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India-Pakistan: Defeat the War Mongers! Free Kashmir!

- * Nigeria: Call Off of ASUU Strike
- * Nigeria: Struggle for Free Education
- * Current Situation in Zimbabwe
- * Anniversary of Egypt Revolution 2011
- * Bangladesh: Street Vendors Evictions
- * General Election in Thailand
- * Brazil: Defeat the Pension Reforms
- * Brazil: The First Political Exile
- * Brexit: Government Nears Collapse
- * USA: Crisis in Virginia

Workers and Oppressed Unite!

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Nigeria: The Struggle for Free Education Continues!	p.3
Nigeria: The Call Off of the ASUU Strike and our Positions	p.4
On the Current Situation in Zimbabwe	p.5
Free Kashmir! Defeat India's and Pakistan's Warmongers!	p.6
Bangladesh: Dhaka Street Vendors Evictions	p.8
Thailand: Down with the Prayut-Chan-O-Cha Dictatorship!	p.10
Brazil: The First Political Exile	p.12
Brazil: Defeat the Pension Reforms of Bolsonaro and Covas!	p.13
Rally on the 8th Anniversary of the Egypt Revolution 2011	p.14
Brexit: Theresa May Government on the Verge of Collapse	p.15
USA: Crisis in Virginia	p.17
USA: The Crisis in Virginia Continues	p.18
RCIT: What We Stand For	p.19

Source of picture on the cover: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Air_Force

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Nigeria: The Struggle for Free Education Continues!

Brief Report (with Pictures) by the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing Section of the RCIT), 05 February 2019

The revolutionary students in Nigeria are continuing their struggle for free education. As we reported already in the last months, the education workers are waging a strike for proper funding of the education institutions.

The Alliance of Nigerian students Against Neoliberal Attacks (ANSA), in which comrades of the Nigerian section play a leading role, has supported this struggle from the beginning with a series of activities. On 25 January, they hold some public activities in the Ikeja district in Lagos state. (See picture below).

In a communique issued by its National Executive Committee, ANSA restated its commitment to "the course of struggles to save the public education from being priced out of the reach of the students from mostly largely poor backgrounds and total ruins through the policies of commercialization and privatization of the government ..." They continue to "call for full and public funding of the education sector." Furthermore, ANSA accuses the government of being "clearly culpable

of deliberately underfunding the education sector, by keeping the teaching, learning and living conditions of the students and their teachers in abject porosity. We have commenced intensive and organized sensitizations to ensure that Nigerian students and especially the striking education workers not to back down on their demands until the Federal Government of Nigeria fully meet them. We are aware too that the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) is conniving with the Federal Government of Nigeria to frustrate the industrial actions of the striking lecturers of under the auspices of the ASUU and ASUP and we have openly started to expose this conspiracy through our press releases and mass actions. Since NANS has become the arm of the Ministry of education of the government, we must quickly begin to reach out our ranks and files in order to abort this ploy."

Comrade Obafemi Sodunola, a leading member of the Nigerian section of the RCIT and the National Public Relations Officer of ANSA, said: "We will continue the struggle as long as it takes! Our struggle for free education is part of our perspective to fight for a socialist future!"



Rally of ANSA and RSV activists for free education in Nigeria, Lagos 25.01.2019

REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION - The RCIT's Monthly Journal

<p>www.thecommuists.net Issue No.76 December 2017</p>		<p>www.thecommuists.net Issue No.77 January 2018</p>		<p>www.thecommuists.net Issue No.78 February 2019</p>		<p>www.thecommuists.net Issue No.79 March 2019</p>	
<p>Kenya: Down with the pro-imperialist Kenyatta Regime!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Grassybê Regime in Togo * Zambia: Still Not Free * 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"> * Meetings 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 Protests! * Palestine: Free Ahd Tamimi NOW! * Baïfour's Declaration - Myths vs. Fac Six Points for Revolutionary Unity * Italy sends Soldiers to Niger * Class Warfare in Zambia * Liberia: American Puppet President! * UK: Carrilion Crisis 		<p>The Syrian Revolution is in mortal Danger!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Palestine: 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: Solidarity with East Ghouta! * Syria: Turkey's hidden war vs. HTS * Israeli Warplane Shot Down over Syria 	
Workers and Oppressed United!		Workers and Oppressed United!		Workers and Oppressed United!		Workers and Oppressed United!	

Nigeria: The Call Off of the ASUU Strike and our Positions

By Obafemi Sodunola, Organizing Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Symp. RCIT Section in Nigeria), 8.2.2019

* ASUU should have ensured that the Federal Government of Nigeria and State Governments Implemented All the Agreements before Calling off the Strike Action

* ASUU should Build Synergy with ASUP and Students' Unions in a Bid to Unite the Struggles for Proper and Public Funding of the Education Sector

Reflecting on the call off of the industrial actions by the Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU), the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) states: we salute the continuous struggle of the ASUU to save the public education from being priced out of the reach of the students from largely poor backgrounds and exposed it to ruins. At the same time, we also critically hold that it would amount to a serious setback or dampen the conscious and conceited moves of many other organizations or unions that have been taking the same stand/agitations for the proper and public funding of the education sector or showing solidarities/supports for the struggle of the ASUU on the massive scale if the leadership of ASUU called off its strike actions when the government has not sincerely committed to the implementation of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), mutually reached between them. This move, if it's not properly managed, can be a step backward. Returning to the same reason for the strike actions umpteenth when they can make the government be on its knees once and for all.

We are fully vigilantly aware that the Federal Government of Nigeria and the government at the state levels have not been showing any serious compliance to agreements or honour any MOUs signed with the labour unions for many years back. For us, this government needs to be vigilantly and critically put on their toes through consistent and loud actions.

Unequivocally, the governments, at all levels are notorious for playing hide and seek games or treacherous in fulfilling agreements. The struggle for the hike in the *National Minimum Wage* has shown how wanton the governments can be to meeting/ honouring agreements. It is clearly pointed out in our last release that the labour unions that is, the *Nigerian Labour Congress* (NLC), *Trade Union Congress* (TUC), and *United Labour Congress* (ULC) should not trust the agreements with government just in word or take it hook and sinker but they should follow them up with consistently vigilant checks until the National Minimum Wage (NMW) is passed into law and fully implemented.

Unfortunately, we are still on the same demands for the

payment of the agreed 30,000 naira NMW despite the fact that the Unions suspended the striking actions trusting that the governments will willingly or generously implement the NMW.

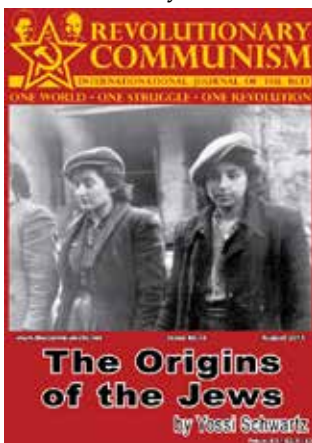
We have raised with the education workers, that is the ASUU, ASUP and COEASU etc through many of our press releases, that they should learn from the mistakes or failures of the leadership NLC, TUC and ULC to strike the balance before suspending the strike and fully hold the government responsible until their demands are enacted into law. The foul play on the part of government has, once again, exposed question of non implementation which is still in the offing till date.

