



www.thecommunists.net

Issue Nr.88

December 2018

U.S./Mexico: Open the Border for the Migrant Caravans!

- * War between Russia and Ukraine?
- * Israel attacks Gaza again
- * Zionists Praise Europe's Racist Parties
- * Brazil: Scandalous Electoral Fraud
- * Power Struggle in Sri Lanka
- * Tsunami in Indonesia and Widodo
- * China: A Paradise for Billionaires
- * Global Super-Rich Get Even Richer
- * Nigeria: Down With China's Loan!
- * New RCIT Section in Nigeria

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 88, December 2018

Russia / Ukraine: Military Escalation at the Kerch Strait	p.3
Britain: No to the Anti-Russian Hysteria and Chauvinism!	p.5
UK: Unity March Against Racism and Fascism	p.6
Gaza: The Day after the Cease Fire	p.7
Gaza: Israel is Responsible for the New Deaths!	p.8
Report from a Protest Rally in Haifa (Israel / Occupied Palestine)	p.9
A Zionist Rabbi Praises Europe's Right-Wing Racist Parties as Friends of Israel	p.10
Central America / Mexico / U.S.: Solidarity with the Migrants' Caravan!	p.11
Brazil: Scandalous Electoral Fraud Opens the Path to Return of a New Military Regime	p.12
Sri Lanka: Power Struggle Within the Ruling Class Threatens Democratic Rights!	p.14
The Tsunami in Indonesia and the Widodo Government	p.16
China: A Paradise for Billionaires	p.18
The Global Super-Rich Get Even Richer	p.21
Nigeria: Down With China's Loan And Currency Swap	p.23
ANSA kicks against fee increment in LAUTECH	p.24
Forward in Building the Revolutionary Party in Nigeria!	p.25
For Socialist Revolution in Nigeria and on the African Continent!	p.26
RCIT: What We Stand For	p.23

Source of picture on the cover: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rewildered/23100583773>

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Britain, Germany, and Austria. Furthermore, the RCIT has fraternal relations with the *Alkebulan School of Black Studies* (Kenya), the *Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance* (Nigeria), *Courant des Jeunes Penseurs Congolais* (Democratic Republic of Congo), the *Marxist Group 'Class Politics'* (Russia) and *Smif Savaşı* (Turkey).

www.thecommunists.net - rcit@thecommunists.net
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314

Russia / Ukraine: Military Escalation at the Kerch Strait

Down with the Reactionary Warmongering on Both Sides!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency and Marxist Group "Class Politics" (Russia), 28.11.2018

1. Tensions between Russia and the Ukraine have substantially escalated after clashes in the Kerch Strait on 25 November. Russian forces fired on three Ukrainian warships, wounding three crew members before seizing the vessels along with a Ukrainian Navy tugboat. 24 Ukrainian sailors were taken captive after the gunfight. Russian navy had previously blocked the Kerch Strait to stop ships from passing from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov.

2. Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko has already declared the general mobilization of the country's armed forces on 26 November. On his request, the Ukrainian parliament approved on the same day the declaration of martial law for 30 days on territories bounded with Russian borders. This measure will restrict civil liberties and give state institutions greater power. This could help Poroshenko ahead of a presidential election in four months time which polls indicate he would lose.

3. The Sea of Azov is bounded in the west by Ukraine and in the east by Russia. The Kerch Strait is a strait connecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Russian authorities have been asserting greater control

over the area since its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula – particularly since May 2018 when it opened a new 19-kilometer bridge that links the Crimea region to Russian territory to the east of the Kerch Strait.

4. This latest escalation has to be understood in the context of accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers in West and East. Russia as well as the U.S. and the EU wrestle for control over the Black Sea as it is crucial area for access not only to Russia and the Ukraine, but also to Southeast Europe, the Middle East as well as the Mediterranean Sea. Furthermore Russia just completed the 930 kilometer-long offshore section of the TurkStream gas pipeline across the bottom of the Black Sea. In order to strengthen their position, both Russia as well as the U.S. resp. NATO have ramped up their naval presence in the Black Sea in recent times.

5. The Ukraine government of President Poroshenko is a regime which came to power as a result of the Euro-Maidan movement in spring 2014. This has been a reactionary movement which included fascist forces and which was instigated and controlled by U.S. and European imperialism in order to weaken Russia's



The Kerch Strait links the Sea of Azov with the Black Sea (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Azov)

regional hegemony. The subsequent civil war in the Donbass region of Ukraine has been a reactionary conflict between the Ukrainian government (acting as proxy for Western imperialism) and the Donbass insurgents (acting as proxies for Russian imperialism).

6. The latest provocations in the Kerch Strait could result in a military conflict between the Ukraine and Russia. The rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – U.S., Russia, China, EU and Japan – has significantly accelerated in the recent period. Furthermore, the Poroshenko government could look for a pretext to wipe up domestic chauvinism so that it could increase its chances to win the coming elections.

7. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Marxist Group "Class Politics"* (MGKP) calls the organizations of the workers and popular movement not to support any side in this conflict. Both authorities of Russia and Ukraine pursue reactionary goals. Russia is an imperialist Great Power which strives for domination of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. While the Ukraine is a semi-colonial country, its government acts as a proxy for U.S. and European imperialism. It is unthinkable that it could enter a military conflict with Russia without close coordination with EU and USA imperialists but at the same time it has some autonomy to do some things without approvals from the patrons. The increasing presence of NATO navy vessels in the Black Sea underlines the aggressive goals of Western imperialists. The RCIT and the MGKP therefore advocates a defeatist position on both sides in this conflict. None is the lesser evil for the working

class and the oppressed people.

8. We are aware that many activists of workers organizations and liberation movements around the world tend to sympathize with one or the other side. As they are in direct conflict with either Western or Eastern imperialist forces (respectively their local proxies) they might see their respective direct opponent as the main enemy. However, it is crucial that the struggle of the working class and the oppressed people is based on an international program of unity and solidarity across the borders. Hence, such a struggle must remain completely independent of all Great Powers. Liberation can not be achieved if domination by one Great Power is replaced with domination by another Great Power. It can result only from defeating all imperialist powers by successful socialist revolutions around the world.

9. We call revolutionaries to join forces in the struggle against all Great Powers, in solidarity with the liberation struggles of the working class and the oppressed people and for international socialism. Such a struggle requires the creation of a new Revolutionary World Party. Join us in building such a party!

** Down with the Warmongering in Russia and Ukraine!*

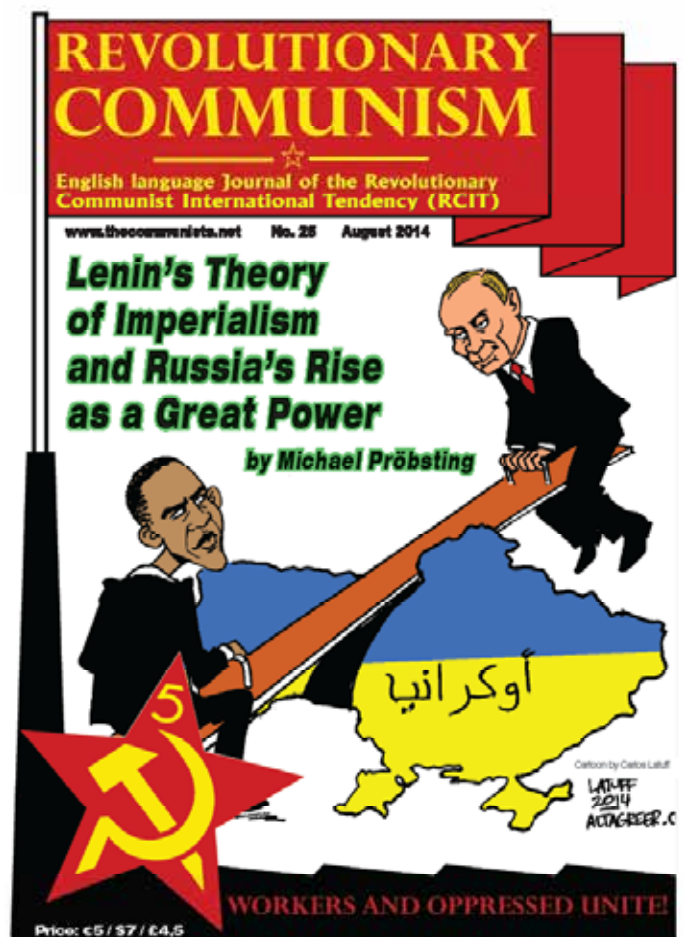
** In Case of Military Conflicts: No Support for Any Imperialist Camp – Neither Russia nor Ukraine/NATO!*

** No to any Imperialist Sanctions!*

** Workers and Oppressed – Unite against the Great Powers in East and West!*

** No Martial Law in the Ukraine!*

RCIT PUBLICATIONS ON RUSSIA AND IMPERIALISM



Britain: No to the Anti-Russian Hysteria and Chauvinism!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 09.11.2018

The capitalist media and state in Britain has been waging a hysterical campaign suggesting that Russian intelligence services are conducting operations in Britain.

"Russians living in the UK believe up to half of their fellow expats are sending information back to Moscow, a bombshell report claimed today Putin's Kremlin are in the midst of a new cold war with Britain". (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6353563/Russian-expats-Britain-fear-HALF-Kremlin-informants.html>)

Much of the article in the *Daily Mail* is innuendo and hearsay with very little evidence that Putin and the Kremlin are engaged in intelligence activity only suggestions and possibilities.

"Interviewees ... suggested that anywhere between a quarter and a half of Russian expats were, or have been, informants," the report said"

"Former MI6 chief Sir Richard Dearlove said today's report 'forcefully reminds us that Russian intelligence activity in the West is still large-scale and intrusive'".

There is no doubt that Russian imperialism is a reactionary force. It brutally suppressed its national minorities – in particular the Chechen and other Caucasian people – as well as the Syrian people rising up against the tyranny of Assad, a loyal puppet of Putin. Furthermore the Putin regime oppresses the working masses in Russia itself as we could see at the protests against the latest pension reform.

However, who is the British state to lecture Russia?! The whole history of British imperialism is full of murder and torture in its colonial empire! Who can forget the notori-

ous role of the British army in Northern Ireland conducting a vicious campaign against the Irish people fighting against the occupation?! And who can ignore Britain's participation in the bloody occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq since the early 2000s?!

