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## Venezuela: Defeat the Reactionary pro-U.S. Coup!

- \* Sudan: Down with the Dictatorship!
- \* Syria: Is the Sochi Deal Collapsing?
- \* Bangladesh: Textile Workers Strike
- \* Venezuela: Report from the Ground
- \* Venezuela: Rallies against the Coup

- \* Bolivia: Morales and Batisti
- \* UK: Historical Defeat for Tories
- \* UK: March against Austerity
- \* New Book: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 90, February 2019

Sudan: Rally in Solidarity with the Popular Uprising against the Dictatorship	p.3
Syria: Is the Reactionary Sochi Deal Collapsing?	p.4
Bangladesh: Burning to death is not an improvement over starving to death	p.6
All support to the Venezuelan people against Imperialism and Right-Wing Forces!	p.8
Crisis in Venezuela: Impressions from the Ground	p.10
Venezuela: International Solidarity Rallies	p.11
Bolivia: Morales Handed the Head of Batistti On the Plate to Salvini	p.12
Brexit: A Historical Defeat for the Tory Government!	p.13
UK: Reject All Immigration Controls – No to Racism!	p.14
UK: Peoples Assembly against Austerity March	p.16
NEW BOOK: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry!	p.17
RCIT: What We Stand For	p.19

Source of picture on the cover: <https://twitter.com/LatuffCartoons/status/1088233422064103426>

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# Sudan: Rally in Solidarity with the Popular Uprising against the Dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir

*Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 13 January 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT*

Nearly 100 people, most of them from the Sudanese migrant community, assembled in the centre of Vienna to protest against the brutal dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. The rally was also attended by a number of activists from the Syrian as well as the Egypt migrant community which have organized numerous protests against the dictatorships of the butcher Assad as well as Killer-General Sisi.

The organizers of the Sudanese community invited the Austrian section of the RCIT to attend and speak at the rally. We participated with a delegation, and our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed the rally. He emphasized the solidarity of the RCIT with the popular uprising in Sudan. He also condemned the support of Chinese imperialism as well as of the reactionary regimes in Egypt as well as Saudi Arabi for

the dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir.

The RCIT has published a statement on the popular insurrection in Sudan which can be read in English (<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/sudan-bring-down-the-regime-of-omar-al-bashir/>) as well as in Arabic (<https://www.thecommunists.net/home/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9/popular-uprising-in-sudan/>).

See photos and the video clip of the speech of Michael Pröbsting here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/egypt-rallies-in-protest-against-the-visit-of-killer-general-sisi-in-vienna/>

An extensive video report about the rally has been published by Aswan TV and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LbfqVgfrhc&feature=youtu.be>



Rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Sudan, Vienna 13.01.2019



## Syria: Is the Reactionary Sochi Deal Collapsing?

### Defend Greater Idlib against All Attacks from Outside! International Solidarity with the ongoing Liberation Struggle of the Syrian People against the Assad Regime and its Imperialist Masters!

*Statement of the International Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 9 January 2019*

1. The latest developments in Idlib in north-west Syria could result in a collapse of the reactionary Sochi Deal. This deal was struck on 17 September 2018 at a meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan and received the blessing of the Assad tyranny, the regime in Iran as well as of Western Great Powers. According to this deal (which is part of the treacherous Astana process under the control of Russia, Turkey and Iran), a large so-called demilitarized zone with a depth of 15-20 km should have been implemented within the liberated areas of Great Idlib. This zone would have represented about half of the total liberated areas in this region! All heavy weapons and all "extremist groups" (i.e. forces like the petty-bourgeois Islamists of *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham*, TIP, HaD etc.) should have been withdrawn so that the Assadist, Iranian and Russian occupation forces would no longer face any resistance. Likewise the two main highways, Aleppo-Latakia and Aleppo-Hama, should have been opened under the control of Turkey and Russia by the end of 2018.

2. The goal of the Putin-Erdoğan deal was to weaken and to defeat those "extremist" forces which have always opposed the treacherous Sochi/Astana process and which have called for the continuation of the liberation struggle against the Assad tyranny. Instead, the purpose of this deal was to bring Greater Idlib, the last citadel of the Syrian Revolution, under the full control of the Turkish army and those rebel forces under the command of Ankara (*Jab-*

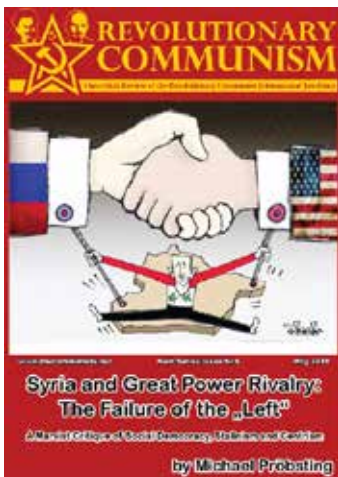
*hat al-Wataniya lil-Tahrir*).

3. The RCIT has always explained that if the Sochi Deal would have been fully implemented, it would have represented a total pacification of the liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad tyranny and its Russian imperialist masters. This would have resulted in the end of the Syrian Revolution.

4. However, the last few months, and the last few days in particular, are giving hope that the treacherous Sochi Deal is about to collapse. Hardly any of the steps agreed at Sochi has been implemented until now. HTS, TIP, HaD and others are continuing military operations against the Assadist forces. Neither have they been expelled from the so-called demilitarized zone nor have the highways been opened under Russian-Turkish control. Even more, in the last days, HTS forces made huge advances in pushing back those pro-Turkish JWT groups which support the treacherous Sochi/Astana Deal.

5. The failure of the implementation of the Sochi agreement is a most welcome development. It demonstrates the ongoing determination of the Syrian oppressed masses to continue the struggle against the Assad tyranny and the Russian imperialist occupiers.

6. However, we warn about the imminent dangers for the Syrian popular masses. First and foremost, there is a significant danger that the Russian, Iranian and Assadist aggressors will use the victory of HTS in Idlib as a pretext to carpet bomb and invade this last citadel of the



## *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*

Syrian Revolution. Secondly, there is a great danger that the Turkish army and their local allies will attack the HTS forces. Finally, there exists also the danger that Ankara will try again to bribe and corrupt a sector of the HTS leadership so that it agrees with the Sochi/Astana treachery.

