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## Trump, Netanyahu and Putin: Hands Off Iran, Syria & Palestine!

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*Picture on the cover: Demonstration for Gaza, Vienna in January 2009*

*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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## Nigeria: Students' Union Fights for free Education

Report (with Pictures) by the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing RCIT Section in Nigeria), 18 April 2019

The student wing of the *Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard* (RSV) based on the *Obafemi Awolowo University* (OAU) campus participated in the most recent students' union activities on the 16th of April 2019. The union executives, members of the RSV, and other left groups, hold a press conference under the aegis of the *Union Action Committee*. They exposed the role of the university management cum federal government to privatize public education in the country.

The most recent move was the eviction of students from the halls of residence on campus using decongestion as an excuse without building any new hall of residence for students to domicile on the campus; instead students are forced to secure private hostels, owned by top university officials, off the campus which has exposed these students to kidnappings, rape, burglary, incessant robbery and even the death of one student last year.

It should be stated that the university authorities of OAU has put a ban on unionism on the campus, hence the *Union Action Committee* has been the platform through which the RSV and other left groups on the campus has engaged and organized students to reject all executions of neo-liberal policies on the campus. The RSV has through the *Union Action Committee* and as an organization always demanded for:

1. Independent students' unionism; a general election for students so as to form well structured and organized stu-

dents union which transcends to the democratization of the running of the university with students representative on every council, panel and committee of the school including the senate.

2. The proper funding of the education sector to at least 26% of the Federal allocation of the national budget as recommended by UNESCO and as opposed to the ever shrinking pittance given to the education sector by the Buhari regime.

3. Part of this allocation must be used to build new halls for students to live while renovating the old ones; the re-vamping of all laboratories and library in the school with the construction of a new campus based health centers.

4. The payment of all outstanding salaries and allowances of all teaching and non-teaching staff of the university, etc.

The last press conference of the 16th of April, 2019 saw most of these demands and more reported as a letter was also dispatched to the AIG of police in the area concerning the threats students are exposed to. The RSV OAU will not cease to organize students under radical platforms to challenge and reject all policies of commercialization of education and to stage students strike which demand for government funded, free and quality education.

Following this report are video and picture evidences of these reports, links of the online press outfits which reported our story and the press text which was presented at the press conference.



Press conference of student activists in Nigeria (Lagos, 16.4.2019)



## Nigeria: Jail Yahoo Yahoo Politicians Before Harassing Yahoo Boys

by Sanyaolu Juwon May 11, 2019

Before I delve into the subject matter, I will like to immediately stress that this piece isn't intended to reinforce support for internet fraud. Rather, it seeks to put on the front burner, the socio-economic foundation that supports internet fraud and other related offences. This article would be drawing a social link between the rise of crime and irresponsible political decisions by a ruthless set of anti-poor and corrupt politicians.

Fela Kuti was one musician who tried to establish a social link between the people he described as Vagabonds In Power {VIP} and petty thieves. His music, "Authority stealing" helped to establish who should be blamed for the destruction of societal values between petty thieves and the thieving politicians we elected into office.

It will be foolhardy to rush into unscientific condemnation of petty criminals without first taking a painstaking and dispassionate diagnosis of the social base that promotes such ugly menace.

And you do not need to look too far. We live in a society where the ruling class have done a conscious damage to morals and altered what the traditional African society considered to be good values.

In a song by Peter Tosh titled "you can't blame the youths", He sings " You can't blame the youths, you can't fool the youths; you teach the youths about Christopher Columbus and you said he was a very great man; you teach the youths about Marco Polo and you said he was a very great man; you teach the youths about Pirate Hawkins and you said he was a very great man; you teach the youths about Pirate Morgan and you said he was a very great man; All these great men were doing; robbing, raping, kidnapping and killing....." Peter Tosh was simply telling us how the ruling class had used our institutions to spread an ideology that makes crime very attractive.

And not just any kind of crime, but the kind that celebrates you when you loot the treasury of an entire nation but sets you ablaze when you still N50 gala because you are hungry. It is no wonder African china sings "Poor man wey thief Maggie dem go show im face for crime fighter; Rich man wey thief money omo we no go see their face for crime fighter".

These political nitwits are made Deacons and Deaconesses in our churches. Their presence in church is announced with euphoria and they are given front row seats. Our villages, communities and family members reward them with chieftaincy titles. The NGOs and media houses shower these people with several undeserving awards.

The history taught by our school curriculum continues to eulogize their non-existent greatness and falsely personifies them as exemplary leaders. If our history had been fair, we would have been taught how Obasanjo in 1979 massacred University students in Zaria, Ife, Lagos, Ibadan for protesting the removal of subsidy on food for students; we would have been taught how as military head masterminded the disappearance of N2.8billion from the national treasury; we would be taught how as civilian president together with Atiku Abubakar cornered oil blocks for themselves (directly and through proxies), friends, family, cronies and lackeys; we would be told how he illegally

awarded publicly owned properties to himself and thieving allies. If the right history had beentaught, we would have been told how Buhari committed a treasonable felony by dethroning a democratically elected government; an action that should have landed him in the party of the dead.

We would have been told how as PTF chairman, engineered the miraculous disappearance of \$2.8billion. We would have been taught how as Military Head connived with IMF/World Bank to impose unprecedented economic hardship on Nigerians while secretly enriching himself and cronies.

Before anyone hurls blames and torrents of insults at petty criminals, please remember that they were created by the actions, inactions and irresponsible political decisions of thieves elected in position of power and authority.

Killing in the name of God seems more attractive in Northern Nigeria since there are no schools to enlighten them about the simple fact that there are no virgins in heaven. Securing a job from Bokoharam seems more profitable than working for the Nigerian army since Boko haram pays better remuneration of \$3000 per day to its fighters compared to the #1000 paid to the Nigerian soldier by a stupendously rich Nigerian government. Child cultism has become the in-thing since schools are either inadequate or inaccessible. Many Evans, Anini, prostitutes and yahoo guys have been produced by the inability of government to provide jobs for its young people.

The most noble and readily available profession for our young people who are disciplined enough not to go into crime is sports betting. If not crimes and more crimes, what else can you expect from a country that has over 125million of its citizens living below poverty line?

I do not intend that criminals be spared and indulged. Nevertheless, he who must come to equity must come with clean hands. Our society must first put itself on trial by doing a complete purge of all corrupt politicians who has turned the richest black nation into the poverty capital of the world. Before harassing yahoo guys, yahoo yahoo politicians such as Obasanjo, Babangida, Buhari, Jonathan, Atiku, Tinubu, Saraki and their likes must have been served with the justice of a death penalty.



Comrade Sanyaolu Juwon speaking at a public meeting

# Attempted Coup D'état in Venezuela: Defeat Guaidó and Trump!

## No political support for the Maduro government! For a Workers and Popular Government!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 5 May 2019*

1. On 30 April Juan Gerardo Guaidó, self-proclaimed "interim president", called the military to overthrow the Maduro government in Venezuela. However, only two dozen soldiers (who soon had to seek asylum in the Brazilian embassy) and a few hundred right-wing hooligans came out in response and, as a result, the coup attempt collapsed.

2. This was another provocation by the right-wing, pro-US forces led by Guaidó, a direct agent of U.S. imperialism, who has tried to overthrow the Maduro government since proclaiming himself "President" on 23 January. Guaidó is now calling for a "general strike". This is nothing more than a euphemism for intensified economic sabotage by Venezuela's capitalists.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) condemns this attempted coup d'état and calls for the defeat of the right-wing Guaidó forces. They are the spearhead of the most powerful faction of the Venezuelan bourgeoisie, U.S. imperialism, and right-wing governments in Latin America led by such the arch-reactionaries as Brazil's President Bolsonaro. The main task in the current conjuncture is to defeat the pro-US coup-mongers by the independent mobilization and organization of the workers and poor.

4. The provocations of the Guaidó forces go hand in hand with the accelerating aggression of U.S. imperialism against Venezuela. The Trump Administration has repeatedly threatened to invade the country. It has also imposed severe sanctions which seriously hurt the country's economy. Venezuela's oil exports - accounting for more than 95% of the country's export revenue - have dropped by some 40% since January. At the same time, it has been unable to import all the fuel it needs for blending with its heavy crude, as well as for domestic consumption. Hence, the RCIT strongly opposes these sanctions and calls for their removal.