For us in the RSV, the ASUU should not just suspend the strike actions without laying bare its massive point of reference among its members, students and the masses at large because the government has always been working against or dishonouring all the agreements reached with labour Unions. The ASUU should, at this revolutionary time in the history of our struggles in Nigeria, keep eagle eyes on the government, be ready to immediately expose them when they want to boycott these agreements as usual as they have been doing in the past.

Again, for us in the RSV, of course at this critical stage of the struggles for the full and public funding of the education sector to revitalize all the rotten infrastructure and place it under the democratic control of parents, the education workers and students, there should be a loud synergy among the unions in the education sector and civil society organizations so as to make the struggles against the government neo-liberal policies of deliberately gross underfunding stronger. The ASUU should immediately begin to unite their struggles with other unions in the education sector. The ASUP, COEASU, Students' Unions should be reached in order to build unique and united front to ensure that the governments at all levels live up to their constitutional responsibilities.

We therefore urge other unions, especially the ASUP, not to negotiate out of fear or favour but ensure that their demands are fully, immediately and unconditionally met.

The Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard will continue to show solidarities to all unions. We will not only do this in words but we will always support them at barricades until we have a radical alternative built on the threshold of socialist economy.



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

On the Current Situation in Zimbabwe

By Eddy Ziyera, Correspondent in Zimbabwe, 08 February 2019

After the general strike that was called by the ZCTU and fraternal organizations, the political situation remains dire. Basically we are sitting on a quick sands political situation.

The reactionary Mnangagwa-Chiwenga government was shaken to the core by the general strike. It was a serious reality check situation which apparently left it with an egg on their faces.

The country is on a knife edge and can explode again any time. The brutal government clamp down against labour, civil society, opposition members and general public is a clear sign the rulers are in a state of fear of citizens.

Interestingly there is a new narrative, unforeseen previously, that the government is clearly afraid of the people while a new generation of youths who are clearly not afraid of the state and its apparatus of fear and coercion is on the scene.

The general strike was called by the labour movements, however those who came out to "enforce" the strike were mostly young people aged between 16 and 19 years. They faced the brutal army, police and ZANU-PF youths on the streets for a full week causing the state apparatus to retreat.

The state chose to instil fear by causing mass arrests of protesters, non-protesters, civic leaders, and political activists. Soldiers and ZANU-PF youths were unleashed against the citizens and committed crimes against humanity such as rape and murder. The judiciary is seriously compromised as it has become an extension of brutality. A number of lawyers demonstrated recently against the capture of the judiciary.

Having used rural force to try and suppress the strike, the government seriously undermined its own standing before its peers, i.e. SADC, the African Union, and globally. It has assumed a pariah state status worse than that of old Robert Mugabe had.

Pressure is mounting against the regime with the South African trade union COSATU conducting a solidarity march with Zimbabwean people yesterday briefly closing the Beitbridge border post. Most trade unions in Africa have joined in calling the rogue Zimbabwe government to order.

However, fear remains in the minds of many people and they are afraid to partake or join the strike action if it is called again.

While the strike action shook the establishment, the action could have been more successful if all stakeholders in the struggle had joined hands.

Grounds for a massive action are ripe and ready to be exploited, however, the actors are scattered and choose to act solo. Health staff including doctors has gone on strike twice and no fraternal solidarity was extended to them save for a few press statements. Currently teachers are on strike again and we see no active solidarity again. The government takes advantage of this scattered approach to issues and easily deals with sectoral approach.

During the strike the issue of ideology was lacking. A communist ideology is most needed now than ever before. I have alluded earlier to the issue that young people

carried the strike on their shoulders as they are the most affected by the shrinking economy. However, the youths and many young workers of today lack the ideological grounding that should prepare them for struggle. This is the time for RCIT and like minded organizations to spread the communist gospel because the time for another class revolution in Zimbabwe is upon us.

There is a massive a massive groundswell of dejection and rejection of the governments' neoliberal policies like the raising of the fuel price from \$1.41 to \$3.50 which has made the price of basics to rise sharply again. The command economy premised on state brutality, war against informal traders, and a deteriorating political and economic situation renders the country ready for another revolution. That government is trying to suppress the revolution by pre-emptive strikes against workers, traders, political activists but this will not prevent the next revolution.

As we move, we expect to experience more state brutality using the army to suppress the people. However, due to poor governance by ZANU-PF government in the last 39 years, there is a new generation that has nothing to lose from taking the government head on because they have been completely cut off from accessing any meaningful opportunities for development. This is an angry generation which is also ready to embrace communist ideology as an alternative to the neoliberal world order.

* * * * *

We would like to draw the reader's attention to a number of statements and articles which the RCIT has published on Zimbabwe in the last period:

* *Zimbabwe: Stop the Repression! Neither ZANU-PF nor MDC – for an independent political alternative of the workers and oppressed!* 4 August 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/stop-the-repression-in-zimbabwe/>

* *The Military Coup in Zimbabwe and the Role of Chinese Imperialism*, 29 November 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-military-coup-in-zimbabwe-and-the-role-of-chinese-imperialism/>

* *The Current Political Crisis in Zimbabwe and the Slogan of the Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*, 24 November 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/crisis-in-zimbabwe-and-the-slogan-of-the-revolutionary-constituent-assembly/>

* *Zimbabwe: The Fall of Mugabe – Victory for the Masses or for the Military-ZANU-PF Alliance?* 22.11.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/zimbabwe-after-the-resignation-of-mugabe/>

* *Zimbabwe: Down with the Military Coup! No to the dynastic Mugabe Regime! For Independent Workers' and Poor Mobilisations! For Action Committees of the Workers, Poor Peasants and Soldiers to Advance the Struggle against All Factions of the Ruling Elite!* 15.11.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/against-mugabe-and-military-coup-in-zimbabwe/>

Free Kashmir! Defeat India's and Pakistan's Warmongers!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 February 2019

1) On 26 February, the Indian Air Force launched a military attack against Pakistan. 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets crossed into the country and bombed a target in Balakot, a small town located in the hills of eastern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. While India media reports claimed 300 were killed, the Pakistani side denies any causality. On the next day, Pakistan military shot down two Indian aircraft inside its airspace and captured one pilot. At least four Pakistani civilians were killed later on the same day in the cross-border fire between the rivals.

2) India's government claims to act "in retaliation" for a guerilla attack in Pulwama, in Indian-occupied Kashmir, which took place on 14 February and which killed 42 Indian paramilitaries. New Delhi accused Islamabad of harboring the *Jaish-e-Mohammed* (JeM), the militant group that claimed responsibility for the attack.

3) This is the worst escalation of the conflict between the two South Asian neighbors was the first time since the 1971 war. A crucial factor behind this development is the fact that India's right-wing Modi government faces general elections to be held in April and May 2019. According to current poll, Modi's *National Democratic Alliance* – a coalition led by the Hindu-chauvinist *Bharatiya Janata Party* – is set to lose its parliamentary majority. Modi is therefore determined to utilize any possibility to wipe up Hindu chauvinism against the country's arch-enemy. The explosive

potential of such military aggression between India and Pakistan is evident given the fact that both sides possess between 130 and 150 nuclear warheads each, according to SIPRI.

4) Meanwhile, Indian occupation forces are accelerating the repression against Kashmiri popular organizations. They conducted raids on the houses of four senior Kashmiri nationalist leaders, including the leader of the *Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front* Yasin Malik. A joint group of nationalist leaders have called for a two-day shutdown in Kashmir from 27 February to protest against the raids and "spree of arrests".