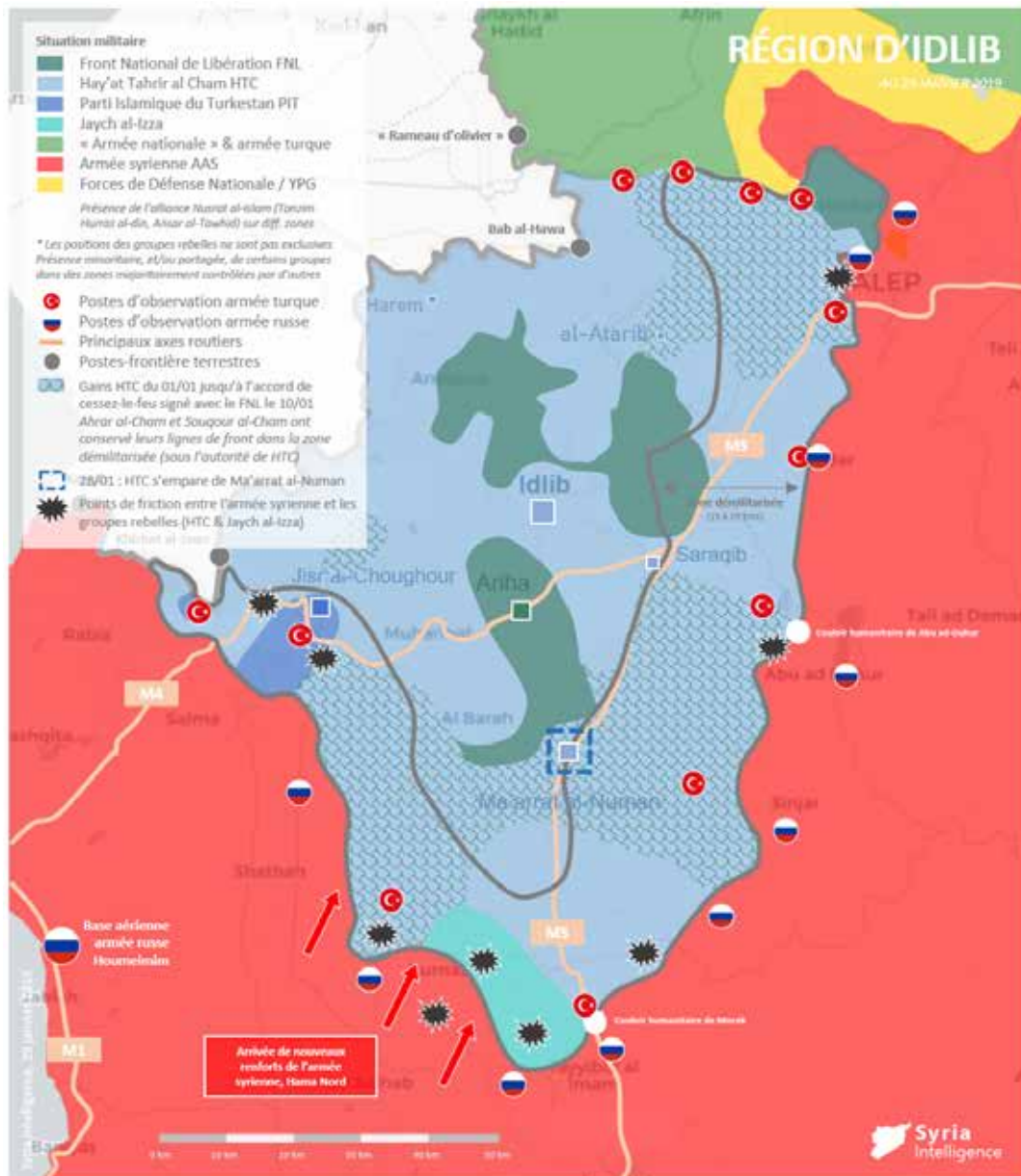
7. Without doubt, the Stalinist and Bolivarian regimes and parties around the world will cheer any Assadist/Russian aggression against Idlib. This confirms, once more, their counterrevolutionary character. In contrast, authentic revolutionaries continue to defend the liberation struggle of the Syrian people. Without having any illusions in the leadership of petty-bourgeois Islamists, we side with them against the reactionary killing machine of Assad and Putin as well as against the treacherous pro-Sochi/Astana forces.

8. However, all this must not deflect attention from the serious crisis of the Syrian Revolution. The Syrian masses remain besieged in Greater Idlib and suffer from the lack of any authentic revolutionary leadership. The RCIT insists that the only way forward is the creation of workers and poor peasant councils as well as the building of an authentic workers and poor peasant army as part of

a struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of the regime. All this underlines, once more, the urgent need of the creation of an authentic revolutionary party as part of a Revolutionary World Party.

9. It is crucial to intensify an international solidarity campaign with the liberation struggle of the Syrian masses. This is even particularly urgent in times like these when the Syrian Revolution face enmity from all capitalist regimes. The Western imperialists are looking for rapprochement with the Assad regime. Likewise, reactionary dictatorships like those in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt are advancing a plan, in coordination with Israel, to welcome the Assad regime back into the Arab League.

10. At the same time, the Syrian workers and oppressed have numerous potential allies like the popular masses on the streets in Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Iran and Sudan! In fact, it is urgent to unite the popular uprisings to a powerful united revolutionary process against all capitalist regimes! The RCIT calls the workers and oppressed around the world to express their support with their Syrian brothers and sisters!



Great Idlib: The last trench of the Syrian Revolution, encircled by enemies

## Bangladesh: Burning to death is not an improvement over starving to death

By Apu Sarwar, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22 January 2019

Thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers downed tools and walked out of clothing factories in Dhaka for wage increase in the beginning of January 2019. The protest movement was dismantled after the government's crackdown and the threat of closure of the factory by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

BGMEA boss Siddiqur Rahman threatened "If you [workers] don't return to your work by tomorrow, you will not be paid any wages and we will shut down factories for an indefinite period." BD Government and Garment Owners often complaints that 'outsiders' and 'vested interested groups' provoke the unrest in the garment industry and that this has nothing to do with wage increases or other work conditions.

At least one worker was killed and several hundred were wounded during week-long protests over salaries. Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse workers occupying major highway in the garment manufacturing belt, on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka. Police filed 8 separate criminal cases against 215 people and 1,000 unnamed persons for allegations of vandalism and looted factories. Various factory owners fired around 800 workers. Interestingly, there is no mention of garment workers peaceful protest and the incident of the killing of workers in the fire in police records.

Lawsuit against 'unnamed' people is a tool in the hand of oppressive regimes to arrest and torture anyone who dare to raise their voice. Since the inception of Bangladesh all the governments are using lawsuits against 'unnamed' people to silence the oppositions. Using this kind of lawsuits governments often arrest, torture and intimidate political opponents. It is widely discussed and known that garments owners have their own thugs to suppress workers' movements. Often protest organizers are tortured and intimidated by garments owner's thugs with the police looking the other way.

Bangladeshi garment industry employs about four

million people. Over half of them are girls and women, who are exposed to an unsafe work environment every day. The industry is the most labour-intensive sector due to very limited use of technology. Women are positioned at the lower levels of jobs in the industry. Verbal abuse with sexually explicit swearword, bullying, pulling hair, pushing and hitting with tools is widely mentioned as common forms of violence against women in the workplace. Male worker also face bullying, hitting and humiliation on a daily basis.