5. At the same time socialists must not lend any political support to the Maduro government. True, it stands at the helm of the Bolivarian movement, a reformist-populist movement shaped by two decades of class struggles. As a result, the Bolivarian movement retains the support of the majority of the progressive, class-conscious workers, and poor in Venezuela. However, contrary to its self-styled image, the Chavez/Maduro government is neither socialist nor anti-imperialist. Despite being in power for more than two decades it has refused to expropriate the

capitalist class of Venezuela. Instead it has (unsuccessfully) tried to appease the domestic bourgeoisie. It has helped to create a regime-friendly sector of capitalists ("*Boliburguesía*") that is comingled with a corrupt state-capitalist bureaucracy and the army command. As a result, its policy of limited social reforms (the so-called "*Misiones*") has proven unable to overcome poverty and joblessness. Furthermore, the *Misiones* are bureaucratically controlled by the Chavista state apparatus. The task is to break this up and to bring it under the control and administration of independent popular committees.

6. Although, in essence, it never broke fundamentally with the strategic interests of US imperialism, the Chavez/Maduro government has provoked the hostility of Washington in promoting a relatively independent foreign policy in the traditional backyard of the former sole super-power. While this has proven advantageous for movements and governments under attack by U.S. imperialism (e.g. the Columbian FARC, Cuba, etc.), it has also dovetailed with the increasing influence of the new imperialist Great Powers, China and Russia, in Latin America and found a place in the ranks of those supporting the genocidal dictatorship of Assad in Syria. In summary, the Maduro government is a popular front government combining a bourgeois-Bonapartist type of rule with left-populist policy and collaboration with Russian and Chinese imperialism. The pro-US coup conspirators are the *immediate* danger that must be defeated. This can only be accomplished by the independent mobilization of workers and the poor. The bureaucratic methods of the Maduro government rely on the army, police, and intelligence forces, a section, of which has now telegraphed that it is reconsidering its continued support. This was made clear with the recent leak of the El Aissami documents to the New York Times. Tareck El Aissami, a close associate of Maduro, a former vice president, and now industry minister, was indicted this March in the United States on drug trafficking charges. Venezuela's intelligence agency — which Mr. El Aissami once controlled — put its concerns in a dossier of documents, investigative findings and transcripts of interviews with drug traffickers that it forwarded to the American journalists. This is a vital section of the state apparatus that Maduro relies upon to remain in power... and the sands are now rapidly shifting.

7. Revolutionaries must call upon the government to give arms to the workers and poor and not only to the

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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National Bolivarian Militia. They must advocate the formation of an independent popular militia. Revolutionaries in Venezuela must work hand-in-hand with supporters of the Bolivarian movement in order to defeat the immediate threat of a Guaidó/Trump-led coup d'état. It is absolutely impermissible for socialists in Venezuela to jointly build a fake trade union (like the "*Intersectorial de Trabajadores de Venezuela*") jointly with the ultra-reactionary coup-mongers. At the same time revolutionaries must work towards the independent organization of the workers and poor to politically prepare the ideological and organizational conditions among the masses for the revolutionary overthrow and replacement of the Maduro government, not by pro-imperialist stooges, but by an authentic workers and popular government controlled by popular assemblies and militias.

8. It is urgent to build an authentic revolutionary party in Venezuela around these lines. Such a party must be constructed in combination with building a *Revolutionary World Party*. It must advocate an independent class policy based intransigent opposition against *all* imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. It must denounce of the bourgeois character of the class-collaborationist governments in Latin America and work towards *international solidarity* with the struggles of the workers and oppressed against right-wing regimes like Bolsonaro in Brazil, against the ruling elite in Algeria and Sudan, against the Zionist state Israel, and against the Assad dictatorship in Syria. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!

*International Secretariat*

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

¡Solidaridad internacionalista al pueblo venezolano contra el intervencionismo imperialista!, ¡Por una alternativa revolucionaria ante la crisis en Venezuela!, Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (Sección mexicana de la CCRI), 12 marzo, 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/solidaridad-internacionalista-al-pueblo-venezolano-contra-el-intervencionismo-imperialista/>

All support to the Venezuelan people against Imperialism and Right-Wing Forces! For an Independent Workers and Popular Government! 26 January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/support-to-venezuelan-people-against-imperialism-and-right-wing-forces/>

Solidarity with Venezuelan Migrants! 21 August 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/solidarity-with-venezuelan-migrants/>

¡UNIDOS CONTRA EL INTERVENCIONISMO IMPERIALISTA EN VENEZUELA! Defender a Venezuela contra las agresiones políticas, económicas y de intervención militar del presidente de EEUU, Trump, 07.09.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/intervencionismo-imperialista-en-venezuela/>

Venezuela: ¡Ni la Asamblea Constituyente antidemocrática de Maduro, ni el Parlamento reaccionario! Los trabajadores y sectores pobres venezolanos al poder! Agosto 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/asamblea-constituyente-antidemocratica-de-maduro/>

TESIS SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN ACTUAL DE VENEZUELA. ¡POR UNA ORGANIZACIÓN INDEPENDIENTE DE LOS TRABAJADORES Y POBRES QUE DERRIBEN A LA REACCIÓN Y A MADURO!, 11 julio, 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/tesis-venezuela/>

## Books of the RCIT

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

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan.  
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

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

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

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

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

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

The book contains an introduction and 29 chapters plus an appendix (412 pages) and includes 61 figures and tables. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

#### Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan  
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers



# Syria: Defend Idlib against Assad and Putin!

## International Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Syrian People!

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 08 May 2019*

1. The long-awaited attack on Idlib, the last citadel of the Syrian Revolution, has begun. Since late April, Assad's helicopters and artillery assisted by the Russian Air Force, have launched a non-stop bombardment. Sixty-nine civilians had been killed by the assault, 12 healthcare centres destroyed and 200,000 people have been displaced. On 6 May, Assadist forces also launched a ground offensive resulting in fierce fighting with the rebels in the areas of the villages of al-Janabara and Tel Othman in the northern countryside of Hama province. Dozens of rebels have died defending their home territory in addition to a large number of regime troops.

2. This aggression demonstrates once more how empty all the promises of Erdoğan and his allies have been when they claimed that the treacherous Astana and Sochi deals would ensure peace for the Syrian people. In fact, the Turkish government has sold out these courageous fighters. The Russian non-stop bombardment in Idlib takes place without any serious protest by Ankara. Turkey and Russian imperialism continue to hold regular conferences, operate a "joint coordination centre" for Syria, and deepen their joint business activity. A diplomat reported: "There are suggestions of an arrangement between Russia and Turkey and the regime which would eat into the buffer zone by up to 25 miles in exchange for the Turks being able to take Tel Rifaat." (The Guardian, 8 May 2019) It is clear that the Syrian people fighting the Assad tyranny must not rely on the Turkish government!

3. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

(RCIT) reiterates its solidarity with the liberation struggle of the Syrian people! We call for the defense of Idlib against the aggression of Assad and Russian imperialism. Without lending any political support to the leadership of petty-bourgeois Islamist and nationalist formations like *Hayat Tahrir al-Sham*, the *Turkistan Islamic Party*, *Jaysh al-Izza* or remnants of the FSA, we unconditionally support the heroic defense of the last liberated area by the tens of thousands of rebel fighters.

4. The RCIT emphasizes that the liberation struggle must be based on democratically elected workers and popular councils and related militias. It must not rely on either any Great Power (like U.S., European, or Russian imperialism) or on any regional power. It must seek the revitalization of the liberation struggle in the territories occupied by the Assad forces. And it must strive to internationally link the Syrian Revolution with the popular struggles of the heroic people fighting against foreign occupiers and dictatorships in Palestine, Algeria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Tunisia, Afghanistan etc.!

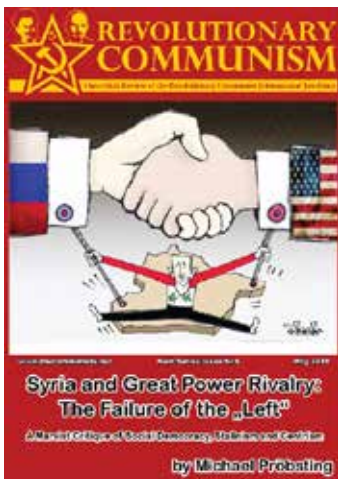
*\* Defend Idlib against Assad and Putin!*

*\* Victory to the popular liberation struggle against the criminal regime and its imperialist masters!*

*\* For an international solidarity movement with the ongoing Syrian Revolution!*

*\* For a workers and popular government! For a socialist federation in the Middle East!*

International Bureau of the RCIT



## 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*

## Syria: Heroic Rebel Fighters Wage Bold Counter-Attack

### International Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Syrian People!

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22.05.2019

The last 24 hours have been marked by a massive and surprising offensive of the Syrian rebels in North West Hama. Their goal is to re-conquer areas which they have lost in recent weeks.

