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Picture on the cover: Contingent of the youth organization of the RCIT section in Austria at the demonstration for free education in Vienna on 12 December 2013

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

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May Day 2019: Forward in the Struggle for Socialism!

Joint Statement, 28 April 2019

On the occasion of May Day 2019, we send revolutionary greetings to the popular masses fighting for freedom and justice in Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Kashmir, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, France and many other countries!

We state that the struggle for freedom and justice can only be successful if the working class organizes for a socialist revolution in order to overthrow the capitalist system and to create a world federation of workers and peasant republics.

We emphasize that the liberation struggle must be based on an internationalist program and directed against *all* imperialist Great Powers (US, EU, Russia, China, Japan) as well as other imperialist states (like South Korea).

We declare that it is urgent to overcome the desperate lack of revolutionary leadership. We commit ourselves – in general agreement with the document “*Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today*” (see attachment) – to work jointly towards the creation of a Revolutionary World Party.

The undersigned organizations

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Russia, Britain, Germany and Austria), www.thecommunists.net

Revolutionary Communists (South Korea), <http://go.jinbo.net/commune/view.php?board=cool&id=51945&page=1>

Революционные коммунисты (Russia), <https://vk.com/rcit1917>

Zimbabwe Solidarity Brigades

Courant des Jeunes Penseurs Congolais (Democratic Republic of Congo), <https://cogitordc.wordpress.com/>

Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today

*A Proposal from the Revolutionary Communist
International Tendency (RCIT)*

We are living in a world of rapidly accelerating contradictions and sudden turns. As capitalism is decaying, the capitalist robbers try to raise their wealth by aggressively attacking the working class and the oppressed, by increasingly destroying the environment and, at the same time, by aggravating their rivalry against each other. The survival of humanity is endangered with the uncontrolled climate change and the accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers which creates the danger of an imperialist World War III. This is why we say that the alternative is “*Socialism or Stone Age!*”

This dramatic situation makes the organized struggle for socialism more necessary than ever. This means that the working class and the oppressed must have a party dedicated to the international struggle for a socialist future!

In our opinion, it is highly urgent that revolutionaries all

over the world immediately start collaborating in laying the foundations for a principled unification, so that we drive forward the process of creating a new Revolutionary World Party with stronger forces. The starting point for the creation of such a party has to be agreement on the most important issues of the global class struggle. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* considers the following issues as such programmatic key-stones in the present political phase:

1) Recognition of the Accelerating Rivalry between the Imperialist Great Powers – the US, EU, Japan, Russia and China

It is *only* possible to understand the driving dynamic of the present period of capitalist crisis and to take a correct position if one recognizes the imperialist character not only of the US, EU and Japan but also of the new emerging powers, Russia and China. Only on such a basis is it possible to arrive at the only correct, anti-imperialist program on this issue – *proletarian internationalism* and *revolutionary defeatism*, i.e., the perspective of consistent struggle of the working class independent of and against *all* imperialist powers. This means that revolutionaries refuse to lend support to *any* Great Power in inter-imperialist conflicts under the slogan “*The main enemy is at home!*”

A similar approach is necessary when India enters into a conflict with imperialist China, as India – a non-imperialist regional power – acts under such circumstances as a proxy for US imperialism.

Those who fail to recognize the reactionary and imperialist character of these Great Powers will inevitably fail to take a consistent anti-imperialist, i.e. Marxist, line and will end up, consciously or unconsciously, supporting one or the other imperialist camp as a “lesser evil”.

2) Consistent Struggle against Imperialism and for the Liberation of the Oppressed People

Revolutionaries stand for the *defeat* of imperialist states and their proxies in any conflict with forces representing oppressed people and for the *military victory* of the latter without, at the same time, giving any *political* support to the non-revolutionary leadership of the oppressed (e.g., petty-bourgeois Islamists, nationalists). This is true both in domestic conflicts (e.g., against an oppressed nation like the Chechen people in Russia or the East Turkestanis/Uyghurs in China) as well as in wars abroad (e.g., North Korea, Afghanistan, Syria, Mali, Somalia). Such an approach is not only valid in the countries of the South but also in cases of national oppression and discrimination inside the old imperialist states (e.g. Blacks and Native Americans in the U.S.; Catalonia’s struggle for independence against the imperialist Spanish State.)

Likewise, revolutionaries have to fight for *Open Borders* in the imperialist countries and for *full equality for national minorities and for migrants* (e.g. *citizenship rights, language, equal wages*).

Furthermore, revolutionaries refuse to lend support to one imperialist camp against another in any given conflict (e.g., Brexit vs. EU; Clinton vs. Trump).

Those who fail to support the popular struggles against oppression, referring to their bad leaderships as an excuse, desert the class struggle as it concretely takes place today and hence leave the camp of the working class and oppressed.

3) Continuing the Revolutionary Struggle in the Middle East and North Africa against Reactionary Dictatorships, Imperialism and Zionism

The mass popular uprisings in Palestine, Tunisia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan and other countries have been the most important and progressive class struggle development so far since the beginning of the new historic period in 2008. True, given the lack of a revolutionary leadership, the masses have suffered a number of terrible defeats – like the coup d'état of General al-Sisi in Egypt in July 2013, or the ongoing slaughter of the Syrian people at the hands of Assad and his foreign backers. However, the revolutionary process is continuing. This is reflected in the ongoing popular resistance in Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, etc as well as its spreading to new countries like Tunisia, Iran, Sudan and Morocco. The Palestinian and international mass movement provoked by Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital opens a new chapter of the revolutionary struggle against the imperialist powers and against the Zionist Apartheid state and for the creation of a single Palestinian state from the river to the sea (a "*Free, Red Palestine*"). The spontaneous popular uprisings in Tunisia as well as in Iran against the capitalist regime show that the revolutionary wave in the Middle East might be revived and spreads even to non-Arab countries. Authentic revolutionary forces must give unconditional support to these popular struggles against dictatorships and reactionary forces, without giving any political support to their non-revolutionary leaderships (e.g., petty-bourgeois Islamists and nationalists).

Those "socialists" who have failed to support the Arab Revolution since 2011 or who declare it as already finished and defeated, prove to be socialists and democrats only in words but not in deeds.

Revolutionaries oppose any reactionary war between regional power (e.g. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, etc.). They will determine their revolutionary tactics in any given war by analyzing the concrete character of the war and its political background as well as the role of imperialist powers (in particular the U.S., Russia, China) in it.

4) Revolutionary Struggle against Reactionary Attacks on Democratic Rights

Revolutionaries can only serve the interests of the working class and the oppressed if they are able to recognize the class enemy and to mobilize against it. Thus they must consistently fight against all reactionary dictatorships and corrupt and authoritarian pseudo-democracies (e.g. Syria, Togo, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe), against all forms of national and racial oppression (e.g. indigenous people in Latin America, Rohingya in Myanmar, African slaves in Libya), against all coup d'états (e.g. Egypt 2013, Thailand 2014, Brazil 2016) and against all authoritarian attacks (e.g. state of emergency in France since 2015).

All those who fail to recognize and to fight against these

reactionary attacks but rather support them or take a neutral position, are traitors of the working class. Between them and us is a line of blood!

5) Application of the United Front Tactic in all Mass Struggles

Revolutionaries oppose *all* forms of sectarianism which refuses participation in mass struggles under the pretext of their non-revolutionary leaderships. Instead they apply the united front tactic in the struggles of the workers and peasants led by reformist or populist forces (e.g., trade unions, mass organizations of the peasants and the urban poor, but also political parties like PT, CUT, MST in Brazil; CGT, CTA, FIT in Argentina; Islamists in Egypt; rebels in Syria; EFF in South Africa; SYRIZA in Greece before 2015, PODEMOS, Basque and Catalan nationalists in the Spanish State). Such an orientation must be combined with a consistent struggle against all forms of popular-frontism and petty-bourgeois populism, and for the breaking of workers and peasants away from these non-revolutionary leaderships and to advance the formation of an independent and revolutionary Workers' Party.

Those who fail to apply the united front tactic in such mass struggles, render their support for these struggles to an abstract statement without any concrete meaning.

6) Start Building a Revolutionary World Party Now!

The struggle for repelling the reactionary offensive of the ruling class and for the liberation of the working class and the oppressed can only succeed if it is combined with the struggle for the socialist revolution. This means nothing less than taking power by the working class and the oppressed and the overthrow and expropriation of the capitalist class so that the road towards socialism will be opened. History teaches us that all struggles of the masses for liberation will ultimately end in failure if they are not led by a revolutionary party. Such a party should organize the most politically conscious and dedicated fighters of the working class and oppressed, it must be free of any bureaucratic degeneration; and it must exist as an international party in order to avoid the dangers of national-centeredness.

Hence we call upon all organizations and activists which honestly strive towards the creation of a new Revolutionary World Party to join forces on the basis of these programmatic keystones. Concretely, the RCIT proposes that revolutionaries constitute a *Joint Contact Committee* in order to politically prepare and organize an *International Conference* which will discuss concrete steps to advance the formation of a Revolutionary World Party. The RCIT is committed to serious discussions and the closest possible collaboration with all forces who share such an outlook.