### The Garment Industry: Key to Bangladesh's Export

About 80 percent of Bangladesh's export earnings come from clothing sales abroad, with global retailers H&M, Primark, Walmart, Tesco and Aldi among the principal purchasers. The garment industry is notorious world-wide for the low wages and high work-associated accidents and deaths, as well as occupational diseases. Most of the factories do not meet standards required by building and construction legislation. Almost every factory has safety issues. Nearly all lack effective fire doors, alarm systems, and properly constructed safety exits. As a result, deaths from fire incidents and building collapses are frequent. There is virtually no effective workers compensation for injured workers. There is no provision for sick and annual leave in this sector.

Bangladesh is the second-largest global clothing exporter after China. Bangladesh rose to its position largely because of its lack of regulation and the low wages in garment sector. As wages in China are continuing to rise, Bangladesh becomes an increasingly attractive place to get cheap clothes for the fashion industry.

Usually a garment worker forced to work on an average work around 12 hours, 8 am to 10 pm without any overtime payment. Garment workers get wages of around \$65 USD. With this money garment workers have to survive and also often to support elderly parents back home.

## 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](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)

The *Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International* (TI) ranks Bangladesh 145 out of 174 countries. Corruption is a serious problem in the country which also plays a role in the repeated accidents that occurred in the garment sector.

The protests are an acid test for the government of the newly a third straight term elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. As has been widely reported, the national election on 30 December 2019 was marred by violence and allegations of widespread rigging and voter intimidation. Among 300 Parliament member 80% are directly business owners and the rest is also indirectly involved with business. There are more than 30 garments owners among the member of this parliament.

The union landscape remains weak, fragmented and have a low membership. There are two sorts of trade union formation – registered and unregistered. Registered trade union or labour associations are one of the effective tools used by bosses to manipulate, mislead and to retain the employees in line. Most registered unions have direct or indirect links with local and foreign NGOs. Receiving lucrative grants seems to be their main destination. Most of the trade unions appear to be tools of one or other of the bourgeois political parties which are using the power of unions rather as vehicles for pursuing political goals against rival parties than for improving workers' conditions.

The most common reasons for the workers unrest are low wages, non-payment or deferred payment of wages. Despite their claims to the contrary, some garment owners neither give salaries nor overtime allowances to the workers on time.

The last time when garment workers' salaries were raised was in 2013. This was right after the Rana Plaza disaster, when an industrial buildings housing several garment factories collapsed, killing more than 1,130 workers.

The new minimum wage has been set at 8,000 taka (approximately 95 dollars) a month, up from 5,300 taka (63 US dollars). The pay increase is the result of a long negotiation between the Bangladeshi government, garment workers and factory owners. Workers had initially proposed a minimum wage of 16,000 taka (189 US dollars) at a national minimum wage board meeting in July 2018.

### Support the Just Struggle of the Garment Workers!

There is no denying about the garment industry's massive contribution to the country's economic growth. These achievements cannot be maintained if the demands

of the people who made all these possible are persistently ignored for any longer. The growing frustration of the workers is nothing but the consequences of treating them as a marginalized sector on a regular basis.

The demands for workers' wage increase are just and fair. The wage increase will enable garments workers to finally lift themselves and their families out of the extreme deprivation they currently have to endure daily. Burning to death is not an improvement over starving to death.

Almost every year, garment workers are protesting low wages and poor working conditions without any tangible success. The garments workers' movements does not receive support from petty bourgeois middle class. The root behind of absence of the middle-class support is psychological. Only two to three decades ago, majority of disadvantaged girls used work as domestic servants in families of the petty bourgeois middle class.

Poor rural families often send their very young girls to work in well-to-do urban families as a means to improve their own difficult economies. A domestic worker in the middle and upper middle-class families is an indissoluble person. The domestic helpers work very long hours without any specified working conditions. A job in the garment sector has contributed to the empowerment of women, gave some sort of financial independence who had previously been bound to work as domestic servant. Finding a domestic servant is becoming extremely difficult for the middle class. Middle class often morns not to have luxury of domestic helper due to rise of garment industry. As a result, the majority of middle class can't stand garments workers.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) fully supports the struggle of the Bangladeshi garment workers. It is crucial to aid the garment workers to build independent and democratic trade unions. It is urgent that the international workers movement launches a solidarity campaign of with class sisters and brothers in Bangladesh! We call for:

- \* *Support the 16,000-taka minimum wage demand!*
- \* *Unconditional release of all garments workers and trade union activists!*
- \* *Withdrawal of all law suits against garments workers and trade union activists!*
- \* *Stop repression and harassment of trade unions leaders!*
- \* *Reduction from the current seven to only four grades in the wage schema!*
- \* *Training period for apprentices should be restricted to three months instead of the current practice of six months!*
- \* *For a solidarity campaign of the international workers movement with the Bangladeshi garment workers!*

### Table. Garment workers Comparison in Taka (84Taka = 1USD)

Grad	Gross Wages 2013	Gross Wages 2013	Revised Gross Wage 2019
1	13,000	17,510	18,257
2	10,900	14,630	15,416
3	6,805	9,590	9,845
4	6,420	9,245	9,347
5	6,420	9,245	9,347
6	5,678	8,405	8,420
7	5,300	8,000	8,000



## All support to the Venezuelan people against Imperialism and Right-Wing Forces! For an Independent Workers and Popular Government!

*Statement of the International Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 26 January 2019*

On January 10 of this year, Nicolás Maduro began his second term as president of Venezuela. The US, together with the “*Organization of American States*” (OAS) and the so-called “*Lima Group*”, decided (with the exception of Mexico) not to “*recognize the legitimacy*” of Maduro’s second term. They demand new elections and also recognize the current president of Venezuela’s National Assembly, Juan Gerardo Guaidó, as “*temporary president*”.

This duality of powers has the potential to pave the way for a civil war and consequently a military intervention by US imperialism respectively its regional allies under the command of the OAS. The history bears witness to the atrocities of American imperialism when it practices, together with its puppet allies, military interventions “*in the name of peace*” or to “*reestablish democracy.*” The current saber-rattling of the Trump Administration has the support of the governments of Brazil and Colombia and other right-wing governments in Latin America. The newly elected president of Brazil, the ultra-reactionary Jair Bolsonaro, is an unconditional ally of the Trump government and the participation of Brazilian troops in this probable conflict is a realistic possibility.

It is evident that American and European imperialism is not at all interested in establishing what they call democracy in any Latin American country; neither is China and Russia. What is at stake is the interest of the great richness over Venezuela’s vast oil and natural gas reserves that account for 80% of the country’s exports. Furthermore, the US and China – the two strongest imperialist Great Powers – are rivaling for economic and political hegemony in Latin America as well as globally.

In early December, President Nicolas Maduro, sensing the imminent danger of a foreigner military intervention, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The international press reported that this meeting was not previously on the agenda of these two countries. In this strategic meeting Putin condemned “*any attempt to change the situation in Venezuela by force*” and expressed support for his Venezuelan counterpart. In addition to agreeing on new economic deals, Putin then sent two Russian long-range strategic bombers to a Venezuelan airport. They are su-

personic bombers Tupolev Tu-160, capable of transporting short-range nuclear missiles. The bombers were accompanied by an AN-124 transport aircraft and an Il-62 passenger jet, 100 pilots and other Russian officials.