As we did report, Assad's army (the so-called "Syrian Arab Army", SAA) with the support of the Russian Air Force, started a major attack on Greater Idlib on 30 April. (1) This region in the north-west of Syria is the last citadel of the glorious popular uprising which began in March 2011. As a result, hundreds civilians have been killed in the past weeks and 200,000 people displaced by a non-stop bombardment of the Russian, Iranian and Assadist air force and artillery. Cynically, these barbaric aggressors are deliberately targeting healthcare centres in the region of which they have already destroyed 18. (2)

However, the Russian/Assadist invasion has met the determined resistance of the Syrian people. Thousands of liberation fighters, deeply embedded in the population, have been mobilized and sent to the front. No doubt, they are fighting under extremely difficult condition. Russian and Assadist bombers and helicopter gunships ensure complete air supremacy. Likewise, the forces of the criminal regime and its imperialist master are highly superior when it comes to the number of tanks and artillery. However, the liberation fighters are far more motivated and dedicated than the demoralized and often conscripted soldiers of Assad's army. They know that they are fighting against a tyrannical dictatorship and are prepared to give their lives for the defense of their people.

In the first two weeks of their offensive, the SAA succeeded in expelling the resistance fighters from some areas in North West Hama of which the most important towns were Kafr Nabuda, Qalaat al-Madiq and Tal Othman. However,

the Assadist offensive, despite full support of the Russian Air Force and despite the use of chemical weapons, has reached an impasse since nearly a week as the liberation forces have successfully built defense lines in the Al-Ghab Plain, the Kabani area in northern Latakia and other areas. As a result, the Russian invaders offered a truce which the rebels rejected. (3)

The rebel forces are dominated by various petty-bourgeois Islamist and nationalist formations. The leading force is *Hayat Tahrir al-Sham* while the *Turkistan Islamic Party* and *Jaysh al-Izza* also play an important in the region where the fighting currently takes place. These forces have been strengthened by the recent initiative of the HTS-dominated *Syrian Salvation Government* to mobilize new voluntary "popular resistance brigades" (*Saraya al Muqawama al Shaabia*) to defend the homeland against the barbarous invaders. (4)

On 21 May, the rebels, led by the dauntless HTS shock troops – the most dedicated and disciplined fighters of the so-called *Inghimasi* and "Red Band" units – even launched a bold counter-offensive. In a surprise attack they successfully attacked Kafr Nabuda. After 12 hours of heavy fighting, they succeeded in expelling the Assadist forces, most of them being part of the notorious so-called "Tiger Forces" which is the elite unit of the SAA. The rebels even managed to capture one of their colonels.

Of course, it would be naïve to believe that this small success represents already a turn-around in the liberation struggle. It can be taken for granted that the Assadist and Russian forces will mobilize all their available forces in order to undo their defeat. They will double their efforts to terrorize the population in the Greater Idlib area. In any case, the recent successes in the defensive fight for the sur-

## 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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## Syria: Rally in Solidarity with Idlib

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 10 May 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

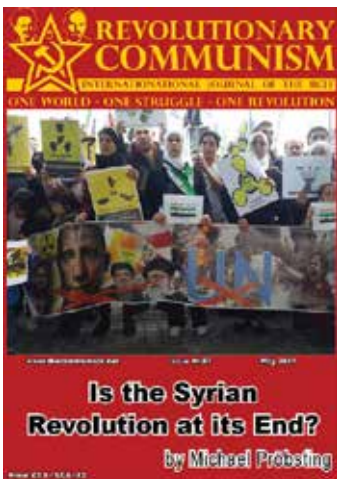
About 70 Syrian migrants and some Chechen solidarity activists assembled at the front of the UN headquarter in Vienna (Austria) for a spontaneous rally. The demonstrators reacted to the bloody assault of Assad's army against Idlib – the last citadel of the Syrian Revolution. This attack is supported by the never-ending bombardment of the Russian Air Force which has already killed many civilians.

The only speaker at the rally was our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. He emphasized the necessity to stand with the Syrian people in this difficult hour and to continue the support for the Syrian Revolution.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/syria-rally-in-solidarity-with-idlib/>



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 10.5.2019)



### 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



# Iran: Down with Trump's Sanctions and Military Threats!

## But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran!

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

1. The U.S. Administration is further escalating its sanctions and military threats against Iran. In May 2018, Trump President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal with Iran and leveled massive sanctions on Iran. In recent weeks, Washington has substantially accelerated its pressure. It has stopped granting waivers that allowed eight countries to import Iranian crude without triggering U.S. sanctions. It also designated one of Iran's armed services branches – the *Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)* – a “terrorist organization”. Furthermore, Trump issued an executive order to sanction Iran's metal sector (steel, aluminum, copper and iron) which is its largest non-petroleum-related source of export revenue and represents 10% of its export economy. In addition, the Pentagon deployed a U.S. aircraft carrier and a bomber wing “to confront threats from Tehran”.

2. Iran's economy has been severely affected by these massive U.S. economic sanctions. Iran's exports have been cut in half from about 2.25 million barrels per day a year ago. According to the International Monetary Fund, Iran's economy contracted almost 4% in 2018 and may contract 6% in 2019. Inflation has risen 50% in the last 12 months. The Iranian *rial*, which traded at 32,000 to \$1US at the time of the accord, now trades at 153,500.

3. In retaliation, Tehran has quit parts of the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal. It threatened to resume higher enrichment of uranium in 60 days if world powers fail to negotiate new terms for its 2015 nuclear deal. There have

also been hints that Teheran might be prepared to stop the flow of oil from other big suppliers via the Strait of Hormuz – a move that would have dramatic consequences for the world economy.

4. What is behind Washington's war-mongering against Iran? It is basically driven by its desperate desire to regain absolute hegemony in the Middle East. The acceleration of the political and economic contradictions of world capitalism and the long-term decline of the dominant imperialist Great Power have resulted in fundamental upheavals in the Middle East over the last eight years. Numerous long-time, stable, pro-American dictatorships in the region have faced revolutionary uprisings and civil wars since 2011. At the same time, new imperialist Great Powers – Russia and China – have been able to expand their influence at the cost of Washington.

5. In response, U.S. imperialism has forged an alliance of counter-revolution – a *gang of butchers*. At its core are Israel, Saudi-Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. This alliance – uniting the serial killers of the Palestinians in Gaza, of the Saudi journalist Khashoggi and many other dissidents, of the Yemeni people, as well as thousands of Egyptian activists – is determined to drive back all of the achievements of the recent Great Arab Revolution. This alliance is mobilizing its forces to smash, once and for all, Palestinian resistance against the Zionist state (beware the impending, notorious, “deal of the century” of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner), to disarm and

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

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

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

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

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

25 years.

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

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

**Building the  
Revolutionary Party  
in Theory  
and Practice**

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency



force the Syrian popular insurgency into capitulation and to aid the ex-Gaddafi and ex-CIA general Haftar in conquering all of Libya. This gang of butchers is determined to strangle the Arab world into the silence of the grave.

6. While the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., Russia, EU, China and Japan – largely share an interest in smashing all movements that are connected to the Arab Revolution, they are in obvious rivalry when it comes to actual control of the Middle East. This region is home to 54% of the world's proven crude oil reserves, 35% of crude oil production, and 40% of natural gas reserves. Add to this the crucial role of the Suez Canal for world trade as well as Europe's manufactured nationalist fear of mass migration. For all of these reasons the Great Powers are in strong competition with each other in their respective striving for regional hegemony.