The British propaganda machinery against Russia has nothing to do with human rights. It has everything to do with pure imperialist propaganda serving a definite political purpose in a period of continuing rivalry between imperialist countries like Britain and Russia.

The RCIT in Britain – together with Russian revolutionaries – calls for joint struggle against both British and Russian imperialism. Such a struggle must be based on an internationalist program. The struggle against Russian imperialism must be conducted without and against British imperialism. We oppose any sanctions of imperialist powers including those of Britain against Russia. We reject the imperialist media hysteria.

We call for support for the workers and oppressed in Russia and in countries like Chechnya and Syria. We call for a united front throughout the working class to defend both the oppressed in Britain and Russia especially Muslim migrants who daily face Islamophobic racist attacks and for minorities in Russia like the Chechens who are constantly attacked and oppressed. We also support the struggle of Russian socialists against Putin's reactionary pension reform!

*Down with British and Russian imperialism!
Long live international solidarity!*

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018 - A World Pregnant With Wars And Popular Uprisings

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – WORLD PERSPECTIVES 2018: A WORLD PREGNANT WITH WARS AND POPULAR UPRISINGS. The book's subtitle is: Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries.

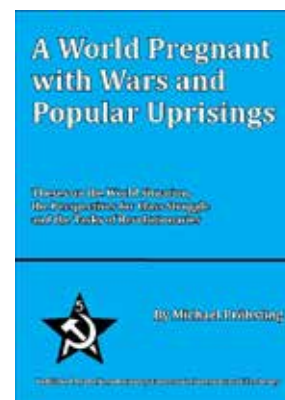
This book is a major contribution of our organization to keep the Marxists' analysis of the world situation and its accelerating contradictions updated. As we emphasize in the document, we consider it as crucial for revolutionaries to understand the nature and the inner dynamics of the current historic period. Without such an understanding it is impossible for socialists, indeed for all liberation fighters, to possess the necessary political compass on which they can base their program, strategy and tactics.

Since several years does the RCIT publish annual studies on the world situation in which it analysis its most important developments and changes. This book updates the Marxist analysis of the state of the world economy, of the relations between the Great Powers, of the struggle between the classes and the tactics of revolutionaries. We also deal in depth with new issues respectively extend our theoretical analysis on several questions. In particular we have deepened in this book,

among others, our understanding of the nature respectively the transitional character of the present world political phase, of the nature of different types of wars and the tactical conclusions arriving from this, of the complex nature of the conflicts in the Middle East, of the capitalist restoration in North Korea and, finally, we have elaborated a new proposal for an international platform for the unification of revolutionary forces in the present phase.

The book contains a preface, introduction and seven eight chapters plus an appendix (118 pages) and includes 23 figures, 9 tables and 2 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>



UK: Unity March Against Racism and Fascism

Report (with Pictures) of the RCIT Britain, 19.11.2018

15-20,000 people marched against fascism and racism on Saturday 17th November. The march was organised jointly by the TUC and *Stand Up Against Racism and Fascism*. It was called in response against the emergence of right wing and neo-fascism in both the United States and in Europe.

The march started out from Broadcasting House and marched to Westminster where it was addressed by speakers from the Trade Unions and the Labour Party. The march, which was dominated by the two main centrist groups in Britain – the Socialist Workers Party and the Socialist Party – was lively with chanting slogans against the Tories, Donald Trump and the right wing populist groups in Europe and Britain. Many youth participated in the march with singing and chanting. There was a Reggae band which showed the multi cultural aspect of the march.

There were big contingents from the Trade Unions including Unite, the CWU the RMT, Unison, UCU the education unions and other smaller Unions. Many Labour Party branches carried banners including Hastings and Rye Clapham Gipsy Hill and Southwark.

As we marched towards Westminster past horse guards parade and Downing street there was a miniscule group of Fascists surrounded by hundreds of Metropolitan police and across from them were 3 Zionist supporters also surrounded by police. It was noticeable that the Zionists in Britain are very close politically to the fascists irrespective of the fascists being anti-Semitic. They were there because pro-Corbyn supporters were speaking at the rally.

RCIT comrades sold a number of Revolutionary Communism journals as well as copies of *Liberation* – the Bulletin of the British section of the RCIT.



Participants of the Demonstration against Racism & Fascism, London 17.11.2018

Two Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- * **Marxism, European Union and Brexit**
- * **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**

*Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

*Price for one pamphlet: 2 Pound (plus delivery charges)
Order the pamphlet via our contact addresses*



Gaza: The Day after the Cease Fire

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 14.11.2018

Following Hamas' statement that it will fire rockets at Israeli towns of Beersheba and Ashdod if raids on civilian buildings in Gaza don't stop, Israel's security cabinet agreed on a ceasefire in Gaza.

Nevertheless in the meeting four ministers in the cabinet reportedly opposed resuming the ceasefire negotiations according to Israel's *Channel 10*.

These four are: Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, Environmental Protection Minister Ze'ev Elkin, and Education Minister Naftali Bennet. They represent the most right wing forces in Israel.

Yesterday the Palestinian organizations in Gaza declared that the resistance will respect this cease fire as long as the Zionist enemy respects it. The announcement set off celebrations in Gaza City with hundreds of Palestinians taking to the streets to declare victory.

In opposition to a cease fire pushing for a full scale war, residents of Gaza border settlements burned tires and blocked roads in Sderot and Nir Am on Tuesday night, protesting the ceasefire agreed to by Israel and Hamas.

The cease fire was attacked by the Zionist so-called liberal and left opposition that see this cease fire as a victory for the Palestinians and criticize Netanyahu from the right. "*Netanyahu abandoned the residents of the South and Israeli deterrence,*" Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid lamented. "*The IDF has the tools, including targeted assassinations.*" Opposition leader Tzipi Livni called the situation "*a colossal security failure... and a fatal hit to our deterrence capabilities.*"

For their delight Israel Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman announced that he would hold a special press conference today following Tuesday's security cabinet's decision to reach a cease-fire with Hamas. He already told his party that he will resign from his post. This may push for new elections.

It just proves the class nature of Israel as an apartheid state. In 1922 white workers organized strikes over the conditions of labor and the possibility that black workers will enter semi-skilled jobs, with the result that mine owners had agreed to reserve some semi-skilled work for whites only.

The left and the right Zionists are united in their wish to break the resistance to the oppression of the Palestinians. They all agree to blockade Gaza – the largest Ghetto in the history. The difference is that at this time Netanyahu wants to focus on Iran and Hezbollah and not face three fronts, while the left and the liberal Zionists want to remove

Hamas and force the rule of Mahmoud Abbas as a collaborator on Gaza.

Clearly Israel is moving openly to the same kind of model like South Africa during the Apartheid. Gaza is in the process of becoming a kind of Bantustan that will provide daily cheap labor to the Israeli capitalists.

The Bantustans or homelands, established by the Apartheid Government, were areas to which the majority of the Blacks population was moved to prevent them from living in the urban areas of South Africa. The Bantustans were a major administrative mechanism for the removal of Blacks from the South African political system under the many laws and policies created by Apartheid. The idea was to separate Blacks from the Whites, and give Blacks the responsibility of running their own independent governments, thus denying them protection and any remaining rights a Black could have in South Africa. In other words, Bantustans were established for the permanent removal of the Black population in White South Africa.

The Zionist opposition to the most right wing government of Israel brings to mind another historical event in South Africa. The sympathies of the Transkei Bantustan military ruler, Bantu Holomisa, towards the African National Congress (ANC) during the late 1980s preceded the unbanning of the ANC by the South African government, and created a regional stronghold for the ANC and for its armed wing, *Umkhonto we Sizwe*.

During the years 1988-94, an extensive counterinsurgency campaign mounted by South African Defence Forces Military Intelligence to weaken MK. This campaign included an attempt to topple Holomisa by a coup which was thwarted by MK forces several months after negotiations between the ANC and the South African government began in February 1990.

Ironically if corrupted Netanyahu will be removed from power; the next government will be worse. That does not mean we should support him as the lesser evil but rather fight for a real solution.

While the *Internationalist Socialist League* is calling for the total end to the siege on Gaza, the only solution is a political solution that will create a one democratic red Palestine with equality to the Palestinians and the Israeli Jews, from the river to the sea; that will include the right of the Palestinians refugees and their families to return to this new state.



Publications of the RCIT

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

Gaza: Israel is Responsible for the New Deaths!

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 13.11.2018

On Sunday Israeli undercover forces entered the Gaza Strip in a civilian car for reasons Israel refuses to explain and were discovered. Hamas forces exchanged fire with the Israeli soldiers near the city of Khan Younis. A pursuit ensued and Israeli aircraft fired dozens of missiles into the area to provide cover for the commandos to escape.

The Israeli commandos killed seven Palestinians - including Nour Baraka, a prominent commander of the al-Qasam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas.

An Israeli lieutenant colonel was killed and another officer wounded in the incursion on Sunday night in Gaza, the first proven ground invasion there by Israeli forces since the last war in 2014. Most likely there were more such incursions.

The rising tensions came as thousands of people in the enclave took part in rallies against Israel incursion and missiles shootings

In the immediate aftermath of the raid, more than 10 rockets were fired from Gaza as the Israeli forces carried out air raids that killed six more Palestinians. In response Hamas and other resistance forces fired at least 400 rockets and damaged a building in Ashkelon and an empty bus. One man was killed, two Jewish women were injured and another Israeli soldier was injured.

The armed wing of Hamas says it will step up attacks and fire rockets at the Israeli towns of Ashdod and Beersheba if Israel continues to carry out air raids on civilian build-

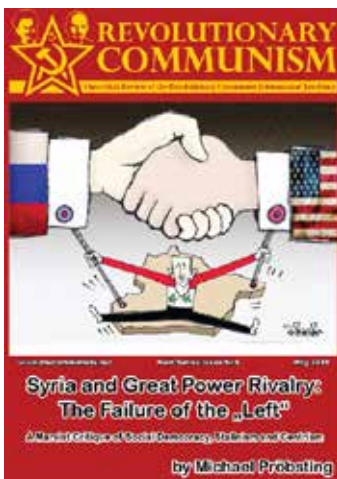
ings in Gaza.

