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# Syria: Assad Regime and Kurdish YPG Strike a Reactionary Deal

## Assad, Putin, Trump, Erdoğan and the PYD/YPG leadership are all reactionary enemies of the Arab and Kurdish masses in Syria!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 October 2019*

1. The leadership of the Kurdish PYD/YPG has concluded an alliance with the Assad tyranny. In a statement issued by its “*Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria*”, the PYD/YPG leadership announced that it “*had to deal with the Syrian government that has the duty of protecting the country’s borders and preserve Syrian sovereignty, so that the Syrian army can enter and deploy along the Syrian-Turkish border to support the SDF to repel this aggression and liberate the areas entered by the Turkish army and its hired mercenaries. This agreement offers an opportunity to liberate the rest of the Syrian territories and cities occupied by the Turkish army as Afrin and other Syrian cities and towns.*” (ANF: Autonomous Administration announces agreement with the regime, 13.10.2019) According to the Russian-brokered deal, “*the regime will take over border positions from Derik to Sere Kaniye, including the town of Qamishli, and from Tel Abyad to Qamishli, according to the Rojava Information Centre.*” (The New Arab: Syria carved up, as regime forces enter Kurdish-held areas, 14.10.2019) The deal allegedly also includes the integration of YPG forces into the Russian-led 5th Corps of Assad’s army which will most likely play a crucial role in the upcoming assault on Idlib – the last bastion of the Syrian Revolution. (The New Arab: SDF to be ‘abolished’ under Kurdish-Syria deal: reports, 14.10.2019) And according to Syria analyst Danny Makki PYD officials shall also take up some roles within the Assad government within one month. As a result, Assad’s army entered a number of towns in North East Syria in the past 24 hours which have been under control of the U.S. and YPG forces until recently (e.g. Manbij, Ain Issa, Tal Tamr, Hasaka). In various other towns, YPG-controlled administrations have already raised the official flag of the Syrian state in order to express its alliance with the Assad regime.

2. This move comes as a reaction to the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria and the Turkish invasion in North-East Syria. Until now U.S. imperialism, with the aid of its YPG auxiliaries, controlled the Eastern part of Syria (about 1/3 of the whole country). However, the decay of U.S. imperialism (exacerbated by the profound domestic crisis of the Trump Administration) has resulted now in another “*Saigon moment*” as Washington realizes it is no

longer strong enough to keep its hegemonial role in the Middle East. As a consequence, U.S. imperialism is withdrawing its military from Syria. (Other striking examples for Washington’s “*Saigon moment*” are the looming withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan and its flinching response to the Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia, its most important Arab ally, in recent weeks.) These developments are another major confirmation of the RCIT’s analysis of the end of the absolute hegemony of U.S. imperialism, the rise of Russia and China as new Great Powers and the consequential acceleration of inter-imperialist rivalry.

3. Trying to contain the damage, Washington calls on Turkey to stop the invasion and declare a cease-fire. Furthermore, Trump is sending Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser Robert O’Brien to Ankara as soon as possible in an attempt to begin negotiations. U.S. imperialism has also imposed massive sanctions against Turkey resp. its governmental officials and Congress leaders demand an even harsher reaction. Trump also encouraged in a tweet on 14 October the PYD/YPG leadership to strike a deal with Assad and Putin: “*Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte (!). I hope they all do great, we are 7,000 miles away. (...) Let Syria and Assad protect the Kurds and fight Turkey for their own land.*” Dumped by its former master and faced with the advance of the Turkish army, the PYD/YPG leadership desperately offers its service to a new master: the Assad regime and Russian imperialism.

4. This development does not come as surprise. The RCIT has warned repeatedly that the PYD/YPG leadership has already tried for more than a year to open negotiations with the Assad tyranny in order to strike a deal. PYD leader Salih Muslim himself has admitted “*that they had talked with the Russian and Syrian officials many times and tried to reach an agreement before. (...) Russia and the regime did not accept an agreement before the withdrawal of US troops. But now they have accepted it.*” (ANF: Salih Muslim talks about the agreement with the Syrian state, 14.10.2019) They are, as we said in an article published last year “*mercenaries of many masters*”.



## Publications of the RCIT

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

*By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format*

5. This is only the latest result of the bankrupt policy of the PYD/YPG leadership which hopes to achieve autonomy or independence for the Kurdish people by serving a powerful reactionary master. This is why they had a tacit alliance with the Assad regime during the first years of the popular uprising which began in March 2011. In 2015 they started to serve as auxiliaries for the U.S.-led coalition fighting against Daesh/ISIS. As a result, they helped the U.S. to control one third of the country and to oppress large areas with an Arab-majority population. Now, dumped by Washington, these mercenaries offer their service other enemies of the people – the murderous Assad regime and its Russian master. It is characteristic for the cynical and reactionary nature of the PYD/YPG leadership that it is willing to collaborate with the Assad regime which has slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people in the past years. However, it never collaborated with the Syrian people who rose up against the tyranny and who scarified so many martyrs for the cause of freedom!

6. The PYD/YPG leadership has led the cause of Kurdish national self-determination into a cul-de-sac. It has always hoped to achieve freedom via serving Great Powers and local dictators. But it never desired to link the liberation struggle of the Kurdish people with the liberation struggle of the Arab people. However, only such an alliance can secure freedom for the Kurdish people who have been severely oppressed by the Turkish, Syrian, Iraqi and Iranian state since many decades. We repeat that Kurdish revolutionaries should break with the reactionary PYD/YPG leadership, refuse all collaboration with the Assad regime, with American and Russian imperialism and support the liberation struggle of the Syrian people as well as other current popular struggles like those in Iraq, Egypt and Yemen.

7. At the moment, the military situation in North East Syria is chaotic and in flux. There is a possibility of military clashes between the Turkish army and the Assad forces. Clearly, Russia will try to avoid a war between the two sides as it entertains very close relations with Damascus as well as a precious alliance with Ankara. However, given the highly explosive situation, the conflict could become a process with its own dynamics.

8. In any case, the fundamental factors in North East Syria are pretty clear:

a) As the RCIT has already stated in a resolution published five days ago, the character of the Turkish invasion is reactionary as it serves Erdoğan's goals to oppress the Kurds and to expel the Syrian refugees from Turkey. (See RCIT: No to the Turkish Invasion in North-East Syria! 10.10.2019)

b) Likewise, the character of the YPG struggle is reactionary as it has become subordinated to the offensive of the barbarous Assad dictatorship expanding its rule to the North and East of the country. In addition, the YPG does not only defend the Kurdish people in the region but also oppresses about one million Arabs living in the provinces of Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor.

9. Hence, revolutionaries must neither support the Turkish army and its auxiliaries of the so-called "Syrian National Army" nor the Assad tyranny and its auxiliaries of the YPG. They must advocate a strategy for the national liberation struggle of the Kurdish people which is independent of Erdoğan, Assad, Trump and Putin. They must call for a joint struggle of the Syrian Arab and Kurdish

people against the reactionary Great Powers and dictators. They must also continue supporting the millions of Syrian people in Idlib – the last bastion of the Syrian Revolution which is danger of death by the Assad tyranny and Russian imperialism.

10. The RCIT repeats its warning that the latest developments could result in an arch-reactionary deal between Ankara and Damascus facilitated by Russian imperialism. Such a deal could include Turkey's support for Assad's efforts to finally smash the Syrian Revolution by conquering Idlib (possibly with the help of the YPG mercenaries) in exchange for Damascus accepting some kind of Turkish zone of influence in the North East of the country. Such a deal would represent a "new Dayton", i.e. a repetition of the treacherous treaty which ended the Bosnian liberation struggle in December 1995 and divided the country.

11. It is a highly regrettable fact that numerous so-called "left-wing" parties and groups have uncritically hailed the PYD/YPG leadership in the past years and wrongly called it as "progressive", "internationalist" or even "socialist". They did so despite the fact the YPG not only defended the Kurdish minority but also served as mercenaries for U.S. imperialism and oppressed about one million Arabs in the territory under its control. Unfortunately it is likely that these Stalinists, semi-Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists will continue their shameful cheerleading for the YPG after it replaced its masters and serves Assad and Putin from now on. It goes down in history as a badge of shame that these "left-wing" forces mobilize their forces when the YPG is under attack by the Turkish army while they didn't lift a finger in the last eight and a half years in support for the Syrian people when they faced a genocidal war with hundreds of thousands killed and millions of people expelled from their homes!

12. This tragedy underlines once more that without a clear revolutionary program and method, any organization is doomed to become an opportunistic weather vane adapting to various reactionary forces. We repeat our call to revolutionaries all over the world to join forces in building a *revolutionary party* nationally and internationally which combines the struggle for democracy and the rights of oppressed nations with a socialist and internationalist program. We urge activists who agree with our perspective to join the RCIT in building a *Revolutionary World Party!*

\* No to the Turkish invasion in Syria!

\* No to the advance of Assad's forces in North East Syria!

\* Defend the right of national self-determination of the Kurdish people!

\* Support the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad tyranny!

\* U.S., Russia, Iran and Turkey – out of Syria!

\* Long live the Arab revolution!

\* Long live the socialist world revolution!

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements, and articles on the Syrian Revolution that can be accessed on a special sub-section of this website: <https://www.thecommu-nists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>.

# No to the Turkish Invasion in North-East Syria!

## Erdoğan's so-called "safety corridor" is an attack both against the Kurdish people as well as against the Syrian Revolution!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 10 October 2019*

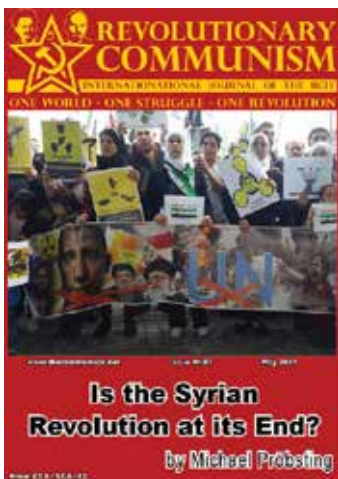
1. The long-announced Turkish invasion in North-East Syria has begun. After pushing for this for a long time, the Trump Administration finally agreed to Erdoğan's demand that the U.S. troops retreat from the conflict zone. Currently this area, with some parts having a Kurdish-majority and others an Arab-majority population, is controlled by the Kurdish PYD/YPG – the key ally of U.S. imperialism in Syria since 2015.

2. Erdoğan's goal is to create a 30 kilometres deep "safety corridor" in Northern Syria. Such a corridor, controlled by the Turkish army, should serve as a barrier for the PYD/YPG so that it cannot link up with the PKK, its sister organization in Turkey. Furthermore, Ankara wants to relocate two million Syrians in areas. Currently, Turkey has the largest refugee population in the world with officially 3.6 million people.

3. While various details of the Pentagon's plan are not clear at the moment, both the fundamental cause for the U.S. retreat as well as the short-term trigger are pretty evident. The underlying cause of Trump's decision is the decay of U.S. imperialism as the hegemonic imperialist power. This decline has become evident recently, once more, by Washington's plans to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and its impotent response to various strikes by Iranian (or pro-Iranian) forces against the U.S. and its

key allies (attacks on tank vessels, severe strike against Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure, shooting down of a U.S. military drone, etc). At the same time, China and Russia have emerged as new imperialist Great Powers. The shift in the relation of forces and the resulting acceleration of inner-imperialist rivalry is a key feature of the present historic period as the RCIT has emphasized repeatedly. A more short-term cause for decision of the White House is the deepening domestic crisis of the reactionary and corrupted Trump Presidency. Threatened by an impeachment process launched by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, Trump hopes to increase his domestic popularity among his core electorate by ending US involvement in "stupid endless wars" in the Middle East.

