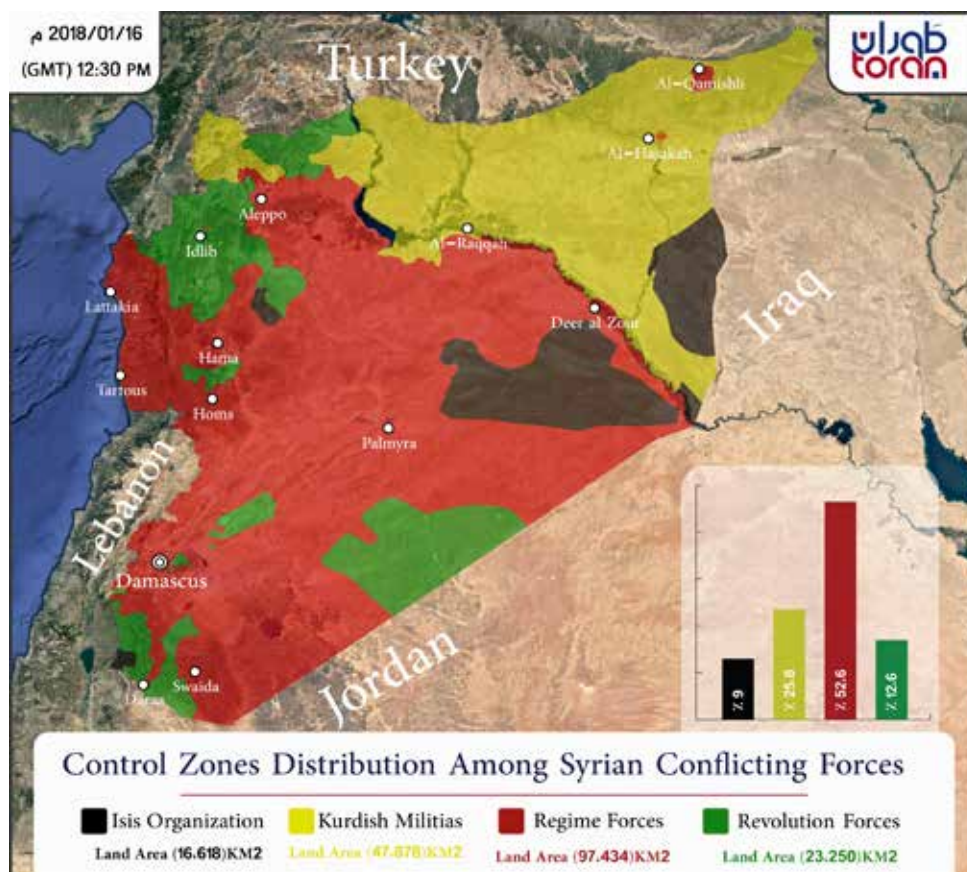
1. Turkey's army has launched its so-called 'Operation Olive Branch' – an attack on Afrin, a province in the northwest of Syria with a Kurdish majority population. President Erdoğan claims that the purpose of this operation is to defeat "the PKK terrorists" and to "wipe out this corridor step-by-step, starting from the west. (...) Afrin operation has de facto started in the field. This will be followed by Manbij." He also announced the goal to create a buffer zone extending 30km into Syria. Ankara also asserts that it has recruited the support of up to 5,000 fighters of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) for the operation.

2. Erdoğan's chauvinist propaganda and his army's offensive are fully supported by the main opposition parties – the right-wing nationalist MHP and the social democratic CHP. This reflects the determination of Turkey's ruling class to continue the oppression of the Kurdish minority and to suppress all efforts of the Kurds in neighbouring Syria which could encourage the Kurds to exercise their legitimate right of national self-determination.

3. The crime of the PKK/YPG leadership is certainly not that they defend the Kurdish people against the Turkish army. Their crime in the last years rather has been that

they blocked the Kurdish people to join the Syrian Revolution. Instead, the YPG leadership made a deal with the genocidal Assad dictatorship and, in 2014, became merchants of US imperialism in Northern Syria. In fact, a trigger for Turkey's attack on Afrin has been Washington's recently announced plan to set up a new 30,000 strong border force in North Syria, recruited mostly from the allied Kurdish YPG militias.

4. Turkey's attack demonstrates once more the weakened position of Washington, reflecting the decline of U.S. imperialism as the leading global power as the RCIT has repeatedly pointed out. On one hand, Turkey is a member of the US-led NATO alliance. On the other hand, the YPG militias (named "Syrian Democratic Forces") have been Washington's only effective ally on the ground in the past years. US imperialism has officially 2,000 soldiers in Syria and has created a number of military bases in the SDF/YPG-controlled areas. While Afrin plays no significant role for the US military, this is different for the YPG-controlled areas in the north east of Syria. Erdoğan's threat to attack the YPG not only in Afrin but also in Manbij (where the US has a military bases), theoretically puts



a military confrontation between Turkey's army and U.S. forces on the agenda. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently announced plans to stay in Syria indefinitely as it wants to curb Teheran's and Moscow's influence the region. However, Turkey's war against the YPG makes it doubtful if these plans are realistic. Washington, as much as it can currently operate given its embarrassing "government shutdown", is calling both sides for calm, however without much effect.

5. Moscow officially "calls on the opposing parties to show restraint" and urges both sides to cease fighting. In the last years, Russian imperialism has become the dominant force in Syria since it started to intervene massively by backing up the Assad regime with its military in 2015. The Putin regime announced some time ago to hold a conference for a "political solution" of the Syrian civil war. This conference, aimed at the counter-revolutionary liquidation of the Syrian Revolution, has received the official blessing of the United Nations. After some delays, it shall now take place in Russia's Sochi on 30 January with 1,500 delegates attending. Putin wants a pacification of the civil war rather sooner than later and for this he needs Erdoğan's support.

6. In principle, Moscow would like to bring the Kurdish YPG also on board. In fact there has been a rapprochement between the Putin regime and the YPG and the Russia was able to open some military bases in YPG-controlled areas. Obviously, the YPG leadership would like to have a second imperialist master as a potential alternative to Washington. However, this has been met with fierce opposition by Erdoğan. Furthermore Russian imperialism does not want to waste such an opportunity to create troubles for its American rival – particularly now, when a new deadline for US sanctions against Moscow approaches on 29 January. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested in a recent interview with the *Kommerçant* newspaper: "Many political scientists are asking why do we care and say that the worst is the best: let the United States prove its inability to find an agreement, (to show) its destructive role in global affairs, let it be in Iran or Syria and where the unilateral actions have already infuriated Turkey."

7. It seems that Ankara and Moscow reached a tacit agreement sealed at negotiations of Turkish Chief of General Staff General Hulusi Akar and Hakan Fidan, the Turkish head of the National Intelligence Organization, with both Russia and Iran in Moscow on 18 January. In the end, Erdoğan's support is more important for Moscow and Teheran than that of the YPG which is also an ally of Washington. Such an agreement between Ankara, Moscow and Teheran is demonstrated by the use of Syrian air space by Turkey's air force in their Afrin operation. This would be impossible without Moscow's consent. Likewise, Russia withdrew hundreds of its soldiers deployed near the city of Afrin before Turkey's operation began.

8. It is also clear which prize Ankara paid for Moscow's and Teheran's approval of its Afrin operation. Initially, it was agreed at the Astana negotiations that so-called "de-escalation zones" should be created in areas which are still under control of the Syrian rebels. As the RCIT warned many times, these "de-escalation zones" have always been traps aimed at the disarmament of the rebels and the liquidation of the liberations struggle. In fact, these "de-escalation zones" did not lead to a pacification of the civil war.

The main reasons for this were, first, that many fighters on the ground rejected this betrayal of various FSA leaders who agreed to this "Astana deal". Secondly, the Assad regime still hopes for a "military solution", i.e. to re-conquer the liberated areas by a war of annihilation. Turkey was supposed to take care for the creation of a "de-escalation zone" in Idlib, the largest remaining liberated area.

9. However, this project has failed until now. Ankara hoped to implement the Astana deal as it yields strong influence among sectors of the petty-bourgeois nationalist FSA forces. However, these FSA factions lack both popular support as well as numerical strength on the ground. Instead, the petty-bourgeois Islamist *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* (HTS) has become the dominating force in Idlib. The HTS strongly opposes the Astana betrayal and insists on continuing the liberation struggle against the Assad regime and its Russian and Iranian backers. As a result, Assad's army – with massive support of Russia and Iran – are waging a devastating military offensive in the south of liberated zone (southern Idlib, north-eastern Hama, and western Aleppo). In addition, Assad's forces have allowed a secret transfer of ISIS/Daesh forces through their territory so that they could open a new front in Idlib against the HTS fighters. HTS and other liberation fighters suffered massive casualties in the past weeks and lost a significant part of the territory in Idlib (in particular around the strategically important Abu Al-Dohor airbase). As a result, more than 210,000 Syrians have fled their homes since mid December 2017! Covered by much boasting, it is obvious that Ankara pressurized its allies among the rebels to desert the struggle in Idlib against the Assad regime and, instead, to help it in smashing the YPG in Afrin.

10. In the end, it seems that Ankara and Moscow (and its allies in Damascus and Teheran) have reached a deal around the following lines: Ankara will participate in the Sochi conference. It will look the other way when Assad's army with Russian and Iranian support try to liquidate the liberation forces in Idlib. In exchange, Moscow, Damascus and Teheran will also look the other way as Ankara attacks Afrin and the Kurdish YPG. Of course, such a deal is not guaranteed in any way. Setbacks in the military campaigns, popular protests, and international pressure from other powers can influence or even destroy this deal.