Algeria and Sudan: Two Important Victories and a Warning

No trust in the army command and the old elite! Continue the Revolution!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 11 April 2019 (16.00 UTC Time)

1. People are joyfully marching in Khartoum and throughout Sudan. The long-time dictator, Omar al-Bashir, has been overthrown. This comes only a few days after the resignation of another reactionary despot, Algeria's President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. These are important victories for those courageous heroes who fought for weeks and months in the streets despite brutal repression by each regime's security forces.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) enthusiastically welcomes these developments. Our comrades participated in solidarity rallies – as they have, consistently, since the 2011 beginning of the Great Arab Revolution. The resignations of Bashir and Bouteflika are not only victories for the Sudanese and Algerian peoples. These are also victories for the Syrians fighting against the tyrant Assad, for the Egyptians resisting the military dictatorship of General Sisi, as well as all others fighting for their political, social, and economic freedom!

3. The resignations of Bashir and Bouteflika have shattered the capitalist dictatorships in Sudan and Algeria. However, we are obligated to temper our joy with sober warnings. The experience of the Arab Revolution since 2011 has demonstrated that the ruling class is driven to deceive popular mass movements when they become too strong. In such situations the elite – often following the lead of the army command – is prepared to “sacrifice”

the face of the regime in order to preserve the underlying “system”, i.e. the state machinery of the privileged ruling stratum. General Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf's declaration of a three-month state of emergency in Sudan as well as the plan of the military council to rule for two years demonstrates that the ruling elite wants to stay in power. A very similar development is taking place in Algeria where army chief General Ahmed Gaid Salah has taken over de facto control.

4. We have seen this in Egypt, in Tunisia, and in Yemen. In each of these cases, the elite felt it necessary to make a strategic retreat in the form of democratic concessions. By such concessions they conspired to defuse the mass movement. This process was aided by numerous bourgeois traitors who pretended to support the democratic revolution while, in reality, they only hoped to advance their own career ambitions and fill the vacancies in the state apparatus. This process was unfortunately also *unintentionally* aided by many well-meaning and honest democratic activists and grassroots leaders who didn't understand that the political changes were intentionally superficial, leaving, in the end, the capitalist power system – including the strong army and rich capitalists – intact.

5. The fundamentals were unchanged. The elite and the army remained in power and retained all their money and their weapons. Economic control continued in



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

the hands of domestic and foreign capitalists. The army kept all the instruments of repression, buttressed by their paralyzing grip on the economy. Likewise, the countries in revolt continued to be dominated by imperialist Great Powers such as the U.S., Russia, the EU, and China. As a result, the working people remained in a state of relative powerlessness. When the dynamic of the mass mobilizations receded, the ruling elites retaliated and restored their representatives to positions of power. They did so either by a coup d'état (Egypt - 3 July 2013) or via pseudo-democratic elections (Tunisia).

6. The RCIT has supported the Arab Revolution from the very first day. We have always stressed that an authentic democratic revolution requires more than a change of faces. The entire system of repression, wealth, and corruption in the service of a small elite must be smashed! Based on the lesson of the past eight years – we continue to emphasize that the only way forward is the *expropriation of the whole elite! All domestic and foreign corporations must be nationalized and placed under the control of workers! The army command, the police and secret services must be smashed and replaced by popular militias!* Only this ensures that the armed power is under the control of the working people. Political power must be put into the hands of *popular councils elected and controlled at regular mass assemblies* in the workplaces, neighborhoods and villages. As the issue of constitution and democracy remains a burning issue we call for the convening of a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*. The popular masses must be armed so that the old elite cannot manipulate the process and subvert the will of the people.

7. In other words, the RCIT calls the heroic people in Sudan and Algeria to continue the revolution and to fight until the victory is complete. We also call upon them to link their insurgencies to the ongoing liberation struggles in Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan, Iran, Yemen and other countries. The revolution must be spread to the entire Arab world and throughout the rest of Africa. We also call upon supporters of the Arab Revolution to come to the rescue of the Libyan people who face a massive counter-revolutionary threat with General Haftar trying to conquer Tripoli to smash the last remaining remnants of the revolutionary process of 2011.

8. In the wake of the beginning second wave of the Arab Revolution, we repeat our condemnation of those

Stalinist, Bolivarian and other pseudo-leftists who have slandered the Arab Revolution as “Islamofascist” and “CIA-led color revolutions”. They have, consequently, ended up supporting Assad, General Sisi, Gaddafi, Haftar, the YPG and Russian imperialism. There are also others who did not join the bloody counterrevolution but suspended their support for the Arab Revolution after some years by mistakenly confusing the setbacks with *final defeat* and by wrongly denouncing the liberation struggle of the popular masses as “reactionary” just because the initially prevailing petty-bourgeois democratic ideology has been increasingly colored with shades of petty-bourgeois Islamism. We call those who relinquished their support for the Arab Revolution to overcome their prejudices and to return to the struggle. Comrades, now it is high time to side with the working people fighting in Algiers, Khartoum, Idlib, Tripoli, Sana’a, Gaza, Cairo and Teheran and to unite the struggles into a *single Intifada of the entire Middle East!*

9. Comrades, brother and sisters! The Arab Revolution has suffered many defeats since 2011 due to the lack of strong *revolutionary parties*. Building such parties – in combination with building a *Revolutionary World Party* – is the *most urgent task of our time!* Now, with the beginning of the second wave of the Arab Revolution, we must tackle this task energetically! We urge activists to unite in a revolutionary party based on a program of socialist liberation and solidarity with the struggles of workers and oppressed in other countries. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!

* *Down with any self-proclaimed “transitional government” and “military council”! No “state of emergency”! Full democratic rights to demonstrate, to assemble and to organize!*

* *Continue the mobilizations! Continue the Revolution!*

* *Build committees of action at work places, neighborhoods, universities and villages! Elect delegates for a national congress!*

* *Create self-defense committees!*

* *For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!*

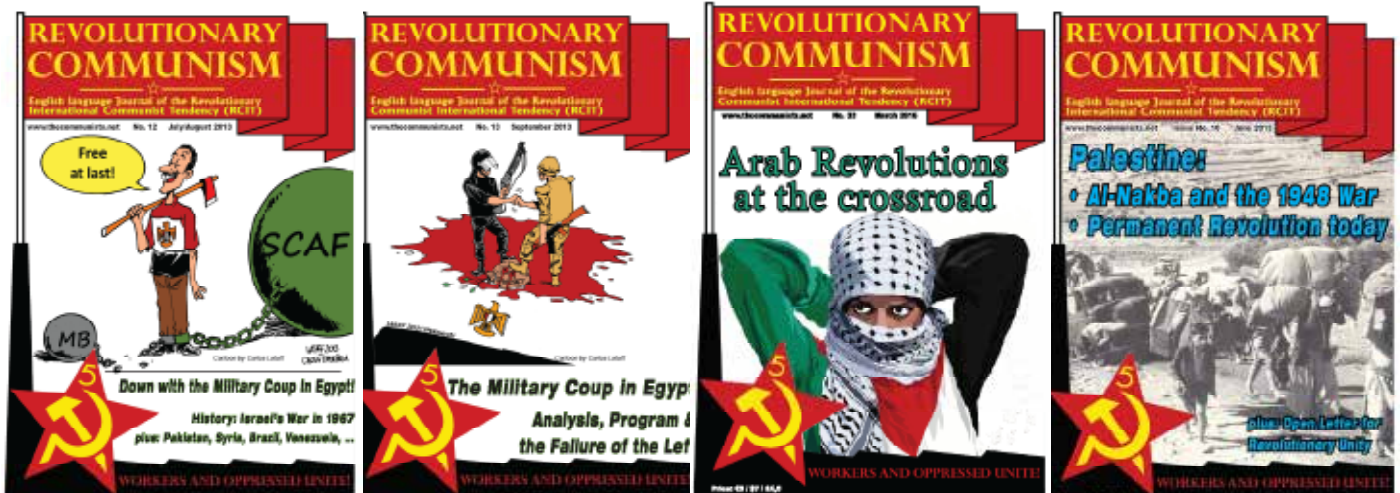
* *For a workers and poor peasants government!*

* *Forward to the second wave of the Arab Revolution! Long live the socialist world revolution!*

* *For a revolutionary party as part of a revolutionary world party!*

International Bureau of the RCIT

Publications of the RCIT on the Arab Revolution



Sudan: Rally in Solidarity with the Popular Uprising

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 6 April 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 200 people, nearly all them from the Sudanese migrant community, held a rally in the centre of Vienna to show their support for the popular uprising against the capitalist dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. The rally was also attended by solidarity activists from the Syrian as well as the Algerian migrant community which have been active in organizing protests against the reactionary regimes in their countries.

Like last time, 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, gave a speech. He stated the support of the RCIT with the popular insurrection in Sudan. Michael Pröbst-

ing also condemned the interference of all Great Powers and called for linking the uprising in Sudan with similar movements in Syria, Algeria, Egypt and Palestine.

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/sudan-rally-against-the-dictatorship/>



Pictures from the rally in solidarity with the popular insurrection in Sudan (Vienna, 6.4.2019)

Publications of the RCIT in Arab Language

البيان الشيوعي الثوري
الثورة والثورة المضادة في العالم العربي: اختبار للثوريين

كفاحها ضد القوى الامبريالية
من أجل فيدرالية اشتراكية للشرق

ثورة
الحرية لنور العاصم

النصار الشيوعي الثوري العالمي (RCIT)

الشيوعي الثوري

الشيوعي الثوري

Libya: Defend Tripoli! Defeat Haftar!