4. However, the decision of the Trump Administration has provoked strong opposition from various factions of the imperialist bourgeoisie. It was denounced not only by the Democrats but also by reactionary Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell ("a stab in the back") and the highly influential Senator Lindsey Graham ("the biggest mistake of his presidency"). European imperialist powers also denounced the Turkish invasion as did the reactionary monarchies of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and the Egypt military dictatorship of General Sisi – three key allies of the U.S. as well as the



## *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*

PYD/YPG. Trump himself has warned Erdoğan of any actions against the Kurds by threatening: “to totally destroy and obliterate the economy of Turkey” if “Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits.” In any case, Trump’s decision to allow Turkey expelling the PYD/YPG from the border region is another major blow for the global prestige and credibility of U.S. imperialism.

5. The whole development is a powerful demonstration of the bankruptcy of the petty-bourgeois nationalist PYD/YPG leadership. In the first years of the popular uprising it failed to unite the Kurdish masses with the Arab people rising up against the reactionary Assad tyranny. Instead, they had a tacit agreement with Damascus. Since 2015 it has closely worked with US imperialism and, effectively, became the infantry of the Western Great Powers in the areas of Syria where they had a presence. (Hence, “YPG” should be read as the abbreviation for “Yankee Presidential Guard”!) True, initially the YPG legitimately defended the Kurdish people against the attacks of the reactionary terrorists of Daesh/ISIS. But this struggle became more and more subordinated to their service as foot soldiers for U.S. imperialism. As such, the YPG helped the imperialists to conquer large parts of Eastern Syria. In effect, it has become an occupying force over the Arab populations of Raqqa and other non-Kurdish regions. Unsurprisingly, this has resulted in an increasing number of local protests. More recently, the PYD/YPG leadership has again begun negotiations with the dictatorial Assad regime and Russian imperialism. Just two days ago, Mazlum Kobane, the Kurdish commander-in-chief, announced: “We are considering a partnership with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, with the aim of fighting Turkish forces.” (Adi Smajić & Paul McLoughlin: Revealed: Turkey’s three-stage plan to capture northern Syria from Kurdish militias, lasting into 2020, *The New Arab*, 09.10.2019) The betrayal by the U.S. demonstrates once more how stupid and self-defeating the PYD/YPG strategy has been to refuse supporting the Syrian people rising up against Assad and instead focusing on offering itself as servant to imperialist Great Powers and local dictators. The RCIT calls Kurdish revolutionaries to break with the reactionary PYD/YPG leadership, to refuse all collaboration with the Assad regime, with American and Russian imperialism and to support the liberation struggle of the Syrian people as well as other current popular struggles like those in Iraq, Egypt and Yemen.

6. Shamefully, a number of Syrian fighters (the so-called “*Syrian National Army*”) have agreed to support Turkey’s invasion and to act as their infantry. Such a service as mercenaries for Ankara is a betrayal to the cause of the Syrian Revolution. It will not only discredit the ideas of the liberation struggle and deepen the alienation of the Kurdish people. It also means a dangerous weakening of the forces available for the defense of Idlib, the last bastion of the Syrian Revolution! In other words, the support for Turkey’s invasion is both a political as well as a military blow to the Syrian Revolution! The RCIT calls those Syrian fighters who are part of pro-Turkish factions to break with their leadership, to focus on defending Idlib and to support the right of national self-determination of the Kurdish minority.

7. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tenden-*

*cy* (RCIT) strongly opposes the Turkish invasion in North-East Syria. It is reactionary for several reasons: first it will result in the oppression or even expulsion of the Kurdish population within this 30 kilometres corridor. It will also strengthen the oppression of the Kurdish minority in Turkey. This invasion can only reinforce hostility and chauvinism between Turkish, Kurdish and Arab people. Secondly, it will result in the expulsion of the Syrian refugees from Turkey and their relocation in a high-risk buffer zone which will be in the middle of the conflict between the Turkish army and the PYD/YPG/PKK. Thirdly, it strongly increases the chances of Assad’s army and its Russian and Iranian allies to renew their attack on Idlib and to finally defeat the Syrian Revolution. (Such a scenario happened already in late 2016 and early 2017 when Turkey withdrew many Syrian fighters to support its Operation “*Euphrates Shield*” which opened the way for the Assad regime to launch its offensive to capture the then rebel-held eastern part of Aleppo.)

8. In the current situation, revolutionaries should side with the Kurdish fighters against the Turkish army in those areas where they defend the Kurdish people. They should not side with the PYD/YPG where they occupy and oppress areas with an Arab-majority population (by and large from the region to the east of Kobane up to Ras al-Ayn; for a view of the ethnic composition of Syria see e.g. [http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Levant\\_Ethnicity\\_lg-smaller1-zoom.jpg](http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Levant_Ethnicity_lg-smaller1-zoom.jpg)). In the areas with an Arab-majority population revolutionaries have to fight against the rule both of the PYD/YPG as well as of the Turkish army.

9. The RCIT strongly warns that the Turkish invasion massively increases the danger of a “*new Dayton*”, i.e. a repetition of the treacherous treaty which divided Bosnia in 1995 and which robbed the Bosnian people of the opportunity to liberate their country. Erdoğan has closely collaborated with Russian imperialism and the Iranian Mullah regime since nearly three years and pressurized the Syrian liberation forces to retreat in their struggle against the Assad tyranny (Astana and Sochi deals). Once Ankara has achieved its main goal of creating a buffer zone in North East Syria, it will eagerly strike a deal with Assad and Putin and get rid of the “ballast” of Idlib.

10. The sad story of betrayal of leaderships serving the interests of imperialist and regional powers demonstrates once more the urgent necessity to build a *revolutionary party* which combines the struggle for democracy and the rights of oppressed nations with a socialist and internationalist program. We urge activists who agree with our perspective to join the RCIT in building a *Revolutionary World Party!*

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\* *U.S., Russia, Iran and Turkey – out of Syria!*

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\* *Support the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad tyranny!*

\* *Long live the Arab revolution!*

\* *Long live the socialist world revolution!*

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

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

# Syria: US Imperialism Deserts the Kurds ... Once Again

## The fruits of the collaboration of the Kurdish YPG/SDF leadership in Syria with Washington

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 08.10.2019,

Yesterday it was announced that the American's troops will leave North Syria which will allow the invasion of the Turkish army in order to smash the Kurdish Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria known as *Rojava*. The region consists of Afrin, Jazira, Euphrates, Raqqa, Tabqa, Manbij and Deir Ez-Zor. The Kurds in Rojava gained autonomy in 2012 during the counter-revolutionary war of the Assad dictatorship against the Syrian popular uprising.

Assad's regime has not recognized the Kurdish autonomy despite the fact that the Kurdish militia known as the YPG not only fought on the side of the American imperialists but also collaborated in various forms with the regime as well as the Russia and Iran. While some young Kurds joined the Syrian Revolution at the beginning, the traditional Kurdish parties including the *Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat* (Democratic Union Party, PYD), which is a local branch of the PKK, was the most reluctant to join the revolution. In July 2012 the PYD took advantage of the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Kurdish areas to establish its autonomy.

The main opposition to the PYD's is the small Kurdish party KPD, connected to the Iraqi Kurdish party of Masoud Barzani, and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq.

While the RCIT recognize the right of self-determination of the Kurds including their right to form their own state and we defended their right to have autonomy in Rojava, we have strongly opposed the reactionary leadership of the PYD/YPG. It betrayed the Syrian Revolution and preferred to have tacit agreements with the Assad tyranny. It offered itself as a servant for US imperialism in fighting ISIS.

In October 2015 *Syrian Democratic Forces* (SDF) was founded which is the main ally of U.S. imperialism in Syria and which is dominated by the PYD/YPG.

This collaboration with imperialists, like in many other situations when oppressed nations support the imperialists, has been a disaster for the Kurds that now the USA is deserting them.

This desertion of the American troops began ahead of a Turkish invasion that Kurdish fighters say *"will overturn the victory over the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) armed group". US forces 'will not support or be involved in the [Turkish] operation' and "will no longer be in the immediate area", White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement. 'Turkey will soon be moving forward with its*

*long-planned operation into northern Syria,' said the statement. The withdrawal marks a major shift in US policy and effectively abandons an American ally in the battle against ISIL, which took over swathes of Syria before being defeated a year ago." (1)*

It is evident that the reactionary leadership of the PYD/YPG naively trusted U.S. imperialism. *"There were assurances from the United States of America that it would not allow any Turkish military operations against the region," SDF spokesman Kino Gabriel said in an interview with al-Hadath TV on Monday.*

The SDF had been *"completely committed"* to a U.S.-guaranteed deal for a *"security mechanism"* for the border area, he added. *"But the (U.S.) statement today was a surprise and we can say that it is a stab in the back for the SDF,"* he said. (2)

As the popular saying goes: *"Those who sleep with the dogs will wake up with flees."*

While we will side with the Kurds against Turkey, a member of NATO, in a war we say that the Kurdish fighters must get rid of their treacherous leadership which collaborates with the imperialists. It is urgently necessary to form a revolutionary party that will fight against Assad and his backers and again all imperialists. Only the victory of the Arab revolution in the entire region will help you to form an independent state – short of it the Kurdish aspirations even for autonomy will be smashed! One must learn from Lenin who said that for humanity to survive imperialism must die.

The new turn in Trump policy is also a message to Israel: *"You are alone in a war with Iran"*. This message also comes with the new approach of the USA and Saudi Arabia to Iran. Behind it is the expected role of Iran to repress the new wave of the Arab revolution that seems as possible in the near future.

*\* Throw out all the Imperialists!*

*\* Oppose Turkey invasion!*

*\* Iran out of Syria!*

*\* Long live the Arab revolution!*

### Footnotes

1) Al Jazeera: US troops start pullout in Syria as Turkey prepares operation, 07.10.2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/white-house-turkey-military-operation-northern-syria-191007034354242.html>

2) Haaretz Defying Pentagon, Trump Backs Turkish Operation in Syria Targeting U.S.-backed Kurds <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/syria/defying-pentagon-trump>

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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# Iraq: Victory to the Popular Insurrection against the Government of Abdel Mahdi!

## Build Popular Councils! For a Workers and Poor Peasants Government!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 04 October 2019,*

1. The Iraqi workers and youth are rising up against the government of Abdel Mahdi. The regime is trying to smash the protests with utmost brutality. After three days of protests, at least 44 people have been killed and more than 1,000 have been injured. The largest number of casualties occurred in the southern city of Nasiriya, where 18 people were killed, followed by the capital Baghdad where the death toll stood at 16. No doubt, a revolutionary situation has opened up in Iraq where the popular masses are fighting for power.

2. The workers and youth are protesting against an utterly corrupt and reactionary regime which is serving only the interests of the small Iraqi elite. While Iraq is one of the countries with the largest oil reserves in the world, the popular masses are living in misery. People are suffering from water shortages, power cuts and state corruption. Youth unemployment is about 25%. At the same time the Iraqi government is vacillating between U.S. imperialism and the Iranian regional power – both enemies of the people.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to the heroic brothers and sisters in Iraq! Your struggle is our struggle; your struggle is the struggle of all oppressed people in the Arab world as well as in Iran!