7. Iran is a semi-colonial capitalist country. It largely depends on crude oil and gas exports that account for 82% of the country's export revenues and about half of government income. However, because of its size, level of industrial modernization, and military strength, Iran also has the status of a regional power. The brutal dictatorship of Shah Reza Pahlavi served as one of the pillars of the U.S. imperialist order in the Middle East for many decades following the CIA overthrow of Mohammad Mosaddegh in 1953. This ended with the Iranian Revolution in 1979. While the workers and popular uprising was defeated in a massacre by the reactionary Mullah regime (led by Ayatollah Khomeini), this did not result in the reinstatement of the pro-U.S. monarchy of the Shah. Since then, the Iranian capitalist class has pursued a foreign policy somewhat independent of Washington. As a result, there have been repeated aggressive measures by the U.S. against Iran (including sanctions and military clashes). Related to this is the fact that Israel, the long-time forward post of Western imperialism in the region (which has become an imperialist state in its own right), also views Iran as a strategic enemy. All of this has increasingly led Teheran to seek an alliance with Russia and China.

8. The Mullah regime is in no way an "anti-imperialist" force. It simply strives to gain an enhanced position within the imperialist order of the Middle East. When popular liberation struggles endanger its influence (e.g. the Syrian Revolution against the Assad regime, a key ally of Teheran; or the national liberation struggles of the Ahwazi Arabs or the Kurds), they strive to suppress them. When popular liberation struggles are directed against its enemies, Teheran is prepared to lend them some material support ( Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah during the Lebanon War with Israel in 2006). The regime is not anti-imperialist but its nature as a semi-colonial regional power occasionally brings them into conflict with imperialist powers.

9. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) unreservedly condemns the rampant aggression of U.S. imperialism against Iran. While the rivalry between Washington, Moscow and Beijing plays a certain role in this conflict, this is basically a historical conflict that began in 1979 resulting in numerous subsequent, hostile acts by U.S. imperialism against Iran. Hence, the RCIT calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all sanctions against Iran. In case of any military conflict between Iran and the US or Israel, we will side with the former and ad-

vocate the defeat of the imperialists. We support all activities that undermine and defeat imperialist aggression.

10. However, revolutionaries must, under no circumstances, follow the evil road advocated by the Stalinists, the Chavistas, and the pseudo-Trotskyists. These people confuse the legitimate defense of Iran against U.S. imperialism or the Zionist state with lending political support to the Mullah dictatorship or its reactionary allies. Hence they side, openly or in a concealed manner, with Assad against the Syrian Revolution or with Russia and China against its imperialist rivals in the West. In fact, these people advocate a counter-revolutionary caricature of "socialist internationalism".

11. Likewise, we also warn those brothers and sisters who support, like us, the revolutionary uprising in Syria and therefore hate the counter-revolutionary Iranian forces: do not lend any support to the U.S. and Israeli aggression against Iran! Dancing with the Shaytān is never a legitimate option!

12. The RCIT states unequivocally that socialists must not side with the Mullah regime against the oppressed people. Neither must they side with US or Israeli imperialism against Iran. They have to defend Iran against the imperialist aggression and they have to defend the people fighting for freedom against the Mullah regime. Hence, socialist should support the numerous strikes and protests of Iranian workers and poor against the corrupt and authoritarian regime. They must defend the national minorities in Iran who face Persian chauvinist oppression. Furthermore, they must side with the ongoing liberation struggle in Syria against the criminal Assad tyranny. The Mullah regime must be brought down – but not by the U.S. imperialism or Israel but by the workers and poor of Iran and the Middle East!

13. The struggle against imperialism and capitalist dictatorships and for freedom and social justice in the Middle East can only succeed if all Great Powers are expelled and all ruling classes expropriated and overthrown. Our goal is the creation of a workers and peasant republic as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East. We call on all activists supporting such a perspective to join the RCIT in its struggle to build revolutionary socialist parties nationally and internationally. Only such a party can give the necessary leadership to those struggles. Only such a party can transmit the socialist program to the masses.

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

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For the RCIT's analysis of Iran and the imperialist aggression we refer readers to our numerous articles and statements that are published on our website at: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>

In particular we refer to:

Warmongering in the Middle East: Down with all Imperialist Great Powers and Capitalist Dictatorships! 13 May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-warmongering-in-the-middle-east/>

For the Iranian Revolution! Down with the capitalist Mullah dictatorship! Down with Imperialism! For a working class revolution in Iran! Action Platform for Iran by the RCIT, February 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iran-platform/>

## Defend Gaza! Defeat Israel!

### For an international solidarity campaign to support the Palestinian people!

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 05.05.2019 (23:00 UTC Time)*

1. Once more, the Israeli government has escalated its terror campaign against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In the last 48 hours the Israeli air force and navy have killed 24 Palestinians, among them Falastine Abu Arar, a 37-year-old pregnant mother, and her 14-month old niece Siba. About 70 Palestinians were wounded in the attacks. In addition, the Israeli army destroyed the building which had housed the Gaza bureau of the Turkish state-run Anadolu news agency. Three Israeli have died as a result of Palestinian rocket fire in retaliation.

2. This bloody aggression is just the latest event in a long history of brutal oppression of the Palestinian people by the Zionist state. The creation of Israel via the collective expulsion of the Palestinian people in 1948 (the "Nakba"), the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank in 1967, the siege against Gaza since 2007, the killing of at least 266 Palestinians and injuring of more than 6,557 by live ammunition since the beginning of the *Great March of Return* on 30 March 2018 – these are just a few headings summarizing the outrageous crimes of the Zionist colonial settler state.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) fully supports the Palestinian liberation struggle. We say: *Defend Gaza! Defeat Israel!* Irrespective of our opposition to the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois policy of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah we stand unconditionally in the camp of the Palestinian resistance fighting against the Israeli occupation forces. We call for popular committees in order to advance a Third Intifada.

4. The RCIT calls for a broad international solidarity campaign of workers and popular organizations in sup-

port of the Palestinian people. For mass mobilizations and a global popular boycott campaign against Israel! Stop all forms of military, economic, political and cultural collaboration with the Zionist Apartheid state!

5. We also call to link the Palestinian liberation struggle with the second wave of the Great Arab Revolution – the popular uprisings in Algeria and Sudan, the ongoing Syrian Revolution against the Assad tyranny, the resistance against General Sisi in Egypt and General Haftar in Libya, the popular mass protests in Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, etc.! For a single Intifada from Idlib to Jerusalem, from Algiers to Khartoum, from Rabat to Cairo, and from Tripoli to Teheran!

6. The RCIT emphasizes once more that the only solution is the right of millions of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and to replace the Zionist entity with one democratic state from the river to the sea – a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews! For a socialist federation of the Middle East!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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*For the analysis of the RCIT and its comrades in Occupied Palestine of the Palestinian liberation struggle, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents accessed from the Africa and Middle East section of our website: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/> as well as the website of our section in Occupied Palestine: <http://the-isleague.com/>.*



### RCIT Africa Program

## Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

## Stop the new aggression of Israel in Gaza!!!

*Joint Statement of RCIT and UIT-CI*

Once again, the Israeli government has intensified its campaign of terror against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. In the past 48 hours, the Israeli air force and navy have killed 25 Palestinians, including Falastine Abu Arar, a 37-year-old pregnant mother, and her 14-month-old niece, Siba. Nearly 70 Palestinians were injured in the attacks. In addition, the Israeli army destroyed the building that had housed the Gaza office of the Turkish state news agency Anadolu. Three Israelis died as a result of the launching of Palestinian rockets in retaliation.

This new criminal and genocidal action by Israel is part of the historical aggression of imperialism and the Zionist forces against the entire Palestinian people. They have carried forward, since 1948, an usurpation of Palestinian lands.

Throughout the world the repudiation of this new criminal action of Zionism, endorsed by imperialism and Donald Trump, is growing.

From the RCTI and the UIT-CI we join the international repudiation and call for unitary actions to fight against

these crimes of the Zionist and racist state of Israel. We call the workers and popular organizations around the world to support the Palestinian people.

**For international mass mobilizations and a popular boycott campaign against Israel!**

**Stop the massacre in Gaza!!**

**Down with the criminal repression of the Palestinian people!**

**Freedom to all Palestinian prisoners! Down with the Israel's Apartheid state!**

**Drive imperialism out of Palestine and the whole Middle East!**

**For unconditional support for the resistance of the Palestinian people!**

Joint Declaration, 6 May 2019

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)

International Workers' Unity-Fourth International (IWU-FI), [www.uit-ci.org](http://www.uit-ci.org)

## On the Israeli Aggression against Gaza

*A Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 04.05.2019*

Now that the elections are over once and the promises of Israel to keep the cease fire can be broken once again the military conflict between Israel the apartheid state and the people of Gaza under siege has flared up. This time it began when the Israeli army killed 4 Palestinians on Friday. Al Jazeera's Harry Fawcett, reporting from Jerusalem, said the barrage of rockets fired from Gaza came after an Israeli drone attack in the north of the strip early on Saturday, which injured three people.