For Popular Militias to organize an independent struggle against the counterrevolution!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 9 April 2019

1. The 75-year old, self-proclaimed “field marshal” Khalifa Haftar has launched an attempt to conquer Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and to impose his rule over the entire country. This has resulted in the biggest escalation of the ongoing civil war since the fall of the dictatorship of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. For now, the attack of Haftar’s so-called *Libyan National Army* (LNA) has been stopped by a counter-offensive of militia forces from Tripoli, Misrata, Zentan and Zawiyah.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls for the defense of Tripoli and for the defeat of Haftar’s troops. We lend no political support to the so-called *Government of National Accord* (GNA) – a weak bourgeois government based in Tripoli having little authority. While this government is formally recognized by the United Nations, it receives only lukewarm support from the Great Powers.

3. It is evident that General Haftar represents, by far, the most serious threat to the remaining gains of the unfinished democratic revolution of autumn 2011. Haftar is a former officer of the Gaddafi regime with a shady record (after deserting Gaddafi in 1987 he joined the CIA; he returned to Libya in 2011 but returned later to the U.S. after a brief career in the ranks of the Libyan Revolution; recently he also played a role in trading Libya’s oil to Russian state corporations). In 2014 he launched the so-called *Operation Dignity*, a sustained and ongoing military campaign against various petty-bourgeois militias that emerged out of the revolutionary process. General Haftar is the henchman of those forces in the Middle East that express the most rabid hostility to the gains of the Arab Revolution: the arch-reactionary monarchies of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as the bloody, military dictatorship of General Sisi in Egypt. Without the massive financial and military support of these regimes, Haftar

would have no chance at succeeding in his plans. Haftar has also received crucial support from imperialist Russia as well as other Great Powers. The RCIT warns: if Haftar wins and conquers all of Libya, he will try to impose a dictatorship based on the current Egyptian model. Faced with the alternative between a weak bourgeois GNA government and a strong, counterrevolutionary Haftar regime, revolutionaries have no difficulty in recognizing the lesser evil. The immediate task now must be to defeat the Libyan version of General Sisi!

4. General Haftar’s journey of changing loyalties reflects the changing relation of forces between the Great Powers. Without doubt he is a long standing traitor and reactionary agent of imperialism. He always has been looking to find the best buyer of his political service. When the decline of the U.S., and Western imperialism in general, became manifest resulting in their reduced political influence in the Middle East, General Haftar – like Sudan’s Bashir, Egypt’s General Sisi, Barzani and others – started to work with Russian and Chinese imperialism in order to get substantial military, political and infrastructure support to maintain their bloody dictatorships. Corporations like Rosneft have become main actors in these diplomatic games, because all these regimes have significant oil reserves and other natural resources, which would be extracted and sold by Russian and Chinese monopolists.

5. It is no accident that various Stalinist sycophants have sided with the Haftar forces. This is only consistent with their support for other similar representatives of contemporary counterrevolution such as Assad, Putin, and Sisi. The Stalinists and numerous pseudo-leftists failed to support the Libyan Revolution in 2011 on the basis of the foolish claim that Gaddafi had not been toppled by the revolutionary masses but by NATO. It is not without irony that such self-proclaimed “anti-imperialists” who

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

*** Russia as a Great Imperialist Power. The formation of Russian Monopoly Capital and its Empire**

*** Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism and Russia’s Rise as a Great Power**

Two Pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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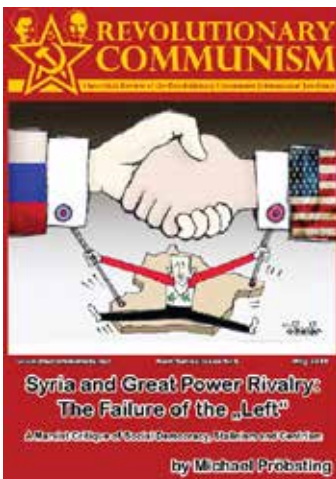
denounced the Arab Revolution from early on as “CIA-backed color revolutions” have ended up now in supporting now long-time pro-US forces like General Haftar, the Kurdish YPG in Syria or the occupation regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. They justify such grotesque caper by welcoming the struggle of such pro-imperialist forces against which so-called “Islamofascism”. They are unaware of the bizarre character of their claims given the fact that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the alleged main supporters of “Islamism” in the region, are actually the main sponsors of Haftar’s forces!

6. In fact, NATO’s limited intervention in 2011 was neither the decisive factor in the Libyan Revolution nor did the Western imperialists succeed in subjugating the country. This became obvious when the US and European imperialists failed to install a loyal and powerful regime of lackeys. A particularly visible manifestation of this failure was the explosion of riots in Benghazi in September 2012 following the release of an anti-Islamic film produced by right-wing, American racists. In the course of these riots, the US consulate was stormed and burned down, leaving the American ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, and a number of embassy officials and security forces dead. Since then, nearly all Western embassies and foreign companies have fled Libya. In the wake of that “disaster” the Great Powers have been preoccupied with a project of *pacification* and *stabilization*. This has translated into, among other efforts, the disarming of tens of thousands of militants and the attempts to dissolve the numerous militias which sprang up with the civil war eight years ago. Libya is a critical country for the big oil corporations as it has the largest proven reserves of oil in Africa. It has become a key supplier of light, sweet crude to European markets. Transforming Libya into a large concentration camp (like Egypt is today) would additionally allow the imperialist EU to better secure its southern border and arrest the flow of migrants.

7. No one should trust the bourgeois GNA government, the businessmen in Misrata, or the various, petty-bourgeois Islamist forces. They should trust, even less, any call from the United Nations for “de-escalation”. It is crucial that the workers and poor in Libya organize themselves independently in popular militias in order to defeat the counter-revolutionary forces of General Haftar. Such a struggle must be combined with putting the significant oil industry under workers control coupled by the creation of a workers and popular government.

8. The struggle in Libya is part of the ongoing Arab Revolution. The RCIT calls on revolutionaries to intensify their support for the liberation struggles against the capitalist dictatorships and Great Powers aggression in the Middle East. We call for uniting the popular struggles in Algeria, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Palestine, and Iran into a single Intifada in order to liberate the whole region from reactionary dictatorships, super-exploitation by imperialist monopolies, and Great Power domination. For a socialist federation of workers and peasant republics in the Middle East!

For our analysis of the Libyan Revolution we refer readers to:
 RCIT: Stop the US Bombing of Libya! Mobilize against the Expansion of the Imperialist War! Defeat the Imperialist Aggressors and Their Lackeys in Libya! 23.2.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/us-bombing-libya/>
 RCIT: General Sisi, Hollande, Obama: Hands Off Libya! Defeat General Haftar’s Imperialist Lackeys! Down with the Daash-Gang of Killers! For a Workers’ and Popular Government! 26.2.2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/hands-off-libya/>
 Michael Pröbsting: Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference. The failure of sectarian “anti-imperialism” in the West: Some general considerations from the Marxist point of view and the example of the democratic revolution in Libya in 2011, in *Revolutionary Communism* No. 5 (2012), <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/liberation-struggle-and-imperialism/>



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

On the Results of the Israeli Election of 2019

A Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 21.04.2019

Now that the counting of the ballot boxes has ended, the right wing bloc that is 65 MP's strong is set the form the next coalition. The last thing we can say about those elections is that the results surprised us. We predicted that the next coalition will be a right wing one, with Netanyahu at its head and will be even farther to the right. That government will probably announce the annexation of Area C of the West Bank, which composed 60% of the West Bank, but only around 80,000 Palestinians. And so, Israel will mark another step on the road to an open Apartheid. The shifting of the Israeli population to the right is not new, and the removal of the last liberal masks of the Jewish State is just a matter of time.

We will look at the following seven factors:

1. **The character of the Zionist State as a Settler Colonial state:** One of the most prominent examples is the open racism all the Zionist parties display towards its Palestinian citizens. The Blue White party has refused to consider a coalition of the Hadash Arab party because of Hadash's commitment to a two state solution and its demand to the abolition of the racist Nation Law. The Blue White leadership refused because it feared a flight of Zionist votes. It is also not surprising the Hadash went with Ahmed Tibi (who engineered the splitting of the Joint List), was willing to support a right wing bourgeois government with the Blue White party (whom amongst its leaders was one of the initial proposers of the Nation Law, and its leader, Benny Gantz, has bragged about the number of Arabs he killed in the last Gaza war)!

2. **The class character of the votes in a colonial state:** The members of the lower classes, that are mostly composed of oriental Jews, remember that they were brought as cheap labor force. After the occupation of 1967, their situation improved as they became small business owners and were successful in making their way into parliament and the ministerial offices. The simple reality is that if the Zionist left pass a peace treaty with the Palestinian Authority, and the Palestinian workers will go from direct exploitation by the Israeli bourgeoisie to an indirect one, those lower classes might slide back into the position of cheap labor. Therefore, only a class analysis can show why they voted for Netanyahu and not the Zionist left.

There are persons in Zionist left who are comparable to a camel who cannot see his hump and claim that the oriental Jews are racists towards Arabs and even Ashkenazi Jews. If so, why have they voted for a party that has a overwhelmingly Ashkenazi majority and at the same time have not opted for the fascist right who aims to transfer the Arab population and even annex all of the West Bank, as the New Right and Feiglen's party seek? The answer is

that such a move will allow the Palestinian petty bourgeoisie to compete with the Israeli one.

On the other hand, the well off, including Netanyahu's neighbors in Caesarea, mostly Ashkenazi have supported the Blue White party. This is because they have not a lot to lose if a mini Palestinian state will come to exist, and they have a more to lose if the supporters of democracy around the world will start to recognize Israel as an Apartheid state and will pressure their governments to put sanctions on Israel.