Ali Abunimah, co-founder of the award-winning online publication "*The Electronic Intifada*" and author of "*One Country*" said and rightly so that Israel has a long history of "sabotaging" ceasefire agreements, adding the deadly commando raid was ordered to stoke the flames of conflict." You would think that after Israel violated numerous ceasefires with similar results they would learn the lesson, but it seems the Israeli leaders are pyromaniacs. They cannot tolerate calm. They cannot tolerate that the people in Gaza live in anything like peace. Israel is incapable of living in peace and calm with the Palestinians.

The Israeli propaganda is that Hamas is the one that does not respect cease fire agreements. In a study on violations of the cease fires between 2012 to 2014 Israel violated the cease fire 191 times while the Palestinians violated the cease fire 75 times. Out of Israel's 191 violations, 10 percent resulted in death and 42 percent in injuries or detentions; while out of the 75 Palestinian violations, just four percent resulted in injuries and none in death.

At the moment Israel government is holding a meeting to decide whether to begin a new full scale war.

The *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)* is for a real cease fire that will remove completely the siege on Gaza. We accuse and blame the Israeli state for the killing of the Palestinians and the suffering of the Israelis. In a case of a war the interest of the working class will be the military defeat of Israel.



Publications of the RCIT

Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –
A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism*

Introduction * The liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Assad retains its just character * Against all imperialist aggressors! * Old and new Great Powers * The Ex-Stalinist turned social democrats: "God save the United Nations" * The Stalinists (and some caricatures in Trotskyist camouflage): social-imperialist servants of Assad and Putin * The Morenoite LIT, UIT and FLTI: the heart on the right place but not their brains * CWI and FT: failure to understand the imperialist nature of China and Russia * CWI / SWP(UK) / FT: refusing to support the Syrian Revolution * Conclusion * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

No Israeli War against Gaza!

Report from a Protest Rally in Haifa (Israel / Occupied Palestine)

By the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 13.11.2018

In response to the Israeli escalation and the threats of a new war in Gaza today in the morning, the left Zionists and the former Stalinists in Hadash spontaneously organized protest demonstrations in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa in the evening. Haifa is the third-largest city in Israel with a significant Arab minority population.

Comrades of the ISL participated in the protests. In Haifa, about 50 people took part in the anti-war rally. Most of them were young. At the beginning the slogans which were chanted were mostly of pacifist nature like "The answer is Peace" or "Arabs and Jews do not want to fight each other".

However, comrades of the ISL successfully introduced slogans which raised the demand to end the siege on Gaza. These slogans were picked up by the participants.

A small group of right-wingers tried to disrupt our rally but they failed.

These spontaneous rallies on the same day as the Israeli provocations against the Palestinian people in Gaza started show the following: While the pressure from the right on the government to start a war is growing, there exists also an anti-war camp which is prepared to go on the streets!

The ISL will continue to support such protests and argue for a clear stand on the side of the Palestinian people and their resistance (see the link to our article below).

* * * * *

Yossi Schwartz: Gaza: Israel is Responsible for the New Deaths! 13.11.2018, <http://the-isleague.com/gaza-israel-is-responsible-for-the-new-deaths/> and <https://www.the-communists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/israel-is-responsible-for-the-new-deaths-in-gaza/>

We refer reader for more information on the ISL's and the RCIT's stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people to our websites <http://www.the-isleague.com> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>.

The ISL's program can be read here: <http://www.the-isleague.com/our-platform/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/summary-of-isl-program/>

See also Yossi Schwartz: Israel's War of 1948 and the Degeneration of the Fourth International, <http://the-isleague.com/1948-war-5-2013/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/israel-s-war-of-1948/>

Michael Pröbsting: On some Questions of the Zionist Oppression and the Permanent Revolution in Palestine, <http://the-isleague.com/zionist-oppression-and-permanent-revolution/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/permanent-revolution-in-palestine/>



Publications of the RCIT

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 * 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

A Zionist Rabbi Praises Europe's Right-Wing Racist Parties as Friends of Israel

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19.10.2018

A right-wing Israeli website published remarks of the influential Rabbi Eliezer Melamed. Melamed heads the ultra-reactionary Zionist Har Bracha Yeshiva – an Israeli-Jewish settler institution in Samaria (close to Nablus in the Palestinian West Bank).

This article reports: *“Rabbi Melamed wrote in his widely-read weekly column in Besheva Magazine Friday that Israel need not fear creating strong bonds with the European Right, including the Austrian Freedom Party, which is a member of the Austrian governing coalition.”* (1)

The article further quotes from Melamed column: *“But in recent years, the extreme right wing movements have been undergoing a process of change. (...) Leaders have emerged who want nothing to do with the racist Nazi heritage, and who openly support the state of Israel.”* These leaders *“have distilled the movements’ nationalist positions, and now they express a proper position, which demands maintaining the European people’s national, religious and cultural identity.”*

“Rabbi Melamed recounted that several leaders of the European Right, including Freedom Party head Heinz-Christian Strache, visited Israel several years ago. Strache visited Har Bracha and gave a speech that was “fervently Zionist” and which extolled the achievements of the Jewish state, describing it as a bulwark in defending Europe from Arab terror.”

One has to admit that this reactionary Rabbi speaks the truth to a certain degree. The extreme right-wing, racist parties have become fanatic supporters of Israel. They do so, as the Rabbi acknowledges himself, because these racist parties view Israel as a white, imperialist bulwark against the oppressed and impoverished Muslim and Arab people.

Surely, many right-wing racists in Europe still don't like Jews at the bottom of their heart. But they hate the migrants, the Muslims, the people of color hundred times more!

The Blairites and the pathetic pseudo-leftists in the British Labour Party (e.g. AWL, Jon Lansman and other Momentum leaders), the highly influential pro-Zionist forces in the *Party of the European Left* (represented by leading figures like Gregor Gysi of the German LINKE or Walter Baier, the Coordinator of its Think Tank *transform*, etc.), the so-called *“Anti-Deutsche”*, etc. – they all denounce pro-Palestinian solidarity activists since years. (2)

They slander our solidarity movement as *“Anti-Semitic”* because we call for the boycott of the Zionist Apartheid state – the very state which has expelled the Palestinian people from their homeland for more than 70 years and which has killed more than 200 unarmed Palestinian demonstrators at the Gaza border in last months alone. The Austrian party of the PEL even expelled our section from its annual festival under this pretext. (3)

We have always rejected this as reactionary smear which only serves as a cover for the pro-Israeli sympathies of these pseudo-leftists. It goes without saying that every socialist and every democrat opposes any form of Anti-Semitism. But only a reactionary hypocrite can ignore the fact that the main form of racism in Europe today is not Anti-

Semitism against Jews but racist Islamophobia against our Muslim migrant brothers and sisters.

On must draw a clear line: on one side are the supporters of Western imperialism and Israel who, in one way or another, denounce the Palestinian and Muslim migrant masses as well as their anti-racist friends as *“anti-Semitic”*. This camp has many different currents within its ranks – from extremely right-wing racists to liberals and pseudo-*“socialists”*. But they are united in their support for the West and for Israel and in their opposition against the Palestinian liberation struggle.

On the other side are the Palestinians and Muslim migrants and all those who defend their rights. They are oppressed and exploited by the West (and increasingly Russia too) and Israel. Naturally, this camp has also many different currents within. But they are united by their defense of the oppressed and their resistance against the oppressors.

The RCIT and its Jewish and Arab members in Israel / Occupied Palestine have always been part of the second camp. Our comrade Yossi Schwartz, a Jewish Anti-Zionist since more than five decades, has been imprisoned by the Israeli state three times because of his unconditional solidarity with the Palestinian people. Our Austrian section repeatedly faced physical attacks by the pseudo-leftist *“Anti-Deutsche”* as well as threats by the political police and parliamentary inquiries because of its pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist activities. The author of these lines has been sentenced by a court because of such activities. (4)

We know that many other solidarity activists have made similar experiences. It is crucial to join forces in our struggle in defense of the Palestinian people and the Muslim migrants!

Footnotes

(1) Gil Ronen: Nationalist rabbi: European Right no longer anti-Semitic, 12/10/18 <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/253164>

(2) See on this e.g. 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2013, pp. 337-340, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>

(3) See on this e.g. RKOB: KPÖ schließt RKOB aus und macht den Weg frei für Frauenschläger der Anti-Nationalen Szene. Wiederholter körperlicher Angriff auf Genossin Gunić am Volksstimmefest, Bericht der Revolutionär-Kommunistischen Organisation BEFREIUNG zum Volksstimmefest 2016, 05.09.2016, <https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/bericht-vs-fest-2016/>

(4) See on this e.g. RKOB: Austria: Right-Wing Party Opens Parliamentary Inquiry against the RCIT Section. Biggest Opposition Party smears the Trotskyists for alleged *“Left-Wing Extremism”*, *“Antisemitism”* and *“Radical Islamism”* and asks the Federal Ministry of the Interior to officially investigate them, 29.01.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/parliamentary-inquiry-against-rcit-section/> (This article contains in the footnotes many links to other attacks by pro-Zionist forces or the state against our comrades.)

Central America / Mexico / U.S.:

Solidarity with the Migrants' Caravan!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01.11.2018

1. Central American migrants, fleeing misery and violence, are heading towards the U.S. border. About 10,000 people, with many children among them, are currently traveling through southern Mexico with the intent of reaching the U.S. border. A second caravan is at the Guatemala-Mexico border.

2. These people are fleeing the horrible misery in their native countries. Decades of capitalist attacks on social and democratic rights of the working people have resulted in poverty, mass unemployment, high criminality, and drug business. At the same time, multinational corporations and a small domestic elite are appropriating huge profits, resulting in massive inequality in the Central American countries.

3. The impoverishment and plunder of Central America has not been a spontaneous process but the unavoidable result of the austerity and privatization policy imposed by the International Monetary Fund – a powerful international financial institution controlled by the U.S. and other imperialist Great Powers. Whenever the workers and poor peasants in Central America rose up against the oppression and exploitation, they were met with, open as well as disguised, military interventions of U.S. imperialism and its local henchmen.

4. The migrants in the caravans experience impressive demonstrations of solidarity by the people in Mexico. While the reactionary government of Peña Nieto, under the pressure of the Trump Administration, tries to stop the caravan, ordinary people in nearly all cities and villages spontaneously help the migrants with food, water and other everyday articles. The Mexican people see and feel that the migrants are people of their kind – workers, poor peasants and urban poor.