According to Palestinian news agencies, Israeli warplanes targeted an agricultural area in Beit Hanoun, a northern town in the Strip, with multiple air raids following the rocket fire. Israeli forces at the fence with Gaza also shelled several monitoring outposts east of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian armed forces fired so far 200 rockets in response. As result 4 Israelis were injured one woman was injured seriously. The speakers for the armed Palestinians blame Israel saying that they have the responsibility to de-

fend the Palestinians from the murdering attacks by Israel.

The *Internationalist Socialist League* (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine) stands with the Palestinians people, the oppressed nation by the Israeli imperialist settler colonialist state, without giving the Palestinian existing leadership any political support. We say the enemy is first of all at home. Victory for the oppressed is victory of all the exploited and oppressed!

Without a political solution the killing will continue until the real political solution will be achieved. This solution can be only one red democratic state from the river to the sea. A state to which the Palestinians refugees will have the right of return and the Israeli and the Palestinian will live together peacefully with equal civil rights.

Those who refuse to support such a solution and support the annexation of the West Bank and the siege of Gaza are the real enemies who are responsible for the continued suffering of the Palestinians and the Israelis who are ready to break with the racist Zionist ideology.



## Publications of the RCIT

### The Origins of the Jews

*By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015*

**Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?**

**Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism**

**Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism**

**Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:**

**Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism**



## UK: Demonstration in Solidarity with Palestine

Report (with Pictures) by the RCIT Britain, 13.05.2019

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign organized a demonstration which took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. About 5,000 people participated. The demonstration called for a Free Palestine as it marched from Portland Place to Whitehall. Many activists showed their support for One Democratic State in historic Palestine.

As always it was heavily policed as it marched through Central London. It was lively and had placards and slogans in support of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Participants expressed their support for the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland, for a free democratic Palestine, and for the struggle of Gaza against the apartheid occupation and siege.

It was a good cross section of people on the march with migrants from Palestine, Syria and other Arab countries. There were a few banners on the march from several Labour Party branches and plenty of Palestinian flags. However, what was noticeable was that there were no trade union banners whatsoever on the march. Unite, Unison and other trade unions failed to mobilize for the march which shows a massive indictment on the role of the trade union bureaucracy failing to organise the working class in support of Palestine.

The march ended at Whitehall where it heard a number of speakers calling for support of the Palestinian struggle.



Demonstration in solidarity with Palestine (London, 11.5.2019)

## Books of the RCIT

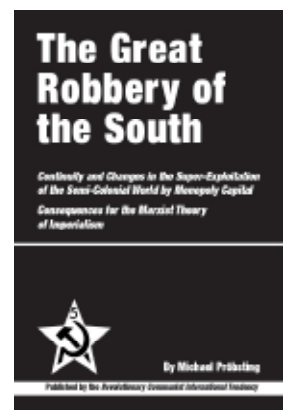
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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)



# Indonesia: Widodo Wins a Second Term as President

By Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30 April 2019

According to exit polls the result of the Indonesian Presidential and General election was the return of Joko Widodo as President. Likewise could his party – the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) – and his coalition of 9 other, mainly Islamist parties, keep their role as the dominant coalition bloc in the new parliament.

*“With the power of the incumbency and a massive outpouring of votes from his fellow Javanese making the greatest difference, Joko Widodo appears to have outpaced rival Prabowo Subianto in Wednesday’s highly anticipated presidential election in Indonesia. Quick count results and exit polls, both of which have proved accurate in the past, showed President Widodo with a lead of 9-10 percentage points (55-45%) after a peaceful campaign where the intertwined issues of religion and identity politics were major factors among Indonesia’s 193 million eligible voters”. [1]*

Although the exit polls have proved reliable in the past, Widodo’s main challenger, the retired General Prabowo Subianto, is challenging the result. It is not clear what his reasons are but they have thrown the result into some question. The situation will not be clear until the election commission announces the result in May.

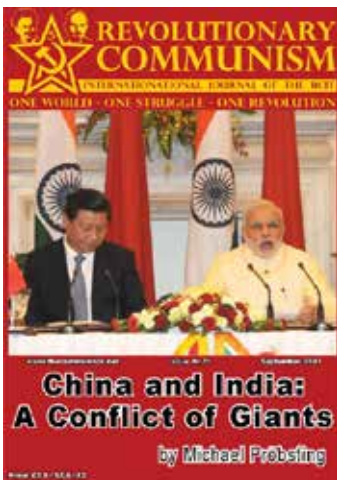
*“Despite being 10 percentage points behind more than a quarter into the official count, presidential candidate Prabowo Sub-*

*ianto still won’t concede defeat in Indonesia’s April 17 election, raising the specter of post-poll instability. Analysts are of two minds on whether Prabowo genuinely believes he was the victim of massive electoral fraud, or if he is instead angling for major political concessions from President Joko Widodo in the formation of a new government”. [2]*

## No alternative for the workers and poor

Indonesia is the fourth populous country in the world and a major Muslim country. It is a collection of islands adjacent to Malaysia and mainly composed of Java and Sumatra and other small provinces. Because of its geological position Indonesia suffers from extreme flooding, tidal waves, earthquakes and tsunamis. Recently Indonesia suffered from humanitarian disasters resulting in the deaths of many people. The urban poor were especially hard hit as they can only afford to live in wooded shacks which are close to possible tsunami’s and face being homeless and without anywhere to live.

The election was fought out between two capitalist bourgeoisie politicians – the incumbent President Widodo and the retired General Prabowo. For the workers and poor there were no political alternatives. No workers party stood at the election not did any party advocate even a



## 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**

minimum reformist program to improve their standing of living or to propose socialist measures in a very unequal society where the richest people own the large proportion of wealth. Most of the parties contesting the general election were Islamist parties heavily influenced by reactionary Muslim clerics who didn't criticize the conditions of impoverishment and inequality but only advocated a move towards a Sharia government comparable to the reactionary ruling clique in Saudi Arabia.

### Human rights abuses still remain

Widodo during his election campaign promised reforms particularly where there were human rights abuses but commentators have showed that little has changed. Widodo remains in alliance with the army and reactionary Muslim clerics.

*"Anyone who entertained the idea that Widodo would re-open a slew of unresolved Suharto-era human rights cases were also to be disappointed, especially when he had to call on military support in an early conflict with the police leadership. Now, with loyalists at the head of both the military and the police, something that became an important comfort blanket with the challenge from the religious fundamentalists, critics complain the security forces have become increasingly partisan"*

*When Jokowi came to power in 2014, he did so articulating nine priorities, a program he called the Nawas Cita. Among them was a promise to resolve past human-rights injustices. His pledge held out the prospect of at least acknowledging, if not addressing, decades of army abuse, authoritarian overreach, and suppression of minority rights. In a part of the world often beset by a form of moral relativism—Our country is fine; others are worse—it appeared to be a significant step forward. Little tangible progress has materialized, though. While Jokowi has not been directly linked with any human-rights infractions, his presidency has been characterized by a lack of improvement on the issue (rights groups would go further, saying he has in fact presided over a worsening of conditions). An inquiry into an attack on an anti-corruption investigator has gone nowhere; Jokowi's administration has walked back suggestions that he would formally apologize for a decades-old government massacre; and it has declined requests from international bodies to visit a restive region that wants independence. Though Jokowi now says he wants to address past injustices, human-rights advocates are downbeat about the prospect that he will follow through. And this election has little chance of yielding change: The incumbent is ahead in the polls, and his lone challenger has an even worse track record." [3].*

Since the beginning of the Suharto dictatorship in 1967 socialists and communists have been banned, hunted down and killed. The Communist Party of Indonesia was the biggest communist party outside of the former Soviet bloc

until its demise by the Suharto regime rule which left it destroyed and most of its cadres dead.