This demonstrates that Latin America is increasingly becoming a play ground for the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the old ones (like the U.S. and the EU) as well as the new ones (China and Russia).

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) considers the Maduro regime as a bourgeois, left-populist government that is a close ally of Chinese imperialism. It serves the interests of the “*Bolivarian*” bourgeoisie, that is, the state capitalist bureaucracy and capitalist sectors (the so-called “*Boliburguesía*”). Instead of its self-proclamation as “*Socialism of the XXI Century*”, the Chavez regime, in fact, created a strong state capitalist sector around state-owned oil company PDVSA. This gives it the material basis both for supporting state capitalist interventions in the economy and for financing certain welfare programs (the so-called “*Misiones*”).

If the right-wing forces in Venezuela have the capacity to mobilize not only the urban middle class but also popular masses and poor sectors of the working class to their demonstrations, it’s due to the failure of the economic model of the PSUV government. This model basically relies on extractive sector (mainly oil) and is subordinated and dependent on imperialism (both North American – to which Venezuela has never stopped selling energy – as well as Russian and Chinese, among which the Chavista bourgeoisie maneuvers).

Furthermore, the PSUV government has always made pacts and concessions with the business sector and is characterized by the corruption which corrodes the state bureaucratic apparatus and which has resulted in the enrichment of the top public functionaries, trade-union leaders and high military commanders. In addition, the Maduro regime implements a policy of austerity and repression against the working class and the popular masses (devaluation, hyper-inflation, social cuts, mass-layoffs, etc.). As a result, large parts of the population are suffering from a critical situation of scarcity, unemployment and poverty. This has pushed many to migrate or to take the streets

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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seeking a solution to their desperate situation. There are also an increasing number of protests against the adjustment measures, defensive strikes and attempts of the workers to free themselves from state corporatism.

The privileges, corruption and repression of the Bolivarian regime have alienated many people and opened the door for the manipulations of the right-wing parties, which are linked to the USA and other reactionary governments. In this situation, we strongly oppose and condemn any coup and any foreign military intervention but without giving any political confidence or support for the Maduro regime. In the case of a foreign military intervention, the working class in Latin America and around the globe must rally in defense of Venezuela and for the defeat of the imperialist aggressors and their local allies!

At the same time, the workers, peasants, students and popular masses must demand from the Maduro's government not to use the army against the protests on the streets. Instead, socialists must call for the general armament of the working people in order to attack the right-wing elite which are conspiring for foreign military intervention. The working class and the popular masses must mobilize for the expropriation of these elite and for the suppression of their mass media.

It is urgent that the working class and the popular masses, mobilizing against the right-wing and imperialist provocations, prepare for an independent solution of the political crisis in Venezuela. It's important to call for the convocation of local and regional assemblies to organize the struggle, for the building of committees of action and workers and popular militias in each working place, neighborhood and school against the coup. Furthermore,

it's necessary to unite all these organizations in a National Congress of delegates where the workers, peasants and popular masses decide on an independent program to resolve the political crisis.

The RCIT advocates a revolutionary strategy which aims for the defeat of the coup and imperialist intervention and which, at the same time, mobilizes for the cancellation of external debt, for the reallocation of resources to education, health, job and social security, for an urgent program to increase the salaries indexed to inflation, for the political independence and democracy inside the trade-unions, freedom for all working class political prisoners, etc.

The RCIT states that the bourgeois, left-populist Maduro regime must be replaced by an authentic workers and popular government. Such a government would push for the nationalization of the key sectors of the industry, the banks, foreign trade and services, under the control of the workers and popular committees. It would expropriate the domestic and foreign monopolies, eliminate the privileges and corrupt businesses of the bureaucracy and military commands, and establish a direct proletariat democracy based on councils, committees and assemblies of the working class and popular masses, to take the first steps to advance towards a real socialist regime.

\* \* \* \* \*

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements and articles on Venezuela which can be read on the subsection on Latin America on this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/>.

## 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.

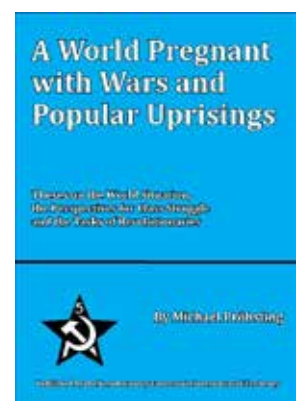
This book is a major contribution of our organization to keep the Marxists' analysis of the world situation and its accelerating contradictions updated. As we emphasize in the document, we consider it as crucial for revolutionaries to understand the nature and the inner dynamics of the current historic 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/>



## Crisis in Venezuela: Impressions from the Ground

Letter from Alexis (RCIT Supporter in Venezuela), Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 January 2019

**Note of the Editorial Board:** Below we reprint excerpts of a letter which we received from a supporter in Venezuela. In this letter, comrade Alexis relays some interesting impressions about the situation on the ground.

We refer readers to the latest RCIT statement on Venezuela which has been published in four languages (see our website [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)).

\* \* \* \* \*

The situation in Venezuela has been very difficult to me and all working class. I work 14 hours and the money is not enough to cover the basic needs at the end of the month. Many are hungry and others have died of hunger, a painful truth.

Currently, we have a dual power situation but there has not been a real reaction. Mainly, because the bureaucratic state of Maduro's government continues all its functions and the military caste supports it. There are no real prospects for a coup d'état.

The right wing opposition seeks for allies, but the truth is that the main powers have given only rhetorical support and they themselves doubt that these powers would do something with concrete actions. Trump's government

only uses rhetoric, but it is not willing to a military invasion, it would be very costly for them.

The majority of the working class is controlled by PSUV's bureaucracy (the PSUV is the ruling Bolivarian party, Ed.), and in this crisis times the inorganic money that comes out from the state reaches to bureaucratic caste of the workers' organizations. A business of hunger and control.

The right-wing opposition took to the streets to express their rejection of Maduro, and many call for the military invasion of the United States as the only way out. However, most of that opposition only wants political power because they already dominate economic power and have many businesses where they move a lot of money. They take advantage of the crisis to be richer, while others are poorer.

The poverty levels have skyrocketed. The minimum wage is the lowest in Latin America and one of the lowest in the world, just 6 dollars. The bolivar (the currency in Venezuela, Ed.) is constantly devalued against the dollar. The working class receives its salary in bolivars but all prices are weighted in dollars.

The PSUV's bureaucracy asks its supporters to endure, while they live with luxuries and privileges. Everyone knows this reality, but the reactions are controlled. Stalinism is deeply rooted in Maduro's Government.