5. At the same time U.S. President Trump, as usual, slanders the migrants. He accuses them of having many “gang members” and “some very bad people” among them. Trump even suggested that the caravans harbor terrorists from the Middle East! He threatened the migrants in one of his notorious tweets: “*This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!*” The White House announced that it will send up to 15,000 troops to the border with Mexico, in addition to the 2,100 U.S. National Guard forces which Trump already sent in April. It seems that Trump is prepared to order a massacre against the Central American migrants at the southern border. The orange man is dumb as bricks, racist to the core and he represents a mortal danger for many people!

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its sections in Mexico and Brazil send their warmest greetings to the Central American migrants! We fully support their desire to enter the U.S. The working people of Central America are suffering from the super-exploitation of U.S. imperialism since more than a century. As a result the U.S. has become a very rich country while Central America remains its impoverished backyard. The workers and poor peasants in Central America have every

right to enter the U.S. and to get a share of the enormous wealth which the imperialists have accumulated at the back of the oppressed people through decades of plunder!

7. The RCIT calls for the creation of an international and multinational movement in solidarity with the migrants. Such a movement should be built in North America as well as in Latin America (as well as in Europe which is another destination for many poor from Africa and the Middle East). It should include trade unions and other mass workers and popular mass organizations. Such a movement should demand the opening of borders. It should support the desire of the migrants to enter the U.S. or, if they prefer, to stay in Mexico. It should organize political and organizational support for the migrants, including logistic help as well as the formation of self-defense committees against police repression and against attacks of racist and xenophobic groups. Such a solidarity movement should also demand from the Mexican government, with the recently elected bourgeois populist President López Obrador, that it does not give in to the pressure of the U.S. Instead of hindering the migrants, the Mexican authorities should let the migrants enter the country and provide the migrants' caravans with all the necessary logistic support.

8. In the U.S. the solidarity movement must demand the immediate withdrawal of all troops from the border. It must call for the opening of the borders. It should urge the soldiers to undermine all instructions desired to stop the migrants. We have already seen in the past two years numerous examples of people in the U.S. defending migrants against the racist ICE units. We need to see now similar attempts to sabotage the efforts of the U.S. authorities to stop the migrants' caravans. The solidarity movement must be prepared to do whatever is necessary to help the migrants enter the U.S.

9. Finally, the workers and migrants mass organizations in the U.S. should fight against all attempts to criminalize and deport migrant brothers and sisters. They should fight for the immediate dissolution of the barbaric internment camp for migrants and, in particular, for migrant children. They should also demand the dissolution of the ICE. Furthermore, they should demand full citizenship rights for migrants, equal wages and full equality in all aspects of social life.

10. The RCIT calls all revolutionaries in Latin America and North America to unite on the basis of a program of consistent anti-imperialism and working class internationalism! Forward in building revolutionary parties as part of a new World Party of Socialist Revolution!

** For an International Solidarity Movement to Support the Migrants' Caravans!*

** No U.S. Military to the Mexican Border!*

** Open the Borders!*

** Undermine All Efforts of U.S. Imperialism to Stop the Migrants' Caravan!*

Brazil: Scandalous Electoral Fraud Opens the Path to Return of a New Military Regime

Prepare for a Political General Strike to Bring Down Bolsonaro!

Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 02 November 2018

According to the official figures published by the Electoral Justice, controlled entirely by the right and the bourgeoisie, the ultra-reactionary candidate *Jair Bolsonaro* won 55% of valid votes, but only 39% of the eligible voters. Taking this as a reference, *Fernando Haddad* won 32%. Null and white votes and abstentions came to 29%. Adding the votes of the PT candidate with null votes, whites votes and abstentions, it turns out that 61% (41 million) of the electorate did not vote in Bolsonaro.

This was not a common election. It was an absolutely fraudulent electoral process. One fraud that became possible first from the moment when the main candidate, preferred by the poor and oppressed masses, *Lula da Silva* from Workers Party-PT, in which at that moment he had more than 40% of the intentions of votes, was removed from the electoral process by a criminal conviction absolutely false and with strong evidence of defense restraint by the powerful *Judge Sergio Moro*. It may be added that never since the end of the dictatorship in 1985 the military played such a decisive role as now in 2018. Not only because *Jair Bolsonaro* is a retired army captain, and his vice-president a retired general, but by the statements and opinions of the high ranks of the military about not recognizing a possible victory of the left, i.e. a victory of the Workers Party.

According to the UOL website "*the military will occupy strategic areas in areas such as health, safety, infrastructure, labor, environment, international, justice and defense*". In short, the regime contains already a strong influence of the army command, having come to power through maneuvers and control of elections that can easily characterize this election as a fraud.

There were 3.5 million voter titles canceled just days before the election in first round, allegedly for lack of registration in electoral biometry. These voters, in their overwhelming majority located in the northeastern region, with poor people with no resources to try to solve the problem with the electoral justice system.

Two days before the second round, public universities were invaded by the military police. The motive was that various lectures were held with the theme almost always warning of the danger of fascism, without specifying the name of the ultra-reactionary candidate. However, the police, using an English expression "*if the cap fits, wear it!*", prohibited the lectures. It was necessary for ministers to protest against this blatant unconstitutionality by forcing the repression to withdraw from universities.

Social Networks and Fake News

The fake news and the messages through robots via *WhatsApp*, paid by wealthy entrepreneurs in favor of Bolsonaro were once again in this election one of the determining

factors for the fraudulent victory of *Jair Bolsonaro*. But the electoral court simply thought that was not important. Parts of the population, demonstrating good humor even in the tragedy, have promptly given the jesting nickname to Bolsonaro as the "*WhatsApp President*".

The first interviews of Bolsonaro on economy, now as officially elected president, indicate the continuity of the government Temer regarding the privatizations, except of areas that he considers strategic like *Bank of Brazil*, *Caixa Economica*, *Bank of the Northeast*, among others. He has similar plans for the electric power sector.

On the other hand, the future new economic minister, the *Chicago boy* *Paulo Guedes*, has rushed, a day after the victory, to ensure the financial system to implement the infamous Pension Reform. He also promised to prepare the full privatization of the pension system and in the near future. This would copy the failed model implanted in *Pinochet's Chile*. However, we must remember that it was necessary for the bourgeoisie and the financial system to establish a bloody dictatorship, with more than 30,000 victims, in that country for the implementation of those harsh neoliberal reforms.

Geopolitics and Economy under the Bolsonaro government

From a political and economic point of view, the Bolsonaro government tends to be much closer to American president Trump and to diminish actions of the Mercosur agreement (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay).

This necessarily implies a serious problem for the imperialist power China which is currently the largest foreign investor in Brazil. The Chinese government, through the *China Daily* website on October 30, issued a strong warning to elected Bolsonaro with the Headline "*No reason for 'Tropical Trump' to disrupt relations with China*" stating that if he follows Donald Trump style of economic confrontation with China Brazil will be the one most harmed (<http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201810/29/WS5bd702e-9a310eff303285424.html>).

With regard to relations with Venezuela, the tendency is to worsen the relationship. Following the policy of the US government, some more exalted within the Bolsonaro team, such as his vice-president *General Mourão* came to defend a joint action with Colombia to intervene in Venezuela, but for now, he was disowned by the new president.

Another expression of the reactionary character of the Bolosaro government is its decision to move the Brazil embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Albeit this decision is in line with the desire of Bolosaro's evangelical basis, it could create problems for Brazil's exports to Muslim countries. Exports of meat and poultry to Muslim countries alone is worth \$ 13 billion a year.

Repression against Social Movements

While everyone was concerned about the elections, the putschist president Temer approved the Law Federal decree number 9.527/18. According to the leftist website *redebrasilatual* this law can “allows the persecution of social movements and entities that represent workers and minorities. This new law deals with the creation of an intelligence task force to confront organized crime in Brazil, and “could be used by an extremist government to criminalize social movements. But the lack of definition about the concept of terrorist activity can be a easiness for executive and legislative members to act against organizations such as the Landless Workers Movement (MST) and the Homeless Workers Movement (MTST).” (<https://www.redebrasilatual.com.br/cidadania/2018/10/decreto-de-temer-pode-ser-usado-por-extremistas-para-criminalizar-socialmovements>)

The Resistance of Left-Wing Parties and Mass Movements

In a statement issued shortly after the presidential election, the *Frentes Brasil Popular e Povo Sem Medo* (Popular Brazil and Fearless People), where various movements, popular organizations and leftist parties are represented, said “that the elections are over, but the struggle for democracy and social rights is only starting. That is, the result of the elections opens a window of popular resistance against fascism.” (<https://www.esmaelmorais.com.br/2018/10/frentes-brasil-popular-e-povo-sem-medo-articulam-democratica-resistencia/>).

The opportunist PSTU, which refused to resist the coup d'état against the Rousseff government (and in fact aided the coup by supporting the slogans for the overthrow of the PT-led government), now feels the danger and on its website calls for unity with progressive forces and declares the need for “a united front to unite the the people from the bottom to defend our rights.” (<https://www.pstu.org.br/nota-do-pstu-sobre-o-resultado-das-eleicoes-os-desafios-de-classe-worker-with-a-eleica-de-bolsonaro/>).

Deputy Paulo Pimenta (PT-RS), leader of the PT in the lower house and re-elected with more than 133,000 votes, is calling in the name of the Workers Party for “the construction of a broad front in defense of democracy and the mobilization for the liberation of ex- President Lula are the main tasks of the left and the social sectors that took to the streets against the candidacy of Jair Bolsonaro in the second round of the presidential campaign.” (<http://www.pt.org.br/pimenta-defende-frente-ampla-para-manter-a-luta-democratica/>)

The Workers' Cause Party (PCO) is calling for the 2nd National Open Conference against Coup and Fascism. The first conference was held in July 2018 with about 1,000 delegates from mass movement organizations all over the country and which CCR comrades also attended.

Perspectives

The CCR (Brazilian section of RCIT) will not only participate in such conferences organizing against the coup d'état, we will also join the social movements and struggles on the streets. We are categorical in reaffirming that the only defense that the Brazilian people have against the militarized ultra-reactionary regime that is already in power is our independent struggle and organization. What is necessary is the immediate formation of a broad united front of all mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed (CUT, PT, MST, MTST, etc.) in order to organize a mass resistance against the Bolosaro government and its reactionary attacks. Such resistance must include mass demonstrations and strikes. Ultimately, it is urgent to prepare for a political general strike to bring down Bolosaro!