4. We call the Iraqi workers and popular masses to *continue and deepen* the struggle! In our opinion it is urgent that they organize themselves in *popular councils at work places, neighborhoods, universities and villages*. Likewise it is urgent to build *self-defense committees* defending the masses against the police and army. The people should overthrow the whole ruling elite by staging a *nation-wide, indefinite, general strike* leading to a popular insurrection. The goal must be the creation of a *workers and poor peasants government* based on popular committees of action. The insurgent masses should convoke a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*.

5. An authentic government of the workers and popular masses should *nationalize the oil industry, banks and big companies under workers control and without any compensation of the capitalists!* It should organize a *public employment program* under control of the workers and popular organization. Such a program could abolish unemployment and poverty and help reconstructing the country.

6. The popular insurrection has become such a massive force that various bourgeois and petty-bourgeois forces are now claiming to support their demands. Among them are the petty-bourgeois nationalist and Islamist movement around the powerful Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr as well as the most important religious Shia authority, the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. These are sure signs how strong the movement has become! However, we warn that these leaders will try to utilize this movement only in order to replace the current government with one of them. But no one should have any illusions: these figures have no interest to eradicate misery from which

the masses are suffering!

7. The RCIT considers the current events as a sure sign that the Iraqi people have joined now the *second wave of the Arab Revolution*. The Great Arab Revolution finds its heroic expressions in the ongoing liberation struggles of the Syrian people against the tyrant Assad, of the people in Sudan and Algeria, of the Egypt people fighting against the tyrant Sisi, of the Libyan people against General Haf-tar, of the Yemeni people against the Saudi invasion, and now the Iraqi people. The Syrian people demonstrating today on the streets of Idlib have waved the flags of Egypt and Iraq, expressing their support for their brothers and sisters in these countries. They chanted that the struggle for freedom and against tyranny is one and the same – against Assad the butcher, Sisi the killed as well as against Abdel Mahdi who is now slaughtering the Iraqi people! We repeat what we stated recently in another RCIT statement: Revolutionaries must support these struggles and advocate uniting them into a *single Intifada of the entire Middle East* – from Baghdad and Nasiriya, Algiers, Khartoum, Idlib, Tripoli, Sana'a, Gaza, Cairo to Teheran!

8. Most importantly, liberation fighters should work together in building *revolutionary parties* – in combination with building a *Revolutionary World Party!* We urge activists to unite on the basis of a program of socialist liberation and solidarity with the struggles of workers and oppressed in other countries. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!

*\* Build popular councils at work places, neighborhoods, universities and villages!*

*\* Create self-defense committees!*

*\* Organize a general strike! Victory to the popular insurrection!*

*\* For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!*

*\* For a workers and poor peasants government!*

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

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

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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We refer readers to our website where the RCIT has published numerous booklets, statements and articles the revolutionary process and counter-revolutionary setbacks in Egypt and the Arab world. They can be viewed here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>. In particular we draw attention to the following documents:

RCIT: Iraq: Long Live the Popular Insurrection! Bring Down the Government of Haider al-Abadi! Build Popular Councils! For a Workers and Poor Peasants Government! 17 July 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/long-live-the-popular-insurrection-in-iraq/>



# On the Background of the Popular Uprising of the Iraqi People

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 04.10.2019

Since this Tuesday anti-government protests are spreading in Iraq. The pro-US government of Abdel Mahdi that came to power one year ago is facing the anger of the masses over unemployment, corruption and very poor services. In reaction the government has imposed an indefinite curfew in Baghdad and southern cities like Najaf (that is 160 km south of the capital) and Nasriya. The police are shooting demonstrators – at least 30 people were killed and hundreds have been injured. The protesters have occupied Tahrir Square in central Baghdad in defiance of the curfew. A curfew was imposed on Najaf on Wednesday following the shooting on protesters demanding an end to power cuts, water shortages and state corruption. In Nasriya the police killed eight protesters. In the city of Amarah, four protesters were killed on Thursday. At least 400 people have been injured by the forces of the government. The protesters are mostly angry young people who are not aligned to any political or religious party and who had enough with the youth unemployment that is around 25%. Last summer similar protests in Basra ended the government of Haider al-Abad. The powerful Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr has called for a general strike. (1)

Thus like in Egypt, in spite of the bloody oppressive regimes our brothers and sisters are fighting for decent life. The real question is: is it the beginning of another wave of the Arab Revolution?

On Wednesday, the government deployed troops in Nasiriya after police lost control when gun battles erupted between protesters and security forces.

Iraq could be a great place for the people who live there but it is a nightmare for most of the 40 million citizens. It is a semi-colony super exploited by the imperialists who destroyed its infra structure and are making huge profits from the Iraqi oil. At the same time, the workers – the creators of the wealth – are poorly paid and many young people do not have a future in this rotten system.

Iraq has one of the largest oil reserves in the world and yet only a small portion of Iraq's known fields are developed. Under Saddam Hussein the oil fields were nationalized, but after the US war on Iraq the oil fields have been going through privatization. This resulted only in enriching the foreign imperialist investors and a layer of rich Iraqis while many people suffer from lack of electricity and clean water.

## The robbery of the Iraqi oil

While the US military ended the direct occupation of Iraq, the largest western oil companies, ExxonMobil, BP and Shell are still exploiting the oil of Iraq. On November 2012 Royal Dutch Shell signed a contract s for a \$17bn flared gas deal. Three days later, the US-based Emerson submitted a bid for a contract to operate at Iraq's giant Zubair oil field, which holds around eight million barrels of oil. Earlier in 2012, Emerson was awarded a contract to provide crude oil metering systems for a new oil terminal in Basra, and the company installed control systems in the power stations in Hilla and Kerbala. Iraq's supergiant Rumaila oil field is developed by BP and Majnoon oil field has being developed by Royal Dutch Shell.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Iraq's oil reserves of 112 billion barrels ranks second in the world, only behind Saudi Arabia. The EIA also estimates that up to 90 per cent of the country remains unexplored, due to decades of US-led wars and economic sanctions. "Prior to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, US and other western oil companies were all but completely shut out of Iraq's oil market." (2)

In a speech at Fort Bragg in the wake of the US military withdrawal, US President Barack Obama said the US was leaving behind "a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq, with a representative government that was elected by its people". Of this prospect, Dr Zalloum an expert on oil, stated: "The last thing the US cares about in the Middle East is democracy. It is about oil, full stop."

As Rebecca Solnit explained in a *Guardian* editorial, "The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was led by Bush the Second and Dick Cheney, politicians with deep ties to the petroleum industry. Though the United States lost that war, you might say the US oil companies won it. After years of sanctions, Iraq oil was up for grabs, and they grabbed, and profited and still profit." (3)

## Iraq since 2003

To understand the situation of Iraq it is necessary to review its development since the USA led the imperialist war on Iraq in order to rob the oil. Saddam Hussein was a dictator but what has replaced him is worse.



## 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

After the war and the occupation of Iraq the destruction of the infrastructure of Iraq pushed back Iraq many years. The U.S. illegalized the Baath Party and also disbanded the military throwing hundreds of thousands of trained men to the streets. Some of them would find the way to found ISIS.

ISIS was a reactionary organization that committed atrocities. Yet it fought the imperialists and their atrocities are very small comparing to the war crimes of the imperialists. Let us examine only the deaths from the sanctions and the war on Iraq.

In 1995, researchers with a Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) study in Iraq wrote to *The Lancet*, the journal of the British Medical Society, asserting that sanctions on Iraq were responsible for the deaths of 567,000 Iraqi children. Some doubt it and claim that the numbers is "only" between 250,000 and 350,000. (4)

Another study concluded: "*Hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have been killed due to the so-called "war on terror" launched by the United States in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack. The report, which was published by the Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, put the death toll between 480,000 and 507,000. The report states that between 182,272 and 204,575 civilians have been killed in Iraq; 38,480 in Afghanistan; and 23,372 in Pakistan. 7,000 US troops were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in the same period. The paper, however, acknowledged that the number of people killed is an "undercount" due to limitations in reporting and "great uncertainty in any count of killing in war". "We may never know the total direct death toll in these wars," wrote Nera Crawford, the author of the report titled "Human Cost of the Post-9/11 Wars: Lethality and the Need for Transparency. 'For example, tens of thousands of civilians may have died in retaking Mosul and other cities from ISIS [also known as ISIL] but their bodies have likely not been recovered.'"* (5)

After the occupation between 2003 and 2007, the U.S.-led Coalition formed what was called the *Provisional Authority*. Every ministry had a U.S. advisor who directed its activity. This included forming new parties, and training new military forces serving the USA interests.

In this phase the posts of the prime minister and key ministries were filled with representatives of parties from the Shia majority. For the first time, Iraq had a Kurdish president. The new constitution recognized a Kurdish self-government (KRG) and the Peshmerga forces received an official status. The Sunnis, who until 2003 dominated the state, lost their power. This led to sectarian tensions between the Sunnis and the Shia. In 2006 al-Askari shrine, a Shia holy site was bombed. The explosion destroyed the famous gold dome. Thus the USA policy of divide and conquer led to sectarian violence for years. This led to the growing influence of ISIS.

In the years 2007 to 2011 the U.S. sent in an additional 30,000 troops in addition to 130,000 already deployed and the American army formed an alliance with the Sunni tribes against the jihadi movement directed against the US occupation. In 2011, the USA declared that it would withdraw from Iraq after a promise from the Baghdad that it would incorporate the Sunni tribes into the Iraqi army and police which deepened the sectarian tension.

However, between 2012 and 2017, the government of Nuri al-Maliki of the Islamic Dawa Party, an American

loyalist, did not incorporate the minority Sunnis. Instead it detained thousands of Sunnis. In 2013, tens of thousands of Sunnis demonstrated against the government in Ramadi, Fallujah, Samarra, Mosul and Kirkuk.

In June 2014 in the war of the government against ISIS, the Iraqi army crumbled. ISIS took control of a third of Iraq. Many Shia joined new and old militias, many of them supported by Iran. More than 60 armed groups emerged under the umbrella of the *Popular Mobilization Forces* (PMF) backed by the USA. In September 2014, the United States formed "*The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS*," that included NATO, the European Union, and the Arab League. The Obama administration re-deployed U.S. troops to Iraq. This coalition used airstrikes for more than three years killing many civilians until the Islamic State collapsed.

In this period, Turkey deployed troops in northern Iraq with the excuse of protecting Sunnis and Turkmen, but in reality to fight the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Between 2015 and 2017, Iraqi security forces, Kurdish Peshmerga forces and the PMF—backed by airpower provided by the U.S.-led coalition—conquered the territory controlled by ISIS.

The parliamentary election in May 2018 resulted in the emergence of the coalition of the forces led by the Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr with secular Sunnis and the Stalinists as the largest party. The Iran-backed block came second. Muhammad al-Halbusi, Adil Abdul al-Mahdi, an economist and veteran Shia became the prime minister.

Clearly, the majority of the Iraqi people don't want the USA, Turkey and Iran to control Iraq. They want democratic rights and social security. The demonstrations of the youth in the last few days can be the beginning of a new revolutionary uprising. But to win this struggle a revolutionary leadership of the working class is necessary. Such a party will unite the Shia, the Sunnis and the Kurds. It will combine the democratic demands with a transitional program leading to armed socialist revolution.