5) The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its South Asian members unreservedly condemn the Indian aggression. It is a cynical attempt of the increasingly unpopular Modi government to avoid electoral defeat. At the same time, we can neither support the neoliberal Pakistani government of Imran Khan. In a military conflict between India and Pakistan the RCIT calls socialists to lend no support to any side. In such a case, we call for a revolutionary defeatist position on both sides.

6) At the same time, we unconditionally support the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people. Their land is divided and occupied between three powers – Indian, Pakistan and China. The majority of the 14 million people live under Indian occupation; most of the rest live under



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

Pakistan occupation. The people of Kashmir have always strived for an independent state. Since the beginning of the popular uprising in 1989 in the Indian-occupied part of Kashmir, nearly 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed by Indian security forces. In addition, nearly 10,000 women have been gang raped by marauding bands of Indian soldiers. The Indian state has stationed about 750,000 soldiers and police forces in Kashmir which has a population of only 8 million. This means that there is about one Indian soldier for every ten Kashmiris!

7) The RCIT calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops (i.e. Indian, Pakistani and Chinese forces) from Kashmir. We call the Kashmiri workers, poor and youth to organize for a perspective of *mass struggle against the occupation*. While we defend the heroic guerilla fighters against the Indian repression forces, we consider their strategy as wrong and self-defeating. Neither do we support the ideology of petty-bourgeois nationalist and Islamist organizations in Kashmir. We call for the building of action committees in the work places and neighborhoods to organize the popular masses.

8) The RCIT fully supports the struggle of the Kashmiri people for independence. Such a free and independent Kashmir should be a country controlled by the workers and peasants and not by a small clique of capitalists and land owners. This is why we fight for *an independent socialist Kashmir*, i.e. a *free, united and red Kashmir*! As Marxists we combine such a slogan with the perspective of a *socialist federation of South Asia*. We call the international workers' and popular organizations to support the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people.

9) We strongly condemn pseudo-Marxist or even "Trotskyist" groups in Pakistan and India which denounce the armed guerilla attack on 14 February, directed

against Indian occupation forces, as "terrorism". They are unashamed to express their "sympathies and condolences" for the families of the soldiers which is nothing but a concealed form of solidarity with the Indian occupation forces! Worse, they even demand that "the Pakistan government must in any case be pressured to take action against the JeM"! (Joint Statement by the *Jammu Kashmir Awami Workers Party, Radical Socialist* (India) and the *Pakistan Trade Unions Defense*, 23 February 2019). These right-wing centrist forces, which all have relations with the Mandelist "Fourth International", capitulate once more to the pressure of bourgeois liberalism!

10) It is urgent to advance the creation of a revolutionary party in Kashmir, Pakistan, India and internationally. Only such a party can lead the liberation struggle of the working class and the oppressed people to victory! The RCIT and its Pakistani section call revolutionaries to join us in building such a party!

International Secretariat

* * * * *

We refer reader also to other statements of the RCIT on this issue:

After the Killing of Burhan Wani: Long Live the Kashmiri Intifada! Organize the Workers' and Popular Struggle to End the Indian Occupation! For a Free, United and Red Kashmir!, 21.07.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-uprising/>

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

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



Map of Kashmir (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir#/media/File:Kashmir_region_2004.jpg)

Bangladesh: Dhaka Street Vendors Evictions

By Apu Sarwar, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 29 January 2019

Hundreds of street vendors are often seen on the main roads and at traffic stops every day of Dhaka. The Dhaka City Corporation waged an all-out war against street vendors during the last two weeks. Police used excessive force, cannon water and bulldozer. In the name of 'recovering' the public footpath of Dhaka, countless street vendors and their livelihoods were crushed in this 'clean up' process. Such evictions often result in physical assaults of vendors and the destruction of their goods and wares.

Street vendors are often accused of being responsible for endless Dhaka traffic jams. Almost all the government, business, health care, and education institutions in the country as well as a large proportion of its jobs are concentrated in Dhaka. Every year, 400,000 new residents, mainly unemployed youth, enter the capital because there is no hope and prospect of a living wage outside Dhaka and Chittagong. This mass migration has made Dhaka the densest settled place in the world and one of the fastest growing cities. The capital, with millions inhabitants, almost completely lacks the basic infrastructure and rule of law that make big cities navigable. Jammed-up roads are the indelible image of Dhaka's agony.

For the urban unemployed youth, street vending provides an easy and available opportunity of livelihood as it requires less skill and low financial investment. Hawkers are unemployed ordinary labourers from the countryside in hope to find some sort of employment in big cities. They often migrated to Dhaka and other big cities of the country as there is no other opportunity to earn regular income in the small cities and countryside.

Street hawking is also one of the commonest forms of child labour in the country. Unemployment has now become a curse in Bangladesh. According to World Bank, around 50% of the total population lives under the poverty line. The street vendors belong to the population who lives under the poverty line. Street vending is not a choice of

employment, massive employments forces mostly youth to become a street vendor. Their age range is between 25 and 60 years with a majority being in the age group of 30-40 years. In most cities street vending is regarded as an illegal activity by authorities. Often local authorities impose restrictions on the use of urban space for street vending.

Working conditions of street vendors

Street vendors operate in very dismal working conditions and in a state of uncertainty. They are forced to work 12-14 hours on an average per day. Police and extortionists harass them and demand money from them on the pretext of them being illegal and removing them from their place. They do not have proper workplace and access to facilities such as drinking water, toilets, etc. In addition to this, they have to face seasonal hardships during rainy season as there is no permanent structure which can save them and their goods from rains. Women street vendors face problems related to their privacy, security and child care.

There is an absence of official database on the number of street vendors in the country. There are over half a million street vendors in the country. Each of them on an average pays at least Tk. 50 -60 [\$1USD] every day to linemen, who are private agents of extortionists. The rates vary depending on the city, location of the stalls, hawkers trading busy streets have to pay more.

The extortion economy is a multi-million dollars industry. If the street vendors are unable to pay the extortion money, they are tortured, and their makeshift stalls and goods are damaged. Police and various levels of gangsters are directly benefiting from this industry. Most of the time extortionists are aligned with ruling parties. In the event of changing of the government, extortionists simply change their loyalty or are replaced by new ruling party



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

extortionists. As unemployment grows and more people enter into the vending business, the market gets tougher and competitive to all street vendors.

The street vendors are a very useful lot for the people who fall in lower income group because they get cheap goods from them. But the middle class and elite group see them as pestilence that block footpath and create bottleneck for traffic. Street vendors play a very dynamic role in the urban economy, providing necessary items, which are largely both durable and cost-effective, to average income-earning households at cheap and affordable rates. The street vendors help to sustain the urban economy to a great extent in terms of generation of employment and income, and provision of services to others.

Are hawkers responsible for jammed-up roads?

Dhaka has only 7.5% road of its total area, whereas a standard city requirement is around 25%. Roads of Dhaka City are not sufficient to bear the load of the huge number of vehicles and peoples. Irregular parking of the vehicles, lack of bypass roads, and weak implementation of traffic rules, overpopulation are the main cause of jammed-up roads in Dhaka. Hawkers are only by product of lack of work and lack of decentralization of the country's economic activity and administration.