*"Indonesia has a long history of trampling on individual rights. Its first leader, Sukarno, was initially a forceful advocate for liberty as he led the movement that eventually won the country independence, but over his time in power he made more and more authoritarian moves (at one point, he made himself Indonesia's president for life). Sukarno was eventually ousted in a military coup led by Suharto, a general and someone who, like his predecessor and many other Indonesians, goes by only one name. Suharto's decades-long authoritarian rule began and ended in violence: In a tumultuous period between 1965 and Suharto finally capturing power in 1967, huge numbers—estimates vary from hundreds of thousands to 1 million—of Communists and suspected Communists were killed, and his resignation in 1998 came in the face of mass demonstrations and riots that left hundreds dead". [4]*

The RCIT advances a program of revolutionary struggle which advocates democratic and economic slogans and combines them with a transitional program. We emphasize that liberation is only possible if the capitalist class is expropriated and the repression apparatus smashed by a workers and poor peasant government opening the road towards socialism.

*\* Against all forms of corruption and human rights abuses. For a workers enquiry to investigate the crimes against the working class and the poor.*

*\* Expropriate the capitalist elite! Nationalization of the banks and big business under workers control so that operate for need and not for profit.*

*\* For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly where democratic decisions are made by directly elected delegates from all parts of Indonesia representing the wishes of the working class and the poor. All delegates to be elected and to be directly accountable to the electors and removed if necessary.*

*\* For workers defend guards to be elected to defend local communities and assemblies from provocation and state attacks.*

*\* For the formation of a revolutionary workers and poor peasant government.*

*\* For the building of an Indonesian section of the RCIT. Join the RCIT and help to build the World Party of the Socialist Revolution – the 5th International.*

### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/04/article/widodo-glides-to-a-second-term-in-indonesia/>
- 2) <https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/04/article/indonesia-tilts-towards-post-poll-instability/>
- 3) <https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/04/article/time-for-widodo-to-prove-his-reform-mettle/>
- 4) <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/01/indonesia-president-human-rights-jokowi-subianto/580762/>

## O Comunismo Revolucionário Portuguese-language Journal of the RCIT

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

Order the journal via our contact address: [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)



# Austria: FPÖ Leader Strache Forced to Resign – Right-Wing Government in Crisis! Don't hope for new elections but organize active resistance!

*Statement of the RKO BEFREIUNG, Austrian section of the RCIT, 18.5.2019*

1. The right-wing populist and racist party FPÖ suffered a major crisis in the last 48 hours. Their leader Heinz-Christian Strache, leading the party since 14 years, has been secretly filmed when he, together with the leader of the party's parliamentary group Johann Gudenus, had a meeting with a allegedly Russian investor. They talked for seven hours about investment opportunities in Austria, while consuming a lot of alcohol (and may be other substances too). The substance of these talks is so explosive that both Strache as well as Gudenus had to resign from all political positions in the government as well as the party. Strache also had to apologize in his resignation speech to his wife for his behaviour towards the attractive Russian woman. Both Strache as well as the FPÖ are well-known for their sexism.

2. The video reveals, in addition to insults against the current Prime Minister and leader of the conservative ÖVP Sebastian Kurz, proposals how to give party donations to the FPÖ via a "non-profit institution". Strache explains in this video that several millionaires in Austria like Heidi Horten, René Benko and Gaston Glock or big corporations like Novomatic are secretly spending such donations in this way to the FPÖ as well as to the ÖVP. In return, these capitalists receive public contracts and tax reliefs. In addition, Strache offers the Russian investor to buy the right-wing Kronen-Zeitung (the daily paper with the largest circulation in Austria). She should then replace the personal of the paper and make sure that it strongly advocates exclusively the FPÖ. He refers to Hungary's Viktor Orban as a model. Furthermore, Strache offers to buy up STRABAG, a large construction corporation which has supported the small bourgeois-liberal party NEOs. In return, the allegedly Russian investor should receive public contracts.

3. However, the FPÖ is in crisis not only because of this video. In the last few months various party officials have become known for their relations with the right-wing extremist Identitäre Movement. In some cases there have been donations for the Identitäre. A few days ago, the Austrian Neo-Nazi leader Gottfried Küssel, who was recently released from prison, confirmed the right-wing extremist past of Strache. He said that behind closed doors, Strache posed as a fanatic national socialist and that he might reveal more details in the future.

4. Faced with such a crisis of the FPÖ, it is hardly surprising that the bourgeois conservative party ÖVP is calling for new elections. Sebastian Kurz has established a Bonapartist type of leadership in the ÖVP and pushed for a collation with the FPÖ. It is in his interest to publicly distance himself now from the FPÖ. Kurz also calculates that his party will receive significant gains at new elections. If the FPÖ gets a weak result, Kurz might hope to form again a coalition with the FPÖ with a much better relation of forces for his party (something similar happened in 2002). Such a scenario would be pretty favourable for the ÖVP.

5. It is hardly surprising that the social democrats (SPÖ) and also many left-wing groups are pushing for new elections. However, what is necessary now is not a new round of bourgeois elections. Since the last elections, the social democratic party has moved even further to the right. The Austrian workers movement is dominated by a massively bourgeoisified leadership. Sectors both of the trade union leadership as well as of the SPÖ (the dominant bourgeois workers party in Austria) have looked for cooperation with the FPÖ. In the Austrian province Burgenland as well as in Linz, the social democrats have even formed a coalition government with the FPÖ. Furthermore, they have supported the attacks against our Muslim brothers and sisters (e.g. the so-called "Islam Law" and the headscarf ban). If there would be elections *today*, no party would be eligible.

6. The correct perspective in the present situation is the building of a systematic resistance movement. The "Thursday demonstrations" (weekly anti-government demonstrations, Ed.) so far have been very small and very petty-bourgeois in their orientation. What we need is a proletarian protest movement which organizes political strikes in work places and educational centers. We need a movement in which the oppressed layers – youth, women, migrants and our Muslim brothers and sisters – play a central role. Such a movement must be directed against the capitalist government policy as well as against racism and Islamophobia. At the same time it is crucial to build a *New Workers Party*. The RKO BEFREIUNG, Austrian section of the RCIT, calls all progressive forces to focus on building such a party of resistance against neoliberal austerity policy and racism. We say: such a *New Workers Party* should be based on a revolutionary program in order to organize resistance consistently. Such a program could give the orientation to smash the capitalist system and to build a socialist society.

7. The RKO BEFREIUNG calls all critical activists inside the SPÖ and their affiliated organizations (trade union faction, youth organization, university student organization, etc.) to organize a consistent faction struggle. The goal must be to build a left wing which establishes close cooperation with all progressive forces in the working class and all oppressed outside of the SPÖ. Ultimately it will be necessary to organize a split in order to fight against the bourgeoisified SPÖ leadership which in some cases even collaborates with the FPÖ. The experiences of such a faction struggle could be valuable for the construction of a multi-national and anti-imperialist *New Workers Party*. We must not permit that the crisis of the FPÖ and the right-wing government results only in new elections. Instead of orientating towards new elections, we must build together active RESISTANCE!

## UK: Critical Support for Labour at the EU Elections

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 20.05.2019

The European elections take place with growing rivalry and growing contradictions within the European bloc over Britain's decision in the 2016 referendum to vote for Brexit. The issue of Brexit has dominated British politics for the last 4 years. The Theresa May government is facing a major political crisis and meltdown. The Tory party was heavily defeated in the Local elections in May and lost control of over 40 councils.

Both the Tory party and the Labour party are split between Brexit and Remain over Europe. The new Independent/Change group composed of Ex-Labour MP's are standing against the Labour party. They are expected to do badly. Both the Blairites inside and outside the Labour party are desperate to prevent a Corbyn-led labour government as it opposes military intervention of Western powers and advocates various social reforms (e.g. abolishing the hated universal credit, for partial nationalisation).

May has lost the vote in the House of Commons several times and has now turned to the Labour party to prop up this rotten discredited government. The defeat of May's withdrawal motion has led to the decision by the Europeans to grant and extend article 50 to either June or August in order that a resolution can be found to the crisis. This means that Britain will participate in the European elections which will take place on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### The Brexit Party and Its Influence on the Election

The founding of the Brexit Party by Nigel Farage, a former leader of the right wing populist party UKIP, could wipe out large support for the Tories as well as reducing support for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party. Labour is split between the right wing Blairites and Corbyn and McDonald who favour a Brexit with a customs Union. The majority of the Blairites are calling for a 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum to remain in the European Union. Like the Tory party there are a few Labour MP's who support a full Brexit position. A recent poll by You Gov has predicted large support for Farage's Brexit party with 34% of the vote while the Labour party

can only muster 21%. This shows that the Tory party and the remain position of the Green Party, Liberal democrats and the Independent change party of Chuka Umuna and others will fall way behind the Brexit posit position.