11. On the surface the Erdoğan regime appears as strong as it is clearly militarily superior to the YPG forces. But in fact, Ankara launches this attack because it is politically in a cul-de-sac. At the beginning, Erdoğan verbally, and also with some material aid, supported the Syrian Revolution and called for the overthrow of the Assad regime. Its air force even shot down a Russian Sukhoi Su-24M in November 2015. But the deterioration of its relations with Washington – in particular after the failed military coup in July 2016 and the ongoing U.S. collaboration with the Kurdish YPG – as well as the military victories of the Assad/Iran/Russia bloc in the civil war have forced Ankara to switch camps. Since one year, the Erdoğan regime is part of the so-called Astana negotiations – involving Russia, Iran, the Assad regime and some treacherous rebel factions – which aim to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. Turkey is the weakest part in this alliance vis-à-vis Russia and Iran. Erdoğan must finally sell some successes to his domestic audience in order not to undermine popular support for his increasingly Bonapartist regime. In the

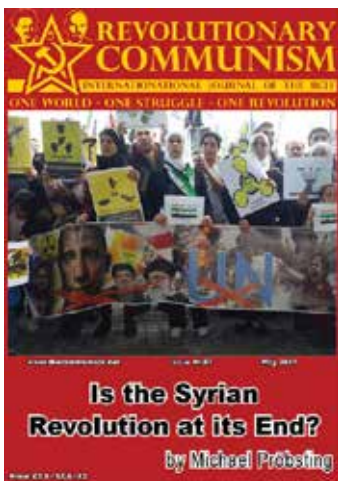
present situation and given the relation of forces, smashing the YPG is the only way to make his chauvinist militarism look victorious.

12. Moscow's and Washington's muted criticism of Turkey's attack on Afrin shows once more the bankruptcy of the PKK/YPG leadership and its policy of acting as servants of imperialist Great Powers, as the RCIT has warned many times. This petty-bourgeois nationalist/Stalinist leadership refused from the beginning to support the revolutionary uprising of the Syrian workers and poor. They preferred to make a deal with the Assad regime. They hoped to create a Kurdish (semi-)state by collaborating with the Assad regime and by serving US imperialism (or alternatively Russian imperialism). In acting as Washington's infantry in Syria, the YPG also occupied large Arab-majority areas (in particular in the regions Raqqa and Deir ez Zor) and became an oppressive force of one million Arabs living there. Even in the Afrin area, the YPG expelled at least 150,000 Arab residents when they captured from the Syrian rebels a number of towns and villages in the south of the region in February 2016. The crux of their reactionary policy has always been to offer their service to a stronger master and to hope, in exchange for this, to receive their Kurdish state. This has, by the way, also always been the policy of the KDP and PUK leadership in Iraqi Kurdistan. As a result they have become completely isolated and despised by most Arabs.

13. It is characteristic that numerous petty-bourgeois leftists around the world have hailed the pro-imperialist YPG in the past years, demonstrating once more the bankrupt and social-imperialist character of these reformists and

centrists. An actual example for this is a statement called "Do Not Let Afrin Become Another Kobane" which is signed by various "progressive" academics like Noam Chomsky, David Graeber, David Harvey, Michael Hardt, and others (see <http://theregion.org/article/12538-do-not-let-afrin-become-another-kobane-urgent-statement-by-academics-and-activists>). This statement appeals to "the leaders of Russia, Iran, and the U.S. ensure that the sovereignty of Syrian borders is not breached by Turkey and that the people of Afrin in Syria, be allowed to live in peace." It states: "The U.S and the international community have a moral obligation to stand behind the Kurdish people now. We call on U.S. officials and the international community to guarantee Afrin's stability and security and prevent further Turkish aggression from within Syria and across the Syrian border." This is nothing but a thinly disguised social-imperialist call for Washington (and Moscow) to intervene with their military to help its allies of the YPG!

14. What should be the position of revolutionaries in the present situation? The RCIT calls all liberation fighters in Syria to strongly oppose Turkey's attack on Afrin. Surely, the YPG has a history of acting as merchants of US imperialism. But the Syrian Revolution must win the trust of the Kurdish people. It can only win such trust if it rejects sectarianism and strive to create multinational unity among Arabs, Turks and Kurds! To succeed in this, the liberation fighters must unconditionally oppose the attack of Ankara which acts since many decades as an oppressor power of the Kurdish people. Furthermore, Ankara, which is a NATO member and which collaborates with Russian imperialism in the Astana sell-out, is hardly an anti-impe-



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified?

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution

Introduction * The Nature of the Local Coordination Councils in Syria * The Contradictory Nature of the Petty-Bourgeois Rebel Factions * A note on the adjectival juxtaposition of "progressive" to liberal democrats versus "reactionary" to Islamists * Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham and Other Islamist Militias * The Role of Religion in Democratic and National Liberation Struggles * Some Arguments on the Ongoing Progressive Character of the Syrian Revolution * Have the Rebels Become Agents of US Imperialism and Regional Powers? * On Foreign Powers' Support for Liberation Movements p* Lenin and Trotsky on Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference * What Did Lenin and Trotsky Say about Getting Support from Imperialists? * Imagining Two Different Scenarios of the Revolution's Success & Failure * A Period of Defeats and Retreats: What Are the Reasons? * Some Thoughts on the Future Prospects of the Arab Revolution * The Urgent Need for a Revolutionary Party * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

rialist alternative to the YPG!

15. Furthermore, the RCIT strongly denounces those FSA factions which participate in the attack on Afrin. What are they doing in Afrin when the Revolution is threatened with annihilation in Idlib?! They fight the YPG in Afrin, from which no immediate danger for the Syrian Revolution has emerged, instead of fighting Assad's killers who are currently slaughtering the Syrian people in south Idlib! True, the YPG are Washington's merchants. But those FSA factions attacking Afrin are no longer fighting under the banner of the Syrian Revolution but, instead, under the banner of the Turkish state. They are Ankara's merchants; they are traitors of the Syrian Revolution!

16. Finally, the RCIT calls all supporters of the Syrian liberation struggle and all socialists around the world to rally their forces to aid the resistance against the Assadist-Iranian-Russian aggression in Idlib, East Ghouta and other places! We must not watch passively when the revolution is strangled by the aggression and betrayal of the imperialist Great Powers, the Assad dictatorship and reactionary regional powers.

17. Once again, we see that the working class and the oppressed must organize and fight independently of *all* imperialist powers and local bourgeoisie. Those reformists, Bolivarian populists and centrists, who fail to recognize the imperialist character of Russia and China, are incapable of implementing a consistent line of class struggle. Those who refuse the program of anti-imperialism and permanent revolution end up in pathetically appealing to U.S. or Russian imperialism (or both!) to intervene on behalf of the oppressed people! Authentic Marxist must denounce these pseudo-socialists and fake anti-imperialists and adhere to the banner of international socialism!

18. It is of utmost importance to understand the ongoing liberation struggle in Syria as part of the revolutionary process in the whole Middle East. This revolutionary wave started in 2011. It suffered numerous setbacks, starting with the reactionary military coup of General Sisi in Egypt on 3 July 2013 (and which was applauded by the same people who later cheered the Kurdish YPG!). However, we see an important revival of the revolutionary

struggle in the Middle East in the past months. There has been a surge of the Palestinian liberation struggle against the Zionist state (first, the Al-Aqsa protests last summer and, more recently, the regular mass demonstration for Jerusalem since Trump's announcement). There have been important popular uprisings in Tunisia as well as in Iran (where people also protested against the regime's support for Assad). Likewise, the Yemeni people are continuing their just war of defense against the Saudi invasion. In addition, there have been militant mass demonstrations against price hikes on food in Sudan in the past weeks.

19. All these are strong indications that a new phase of upswing of popular struggles has begun in the whole region of the Middle East. The RCIT calls all revolutionaries to join forces in order to unite these struggles into a single Intifada in the whole Middle East and to fight for a socialist program of permanent revolution and working class power directed against all imperialist Great Powers (U.S., EU, Russia, China, Japan) as well as the local bourgeois regimes!

20. Comrades, brothers and sisters! The struggle for repelling the reactionary offensive of the ruling class and for the liberation of the working class and the oppressed can only succeed if it is combined with the struggle for the socialist revolution. This means nothing less than taking power by the working class and the oppressed and the overthrow and expropriation of the capitalist class so that the road towards socialism will be opened. History teaches us that all struggles of the masses for liberation will ultimately end in failure if they are not led by a revolutionary party. Such a party should organize the most politically conscious and dedicated fighters of the working class and oppressed, it must be free of any bureaucratic degeneration; and it must exist as an international party in order to avoid the dangers of national-centeredness. The RCIT calls upon all organizations which honestly strive towards the creation of a new Revolutionary World Party to join forces on the basis of a joint program addressing the key issues of the present world situation.

International Secretariat of the RCIT



Syrian Liberation Fighters in South Idlib fighting against Assad's Army and its Iranian and Russian Masters, January 2018

Defend the Syrian Revolution in Idlib – not in Afrin!

Leaflet of the RKO LIBERATION (Austrian Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency), 25.1.2018

Brothers and Sisters! The Syrian Revolution is in the utmost danger! Our revolution is threatened by annihilation and betrayal!

The Revolution is under threat because of the merciless advance, the horrific bombardments and the chlorine gas attacks of Assad's army and his Russian and Iranian allies!

The Revolution is under threat because of the sell-out at the fake negotiations in Astana, Sochi and Geneva!

The Revolution is under threat because of the Turkish war against the Kurds in Afrin! We want the unity of all brothers and sisters – of the Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen!

The Revolution is under threat because of the withdrawal of Syrian fighters from the front in Idlib in order to fight under Turkish command against the Kurds! The Turkish war in Afrin helps Assad who wants to conquer Idlib!

The truth is: Erdoğan and Putin are working hand in

hand! Erdoğan gets Afrin and Assad gets Idlib and al-Ghouta!

Brothers and Sisters, the Revolution can not be saved by subordination to the Great Powers Russia or the USA or the Turkish government! It can not be saved if liberation fighters become merchants of foreign powers!

** Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution!*

** Down with Assad, Putin, Rouhani and Trump!*

** All liberation fighters must join the struggle in Idlib, al-Ghouta, Daraa etc. – not in Afrin!*

** For a workers and peasants government!*

** Against sectarianism – for joint resistance against Assad irrespective of religion and ethnicity!*

** Russia, Iran, USA, EU, Turkey – Out of Syria!*

** Solidarity with the liberation struggle of the oppressed masses in Egypt, Iran, Yemen, Tunisia and Sudan!*



Rally in Vienna in front of the UN Office during the Syria Conference, 25.1.2018. Syrian Demonstrators (left); Michael Pröbsting at an interview (right)

Order from our contact address past issues of the RCIT's Journal Revolutionary Communism!