3. Out of 300,000 votes of soldiers, prisoners, Israelis outside of Israel and hospital patients, whose vote accounts came later, approximately 30,000 voted for the Meretz party and the rest for right wing Zionist parties.

4. The repression and the disillusion of getting anything from the Israeli Parliament led a section of the Palestinians not to vote at all which is a motion to the left and at the same time the failure of the Arab Revolutions in Egypt and Syria along with the investment fund in Arab towns by the right wing government have pushed another section of the Palestinians into voting the left Zionists party and even right wing instead for Balad which is an anti-Zionist party of the oppressed nationality. This is the party we voted for, and it barely cleared the voting threshold and got only 4 seats in parliament. In addition, the Likud party installed secret cameras in voting booths in Arab town in order to suppress voter turnout and hired advertising agencies to smear the Arab parties and further decrease the voter turnout.

5. Putin and Trump also intervened on Netanyahu's behave.

6. The religious parties have increased the seat count because of financial and ideological support from secular Zionism in return for support for the settlements and annexation.

7. The decline of the Zionist left is a long process which began in the Oslo agreement. It seems that many who voted for the Labour Party/Zionist Camp last time, voted for the Blue White party this time. The election results show that their attempt the surpass Netanyahu from the right failed.

The right wing trend among the Palestinians can be seen in the fact that last elections, the Joint List got 13 seats, and this time the different Arab parties got only 10. The Zionist left collapsed from 29 seats to just 11. This shows that there is no social force inside Israel who can bring about a change to our current reality. The change will only come when that Arab revolution will be victorious and solution will be a one democratic state

Comunismo Revolucionario

Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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Socialists and the EU Elections 2019

**Against all imperialist states – both EU as well as national states!
Open borders for migrants! For the United Socialist States of Europe!**

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 11 April 2019

1. The upcoming elections in the European Union take place in a climate of crisis and decay. The looming next Great Recession has already resulted in the decline of industrial production in Germany and Italy. The never-ending Brexit crisis is a direct expression of the conflict between warring camps of the ruling classes of Europe. The majority of big capital supports the imperialist EU and advocates a further deepening of European integration. These forces are politically represented by conservative and liberal parties (e.g. the German CDU, Macron's list in France, Italy's PD). They have also found support among a number of social democratic parties of the Blair-ite type (e.g. the German SPD or the Swedish SAP).

2. In contrast, other sectors of the bourgeoisie want to weaken the EU integration and strengthen the nation state. These class forces are represented by mostly right-wing conservative and populist parties (e.g. the French FN, the German AfD, Salvini's Lega, Orban's FIDESZ, the Polish PiS, Austria's FPÖ, etc.).

3. These two camps differ in their strategies of how to: strengthen the position of European corporations on the world market, intensify the exploitation of the working class, and formulate an ideology that advances and consolidates their domination. The imperialist pro-EU camp advocates stronger political and economic pan-European institutions as well as a pan-European liberal ideology. They understand that the political and economic interests of monopoly capital can only be promoted globally if imperialist Europe stands united against its rivals in the US, China, Russia, and Japan. They also advocate the expansion of the police state in order to surveil citizens and suppress migrants (in particular Muslim migrants) as well as rebellious domestic elements (e.g. the *Yellow*

Vests in France or the Catalan independence movement). Likewise, they want to reinforce the imperialist Fortress Europe against migration from the poor countries in order to more ably control who is allowed to enter the EU (preferably young, skilled and low-wage labor forces) and who is not. The right-wing nationalist camp advocates a similar policy but wants to prioritize its implementation at the national level. They also advocate a more rabid national chauvinism. However, both camps fundamentally agree on the necessity of implementing austerity policies and the deployment of troops for operations abroad (e.g. in Africa, Afghanistan) in order to safeguard imperialist interests.

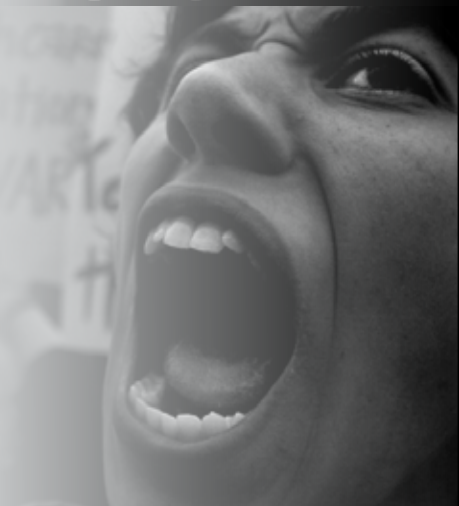
4. A focus of this strategic antagonism with European imperialism is the agony of Britain's Brexit. This tragic-comical process demonstrating the utter impotence of the country's bourgeois leadership reflects the dead end the ruling class finds itself in. On one hand the majority of the capitalist class, the Liberals as well as the Blair-ite wing of Labour (plus some pseudo-left wing campaigns financed by George Soros) have strongly favored Britain remaining inside the EU. On the other hand, an anti-EU faction of the bourgeoisie represented by the majority of the Tories who – with the tacit support of the Corbyn wing (plus centrist forces like the SPEW/CWI and the SWP) – want to implement the result of the 2016 referendum for Britain to leave the EU.

5. The workers and oppressed of Europe must defend their political independence. They must not be used as servants for the interests of either the pro-EU or pro-nation state capitalists. Neither the imperialist European Union nor an "independent" imperialist nation state serves the interests of the working class. They are the Scyl-

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)*



la and Charybdis of austerity policies and the suppression of democratic rights. The only way forward for workers and the oppressed is to fight against the capitalist governments (both within and outside of the EU) and to unite in struggle across national borders.

6. The working class in Europe is faced with a tremendous crisis of leadership. The social democratic parties and trade union bureaucracies are strongly committed to the project of creating a powerful imperialist Europe. They are willing partners in governments that implement austerity policies, expand the racist Fortress Europe, and launch military operations around the globe. Examples of this include German SPD support for the Bundeswehr intervention in Mali and Afghanistan and the French PSF support for the dispatch of troops to Mali, Iraq and Syria. Authentic socialists must fight against the betrayals of social democracy while simultaneously embracing the application of the united front tactic where and when appropriate.

7. The more militant and progressive sectors of the working class and youth have been dominated by left-reformist and petty-bourgeois left-populist forces such as Jean-Luc Mélenchon's *"La France insoumise"* in France, *Podemos-IU* in Spain, the German *Linkspartei*, the *Bloco de Esquerda* in Portugal or the Danish *Enhedslisten*. In Britain the Labour Party has moved in a left-reformist direction with Jeremy Corbyn overcoming the Blair-ite party establishment. Despite their radical rhetoric (*"citizen's revolution"* etc.), however, these reformist forces have followed a bourgeois-parliamentarian strategy. Whenever the ruling class has allowed them to participate in government they have proven themselves more than willing accomplices in the pursuit of profit and imperialist power. This was demonstrated when the French *Communist Party* participated in a government that joined the imperialist war against Serbia in 1999 and against Afghanistan in 2001. Further examples were the support of Fausto Bertinotti's *Rifondazione Comunista* for the neoliberal Prodi government and the implementation of harsh austerity policies by SYRIZA in Greece (which has been in a ruling alliance with the right-wing nationalist ANEL since 2015). In Britain the Labour Party experienced the aggressive campaign of the Blair-ite and pro-Zionist wing that resulted in the expulsion of pro-Palestine activists under the false pretext of *"Anti-Semitism"*. This shameful assault, however, faced no real resistance by the Corbyn leadership. In numerous instances such left-reformist and left-populist parties have postured as *"radical opposition parties"* supporting protest. This has been the role of Mélenchon's LFI in the *Yellow Vests* movement and, equally, of Podemos in the popular protests.

8. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has continuously emphasized that any illusions in such left-reformist and left-populist parties are completely misplaced. These forces will inevitably betray workers and the oppressed and serve the direct interests of the ruling class. SYRIZA is only the latest example of this phenomenon. The strategic goal must be the construction of a political alternative to these reformist forces, i.e. revolutionary parties nationally and internationally. Such parties will advocate a program of uncompromising class struggle against austerity, racism, and imperialist war. They will additionally combine such a program with the goal of a socialist revolution aimed at the expropriation of

the bourgeoisie and the unification of Europe on a socialist basis.

9. However, building such parties does not take place in a vacuum. It can only succeed by direct intervention in the struggles of the working class on the basis of an unambiguous socialist program. Since many progressive workers and youth will use the EU election as a vehicle to express their protest, socialists would be mistaken to ignore this. Quite the opposite, revolutionaries must advocate a socialist program and patiently explain their criticism of those left-reformist and left-populist parties to which these progressive workers and youth presently address their desire for change. Socialists must combine this with calling for a critical vote for such parties in the EU elections. Such a tactic applies for example to the Mélenchon's LFI, Podemos, the Linkspartei, *Labour* in Britain, the *Bloco de Esquerda* or the *Enhedslisten*. It does not apply to SYRIZA, the executor of a barbaric austerity program for the past four years in Greece.

10. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls on socialists to unite in the struggle to build a revolutionary party – nationally as well as internationally. Join the RCIT!