Private cars have been blamed for traffic congestion in Dhaka as the number of private-owned car is rising per day. However, only two percent of Dhaka's dwellers are using private cars which occupy nearly half of the streets.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has secured her third consecutive term with a landslide victory in Bangladesh's national election on 30 December 2018. In contrast, the oppositional alliance won just seven seats. All opposition parties condemned the vote as "farcical", marred by violence, intimidation and vote rigging claims, using stuffed ballot boxes.

While the Awami League has formally won the election, people do not accept the farcical result of election. There are anger and frustration among sections of the society. The public is angry and there are many spontaneous protests, often in reaction to acts of repression. However, without organization, without the organized power of the masses, the results of the protest movements are often

empty.

The Awami League is trying to divert people's attention from election issues. This government has announced a declaration of war against corruption and drugs and it has promised more 'development'.

The government hopes to get support among sections of the population because many support walkable footpath (even though it cannot be achieved without addressing youth unemployment). In the past, different government used the 'footpath recovery' card to gather support from certain section of society, and then they stopped the street vendors' eviction game midway and pretended to a friend of the poor people. This government is also playing same game as previous government did.

Demands

The street vendors are labourers and not criminals of any kind. So there is no reason to hold their footpath "shop" business as crime – no matter how difficult the road movement can be. The street vendors use their shops in the footpath for earning a decent livelihood and not for committing crimes.

It is crucial that socialists in Bangladesh help the street vendors to organize themselves and to a trade union in order to defend themselves against the repression and against the gangsters. Such a trade union should look for the closest possible collaboration with other trade unions so that it becomes part of common front against the capitalists and their state.

A crucial demand should a *public employment program* so that all can have a job. Such a program should be financed by *massive increases in taxation of the rich and the expropriation of the super-rich*. It should be controlled by the trade unions so that it can not be manipulated and misused by corrupt bureaucrats.

** Stop the harassment of mobile street vendors!*

** No further eviction drives against footpath street vendors without offering them an alternative, equally useful place first!*

** Extortionists to be arrested immediately*

** For a public employment program under control of the unions and financed by the rich!*

** For the building of trade unions of the street vendors to defend themselves against the repression and against the gangsters!*

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Thailand: Down with the Prayut-Chan-O-Cha Dictatorship!

For a Revolutionary Government of the Workers and Poor Peasants!

By Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 05 February 2019

The military dictatorship calling itself the *National Council for Peace and Order* has decided through its control of the election commission to set the date of the general election in Thailand for March 24th. Officially, this should return the country back to bourgeois democracy. However, there is no doubt that the military regime called the election in order that political parties close to them will win the election so that the generals still exert some influence on the country.

"After more than four years of military rule, Thailand will finally hold elections on March 24. The poll will be the first since generals overthrew a democratically elected government in 2014 after months of violent street protests. The election commission announced the decision on Wednesday after having postponed the vote's date several times. Hundreds of activists have protested delays in holding the election since early January, the first such gatherings since the government lifted a ban on political activity in December. Thailand's two largest political parties previously said they had no objections to the election being rescheduled for the coronation". [1]

The election has been called because the dictatorship is beset by a number of problems. Although Thailand is one of the most developed semi-colonial capitalist nations in South East Asia, it is – like all bourgeois countries – beset with economic problems. It still remains the third most unequal country in the world in its treatment of workers and the poor. It has a very poor human rights records and it is guilty of several gross abuses sited by NGO's over employment and accusations of slavery of migrants in the country.

"Thailand is the second-largest economy in Southeast Asia after Indonesia. Its per capita GDP (US\$6,729) in 2017, however, ranks in the middle of Southeast Asian per capita GDP, after Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia. Thailand was ranked as the world's third most unequal nation, behind Russia and India, in the Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2016 (companion volume to the Global Wealth Report 2016, with one percent of the Thai population estimated to own 58 percent of Thailand's wealth)." [2]

China still remains Thailand's biggest export destination. However, due to the continuing rivalry and the trade war between the main imperialist Great Powers – the United States and China – Thailand's economy will be affected. While it is home to some major industries like car making, energy and petroleum, it still has a large sector of labour intensive agriculture particularly in rice production. The fact remains that the majority of Thai workers and peasants, many of whom are migrants, can not expect help from the state which provides no basic health or help of any kind. Whoever is elected, it will make no difference to them as none of the established parties provides a way to lift them from the appalling poverty they find themselves in.

There are several political bourgeois parties contesting this election. This includes the ruling *Phalang Pracharat*, the *Democrat Party* and various other supporters of the coup and main organizers of the yellow shirts who brought

Prayuth-Chan-o cha and his military clique to power in May 2014. There are other smaller parties but they deliver the same message. The bourgeois populist *Pheu Thai Party* is the largest party which was formerly led by Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister Yingluck. The Communist Party is banned as are all progressive parties in this election. Although four members of the *National Council for Peace and Order* have resigned from the Cabinet Prayuth Chan-o cha the Prime Minister still refuses to resign showing his contempt for the democratic process. Prayuth Chan-o cha still has the power to rule by decree irrespective of this election using his authority under rule 44.

"Politicians have called on Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha to stop exercising the all-powerful Section 44 and maintain political neutrality ahead of the March 24 general election. Chusak Sirinil, head of the Pheu Thai Party's legal team, said Thursday that the party wanted Gen Prayuth, in his capacity as the leader of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), to refrain from using his power under Section 44. Section 44 existed under the previous interim charter and has been carried over to the present constitution. The section gives Gen Prayuth, as the NCPO chief, absolute power to issue order". [3]

The election has been forced on the regime but this will be no fair and open election as the regime hopes through the manipulation of parties like the *Democrat Party* and the *Phalang Pracharat* party noted supporters of the regime which would lead to no change at all in Thailand. The *Pheu Thai* party, the largest party, still has to register itself for election and the election commission, appointed and controlled by the military, could still prevent *Pheu Thai* candidates from standing. The *Pheu Thai* party still remains popular amongst sections of the masses because when it ruled Thailand prior to the coup it attempted to alleviate the poverty of the masses by small reforms particularly rice subsidies for small peasants working in the rice fields. However, it remains a bourgeois party wedded to capitalism. Its role has been to subordinate the masses to its pro-capitalist policies with a few crumbs to ensure the support of the workers and poor peasants.

Democratic Activists Found Dead in Laos

It has recently been reported that several democratic activists have been found dead in neighbouring Laos and suggestions have been made that the Thailand regime is responsible for their deaths.

"The announcement for the date of Thailand election came as two bodies of anti-government activists were found in the Mekong River. They were among dozens of dissidents who fled the country after the coup. At least two other critics have gone missing from Laos in recent years, leading to the accusation from dissidents living outside Thailand that this was the work of the military". [4]

This demonstrates clearly the role of the bourgeois dictatorship in Thailand which arrests, detains and even kills opponents of the regime in order to pursue this regime of intimidation and oppression.

Furthermore, recent attacks by armed groups in the south have also thrown light to the miserable conditions of the Muslim minority which suffers from longstanding systematic oppression.

"In the latest of a series of fatal attacks in Thailand's southernmost provinces, a group of assault rifle-wielding attackers on Friday stormed a Buddhist temple, killing two monks and wounding two others. The evening assault took place at Wat Rattananupab temple in Su Ngai Padi district of Narathiwat province, an area located in the heart of Thailand's deep south where ethnic Malay separatists have been waging an armed campaign for independence for decades." [5]

The RCIT supports the struggle for democratic rights and for the defeat and removal of the Prayuth-Chan-o-cha regime. However, the restrictions and controls that this regime is putting on the process of the election make it a sham. It is very doubtful that this will be a fair and open election. As we have said before what is required is a struggle to overthrow the regime and establish a revolutionary workers and poor peasants government.