## 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.

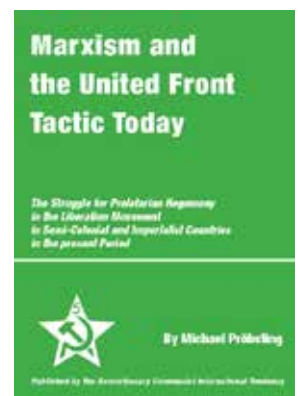
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.





## Venezuela: International Solidarity Rallies

*By the Mexican and Brazilian Sections of the RCIT, January 2019*

### Mexico City

Activists of Agrupación de Lucha Socialista, Mexican section of the RCIT, participated in an internationalist and anti-imperialist demonstration in front the U.S. embassy in México.

Hundreds of people, from different left-wing and political organizations, went to the streets in protest against the interventionism of the U.S. government. We demanded:

*“Trump, get your hands out of Venezuela!”*

*All the solidarity with the people of Venezuela!*

*Smash the Great Powers and the right-wing forces!*

*For a workers, peasants and popular government!*

### Sao Paulo

Activists of *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (Brazilian section of the RCIT) participated in an anti-fascist and anti-imperialist demonstration in front the Venezuelan embassy in Sao Paulo.

This rally was directed against the current coup attempt in Venezuela as well as against the threat of fascist forces to stage a rally in front of the embassy at the same time.

The driving force behind this rally was the left-wing *Partido da Causa Operária* (PCO).

*\* Venezuela: Against the Coup and against the U.S. and EU Aggression!*

*\* No Imperialist Sanctions against Venezuela!*

*\* No Political Support for the Bonapartist Maduro Government! No Support for Russian and Chinese Imperialism*

*\* For independent workers and popular mobilizations!*

*\* For workers and popular councils and militias! For a workers and popular government!*



Venezuela: Rallies against the pro-U.S. coup, (Sao Paulo, above, and Mexico City, below)



## Morales Handed the Head of Battisti On the Plate to Salvini

*Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 19 January 2019,*

**B**olivian President Evo Morales handed over the head of former left-wing activist *Cesare Battisti* to the ultra-reactionary government of *Matteo Salvini* of Italy. Battisti was summarily extradited by the Bolivian government without any possibility of a right of defense or even to state his reasons. His request for political asylum was completely ignored. A few hours after being detained by the Bolivian police, the former Italian activist was put on a plane and sent to serve a life sentence. In all respects his extradition was an arbitrary act of the government of Evo Morales.

Cesare Battisti is an Italian former member of the *Armed Proletarians for Communism*, a militant far-left group active during the period from the late 1960s to the late 1980s in Italy. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. In order to escape prison, he fled to France and then to Mexico before settling in Brazil in 2002. After the victory of ultra-reactionary Jair Bolsonaro as president of Brazil, the Supreme Court revoked the decision of the Lula da Silva government to grant Battisti the political asylum, and ordered his immediate arrest.

The ease and rapidity of extradition raises a great deal of suspicion about the real motives of the Bolivian government – a supposed leftist government – to have done this great favor to the far-right of their own country, as well as to the extreme right of Brazil and Italy. All this takes place at a time when Latin America witnesses a growth of conservative and neoliberal governments. Morales's attitude in giving Battisti to his executioners reveals a shameful capitulation, under which the political and economic agreements of Bolivia with the right-wing governments of Latin America and with American imperialism may be related.

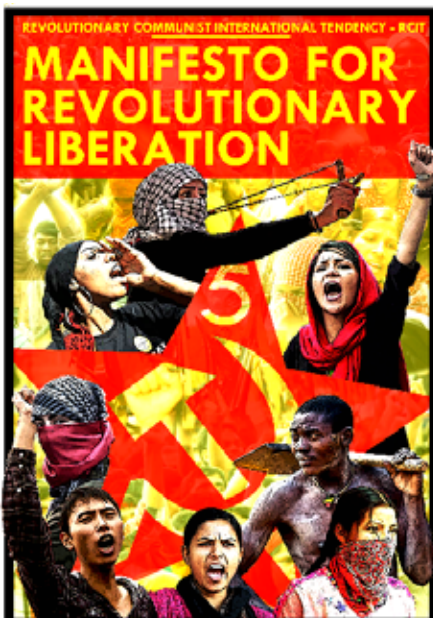
What can also be explained is that Morales believes that by making these concessions to the right-wing governments of the region, such as neighboring Brazil under Bolsonaro, he will have a truce or be spared by any coup

d'état by imperialism or his local puppets.

The decision to extradite Battisti was a strong blow against the Latin American left and against those who fight against imperialism. Morales' own social base, his party's militancy (MAS) and several sectors of the Bolivian left, vehemently criticized such a decision by opening a crisis within the left of that country.

It was at the same time a betrayal of Morales to social movements and a gift given by his government to Bolsonaro and the entire extreme right of the world. This decision demonstrates to the more advanced sectors of the workers' and popular movements that this type of nationalist leftist government like of Evo Morales does not want and can not seriously lead to a serious confrontation against the sectors of the right and imperialism due to their own limitations for always seeking reconciliation, rather than breaking any ties with the bourgeoisie. Morales practically capitulated to the Bolsonaro government and to American and European imperialism.

The *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR* defends the unity of action with the committees against the coup d'état which took place in Brazil, for Lula's da Silva freedom, and for the return of democratic rights. In this spirit we will continue being on the streets along with the social movements and struggles of mass movements. We are categorical in reaffirming that the only defense that the Brazilian people have against the militarized ultra-reactionary regime is our independent struggle and organization. What is needed is the immediate formation of a broad united front of all mass organizations of the working and oppressed classes (CUT, PT, MST, MTST, etc.) to organize a mass resistance against the Bolsonaro government and its reactionary attacks. Such resistance must include mass demonstrations and strikes. Ultimately, it is urgent to prepare a general political strike to overthrow Bolsonaro!



### *Program of the RCIT*

## Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> 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*

# Brexit: A Historical Defeat for the Tory Government!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 16.01.2019

The 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 was a historic day. Theresa May and her government suffered one of the biggest defeats in Parliament in recent times. This was a historical moment for the British bourgeoisie who are in a terminal crisis. The repercussions will be felt throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Nearly a quarter of her own Party voted against her Brexit proposals. So did Labour, SNP and other smaller parties in Parliament.

*"Theresa May has sustained the heaviest parliamentary defeat of any British prime minister in the democratic era after MPs rejected her Brexit deal by a resounding majority of 230." [1]*  
*"Theresa May has pledged to face down a vote of no confidence in her government, after her Brexit deal was shot down by MPs in the heaviest parliamentary defeat of the democratic era. On a day of extraordinary drama at Westminster, the House of Commons delivered a devastating verdict on the prime minister's deal, voting against it by 432 to 202. The scale of defeat, by a majority of 230, was greater than any seen in the past century, with ardent Brexiters such as Jacob Rees-Mogg and Boris Johnson walking through a packed division lobby cheek-by-jowl alongside passionate remainers." [2]*

## Corbyn and the Blairites

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January, following May's defeat for her Brexit proposals, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, tabled a motion of No-confidence in May and her government which is in a terminal crisis. Predictably the DUP voted with the government to ensure May survived the No Confidence vote by 325-306 a majority of just 19.