The image shows five covers of the journal 'Revolutionary Communism', each with a red background and a hammer and sickle symbol. The covers contain the following headlines:

- Cover 1 (Issue No. 1, September 2017):** South Africa: The Miners fight, ANC/SACP betrays plus: Revolution in Libya, Greece, WikiLeaks, Bosnia, Turkey, Maoism
- Cover 2 (Issue No. 4, August 2018):** China as an imperialist power: background, weaknesses and tactics plus: South African Miners Strike, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Canada
- Cover 3 (Issue No. 5, June 2018):** France: Elections, United Front and the struggle for workers' Government plus: Programme for Pakistan, France, Chinese Imperialism, Zimbabwe...
- Cover 4 (Issue No. 9, January 2018):** Resistance and Struggle in Pakistan plus: General Strike in Greece plus: Occupation Movement, Fifth International, Iran, Libya, Israel...
- Cover 5 (September 2018):** Experiences of the Arab Revolution plus: Crisis of the Poor in Britain plus: Theses on Migration, Workers Struggle in Pakistan, What We Stand For

Tunisia: Solidarity with the Mass Protests!

Down with the Price Hikes! For the Creation of Action Committees and Self-Defense Units! For a United Front to Organize a General Strike! Unite the Popular Struggles in Tunisia, Palestine, Syria, Iran and Yemen! For a single Intifada in the whole Middle East!

Joint Statement of the International Secretariat of the RCIT and Tunisian Supporters of the RCIT, 10.01.2018

1. Since 7 January, Tunisia experiences another wave of spontaneous mass protests, many workers and youth are clashing with security forces. This is the people's response to the government's new budget, which, taking effect on January 1, raised the prices of petrol and other items and hiked taxes on cars, phone calls, internet usage and hotel accommodation as part of those economic reforms. Like a similar uprising two years ago, the protests began spontaneously after activists tagged the phrase *#Fech_Nestanneu* [What are we waiting for?] on walls and on social media. Since then, demonstrations have spread to more than 20 towns including Fernaneh, Bouhajla, Ouslatia, Moulouche, Sabitla, Gtar, Gafsa and Kef as well as Tunis. Young demonstrators are blocking roads and hurling stones. In Tunis, a crowd stormed a Carrefour market. In Nefza, demonstrators stormed a police station. Interior ministry spokesman, Khelifa Chibani, lamented that "criminals" had looted and burned security centres, torched police cars and attacked government offices. People are chanting slogans like "No fear" and "Prices have shot up". The state reacts with brutal repression resulting in the killing of a 55-year old man in Tebourba and the arrest of more 237 people. About 50 police were wounded in clashes. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) declares full support for these protests!

2. The austerity budget reveals, once more, the reactionary nature of the capitalist government as well as of the imperialist world order. The government is a coalition led by *Nidaa Tounes*, a bourgeois and pro-imperialist

party representing the old guard of the Ben Ali dictatorship, and the bourgeois-Islamist *Ennadah* party as a junior partner. It is governing the country in the interest of the super-rich capitalist class and the imperialist monopolies. While those elite enrich themselves in the past years, the popular masses are living under worse conditions than the ones before the Revolution in January 2011. According to official figures unemployment stands at more than 15% and youth unemployment at even more than 35%! The government's austerity program is the direct result of its recent agreement to a four-year loan program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) worth about \$2.8 billion in return for economic reforms. And more attacks are looming. Such the government wants to cut the public sector wage bill to 12.5% of GDP in 2020 from about 15% now.

3. The RCIT states that the IMF "agreement" is nothing but a dictate of this institution of the imperialist powers against the interests of the Tunisian workers and poor. Such dictates will continue as long as the Tunisian working class and oppressed do not overthrow the capitalist ruling class and liberate the country from imperialist domination.

4. *Ej-Jabha* (Popular Front, short for "The Popular Front for the Realization of the Objectives of the Revolution"), a left-wing petty-bourgeois opposition alliance representing a coalition of parties mostly coming from a Stalinist/Hoxhaist as well as Nasserist/Baathist tradition, has called for a continuation of the protests. Its leader Hamma Hammami



NEW RCIT PROGRAM!

Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

Adopted at the 1st World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016

Introduction * I. Decaying Capitalism * II. Today's Worldwide Historic Revolutionary Period * III. The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class * IV. A Program for Socialist Revolution to Halt Humanity's Collapse into Barbarism * V. The Crisis of Leadership and the Construction of a Revolutionary World Party * VI. Work in Mass Organizations and the United Front Tactic * VII. The Semi-Colonial South * VIII. The Emerging Imperialist Great Powers of the East: China and Russia * IX. The Old Imperialist Great Powers: The EU, North America and Japan * X. Conclusion

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stated that "we will stay on the street and we will increase the pace of the protests until the unjust financial law is dropped". Furthermore Nourredine Taboubi, head of the trade union federation UGTT, demands that the government raises the minimum wage and aid for the poor within a week. Revolutionaries in Tunisia should call these parties and unions to fully support the movement, to create a united front and to transform the protests into a general strike.

5. The RCIT considers it as a crucial task to form action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities in order to organize the struggle democratically. Furthermore, the movement needs to create self-defense units so that it can defend itself against the attacks of the repression apparatus. In addition, such committees should organize self-defense units to fight against state repression. For now, the central demands should be the withdrawal of all austerity measures. In order to fight unemployment and poverty, activists should call to establish a public employment program under the control of the UGTT and other mass organizations, financed by the expropriation of Tunisia's super-rich, many of whom are close to the Ben Ali clan. Revolutionaries should combine such demands with the perspective of fighting for an authentic workers' and popular government. Such a government would exclusively serve the interests of the popular masses and would remove power and wealth from the hands of the small corrupt elite of super-rich politicians and army generals. It would also expropriate the foreign imperialist corporations which are exploiting semi-colonial Tunisia.

6. Most importantly, revolutionaries in Tunisia should work to advance the formation of a revolutionary party. Without such a party, any new popular uprising is in danger of failing just like the first did after 2011. Such a party must also be part of the new revolutionary world party, since capitalism in Tunisia and the class struggle there are closely interrelated with international capitalism. We call upon revolutionaries to join forces on the basis of an unambiguous revolutionary program of action.

7. The present spontaneous uprising is a crucial

event not only for the working class and oppressed in Tunisia but also for the whole region of the Middle East. It is another powerful confirmation of the RCIT's thesis that the revolutionary process which opened in the Arab world at the end of 2010 is still continuing. In fact, the revival of the Palestinian liberation struggle against the Zionist state (the Al-Aqsa protests last summer and the regular mass demonstration for Jerusalem since Trump's announcement), the recent popular uprising in Iran, the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad dictatorship and its Russian and Iranian masters, the Yemeni people's just war of defense against the Saudi invasion as well as the recent militant mass demonstrations against price hikes on food in Sudan – all these are strong indications that a new phase of upswing of popular struggles has begun in the whole region of the Middle East. The RCIT calls all revolutionaries to join forces in order to unite these struggles into a single Intifada in the whole Middle East and to fight for a socialist program of permanent revolution and working class power directed against all imperialist Great Powers (U.S., EU, Russia, China, Japan) as well as the local bourgeois regimes!

For our analysis of the class struggle in Tunisia as well as of the Arab Revolution we refer readers to the relevant subsection on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>

In particular we refer readers to the following documents:

RCIT: World Perspectives 2017: IV. The Middle East and the State of the Arab Revolution, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2017/part-4/>

RCIT: Tunisia: Solidarity with the Workers' and Youth Uprising! 23.01.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/tunisia-uprising/>

RCIT: Revolution and Counterrevolution in the Arab World: An Acid Test for Revolutionaries, 31 May 2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-arab-revolution/>

Order RCIT Documents in Arab Language

Israel / Occupied Palestine: Free Ahed Tamimi NOW!

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the of the RCIT in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 17.01.2018

The 16-year old Palestinian girl Ahed Tamimi is threatened with up to 10 years in Prison for standing up to Israeli soldiers! She was arrested on 19 December 2017 along with her mother, Nariman Tamimi, and cousin Nour Tamimi for "slapping" an Israeli soldier.

Before Ahed Tamimi slapped one of the occupation soldiers who invaded her yard, in the village of Nabi Saleh in the West Bank, she learned that her 14-year-old cousin, Mohammed Tamimi, had been shot in the head at close range.

This happened during a protest against US decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The 14-year-old Palestinian boy has been placed into a medically-induced coma. Needless to say, in Zionist Israel, the soldier who shot him in cold blood will not be standing trial for his crime. He might even be considered a hero by the Zionist right wing.

At the same time military prosecution filed 12 charges against the 16-years old courageous Palestinian. Ahed could remain in Israeli prisons up to 10 years, if convicted,

on charges including throwing stones, incitement and assaulting and threatening a soldier.

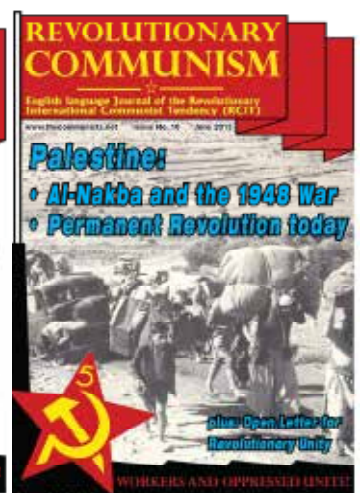
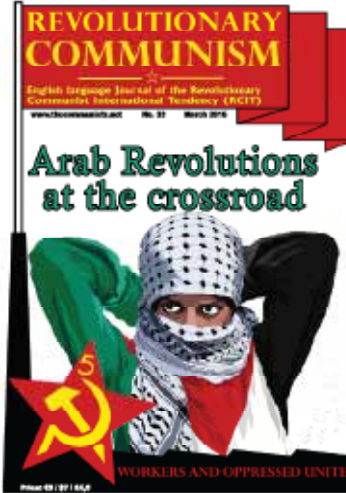
The Israeli establishment hates our Palestinian sister and her family. Naftali Bennett, Israel's education minister, said "They should finish their lives in prison," said. And Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman called for "severe" punishment of Ahed and her family, "to serve as a deterrent." And the Israeli journalist, Ben Caspit, called for her rape and murder, saying: "In the case of the girls, we should exact a price at some other opportunity, in the dark, without witnesses and cameras."