*"Brexit looks set to do the same on the European elections: the latest polling for the Observer puts Nigel Farage's Brexit party on 34% – more than Labour (21%) and the Tories (a catastrophic 11%) combined. The news sparked near-panic in Britain's two biggest parties, while the former Ukip leader insisted a win for his month-old party on 23 May would force MPs to reconsider the idea of leaving the EU without a deal, which they have already rejected."* [1]

At the recent NEC of the Labour party the Blairite position of a second referendum, advocated by Tom Watson, the leader of the Blairite cabal amongst MP's, was defeated. Instead Jeremy Corbyn's position of a Brexit together with a Customs Union and a push for a General election was agreed. This does not stop Blairites like Starmer pushing for a second referendum in contravention of Labour party policy.

*"Jeremy Corbyn has faced down a challenge spearheaded by his deputy, Tom Watson, for Labour to signal its unequivocal backing for a second Brexit referendum in the forthcoming European election campaign. In a move that sparked an immediate backlash among remain-supporters, Labour's ruling national executive committee (NEC), announced that its manifesto for the election would be "fully in line" with its longstanding policy."* [2]

### Critical Support for the Labour Party in England, Wales and Scotland

For the working masses, many of them still have illusions in the Labour party as a party of Socialism, it is important for revolutionaries to work in that milieu and try to attract left wing Corbyn supporters. Jeremy Corbyn, who first ignited politics with his brand of anti-austerity and opposition to imperialist wars and partial nationalization, attracted support amongst a sizeable layer of youth and workers. It is now the biggest social democratic party in Europe.

## 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)



The RCIT adopting a Marxist approach has always sought to unite the working class under a revolutionary banner and that means a united front against all forms of imperialism and for revolutionary defeatism. In the 2016 referendum we advocated an abstention position. There should be no support for either Brussels or London but a revolutionary programme to overthrow capitalism and imperialism.

*"However, opposite trends cannot be excluded – at least temporarily. Under certain circumstances such parties can even experience an initial rejuvenation (see, for example, the British Labour Party under Corbyn). Nevertheless, the "neoliberalization" of social democracy incites the breaking away from it of significant sectors of the workers' vanguard and the proletarian masses. However, at the same time, the consciousness of these proletarian sectors is not sufficiently advanced to join a revolutionary organization. In such cases, revolutionaries must apply the New Workers' Party tactic, directing a call to found a new workers' party to those sectors of the vanguard and the working class who are ready to break with traditional reformist parties, but still do not have a revolutionary class consciousness. The principles of this tactic are the same as with the Labor Party tactic"*

*"As we have outlined in our United Front Theses, the RCIT has always supported the tactic of critical electoral support for reformist parties as developed by Lenin and Trotsky. We have repeatedly explained that, where communist forces are very small, they should advocate the tactic of critical support for parties of the working class and the oppressed in their relations with the non-communist masses.*

*Our method of critical support implies raising a program of immediate and certain transitional demands which address the most burning needs of the masses. The purpose is to mobilize workers in the struggle and force a reformist party to take this or that act in the interests of workers. Such demands must always be combined with slogans for organizing the workers and oppressed, and which focus on establishing action committees composed of ordinary workers in workplaces and neighborhoods, and which are not controlled by the bureaucracy. This is crucial because, first, mass mobilizations are the only way to force the reformist bureaucracy to implement even limited progressive actions. And second, such organizing slogans can lay the ground-*

*work for the workers to struggle for these demands independently if their bureaucratic leaderships refuse to carry them out."* [3]

The crisis of leadership in the working class remains the most important challenge of this period. Workers and youth in all the EU countries face an enormous onslaught from capitalism to destroy their standard of living and reduce them to paupers. As we have argued in this period building revolutionary parties is fraught with danger and difficulty but it is absolutely essential if we are to save the planet from destruction by the ruling classes all over the world. Many workers will be attracted to reformist or populist parties and support them.

*"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."* [4]

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following demands during the European election campaign in Britain.

*\* No to austerity! For a general strike! For a proper rank and file movement in the unions! Expel the rotten bureaucracy from the unions!*

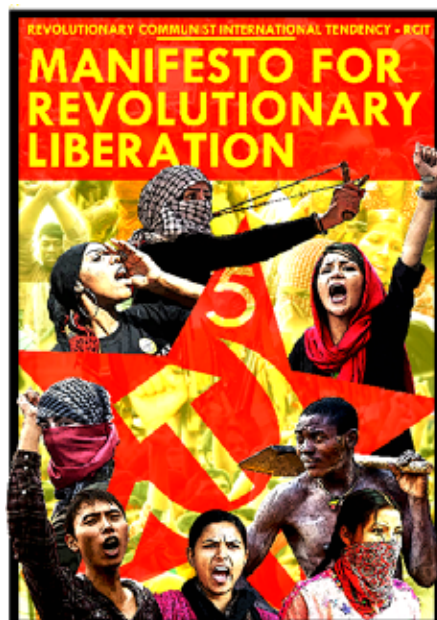
*\* Against Islamophobia - defend Muslims! For armed self-defence committees to defend them against fascists and police provocation!*

*\* Open the Borders for migrants and refugees! For the right of Migrants to wear their own dress and speak their own language!*

*\* Neither Remain or Brexit! Defeat both camps of imperialism! For the Socialist United States of Europe!*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/14/brexit-weekly-briefing-panic-as-farage-polls-highest-for-eu-elections>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/apr/30/labour-nec-backs-second-referendum-in-specific-circumstances>
- 3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/book-united-front/chapter-6/>
- 4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/socialists-and-the-eu-elections-2019/>



## Program of the RCIT

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*



## May Day 2019: An International Report

*Reports (with Pictures and Videos) from members and supporters of the RCIT, 6 May 2019*

In this article we summarize several reports which we have received from comrades who participated in the May Day demonstrations in various countries. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has used the opportunity of May Day to spread the message of organizing for the socialist revolution in numerous countries. We have initiated a joint May Day 2019 statement which has been translated into and published in eleven languages.

Below you find reports with pictures from several countries. We also publish a video statement with May Day greetings of Michael Pröbsting, the RCIT's International Secretary.

### Nigeria

Comrades from the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT) participated in the 2019 May Day alongside with the Sowore-led *TakeitBack* movement. We mobilized several scores of community based organization to seize the workers day opportunity to make the following demands;

1. No to estimated and crazy electrical bills
2. Nationalization of the power sector
3. Nationalization of the oil and gas sector
4. Free Housing
5. Free education and health
6. A permanent end to police brutality and general reform of the police

At the venue of the May Day, we stood our ground at the centre stage and didn't leave until we had the full audience of the state government.

Furthermore, comrades faced a severe attack by the police. When they were converging police, dressed almost in a war like regalia, went ahead harassing market women. Comrade Ayowole Sanyaolu, a leader of the section, stepped in to challenge their insanity. As a result, the police brutally attacked him (see the video below). They briefly arrested him and put him into a police van. After people intervened for him the police had to release him after a few minutes. All this demonstrates once more the reactionary character of the bourgeois repression apparatus!

### South Korea

Marking World May Day 2019, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) held commemorative events in 13 regions across the country, including the Seoul metropolitan area. A total of 57,000 people gathered across the country and about 27,000 people gathered in Seoul. (Pictures below are from a rally in Seoul.)

The participants denounced the government for its drive for labor "reform", demanding ratification of the ILO's core agreement, basic labor rights, abolish of informal labor conditions, reform of Chaebol and peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The leadership of the KCTU made the following statement in opening speech: *"Embracing the spirit of May Day's struggle, let's show a united struggle of 1 million under the flag*

*of a general strike to prevent the reform of the flexible work system and minimum wage system, carry out the ratification of the ILO Core Convention and stop the anti-union law altogether."*

### Mexico

Thousands of workers from different regions and sectors of México participated in the May Day demonstrations in the center of Mexico City. These demonstrations were called by the CNTE and SITUAM which are currently organizing strikes and other forms of mobilization against the labor and educative neoliberal reforms and in defense of their labor and social rights.

In the north of our country, close to the border between Mexico and the United States, the workers from the Maquila sectors, staged a massive demonstration in demand of reinstatement of the fired workers, a solution of the labor disputes and for independence and democracy inside their union organizations.