More and more we must organize our own forces as workers of the cities and of the peripheries along with the poor peasants, women, blacks, indigenous people, the LGBT community! Hence, we need to organize in *Action Committees* as well as in *Committees of Popular Defense* in order to defend us against police repression and fascist attacks. Let's not let fascism grow!

* For a united front of all mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed (CUT, PT, MST, MTST, etc.)

* For the creation of action committees in factories, unions, neighborhoods, favelas and peripheral regions in defense of our rights as well as against the putschist government and against any military intervention. For self-defense committees of the workers and the poor people in the neighborhoods and peripheries!

* No to the criminalization of political demonstrations and the criminalization of social movements! By the repeal of decree 9.527/18 that points to the criminalization of the actions of the mass movement.

* Public safety is not the role of the Armed Forces! For the cancellation of federal military intervention in the state of Rio de Janeiro!

* Immediate freedom for Lula da Silva!

* Down with the constitutional law that allows the army to intervene in political matters!

* For mass demonstrations and strikes against the Bolosaro government and its reactionary attacks! Prepare for a political general strike to bring down Bolosaro!

* For the Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!

* For a Workers' Government in alliance with the urban and rural poor

* For a revolutionary workers' party as part of a new World Party of the Socialist Revolution!

O Comunismo Revolucionário

Portuguese-language Journal of the RCIT

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

Order the journal via our contact address: rcit@thecommunists.net

Sri Lanka: Power Struggle

Within the Ruling Class Threatens Democratic Rights!

Report from M. Thangavel, United Lankan Workers Party (RCIT Section in Sri Lanka), 9 November 2018

Note from the Editorial Board (16 November): Below we publish a letter which we have received from our comrade M. Thangavel, a leader of the RCIT section in Sri Lanka. The comrade describes the deep political crisis in his country since President Sirisena sacked Prime Minister Wickremesinghe in late October in order to replace him with his predecessor Rajapaksa.

However, since the letter was written, the chaotic situation in Sri Lanka has deepened. The de facto coup by the President to impose a new Prime Minister against the will of the majority in Parliament has provoked mass protests as well as resistance from sectors of the state apparatus itself. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe refused to accept his sacking and claimed to still command a majority in parliament. In response President Sirisena first delayed to reconvene the parliament and finally decided to dissolve it and to call new elections in January. However, Wickremesinghe's party UNP declared the move unconstitutional and subsequently the Supreme Court has stayed Sirisena's

dissolution until 7th December. Meanwhile, Rajapaksa and his followers have split from the *Sri Lanka Freedom Party* (SLFP) and joined the *Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna* (SLPP) – a party formed by Rajapaksa's younger brother.

It is obvious that President Sirisena's intervention is a reactionary attack against the, albeit limited, rights of bourgeois parliamentarism. The utterly corrupt and extremely Sinhala-chauvinist Rajapaksa clan has a long tradition of suppressing the Tamil minority. As President, Rajapaksa oversaw the horrific smashing of the Tamil national struggle which had succeeded in liberating large parts of the north and east of the country between 1983 and 2009. In May 2009, Rajapaksa launched the final attack of the army against the liberation fighters which resulted in the slaughter of at least 40,000 Tamil people!

The power struggle between Sirisena / Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe is also a reflection of the rivalry between U.S. and Chinese imperialism. Given its geostrategic location, Sri Lanka plays an important role for both Great



Publications of the RCIT

The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements?

A Pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format

Introductory Remarks * I. Recent Developments * II. The Struggle for Domination of Bhutan * III. The Background: Accelerating Rivalry between China and India in a Period of Capitalist Decay * China's Belt and Road Initiative * India's OCOR as an Alternative to OBOR? * India's Increasing Ties with US and Japanese Imperialism * How are the chances in a military confrontation between India and China? * IV. China as an Emerging Great Imperialist Power * China's Monopolies * Super-Exploitation of the Working Class * China's Capital Export * China as a Military Power * V. India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power * A Brief Historical Review * The Characteristics of India's Semi-Colonial Economy * India's Economic Elites: Many ... and at the same time Few * The Parasitic Nature of the Indian Bourgeoisie * India as a Regional Power and an Oppressor State * Brief Remarks on an Historic Analogy: The Ottoman Empire * VI. Revolutionary Tactics in the China-India Conflict * Appendix: Imperialist vs. Semi-Colonial State: Some Theoretical Considerations * 1. What are the Respective Characteristics of an Imperialist vs. a Semi-Colonial State? * 2. Is a Transition from Being One Type of State to Another Possible? * 3. Is the Category of "Sub-Imperialism" Useful? * Footnotes

Powers. (See on this e.g. the RCIT Pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting: *The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences*, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-india-rivalry/>) While Beijing has close relations with the Rajapaksa clan, the U.S. (and India) are close to Wickremesinghe.

As comrade Thangavel explains, revolutionaries can not lend any political support to one of the two capitalist camps and their imperialist masters. However, revolutionaries do neither ignore such reactionary coup attempts which would strengthen the most chauvinist and reactionary forces. Defending democratic rights (including the limited democratic rights of a bourgeois parliament) is a crucial task of the moment. Furthermore, the latest political crisis demonstrates once more the reactionary nature of such semi-dictatorial institutions like the President. Revolutionaries call for the dissolution of the presidential institution. Hence, we call for the election of a revolutionary constitutional assembly, controlled by the working people!

* * * * *

Sri Lanka is constantly facing this kind of social, economic and political crisis. The coalition government of Sirisena' SLFP and Wickremesinghe's UNP, which was elected on 8th January 2015, collapsed due to President's Sirisena authoritarian intervention on 26th October. The government was anyway a capitalist one like the current one suppressing social and democratic rights.

The newly appointed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was a predecessor of Ranil Wickremesinghe. In his period as President, Rajapaksa committed numerous crimes and was responsible for killing at least 40,000 Tamils in May 2009 alone. He was also responsible for various other violations of human rights of civilians as well as progressive forces.

The President has promised to reconvene of the parliament on 14th November but at the moment of writing this letter I receive some official news of dissolving the parliament by the president's order.

Anyway, the bourgeois "democracy" which is being practiced here in Sri Lanka as well as most other corners of the world is not the democracy of the working class and the oppressed people. It is the "democracy" of the rich and powerful!

In addition, Sri Lanka is a plaything of imperialist forces – in particular of the main Great Powers China and U.S. (the latter in collusion with India).

The working people of Sri Lanka are watching this political jam. However, no fundamental solution can come out of it for future generations if the working class and the oppressed people do not start organizing and struggling on a socialist basis.

We revolutionaries in Sri Lanka oppose all attacks on democratic rights and all authoritarian interventions by the President or other forces. We defend the national rights of the Tamil people, including their right to have their own state. Whatever will be the future developments, we will take the side of oppressed people!

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

The Tsunami in Indonesia and the Widodo Government

For a Workers Government in Alliance with the Poor Peasants and the Urban Poor!

By Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 October 2018

On the 28th September a Tsunami and earthquake hit Indonesia in Sulawesi in the province of Palu causing untold misery to the thousands of poor peasants and oppressed people who live in the province. The earthquake and Tsunami was of such ferocity that to date over 2, 600 people have been killed buried or missing presumed dead. Many of their wooden shacks or dwellings that they lived in have either been flattened or destroyed and were totally inadequate to protect people from the Tsunami. Indonesia is in the archipelago of Islands which are frequently rocked by earthquakes.

"On 28 September 2018, a shallow, large earthquake struck in the neck of the Minahasa Peninsula Indonesia, with its epicenter located in the mountainous Donggala Regency Central Sulawesi. The magnitude 7.5 quake was located 77 km (48 mi) away from the provincial capital Palu and was felt as far away as Samarinda on East Kalimantan and also in Tawau, Malaysia. This event was preceded by a sequence of foreshocks, the largest of which was a magnitude 6.1 tremor that occurred earlier that day. [1]

This earthquake "triggered a tsunami and extensive soil liquefaction, a phenomenon that turns soft soil into seething mire, killing 2,073 people, according to the latest official estimate. In every disaster, there's always a lesson to be learned," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the national disaster mitigation agency, said this week. Nugroho conceded that Indonesia's preparedness for disasters and capacity to respond still fall woefully short, not least because public funding is so low. He said the country's disaster response budget is currently 4 trillion rupiah (US\$262 million) a year, equivalent to 0.002 per cent of the state

budget". [2]

The disaster has shown that the bourgeois capitalist government of Joko Widodo, one of the biggest economies in South East Asia, has failed to provide proper relief and assistance to the oppressed and the poor. Accounts have shown that there was very little planning or preparation from the Indonesian authorities. Many of the people affected by the tsunami have either died or collapsed after the attack of the tsunami. Buildings have also collapsed showing the magnitude of the crisis. Many foreign governments have donated very little relief showing that imperialist governments are not concerned with a semi-colonial country like Indonesia.

It has always been the case that imperialist governments like the USA always spend millions of dollars for wars in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other semi-colonial countries but never has the money or inclination to help save people's lives. People are either homeless or displaced and they are desperate for fresh drinking water and medical supplies. The government has shown a callous lack of concern about the situation and total unpreparedness for the situation.

"Indonesia has the largest economy in Southeast Asia and is one of the emerging market economies of the world. The country is also a member of G-20 major economies and classified as a newly industrialized country. It is the sixteenth largest economy in the world by nominal GDP and is the seventh largest in terms of GDP". [3]

Such lack of preparedness is completely absurd given the fact that Indonesia is one of the world's most disas-

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.

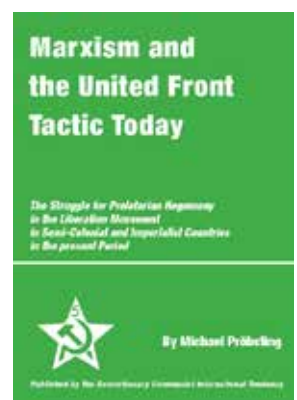
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



ter-prone countries, experiencing seismic activity on an almost daily basis and an earthquake of magnitude 5 about once a week on average. Just two months before the Sulawesi disaster, two earthquakes rocked the island of Lombok, killing 500. Palu also saw widespread soil liquefaction with entire communities disappearing into the resulting mud.