*For a general strike to bring down the government!*

*Victory to the protesters!*

*U.S., Iran and Turkey – out of Iraq!*

*Expropriate the oil industry, the banks and the big companies and nationalize them under workers control!*

*Build a working class revolutionary party!*

#### Footnotes:

1) Al Jazeera: Iraq protests: Death toll rises to 20 as unrest spreads in south, 2019-10-03, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/iraq-imposes-curfew-baghdad-deadly-protests-191003060238724.html>

2) Dahr Jamail: Western oil firms remain as US exits Iraq, Al Jazeera 7 Jan 2012, <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2011/12/2011122813134071641.html>

3) Rebecca Solnit: Oil fuels war and terrorists like Isis. The climate movement can bring peace, 8 December 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/08/oil-fuels-war-terrorists-isis-climate-movement-peace-cop-21>

4) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5717930/>

5) Al Jazeera: US 'war on terror' has killed over half a million people: study 9 November 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/wars-terror-killed-million-people-study-181109080620011.html>

## Iraq: Rally in Solidarity with the Popular Uprising

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 8 October 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 300 Iraqi migrants held a rally in front of the United Nations headquarter in Vienna (Austria) to demonstrate their support for the popular uprising in Iraq. The rally was characterized by a very lively and militant spirit with people expressing their outrage against the brutal repression of the Iraqi security forces which killed already more than 105 demonstrators in the last days. Participants also demanded an end of the influence of foreign powers. The rally was also attended by a number of Syrian migrants. The rally was addressed by several Iraqi speakers as well as by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. Our comrade was asked to speak twice – once in

German and once in English. He stressed the solidarity of the RCIT with the popular uprising and demanded an end of the domination of Iraq by U.S. imperialism as well as by the Mullah regime of Iran.

See pictures of the rally and video clips of rally as well as of Michael Pröbsting's speeches here: <https://www.the-communists.net/rcit/iraq-rally-in-solidarity-with-the-popular-uprising-8-10-2019/>

Our statement on the current popular uprising in Iraq can be read here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iraq-victory-to-the-popular-in-surrection-against-the-government-of-abdel-mahdi/>



Rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Iraq (Vienna, 08.10.2019)

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.  
A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis.

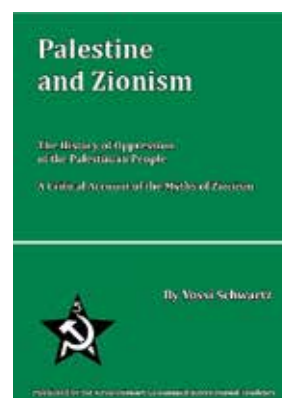
*Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the “Nakba” in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland. Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz defends the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people and

outlines a socialist perspective. He emphasizes 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.

The book contains an introduction and 7 chapters (112 pages) and includes 7 Tables and 3 Maps. The author of the book is Yossi Schwartz, a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency and its section in Israel / Occupied Palestine..

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



## Lebanon: A Revolutionary Situation

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20.10.2019

Tens of thousands of protesters came out to protest for the third day across Lebanon against the rising cost of living, increases in taxes and governmental corruption. The government is in crisis. Four ministers of the Lebanese Forces party, an ally of the Prime Minister Saad Harriri, have resigned.

*"We are convinced that the government is unable to take the necessary steps to save the situation," said Samir Gaegea, head of the party.*" (1)

Harriri's promised reform package has only increased the determination of the masses to bring down his government.

*"Protesters in Beirut's Riad al-Solh square, in reaction to his promises began chanting, using a slogan used at football matches: "The first shot went in, where is the second?" Earlier on Saturday in central Beirut, the mood was fiery and festive, with protesters of all ages waving flags and chanting for revolution outside upmarket retailers and banks that had their storefronts smashed in by rioters the night before. The number of protesters grew steadily throughout the day, with major demonstrations in the country's second-biggest city, Tripoli, in the north, and other locations. As Mohammad Awada, 32, who is unemployed, said: "This country is moving towards total collapse. This regime has failed to lead Lebanon and it must be toppled and replaced". Lebanon's public debt stands at around \$86bn - more than 150 percent of gross domestic product, according to the finance ministry."* (2)

The masses are not only angry with Harriri but also with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who said on the T.V on Saturday that *"Hezbollah was against the government resigning, because the country did not have enough time for such a move given the acute financial crisis."* (3)

Like in Syria, where Hezbollah sided with the counter-revolution, in Lebanon it has backed the government against the revolution, exposing its political nature and proving that it is not the leadership the working class and the masses need for the revolution.

This is not the first time Hezbollah has defended the government. Following the second Lebanon war, when one million Lebanese demanded the resignation of the government whose army did not fight against Israel, Hassan Nasrallah blocked the revolutionary forces. Hezbollah stance on privatizations and the labor movement is also problematic. (4)

Those Lebanese brothers and sisters who struggle for a revolution but still trust Hezbollah should demand that it resign from the government.

The situation of Lebanon is revolutionary. The ruling class cannot rule and the working class and the masses cannot live with their rule. What is needed to win is a revolutionary leadership to lead and win the revolution.

Lenin, who knew what a revolutionary situation is, wrote in *The Collapse of the Second International* about the characteristics of a revolutionary situation:

*"(1) when it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their rule without any change; when there is a crisis, in one form or another, among the "upper classes," a crisis in the policy of the ruling class, leading to a fissure through which the discontent and indignation of the oppressed classes burst forth. For a*

*revolution to take place, it is usually insufficient for "the lower classes not to want" to live in the old way; it is also necessary that "the upper classes should be unable" to live in the old way; (2) when the suffering and want of the oppressed classes have grown more acute than usual; (3) when, as a consequence of the above causes, there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses..."* (5)

The revolutionary struggle in Lebanon is likely to ignite the new revolutionary wave of the Arab revolution that is not dead in spite of the blows it received from the counter revolution. It would be ignited again, we have said time and time again. The RCIT has stood with the Arab revolution since it began in Tunisia in December 2010 and has stood by it even when the leaderships of the reformist and centrist forces falsely claiming to be socialists and communists have turned their back on the revolution.

### What We Are Calling For:

- \* An unlimited general strike to bring down the government
- \* Hezbollah to resign now from the capitalist government
- \* Democratically elected leadership by the struggling masses in every neighborhood, and every city that will form a revolutionary leadership on the national level
- \* A working class revolutionary leadership committed to a socialist revolution that will grow out of the democratic revolutionary struggle and will be part of the Arab revolution in the entire region
- \* Expropriating all the banks under workers control
- \* A government of the workers, fellahin and the poor

### Footnotes:

- 1) Al Jazeera: Ministers resign after third day of protests in Lebanon, 20/10/2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/tens-thousands-protest-day-lebanon-191019180840017.html>
- 2) ibid
- 3) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-protests-idUSKBN1WY0AC>
- 4) <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2016/12/hezbollah-lebanon-iran-islamic-revolution-labor/>
- 5) V.I.Lenin: The Collapse of the Second International, in: Collected Works, Progress Publishers, [197[4]], Moscow, Volume 21



Rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Iraq  
(Vienna, 08.10.2019)

# Yemen: Another Humiliating Blow for the Saudi Aggressors!

## Yemeni popular resistance eliminates three pro-Saudi military brigades

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 02.10.2019*

1. The corrupt capitalist monarchy of Saudi Arabia has suffered another humiliating blow. A few weeks after a major air strike resulted in huge destructions of Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure, the *Houthi* movement (officially called *Ansar Allah*) published reports about a devastating attack against pro-Saudi forces. According to Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree, they had defeated three enemy military brigades in a three-day large-scale operation in late August. More than 200 pro-Saudi fighters were killed and over 2,000 were taken prisoner. Among the prisoners are also Saudi soldiers. (The Houthis' *Al-Masirah* TV showed a video clip of the attack: <https://youtu.be/Go-j3poVXkvo>) A Yemeni government source confirmed that some 200 soldiers were killed in an attack in late August, but that "only" about 1,300 fighters were still being held, including 280 who were wounded. The operation was conducted close to the border to Saudi Arabia and, according to the Houthis, partly even in the Saudi province of Najran.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes this success of the Yemeni popular resistance! We have consistently warned that the Saudi monarchy is waging an arch-reactionary war of aggression against the Yemeni people. Contrary to many pseudo-socialists who denounce the Yemeni civil war as reactionary on all sides, we have unconditionally supported the Yemeni resistance from the beginning of the war in March 2015.

3. It has to be pointed out that the Saudi-led invasion has received massive support from Western Great Powers – in particular U.S. imperialism. Saudi Arabia became the world's largest arms importer from 2014 to 2018. According to SIPRI, 88% of all arms sold to the country came from the U.S.! However, despite their overwhelming military superiority the tyrants in Riyadh have been incapable of defeating the Houthis! The main reason for this is that the Houthis are leading a legitimate national liberation war which has broad popular support.

4. Our support for the military struggle of the Yemeni resistance against the Saudi-led alliance doesn't mean support for the political leadership of the Houthis. Quite the opposite: we strongly reject the petty-bourgeois nationalist-Islamist agenda of the Houthi leadership. Likewise, we strongly denounce their support for the reactionary Mullah regime in Iran which is waging a brutal war of annihilation against the Syrian people. However, together with our comrades in the RCIT in Yemen we stress that it is the duty of democrats, anti-imperialists, and socialists in Yemen and the Arab world, as well as internationally, to support the Yemeni people's struggle for national independence.

5. The latest blow intensifies the crisis of the richest state in the Middle East which is also the most important Arab ally of US imperialism. It is evident that the Saudi tyrants are faltering. Significantly, they have now asked the hostile Iranian regime, via mediators like Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, for negotiations in order "to defuse tensions". As we have noted somewhere else, it is

not accidental that the most important gang leaders of the Western counterrevolution – Trump, Johnson, Netanyahu and Sisi – are currently also in deep trouble. These developments reflect the crisis of the imperialist world order and the upswing of the class struggle.

6. We point out that it is a shameful fact that numerous self-proclaimed socialist organizations have denounced the legitimate resistance of the Yemeni people as "reactionary". They have refused to support this struggle as they have refused to continue supporting the legitimate popular struggles in other sectors of the Great Arab Revolution (e.g. Syria, Libya). They wrongly identify the character of these liberation struggles with the specific ideology of their petty-bourgeois (usually Islamist) leaderships. This is a profoundly mistaken method which would have made it impossible for revolutionaries to fulfill their internationalist duty in defending the USSR (with the totalitarian Stalinist dictatorship) against the imperialist Great Powers, Argentina (with a right-wing dictatorship) against Britain in 1982, Afghanistan (with the Taliban) against U.S. imperialism in 2001, or Iraq (with the bourgeois nationalist dictatorship of Saddam Hussein) against Western imperialism in 1991 and 2003.

7. The latest defeats for the Saudi tyrants are another manifestation of the new wave of the Second Arab Revolution. The events in Algeria, Sudan and, most recently, in Egypt and Iraq show that the popular struggles against dictatorships are gaining momentum again. It is important to show international solidarity with the struggle of the Yemeni people as well as all other Arab people. Revolutionaries must support these struggles and advocate uniting them into a *single Intifada of the entire Middle East* – from Algiers, Khartoum, Idlib, Tripoli, Sana'a, Gaza, Cairo to Teheran! Most importantly, they should work together in building *revolutionary parties* – in combination with building a *Revolutionary World Party*! We urge activists to unite on the basis of a program of socialist liberation and solidarity with the struggles of workers and oppressed in other countries. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!



Rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Iraq  
(Vienna, 08.10.2019)

# Somalia: Drive Out the AMISOM and Western Occupation Forces!

## Daring Guerilla Attack against U.S. Army Base and EU Military Convoy

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30 September 2019*

1. Today Somali resistance forces have launched two strikes against the occupation forces. According to reports from *Al Jazeera* and *Reuters*, mujahideen from *Al-Shabaab* attacked a military base in Baledogle which is run by U.S. Special Forces. This base is used both for launching drone strikes against insurgents as well as for training of Somali and Ugandan soldiers. At the same time, another attack was launched in Mogadishu against an Italian military convoy. The Italians are part of a European Union mission training Somali forces. According to an *Al Jazeera* correspondent, the convoy might have been related to a high-level meeting at the UN headquarters in Mogadishu which has taken place at that time. While there have been no announcements about casualties until now, the well-coordinated attacks demonstrate the resilience of the popular insurgency against the occupation forces.

2. Somalia has been invaded by the so-called *African Union Mission in Somalia* (AMISOM) in 2007. Since then, the country has been occupied by a military force of about 20,000 African troops (consisting mostly of Ethiopian but also Ugandan, Burundi, Kenyan, Djiboutian and Sierra Leone contingents). Many thousands have been killed since then. While AMISOM has been formally operated by the *African Union* with the approval of the *United Nations Security Council*, it is in fact led and controlled by Western military forces. According to official figures from the U.S. AFRICOM, there are currently about 500 U.S. elite troops in Somalia – the real number is probably higher. Add to this a number of French and other European troops. The leading role of the U.S. forces in all operations of the African forces is admitted by the Pentagon itself. An official, quoted by CNN, said earlier this year: “*We’re still involved in every single operation.*” (Ryan Browne: US military mission in Somalia could take seven years to complete, CNN, 13 April 2019). In other words, the AMISOM troops act as imperialist proxies. In addition, the navies of the EU, China, India, and other powers are patrolling off the coast of the Horn of Africa, effectively controlling the waters of Somalia.

3. There can be no doubt that this is an imperialist occupation in order to control Somalia. While the majority of occupation forces are from African countries, it is evident that they operate under the command of Western imperialist forces. Furthermore, they serve not only the interests of the reactionary rulers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and other countries but also those of the Great Powers. Somalia is strategically located on the Horn of Africa along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which links the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. It is crucial to control access to the Suez Canal. It is hardly surprising that U.S. imperialism has invested substantial resources to gain control of Somalia already since the early 1990s. The U.S. Administration has repeatedly extended a presidential declaration of a national emergency concerning Somalia. According to a Pentagon official the US military expects to stay for another seven years in Somalia (quoted in the CNN report above).

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*

(RCIT) strongly denounces the presence of AMISOM as well as imperialist forces in Somalia. We call for their immediate withdrawal and the closure of all their military bases. We consider the popular insurgency against these occupation forces as legitimate.

5. The popular insurgency is led by *Al-Shabaab*. This is a petty-bourgeois Islamist force which combines a reactionary social agenda with support for poor peasants as well a legitimate national liberation struggle. The latter has enabled them to gain strong roots among the masses and to keep control of parts of the country despite the overwhelming military forces of the imperialist invaders. So while *Al-Shabaab* objectively plays a leading role in the legitimate struggle against the imperialist-led occupation, its backward program makes it imperative to build a socialist alternative in order to replace them as a leading force.

6. The RCIT calls for the defeat of the imperialist forces and their proxies and for the military victory of the insurgents without lending any political support to *Al-Shabaab*. Revolutionaries must support all efforts to organize the working class, the peasants, and the poor independently of the all (petty-)bourgeois and reactionary forces to prepare them for the struggle for socialism.

7. It is a shame that most of the so-called left and the international workers movement either ignore the anti-imperialist struggle in Somalia or even denounce it as a “reactionary Islamist plot.” However, one should not be surprised about this as most of these “left-wing” forces are strongly dominated by social democracy and Stalinism. Such forces are usually characterized by various forms of pro-imperialist and Islamophobic positions (like e.g. their denunciation of the Syrian Revolution as “reactionary”).

8. We call the mass organizations of the working class and popular masses around the world to stand in solidarity with the resistance struggle of the Somali people against the imperialist invaders and their lackeys. They must put pressure on the governments – both in the Western as well as African countries involved in the occupation – to immediately withdraw all their troops as well as their war ships patrolling at the coast. They must demand an immediate end of the deadly drone attacks as well as the withdrawal of the navies of the Great Powers.

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

## Ecuador: For a Popular Insurrection to Bring Down the Lenin Moreno Regime! For a workers, indigenous, peasant and popular government!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 12 October 2019*

1. A *revolutionary situation* has opened up in Ecuador. A popular uprising is spreading all over the country since 3 October in protest against a devastating austerity package imposed by the IMF as a condition to a loan of US\$4.2 billion. The regime of Lenin Moreno has declared a state of emergency and the police try to smash the protests with brutal force. Five people, including the indigenous leader Inocencio Tucumbi, have already been killed. 1,070 have been arrested albeit  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them had to be released later. In response, indigenous communities also decreed a state of emergency and took control of their land (i.e. Cotopaxi, Azuay, Cañar, Chimborazo, Imbabura and El Oro). According to reports, 47 soldiers and police have been arrested. In some cities governmental buildings have been occupied. Furthermore, self-defense committees have been formed in various popular neighborhoods. There have been even isolated clashes between rank and file soldiers and special police. The government effectively fled the capital city Quito and moved their operations to the coastal town of Guayaquil. The protests have curbed nearly 900,000 barrels of crude production – the country's most important export product. Faced with such a mass uprising, Moreno has called the protest leaders to start negotiations.

2. There can be no doubt that a *dual power situation* has emerged. The government is no longer in full con-

trol of the situation and while the popular masses have brought the country to a standstill, they have still not taken power. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is convinced that this situation provides the workers and popular masses with exceptional opportunities. However, at the same time it is clear that such a dual power situation cannot continue very long. Faced with such a mass uprising, Moreno has called on the protest leaders to start negotiations with the mediation of the UN and the Church. Clearly, such a call to dialogue cannot be accepted when the government militarizes the capital and increases repression while the masses march on the streets and demand the fall of Lenin Moreno! Either the masses bring down the Lenin Moreno regime or the regime will reorganize their forces and bring down the mass protests – either by brutally smashing them and/or by forcing the leaders of the trade unions and indigenous communities to retreat.

3. The mass protests are led by the CONAIE (Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador) as well as the FUT (Unitary Workers Front), the Labor Parliament, the Popular Front and the CUTCOP (Unitary Coordinator of Workers, Peasants and Popular Organizations). It is clear that these popular organizations are viewed by the masses as “their leadership”. However, it is clear that currently the popular masses still follow the leaders of the

# 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 Tendency

CONAIE, FUT, etc. In such a situation revolutionaries must not remain satisfied with criticism of these leaders but apply the *united front tactic*. This means they should relate to the existing illusions of the masses by putting demands on these leaders to push forward the struggle. When the leaders retreat or remain indecisive, revolutionaries must sharply criticize them and work towards replacing them. It is important that revolutionaries in Ecuador patiently explain that the course of the popular uprising must be determined not by some leaders but by the workers, peasants and indigenous people themselves. This is why it is crucial to call for the formation of *democratic mass assemblies in the workplaces, neighborhoods, universities and villages*. Such assemblies should discuss and decide about the course of the struggle. They should elect delegates for *local, regional and national co-ordinations*. Such delegates should be accountable to the assemblies and, if necessary, they should be replaced. It is such co-ordinations of delegates which should take the lead of the popular uprising. Such assemblies should also constitute the body for organizing *popular self-defense committees*.

4. The RCIT considers it as most urgent to advance the struggle towards a *popular insurrection* in order to bring down the Lenin Moreno regime. Therefore, revolutionaries in Ecuador must demand from CONAIE, FUT, etc. to reject the dialogue with Lenin Moreno and to *continue the indefinite general strike until his resignation*. The insurrection must continue with the *occupation of important production sites* (e.g. oil fields and mining!) as well as governmental buildings. It is crucial to *appeal to the ordinary soldiers and police* to refuse the repression of the protests and to join the insurrectional masses. The strategic goal must be the establishment of a *workers, indigenous, peasant and popular government* which is under the control of such democratic mass assemblies.

5. Given the wide-spread illusions of the masses in the present leadership of the protests, revolutionaries should call for the *formation of a government of CONAIE, FUT, Labor Parliament, Popular Front, CUTCOP and other popular mass organizations!* Revolutionaries should warn the masses that such a government, given the character of the leaderships of these popular organizations, will follow most likely a reformist policy. Hence, the struggle would not stop with the formation of such a reformist workers

and popular government but only reach the next level. This means that it is urgent to fight for a socialist republic which would break with the IMF and all imperialist Great Powers, expropriate the big capitalists and multinational corporations and open the road to a socialist future in Ecuador, Latin America and globally. Such an internationalization of the revolution is particularly important for a country like Ecuador which is highly dependent on the export of petroleum.

6. As we said in a recent statement, it is crucial to recognize that the revolutionary developments in Ecuador don't take place in isolation. They are part of a *global upswing of the class struggle* (e.g. popular uprisings in Haiti and Honduras, looming general strike in Colombia, popular insurrection in Iraq, mass protests in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, ongoing liberation struggles in Syria against the Assad tyranny and in Yemen against the Saudi invasion, popular uprising in Hong Kong, Intifada in Kashmir, etc.). This global wave of mass struggles takes place at the same time as the capitalist world economy enters *another Great Recession* and *key leaders of the world bourgeoisie face massive domestic crisis* (e.g. Trump, Netanyahu, Boris Johnson, Mohammed bin Salman, General Sisis). In short, the world is heading towards a political rupture which involves both tremendous opportunities as well as dangers for the international working class and oppressed peoples!

7. It is crucial for revolutionaries in Ecuador to advocate a perspective of internationalist unity with such struggles in other countries. In that sense the RCIT calls for an international campaign with coordinated actions in support of the Ecuadorian people. Likewise revolutionaries around the world should build international solidarity with the popular insurrection in Ecuador. In particular, it is urgent that *revolutionaries in Ecuador and internationally to unite on a clear programmatic basis*. They should work towards the formation of a revolutionary party – nationally and internationally. Since without such a *Revolutionary World Party*, the heroic efforts of the workers and oppressed will be futile and end in defeats. The RCIT calls revolutionaries in Ecuador and internationally to work with us hand in hand in jointly building such a World Party!

*No future without socialism! No socialism without a revolution! No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM - The RCIT's Theoretical Review**

The image shows a collage of five covers of the journal 'Revolutionary Communism'. Each cover has a red header with the journal title and a yellow star with a hammer and sickle. The covers are:
 

- Cover 1 (December 2017):** Features a black and white photo of a soldier in a helmet. Title: 'Perspectives of Catalunya's Struggle for Independence'. Includes an interview with Russian Marxist and the 150th Anniversary of Das Kapital.
- Cover 2 (January 2018):** Features a photo of a factory with a sign 'ПАГОТНУМ И БОТНОЗНУМ'. Title: 'Special Issue: Documents of the Congress of the RCIT'. Includes an essay by Michael Pröbsting on the Military Coup and Marxist Theory of Africa.
- Cover 3 (February 2018):** Features a cartoon of a man with a dollar sign on his chest. Title: 'I'd Pregnant with Wars' (Part 1). Focuses on the World Situation, Perspectives, and Tasks of Revolutionaries.
- Cover 4 (March 2018):** Features a cartoon of Donald Trump. Title: 'I'd Pregnant with Wars' (Part 2). Focuses on the World Situation, Perspectives, and Tasks of Revolutionaries.
- Cover 5 (September 2018):** Features a red background with text about 'atives of the Arab Revolution' and 'rising of the Poor in Britain'. Includes 'plus: Theses on Migration, Workers Struggle in Pakistan, What We Stand For'.