** Stop the austerity policy! For mass demonstrations and strikes up to an indefinite general strike! Build action committees in the workplaces, schools and neighborhoods to organize the struggle! Build a rank and file movement in the trade unions in order to advance the fight against the bureaucracy and drive them out of the workers movement!*

** Defend democratic rights! No police state! Down with all repressive laws!*

** Stop the harassment of Muslim migrants! Mobilize against racist and Islamophobic campaigns! For self-defense units, created by organizations of the workers' movement and migrant communities. Protect refugees' hostels and mosques against racist attacks!*

** For a program of revolutionary equality for migrants – equal wages and access to housing, full citizenship rights, equal status for all migrants' native languages in education and public administration! Open the borders for migrants and refugees!*

** Defeat Imperialism – Solidarity with the Resistance! US, Russia, France and any other Great Power: Hands off Syria! Troops out of Afghanistan and Mali! Solidarity with the resistance struggle against the occupiers!*

** Solidarity with the Arab Revolution! Support the ongoing liberation struggles against the reactionary dictatorships in Syria, in Algeria, in Sudan, in Egypt and in Iran! Victory to the Palestinian resistance against the Zionist state! Support the Yemeni people against Saudi aggression!*

** Neither Brexit nor Remain! No support for any imperialist state – neither the EU nor the nation state! For international struggle of the workers and people! For the United Socialist States of Europe!*

European Secretariat of the RCIT

“No Luck So Far”

On Assange and the right to free speech

By Jimoh Oladipupo, *Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing RCIT Section in Nigeria)*

These are the four words the US justice department hopes to base their case of indictment against the journalist Julian Assange if he is extradited to the US for 2010 allegations of computer intrusion in which he was accused of illegally gaining access to highly classified military data base to obtain data in form of videos. These videos reveal the killings of civilians, women and children inclusive, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and other locations by US soldiers, the implication of which is tantamount to war crimes committed by the US. The videos were obtained through collaboration with an inside man in the US secret service Chelsea Manning. In an attempt, according to US sources, to compromise the information through hacking either by breaking US database pass codes, Julian Assange sent a message that he had “no luck so far” after trying for the umpteenth time a message which investigators intercepted and will make their whole case on against Assange and his co-conspirator Manning.

Mainstream media is replete with debates as to whether the arrest of Assange some days ago is repression of freedom of the press as Assange’s legal council have stated immediately after his arrest by London police and removal from the Ecuadorian embassy in the UK where he has

been since 2010. This argument is countered by pro-US elite through the claim that Assange displayed extremity the moment he conspired to hack US secret intelligence database thus this group labels him as an “irresponsible journalist.” This lot also claims that the US is right to charge Assange not for publishing the information he got from the “hack” but for illegally obtaining the information thus separating the act from the motive of the act. Yet before revising the motives and technicalities of the acclaimed violation of the US computer intrusion act there are more important questions that have been obscured by the International Criminal Court (ICC), the UN and other national unions: what steps have been taken to make the US answer for the war crimes committed? What investigations have these global associations carried out to know the true extent of these war crimes (are there more to be uncovered)? What steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such crimes?

The relegation of these questions by the UN and the media reveals the leaning of world governments in favour of US military interventionist interests instead of the world peace which is the pretext for their military coalition in the Middle East. Yet this favouritism is more clearly displayed

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 (RCIT)

by the yielding of the Ecuadorian government to pressure from the US and its allies when they invited London police into the Ecuadorian embassy to arrest Assange claiming that he had “violated the terms of his asylum” even after granting him citizenship. The almost puppet role the UK judiciary is playing speaks volume of the collaboration between its closest ally to maintain their imperialist grip on the Middle East making the revelation of their war crimes most threatening. As such we see the judge who presided over the incarceration of Assange betray the blindness of justice by calling Assange a “narcissist.” If the justice system of the UK can be this biased against the journalist how much more the US justice department and this raises concerns about a would-be trial in the US if Assange is extradited.

The hostility of the UK, a country which has continued the flagrant selling of arms to Saudi Arabia (which is committing more crimes against humanity in Yemen); its police and court towards Assange confers special scrutiny on the whole case of the US against him; a case which as earlier stated is based on the claim that Assange hacked secret intelligence US databases and which is justified through the assertion that he is facing charges not because he published the information but because he obtained it illegally. But to test these arguments logically one might require a simpler analogy. A case can be referred to as theft only by the motive which the accused has when obtaining the article of interest, for instance, if the accused has the motive of using the article for himself or converting it to his property it becomes theft. In simpler terms the use of the article by the accused which forms the evidence determining the motive is what makes the crime a theft as is the case for many other crimes. Again if Assange obtained the information without publishing it or using it in anyway, he would be mentally retarded for what is the essence of stealing something if not to use or sell it. And a mentally retarded person cannot be charged that means that it is the utility of the information that formulates the crime. More so, if the article in this case is a “classified” document then the crime must be making it public. Another example forms the distinction between murder and manslaughter - the motive; to say little it's illogical or impossible to charge someone for obtaining a piece of information without also indicting him for what he did with it which in this case is publishing it.

This reveals what the case of the US against Assange is an attempt to hamper free speech and investigative journalism for by indicting him for gaining access to the information either by hacking or whatsoever. They also indict him for publishing it but this would not be the first time the US government is conducting a witch hunt against journalist and whistle blowers whose reportage they find disturbing. The US has also made John Snowden a former CIA operative, who is currently in asylum, a public enemy. At the same time the US Administration drags its feet to take action against the crown prince of Saudi Arabia for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi because the interest of the US government and Saudi Arabia align on many a front which implies that they share joint secrets.

Concerning those peddling arguments of responsible journalism and the extent to which a journalist should go to expose secrets it is because they lack a sense of careful juxtaposition of the present situation with others related

to it. When the Egyptian president El Sisi ordered the arrest of Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein it was not because he had hacked some highly classified databases or because he had collaborated with a government official to leak secrets but the Egyptian government still labeled him as someone culpable of treason. When Maria Ressa was arrested in Manila by the Philippine government it was not because she hacked the government but other allegations were cooked up just to see her locked away. Thus the meaning of “irresponsible” in this case is highly subjective and debatable for different states clamp down on journalism when it violates a certain level of “responsibility” plus there's a great difference in the way people and their governments define “responsible.” So the issue does not become a question of morals but a matter of interest.

It would not be surprising that the Trumpian government of the US kept mum even in the face of the above highlighted instances just as they will not admit that crown prince Bin Salman is culpable in the assassination of Khashoggi. Neither will they support the public release of the Mueller report on Russian collusion with Donald Trump for his victory in the 2016 US elections. So far only Jeremy Corbyn has condemned the attacks on free speech specifically in the Egyptian case just as he did after the arrest of Julian Assange advising against his extradition to the US which Theresa May has given consent to.

A thousand and one links can be established from the imperialist and government-sponsored onslaught against free speech and press freedom. One of which is that information should never be monopolized but put forward at all times for public consumption.

The arguments in this piece culminate in two paths which converge to vindicate Assange and expose the attempt of the US, UK and her allies to attack press freedom;

First, it is impossible to separate the motive of an action (which can only be established by careful investigations of events before and after the action which are related to it) from the action itself in which case Assange published the information he obtained publicly meaning that the US charges against him for obtaining the information is the same as charging him for publishing it which is an indictment on free speech.

Secondly, the constitution remains a tool in the hands of the ruling class to achieve their pernicious aims. Hence serious revolutionaries and progressives must always be critical with the laws of the land and support it only when it backs the interests of the masses.

Thus, the people of the US, UK and around the world must reject the extradition of Assange and his total exoneration from the charges against him. The international working class and the oppressed should mobilize in defence of Assange and of free speech!

Assange is no criminal and deserves not to be treated as one!

#FreeJulianAssange

Jimoh Oladipupo is a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology student of Obafemi Awolowo University; the Branch Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard section of the university; a member of Great Ife Students' Union Action Committee and a progressive supporter of independent journalism and unionism.

Stop the imperialist witch-hunt against Assange! (2012)

Down with US, UK and Swedish imperialism!

Defend Ecuador against neo-colonial threats by the UK government!

Republication of a Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), issued on 25.8.2012

1. The witch-hunt against Julian Assange, editor-in-chief and founder of WikiLeaks, has escalated after the British government threatened to storm the Ecuadorian embassy where he found political asylum. The British Tory/Liberal government justified these threats with the need to extradite Assange to Sweden for questioning him over rape allegations. While many progressive forces rightly defend Assange and his right to leave Britain to Ecuador, a significant part of the British left capitulates to the imperialist pressure and supports the desire of British and Swedish imperialism to extradite the WikiLeaks founder to Sweden. The workers movement must derive its position on assessing the various class interests which are involved in this case.

2. The political background of the with-hunt against Assange is the WikiLeaks' releases of secret cables in the past years. By these activities WikiLeaks has revealed a number of US imperialisms' and many other governments' criminal activities and conspiracies. One of the most famous leaks, in April 2010, was the video showing how US soldiers killed nine Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalist in 2007. Recently Wikileaks disclosed the Western Connection of the reactionary Assad regime Syria.

Wikileaks is no socialist or working class organization but rather a radical petty-bourgeois democratic media organization. Through its activities it has damaged the interests of US imperialism and many other bourgeois regimes around the world and thus provoked their united hatred and determination to silence WikiLeaks and its leading figure Assange. The activities of WikiLeaks in exposing the imperialist crimes and intrigues have therefore been beneficial for the working class struggle against our class enemy – the ruling capitalist classes.