Of course Corbyn has his own opponents in the Labour party, the right wing Blairite faction who are opposed to Corbyn and do not want a general election where Corbyn would form a Labour Government. They are pushing for a second referendum to keep the Tories in power.

*"Half a dozen Labour MPs came out in support of a second referendum for the first time at a Westminster photocall, arguing it was the "the only logical option" if the party could not secure a general election.*

*The timing of the demand, a couple of hours before Jeremy Corbyn was due to open the no-confidence debate, irritated the party's leadership, who said afterwards that another national poll was "not the default option" if the Commons vote was lost. But in response, Corbyn's spokesman said in a briefing that a second referendum was "not the default option". When asked if the MPs' actions were a distraction, he added right now the priority is to bring about a general election; we've got a no-confidence motion down today. Not one of these MPs cares about removing a Tory government, in response to a picture of the photocall". [3]*

This action is typical of these Blairite MP's who are more interested in defending the interests of European imperialism than fighting for an end to austerity, homelessness and racism. They have organized coups against Corbyn who is the elected leader of the Labour Party. They should be de-selected in the case of an election and expelled from the Labour party!

The crisis of British Imperialism is a reflection of the crisis of the world-wide crisis of imperialist nations. There is mass opposition by the working classes and the popular

masses against austerity and poverty in France (the yellow vests movement), Greece and Hungary. In the United States there exists a wide opposition against the arch-reactionary and chauvinist Trump Administration. Everywhere imperialism is riven by the inner contradictions of capitalism and the onset of recession and slump. That is what drives them with such ferocity and hatred against the working masses. The RCIT stated this with such clarity in its recently published *Open Letter*.

*"We are living in historic times. Everyone with open eyes can see that the imperialist world order is in severe turmoil. We are heading towards a political volcano eruption. The stock markets are in panic, reflecting the capitalists' fear of another, imminent Great Recession which will be even worse this time than in 2008/09. The tensions between the imperialist Great Powers are rapidly accelerating as indicated by the looming Global Trade War, the tensions in the South China Sea, at the Russian-Ukrainian border, the new imperialist scramble for Africa, etc. President Trump's decision to withdraw substantial numbers of U.S. troops from the Middle East and his admission that the U.S. cannot continue to be "the policeman of the world" reflect the official end of the absolute domination of the former super-power. Only a political blind can ignore that the future will be decisively shaped by the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, the EU, Russia and Japan." [4]*

The central task in Britain is to push the trade unions and other mass organizations of the working class to organize the struggle on the streets and the work places. The alternative is not to choose between European or British imperialism (i.e. if the UK should remain or leave the EU) but to fight against austerity and against racism. Such a struggle should be combined with the perspective to bring down the Tory government

The RCIT Britain restates its positions:

*\* For Open Borders! Opposition to racism, chauvinism and immigration controls!*

*\* Critically support the Pro-Corbyn faction in the Labour party against the right-wing Blairites! Expel and deselect all Blairite MP's from the Labour party!*

*\* In the event of a general election we would call for a critical vote for the Labour Party.*

*\* For an indefinite general strike to overthrow this hated Tory Government: For a workers revolutionary government.*

*\* For revolutionary defeatism. Reject both imperialist camps - Remain and Brexit! For international working class solidarity!*

The RCIT in BRITAIN calls on all workers and oppressed to study our program at [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)!

## Footnotes

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/15/theresa-may-loses-brexit-deal-vote-by-majority-of-230>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/15/theresa-may-suffers-historic-defeat-as-tories-turn-against-her>

3) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/16/labour-mps-declare-support-for-second-brexit-referendum>

4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-great-tasks-demand-great-initiative/>



# UK: Reject All Immigration Controls – No to Racism!

## Reject All Immigration Controls – No to Racism and Chauvinism!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 03.01.2019

**B**rexit is tearing both the Tory Party and the Labour Party apart. A no deal Brexit agreement is still on the cards. There are divisions in both parties which could lead to splits. Theresa May barely survived a no confidence in her own party over her plans for Brexit which are now in tatters. She agreed that she would not stand as leader in the event of a General Election.

*"Theresa May has won a confidence vote in her leadership of the Tory party by 200 to 117. A majority of Conservative MPs backed her in a secret ballot after the prime minister signaled she would step down before the 2022 election". [1]*

May and the leadership of the Tory party remain jittery about the prospect of a no deal Brexit agreement. She has called for the use of troops to ensure essential supplies across the channel in the event of a no deal Brexit agreement.

*"Emergency no-deal Brexit contingency plans must now be implemented across government, cabinet ministers have agreed, including reserving ferry space for supplies and putting 3,500 armed forces personnel on standby to deal with any disruption". [2]*

May's refusal to bring her Brexit plans to Parliament because she knows she will be defeated shows the weak position she is in. The DUP her partners in government are opposed to May's botched plan over Brexit which means on three occasions May has lost a vote over Brexit. She intends to bring her final plans to parliament on January 14<sup>th</sup>, despite the fact that she has lost votes over Brexit. However, May still remains as Prime Minister and refuses to resign.

### Chauvinist Hysteria against Refugees

Recent developments have demonstrated the crisis of this Government. Many migrants and refugees from France have been hiring small boats to cross the channel to enter Britain before March 29<sup>th</sup> – the deadline for Brexit. There has been a campaign of hysteria in the capitalist media stoking flames of hatred and racism against migrants and

refugees who are trying to enter Britain on these small crafts. This fear is to whip up divisions and split the working class.

*"The home secretary, Sajid Javid, and his French counterpart have pledged to step up joint efforts to tackle cross-Channel people smuggling, as Labour accused the Conservatives of whipping up concern about the issue. On Monday, a group of 12 people, including a 10-year-old child, were being interviewed by immigration officials after they came ashore near Lydd-on-Sea, Kent. A Home Office spokesman said: "Border Force was contacted by Kent police at around 8.25am. Border Force officers were deployed to assist with a group of 12 migrants at Greatstone, Kent". [3]*

### Labour, Corbyn and the Blairites

Jeremy Corbyn, the left wing leader of the Labour party, faces down his own inner-party opponents of the right wing Blairite faction who are opposed to his position on Brexit and want a second referendum to overturn Brexit. The Labour Party at its Conference in 2018 resolved to push for a general election.

But the Blairites led by Chukka Umunna are desperate to prevent a General Election because they fear the election of a Corbyn led government and will do anything to derail Corbyn's plans. In fact the Blairites are the biggest supporters of British capitalism and as long as a second referendum is agreed by the government they will support the Tories. Umunna has been working for an alliance between pro-European Tories, Liberal Democrats and the SNP in a campaign for a second referendum to undermine Corbyn's leadership.