 The bottom of the collage includes the website 'www.thecommuists.net' and the price 'Price: €4,55 / £3,6'.



## Ecuador: For an Indefinite General Strike against the Neoliberal Austerity Pack!

**Build democratic popular assemblies to defeat the government of Moreno –  
servant of the IMF! For a workers, indigenous, peasant and popular government!**

*Joint Statement of the Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores (Costa Rica)  
and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 06 October 2019*

1. The Ecuadorian government of President Lenin Moreno has launched on 1 October a massive neo-liberal attack on the workers and popular masses. Complying with the brutal conditions of an IMF loan of US\$4.2 billion, Moreno announced the elimination of gasoline subsidies, labor reforms, tax changes and other economic measures. As a result of this set of measures, known in Ecuador as “*the package*”, prices of diesel per gallon rose from US\$1.00 to US\$2.20 (an increase of 123%) and the price of gasoline from US\$1.80 to US\$2.30 per gallon (an increase of 28%). Among other consequences are a price rise of 100% for basic services and the shortening of the holiday period by half. These neoliberal attacks will result in huge price increases and mass impoverishment.

2. In reaction, a wave of spontaneous mass protests has started. Various trade unions and popular organization – like the *Federation of Urban Transportation of Ecuador* (Fenatu), the *Confederation of National Indigenous of Ecuador* (CONAIE), the *Popular Front*, and the *United Workers Front* (FUT) – joined the protests. The movement has already reached the proportion of a popular insurrection. In order to smash the protests with brutal state repression, the government declared a state of emergency. About 370 people have already been arrested – among them several trade union and indigenous leaders. Shamefully, the leadership of the transport unions called off their participation in the mass protests after two days. However, other popular organizations continue to mobilize for a nationwide strike on 9 October.

3. The PRT and the RCIT declare their unconditional solidarity with the popular rebellion in Ecuador! There can be no doubt that the government, irrespective of its “progressive” credentials, is a servant of the capitalist class and the imperialist monopolies. The only solution lies in the expropriation of the big capitalists and multinational corporations, the overthrow of the bourgeois state and the creation of a workers and popular government in order to open the road to a socialist future in Ecuador, Latin America and globally!

4. It is urgent to apply the united front tactic and to demand from all trade unions and popular organization to fully support the mass protests. However, it would be foolish to put any trust in their bureaucratic leaderships. The capitulation of the Abel Gomez and other bureaucrats after only two days of protests is a warning that the masses cannot rely on them! In the face of these bureaucracies, revolutionary and popular organizations must apply a policy of demands and denunciations in order to force the bureaucrats to promote mass actions or to denounce them vigorously and unmask them when they try to hinder or betray the struggle movement.

5. It is crucial that the masses *continue and deepen* the struggle! In our opinion it is urgent that they orga-

nize themselves in *workers assemblies* in *work places* and in *popular assemblies* at *neighborhoods, universities and villages*. Delegates of such committees should build a *nation-wide coordination* to lead the struggle without any bureaucratic control. Likewise it is important to create *self-defense committees* defending the masses against the police and army. The chief task now is to organize a *nation-wide general strike*. Such a general strike should not be limited to one day only. It should be rather an *indefinite general strike*, i.e. it should continue until the government withdraws all its neo-liberal attacks. Such a general strike could also open the road to the overthrow of the regime and the creation of a *workers and popular government* based on popular committees of action.

6. The popular rebellion in Ecuador does not take place in isolation. It is part of a global wave of mass struggles against misery and tyranny as we currently see in the uprisings in Haiti, Honduras and Iraq, the mass protests in Egypt and the ongoing struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad dictatorship. It is crucial to build international solidarity with the popular insurrection in Ecuador and to advocate a perspective of internationalist unity with other struggles.

7. The current mass struggles in Ecuador as well as other countries demonstrate once more the urgency to replace the existing bureaucratic leaderships (social democracy, Stalinism, Bolivarism, petty-bourgeois nationalism, Islamism etc.). We commit ourselves to jointly work to overcome the present crisis of working class leadership. The central task for us as well as for all other authentic revolutionaries is to provide the workers and poor peasants with a revolutionary leadership, i.e. to build a Revolutionary World Party fighting for a socialist future!

*Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores* (Costa Rica), <http://prtcostarica.blogspot.com/>  
*Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Nigeria, Kenya, Russia, Britain, Germany and Austria), [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)

# Spanish State: Freedom for Catalan Political Prisoners!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 October 2019*

1. The Spanish Supreme Court has imposed draconian sentences against nine leaders of the Catalan independence movement. They had played a central role in organising a democratic referendum on Catalan independence on 1 October 2017 which resulted in a clear majority voting in favour of independence. For this “crime” they have been sentenced to jail terms of between nine and 13 years!

2. In response spontaneous mass protest erupted all over Catalunya. Thousands rallied at the entrance of Barcelona’s international airport. This resulted in the cancellation of over 100 flights and the delay of many others. Protesters in Girona burned tyres on the train tracks, shutting the high-speed connection between Barcelona and France. Regional railways and roads were blocked at several places. A three-day student strike has been called for 16 October. The Spanish police try to suppress these protests with utmost brutality. The *Comitès de Defensa de la República* (Committees for the Defence of the Republic), a leading grassroots movement for independence, rightly condemned the state repression and called for mass resistance: “It’s time to rise up against the authoritarian fascism of the Spanish state and its accomplices.”

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to the courageous jailed activists and their families and friends! We strongly welcome the determined reaction of the Catalan workers and youth. The draconian sentences demonstrate once more the utterly anti-democratic and reactionary nature of the post-Francoist state, the so-called *1978 regime*. This only confirms why the Catalan people are right to desire separation from this reactionary state!

4. The RCIT considers the Spanish state as a reactionary capitalist monarchy which exploits the workers and popular masses and which oppresses a number of national minorities (among them the Catalans and the

Basques). This state cannot be reformed and has to be smashed by a socialist revolution of the working class and the oppressed. We fully support the right of national minorities for self-determination. In cases where it is clear that the majority of a discriminated or oppressed nation wishes an independent state (as it is the case in Catalunya) we fully support this demand.

5. The RCIT urges the activists to ignore the calls of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois leaders for “calm” and “respect for the law”. What is necessary now is the organization of a general strike for the immediate release of the Catalan political prisoners. The whole region must be brought to a halt by mass demonstrations and blockades. The Spanish and the international workers movement and left must show its support for the most fundamental democratic rights of the Catalan people!

*\* Free the Catalan political prisoners!*

*\* For mass mobilizations, blockades and a general strike in Catalunya!*

*\* For solidarity actions in the Spanish State and internationally!*

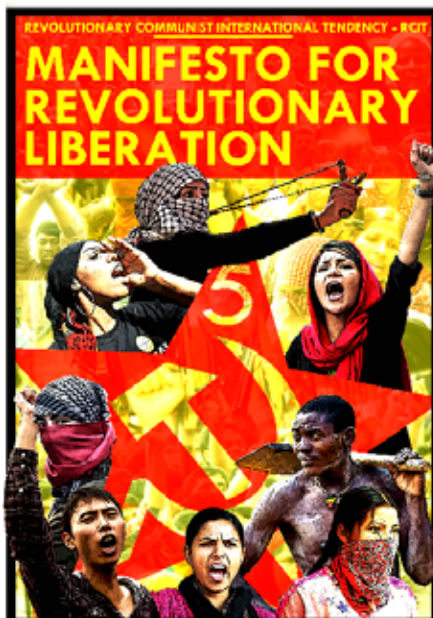
*\* Support Catalunya’s Independence! For a Catalan Workers Republic!*

*\* For a voluntary socialist confederation of the peoples of the Iberian Peninsula! For the United Socialist States of Europe!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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*For the RCIT’s analysis of Catalonia’s struggle for independence, we refer readers to numerous documents which are collected in a special sub-page on the RCIT’s website: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/collection-of-articles-on-catalunya-s-independence-struggle/>*



## *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*

## Britain: Boris Johnson makes last attempts or an agreement with the European Union

**Workers and Oppressed – do NOT wait but Organize Demonstrations and Strikes up  
to an Indefinite General Strike against this hated Tory Government!**

*Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 10th October 2019*

**B**oris Johnson, who is on a visit to Brussels to negotiate a final agreement of Brexit has been forced by the terms of the supreme court judgement to pirogue parliament and accept the terms of the BENEACT. The act commits Johnson that if there is no agreement, a no deal is cancelled and Johnson must revoke article 50 and leave the European Union in January 2020 rather than Johnson's preferred date of October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. The remain section of dissident Tories, Labour, the SNP and the Liberal Democrats are in the majority in parliament and Johnson leads a minority government where at the moment his hands are tied. His attempt to progue parliament failed after the supreme court found against him. This is a constitutional crisis where the legislature and the judiciary are lined up against the executive represented by Johnson. It is a deep crisis for British imperialism.

*"Boris Johnson's Brexit plans look to be falling apart as the European commission said there are no grounds to accept a request from the UK for intensive weekend negotiations two weeks before an EU summit.*

*EU sources said there was no basis for such discussions, given the British prime minister's insistence on there being a customs border on the island of Ireland. In response to the UK government's admission in court documents that the prime minister accepted he would have to ask for an extension to Britain's membership of the EU if a deal were not secured, Vardakas said he would support such a Brexit delay."*[1]

The Sticking position is whether there is a hard border as Johnson wants or the EU position as detailed in the Good Friday Agreement that the Irish option and the views of Eire and Northern Ireland were considered. If the extension of Brexit happens as the remainers have insisted then there may be a vote of no confidence in Johnson and a caretaker

government. The leader of which is in dispute. Jeremy Corbyn, the official leader of the opposition, has said he will call for a vote of no confidence in Johnson as soon as Brexit has been officially delayed.

### Corbyn and a Caretaker/National Government

The reformist Jeremy Corbyn and the Leaders of the Liberal Democrats, the SNP, Welsh Nationalists, Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and the Independent/Change group of Blairites and dissident Tories recently met in Jeremy Corbyn's office to discuss the possibility of a Caretaker government once the vote of no confidence is moved. Corbyn himself wants to move to a general election but this assorted group of pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist MPs want a referendum on Europe and are quite happy with the Tories. Most of them are opposed to Corbyn because of his general anti-austerity position and either wants the Blairite Margaret Beckett or the dissident Tory Kenneth Clarke.

*"Labour has continued to insist Jeremy Corbyn must be the leader of any temporary government to secure a Brexit extension, despite the Liberal Democrats' leader, Jo Swinson, suggesting he would be unable to secure a majority.*

*Speaking to reporters outside parliament after cross-party talks, the Liberal Democrat leader said there would not be a vote of no confidence in the government this week as opposition parties continue to disagree about the best way forward.*

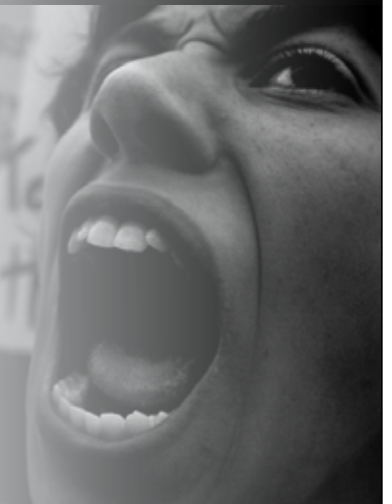
*Swinson reiterated her insistence that a temporary government could not be led by Corbyn, saying the Labour leader "simply does not have the numbers" among MPs to become interim prime minister".* [2].