3. The imperialists' fanatical determination to silence Julian Assange has become particularly obvious in the past weeks. While the British government didn't care to extradite the Chilean ex-dictator and mass murder Augusto Pinochet, it even considers the unprecedented act of storming the Ecuadorian embassy and thus violating the national sovereignty. This shows that the struggle to defend Julian Assange has a double democratic and anti-imperialist character: The workers movement must defend the petty-bourgeois progressive media organization WikiLeaks against the attacks of the imperialist governments and it must defend semi-colonial countries like Ecuador against the bullying of the same imperialist govern-

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South

Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World

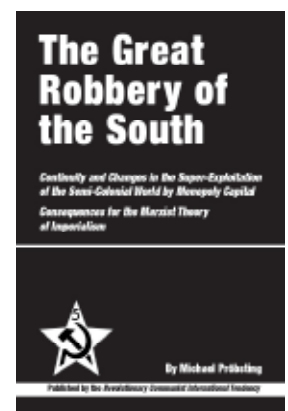
by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



ments.

4. British centrist organizations like the SWP, the AWL or groups like ACI and petty-bourgeois media celebrities like Owen Jones join the Tory government desire to extradite Assange to Sweden. This is nothing but a capitulation towards the pressure of their ruling class. Their justification for this pathetic position is, that the rape charge against Assange *“should be taken seriously”*.

5. One must be either totally naïve and stupid or consciously lying to ignore the following facts:

a) It is a proven fact that the US government has issued a sealed indictment against Assange and is trying hard to bring him to the USA and put him in prison to silence him forever.

b) It is a proven fact – as Australian diplomatic cables revealed – that *“WikiLeaks is the target of an ‘unprecedented’ US government criminal investigation”*. Any person with sense knows that the US government is pressurizing every – including the Swedish – government which could help them to catch Assange.

c) It is bizarre that so-called Marxists “forget” or want to forget that Sweden’s government and judicial authority are not neutral but have a class character: they are bourgeois and imperialist. To believe that the Swedish bourgeois authorities would objectively investigate the accusations against Assange is utmost stupid! The Swedish capitalist state doesn’t care about the defense of women and women rights – despite their official claims. Quite the opposite, it is an essential part of the system which oppresses women. Do these leftists not know that the so called pro-women Swedish state never dared to investigate the sex life of its King Gustav who – according to the book *“The Reluctant Monarch”* – had many appearances in strip clubs, sex parties organized by criminals etc.?! Do they not know that the Swedish secret service Sapo systematically pressurized the women who were the unfortunate victims of the Swedish king to hand over compromising pictures and videos?! And this reactionary anti-women Swedish state apparatus should objectively investigate the case of a person like Assange who is hated by most ruling classes around the globe?!

d) The case against Assange is most likely a politically manipulated frame-up. It raises the suspicion of any sensible person that the rape allegations against Assange came up in August 2010, immediately (!) after WikiLeaks released thousands of secret US cables about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which exposed lies and criminal conduct by Western forces. The charges against Assange were so weak that the Swedish prosecutors initially dropped the case. Chief prosecutor Eva Finné said: *“I don’t think there is reason to suspect that he has committed rape”*. It was reopened after (!) the intervention from Swedish politicians. An arrest warrant for Assange was put out in December 2010, immediately (!) after WikiLeaks began releasing secret cables from US embassies, exposing yet more crimes and lies. How can one ignore the link to the political interests of the ruling classes!?

e) How can it not raise the suspicion of these British leftists that the former US president Bush advisor Karl Rove has been working directly as an advisor to the governing Moderate Party in Sweden and that the Assange accusers’ lawyer is a partner in the law firm Borgström and Bodström, whose other name partner, Thomas Bodström, is

a former Swedish Minister of Justice?! And that this Bodström helped to approve a 2001 CIA rendition request to Sweden, to allow the CIA to fly two asylum-seekers from Sweden to Egypt, where they were tortured?!

f) How can these so-called “anti-capitalists” forget the simple fact that every ruling class in the world has its secret services which are paid for to organize regularly conspiracies and frame-ups? Is it not likely, that when these governments are desperate to silence Assange, that they use their secret services for this?!

g) The charges of rape against Assange are in itself highly contradictory as the well-known US liberal feminist Naomi Wolf showed. She concluded: *“Based on my 23 years of reporting on global rape law, and my five years of supporting women at rape crisis centers and battered women’s shelters, I can say with certainty that this case is not being treated as a normal rape or sexual assault case.”* (Naomi Wolf: *Something Rotten in the State of Sweden: 8 Big Problems with the ‘Case’ Against Assange*, <http://markcrispinmiller.com/2011/02/eight-big-problems-with-the-case-against-assange-must-read-by-naomi-wolf/>). Similarly, activists like Katrin Axelsson and Lisa Longstaff from the campaign *“Women Against Rape”* are clear about the dubious accusations: *“It seems even clearer now, that the allegations against him are a smokescreen behind which a number of governments are trying to clamp down on WikiLeaks for having audaciously revealed to the public their secret planning of wars and occupations with their attendant rape, murder and destruction.”* (Katrin Axelsson and Lisa Longstaff: *We are Women Against Rape but we do not want Julian Assange extradited*, guardian.co.uk, 23rd August 2012 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentis-free/2012/aug/23/women-against-rape-julian-assange>). These honest democrats and liberals are more progressive than a major part of the centrist left in Britain.

h) If the Swedish state would really – as it officially claims – only be interested in investigating and not arresting Assange, why don’t they send representatives to London to interview him?!

i) Of course no one can exclude the possibility of any wrong behavior of Julian Assange. But the state apparatus of the ruling classes – be it in Sweden, Britain or the USA – who are desperate to silence him are definitely *not* the institutions whom any democratic and sincere person should trust to judge objectively on this. Under the present circumstances the best option seems to be that Assange can get exile in Ecuador. An independent international commission consisting of representatives of workers and women organizations should investigate the accusations against Assange.

6. The task of the workers movement and all progressive forces today is to defend Julian Assange against the attempts of the imperialist governments to silence him and WikiLeaks. This is why the RCIT oppose the attempts by the British state to extradite him to Sweden. This is why no person with sense should trust the Swedish state apparatus. This is why we oppose the petty-bourgeois left who give cover for the imperialist campaign against Assange by calling him to hand himself over to the Swedish state. The struggle to defend Assange and to defend Ecuador against British imperialist pressure is an anti-imperialist duty which deserves the support of all workers and progressive movements.

Nigeria: Protests against Escalating Costs of Electricity

Report (with Pictures and Videos) by the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing RCIT Section in Nigeria), 16.4.2019

On 16 April, residents of Mushin Constituency 2, Lagos state, took to the streets in order to protest against fraudulent electricity bills. They demonstrated in front of the headquarter of the electricity company responsible for the theft.

Comrades of the *Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard* (sympathizing RCIT Section in Nigeria) joined and helped organizing the protest. Comrade Sanyaolu Juwon, a leader of the

RSV, addressed the demonstrators and called for broadening and organizing of the protests. (See video below)

The demonstrators agreed to prepare for a more massive action within the next two weeks if the issues raised will not be addressed. Moreover other communities affected by the same problems matter reached out to us. There will be soon a meeting of delegates of the communities.



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

Nigeria: Tinubu Goofed Yet Again

Lagosians Deserve Government-Funded Mass Housing

by Ayowole Sanyaolu Mar 20, 2019

For the past few days now, Nigeria has been thrown into a mournful mood. From the return of Buhari as President to the tragic death of Prof. Pious Adesanmi. No sooner had we recovered from these pathetic occurrences than we have been confronted with an avalanche of other tragedies. My prayers and heartrending condolences are with the families of young pupils who are victims of the Ita faaji and the Lagos Island building collapse. Yet again, our children, the future of our dear country, have been sacrificed on the altar ineptitude and crass irresponsibility of the Nigerian ruling elite.

For the records, the categories of persons who are being mourned in the past few days did not meet their deaths by sheer force of fate or destiny, they were killed and made victims of systemic failure. And there have been many more who have died under worse circumstances. Scores of promising Nigerians have lost their lives to our poor health system. LUTH and LASUTH are both embarrassing eyesores. Both hospitals have been more magnificent in taking lives than efficient in saving them. Our roads are death traps with potholes already assuming the size of very large drainages.

Without losing sight of subject of discourse, Bola Tinubu, in his response to the recent tragic occurrences of collapse of buildings, advised the Lagos State government to fast-track the process of demolishing marked buildings. This statement would have hoodwinked the unsuspecting few into the false assumption that Tinubu's statement was coming from the part of his heart that houses empathy for the victims of this tragedy. On the contrary, beneath the facade of sympathy lies his real intent, which is centred at attacking the livelihood of poor and hopeless Lagosians. This is not to say that I intend that government continues to indulge defective buildings. Not at all. However, can someone just help ask Tinubu whose responsibility it is to provide adequate shelter? Unlike Lateef Jakande whose administration built several low-cost housing and tertiary institutions, all of which are still in existence today, Tinubu and his proteges who succeeded him couldn't build a single tertiary institution neither did they lay a foundation for low-cost housing.

What they have been doing instead has been to commercialise our universities as Fashola did with LASU in 2011. Fashola's so-called low-cost housing remains till date unaffordable to an average Nigerian worker.