Israel's military tribunals are notorious for their near-100 percent conviction rate against Palestinians. Ahed Tamimi is a symbol of resistance against the Zionist apartheid state, a symbol of the fight for freedom of the oppressed all over the world. For this reason the Zionists want to inflict as much pain on her as possible.

The Internationalist Socialist League fully supports the call of the Palestinian people and all progressive people around the world: *Free Ahed Tamimi NOW!*



Order RCIT Document's on the Arab Revolution via our Contact Address!



Balfour's Declaration - Myths vs. Facts (Introduction)

By Yossi Schwartz, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), November 2017

On November 2 1917, one hundred years ago, Lord Balfour, the British foreign Minister sent a letter to Baron Rothschild, where he expressed sympathy for the Zionist aspirations and informed him that Britain is in support of a Jewish homeland for the Jews in Palestine. He asked him to convey this message to the leadership of the Zionist movement.

The Zionist Myth is that the British promised them an independent state. This is nothing but a fabrication of history.

Thus, this letter was not an official declaration of the British Empire, but a letter to a rich Jew, nor was it a promise for a Jewish state but for some form of autonomy. Behind this letter was the interest of imperialist Britain to divert Jewish refugees, suffering from pogroms in Russia, from settling in the UK for the sake of guarding the *Suez Canal* in the service of global colonialism, as part of the "*white man's burden*", instead.

Additionally, Balfour, who was a known anti-Semite, believed that rich Jews controlled the world economy and can influence the Russian masses to continue the war against Germany. The Russian workers and peasants who brought down the Tzar wanted to break out of the slaughterhouse established by the capitalists for the sake of resolving some conflicting interests of the imperialist states. At that time Britain did not do well in the war and had suffered major defeat in Gallipoli.

At the same time Britain had promised to Hussein, the Sheriff of Mecca, that all the Arab populated countries will be part of his kingdom including Palestine.

In 1939, the British government published the *White Paper* in which it announced that since 450,000 Jews have already settled in Palestine, Lord Balfour's promise was to be considered fulfilled and that in 10 years, Britain will grant independence to Palestine, where the great majority of the population was Arab.

It stated: "It has been urged that the expression "a national home for the Jewish people" offered a prospect that Palestine might in due course become a Jewish State or Commonwealth. His Majesty's Government do not wish to contest the view, which was expressed by the Royal Commission, that the Zionist leaders at the time of the issue of the Balfour Declaration recognised that an ultimate Jewish State was not precluded by the terms of the Declaration. But, with the Royal Commission, His Majesty's Government believe that the framers of the Mandate in which the Balfour Declaration was embodied could not have intended that Palestine should be converted into a Jewish State against the will of the Arab population of the country. That Palestine was not to be converted into a Jewish State might be held to be implied in the passage from the Command Paper of 1922 which reads as follows:

"Unauthorized statements have been made to the effect that the purpose in view is to create a wholly Jewish Palestine. Phrases have been used such as that 'Palestine is to become as Jewish as England is English.' His Majesty's Government regard any such expectation as impracticable and have no such aim in view. Nor have they at any time contemplated the disappearance or the subordination of the Arabic population, language or culture in Palestine. They would draw attention to the fact that the terms of the (Balfour) Declaration referred to do not contemplate that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a Home should be founded IN PALESTINE."

Needless to say, we as working class revolutionaries, do not regard British imperialism as a political entity that can make promises to be believed, rather than an enemy of the masses. However, it is important to know the facts. The following article deals with this issue in detail.



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

U.S. Socialist Labor Activist Speaks on Solidarity with Syrian & Iranian Working Class

John Reimann, November 12, 2017, <https://oaklandsocialist.com/>

Editors' Note: Below is an expanded version of a presentation which John Reimann, a socialist labor activist in the U.S. gave on November 4, 2017 in Los Angeles at a Left Coast Conference panel on solidarity with Syrian and Iranian progressives. Reimann is a retired carpenter, the former recording secretary of Carpenters Union Local 713 in Alameda County, CA. He was expelled from that union specifically for his role in the 1999 San Francisco Bay Area Carpenters' wildcat strike. Reimann travelled to Egypt in 2011 to participate in the Arab Spring. He produces the blog, *Oakland Socialist* (oaklandsocialist.com). He is also on the editorial board of *The North Star* (thenorthstar.info).

This presentation was originally published at the website of the *Alliance of Middle Eastern Socialists* (<https://www.allianceofmesocialists.org/u-s-socialist-labor-activist-speaks-solidarity-syrian-iranian-working-class/>).

* * * * *

Nowhere in the world is the crisis of capitalism – as well as the crisis of the working class – felt more intensely than in Syria. That crisis is felt all the way around the world, including in the United States, where it actually played a role in electing the most reactionary president this country has seen at least since the US Civil War. Therefore, the working class movement – no less socialists within that movement – cannot ignore that crisis in Syria. We must find a way to relate to the struggle against both the Assad regime and the Islamic State and similar forces. However, in order to do so, we have to start by understanding the state of affairs – the objective situation – in which we are working here.

Crisis of both US capitalist and working class

The mainstream of the US capitalist class has largely lost control over its own presidency. This represents the greatest crisis in US capitalism in many, many decades. However, we also have to recognize that the US working class is also in crisis: Now, when it is needed more than ever, the US working class barely even exists as an independent, cohesive force in society. Confusion reigns. That is expressed, for example, by the fact that it is estimated that about 30% of union members voted for Trump. Membership participation in the unions – the only mass organizations of the US working class – is at an extremely low level and alienation from the unions is massive. The union leadership is closer to the employers than ever since the pre-1930s, as expressed by one local union leader here in Oakland who openly said that we have no choice but to remain as “slaves to the financiers”. A local leader of the laborers' union even said that he could not say his union would oppose building Trump's wall on the border with Mexico since it means jobs for his members. And this was a Latino leader in a largely Latino union local!

Socialist Movement

This confusion within the US working class is part of the basis for the confusion within the US socialist movement. The great majority of that movement has adapted to the low level of activity within the unions by turning towards the “progressive” union bureaucrats instead of addressing the membership, even if that membership is not active yet. In doing so, they have lost sight of the entire premise for their own existence: That the liberation of the working class is the task of that class itself. Or, put another way, that the working class is the subject, not the object, of history.

Arab Spring and Global Rebellion Against Capitalist Attacks

Nowhere has recent history seen the potential of the working class more than in the Arab Spring, especially in Syria. There, they rose up against one of the most brutal dictatorships, undeterred by the bullets, the beatings and torture. They even started down the road towards building an alternative to Assad's capitalist state through the building of the Local Coordinating Committees. That heroism had a global effect; it was not a coincidence that within months it was followed by the Occupy movement here in the United States.

These two movements were part of a global rebellion that followed the economic crisis of 2007/2008. In that period, there was also the strike wave in South Africa, especially among the miners; a strike wave in China, and a couple of years later the election of Syriza in Greece. All of these were rebellions against the attacks of capitalism. However, it seems that the overwhelming majority saw their movements as a fight against the attacks themselves; that they were not fully conscious that what they were dealing with – neoliberal economic attacks and political repression – were simply symptoms of a system in crisis; that the real issue was capitalism itself. Thus, there was a tendency to deal with the symptoms more than the disease itself.

Foreign Policy: An Extension of Domestic Policy

As they say, foreign policy is simply the extension of domestic policy, and that is just as true for socialists as it is for capitalists. The confusion of much of the US socialist movement regarding the role of the US working class is even greater when it comes to international issues, and none more so than the situation in Syria. A whole series of left journalists, including Robert Fisk, Chris Hedges, Glen Greenwald and Noam Chomsky have to one degree or another swallowed the narrative that what is happening in Syria is a repeat of US imperialism's drive for “regime change” in Iraq. It's as if they aren't even reading the news. They don't see that the overwhelming majority of the intervention of US capitalism has been to *shore up* the

Assad regime.

If anybody has any doubt, they should read the joint statement that Presidents Trump and Putin issued on Nov. 11 after meeting together. In it they “expressed their satisfaction with successful U.S.-Russia enhanced de-confliction efforts.” They “agreed to maintain open military channels of communication between military professionals.” They both agreed that the struggle was against the Islamic State, and the Islamic State alone.

Hypocrisy

This confusion (at best) leads to all sorts of hypocrisy. Take, for example, the US bombing of Assad’s Shayrat air base, from which Assad flew his planes to drop sarin gas on Khan Sheikhoun. This attack was really for show. They let the Assad regime know about the attack in advance (through warning Assad’s sponsor, the Putin regime). Within 24 hours the air base was back in operation. Of course, the US workers movement, no less socialists, should oppose US military attacks anywhere in the world, including this one. But why was it that so many socialist groups fiercely denounced this attack when they ignored the US bombing of a mosque in Syria just a few weeks earlier? In that attack, after all, some 40 men, women and children were killed by US bombs. Why did so many socialists ignore that attack? And why is it that now these same “socialists” are totally silent about US bombings/war crimes in Raqqa and in Mosul? The only explanation is that those attacks have been carried out in support of the Assad regime and its Russian sponsors.

Cultural chauvinism

These same “socialists” are playing into the narrative that Arab people and Muslim people in general are incapable of fighting back, that they are incapable of doing anything more than being the helpless agents of the fascist Islamic State.

This cultural chauvinism of these “socialists” blinds them to such events as the recent “days of rage” in Syria where, even now, in the midst of all this horror, thousands of Syrians came out to protest against both the Assad regime and the Islamic State. In falling prey to this cultural chauvinism, “socialists” in the US make it impossible to actually learn from the Arab Spring.

Local Coordinating Committees

First and foremost is the question of what was the potential for the Local Coordinating Committees? The only way to really answer that question is through conversation with the Syrian revolutionaries who built them – a conversation that would be possible not only by relating to the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who are now spread throughout the world, but also through the internet. But it is impossible if we have any hint of support for Assad and his sponsors. How could those revolutionaries possibly trust people with that position? And how could those who either overtly or covertly support Assad & Co. even pretend to deal with the Syrian revolutionaries in not only a supportive but even in a respectful way? How could such a dialog be possible with those in the United

States and Europe who ignore the crimes against humanity of which Assad & Co. are guilty – the bombings of hospitals, residential neighborhoods and public markets, the use of sarin gas, the mass torture and mass murder and the beginnings of ethnic cleansing?