"The RCIT welcomes the campaign to force an election on the regime and the efforts of pro-democracy activists and protesters to make sure that Thailand again has free elections and democratic rights. However, bourgeois democracy will never solve the issues of poverty and cannot even give full democratic rights. As long as capitalism and imperialism have a foothold in Thailand, exploitation and oppression will be the reality for the workers and the poor. The RCIT puts forward the following demands for uniting the masses, the working class and urban poor in a struggle to establish a Revolutionary Workers and Poor Peasant Government". [6].

The RCIT calls activists in Thailand to study our programmatic manifesto, to visit our website and discuss our

policies. The RCIT welcomes discussions on the future for Thailand and the urgent necessity to build a revolutionary party in Thailand as part of the Revolutionary World Party.

** Overthrow the Prayuth-Chan o cha Regime – For an indefinite General Strike!*

** For a Democratic Constituent Assembly! Revolutionaries must put forward socialist proposals and argue in favour of a Workers and Poor Peasant Government based on Councils of the Workers and the Rural and Urban Poor!*

** For armed defence guards of the workers and the oppressed masses to protect themselves from provocations and attacks from the police, the military and right wing forces!*

** End the Imperialist Exploitation! Expropriate the multi-national corporations and put them under workers control! Abolish all debts without compensation! Summarize all banks into one State Bank under control of the workers!*

** Only an armed insurrection led by the working class can end the military dictatorship and imperialist exploitation with a minimum number of lost lives! Only a Revolutionary Workers and Poor Peasant Government can open the road towards a future of Freedom, Equality and Peace, a future of Socialism!*

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/thailand-hold-election-2014-coup-190123105406403.html>
- 2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Thailand
- 3) <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1617218>
- 4) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/thai-activists-bodies-mekong-river-laos-190123125912730.html>
- 5) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/attacks-thailand-deep-south-190120233033431.html>
- 6) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/thailand-4-years-after-the-coup/>

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting analyses the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan. He shows that the diplomatic rows, sanctions, trade wars, and military tensions between these Great Powers are not accidental or caused by a mad man in the White House. They are rather rooted in the fundamental contradictions of the capitalist system. This rivalry is a key feature of the current historic period and could, ultimately, result in major wars between these Great Powers.

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is crucial for assessing the character of the current inter-imperialist rivalry.

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting critically discusses the analysis of modern imperialism by a number of left-wing parties (left social democrats, Stalinists, Trotskyists and others). He demon-

strates that most of these organizations fail to understand the nature of the Great Power rivalry and, consequently, are not able to take an internationalist and revolutionary stance.

The author elaborates the approach of leading Marxist figures like Lenin, Trotsky and Luxemburg to the problems of Great Power rivalry and imperialist aggression against oppressed peoples. He outlines a Marxist program for the current period which is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future.

The book 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.

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers

Brazil: The First Political Exile

Jean Wyllys has been forced to flee because of the conditions under the ultra-reactionary Bolsonaro Regime

Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 29 January 2019

Jean Wyllys is a Brazilian lecturer, journalist and politician. He was notable as being Brazil's second openly gay member of Brazilian parliament. For his work, *The Guardian* has compared Wyllys to U.S. pro-LGBT politician Harvey Milk. Wyllys was re-elected to a third term as deputy in the 2018 election. However, on 24 January 2019, just a few days before the swearing-in of the 56th Congress, Wyllys released a note from overseas stating that he will not assume his position as congressman in February and that he will also not return to Brazil due to alleged death threats.

Wyllys' decision to leave Brazil had existed for some time. But what made the decision inevitable was the report that President Jair Bolsonaro's youngest son Flavio Bolsonaro had the mother and the wife of the former police officer Adriano da Nóbrega as advisors his parliamentary office. Nóbrega has been under investigation for commanding militia groups in the state of Rio de Janeiro. He had been expelled from the police and is now a fugitive. Nobrega is also suspected of being responsible of the murder of Marielle Franco. In summary, there is strong evidence that Bolsonaro and his sons have been winning elections in the last 30 years with the support of these militias. The same militias that are accused of the murder of Marielle Franco and her driver Anderson Gomes in March 2018.

Brazil's police militias, in Rio de Janeiro and other cities of Brazil, are clandestine paramilitary groups made up of current and former police officers who carry out both vigilante and organized crime activities. In some favelas from Rio these police-backed militias forced out the drug traffickers, only to set up their own protection rackets, extorting residents and taxing basic services. These militias have their roots in the death squads of the Brazilian military dictatorship. Because of their close ties to the police force, the militias also enjoy the support of certain politicians from the right wing parties.

The connections of Bolsonaro's family with these militias are not news. In December 2008, Bolsonaro praised the actions of the militias in Rio. He criticized the investigation of the Legislative Assembly from Rio de Janeiro, which verified the activities of the paramilitary groups. The commission called for the indictment of police officers, firefighters and politicians who ruled favelas. The investigation showed that they were profiting from the collection of fees, the supply of clandestine services and the sale of political support.

It was within this tenebrous context that Jean Wyllys realized that there were no longer any conditions to remain in Brazil. Below we publish part of his testimony that explains his decision.

"Last year, things got worse. The murder of my companion and personal friend Marielle Franco, councilor of our party in Rio de Janeiro, had a profound impact on us all. We understand that it was no joke, that the threats were serious, that we can not underestimate. We felt the deep pain of the loss of a person we loved and that was part of our lives.

We watched the tainted spectacle of the fake news machine, the same one that slanders on me, slanders the name of Marielle, accusing her even of having relations with the drug traffic. We saw a candidate from Bolsonaro's party (PSL) being greeted by a crowd at a fascist rally when he proudly displayed a plaque torn with the name of Marielle. We saw this candidate being the most voted state deputy and the man who accompanied him in this macabre celebration being elected governor.

The threats increased again, reaching even my family. I started having to drive in an armored car, with armed custody. I lived for months as if I were in private jail without committing any crime. I could not go anywhere without custody, not even shop at the grocery store or visit a friend. I did not leave Brazil because I wanted to, I was obliged.

All my movements were restricted, limited, guarded. I came to live by half, a became slave to the security standards needed to protect my life, while threats and defamation increased. In the last few days we have learned from the press that the president's son employed in his office the wife and mother of the fugitive criminal who, according to the police, is suspected of leading the group of assassins who killed Marielle. I can not be sure in this context, nor can I guarantee the safety of the people who worked all these years with me, whom I thank immensely for everything.

I did not leave Brazil because I wanted to, I was obliged. The country has plunged into a fascist nightmare whereby our permanence in the country puts our lives at risk. I do not want to be a martyr. I do not want to be murdered like Marielle.

Former Uruguayan President Pepe Mujica, when he learned of the situation, told me: "Boy, take care! Martyrs are not heroes." I do not want to be a martyr. I do not want to be murdered like Marielle. I choose to stay alive, also to keep fighting. Giving up the mandate and the country was a difficult decision, painful, sad. I gave up a lot to protect my life and regain my freedom to come and go, my humanity. I hope that this decision I had to make open the eyes of many people, that the world see the tragedy that is happening in Brazil, a country that was already happy, hopeful and proud of itself, and today is submerged in hatred, lies and fascism.