From Tinubu to the regime of Fashola and down to the administration of Ambode, the Lagos State government has rather been in the business of demolishing houses of poor Lagosians. Ambode in 2017 alone demolished several houses and market places, including Otodogbame, Ilubirin, Sabo and several others. These inhumane actions perpetrated by the government remain one of the worst humanitarian disasters witnessed in our country in recent times. Several persons were killed, while scores of others recorded unbearable property losses to the tune of millions. In all of this, government saw no reason to compensate persons it rendered homeless overnight and neither

has it devised any initiative to compensate scores of others whose means of livelihood were permanently destroyed through the demolition of market places where our most vulnerable citizens are known to make a living.

As moribund as the Nigerian constitution may seem, it nevertheless spelt out some very cogent responsibilities of government to its citizens. Chapter 2 Section 14 of the Constitution stated unequivocally that security and welfare of the citizens shall be the exclusive responsibility of government. Proceeding to Section 16 Subsection 2d, it was boldly written that government shall provide good and adequate shelter for its citizens.

This is the position of the Constitution. And now that Tinubu is proposing that government speed up the process of demolition, is he also proposing that government also provides alternative homes for persons who would become homeless? Is he also proposing that government begins building low-cost housing on a massive scale? A kind of housing in which an average worker that may soon be earning a paltry N30,000 minimum wage can conveniently afford? Lagos has always prided itself as the fifth largest economy in Africa with GDP higher than the economy of five neighbouring African countries put together. The government, in fact, recently announced a rise in GDP by a whopping sum of N32.99billion. This new development has placed the Lagos State economy far higher than that of 33 states combined.

This remarkable economic stride has only found relevance in the bank accounts of Tinubu, friends, families and proteges. While Tinubu and friends get richer with increased Lagos GDP, Lagosians have in fact become poorer; more Lagosians have become homeless, more Lagosians have become jobless, more students have become dropouts with rising number of out-of-school children. Despite remarkable economic strides, this glorified slum according to the economists, is the worst city to live in the world next to Damascus in war torn Syria.

It is therefore very expedient at this moment that we all rise as citizens to demand that this new rise in the GDP should henceforth be put to the construction of mass housing, funding/building of new hospitals of modern standards, building of schools of modern categories, modern transportation, roads and support for free health and free education at all levels. Lagos money should be put into such relevance rather than saving it in Tinubu's private vault where some of it would find its way into bullion vans in the course of the next elections.

Zimbabwe: The Economic and Political Situation after the Ouster of Mugabe

By Daud Sibanda, Correspondent in Zimbabwe, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 23 April 2019

Zimbabwe is saddled with economic and political challenges that are a direct result of the repressive, undemocratic, corrupt and incompetent tendencies of the comprador ZANU PF regime, coupled with poor policies, illegal sanctions and the revitalised neoliberal onslaught on the poor by the so-called technocrats.

The journey of austerity begun with the Mugabe dictatorship regime, that had an insatiable appetite for corruption, disregard of sound social, economic and political policies and programs. This is not surprising though, given that the system of capitalism is known for inherent contradictions, crises and lots of economic and political challenges. This comprador regime embraced and admired the system of capitalism. This is evidenced by their rush to implement neoliberal policies imposed on them by the IMF and World Bank in the form of ESAP and other neoliberal economic policies that followed, after a period of 10 years of misrule.

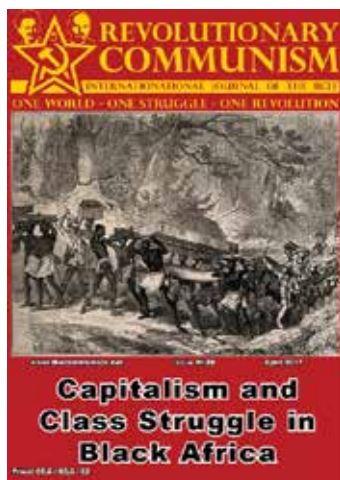
Economic Decline

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa. It is endowed with various natural resources. Minerals, gold and agriculture are the main foreign exports. The country has been in economic decline since the 1990s,

experiencing several crashes and hyperinflation along the way. Large parts of Zimbabwe were once covered by forests with abundant wildlife.

Deforestation and poaching has reduced the amount of wildlife. Woodland degradation and deforestation, due to population growth, urban expansion and lack of fuel, are major concerns and have led to erosion and land degradation which diminish the amount of fertile soil. Local farmers have also been criticised by environmentalists for burning off vegetation to heat their tobacco barns.

Zimbabwe maintained positive economic growth throughout the 1980s (in average 5% GDP growth per year) and 1990s (in average 4.3% GDP growth per year). However, the economy declined from 2000 onwards: -5% in 2000, -8% in 2001, -12% in 2002 and -18% in 2003! Zimbabwe's involvement from 1998 to 2002 in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo drained hundreds of millions of dollars from the economy. From 1999–2009, Zimbabwe saw the lowest ever economic growth with an annual GDP decrease of 6.1%. This downward spiral of the economy has been attributed mainly to mismanagement and corruption by the government and the eviction of more than 4,000 white farmers in the controversial land confiscations of 2000. (Figures are taken from Wikipedia, accessed 14 April 2019)



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

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

The Zimbabwean government and its supporters attest that it was Western policies to avenge the expulsion of their kin that sabotaged the economy'. However reality says, it's not only western policies, these only aggravated and accelerated an already existing economic decay, which was caused by so many years of misrule, bad state policies, incompetence and corrupt tendencies. At present the country is facing a sharp rise in inflation, prices are skyrocketing and, farmers are protesting because they are being robbed and deprived of their deserved foreign currency earnings.

Impoverishment

Fuel is scarce and comes in trickles, like small drops in an ocean. The 2019 Budget, fiscal policy and the monetary policy have brought in austerity for the poor for prosperity for the rich, and it is worsening the economic crisis. We are experiencing a liquidity crunch, we have no currency as a nation, the industry is almost completely obliterated, we are more on the consuming side than production, foreign currency earnings are low and the little we earn is being abused and misused. And the monetary authorities are adamant that they are doing well and working towards improving the situation, they are asking the poor people to tighten their belts yet they are not, they are extravagant in budget spending through futile presidential trips and unnecessary frequent travelling.

Social services have declined to a very low, with residents of high density suburbs receiving water twice to thrice a week or once on critical days. This is attributed to lack of water treatment chemicals. This poses a health hazard and a risk of disease outbreak is looming. In fact, we have already seen the outbreak of Cholera already. Livestock disease are also on the rampage, natural disasters are bedevilling the country with the recent attack by Cyclone Idai which claimed lots of lives and left many homeless and hopeless and with no means of subsistence.

Lack of Democracy

The current state headed by the President Emmerson Dambudzo Munangagwa says they have ushered in democracy. But it's actually pseudo and it is very hypocritical for them to say that, because we have seen brutal crackdowns on citizens through the state machinery due to protests against election fraud and fuel hikes and austerity measures that are hurting the ordinary citizens.

People are not allowed to be critical of the state without fear. There is minimal and controlled freedom of speech. The politics of Zimbabwe is polluted, hazardous and unhygienic. The state broadcaster is biased towards the ruling party the elite totalitarian comprador regime. The airwaves have not been democratically opened, they are controlled. We are yet to see independent players coming in to the broadcasting sphere.

Bourgeois Opposition Parties

The Zimbabwean opposition available at the moment is petty and weak and neoliberal. Nevertheless, it is very much supported by Zimbabweans because it is the only available alternative challenging the brutal Junta comprador

regime. Many Zimbabweans see the MDC Alliance as their saviour from the devil ZANU PF.

There is competition to please the imperial master among the competing political parties in Zimbabwe. In fact, there is no difference between these parties as they all have a neoliberal agenda. We have seen both political parties in agreement recently on the issue of compensation of white farmers. Their economic and political blueprints speak of the same thing and have the same agenda. They are only differently worded and possibly have different methods of implementation.

Bankrupt Left and Labour Movement

What is compounding the political demise in Zimbabwe are the weaknesses of the so called left organisations and the ideologically bankrupt labour movements. These organisations are very polarised and are very partisan and lack clarity and unity. Individualism, competition, greed, heroism, deceit, malice, opportunism, identity politics and all the vices associated with capitalism afflict these organisations' members. They do not have sound grassroots programs and political popular education. Their struggles are not defined and they have no objectives and thus lack direction. They resort to ritualistic activism which is not effective.

Nationalism and the system of global capitalism has managed to successfully capture and dominate the minds of Zimbabweans and the so called left has done nothing to change this. The dominant ideas of the ruling elite dominate the arena. The state has successfully implemented this through the media and all other social platforms, whereas the left has merely turned these to empty talk shows full of hot air, and these have become places to display mental antics, acrobatics and stamina. The situation seems to be hopeless, pathetic and pitiful.

However, there is a potential of mass uprising from the poor people from below as witnessed by the January uprising. The tensions are brewing and building, an eruption is imminent and when it happens there should be leadership and guidance ready to take up the role and steer the ship. However that space is a bit clouded in doubt and confusion, as the left is weak, polarised, clueless and poorly organised.

Hopefully when the uprising happens the left will have come to a realisation that they need to stop romanticising with capital puppets and step up to the field and take precise action. What is needed is a gradual and carefully thought and articulated solid Socialist agenda and popular grassroots education to raise the levels of consciousness of the masses, through socialisation and relating to the masses' issues by being realistic and addressing the daily problems and issues affecting them.

It is important to learn the lessons of the failures in the past. It is high time to build a revolutionary party based on a socialist and internationalist program. Such a party should be part of a revolutionary international. Building such a party nationally and internationally is particularly urgent in the present conjuncture where we see revolutionary upheavals in Sudan, Algeria and other countries! Let us tackle this task energetically!