However, Corbyn still retains massive support amongst rank and file Labour party supporters who are opposed to the right wing inside the Labour Party. The Blairites have shown again and again that they are pro-capitalists and have nothing in common with ordinary working class members in the Labour party. The Blairites are desperate to remove Corbyn and split the party. If the Blairite MP's

## REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM - The RCIT's Theoretical Review

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 by Michael Pröbsting

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 on the World Situation, the Perspectives on the Tasks of Revolutionaries  
 by Michael Pröbsting



do not accept the democratically elected Leadership of the Party they should be deselected, purged and expelled from the Party.

Corbyn has stated his position on Brexit which is to work for a Customs Union. He accepts that many of his supporters in Leave constituencies support Brexit, but his main aim is to force a general election and force the hated Tory Government out of office.

*“Jeremy Corbyn has defiantly restated Labour’s policy of leading Britain out of the European Union with a refashioned Brexit deal, shrugging off intense pressure from Labour MPs and activists for the party to throw its weight behind a second referendum. The Labour leader insisted that even if his party won a snap general election in the new year, he would seek to go to Brussels and try to secure a better deal – if possible, in time to allow Brexit to go ahead on 29 March”* [4]

### Against both British and EU Imperialism!

The RCIT Britain has stated their position on Brexit many times:

*“The RCIT Britain and its supporters advocated an abstention vote at the 2016 Referendum. We reiterate our position that neither imperialist option – imperialist Britain outside or inside the imperialist EU – is a solution for the workers and oppressed. The key task for Marxists is to help the workers vanguard taking an independent class position. Hence the RCIT steadfastly defends the orthodox Marxist position (...) to reject support either for the imperialist EU or for the imperialist nation-state. We stand for an independent position of the working class and, therefore, refuse to support both the pro-EU faction and the anti-EU faction of the imperialist bourgeoisie.”* [5]

The dramatic events around Brexit are a reflection of massive political crisis in all imperialist nations, Britain is no exception. A period of crisis opens up for the bourgeoisie in every country. The failure of the ruling class to resolve these contradictions has led to revolutionary developments around the world. In France the “Yellow vests” protest movement has shown the fragile nature of the bourgeois rule in France. The emergence of a mass movement similar to the Yellow vests movement is what the bourgeoisie fear could happen in Britain.

The RCIT Britain continues to oppose both reactionary

options – an imperialist Britain ruled by the capitalist oligarchy inside or outside the EU. The working class must not allow itself being used by neither the pro-EU nor by the pro-nationalist factions of the bourgeoisie. In contrast, it must advocate a position of revolutionary defeatism, i.e. consistent opposition against all bourgeois factions and their imperialist plans! It must advocate international solidarity and support the right of migrants to come to Britain. It must orientate to joint struggles with protest movements of workers and oppressed in other countries – like e.g. the “Yellow vests” in France.

We put forward the following demands to unite the working class in a struggle against imperialist war, racism, chauvinism, poverty and austerity.

*\* For Open Borders! Migrants and refugees coming to Britain should have free movement! Reject immigration controls! No to Racism and Islamophobia!*

*\* Campaign in the Trade Unions and the working class movement to have all arrested migrants freed and released!*

*\* For self-defense guards to protect migrants and refugees from fascist or police provocation!*

*\* For an indefinite general strike to unite the working class and oppressed to overthrow this hated reactionary Tory Government! For a Workers Revolutionary Government!*

*\* Reject both imperialist camps - Remain and Brexit!*

*\* Build a new Revolutionary World Party as a weapon to unite all workers and the oppressed to overthrow imperialism globally!*

### Footnotes

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2018/dec/12/tory-mps-trigger-vote-of-no-confidence-in-may-amid-brexit-uncertainty-politics-live?page=with:block-5c117699e4b025637fe94420>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/18/brexit-cabinet-meets-to-discuss-ramping-up-plans-for-no-deal>

3) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/30/uk-and-france-pledge-drive-to-tackle-people-smuggling-in-channel>

4) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/21/jeremy-corbyn-labour-policy-leaving-eu>

5) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/britain-no-deal-brexit-is-imminent/>

## Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- \* **Marxism, EU and Brexit**
- \* **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**
- \* **The Reformist Pipe Dream of a “Socialist” European Union**

Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)



## UK: Peoples Assembly against Austerity March

Report (with Pictures) of the RCIT Britain, 13.01.2019

5,000 people demonstrated against the Theresa May Government against Austerity, Brexit and Homelessness. The march was dominated by the Socialist Party and the SWP plus other centrist groups. The main slogan was for a General Election Now and to elect a Labour government under Jeremy Corbyn. There were placards like "Britain is broken", "General election now – Tories out", "May must go", and "Kick out the Tories".

There were also banners from the Trade Unions including UNITE, National Education Union, UNISON, RMT, CWU and several Labour Party branches from London including Lambeth, Tottenham, Wood Green, Enfield North, Canterbury and Whistable New Forest and Liverpool West.

Other campaigning organisations also had banners on the march as well including the campaign against cuts in Disabilities and "Jewish Voice for Labour" – an Anti-Zionist organisation active in the Labour Party.

The Demonstration marched from Oxford Street to Trafalgar Square with a very heavy police presence from both the Metropolitan police and the City of London police. Chants on the march, accompanied by an Afro Caribbean band, were "Tories Out!", "General Election Now!", "May

out!", "Kick the Tories out!"

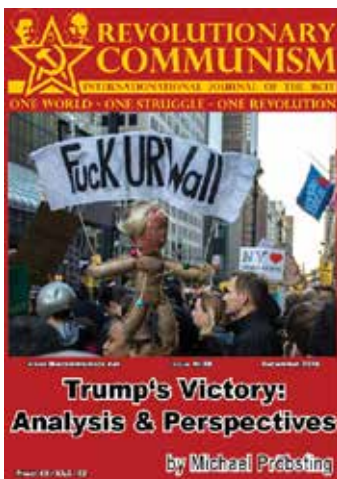
When the march arrived at Trafalgar Square there were several speakers including Steve Turner (Assistant General Secretary of Unite), Weyman Bennet (Stand Up to Racism) and Lindsey Germain (Stop the War Coalition). A speaker from the Yellow Vests campaign from France also spoke as did a former refugee from one of the Detention centres in Britain.

The main speaker was John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor and Jeremy Corbyn's closest ally. McDonnell said that there should be a general election now to elect a socialist Labour Government. "We want to take power now", he said. There have been over 600 suicides from people sleeping rough in our streets. He said that May and the Tories want a no deal Brexit and on Tuesday in the House of Commons May will be defeated. "When the time comes and is right we will put a vote of No Confidence to bring forward a General election and the election of a socialist Labour government under Jeremy Corbyn"

No doubt, these are the reformist hopes of a reformist party leadership. The real task is to organize the class struggle in the workplaces and on the streets!