How can we develop a discussion around the role of the working class in history – not in the abstract but concretely, in relation to the potential of the LCC’s – if we ignore or even justify what is being done by enemies of the working class such as Assad, Putin and Rouhani?

War in new stage?

Meanwhile, with the military defeat of the Islamic State, it seems the war may be entering a new stage. There are reports that the Iranian regime is planning to build a military base in Syria and also is now planning to attack the Kurdish forces in Northern Syria. Once again, the Syrian people will be made to pay the price for this in terms of new bombings of their homes and neighborhoods. While there may be differences within the US capitalist class on the best strategy to pursue regarding their interests in Syria, on one thing they are all united (as are the other imperialist powers): That the Syrian people must be made to pay the price for this war. That they will pay the price in more hunger, more forced displacement, more bloodshed.

As the representatives of all the wings of the US capitalist class, the Democrats and the Republicans have no qualms about this. They include the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, first and foremost Tulsi Gabbard and her allies.

Russian Revolution Centennial

The world just passed the centennial of the Russian Revolution. That revolution shook the entire world and transformed it for good, even though it ultimately degenerated. It should serve not only as an inspiration, but also for the tremendous lessons it can teach, even today 100 years later. In a similar way, the Arab Spring was a beacon of hope for a short time. And there is a connection between these two revolutions; there are similar lessons to be learned from them.

For the moment, it seems that the Syrian revolution is in retreat. From here, some 7,000 miles away, it’s impossible to really know what remains of it. But if there is just one person – only one – in all of Syria who still maintains the original goals of the Arab Spring, then it is that one individual that socialists should support, and in doing so together learn the lessons of this heroic struggle.

That is an essential element in building a socialist movement that is truly independent of all wings of the US capitalist class and their hangers-on, a movement with real roots in the US working class.

More concretely, maybe socialists can start to build a campaign to support our comrades in that part of the world by taking up some specific cases of political prisoners in Syria and in Iran. That would have the benefit of helping build solidarity between the working class struggles in those two countries.

I think that is an idea that we should seriously consider.

Italy sends Soldiers to Niger – Drive the Imperialist Troops Out of Africa!

Joint Statement of the Economic Liberation Association (Zambia) and the International Secretariat of the RCIT, 9 January 2018

1. The Italian government has decided to deploy up to 470 troops to Niger. The official purpose is to “help tackle people-smuggling” as well as to “to combat terrorism in the Sahel”. According to Italy’s Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, parts of the 1,400 Italian troops now stationed in Iraq could be transferred to the Sahel region in West Africa.

2. The *Economic Liberation Association (Zambia)* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* strongly denounce this decision. In reality this is just another step of the European imperialist powers to expand their influence in Africa and to subjugate the African people. We consider it as utmost cynicism if the European Great Powers close their borders for refugees from Africa as they have plundered and enslaved the continent for centuries. We state that when they speak about “creating stability in the region”, they mean, in reality, to impose conditions in which the imperialist monopolies can safely exploit the massive raw materials of the regions while the African people remain living in misery.

3. We call for the expulsion of the Italian troops as

well as of the U.S., European, Russian, Chinese and all other imperialist military forces from Africa. Likewise we demand the immediate closure of all military bases of the Great Powers on African soil. We consider actions of resistance by popular forces in Africa against the imperialist troops and their local lackeys as legitimate and support them.

4. We confirm that the African people can only achieve freedom if the workers and poor peasants succeed in liberating the continent from the grip of imperialist powers, overthrow the capitalist class and open the road to a socialist future!

* *No to the deployment of Italian troops in Niger!*

* *Expell all imperialist troops (U.S., European, Russian, Chinese, etc.) from Africa!*

* *Immediate closure of all military bases of the Great Powers on African soil!*

* *Support the resistance by popular forces in Africa against the imperialist troops and their local lackeys!*

* *Long Live the Struggle against Imperialism! Forward to the United Socialist States of Africa! Aluta Continua!*

Solidarity with the Mass Protests in Zambia!

Joint Statement of ELA (Zambia), PACOR (Nigeria), PAM (Kenya) and RCIT, 16 January 2018

We, the undersigned organisations, express our solidarity with the popular protests against the PF government in Zambia.

The people are right to resist against the police which tries to displace the poor traders in Lusaka with brutal force under the pretext of handling a Cholera outbreak. It is not the poor who are responsible for the Cholera outbreak but the complete failure of the government’s health and social policy.

As our comrades of the *Economic Liberation Association (Zambia)* have pointed out, this failure is the result of capitalist nature of Zambia’s state and economy and the imperialist domination of the whole African continent.

We welcome all efforts of the Zambian workers and poor to organize their resistance by building committees of action in the neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, universities, etc. The masses must take the struggle in their own hand so that it can be misdirected by any established bourgeois opposition party.

The only road forward is to liberate Zambia and the African continent from super-exploitation and oppression by the imperialist Great Powers and their corporations (US, EU, China, Russia, Japan) as well as by the privileged settlers (usually white, Indian, Chinese). There can be no economic freedom and hence no real political independence as long as these blood suckers dominate the African people!

We are convinced that freedom and equality can only be

secured if the workers, poor peasants and youth combine the toppling of the reactionary government with the expulsion of the imperialist monopolies and the Great Powers and the expropriation of the ruling capitalist class. Only thus will they be able to create their own government which can open the road towards socialism.

* *Solidarity with the Zambian mass protests!*

* *Down with the corrupt und capitalist PF government!*

* *No political independence without economic freedom!*

* *Aluta Continua!*

Undersigned Organisations (in alphabetic order):

Economic Liberation Association (Zambia), <http://www.elazambia.org>

Pan African Consciousness Renaissance (Lagos, Nigeria), <https://m.facebook.com/pacrenaissance/?ref=bookmarks>

Pan African Movement – Kenyan Chapter

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Zambia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, México, Venezuela, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, Aotearoa / New Zealand, Germany, Britain and Austria), www.thecommunists.net



Class Warfare in Zambia: Overthrow the Rich and Greedy!

The Patriotic Front Government has reduced Zambia to bottom poverty!

By Mainda Simataa | ELA General Secretary | Lusaka Zambia | 22 December 2017

Zambian's acute poverty levels have provided a fertile soil for class warfare – a struggle between two sections of the same society, but with opposing interests: one minority seeking power and ever higher profits for itself, and the other majority only seeking for better wages so that they can afford bread and water for their families! In a word, the Zambian society is divided between the rulers and the ruled, the employers and employees, the have's and have-nots, the rich and the poor, and the oppressed and oppressor!

The year 2017 has, by any measure, been a very bad year for Zambia's majority poor who's poverty levels stand at over 75% in urban areas, and over 90% in rural areas. As more and more Zambians continue to plummet to bottom poverty, all foreign exploiters and investors, not forgetting the ruling political elites and the middle-class intellectual bureaucracy that upholds their unjust system of capitalist exploitation, continue to do very well while the rest of the population continues to go to hell as they wallow in abject poverty!

Zambia has therefore become an exceedingly polarized class society – with extreme levels of inequality playing in favour of a tiny but powerful minority class of no more than 5% of the 16.4 million population of Zambians. This minority class of exploiters and its aides consists of a corrupt and despotic political ruling class, a rich section of foreigners/foreign investors; and to buttress and support this whole system of exploitation, we have a section of high-ranking officials in the security and intelligence wings, regime-friendly business men, and a network of regime-functionaries, intellectuals, pro-regime experts, and prostituted executives in both the public and private sectors.

The Political Ruling Class – Servants of the Capitalist Class, Parasites of the Poor!

The battle-line of the current and future struggles of the oppressed masses in Zambia, like in many African countries, thus takes on a class character. The class warfare that our poor and oppressed must wage is against a small but powerful and influential group of people at the very top of the social structure – a small group that will stop at nothing, and do anything to maintain the status quo by holding onto political power, class privileges, and position, by suppressing and oppressing the majority.

This small capitalist exploiting class is led and protected by a cabal of political elites who can be described as nothing less than parasites of the poor masses. These political mercenaries have hijacked the people's power for themselves as a political class; and they use their positions of power to favour capitalist exploiters, and to crash all dissent and opposition to their tyranny. This ruling class further enjoys all the advantages of society at the expense of the poor masses who's tax monies they use to maintain their lives of luxury and opulence. These politicians once elected, become millionaires and lords over-night – lords over the land and its people. In one year, they enjoy and accumulate huge salaries and benefits which even a civil servant like a teacher cannot earn after 35 years of sweat and toil! The mid-term gratuity paid to an elected politician for serving only 2 and half-years, is more than the pension of an ordinary civil servant or miner who has toiled for over 35 years!

It is always laughable, and a mockery to the poor to hear politicians supporting the cut on subsidies for food, fuel and farming inputs for our peasant farmers. It is downright hypocritical for them to denounce the merits of So-

NEW RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM!

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

Adopted at the 2nd World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017

Introduction * Foreign Exploiters – Out of Africa! * The Wealth to Those Who Create It! Economic Freedom Now! * Down with the Capitalist Dictatorships and Corrupt Pseudo-Democracies! * Organize the Workers and Oppressed for the Mass Struggle! * For a Government of Workers and Poor Peasants! For a Socialist Revolution! * For Pan-African Unity! For the United Socialist States of Africa! * For a United Front of Struggle! Overcome the Crisis of Leadership – Build a Revolutionary Party Nationally and Internationally! * Appendix

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format



cialism and a welfare state as being too costly and impractical when in fact, the political ruling class is the biggest cost and drain on tax-payers money. From the first day they are elected and appointed into office as Member's of parliament and Ministers, they are entitled to free things for doing nothing but dozing in parliament, or doing the 'hard work' of thinking and talking!

This heavily subsidized parasitic ruling class enjoys free housing, free food, free vehicles, free fuel, free talk-time, hefty entertainment allowances every Friday of the week, super salaries every month of the year, and a whooping mid-term gratuity after 2 and half years in office! In addition they and their families enjoy free education allowances, and free quality healthcare; all of which can be accessed from home or abroad if they so wish. Yet these are the same hypocrites who preach day and night that people shouldn't expect free services and handouts from the very government that lives off the people's taxes! It is this political class that the masses must confront first, and dislodge from power first, and fast! Afterwards, the removal and punishment of the other capitalist parasites can follow without any one to protect them!