Thailand: General Election Produces Stalemate and Deadlock

Prayut-Chan-Ocha and the Military Still Determined To Hold Onto Power

By Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01 April 2019

The result of the general election in Thailand on March 24th has produced a stalemate and deadlock between the two main parties in Thailand. The *Palang Pracharat Party* (PPRP), led by Prime Minister Prayut-cha-ocha and supported by the military, claimed to have won the popular vote. However, officially, the bourgeois populist *Pheu Thai Party*, which has won every general election in Thailand, has won 137 seats in the lower House of Representatives and is, again, the biggest party represented.

"Thai politics has descended into chaos after its first election since a 2014 coup, as two parties claimed the right to govern, the electoral commission refused to announce the official result and concerns were raised over irregular polling data. Unofficial results from Sunday's election indicated that the pro-military Phalang Pracharat party outperformed low expectations to win the most votes, while the pro-democracy Pheu Thai party narrowly won the most seats." [1]

The election commission appointed by the military junta refuses to declare a result until after the new King's coronation on May 9th. This shows that the military is still trying to manipulate the result and ensure that Prayut cha-ocha and his party becomes the new government against the wishes of the people's choice which is to see a the Pheu Thai-led "*Democratic Front*" to take power again Thailand.

"With no party winning an outright majority, the scene has been set for both sides to attempt to build coalitions to form a government. The election was thrown into further disarray after the election commission refused to formally declare the exact number of parliamentary seats each party had won. The commission said it first had to investigate numerous issues and complaints which had arisen in the voting process. Official results are now expected on 9 May. The system was already heavily rigged in favour of the military. The new constitution, drawn up by the military in 2016, gives it the power to appoint all 250 senators, who then get a vote in who becomes prime minister. This means that the military only needed 126 votes in the lower house to bring back the head of the junta, Prayut Chan-ocha, as prime minister." [2]

The *Pheu Thai* party and seven other parties have announced to form a coalition government after the results showed that the pro-democracy parties in the election had

won more seats than the pro-military *Palang Pracharat* party and its allies. The election commission is prevaricating over whether the Pheu Thai party and its democratic allies can be the lawful government. This is possible as the Thailand constitution recently amended insists that the 250 senators of the upper house senate participates in the decision on the appointment of Prime Minister. Since Prayut-cha-ocha was responsible for the appointment of Senators it is clear that the military junta will be able to fix the election in their favour.

"The Pheu Thai Party on Wednesday announced the formation of a seven-party coalition government with 255 MPs, vowing to stop the National Council for Peace and Order returning to power. Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan, a candidate for prime minister, said Pheu Thai and its six allies stood firm in their determination to prevent Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha remaining in power. The pro-democracy parties had the mandate to form a coalition government; she stressed." [3]

"Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan on Wednesday shrugged off the announcement by the Pheu Thai Party and its allies of a prospective government coalition as being premature. They can talk, but the EC (Election Commission) has not officially announced the election results. Wait until after May 9," Gen Prawit said. The commission has said it will announce the official results by May 9." [4]

Thailand Democratic System Flawed

The democratic system is flawed with the election being controlled and manipulated by the military junta refusing to accept the result of the Election which returned the populist Pheu Thai party to power. But Prayut-cha-ocha and the military are determined to continue their rule irrespective of the people's choice. Election irregularities of vote buying and intimidation have been reported by the monitors overseeing the Election result.

"International independent observers have declared that the process of counting the votes in Thailand's election lacked transparency and was "deeply flawed", adding to a climate of mistrust and uncertainty in the country. Prior to the election, concerns had been raised by opposition figures and human rights groups

China's transformation into an imperialist power

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

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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that the military, which is seeking to hold on to power through the ballot box, would ensure this was neither a free nor fair election. Thanks to draconian legislation preventing criticism of the junta, the system was already skewed in its favour. In the buildup to the election, and on polling day, there were multiple reports of army resources being utilized to pressure voters into voting for Phalang Pracharat, with soldiers mobilized, particularly in remote rural areas away from the watchful eyes of the international community". [5]

Many bourgeois commentators have commented that elections in Thailand have always been manipulated by the bourgeoisie to favour the ruling strata in Thailand society and have involved the military in restricting the rights of political parties to operate freely and without political interference. The bourgeois Pheu Thai party retains support amongst the masses and urban poor in the North and the southeast of Thailand, particularly in the rural areas. The 'Red Shirts' are closely allied to the Pheu Thai party and have come out in support of these populists when they were threatened by arrests, banning and closing down political parties as in the case of the *Thai Raksa Chart Party* closely allied to the Pheu Thai party.

"And yet, over the last two decades, the people of this region (the North East, Ed.) have been the strongest advocates of democracy and human rights. The political parties they have supported have won every national election since 2001. They are resilient because in the same period three times the party they supported was dissolved by the courts. Twice their prime ministers have been removed by court order and twice they have been overthrown by military coups the election is the latest step in a long game laid out by the coup-makers, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), which overthrew the elected government in May of 2014. The first step in the plan was to bring into effect a constitution that would weaken larger parties and create conditions for unstable coalition governments to be elected. The 2017 constitutional amendments allow the Thai military to appoint the 250-seat senate in its entirety, which, along with the 500-seat House of Representatives, votes on the appointment of prime minister. This means that the army-backed NCPO can give the premiership to anyone of their liking". [6]

The RCIT has commented in the past on the role of the populist Pheu Thai Party. We have explained that despite its support amongst layers of the urban poor and working class, it remains a bourgeois capitalist party which is committed to uphold the interests of the country's semi-colonial capitalism. However, its support is waning as demonstrated by the comments of this bourgeois commentator.

"For years, the Southeast Asian nation has been divided between mostly rural and northern supporters of Thaksin and his fierce opponents - mostly urban and middle class - who revile him as a corrupt demagogue. Amid spasms of street protests, the rival camps became known as "red shirts" and "yellow shirts". Now, with the military entrenched in politics and the emergence of a charismatic figurehead of democracy who reminds voters of a younger Thaksin, the country's political landscape is fragmenting. The emergence of populist, youthful billionaire Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, who promises an end to military "dictatorship", appears to have drawn votes away from Thaksin. His Future Forward Party came third in Phayao town's constituency with 16,326 votes". [7]

The contradictions of imperialism and ever more draconian measures against the working class by the capitalist class in Thailand will force parties like the Pheu Thai party

to adopt capitalist policies against workers and the poor when they serve in government. The world crisis of imperialism is driving countries like Thailand into debt and poverty.

"Thus the Pheu Thai Party is a bourgeois-populist party which represents a minority faction of the capitalist class but which, however, has to rely on the support of the workers and peasants in order to hold power. Nevertheless Thaksin and his party are despised by the elite because it is a party whose strength is based on the support of the masses of workers and peasants who have repeatedly intervened in the political life of Thailand during the last decade by militant mass mobilizations. 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". [8]

The RCIT puts forward the following transitional demands to organise the struggle for socialism, overthrow the military junta and establish a workers and poor peasants government. We call on everyone who supports the fight for socialism to join the RCIT and to help building a section in Thailand.

* Force the election commission to declare that the Pheu Thai Populist Party and the seven other parties of the Democratic Front should be declared winners of the election and have the right to form a government.

* Overthrow the Prayut-Chan o cha Regime – for an indefinite General Strike!

* For a sovereign Constituent Assembly under the control of the organized and armed popular masses! In such a Constituent Assembly revolutionaries would put forward socialist proposals and argue in favor 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!

* We call on all workers and poor to study the manifesto of the RCIT and to join the RCIT! Let us build together a new World Party of the Socialist Revolution, a revolutionary 5th International!

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/25/two-parties-claim-right-to-lead-after-inconsistent-thai-elections>; 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/25/two-parties-claim-right-to-lead-after-inconsistent-thai-elections>; 3) <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/politics/1651900/pheu-thai-announces-7-party-coalition-with-255-mps>; 4) https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/politics/1651916/prawit-pheu-thai-all-talk-no-new-govt-until-after-coronation?utm_source=bangkokpost.com&utm_medium=article_news&utm_campaign=most_recent_bottom_box; 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/26/thai-election-process-deeply-flawed-independent-observers>; 6) <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/thailand-march-24-vote-matter-190321081544634.html>; 7) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-election-thaksin-insight/in-thailands-red-shirt-north-thaksins-grip-slowly-loosens-idUSKCN1RA0E9>; 8) <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/asia/thailand-4-years-after-the-coup/>

TV Discussion about the Situation of the Muslim Uyghurs in China

Report (with Pictures and Video) by the Austrian Section of the RCIT, 25 March 2019

The Austrian TV Channel OKTO organized a discussion on 25 March about the situation of the Muslim Uyghurs in China. They invited three representatives of the Uyghur migrant community in Austria (Mawlan Dilxat, Mechbube Abila und Ghayrat Antal) as well as Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. The discussion centred about the suffering of the Uyghur people under the hand of the Chinese Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship and possibilities for solidarity. The discussion was chaired by Mohamed Aswani (publisher of Aswan TV).

Below you can see some pictures of the discussion as well as the link to the video of the one-hour TV discussion.

* * * * *

The RCIT has published numerous articles and documents on China which can be read in a special section on the RCIT's website at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>. We also refer to an article on the oppression of the Muslim Uyghurs in China: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/>

Watch here the discussion in German language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m58AX8LrfRo&feature=youtu.be>



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