I will not give up fighting, even if it's from somewhere else, without official office, in other ways. I am very grateful for the solidarity received and I hope that we will be able to recover and recover our country from this state of barbarism.

I will not give up fighting, even if it's from somewhere else, without official office, in other ways. I am very grateful for the solidarity received and I hope that we will be able to recover ourselves and recover our country from this state of barbarism."

Jean Wyllys

Brazil: Defeat the Pension Reforms of Bolsonaro and Covas!

Build the political general strike to overthrow these governments!

Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 8 February 2019

The public employees of São Paulo voted in a meeting on February 7 for the continuation of the strike that began on the first day of the 2019 school year against the pension reform of the city mayor *Bruno Covas* (PSDB). The assembly had more than 50,000 workers present.

This reform, known as *Sampaprev*, plans an increase of 11% to 14% of the rate charged on the city public employees for social security contributions, which means a 3% reduction in workers' salaries.

For more than ten years, with the exception of educators, the rest of the municipal employees receives a ridiculous salary increase of only 0.01 percent, and now with this new law approved by the conservative majority *Municipal Council Hall*, they will have a confiscation increase of plus 3% (that is, 14%, in total) of the salary, which is equivalent to a loss of 11 days of work per year. When we add to this the Federal Income Tax, most likely some employees will have a discount of almost half of their wages, a really true confiscation.

The *Municipal Union of Municipal Public Employees of São Paulo (Sindsep)* and the *City Union of Education Professionals (Simpeem)* and 30 other unions will hold a new assembly and demonstration next Wednesday (13). This strike must be radicalized. All public employees must stop their activities, occupy their places of work, schools, etc., take to the streets and demand immediate revocation of the law, for salary increase and the end of wage's confiscation, as

well as the end of the rightists policies taken by the Mayor *Covas* and ultra-reactionary President *Bolsonaro*.

The mayor of Sao Paulo, like former putchist president *Temer* and the current ultra-reactionary president *Bolsonaro*, says it is necessary to carry out the pension reform to "balance public finances". However, just as president *Bolsonaro* is trying to do, the solution found by *Covas* is to punish public employees and general workers instead of facing the debate presented by leftist parties in order to charge companies that owe billions to social security and to eliminate the enormous subsidies to the great entrepreneurs and landowners.

The struggle of the public sector workers of São Paulo should unite with a national struggle against *Bolsonaro's* pension reform, which wants to put an end to public and collective pensions by introducing the individual capitalization regime, which has already proved a disaster in Chile.

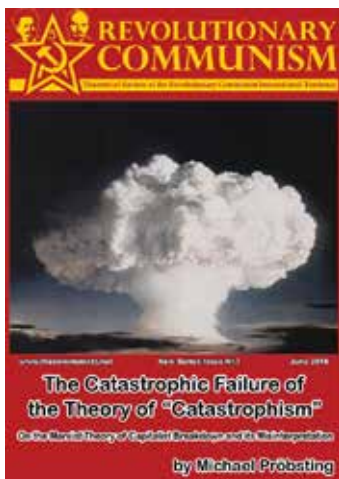
* *Down with the pension reform of Bolsonaro in federal scope and the one of Bruno Covas in São Paulo municipality!*

* *Call popular assemblies in unions, workplaces and neighborhoods!*

* *Form a United Front against pension reforms!*

* *Fight the Labor Reform and Eliminate Outsourcing!*

* *Build the political general strike to overthrow these governments!*



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

Rally on the 8th Anniversary of the Egypt Revolution 2011

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 27 January 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

The Egyptian migrant community organized a rally in the centre of Vienna to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the Egypt Revolution. On 25 January 2011 Egyptian workers and poor toppled the regime of the dictator Mubarak. This was a huge achievement albeit the newly won democratic rights were crushed two and a half years later when General Sisi launched a military coup on 3 July 2013 and brutally smashed any resistance.

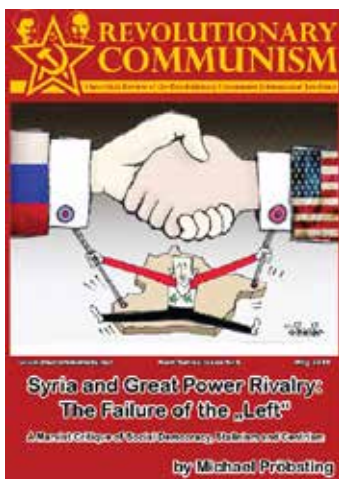
Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT attended the

rally and our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed those gathered. In his speech, comrade Pröbsting stressed the solidarity of the RCIT with the resistance of the Egypt people against the military dictatorship.

See photos and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-on-8th-anniversary-of-egypt-revolution/>



Rally at the anniversary of the Egypt Revolution, Vienna 27.01.2019



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

Brexit: Theresa May Government on the Verge of Collapse

Fight for an End to Austerity! Organize against the Brexit Chaos!

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 26 February 2019

The Tory government of Theresa May is in an enormous crisis. Its ability to rule has been put to the test many times. She has been defeated on her plans for Brexit from the euro-sceptic wing of the party.

Meanwhile the pro-Europeans have lined up with the Blairites in the Labour party, the Liberal democrats and the SNP to oppose Brexit, but they are in a minority.

The biggest problem for the May government is the Irish backstop as the hard border with an EU country Eire which would mean tariffs restrictions and border controls for transport between England and Ireland. It would effectively stop all trade between the two countries. The European Union has said May cannot change the terms of the withdrawal agreement and the Irish backstop remains causing May to promise that she can persuade the EU to agree to her demands in an attempt to soothe her Brexiteers who are opposed to the Irish Backstop. May has visited both Belfast in the North of Ireland and Strasbourg where she met with little success.

"Theresa May fired a warning shot at Brexit supporters on Tuesday, insisting there was "no suggestion" Britain would leave the EU without an insurance provision to protect against a hard border in Northern Ireland. At a speech in Belfast, May would only accept that technology could "play a part" in any alternative arrangements and that she would not countenance anything that would disrupt the lives of border communities. (...) However, speaking in Belfast, May said she knew there were anxieties in Northern Ireland about replacing the backstop arrangement and said there would always be an insurance option to prevent a hard border contained within the withdrawal agreement. "I'm not proposing to persuade people to accept a deal that does not contain that insurance policy for the future," she said". [1]

British Businesses are fearful that a no deal Brexit on the 29th March will lead to chaos. Food manufacturers have said that they will not be able to import or export their

produce and there is fear of empty shelves in supermarkets leading to panic buying and stockpiling. Nissan, the Japanese car maker who promised to build car parts in Sunderland in the north of England, has now reneged on that promise and is now going to build the car parts in Japan.

"Nissan has confirmed it is abandoning plans to build a new model of one of its flagship vehicles at its Sunderland plant, as it warned that uncertainty over Brexit was affecting businesses. The Japanese car manufacturer announced in 2016 it would be making the new version of the X-Trail SUV at the factory in north-east England after receiving assurances about Brexit from the government, but on Sunday it said it would be produced in Japan." [2]

Honda has announced that it is closing its Swindon Plant further evidence that Brexit and its consequences is driving British Imperialism into an indeterminable crisis with no way out.