Preparations in order to prevent such catastrophes would be entirely possible since rich imperialist countries have developed technologies for such events. Japan, for example, also experiences regularly fierce earthquakes. However, since the country is using modern technologies in order to avoid the worst consequences of such earthquakes, the number of casualties is usually much lower than in poor semi-colonial countries like Indonesia.

Elizabeth Hausler, founder and CEO of *Build Change*, which works in developing countries, including Indonesia, to help local communities build homes that can better withstand natural disasters, commented on the tragic events in Indonesia:

"[Sulawesi] was a complex disaster," said "We should be able to design a control tower to withstand that, but this is complex science, complex research, and complex engineering. The US, Japan and maybe a few other countries are state of the art on this, but it has not spread throughout the world." [4]

Even months after the disaster rescue teams are still digging people out from the massive mudslide that buried thousands. Many of the poor peasants and oppressed have nothing and the Widodo government continue to ignore their plight and carry on as if nothing had happened. Of course the capitalist regime with its programme of privatisation and profiteering has used its police force to prevent looting from shops and other places where the vast

majority of population are starving and destitute, meanwhile the regime continues to enrich itself in this socially unequal country.

The RCIT puts forward the following demands to unite the working class, the urban poor and poor peasants.

** Immediate relief and help to all survivors caught up in the tragedy*

** Action committees to be formed to organise the clear up and to locate the bodies of loved ones. It is no good leaving this task to governmental agencies who so far have failed the urban poor and oppressed.*

** For a workers and trade union enquiry to establish why the government was so unprepared when the earthquake and tsunami destroyed so much of Sulawesi.*

** Down with the reactionary capitalist government of Joko Widodo!*

** For a revolutionary constituent assembly! For a revolutionary workers government in alliance with the poor peasants and the urban poor!*

We call socialists in Indonesia to study the programme of the RCIT and to build a revolutionary party as part of a revolutionary International! Join us!

Footnotes

(1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Sulawesi_earthquake_and_tsunami

(2) <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/indonesia-s-double-disaster-exposes-earthquake-lessons-not-learned-10820292>

(3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Indonesia

(4) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/indonesia-quakes-wake-call-buildings-shaky-foundations-181018015500435.html>

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

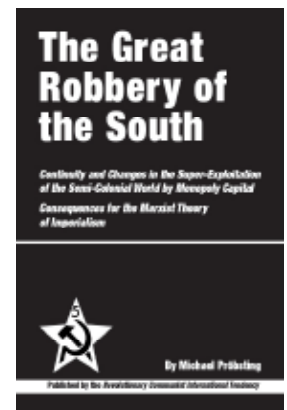
The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism*. The book is in English-language. 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)



China: A Paradise for Billionaires

The latest UBS/PwC Report about the Global Super-Rich Delivers another Crushing Blow to the Stalinist Myth of China's "Socialism"

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27.10.2018

The Swiss Bank UBS, jointly with Britain's PwC, has recently published the fifth edition of its annual *Billionaires Insights* report. (1) As we reported elsewhere, this report demonstrates, once more, the sickening tendency of rapid accumulation of wealth in the hands of an extremely small minority of billionaires while the vast majority of the world's population is experiencing stagnating wages, unemployment, wars and misery. (2)

However, in this brief article we want to focus on another, also highly illuminating conclusion of this report. As it is well known numerous Stalinist, left-wing populist and pseudo-Trotskyist forces praise China as a "socialist" or "workers state" (with or without deformations). The figures provided by the UBS/PwC report deliver another crushing blow to this reactionary myth. (3) In fact, it is not "socialism" but capitalism which is flourishing in China!

Among the 2,158 billionaires in the world, 373 have their home in China. This figure rises to 475 if we add the billionaires living in Hong Kong, Macao (both of them are part of the Chinese state) as well as Taiwan. This means that about one fifth of the global super-rich – i.e. the monopoly capitalists – are living in China!

This figure is not much below the number of billionaires living in the U.S. (585) and above the figures for Japan as well as the combined figure for all imperialist powers in Western Europe (414).

Furthermore, of all countries it was the Chinese billionaires which experienced the fastest growth of their wealth in 2017 (+39%). Billionaires in other countries had much lower growth rates (the global average growth was 12%).

China is also the country with the highest number of new billionaires. 106 people became billionaires in 2017 (although a number dropped off the list from 2016). That comes out to roughly one new billionaire every three days.

It is evident, that the Chinese capitalist class experienced the fastest growth in the world in the past decade. The report comments: "Twelve years ago, the world's most populous

country was home to only 16 billionaires. Today, as the 'Chinese Century' progresses, they number 373, nearly one in five of the global total."

Praise by Capitalists in West and East

The authors of the UBS/PwC report, reflecting the view of experienced Western monopoly bourgeoisie, are full of admiration and praise for capitalist China.

Josef Stadler, Head of Ultra High Net Worth at UBS Global Wealth Management, commented on the new report: "Over the last decade, Chinese billionaires have created some of the world's largest and most successful companies, raised living standards. But this is just the beginning. China's vast population, technology innovation and productivity growth combined with government support, are providing unprecedented opportunities for individuals not only to build businesses but also to change people's lives for the better."

Another researcher, Dr. Marcel Widrig, Partner and Private Wealth Leader, PwC, remarked: "Our report reveals how China is currently the leading country for entrepreneurs to create wealth. Nowhere else has the same combination of a huge population, technology innovation and government support."

Unsurprisingly, China's monopoly capitalists share this view. One Chinese billionaire told the researchers of the report: "Nowhere else in the world can you find better conditions for growth than in China. The continued progress of wealth creation is supported by government policies liberating the economy, while urbanisation and business model disruption has crafted powerful new entrepreneurs." (4)

Nearly all Chinese billionaires (97%) are so-called self-made. This means that they have not inherited their wealth but are first-generation rich. This reflects the fact that China's monopoly capitalists are mostly not originating from old capitalist families who existed in exile in the period when China had a post-capitalist, planned economy (i.e. between the early 1950s and the early 1990s). They

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)

Order the pamphlet via our contact address: rcit@thecommunists.net

have rather accumulated their capital in the recent three decades.

Finally, China’s capitalism is based not only on a tiny minority of super-rich (in contrast to countries like India or Saudi Arabia) but rather on a broader stratum of small and middle capitalists. As we show in the table below, China is number two in all categories of millionaires – only behind the U.S. and ahead of all other imperialist Great Powers like Japan, Germany, France and Britain.

Conclusions

These figures confirm once more several important conclusions which the RCIT has emphasized repeatedly in the past years.

First, it is a grotesque distortion of reality to paint China as a “socialist” and not as a capitalist country. It experiences the fastest growth of billionaires – both in numbers as well as in accumulated wealth. No country in the world, except the U.S. (which is the dominant imperialist power since about one century), has more millionaires and billionaires than China! One has to close both eyes and stop thinking in order to imagine that China could be a “socialist” county!

Secondly, this rapid growth of capitalism and the emergence of a monopoly bourgeoisie do not take place spontaneously. It is rather the result of the conscious and determined efforts of the Stalinist-capitalist regime. As the quotes above demonstrate, both the Western as well as the

Chinese capitalists are fully aware of this. This demonstrates that the regime, irrespective of its name, has nothing to do with “communism”. It is as much “communist” as the Catholic Church was “Christian” during the age of Inquisition or as the corrupt Sultans of the Ottoman Empire were Islamic. It should be called not the “Chinese Communist Party” but rather the “Chinese Capitalist Party”!

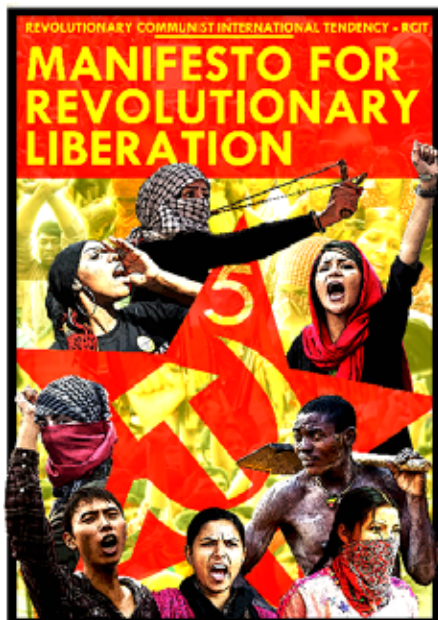
Thirdly, the figures demonstrate convincingly that China is not only a capitalist country but that it has also become a major imperialist Great Power. (5) In fact, as we have shown repeatedly, it has become the main challenger of the long-term hegemony of U.S. imperialism. (6) The Global Trade War which has begun a few months ago, with the rivalry between the U.S. and China as its main axis, is only the most recent manifestation of this development. (7)

Those, who continue to praise China as somehow “socialist” and who side with Beijing in its conflicts with other Great Powers, have nothing in common with authentic socialism or Marxism. They are rather servants of Chinese imperialism, i.e. what Lenin called “social-imperialists”.

The RCIT fully supports revolutionaries who strive to defend the interests of China’s working class and oppressed peoples against the Stalinist-capitalist regime. (8) We repeat our call to socialists around the world not to lend support to any imperialist state. Down with *all* Great Powers – the U.S., China, Russia, Japan and the EU! (9) For international solidarity of the workers and oppressed! Join the RCIT in building a Revolutionary World Party which fights for international socialism!