The Treacherous Middle-men and Managers of the Political Class

The oppressive Political and capitalist business class are a very insignificant number compared to the millions of Zambians they suppress. Their power and hold on society is only maintained by their puppet underlings – the high-ranking bureaucrats both in the public and private sectors. These underlings consist mostly of highly 'educated', highly paid, but morally bankrupt people! They form a small army of well bribed experts to manage the whole apparatus of oppression on which the politicians and investor exploiters rely.

Naturally, it follows that these middle-classes, who are neither super-rich or super-poor, harbor the ambitions of joining the rich classes through promotion, or other favors they obtain. It is these middle class who are the speaking-mob and promoters of the exploiters ideas! These middle-class functionaries of the elites and capitalists are well-fed and well-paid. Most of them have never felt the pinch of poverty in their lifetime because they come from well-to-do family backgrounds. Therefore, they care nothing for the agonies of the poor, but only speak fleetingly and superficially about the poor. This middle-men and middle-women class have every basic need of life catered for by the capitalist structure they sell themselves to. They have good housing, guaranteed social security for themselves and their children, including even the unborn children! They can afford private and expensive education and healthcare for themselves – services which are beyond the reach of the majority. From where they stand, poverty is always the fault of the poor people, not the exploiting capitalist companies and politicians who have systematically, robbed and deprived the masses of all opportunity to ever catch up with them. Hence, any program which is meant at lifting the welfare of the millions below them, and threatens to destabilize or undermine their comforts and position in society, is always opposed ferociously as a program that encourages laziness, instead of encouraging initiative and hard work from the poor.

The Poor Working Class must Struggle for a Welfare State, by Continuing Class Warfare

Having analysed the capitalist social structure and the mental character of its functionaries, supporters and sympathizers, we must endeavor to wage a relentless struggle against all these classes who are opposed to the noble goals of the ordinary millions in our country. We must never let the rich tell us what is good, or not good for the majority poor in our country. We must never let people who have never been poor for a day in their lives to lecture us on the best way to alleviate poverty. We must never allow privileged people who have millions to pay for expensive healthcare, and have never felt the sorrow of losing a loved one due to lack of money for medicine and treatment, to talk us out of the importance of a free healthcare system for all.

We must never let people who are guaranteed jobs because of connections, and have never felt the poverty and pain of being unemployed, to talk us out of the right to employment and better wages for all. We must never let people who have built many mansions from stolen money, to talk us out of the need for an affordable public housing program that will lift millions out of the congested compounds and ghettos, into decent homes which they can own.

Indeed the struggles of the poor and oppressed classes of Zambia are many, but with unity and purpose, and by knowing the selfish interests and mentality of the few who are standing in our way, we can overcome and sweep all these enemies of progress aside! We must identify ourselves and our class struggle not only by the colour of our skin and nationality, but more importantly, we must identify ourselves based on the common economic concerns and social challenges we share. We must be aware from the start that not every Zambian is with us; quite a good number are traitors working for and eating with our enemies, and we must treat them accordingly.

Those who are naturally likely to be with us are those with nothing much to lose, but with much to gain. These are the Zambians who suffer from unemployment and the exploitation of low wages; they are those who cannot afford to provide education and healthcare for themselves and their families; they are those who are too poor to secure their own futures, or that of their children; they are those who have been cheated and left out in the cold, those who are aggrieved, frustrated and dissatisfied by the corrupt regime of politicians and their foreign partners who are robbing and raping us everyday. The people we can count on are the poor and pure of heart – not those who just read about poverty, or watch it on TV. We cannot count on experts of poverty who meet to discuss poverty in hotels over bottles of champagne, or research about poverty in university halls and endless workshops. No, we need those who feel the gross injustices and grotesque inequalities of our capitalist society at a personal or family level, and are able to appreciate the merits of changing the political and economic system that will work for the many, and not the few – a Socialist system governed and controlled by the producers of wealth – the workers!

Forward with the Socialist Revolution!

All Power to those who work the lands and factories!

The Workers and Oppressed shall Govern!

Zambia Breaking News: State's Cholera Fight Backfires

Oppressed Traders/Residents Run Riot, Block Roads, Chinese Truck Set Ablaze, Choppies Supermarket Looted, Military in Door-to-door Search!!!

By Mainda Simataa | ELA General Secretary on Kanyama Riots | Lusaka Zambia | 12 January 2018

Current Situation!

The government had it coming, but they wouldn't listen! Result today? One female police officer reportedly beaten to death by a rioting mob after being dragged out of a speeding getaway Police Land Cruiser; one Soldier seriously injured by stone-throwers, a South-African Boer-owned supermarket looted, a Chinese-donated garbage collection truck set in flames, an disclosed number Kanyama compound residents (mostly women traders) bleeding and injured, roads blocked with burning tires, smoke and tear-gas everywhere, and a military response team crashing down door-to-door, beating innocents, in search of looted items! These are the scenes of chaos and confrontation characterizing what was, only a week ago, a bustling hive of trade (SOWETO MARKET). But today it is a scene of chaos and carnage, and all because a corrupt, uncaring, and overzealous Patriotic Front (PF) government went about handling a Cholera outbreak the wrong way – as if it were caused by traders whose only crime is to try and earn a living on the streets, since they have no other alternative in a country of 85% unemployment rate, and 90% poverty levels! The PF has literally failed in planning and implementation of anything!

A joint team of Zambia Police and Zambia Army at-

tempted to displace traders from their temporary trading grounds, and this, for the second time this week, met an organized resistance!!! The people had been pushed too far, they made a stand, and a riot reminiscent of the 1991 riots that brought down the dictatorial regime of UNIP ensued.

Ever since the government embarked on their chaotic cholera clean-up; or a displace and destroy mission of street vendors and other traders to be precise; the PF has paid no heed to the social and economic ramifications that have befallen the poorest of the poor – ordinary men and women who make a living from the streets and open markets in Lusaka which the state has smashed with evil pride and satisfaction! Hunger has since besieged many homes, and the masses who have no voice, are starving in silence...until this morning when they reached a breaking point!

It Was Bound to Happen!

From the moment the Patriotic Front (PF) government declared a bizarre war on Cholera, and decided to launch a military-led clean-up campaign by forcibly displacing all street vendors and traders operating in designated mar-

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of Organized Struggle for Bolshevism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE*. The book's subtitle is: *Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism*. The book is in English-language. It contains four chapters on 148 pages and includes 42 pictures. 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.

A few months ago, our movement commemorated its 25th anniversary. In the summer of 1989 our predecessor organization, the League for a Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI) was founded as a democratic-centralist international tendency based on an elaborated program. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) continues the revolutionary tradition of the LRCI. Below we give an overview of our history, an evaluation of its achievements as well as mistakes, and a summary of the lessons for the struggles ahead. This book summarizes our theoretical and practical experience of the past

25 years.

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Bolshevik- Communists' theoretical conception of the role of the revolutionary party and its relation to the working class. In Chapter II we elaborate on the essential characteristics of revolutionary party respective of the pre-party organization. In Chapter III we deal with the history of our movement – the RCIT and its predecessor organization. Finally, in Chapter IV we outline the main lessons of our 25 years of organized struggle for building a Bolshevik party and their meaning for our future work.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/rcit-party-building/> ■

Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

kets in and around the Capital's (Lusaka) Central Business District – CBD; no contingency or social compensation plan was put in place to cushion the social and economic impact that was bound to afflict the traders, and destabilize the city's economy in general!

The poor men and women who depend on trading in and around city areas have been pushed too far; for over a week, they have had nothing to eat, no money in their pockets, and most important of all, no alternative place to trade! For the past one week since the brutal enforcement of the statutory instrument to curb the spread of Cholera, government had been courting trouble by deploying military personnel who have been in the business of smashing make-shift stalls, and preventing the poor women and traders from continuing their business even inside their own compounds! The people have suffered, bread-winners, single mothers, widows, child-led households, are without means to feed themselves.

Instead of finding suitable and timely alternatives to allow the poor traders to continue with their business, what we have seen is a government capitalization on tragedy! While our poor people have been starving, these cholera crusaders with fat government jobs are getting fatter and richer with allowances emanating from the Cholera crisis! They have become 'cholera contractors', tragedy entrepreneurs getting richer from awarding themselves contracts to supply tissue, chlorine, beddings, mattresses, medicines, sanitizers, garbage collection, and whatever else is being cashed out from the 600 million US dollars that have been donated and/or diverted from other budgeted-for

departments, leaving an already diseased, hungry and angry population with an additional debt-burden!

The corruption and cannibalization of Zambia's public resources by the khakistocratic and kleptomaniac PF regime knows no boundaries! The PF must go, and the sooner the better! Because to wait until 2021 for a government that is looting even in times of crisis, is a clear sign that they will be nothing left to build on, or to start with when they depart government in 2021, and as we all know, their departure is now a sure fact!!!

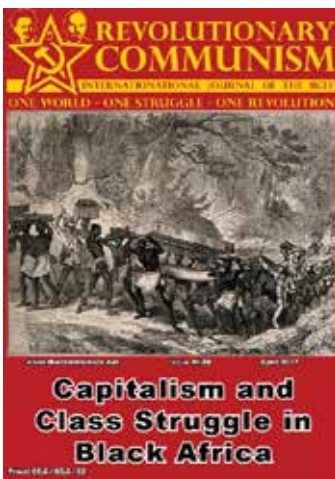
The PF Looters Must be Tried and Jailed!

For justice to prevail, whenever that may be, all well-meaning Zambians must insist that whichever political Party assumes power in 2021, or earlier, must immediately arrest all the perpetrators of these financial and social crimes which our people have been saddled with for far too long! We are not living life in Zambia, we are merely surviving and holding onto dear life – day by day! Our country is now under siege from local political looters and foreign exploiters who are capitalizing on crisis to take over trading spaces and lands were our own people have been displaced from in the name of fighting Cholera! This crisis serves and stands to profit those with power, and leave the rest of us in shambles!

The Struggle Continues!

Down with the PF regime!

Down with all the Capitalist Exploiters!



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

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*An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression
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Zambian Street Vendors Clash With Police Again – Rioting is the Language of the Voiceless!!!

By Mainda Simataa | ELA General Secretary | 16 January, 2018 | Lusaka Zambia

Those Who Condemn Rioters but Fail to Condemn those who Cause pre-conditions for Riots – namely Poverty, are nothing but Hypocrites!