"Honda is planning to close its factory in Swindon, dealing what trade unions called a "shattering body blow" to the UK automotive sector, which is already wrestling with the effects of Brexit-related uncertainty. The Japanese carmaker is expected to announce as early as Tuesday that it is planning to shut its Swindon plant in 2022, in a move that would put 3,500 jobs at its only European production site at risk and threaten many more in its supply chain." [3]

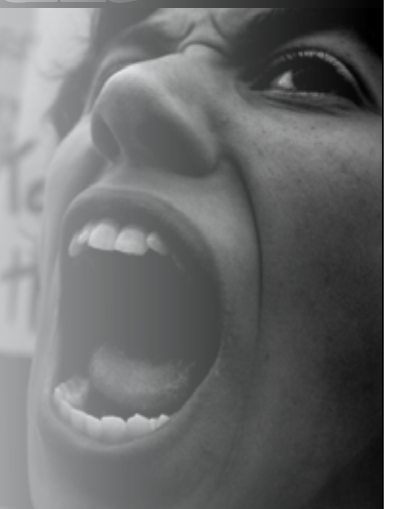
Split in the Labour Party as 7 MP's Resigns from the Labour Party

Brexit has also created splits in the Labour Party with the right-wing Blairites talking and working with the May Government. On the 18th February 7 right wing Blairite MP's resigned from the Labour party and formed an independent group in Parliament. Led by Chuka Umuna, Chris Leslie and Luciana Berger these Blairites and Zion-

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)



ists MP's will seek to prop-up the Tories over Brexit and reduce Corbyn's Labour strengths in the Commons. It will give constituents in those working class constituencies an opportunity to choose candidates who will fight for socialism.

"The seven MPs who have quit in frustration at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership will go into the day hoping to persuade more parliamentary colleagues to join their grouping. If the Independent Group can convince another 29 disaffected MPs from any party to join them, they would gain official third party status – overtaking the SNP – and receive taxpayer funding. Those who resigned – Luciana Berger and Chuka Umunna, along with Ann Coffey, Mike Gapes, Chris Leslie, Gavin Shuker and Angela Smith – attacked Corbyn's leadership of Labour, accusing him of betraying members and the country with his Brexit stance". [4]

These MP's and there are likely to be many more are Tories in the Blair tradition. They have over the years supported Blair with his pro-imperialist and pro-capitalist views. They stand now as traitors and fifth columnists who have never espoused socialism and have remained pro-capitalist infiltrators in the Labour Party.

May has promised a cabal of right-wing MP's like Caroline Flint and John Mann who are MP's in deprived northern areas of Britain financial help and support for those communities. They are in effect bribing a layer of Blairites to go along with her Brexit plans in order to create problems for Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour Party, who favours a customs union and closer ties to the EU. The Blairites themselves are split between the Pro-Europeans like Yvette Cooper and Hilary Benn and others who are in Leave constituencies and fear losing their seats at the next election. Trade union bureaucrats like Len McCluskey of Unite, Dave Prentiss of Unison and Tim Roache of the GMB have been meeting May behind the backs of their members and in opposition to Corbyn who was reluctant to meet her. This shows the true nature of this trade union bureaucracy which is corrupt as ever and remains very close to the capitalist class and will do a deal with May.

"Theresa May has sparked hopes among senior Labour figures that she is laying the groundwork to compromise on her Brexit deal after next week's meaningful vote, following a flurry of contacts with union leaders and MPs in recent days. Conservative ministers were calling around Labour MPs on Thursday – including at least one member of the shadow cabinet – to gauge support for May's deal if she beefs up pledges on workers' rights. May spoke directly to Len McCluskey, the Unite general secretary who is a close ally of Jeremy Corbyn, and Tim Roache, the GMB general secretary. The calls – the first time she has spoken to either of the union leaders – were one demand made by a group of Labour MPs, including Gareth Snell and Caroline Flint, who met her in Downing Street earlier this week." [5]

On the 20th February 3 Tory MP's resigned from the Tory Party and joined the new Independent group of Labour Turncoats who have been added by Joan Ryan, the vicious Zionist MP for Enfield North who has conducted witch-hunts against perceived Anti-Semitism which in fact is Anti-Zionism. The Blairites and the Zionists working together have whipped up a scenario of racism and bigotry against the left wing leadership of Corbyn. There still remains a sizeable amount of Blairites still inside the Labour party organized around Watson, Benn, Cooper and Kinnock who will no doubt choose their moment to inflict as much damage as possible on the Labour party leadership

of Corbyn. Their characterization of the Labour party as racist has been exposed when one of the defectors Angela Smith made an openly racist comment at a press Conference.

Threat of Military Involvement Post Brexit

British imperialism, fearful of a no deal Brexit and the lack of clarity from the Theresa May government, feels that Britain would be less safe with threats of terrorism and is now threatening military involvement after the deadline for Britain's withdrawal from Europe. Gavin Williamson, the defence secretary, recently made a statement on using drone warfare will threaten the working class and the oppressed masses. This military power could be used against refugees and migrants and the oppressed as the imperialists try and defend Fortress Britain.

"Gavin Williamson said the specially-adapted drones could be in operation by the end of 2019. He also warned in a speech that the UK needs a bolder and stronger armed forces prepared to use "hard power Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute, Mr Williamson said Britain must stand up to those who "flout international law". There was an extra £1.8bn for defence in the last budget and Mr Williamson said Brexit had brought the UK its "greatest opportunity" to strengthen its global presence. He said the military's cyber capabilities will be reinforced to defend and launch attacks." [6]

The RCIT in Britain advocates a bold policy to meet this crisis of Brexit and the breakup of bourgeois politics with splits amongst the bourgeoisie. The RCIT restates its views on Brexit:

** Expel the remaining Blairites and Zionists MP's who have organised coups against the Jeremy Corbyn leadership!*

** For Open Borders! Migrants and refugees coming to Britain should have free movement. Reject immigration controls! No to Islamophobia, racism or fascist provocation!*

** Build action committees and self defence guards of the working class and the oppressed! Defend migrants and refugees from fascist or police provocation!*

** For a general strike to bring down this hated Tory government! For a Workers Revolutionary Government! Join the RCIT Britain!*

Footnotes

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/05/theresa-may-wont-seamless-border-northern-ireland-brexit-belfast>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/03/nissan-confirms-new-x-trail-will-not-be-built-in-sunderland>

3) <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/18/carmaker-honda-plans-to-close-swindon-factory-reports>

4) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/19/tuesday-briefing-independent-group-aims-to-scoop-up-other-frustrated-mps>

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USA: Crisis in Virginia

By Robert Gibbs, U.S. Correspondent, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 08 February 2019

The American public now confronts the challenge of evaluating the character of (to date) the three top officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This has become an extraordinary crisis for the Democratic Party which has sought to differentiate itself from the openly white supremacist and misogynist appeals of the Republicans, especially under Donald Trump.

That was the basis of the much heralded electoral victory the Democrats experienced in taking back the House of Representatives in November, 2018. Part of this shift was the August 2017 *Unite the Right* Neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville (also in Virginia) over the removal of Confederate monuments which led to a confrontation that left 30 injured and one (counter-protester) dead. Trump infamously asserted in the aftermath that, "there were very fine people, on both sides." The Neo-Nazis were remembered for their anti-Semitic tiki-torch rally chant, "Jews will not replace us."