Table: The Rich and the Super-Rich by Country, 2018 (10)

Country	Wealth Range (in Million US-Dollar)					
	1-5m	5-10m	10-50m	50-100m	100-500m	500+m
United States	14,520,885	1,855,679	902,736	50,144	19,253	1,144
China	3,094,768	235,858	132,701	10,113	5,690	708
Japan	2,627,845	125,377	51,947	2,478	1,027	71
United Kingdom	2,247,529	124,244	56,535	3,125	1,422	117
Germany	1,985,627	127,157	63,678	4,078	2,042	203
France	2,002,967	99,252	42,117	2,087	886	64



Program of the RCIT

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format

Footnotes:

- (1) UBS/PwC: New visionaries and the Chinese Century. Billionaires insights 2018; A media release of the publishers which summarizes the results, can be viewed here: UBS/PwC Billionaires Report 2018: Total billionaire wealth grows 19 percent to a record USD 8.9 trillion, 26 October 2018, <https://www.ubs.com/global/en/ubs-news/r-news-display-ndp/en-20181026-billionaires-report-2018.html>. All quotes, if not attributed otherwise, are from this report resp. the media release.
- (2) See Michael Pröbsting: The Global Super-Rich Get Even Richer. UBS/PwC Publish their latest Report about the World's Billionaires, 27.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/the-global-super-rich-get-even-richer/>
- (3) For a detailed analysis of China's capitalism and its rise to a new imperialist Great Power, we refer readers to the numerous RCIT publications which can be found in a special section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>. On the process of capitalist restoration see e.g. Michael Pröbsting: China's transformation into an imperialist power. A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power, in: *Revolutionary Communism* No. 4, <http://www.thecommunists.net/publications/revcom-number-4>
- (4) Quoted in South China Morning Post: China making two billionaires every week as world's super-rich become wealthier than ever before, report reveals, 26 October, 2018, <https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2170348/china-making-two-billionaires-every-week-worlds>
- (5) For the RCIT's literature on China as an imperialist Great Power see the link above. See e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences. What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements? 18 August 2017, *Revolutionary Communism* No. 71, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-india-rivalry/>
- (6) See e.g. our latest article on this issue: Michael Pröbsting: The Rivalry between the U.S. and China as the Main Axis of Inner-Imperialist Contradictions, 02.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/u-s-china-rivalry-as-main-axis-of-inner-imperialist-contradictions/>
- (7) On the Global Trade War see e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Global Trade War is Escalating. Trump's new Tariffs on about \$200bn worth of Chinese Imports Reflect the Accelerating Rivalry between the Great Powers, 19 September 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-global-trade-war-is-escalating/>; Global Trade War: No to Great Power Jingoism in West and East! Neither Imperi-

- alist Globalization nor Imperialist Protectionism! For International Solidarity and Joint Struggle of the Working Class and Oppressed People! Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia), Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), Courant des Jeunes Penseurs Congolais (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey), 4 July 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/joint-statement-on-the-looming-global-trade-war/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Global Trade War has Begun. What is its Meaning and what should be the Response of Socialists? 13 July 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-global-trade-war-has-begun/>; Yossi Schwartz: Capitalist Trade and the Looming 3rd World War, 15 July 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/capitalist-trade-and-looming-3rd-world-war/>; Michael Pröbsting: Where Do Socialists Stand in Face of the Looming Global Trade War? A Showcase of the Practical Consequences of the Assessment of the Class Character of the Chinese State, 17 June 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/where-do-socialists-stand-in-face-of-the-looming-global-trade-war/>; Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, RCIT Books, Vienna 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>
- (8) See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: China: Defend the Muslim Uyghurs against Oppression! 18.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/>
- (9) See on this e.g. RCIT: Theses on Revolutionary Defeatism in Imperialist States. Resolution of the International Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 8 September 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-on-revolutionary-defeatism-in-imperialist-states/>; Global Trade War: No to Great Power Jingoism in West and East! Neither Imperialist Globalization nor Imperialist Protectionism! For International Solidarity and Joint Struggle of the Working Class and Oppressed People! Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia), Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), Courant des Jeunes Penseurs Congolais (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey), 4 July 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/joint-statement-on-the-looming-global-trade-war/>
- (10) Credit Suisse Research Institute: Global Wealth Database 2018, October 2018, p. 125

Publications of the RCIT in Arab Language

The Global Super-Rich Get Even Richer

UBS/PwC Publish their latest Report about the World's Billionaires

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27.10.2018

Yesterday, UBS – a Swiss multinational bank and one of the world's largest financial corporations – has published, jointly with Britain's PwC, the fifth edition of its annual *Billionaires Insights* report. (1) This report gives an overview about the number of the world's billionaires, the growth of their wealth, their homeland, etc. (2)

According to the UBS/PwC report, the world's super-rich – the elite among the monopoly capitalists – grew their combined wealth by US\$1.4 trillion last year, more than the GDP of Spain or Australia. In other words, they made more money in 2017 than in any year in recorded history.

The report concludes: "*The past 30 years have seen far greater wealth creation than the Gilded Age,*" referring to the period in the U.S. at the turn of the 20th century, when families such as the Rothschilds, Rockefellers and Vanderbilts controlled vast wealth. (3)

Currently, there exist 2,158 billionaires in the world with a combined wealth of US\$8.9 trillion. 814 billionaires have their home in Asia (475 of them in Greater China), 631 in North America (585 of them in the U.S.) and 414 in Western Europe.

The fastest growth of billionaires' wealth took place in China, growing by 39% to \$1.12 trillion. (4) In the Americas, wealth increased slower than the global rate at 12% to \$3.6 trillion. However, this region remains the place with the biggest wealth concentration.

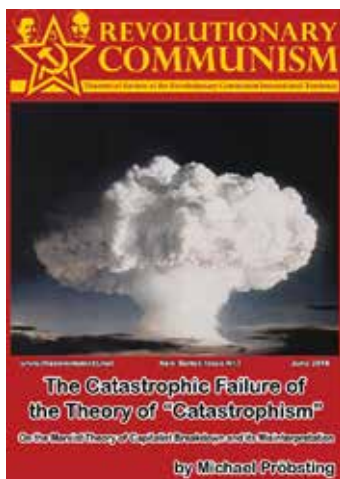
These figures are illuminating in several ways. They demonstrate that while the capitalist world economy has been marked by a tendency towards stagnation in the past decades, (5) the richest of the rich have succeeded to accumulate a spectacular amount of wealth. This is even more the case in the last years, despite the fact that the world economy is currently experiencing its most stagnating phase since the years of depression in the 1930s. (6)

This development shows once more the parasitic character of the capitalist class – and in particular of its upper strata, the monopolies. They own the economy but are incapable to revitalize its dynamic. Quite the opposite, they provoke bigger and bigger crisis.

The only partial exception to this is China due to specific historic circumstances. As capitalism was restored in the early 1990s, the country has experienced a period of initial capital accumulation under the centralized leadership of the Stalinist-capitalist regime.

But all over the world (including China) the capitalists are appropriating nearly all of the created wealth. In contrast, the workers, i.e. the class which is creating this wealth, has to survive with their meager and stagnant wages and rising unemployment.

If the working class would expropriate the super-rich, it would immediately possess the means to eradicate poverty and misery all over the world. This would enable them to



Publications of the RCIT

The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018

On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation

by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its

"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"

Introduction * A Note on the PO's term "Catastrophism" * What did the Marxist Classics Say? A Brief Overview * Empirical Evidence for the Long-Term Decline of Capitalism * What will come after Capitalism? * Epoch and Periods * The Current Historical Period which Opened in 2008/09 * Empirical Evidence for the Decay of Capitalism in the Present Historic Period * The Dialectical and the Mechanistic Interpretation of Cycles on Capitalism * Permanent Collapse? No, there is Collapse and Collapse * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (I): Confusion on Capitalist Restoration * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (II): Confusion on China and Russia as Capitalist Powers * Excuse: The Theory of "Long Waves" and Dialectical Materialism * From Economic Crisis to Revolutionary Situation? * Can the Crisis of Leadership be Solved without an International Democratic-Centralist Organization? * Conclusions * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

initiate public works programs to rebuild the social and economic foundation of the society. It could finance the necessary innovations in the energy sector to combat the dangerous effects of climate change. (7)

Hence, the RCIT calls the workers vanguard to fight in each country and internationally for the expropriation of the super-rich!

Footnotes

(1) UBS/PwC: New visionaries and the Chinese Century. Billionaires insights 2018; A media release of the publishers which summarizes the results, can be viewed here: UBS/PwC Billionaires Report 2018: Total billionaire wealth grows 19 percent to a record USD 8.9 trillion, 26 October 2018, <https://www.ubs.com/global/en/ubs-news/r-news-display-ndp/en-20181026-billionaires-report-2018.html>

(2) There are several annual or bi-annual reports about the super-rich and their wealth. Among the most prominent ones, in addition to the UBS/PwC reports, are those published by Capgemini, Credit Suisse, the China-based Hurun, Forbes and Allianz. While those reports slightly differ in their results (as they use different data and methodology), they arrive at the same conclusions about the fundamental trends.

(3) UBS/PwC: New visionaries and the Chinese Century, p. 24

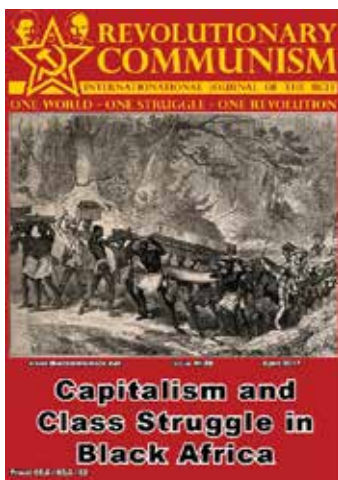
(4) We deal with billionaires in China in a separate article. See Michael Pröbsting: China: A Paradise for Billionaires. The latest UBS/PwC Report about the Global Super-Rich Delivers another Blow to the Stalinist Myth of China's "Socialism", 27.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-is-a-paradise-for-billionaires/>

(5) See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism". On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation by the Par-

tido Obrero (Argentina) and its "Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International", RCIT Pamphlet, May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-catastrophic-failure-of-the-theory-of-catastrophism/>; RCIT: Advancing Counterrevolution and Acceleration of Class Contradictions Mark the Opening of a New Political Phase. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries (January 2016), Chapter II and III, in: Revolutionary Communism No. 46, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2016/>; 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>; Michael Pröbsting: Imperialism, Globalization and the Decline of Capitalism (2008), in: Richard Brenner, Michael Pröbsting, Keith Spencer: The Credit Crunch - A Marxist Analysis, London 2008, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-and-globalization/>.