These protests took place against the background of the recent discussion and adoption of constitutional laws by the congress, like the creation of a National Guard (a new military unity) and neoliberal reforms that undermine the social conquests and rights of the public teachers and the majority of the Mexican workers (e.g. labor conditions, pensions, the right of strike and to organize in independent trade union).

As ALS, we posted in the past days numerous posters along the route of the May Day demonstration (see picture below). On May Day we participated in the demonstrations and marched with the teachers dissident current of CNTE. We distributed many leaflets which contained slogans like:

- \**jDown with the structural reforms!*
- \**jFor a general increase of workers' wages!*
- \**jAbrogation of Laboral and Educative Reforms!*
- \**jFor free and democratic Union Trades!*
- \**jDown with the National Guard!*
- \**jCancelation of the imperialist T-MEC!*
- \**jFor the national and international unity of the proletarian movement!*
- \**jInternationalist solidarity with the revolutionary processes in Middle East and the workers fights all around the World!*
- \**jFor a Revolutionary Workers Party as part of a World Socialist and Revolutionary Party!*

### Brazil

This years' May Day in Sao Paulo saw a massive demonstration of 100.000 people. For the first time since the end of the military dictatorship in 1985 all the 14 union federations united in a joint demonstration. The main banners were *"Against the Pension Reform"*; *"In Defense of the Brothers and Sisters Working Class Rights"*, and *"For more Jobs and Living Wages"*.

In the whole country, more than one million workers marched on May Day. The demonstrations were announced as the beginning of mobilizations to prepare for a general strike against the ultra-liberal economic reforms

of President Bolsonaro. This general strike shall take place on June 14.

Comrades from the Bazilian section of the RCIT attended in the mobilization and distributed our international statement on May first, added with some local demands.

### Zimbabwe

“May day, may day, may day” This is a recognized universal distress call issued out by aeroplane pilots and Captains of ships when in danger at sea or up in the sky. Its a call to action. A call for rescue operation or else those onboard will perish.

This captures the situation of the Zimbabwean worker thrown at the deep end of the pool that is not only fraternized but captured by sea robbers and musketeers commonly known as neoliberals and capitalists who front the ruling cabal and elites.

Working people of the world gained their voice and independence in 1886 after the Chicago uprising where workers demanded for an 8 hour working day, a decent living wage and humane treatment.

However the workers of Zimbabwe find themselves under the same conditions that existed in pre-colonial times. 1886 is known historically as the year when Bismarck and other European powers agreed on the partition of Africa.

132 years latter, and 39 years after gaining political independence workers gathered at Mutare , Moffat Hall under the banner of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU). Participants were unanimous in not just identifying the enemy of workers but they also had a solution. The solution lies in workers retracing their history to 1886 and

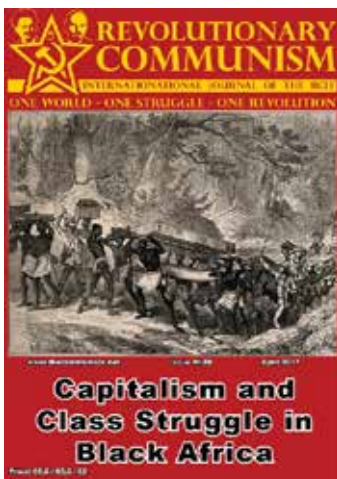
embrace socialism as the only sure way of regaining their stolen dignity.

A decade ago, workers day commemorations were held in a football stadium and would be full to capacity with workers. Yet this year, the event was held in a community hall with about 1000 workers only. This is because government has mismanaged the economy through the implementation of half thought and imprudent structural economic adjustment programs (SAPS) that started in 1989 under Mugabe caused massive deindustrialization and closure of companies. Unemployment statistics are gory as they stand at 90%.

The government stands accused of allowing slave labour conditions to prevail which has led to the casualisation of labour. Legislation such as the Special Economic Zones will allow some employers to hire and fire at will without recourse to the labour relations act. Under the current government, workers representatives are under attack and up to eighty labour activists were arrested in January and charged with attempting to overthrow a constitutionally elected government just because they called for stayaway on the 14th of January.

Workers and citizens in general have lost spending power as government skewed fiscal and monetary policies have caused inflation as the pseudo-currency known as the RTGS dollar has lost value to other currencies. Basically this government is running a casino economy and workers have borne the brunt of an out of sorts government.

Thousands of workers across the country have gone for years without being paid and any attempts by workers to organize and fight for their dues is met by military force. Parastals such as National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ),



## 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**

Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and local authorities like the city of Mutare have wage backlogs going back to 2017. Even the diamond and gold mining entities such as Mbada Diamonds and Redwing gold mine have huge outstanding salaries owed to workers and have gained impunity due to corruption and connivance that exist.

Solidarity speeches were drawn from affiliate unions of the ZCTU, fraternal organizations such students, women and revolutionary organizations such as the RCIT. Our speech was well received and a clarion call was made to the workers that socialism is there only source of deliverance and hope from the neoliberal and capitalist cabal. The time for action is now or never. Workers must organize for victory.

Even the International Labour Organisation (ILO) denounced Zimbabwe's austerity measures as they hurt the workers and the poor. Hopolang Phororo, ILO Zimbabwe country director, said that austerity measures have poor results everywhere they were implemented: *"The evidence is clear that austerity hurts the workers and the poor. Cutting back on workers' rights and protectionism does not stimulate economic growth."*

She also observed that the Zimbabwean situation had deteriorated since last year. The ILO boss said that working conditions continue to deteriorate whilst workers' salaries remain stagnant.

Aluta continua

The struggle continues

Viva Solidarity, viva

Viva RCIT, viva

### Germany

About 1800 participated in the May Day demonstration in Kassel organized by the trade union federation DGB.

Unfortunately the trade union bureaucracy succeeded in putting its mark on the demonstration. At the top of the march was a banner *"Europe - now do it the right way"*. (See picture below) In its May Day call, the DGB explained that this slogan *"means that we need an ambitious program for investing in the future of Europe that secures and promotes growth, jobs, education, infrastructure and prosperity for all. People need to see the EU improve their lives in a sustainable and concrete way. The EU must become a model for fair globalization - international standards for workers' rights, social affairs, environmental and consumer protection must determine what happens on the markets, not the other way round."* And how should these demands be enforced? The answer came from the platform via one of the DGB speakers: *"Vote for the right people"* (i.e. for the social democratic party).



Even worse, the bureaucratic leadership of the DGB youth demonstrated its support for Zionism and its hatred for the pro-Palestinian solidarity movement. Its truck on the demonstration carried a banner *"Against BDS and Israel-hass"* and *"Solidarity with the Histadrut"* (the racist Israeli "trade union"). (See picture below) Many trade unionists were outraged by such slogans, which, however, have been officially approved by the DGB leadership.

As every year, the Mayor of Kassel was booed by young people during his speech.

Altogether more than 300,000 people participated in May Day rallies in Germany. In Erfurt and Plauen the extremely right-wing AfD as well as the Third Way, a neo-Nazi organization, tried to hold their own May Day rallies. However they had only moderate success in mobilizing their sympathizers and had to be protected by the police against antifascist counter-demonstrations.

Supporters of the RCIT Germany sold a number of their papers and journals and were able to use the opportunity to discuss our ideas with people interested in revolutionary policy.

### Austria

In Austria the May Day march organized by the social democratic party was, as usual, by far the largest one. Officially about 120,000 people participated.

A remarkable contingent was a group of about 200 workers from the healthcare sector who demanded a more militant trade union policy.

Part of this demonstration was, as it has been also the case in the past years, a contingent of several hundred supporters of the PKK Öcalan supporters which operates in Syria as foot soldiers of US imperialism.

The official speakers of the social democratic party limited themselves to some meaningless denunciations of the neoliberal policy of the right-wing government. They focused on beating the big drum for their candidates for the European elections which will take place in three weeks.

This was followed by two small demonstrations. One by the official Communist Party (which is part of the Party of the European Left dominated by the German LINKE and the Greek SYRIZA). The other demonstration was dominated by orthodox Stalinists and Maoists. Both demonstrations had several hundred participants.

Supporters of the Austrian section of the RCIT had a large book stall and sold many publications. Some pro-Zionist "Anti-Deutsche" tried to disrupt our activities but without success.



May Day 2019 in Mexico (left) and Zimbabwe (right)