Lusaka's Central Business District (CBD) was again the scene of chaos and pandemonium as thousands of displaced, frustrated and forgotten street vendors fought running battles with Police. Barely 48 hours have elapsed since the misruling PF (Patriotic Front) governments mindless crack-down on street vendors under the pretext of fighting a mild and seasonal outbreak of Cholera gave rise to the first fiery riot in recent times. This crack-down backfired and broke out into outright violent protests in Kanyama compound (a heavily populated slum settlement just a stone throwaway from the CBD) which left several injured, and several properties looted and damaged!

Yesterday, 15th January, the smell of teargas and blaring police sirens engulfed and characterized the entire CBD when displaced and suffering street vendors whose patience has worn thin with the misgovernance of the PF, decided to mount a daring march on State House, the official seat and homestead of the embattled, unwanted and increasingly isolated and despotic Zambian President, Edgar Lungu. But of course, they did not get far before Lungu's oppressive state apparatus kicked-into swift action in the form of the militarized Zambia Police (ZP) which encircled the protesters, and brutally dispersed them with teargas, water-cannons and rubber-truncheons!

Stifling the Voice of the Oppressed – Why the Protests?

And what was the crime of the protesters; and what was the aim of their intended protest walk to state house? The only crime and cry of the thousands of protesters is that their cries have gone unheard and unheeded! They are a leaderless, poor and powerless lot – victims of a politically and economically dysfunctional regime that cares only for a few people at the top of society, and forgets about the millions of poor at the bottom; people who because of the insane levels of unemployment, inequality and poverty in Zambia, have no choice but to resort to unconventional and dehumanizing means of survival to earn their daily family bread – by street vending, or whatever means necessary!

The oppressed vendors; majority of whom are women – widows and single mothers, intended to march on state house not to overthrow the President or challenge his stolen authority, but to throw themselves at his feet, at his mercy, to beg him to give them an alternative proper place for trade. They were going to ask him not for jobs – which don't exist anyway, but for an audience to hear their cries – cries of where their next meal will come from, concerns about money for rent and school fees for their children who have just passed, and concerns about the dire effects of the ongoing trade embargo against their class.

This was a peaceful crowd of oppressed vendors with a

Books of the RCIT

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 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*



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

legitimate cause, a moral cause. It was a peaceful procession of an agitated, but nonetheless peaceful crowd willing to cooperate and negotiate with a totalitarian state; just so they could afford bread and water for their families by being allocated some trading space and peace. But as they would soon learn, their pretentious humble leader, just like all dictators from time immemorial, have no heart and certainly no ears to listen to the plight of the poor! The Lungu PF regime has shown itself to be in a self-destructing mode, where all that matters for them is to please its foreign investors, the Chinese, Saudi's, Israeli's etc. and to promote its own business interests at the expense of the vast poor majority of Zambians, many of whom voted them into power; poor people who make their living from odd jobs and odd businesses on the streets and in the congested compounds!

A Tyrannical Regime focused on Eradicating Cholera instead of Poverty

The Lungu regime, as everybody blessed with common sense and a healthy brain would know, is a regime that has come to lie, destroy and to kill. And while they economically massacre the masses while they engage in double-tongued rhetoric about being a pro-poor government, their actions are purely draconian and pro-rich. The PF regime will, and has used every pretext to push people off the poverty line and into the abyss of abject poverty! In this case Cholera has been used by the PF to reverse its free street vending policy, a policy reversal which clears the way for high-end stores and shopping malls to take the business and space for vendors! But this has created an inevitable social blow-back; the people are protesting now, the masses are getting more agitated and bolder every day, and so far, two riots have broken out, and more cannot be ruled out as long as the conditions which cause people to riot, namely poverty and injustice, continue to exist!

Betrayal of the Masses by the Stupid and Arrogant Middle Class

It seems that every dictator, no matter how brutal, always has his loyal allies and lap-dogs. In Zambia, Lungu's misplaced anti-cholera rhetoric is supported and buttressed by some superfluous and stupid comments emanating from sections of the petty-bourgeoisie middle class. These miseducated folks, these financial leeches and economic parasites of the lower classes who because they live well and eat well, have a guaranteed job and income at the end of every month, and do not live in the ghettos and slum conditions were the majority of Zambian lives; have branded their dictators war on Cholera as progressive! What, a war that has devastated the economic lives of the majority poor who produce their food, carry away their trash, and clean their office and home toilets so that they can stay happy and disease-free is progressive? The treachery of the middle-class in Zambia on the poor has reached unforgivable levels, and those who support an evil and corrupt regime must, and will go down with the corrupt regime. The nation has been divided in two Zambias: one for the minority haves, and the other for the majority have-nots. It is up to the have-nots to assert the force of numbers and fight to overthrow and punish an arrogant minority!

So long as Poverty is ignored, Riots will Spring up Everywhere!

Much of the criticism on and against the poor vendors' negative attitude, and sometimes violent resistance towards authorities is but a reflection and reaction to the oppressive nature of a regime that does not care, but only for itself and its upper and middle-class. Undue and misinformed criticism has come from the rank and file of well-to-do people who have never gone a day hungry in their lives, or have forgotten what its like to go hungry. These are people who do not know what its like to be brilliant but denied an education opportunity for progress in life on the grounds that one has no money; these are people who have never felt the agony of a mother who's child is denied treatment on grounds that she's poor; these are people who do not know the indignity of living in a slum next to an open stinking pit latrine; these are people who do not know the humiliation of an entire family that squats in a single room without a window and with a leaking roof! They do not know the poverty of a family where mothers are either street vendors or servant-slaves and dishwashers for wealthy foreigners and an arrogant black middle class. Where fathers are bootless security guards, street hustlers, or slave workmen and gate-men for Chinese, Indians and Lebanese in a Land which our fathers are supposed to have concurred and won freedom for, 53 years ago!

The Struggle Continues!

But alas, our collective plight has worsened! The former British colonizer has returned through the backdoor, with his many foreign relatives and exploiting partners; they have come through the window, and they have made spineless corrupt servants out of our leaders; and made slaves out of the innocent, beguiled, belabored, and ultimately betrayed masses! Our freedom is nothing but the freedom to hunger, the freedom to be without land and without jobs, without decent means of survival. Only another politically and economically liberating revolution can save us from utter domination, humiliation, and the inevitable extinction of our race and black nation if we remain unconcerned, silent and indifferent!

The Struggle must continue at all costs!

*Forward with the Zambian and Socialist Revolution!

*For a Land free of Capitalist Dictators and Foreign Puppets!

*For a Land under the Control of its own People!

The author of this article is a Zambian Revolutionary, Socialist Leader of the ELA Zambia, Central Committee member of the World Pan-Africanist Movement, and RCIT Africa Section



Liberia has gone to the Dogs

Footballer George Weah will be the Ultimate American Puppet President!!!

By Mainda Simataa | ELA General Secretary | 28 December 2017 | Lusaka Zambia

Why Are Africans Good at Electing and Celebrating Bad Leaders?

From the celebration of Mnangagwa as Zimbabwe's *white-farmers President*, to the raucous ululating of Ramaphosa as ANC Leader and 2018 *white-monopoly candidate*, and now the praise heaped on George Weah as new **Liberian President and American puppet**; one wonders where and when this mass madness and celebration of the inept, corrupt and mediocre leaders will end?

Weah therefore comes as no surprise; for in Africa, you can always count on the masses to choose unwisely! It is therefore criminal and utterly stupid of the Liberian people to celebrate the election of Weah – a tired and retired footballer with a longing for the spotlight; and think that somehow or other, Weah will succeed were Sirleaf Johnson, a Harvard trained Economist, and American corrupted puppet failed!

The election of George Weah as Liberia's 25th President is a mistake and tragedy for a nation that is yet to recover from the devastating effects of American sponsored political and economic instability! This popular choice of Weah begs the question; why are Africans good at electing bad leaders? Why do they have such a penchant and knack for the inept, mediocre and corrupt? Liberia has gone to the dogs with Weah. Liberia needed a strong-willed man who would stand up to the United States's rubber and resource-imperialism and say no more interference in my country! But what does the man from AC Milan know about America's intrigues and long-standing interference in Liberia's political affairs? The election of Weah makes very sad reading indeed, it opens another dark chapter in the life of that sorry nation of American slaves! Weah will certainly fit into the American Jigsaw puzzle of power as a political pawn, and not King of Liberia, which is what he should be, but is not, nor will ever be! Weah will be remembered as a big mistake!

The irresponsible and foolish choice of the Liberian masses reminds us of the lamentations of Kenyan born Pan-Af-

ricanist and Professor PLO Lumumba. Time and again, he likens African democracy to the analogy of goats electing hyenas to take care of them, and when the goats are consumed by the hyenas, they wonder why? Indeed, how and why should a man whose only fame and claim to the highest office of the land of Liberia be that he is richer than most Liberians, and that he was a great popular footballer enjoying life in Europe while his country was at war with itself? Where has this cheap and dangerous unthinking populist approach to serious matters of State come from? Why would the people of Liberia elect an entertainer whose football skills count for nothing in the political field to lead them?

Indeed, it is tragically true, that President elect, 'Chicken' George is the first athlete to ever become president on the African continent because, in many African countries, voters, despite being poorly politically educated, at least have the common sense to know that a leader on the football field is a hopeless choice for any political appointment. This is because politics is the most dynamic, intricate and difficult task of any nation, especially in these globalization times where capitalist nations and corporations are busy planting spineless leaders who can sell off African resources for next to nothing!

In Zambia, Footballers Place is on the Football Field, not Political Office!

In Zambia, the furthest and highest office our footballing hero, Kalusha Bwalya, 1989 Africa footballer of the year ever got to hold was the office of National team coach. Thereafter, he was elected as Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President. We knew he was good on the ball, but not off the ball. And so society restricted him to areas where he could serve the country well, and in 2012, he delivered the prestigious AFCON Africa Cup to Zambia for the first time! But never have we ever dreamed that he should vie for Republican Presidency one day. Our na-

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)

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

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tional problems are too numerous and too complex that a footballer wouldn't know what to do about the growing domination and impunity of the Chinese, Indians, whites and Lebanese in our country!