(6) See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Next Looming Great Recession. Observations on the Latest Stock Market Slump and the Structural Crisis of the Capitalist World Economy, 12 October 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-next-looming-great-recession/>; Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries (Chapter III), RCIT Books, Vienna 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>

(7) See on this the program of the RCIT: Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation, 2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/>; The Revolutionary Communist Manifesto (2012), <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-manifesto/>



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

*An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression
and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle*

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Introduction * Some Background Notes on Black Africa's Modern History: How Colonial Plunder and Oppression Blocked Independent Development * Popular Struggles against Colonialism Led to Formal Independence * Formal Independence as Disguised Imperialist Dependency * The Reactionary Role of White Settlers * Is Capitalist Black Africa Rising? * Africa in the Grip of Imperialism * China as a new Imperialist Great Power Challenging the Western Domination * The Working Class and the Oppressed * Rising Class Struggle * Key Lessons for a Revolutionary Strategy in Black Africa * Imperialist Domination and Authoritarian Regimes Remain in Place despite Formal Changes * Breaking the Capitalist Chain – The Program of Permanent Revolution * The Revolutionary Struggle against Imperialism * Imperialist Chauvinism and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotism of the Oppressed * The Independence of the Working Class and the Struggle against the Popular Front * The Struggle for Pan-African Unity * The Revolutionary World Party and its African Sections * Footnotes

Nigeria: Down With China's Loan And Currency Swap

It Is A Trick To Recolonize Nigerian Working People And The Masses

Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing Section of the RCIT in Nigeria), 26 October 2018

The *Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard* strongly opposes to the pact signed by Nigerian government with China on two economic deals; the first being the loan and currency swap the second!

For us in the RSV, we are not shocked about this treacherous and neo colonial economic deal between China and Nigeria as we have been warning the reformists and centrists that this capitalist economic system cannot be reformed with its mass of contradictions in a economic stride to always place profits before or above the people and now that it has reached its dangerous highest stage – IMPERIALISM but it has to be totally replaced by a new and better one – socialism whereby no bigger nations will systematically oppress and exploit other smaller nations as the case between advanced countries criminally exploiting smaller with all sorts of preposterous economic deals and in return with blood letting wars in the case of Syria!

Again, we know too well that the 1960 proclaimed independence by the British colonial government was just a transition from colonial grid to neo colonial expansion because beyond the mask of the independence is the continuous looting of our resources by these foreign multinationals through their political managers in their bourgeois democracy and Parliament in the country with numerous anti people policies such as privatization, removal of subsidy, deregulation of the downstream section of the oil sector, Devaluation of currency, and other corrupt practices landing us into tough perpetual recessions.

Just as we have warned that the Buhari/APC led govern-

ment is nothing different from PDP because they represent and present the semblance and appendages of the whole agenda of the capitalist ruling class to always put policies on board that will accrue enormous profits to the pockets of these rich capitalist businessmen in Nigeria, largely at the detriment or sometimes at the deaths of their citizens.

The loan and currency swap between Federal Government of Nigeria and China should be rejected wholly learning from the reprisal economic implications and huge debts they have had on some African and Asian countries. This policy for us in the RSV is to recolonize Nigeria and subject the masses to vulnerability and slavery.

In the time past, PDP also signed many criminal economic deals with Europe, US, UK and even China but the workers and masses in general were made to pay off this debts through many mechanisms such as slave wage, no access to many welfare and subsidy removal from fuel and many other petroleum products.

We clearly understand the aim of China that is fast sweeping off the resources of these smaller or underdeveloped countries so that she fully emerges as the world economic power aside the US and EU. The seizure of the international Airport of Zambia and Sea Port of Sri Lanka cannot be disconnected from this obvious figure and fact.

What is into play here, unequivocally, is full blown Imperialism in Africa so that China can further and massively exploit, enslave and expand her capital through the official machinery of privatization and devaluation of currency in the long run just as the US, EU, UK did with their Dollars,

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?

The Road from Revolution to the Restoration of Capitalism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Euros and Pounds Sterling respectively and the working people paid heavily and direly for them in the face of untold economic hardships and capital impoverishment.

We therefore warn again and also that the Labour Unions in Nigeria probe into this shady deals and seriously expose the government from selling our future to China. China is not generous and she is not rolling out father Christmas gifts otherwise her economic deals with Zambia and Sri Lanka could have been sweet stories. It is just a case of "he who pays the pipers dictates the tunes".

While NLC, ULC, TUC must vigorously embark on a series of strike actions until their demands particularly on

the National Minimum Wage of #66,500 are fully met, it also pertinent and highly expected of labour unions begin to treat the whole crisis in the system from the root. They should dig deep and being to reject all these neo colonial deals that will definitely return us to the era of bloody impoverishment of the working people in Nigeria.

Capitalism is full of corruption, oppression, violence, wars, exploitation and must be rejected.

Alternative to wanton hard and vulnerable lives is Workers' Party with Socialist programs.

Don't let them fool ye again!

Our real enemy is at home!

ANSA kicks against fee increment in LAUTECH

Statement of the Alliance of Nigerian Students Against Neoliberal Attacks (ANSA), 17. October 2018

The National Leadership of the Alliance of Nigerian Students against Neo-liberal Attacks (ANSA) seizes this medium at this revolutionary period to condemn in strong terms the astronomical fee hike imposed on students of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology and their parents.

It was a mouth-tearing news, Nigerians woke up to read on the 16th October 2018 of how 65,500 naira and 72,500 naira school fees were increased to 200,000 naira and 250,000 naira for indigenes and non-indigenes respectively. It is no news that the governments of Osun and Oyo have shown the highest level of ineptitude towards the management of this University with the students as the worst-hit, which has made the University Community a hotbed of protests, mass and industrial actions.

Considering the number of times in a short while that the role-shifting of the government has caused unrests, we have come to the conclusion that the Government of the day at all levels does want to fund Education adequately. It is very unfortunate how a Government takes pride in underfunding the education of her citizens.

It is also important to slap the government to sensitivitiy the gross implications of this imposition of regime of fee hike on Nigerian Students and their parents who are

paid 18,000 Minimum wage, even irregularly. Adults (LAUTECH students) would then join the 13.2 million out-of-school children and lecturers would lose their jobs to join the embarrassing 18.8% of 85 million labour force who have already lost their jobs. If this illogical action is not reversed immediately and the unrest continues, small businesses in the University Community would suffer a serious financial meltdown like it happened in 2016/2017.

The Alliance was clairvoyant enough to have predicted these events as far back as early January 2017 and this also informed its 2018 launch of the 'Campaign against Acceptance Fee and other frivolous fees' which has kickstarted with discussions and signing of online petitions. We urge all Nigerian students to be part of this Campaign to make education free.

In Conclusion, ANSA urges LAUTECH students to remain civil in their dealings for it is in the plan of the University to shut down the Campus and shift the focus of Campaign to #ReopenLAUTECH like they did in 2017 before the 'Constituted Authority' of Oyo State asked for the holder of the keys. For us in ANSA, it is struggle against the oppressors, solidarity with the oppressed and action for freedom.



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

Forward in Building the Revolutionary Party in Nigeria!

Report from the Founding Conference of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard, October 2018

The Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) held its founding conference on 13 October in Lagos. Two dozen comrades assembled in order to discuss the programmatic platform and to discuss the next steps in building the organization.

The meeting adopted a revolutionary platform which will serve as a programmatic basis for the RSV's intervention in the approaching class struggles. (For Socialist Revolution in Nigeria and on the African Continent! <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/platform-of-rsv-nigerian-sympathizing-section-of-the-rcit/>)

It also confirmed the affiliation of the RSV to the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) as its sympathizing section in Nigeria.

The conference was addressed by speeches of the comrades Sanyaolu Juwon and Obafemi Trotsky Sodunola, the General Secretary respectively the Organizing Secretary of the RSV.

The comrades of RSV are all young and represent a new generation of revolutionary fighters who have emerged in Nigeria's class struggles of the past decade. The founding cadres of the new section recently split from the Stalinist

Pacesetters Movement after a prolonged faction struggle for a revolutionary orientation. (See on this the interview with Sanyaolu Juwon, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/interview-with-sanyaolu-juwon-rcit-nigeria/>)

The RSV has a focus in its practical work on two areas. On the one hand, its plays a leading role in the student movement "Alliance of Nigerian Students Against Neoliberal Attacks" which organizes a series of mass protests in defence of free education. (See on this the interview with Obafemi Trotsky Sodunola, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/nigeria-interview-with-ansa-leader/>) On the other hand, it is very active in the mass movement for a worker's living wage. (See on this e.g. a recently published RSV statement, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/nigeria-rsv-demands-minimum-of-66-000-living-wage/>)

We are confident that we will be able to intervene in the approaching mass struggles in order to provide the workers and youth with a clear practical and theoretical perspective and to advance the formation of an authentic revolutionary party in Nigeria!



Founding Conference of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Sympathizing Section of the RCIT), 13 October 2018

REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION - The RCIT's Monthly Journal

<p>www.thecommunists.net Issue No. 76 December 2017</p>	<p>www.thecommunists.net Issue No. 77 January 2018</p>	<p>www.thecommunists.net Issue No. 78 February 2018</p>	<p>www.thecommunists.net Issue No. 79 March 2018</p>
<p>Kenya: Down with the pro-imperialist Kenyatta Regime!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Grassingbè Regime in Togo * Zambia: Still Not Free * Interview with Ghana's CPP * Interview with Ghana's CPP * Interview with Ghana's CPP 	<p>support the Liberation Struggle of the Palestinian People!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Interview with Ghana's CPP * Syria: Liberation Struggle at a Crossroad * Brazil: The Shadow of a Military Coup * Catalonia's Struggle for Independence * settings for the New Year of 2018 * popular Uprising in Iran * references on Syria are a Charade * men after the Death of Saleh * War between Saudi Arabia and Iran? * EU and African Slaves in Libya * Unemployment in Zambia * Election in Catalonia 	<p>The Imperialists Enslave the African People - Then as Now!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Successful 2nd RCIT World Congress * MGKP (Russia) & RCIT collaborate * Syria: No to Turkey's Attack on Afrin! * Tunisia: Solidarity with the Protesters! * Palestine: Free Ahd Tamimi NOW! * Balfour's Declaration - Myths vs. Fac Six Points for Revolutionary Unity * Italy sends Soldiers to Niger * Class Warfare in Zambia * Liberia: American Puppet President! * UK: Carillon Crisis 	<p>The Syrian Revolution is in mortal Danger!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * PA collaborates with Israel * South Africa: Down with Ramaphosa! * Ethiopia: No to the State of Emergency! * Liberia: 'Liberated' But Looted! * Brazil: Presidential Elections 2018 * Syria: Turkey's hidden war vs. HTS * Syria: Solidarity with East Ghouta! * Israeli Warplane Shot Down over Syria
<p>Workers and Oppressed United!</p>	<p>Price: €3 / \$3.5 / £2 / ¥4 and Oppressed United!</p>	<p>Workers and Oppressed United!</p>	<p>Price: €2 / \$2.5 / £1.5 and Oppressed United!</p>

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!