The recent crisis first hit Governor Ralph Nordham on February 1. And then, in quick succession, it was Nordham's potential successors, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring, who were implicated in the following days in circumstances of sexual abuse and racism.

With two of these officials, Nordham and Herring, it's easy for the public to judge – they are self-confessed. Wearing blackface is an obvious disqualification from holding office. While not illegal, it's directly tied in the minds of millions to America's sordid history of antebellum slavery and Jim Crow racial discrimination.

Racist behavior has unfortunately re-emerged as a powerful issue in American politics. Nowhere is that clearer than in the 2016 election of Donald Trump. The Trump Corporation has a long practice of profiting from racism. Trump and his father were sued by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1973 for enforcing discriminatory practices in their thousands of residential units in the New York City area. And, of course, Trump ran for office in 2016 based on calling Mexicans rapists and combining this with scurrilous, xenophobic attacks on Muslims. As the American Alt-right is fond of saying, "Not every Trump supporter is a white supremacist but every white supremacist is a Trump supporter."

This is a crisis for the Democratic Party because the majority of the electorate (in Virginia or elsewhere) would not approve of officeholders that have worn blackface at any

point in their lives. The year that Governor Nordham wore blackface in a dance contest (the same year as his medical school yearbook photos showing a hooded Ku Klux Klansman and someone in blackface) was 1984. That was 30 years after the 1954 Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* struck down segregated education and 20 years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax? The accusation that he forced a Democratic Party convention (Boston 2004) attendee to perform oral sex on him will never be tried before a court of law. It's clear in most peoples minds, however, that either Fairfax is a liar motivated by self-preservation or Dr. Tyson is both a liar and seriously unstable. Political motivations are ruled out because Tyson is a longtime supporter of the Democratic Party.

In evaluating the two, lying in the pursuit of self-preservation (particularly in the heat of a crisis) is perceived by the public as far more likely than outrageous claims on the part of someone who has established a clear reputation as a stable person. Dr. Vanessa C. Tyson is an associate professor of politics and black history at the "Ivy-League West" Scripps College in California. She is also an advocate for victims of sexual assault that has spoken openly about being molested by her father when she was a child.

The public can see what Fairfax has to gain from the pursuit of a lie. In a word - everything. With Dr. Tyson (not to mention Dr. Anita Hill or Dr. Christine Ford before her) that's not the case. Hill and Ford, of course, brought charges of sexual abuse at the time of the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas (in 1991) and, just last year, Brett Kavanaugh. Both Justices were confirmed.

Again, this will never go before a jury. Most abusers typically get away with their crimes. However, in the court of #MeToo public opinion, based on the above, Fairfax is widely expected to be the loser.

This sequence of events illustrates the mushrooming larger point – the rotten fish in the center of world capitalism abound. Everywhere. Quoting William Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

You cannot suppress the obvious fact that racism and misogyny are central elements of a system based on the exploitation of one person by another. The related crisis of confidence is becoming a serious problem for the ongoing rule of bourgeois parties in the United States.

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USA: The Crisis in Virginia Continues

By Robert Gibbs, U.S. Correspondent, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 11 February 2019

A second woman, Meredith Watson, has come forward to accuse Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, Justin Fairfax, of raping her while they were students at Duke University in 2000. Ms. Watson had been previously assaulted by a Duke basketball player friend of Fairfax and after reporting the incident to the school she was encouraged to drop charges. It should be noted that Duke is a national powerhouse in college basketball and derives millions from its prominence in the sport.

When Watson encountered Fairfax following her assault by him (he followed her out of a party) she reportedly asked "Why did you do it?" According to Watson Mr. Fairfax answered: "I knew that because of what happened to you last year, you'd be too afraid to say anything."

Justin E. Fairfax's present refusal to quit as lieutenant governor of Virginia in the face of two allegations of sexual assault has created for the Democratic Party an extraordinary crisis. They are faced with the impeachment of an African-American leader when Virginia's other two top leaders, both white, are resisting demands for their resignation after having admitted to a past that includes racist behavior.

Governor Northam's actions throughout the incident beginning ten days ago has only deepened the embarrassment for the Democratic Party. When first confronted with the racist yearbook images he apologized. He then amended that the following day by contradicting his previous remarks and insisting that neither the individual in blackface nor the person wearing a Ku Klux Klan robe were him. He confessed, however, that he had previously worn blackface in an attempt to win a dance contest. He also insisted, somewhat unbelievably, that he had never seen his own 1984 medical school yearbook page.

He compounded the absurdity by commenting at the press conference with an air of knowing authority on how hard it is to remove the shoe polish typically applied to achieve blackface and that you shouldn't overdo it. Northam's wife, standing by his side, had to restrain him from doing the Michael Jackson moonwalk as he proudly commented on having, indeed, won the dance contest.

In more recent days Northam has offered his fulsome pledge to devote the rest of his term in the pursuit of racial reconciliation. Towards this end he notes that he has been boning up on books like "The Case for Reparations" by Ta-

Nehisi Coates and Alex Haley's "Roots" to acquaint himself with the life experiences of African-Americans. What hypocritical, self-serving rubbish!

Fairfax is now insisting on due process? What a joke! Unfortunately sexual assault does not lend itself to "due process". Justin Fairfax knows that. It's in the interests of the perpetrator to request that the unprovable be proven and when that can't be done... to insist on an acquittal.

The problem for Fairfax is that this is not being tried before a jury of 11 peers but the more important court of public opinion. Fairfax's defense is that his assaults were "consensual". Maybe in his mind they were. Who can fathom the minds of men who feel so entitled? It is obvious that in the minds of the entirely credible women who have come forward with claims of assault - they were not!

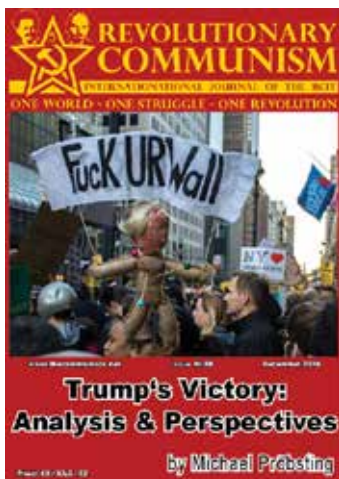
These women have absolutely nothing to gain from their accusations. Nothing. Their exemplary personal histories and the associates they related their experiences to additionally establish their credibility. Pity a victim with less education or social standing. Pity the victim that is viewed as a "nobody". Fairfax happened to choose at least two victims that became "somebodies" and they have been willing to risk personal exposure to come forward in the name of social good and justice.

Fairfax's ploy of insisting on due process is an empty if desperate gesture. He's clearly the party with everything to lose and every incentive to lie his way out of this. That tactic, including calling upon the FBI to investigate the uninvestigatable (a la Brett Kavanaugh), is presently looking like it's destined to failure.

In the era of Donald Trump there's a growing distaste for liars in American politics. Trump (of Access Hollywood tapes fame) has predictably sought to capitalize on the crisis of the Democrats by calling the actions of the three Virginia politicians, "Unforgivable!" Hypocrisy has no limits in American politics.

It was no accident that the President raised the specter of socialism at his recent State of the Union message by declaring, "Tonight, we resolve that America will never be a socialist country."

American workers are confronting on a daily basis that they will find no solutions to their mounting problems in either bourgeois party and there is a growing awareness of that fact in all segments of society.



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What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for she is the only class that has nothing to lose but their chains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