Every man must know his limits, his purpose, and certainly, a footballers must know where he best fits in, and he must be kept in his place, lest he make a mess of things, as George Weah will surely do when he realizes Liberia takes its orders from the White House in Washington DC. And given that Washington now has a mad man in the White House, Weah will be a hopeless match for Trump, and will serve as Trumps ball boy and poster boy of American capitalism in Africa. And as soon as he realizes that Liberia is nothing without American dead-aid, he will swallow every word and order he is told, and that is when he will need his dribbling skills on the political field of play, when the Liberian people realize that they have been well and truly dribbled by a man who knows not how Liberia can get out of its economic quagmire!

A Lesson on Choice of Leaders from Plato, Who is the Captain of the Ship?

Plato, in his groundbreaking and immortal postulation of the Republic, once asked a fundamental question which today's African voter must pay critical attention to, if we are to avoid this present scourge of Africa being misled by foreign-anointed and controlled puppet leaders. The question still stands today as it did 3000 years ago: *given the analogy that a nation is a ship sailing on high tempestuous sea's, who would we, the citizens or passengers aboard that ship want as our captain? Would we pick any man aboard the ship on the basis of his stardom or popularity as an entertainer or some other trade unrelated to sailing; or would we search for a man who is trained and*

skilled in the art of navigation on the high seas? Logically, we would definitely chose and pick the man knowledgeable and capable of executing the task of ship captain! Why, because we instinctively know that our hopes of arriving at our destiny in one peace depends on the caliber of the man in whom we have entrusted our fate!

Let us use our common sense as voters, let us use and not abuse our votes. We can only assure our own safety, freedom and economic prosperity as Africans, by ensuring that the leader of the ship, or the Republic, is a trained and tested seaman; not a populist joker or opportunistic character like Weah who because he had the name and the money decided to try his luck in politics, and won! When we are sick we seek the doctor, when we want bread we seek the baker, when we need fish, the fisherman provides, so why should it be that when we seek a national leader we turn to a man who spent almost his entire life chasing a ball? What skills can one transfer from the football field to the political field?

We Socialists, Pan-Africans, and Progressive forces submit that George Weah should be the first and last African footballer/athlete/entertainer to disgrace our revolutionary politics and bring the African struggle into contempt and ridicule. We love and honour our football legends on the playing field, they amaze and entertain us. But we also know that Political leaders and legends are never born on the football field, they are born and bred from long years of political struggle!

*No More Jokers and Entertainers in African Politics!

*No More Foreign anointed and appointed Political Puppets for President!

*The African Revolution must be led by men from the ranks of the Oppressed!

*Forward with the freedom and Unity of all Africa!

Books 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.

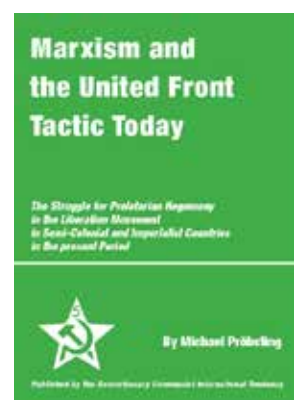
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



Austria: More than 50,000 People March against the Right-Wing Government!

Report from the Demonstration on 13.01.2018 in Vienna, RKO LIBERATION (Austrian Section of the RCIT)

A historic demonstration took place on 13 January in Vienna: despite cold and rainy weather more than 50,000 people marched against the coalition government of the conservative party ÖVP and the right-wing populist FPÖ and its racist and neo-liberal policy.

Left-wing organizations, trade unions, anti-racist initiatives, student groups had successfully mobilized for this huge demonstration.

A recent announcement by the new interior minister Herbert Kickl to “concentrate” refugees into camps, provoking association with the notorious concentration camps of the Nazis, has demonstrated once more the utterly reactionary character of the new government.

The *Revolutionary Communist Organization LIBERATION* (Austrian Section of the RCIT) participated in the demonstration with a big, multi-national and militant contingent (see pictures below). We also successfully sold our new paper. We emphasized the necessity to organize a consistent struggle against capitalist exploitation and racism. We called for the mass organizations of the workers move-

ment to launch an indefinite general strike to bring down the government.

Unfortunately some of the reformist and left-liberal organizers utilized the demonstration to appeal to the imperialist European Union to boycott the Austrian government. We reject such idiotic appeals. Both Austria as well as the European Union are reactionary, racist and imperialist institutions. The struggle against capitalist exploitation and racist oppression of migrants can not be conducted *in alliance* with such capitalist and racist institutions but only in *consistent opposition against both!*

The Austrian section of the RCIT views this demonstration as a successful starting point to build a strong mass movement against the right-wing government and to organize the most advanced and militant activists in a revolutionary organization!

View pictures of the demonstration here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/mass-demonstration-against-austrian-right-wing-government-13-1-2018/>



Activists of the Austrian RCIT Section and Migrants demonstrate together in a joint contingent against Racism

Carillion and the Crisis of British Capitalism

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 23.1.2018

Carillion, the second biggest construction company, went into voluntary liquidation on 16th January 2018 with debts of over 2.2 billion pounds. It has over 800 million in pension liabilities alone.

Carillion was part of the major infrastructure in Britain. It was involved in over 450 public sector contracts. Since the major privatisation under successive Labour and Tory governments it was heavily involved in the public sector. Its involvement included work on prisons, schools, hospitals libraries and road building. It employed over 20,000 workers in Britain and 23,000 abroad with contracts in Canada and the Middle East. The collapse of Carillion is a blow for Britain's ruling class as well as its interests abroad.

The Guardian reported: *"Carillion, which managed hundreds of public sector projects and vital public services, collapsed into liquidation after last-ditch rescue talks failed, with a team from accountancy firm PwC drafted in to help manage the process. Carillion relies on major contracts, some of which have proved much less lucrative than it thought. Earlier this year it slashed the value of them by £845m, of which £375m related to major public-private partnerships (PPPs) such as Royal Liverpool University hospital. As its contracts underperformed, its debts soared to £900m. The company needed a £300m cash injection, but the banks that lent it money refused to put more in."* (The Guardian: Fears fallout from Carillion collapse will spread to other companies, 15 January 2018)

The development of PFI (Public Finance Initiative) started by the Blair Governments of 1997 and 2005 and continued by their Tory successors meant that the Public sector once in the state's hands reverted to private companies like Carillion. The stench of corruption has shown that many of these private companies by speculation and the destruction of basic social assets like hospitals and schools

were used by hedge fund speculators to destroy what was left of these assets. It has been reported that thousands of pounds of bonuses have been paid secretly to directors of the company with massive pay outs. Meanwhile thousands of workers face dismissal and the sack while the bosses continue to make money out of a major asset.

The inherent crisis of British capitalism is for all to see. Behind this lies, as Marx already foresaw, the tendency of the rate of profit to fall. Capitalism is in deep crisis and it requires a revolutionary solution to the problem.

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following transitional demands to unite the working class in a struggle against social inequality and the stench of corruption that surrounds the bosses in Carillion.

** Cancel all debts and cancel all PFI contracts!*

** Nationalise all social assets currently under private hands (including Carillion), which have been privatised and outsourced to private companies without compensation and under workers control.*

** For a Sliding scale of wages!*

** Call on the leaders of Unite, the GMB and PCS in Carillion to organize strikes and occupations where dismissals or redundancies are threatened against the workforce!*

** People assemblies to be built in every area to organise and support any form of strikes or occupations that take place!*

** Call on Jeremy Corbyn and the TUC to organise and lead an indefinite general strike to bring down this weak and discredited May Tory government.*

** For a Workers Government.*

We call on anyone who supports our programme to join the RCIT in BRITAIN as the first step in building a Revolutionary Party as part of the Fifth International World party of the Socialist Revolution

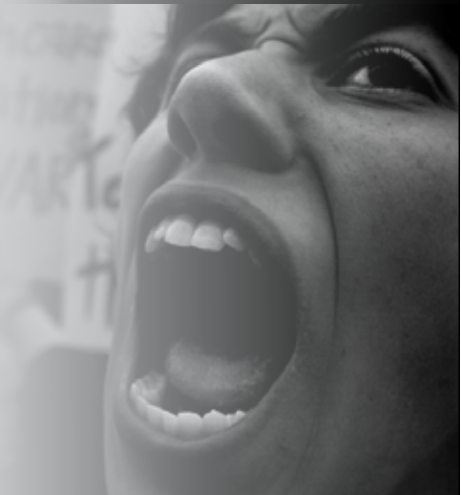
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*Written by Michael Pröbsting
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What the RCIT Stands for

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is a fighting organisation for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in various countries. The working class is the class of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labour 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, exploitation, are part of everyday life under capitalism as are the national oppression of migrants and nations 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 she is the only class that has nothing to lose but their chains.

The revolution can not proceed peacefully because never before has a ruling class voluntarily surrendered their power. The road to liberation includes necessarily the armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasant republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in rank and file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods and schools – in councils. These councils elect and control the government and all other authorities and can always replace them.

Real socialism and communism has nothing to do with the so-called "real existing socialism" in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba or Eastern Europe. In these countries, a bureaucracy dominated and oppressed the proletariat.

The RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of workers and the oppressed. We combine this with a perspective of the overthrow of capitalism.

We work inside the trade unions and advocate class struggle, socialism and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy. This bureaucracy is a layer which is connected with the state and capital via jobs and privileges. It is far from the interests and

living circumstances of the members. This bureaucracy's basis rests mainly on the top, privileged layers of the working class - the workers' aristocracy. The struggle for the liberation of the working class must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their upper strata.

The RCIT strives for unity in action with other organizations. However, we are aware that the policy of social democracy and the pseudo-revolutionary groups is dangerous and they ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class.

We 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. We fight 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.

In a war between imperialist states (e.g. U.S., China, EU, Russia, Japan) we take a revolutionary defeatist position, i.e. we don't support neither side and advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class. In a war between an imperialist power (or its stooge) and a semi-colonial country we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed country.

The struggle against national and social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) must be led by the working class. We fight for revolutionary movements of the oppressed (women, youth, migrants etc.) based on the working class. We oppose the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism etc.) and strive to replace them by a revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class win. The construction of such a party and the conduct of a successful revolution as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky in Russia are a model for the revolutionary parties and revolutions also in the 21 Century.

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