Jo Swinson is a Tory in all but name. She served as first

## 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)*



Parliamentary secretary to Nick Clegg and then Business Secretary in the 2013-2015 Coalition government led by David Cameron. She supported *Zero Hours Contracts* and agreed with students having to pay £9,000 fees a year re-neging on a Liberal Party pledge to defend students. She is also like Tony Blair a Thatcherite and praised her when her statue was being erected.

*"In September 2012, Swinson was appointed Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs in a reshuffle by then Prime Minister David Cameron. She maintained this role for the remainder of the Cameron-Clegg coalition except for several months of maternity leave between 2013 and 2014. In the area of employment, she was supportive of both zero hour's contracts and flexible working seeking to promote the latter especially. On minimum wage, in February 2013 Swinson joined calls by other ministers to warn that "caution" was required when increasing it any further amid claims that minimum wage could be cut or frozen if it began costing jobs. In a March 2018 article for The Mail on Sunday, Swinson came out in favour of erecting a statue of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Parliament Square. She justified her position on feminist grounds and claimed that Thatcher was able to "single-handedly transform the fortunes of women", accusing opponents of the Thatcher statue as being "pretty sexist". Swinson praised Thatcher for her skills negotiating the UK rebate."*[3]

It is clear that this so called Caretaker/ National government has its parallels in history with the National Government of Ramsey Macdonald in 1929-30 and the Lib-Lab Coalition towards the end of James Callaghan's Labour government. Corbyn remains a prisoner of the most right wing and pro-capitalist elements in British politics. He should strike out his own independence and break out of this parliamentary charade of uniting with his most reactionary forces in British politics. Together with Swinson, Clarke and Beckett who are hostile to Corbyn's initial anti-Austerity position that drew the workers, the oppressed and the youth to the Labour Party. What is happening now is that the Blairites still remain and the witch-hunts continue against Corbyn's own supporters. There is still no move against Watson, Starmer and all those other traitors who are contemptuous of rank and file labour party members. Corbyn must break with this charade and support a movement through protests, demonstrations and strikes leading to a general strike to remove this hated government.

### The Role of the Trade Union Bureaucracy

The role of the trade union bureaucracy is either to tie itself to one side or another of the Brexit divide. It protects the the role of capitalism in the workers movement. It is the agent of the Bourgeoisie and has failed in the recent period to defend workers locked in dispute with the capitalist state. At every turn they have mediated and negotiated to ensure that capitalism remains intact even through massive changes in the world capitalist order leading to redundancies crashes and jobs being lost. Their main role has been to defend their own privileged position and of that aristocracy of labour that Lenin mentioned in his pamphlet *"Imperialism, the Highest stage of Capitalism"*. Social inequality remains in Britain with the masses of workers and the oppressed accepting handouts from the state when they are able. Many of the oppressed from semi-colonial countries living as migrants in Britain face hardship, racism, bigotry and Islamophobia as well as poverty and homelessness leading to starvation and begging on the streets. We should heed Leon Trotsky's advice that *"The crisis of Humanity can be reduced to the crisis of Revolutionary Leadership."* [4]

### Abolition of the Monarchy and the Call for a General Election

The question of the Monarchy and its constitutional powers and rights has been recently exposed as Boris Johnson sought permission to progue parliament and suspend its sitting. This of course produced an absolute furore from the strong remainder presence in parliament who represents that section of the Bourgeoisie who were opposed to a no-deal Brexit on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. These parliamentarians and their supporters resorted to the judiciary unelected judges and justices appointed by and approved by the state and accountable to no one but themselves. Their cries of democracy under attack by sections of the Bourgeoisie and these judges delivered a verdict against Johnson. Parliament had to resit. *The Benn Act* was passed to prevent Johnson going for a no-deal Brexit. The Judiciary entered politics on the side of the Remain faction of the Bourgeoisie and Johnson had no alternative but to accede to their demands. Elizabeth Windsor has the power to appoint or dismiss Prime Ministers give a speech at the beginning of a Parliamentary session. In fact she has emergency powers to decide on a variety of constitutional issues. She and

# China's transformation into an imperialist power

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

**By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)**

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

her family squander huge sums of money paid out of the public purse and of course she claims to rule by divine right. In a period of recession and slump this Monarchy continues to be subsidized for doing precisely nothing and engaging in worthless jamborees.

The great Bourgeois revolutionary Oliver Cromwell decided in 1649 that Kings were not infallible and Cromwell and the English revolutionaries executed Charles 1<sup>st</sup> and established a republic and a Commonwealth and Parliament ruled. After Cromwell and his son Richards's death there was a coup d'état whereby another King Charles 11 became King but with many of his former powers controlled by parliament and so it has remained to this today. But in a modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century we should get rid of this ancient privileges of Kings and Queens, smash the monarchy and the capitalist system and establish a workers democracy. We should dispose this Elizabeth Windsor, remove all her wealth and redistribute it to those most in need. All castles and estates should be levelled and public housing should be built for the neediest instead.

A number of centrists and pseudo-Trotskyists have been calling for a Corbyn-led anti-austerity government and have been pressuring Corbyn to call a general election now to get rid of the hated Boris Johnson. The irony of this position is that Johnson has been goading Corbyn to move a vote of no-confidence so that we can have a general election. The polls are heavily in favour of Johnson and the Tories together with Farage's Brexit party with its message of racism, Islamophobia and chauvinism. Johnson is hoping to win support from brexiteers who see the role of parliament as frustrating, the will of the people as the 2016 Referendum did produce a result for Brexit.

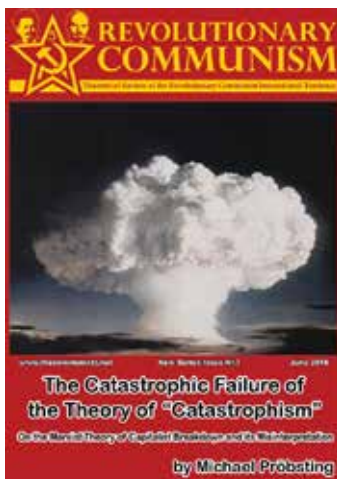
All shades of centrism voted for Brexit or for remain. Most of them remain tied to a reformist and unprincipled position. Jeremy Corbyn is a left reformist and the main centrist groups in Britain like the SWP, The Socialist Party and Socialist Appeal are all fostering the illusion that Labour with its anti-austerity message can win a general election and is right to focus on this electoral battle instead of what is really needed: Mass mobilisations on the street up to a general strike in order to bring the government down. These centrist groups are moving further right politically. They have given up to lead the way towards a Workers Government and are supporting Corbyn quite uncritically, nourishing illusions of the vanguard of its rank-and-file that a labour government will nationalize the means of production and introduce socialism. This shows their true reformist colours. Nothing is said about the repression apparatus of the capitalist state with armies and police forces ready in a crisis to establish martial law in the event of a breakdown. This should certainly not be the position of revolutionary socialists!

*"The longer Labour delays a general election, the easier it will be for the right to pretend they are defenders of democracy against elites. Any form of Brexit—soft or hard, deal or no-deal—will be bad for working class people if it's based on Tory policies.*

*The best response is to unite Leave and remain working class voters in a battle to get the Tories out now.*

*Labour can win a general election—but not if it becomes a moderate party of Remain". [5]*

*"For the workers' movement, however, these serious splits at the top should lead to only one conclusion; to take full advantage of their weakness to fight a general election and for the election of a government that stands in the interests of the working class. In*



## Publications of the RCIT

# The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

By Michael Probsting, May 2018

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation*

*by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its*

*"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format*

order to decisively break the ability of the capitalist class to sabotage a democratically elected socialist government it would be necessary to nationalise the major corporations and banks that dominate the economy under democratic working-class control, combined with full government control of incoming and outgoing foreign trade. Provided this was backed up by the power of the worker's movement outside of parliament, the capitalist class would be powerless to stop it.

This would lay the basis for the development of a socialist planned economy, and a democratic workers' state, that would really be able to use the huge wealth, science and technique created by capitalism to build a society for the many not the few." [6].

The RCIT Britain does not believe in these so called panaceas of a peaceful transition to socialism. All these centrist groups fail to raise the question of state power and an infinite general strike at the right time. The contradictions of world Imperialism mean that Britain is not immune from these developments. There is revolutionary uprisings all over the world and what the working class and the masses need is a programme to resolve the crisis of capitalism through revolutionary struggle and a fight to take state power not some peaceful transition as the centrists would have us believe. What the working class and the oppressed in Britain need is a revolutionary force which does not side with Brexit or Remain but which concentrates on the crucial questions of revolutionary struggle against austerity, racism and imperialism.

The RCIT Britain puts forward the following programme to unite all sections of the workers and oppressed in such a struggle:

*\* Rank-and-File in Labour must put pressure on Jeremy Corbyn to end these cross-party talks. National Governments are a disaster. Organize and support demonstrations, strikes and occupations at workplaces to show the working class that its own power is the answer to the Tories hatred and racist propaganda. Expel and purge all Blairite MP's and reinstate all Pro-Corbyn Labour Party members expelled or suspended. Put Corbyn under pressure to support mass mobilisations of the workers and oppressed not only in words but also in deeds and with the resources of the Labour Party. Labour under leadership of Corbyn must be forced to neither support Brexit nor Remain!*

*\* For a country-wide, indefinite general strike. The TUC must immediately organise its members to organise communities in a showdown with Johnson and the ruling class! Fight for a Workers Government based on the support of all oppressed!*

*\* For popular assemblies to be organised in all areas, workplaces, schools and universities, districts and villages of Britain! For the building of strike committees up to armed defence guards to defend communities from racist or police provocation!*

*\* For a convocation of a Constituent Assembly where revolutionaries should argue for an indefinite general strike that should be transformed into an armed insurrection of the working class in order to take power in Britain!*

*\* Abolish the Monarchy, redistribute the wealth of the royal establishment to the most needy and impoverished in society! For the levelling of all castles and the Queens estates and a programme of Public Housing works instead!*

*\* Neither Remain nor Brexit! For Revolutionary defeatism! No support for Imperialism but for the smash of imperialist Britain and the imperialist EU! For the formation of the Socialist United States of Europe!*

*\* Join the RCIT and help us to march forward in the building of a new World Party of Revolutionary Socialism - the 5<sup>th</sup> International!*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/oct/04/boris-johnson-brexit-plan-european-commission-no-grounds-weekend-negotiations>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/30/opposition-parties-to-start-planning-for-national-unity-government>
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo\\_Swinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo_Swinson)
- 4) Trotsky. L The Transitional Programme and the tasks of the 4th International. New Park publications
- 5) <https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/49020/Corruption%2C+harassment+and+Brexit+pile+strain+on+Boris-Johnson>
- 6) <https://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/29640/30-09-2019/capitalist-elite-split-fight-for-a-government-in-the-interests-of-the-working-class>

## 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)*

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

## Climate Strike: Impressive Mass Demonstration in Vienna

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a mass demonstration in Vienna on 27 September 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

Between 30,000 (police) and 80,000 people (organizers) demonstrated in Vienna on 27 September as part of the global week of action against climate change. Most of the participants were school students, including many from primary schools. The demonstration had a very strong spontaneous character, reflecting that this is a highly impressive youth movement!