Demonstrators at the March against Austerity, London 13 January



### Publications of the RCIT

## The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump's Victory

By Michael Prebsting, November 2016

Introduction \* I. The Election Outcome \* II. Where is the Trump Administration Heading? \* III. Global Consequences: The Beginning of a New Era \* IV. Lessons and Perspectives for the Struggle \* V. Summary Theses \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format



## NEW BOOK: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry!

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

**Preface of the Editorial Board:** *The RCIT has published a new English-language book – ANTI-IMPERIALISM IN THE AGE OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY. The book's subtitle is: The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective. It contains an introduction and 29 chapters plus an appendix (412 pages) and includes 61 figures and tables. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT. Below we reprint the introduction of the book.*

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the biggest issues of our time is the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan. Hence, diplomatic rows, sanctions, trade wars, military tensions and, ultimately, major wars between these Great Powers are prominent features of the historic period ahead. The looming Global Trade War between the U.S. and China, the tensions in the South China Sea, the sanctions between the West and Russia – all that demonstrates the highest actuality of the issue of Great Power rivalry.

These developments are closely related to the increasing aggression of the Great Powers against the oppressed

peoples – a phenomenon which has massively accelerated since 2001 under the fig-leaf of “War on Terror”.

For these reasons, we have always emphasized the crucial importance of understanding the nature of the imperialist world system. Without such an apprehension of the Marxist theory of the modern epoch it is impossible to recognize the imperialist character of the Great Powers. This is a particularly urgent issue given the emergence of new imperialist powers – China and Russia – which are challenging the long-term masters of the old imperialist world order (the U.S., as the hegemon, and the EU and Japan as its allied powers).

Consequently, a correct theoretical comprehension of the main contradictions of world capitalism is the prerequisite for socialists to take an unambiguous anti-imperialist stand – one of the most important tasks for Marxists today, in particular for those operating in the heart of the imperialist beast.

Such a Marxist program of anti-imperialist struggle inside the imperialist countries themselves has become known as *Defeatism*, or to be more precise, as *Revolutionary Defeatism*. This program means, to summarize it in a simple formula, to reject any kind of support for each and every imperialist Great Power, to support all liberation struggles against any of them and to utilize all difficulties and crises in order to advance the class struggle to defeat the imperialist ruling class in all countries. Our organization, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)*, has recently

## 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

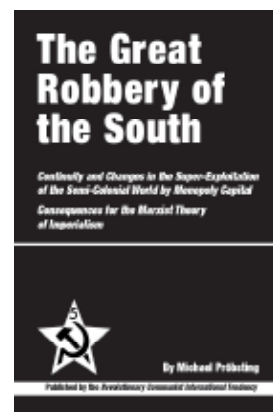
The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism*. The book is in English-language.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

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published a substantial document on this issue (*Theses on Revolutionary Defeatism in Imperialist States*). This programmatic document is republished here as an appendix. The present book is basically structured in four main parts. In the first part, we deal with several features of imperialism which are relevant for our topic with a focus on the rivalry between the Great Powers. Hence, it is not a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of imperialism but focuses on a few of them. We permit ourselves such a procedure also because we have already dealt with numerous issues of present-day imperialism in other books and pamphlets of the RCIT.

In the second part we discuss the analysis of Great Power rivalry as it has been elaborated by a number of left-wing parties and organizations. In criticizing their position we defend and refine our arguments. In this process we present a number of historical and actual facts. We also compare the arguments of these left-wing organizations with the Marxist theory of imperialism as it has been elaborated by Lenin and Trotsky.

Part three elaborates the essential components of the defeatist program – on the issues of conflicts between Great Powers as well as between imperialist states and semi-colonial countries respectively national minorities and migrants. We explain what the Marxist classics have said on this subject and why it is relevant for today. Furthermore we also analyze which political and social changes have taken place since the times of Lenin and Trotsky and what are their consequences for the program of defeatism.

In the fourth part of the present work we discuss the approach of a number of left-wing organizations on the issue of anti-imperialist struggle. Again, we submit their positions to a criticism from the Marxist point of view and elaborate our arguments with numerous examples. We demonstrate that a number of forces, while claiming to take an anti-imperialist stand, in fact side with one or the other Great Power. In other words, they are not anti-imperialists but rather open or concealed social-imperialists. We bring the book to a close with a summary of the tasks of Marxists in the struggle against imperialist war and aggression.

Finally, a “warning”: this book is not written from a “neutral” point of view. It is not indifferent to the accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers and the imperialist aggression against oppressed peoples. It takes a stand – a stand against *all* Great Powers and for *supporting* all liberation struggles of the workers and oppressed! It therefore polemicizes against those left-wing organizations which, in our view, fail in taking such an anti-imperialist stand. Hence, this work is not written for the purpose of becoming a commercial success but rather as a guideline for anti-imperialist activists. There are already myriads of best-seller on the market. What is needed is authentic Marxist literature! Lenin liked to say that *„without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.“* (1) This intrinsic truth has not lost its importance.

We are fully aware that the issues discussed in this work are not always easy to understand. This is particularly true as we are discussing phenomena which have come up rather recently (like e.g. the emergence of China and Russia as imperialist Great Powers). Many socialists might prefer sticking with old formula like the idea that only the U.S., Western Europe and Japan are imperial-

ist states. However, we consider such “conservatism” as highly dangerous as it misses the crucial changes in world politics in the past decade. Trotsky’s observation about the importance of keeping the theoretical analysis in step with the objective developments remains fully valid.

*“The vast practical importance of a correct theoretical orientation is most strikingly manifested in a period of acute social conflict of rapid political shifts, of abrupt changes in the situation. In such periods, political conceptions and generalizations are rapidly used up and require either a complete replacement (which is easier) or their concretization, precision or partial rectification (which is harder). It is in just such periods that all sorts of transitional, intermediate situations and combinations arise, as a matter of necessity, which upset the customary patterns and doubly require a sustained theoretical attention. In a word, if in the pacific and “organic” period (before the war) one could still live on the revenue from a few readymade abstractions, in our time each new event forcefully brings home the most important law of the dialectic: The truth is always concrete.”* (2)

We hope that this book will help to clarify the complex theoretical and tactical issues related to the accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers. It will have fulfilled its purpose if it aids activists and all those interested in understanding these issues to get a more comprehensive grasp of one of the most important questions of our time and to draw the necessary conclusions from this.

Finally, this book benefited from collective discussions which the author had with a number of comrades in the RCIT. In particular I want to thank comrade Nina Gunić, with whom I have the privilege to develop jointly ideas and arguments since years and who plays a central role in elaborating the programmatic framework of our theory. Furthermore I want to express my gratitude to comrade Petr Sedov who helped in the elaboration of this book not only with a number of insightful comments but also with providing translations of many quotes from Russian-language sources.

#### Footnotes

(1) V. I. Lenin: What Is To Be Done? (1902), in: LCW Vol. 5, p. 369

(2) Leon Trotsky: Bonapartism and Fascism (July 1934), in: Trotsky Writings 1934-35, p. 35

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> Workers International on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