As we elaborated in the RCIT statement (see the link below) the movement is both broad and heterogeneous. Surely, many activists still have enormous illusions to convince the politicians to organize the necessary changes against the climate change. At the same time, this move-

ment is still at the beginning and surely many of the activists will learn through their experience. Clearly, this is a movement with a huge potential for the future.

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the demonstration and sold our paper.

See pictures of the demonstration and a video clip here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/climate-strike-impressive-mass-demonstration-in-vienna/>

A key statement of the RCIT on Climate Change: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/revolutionary-change-to-end-climate-change/>



Mass demonstration against climate change (Vienna, 27.09.2019)

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

#### The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book's subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

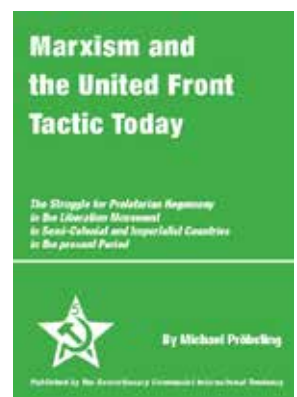
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today's circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic's original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.



## Indonesia: Defend Democratic Rights!

### Teargas against Protestors: Fight the Joko Widodo Bourgeois Regime!

Article by Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), October 2019

On the 20<sup>th</sup> September the Widodo Regime introduced a new penal code to replace the old pre Dutch criminal code that was in place. The new code is an attack on basic human and democratic rights. It proposes banning same sex relations between LGBT consenting adults and bans heterosexual relations outside of marriage. Criticism of the president can lead to a jail term of 7 years. Indonesia is a Muslim country which in the past has always allowed freedom of expression to religious minorities. There is a sizeable proportion of Christian and Hindu minorities in the country who can practise their religion. This new criminal code which could see thousands in prison has unleashed a storm of protest.

#### Opposition to the new Criminal Code grows amongst the Populace

*"Indonesia is set to pass a new criminal code that could outlaw living together outside marriage, extramarital sex and insulting the president, among a raft of changes that rights groups have decried as disastrous.*

*The Indonesian parliament has spent decades revising its colonial-era criminal code, creating a 628-article draft bill that could be passed in coming days.*

*Containing a series of contentious new revisions, a coalition of Indonesian rights groups argue the new code violates the rights of women, religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, as well as freedom of speech and association.*

*"Indonesia's draft criminal code is disastrous not only for women and religious and gender minorities, but for all Indonesians," said Andreas Harsono, senior Indonesia researcher at Human Rights Watch, "Lawmakers should remove all the abusive articles before passing the law." [1].*

Within hours there was a petition with three thousands signatures showing that workers, the urban poor and the masses reject such laws. Widodo, who owes his political support to extreme right wing Islamic parties, finds himself again enacting legislation that is reactionary and doesn't reflect the wishes of a population in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

*"In the world's most populous Muslim nation, among one of the most controversial inclusions in the draft penal code was the article on adultery, which could see extramarital sex punishable by up to one year in prison.*

*As well as criminalizing adultery and sex workers, in a country where LGBT people face persecution and rampant discrimination, critics believe the article would in effect criminalize all same-sex conduct." [2].*

#### Widodo suspends the Criminal Code

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September Widodo reverses his decision relating to the criminal code and recommends a delay in enacting it through Parliament. This is as a result of the massive opposition to this new law, which is opposed in Indonesia well known for its plethora of different human rights and

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Greece - A Modern Semi-Colony

#### The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – GREECE: A MODERN SEMI-COLONY. The book's subtitle is: *The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial Country with Some Specific Features.* It contains six chapters (144 pages) and includes 12 tables, 35 figures and 4 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

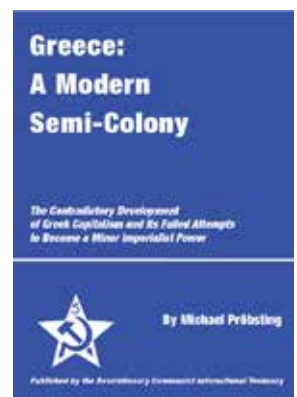
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which gives an overview of its content.

Greece is at the forefront both of the capitalist crisis in Europe as well as of the class struggle. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that what the Arab Revolution has been for the world in the past few years, Greece has been for Europe.

Subsequently, the question of the class character of Greece is of crucial importance both for the domestic as well as for the international workers movement: Is it an imperialist

state, a semi-colonial country or something else, and what are its specific features?

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Marxists' theoretical conception of imperialist respectively semi-colonial states. In Chapter II we give a brief historical overview of the development of Greek capitalism. In Chapter III we deal with Greece's failed attempt to become a minor imperialist power. In Chapter IV we outline the historic crisis of Greek capitalism from 2008 until today. In Chapter V we elaborate the most important programmatic conclusions and in the last Chapter we present a summary in the form of theses. The book contains 12 Tables, 35 Figures and 4 Maps. ■





religious tolerance. Widodo recently has been trying to quell an environmental disaster in Indonesia where forest fires have been raging in Sumatra and Borneo. His actions in West Java (please see my article on West Java ) [3] show a President who is taking on the mantle of dictatorial and authorial powers, a reflection of the huge crisis that this South Asian country faces balancing between support for the USA or China.

*"Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo has ordered his government to postpone the ratification of a deeply controversial criminal code that would outlaw living together outside marriage, extramarital sex and insulting the president.*

*The apparent climb-down came in a surprise address at the state palace on Friday afternoon, and follows an outpouring of anger and criticism about the draconian draft laws.*

*"I have ordered the law and human rights minister to convey this decision to parliament, to delay the confirmation of the criminal code bill," the president, better known as Jokowi, told a televised news conference. He said he had decided the bill needed further review after taking into account input from various groups who objected to parts of it".[4].*

### **Water Cannon and Teargas used against the Opponents of new Criminal Code**

Joko Widodo may have postponed the new criminal code but the barbarous and aggressive attitude to minorities and failure to understand a plural society was demonstrated in West Java with his police force using racism and chauvinism against Indigenous Papuans who want independence from Indonesia. The Environmental disaster of fires out of control shows that the regime completely ignores the effects of climate change and the destruction of the planet. The recent decision to use water cannon and teargas against thousands of students demonstrating in Jakarta and other towns and villages shows a regime and president completely out of touch even with bourgeois democratic norms and practices.

*"Indonesian police fired water cannon and tear gas to break up protests on Tuesday, as tens of thousands of students gathered in cities nationwide over issues that included a new criminal code that penalizes adultery and revised laws on corruption Thousands gathered in the front and back entrances to Jakarta's parliament building, demanding to meet with parliament speaker Bambang Soesatyo.*

*Soesatyo held a news conference inside the building urging calm, but refused to answer questions from reporters on whether*

*the vote would be delayed until new parliament takes office, repeating the vote could happen in the current term.*

*Police then fired water cannon and tear gas in an attempt to disperse the crowd.*

*Indonesia's benchmark stock index dropped more than 1% on Tuesday, amid worries over domestic political tensions, said Fakhru Fulvian, an economist with Trimegah Sekuritas". [5]*

### **Perspectives of the RCIT**

Since his recent election victory Joko Widodo has pursued an open bourgeois capitalist policy of oppression, repression of minorities and attacks on human democratic rights. The RCIT puts forward the following demands for a socialist transformation of Indonesian society, to unite the urban poor and oppressed, to overthrow the Widodo regime and establish a Workers Government based on the rural and urban poor and the oppressed.

*\* Full support for demonstrations and protests by students against the new proposed criminal code. Organize assemblies at the workplaces, the schools and universities, the districts and villages!*

*\* For an indefinite General Strike to remove the Widodo government. Defy the Criminal code!*

*\* For armed self-defense units of the workers, the urban and rural poor to protect communities and minority groups threatened with imprisonment under the new criminal code.*

*\* Defend democratic rights! No police state! Down with all repressive laws! Solidarity with the resistance!*

*\* Fight for a Workers and Popular Government!*

### **Footnotes**

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/19/outcry-at-indonesia-draft-criminal-code-that-could-see-unmarried-couples-jailed>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/19/outcry-at-indonesia-draft-criminal-code-that-could-see-unmarried-couples-jailed>

3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/oceania/defeat-racism-and-stop-the-ethnic-violence-against-the-people-of-west-papua/>

4) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/20/indonesia-hundreds-of-thousands-oppose-plan-that-would-outlaw-extramarital-sex>

5) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-politics-rights/police-fire-water-cannon-as-indonesians-rally-against-new-laws-idUSKBN1W91A6>

# **Comunismo Revolucionario**

## **Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT**

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

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

## PRT (Costa Rica) and RCIT: For Revolutionary Unity!

*Declaration of Fraternal Relations between the Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores (Costa Rica) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 19 October 2019*

1. After a period of discussion and collaboration, the *Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores* (Costa Rica) and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have decided to establish fraternal relations.

2. The programmatic basis for our fraternal relations constitutes general agreement on the following documents:

a) For Revolutionary Unity in a World Full of Explosive Tensions! / ¡Por La Unidad Revolucionaria en un Mundo Lleno de Tensiones Explosivas! (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/for-revolutionary-unity-in-a-world-full-of-explosive-tensions/> resp. <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/esp%C3%B1ol/por-la-unidad-revolucionaria-en-un-mundo-lleno-de-tensiones-explosivas/>)

b) Ecuador: For an Indefinite General Strike against the Neoliberal Austerity Pack! / Ecuador: ¡Por una huelga general indefinida contra el paquete de austeridad neoliberal! (<https://www.thecommunists.net/world-wide/latin-america/ecuador-for-an-indefinite-general-strike-against-the-neoliberal-austerity-pack/> resp. <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/esp%C3%B1ol/ecuador-por-una-huelga-general-indefinida-contra-el-paquete-de-austeridad-neoliberal/>)

c) Manifiesto for Revolutionary Liberation / Manifiesto por la Liberación Revolucionaria (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/> resp. <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/esp%C3%B1ol/ccri-manifiesto-2016/>)

d) Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today / Seis puntos de una Plataforma para la Unidad Revolucionaria, hoy (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/> resp. <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/esp%C3%B1ol/seis-puntos-de-una-plataforma-para-la-unidad-revolucionaria-hoy/>)

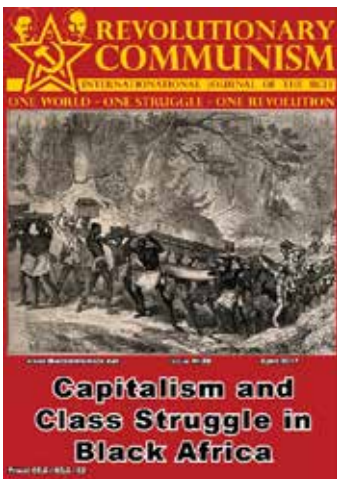
e) Es momento de reagruparnos, reorganizarnos y volver a las calles, <http://prtcostarica.blogspot.com/2019/08/es-momento-de-reagruparnos.html>

f) VENEZUELA - Una posición de principios: Los peligros del oportunismo y el sectarismo, <https://revista-decentroamerica.org/index.php/regional/23-venezuela-una-posicion-de-principios-los-peligros-del-oportunismo-y-el-sectarismo>

3. We agreed to discuss in more detail some issues of the Arab Revolution as well as of the program for women's liberation and the ecological question.

4. We are opening now a process, probably for a few months, in which we will have a period of more intensive discussions and collaboration, including in international campaigns, and in order to examine the basis for a fusion of our organizations.

5. We call upon revolutionaries in Costa Rica, Latin America and internationally to join us in our struggle to rebuild a Revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution!



### 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

# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

