



# REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

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## Marxism, Police & Self-Defense

PLUS: Global Popular Uprisings & the Ruling Class \* Iraqi Revolution  
Authoritarian Regime in Nigeria \* Kashmiri Revolutionaries join RCIT

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# Are Global Popular Uprisings Caused by “Foreign Conspiracies”?

## How the ruling classes around the world try to smear the mass revolts

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 2.11.2019

The capitalist world order is rocked by a series of global mass protests and popular uprising. From Chile and Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon and Algeria, to Catalunya and Hong Kong – to name only the most explosive ones – the workers, youth and oppressed are rising up on nearly all continents. Add to this the looming intifada in Kashmir after Modi transformed the region into a huge concentration camp as well as the continuing liberation wars of the Syrian people against the Assad dictatorship and its Russian backers as well as of the Yemini people against the Saudi invasion.

As we have elaborated in a series of essays, articles and statements, the general background for this wave of popular upsurges is the global decay of capitalism. This decline provokes the ruling classes, on one hand, to increasingly attack the living conditions of the working masses with austerity packages and, on the other hand, to increasingly turn to authoritarian ways of rule which results in numerous attacks on democratic and national rights.<sup>1</sup>

It lies in the nature of things that the ruling classes in East and West try to discredit, weaken and eventually smash the popular uprisings by any means necessary. One of their favorite methods is to smear such mass protests as “instigated” and “directed” by “foreign forces”. Let us give a few examples.

As we reported already in a recent article, Xie Feng, China’s top diplomat in Hong Kong, made a very telling statement about the popular uprising in region.<sup>2</sup> Not only did he smear the mass protests as a “virus worse than SARS” (a devastating virus which caused 299 deaths in Hong Kong in 2003) which is threatening to “plunge civilisation as a whole would into calamity”. Xie also repeated the claims of the regime in Beijing that “black hands” and “foreign forces” were behind the mass movement which fights for democratic rights since 9 June.<sup>3</sup>

However, it is not only China’s ruling class which denounces the popular uprising in its country as a “foreign conspiracy”. The capitalist theocratic regime of Iran makes the same claims about the mass protests in Iraq and Lebanon.

Soon after the beginning of the mass protests in Iraq, Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said “enemies” were trying to drive a wedge between Tehran and Baghdad: “#Iran and #Iraq are two nations whose hearts & souls are tied together... Enemies seek to sow discord but they’ve failed & their conspiracy won’t be effective.”<sup>4</sup> In the same spirit, Iranian media accuse the “foreign enemy” behind the popular upsurge. *Tasnim News Agency*, a media close to the *Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps* – the regime’s Praetorian Guard –, said that “a few thousand protesters in a country the size of Iraq is natural.” It wrote that despite millions of Iraqis from different political sides voting in the election that brought Adel Abdul Mahdi to power as prime minister, the United States and its allies seek to “collapse the Iraqi political system.”<sup>5</sup>

We see a very similar development in Lebanon. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who provides since years

thousands of shock troops in order to defend the bloody dictatorship of Assad against the Syrian Revolution, violently denounces the popular uprising in his country. In order to support his case, he spreads the theory about “foreign conspiracies”. In a recent speech, Nasrallah said that unspecified foreign powers were exploiting the protests to undermine his group, warning that such actions could plunge the country back into civil war.<sup>6</sup>

We see the same theories of “foreign conspiracy” spread by Western imperialist and reactionary forces. The General Secretariat of the *Organization of American States* (OAS) – an institution dominated by U.S. imperialism and right-wing governments in Latin America – issued a statement in which it claims that the Castro-Chavista governments of Venezuela, Bolivia and Cuba are behind the popular uprising in Ecuador. “The recent currents of destabilization of the political systems of the hemisphere have their origins in the strategy of the Bolivarian and Cuban dictatorships, which seek to reposition themselves once again, not through a process of re-institutionalization and re-democratization, but through their old methodology of exporting polarization and bad practices, to essentially finance, support and promote political and social conflict. (...) The strategy of destabilization of democracy through the financing of political and social movements has distorted political dynamics in the Americas. For years, the Venezuelan dictatorship, with the support of the Cuban dictatorship, institutionalized sophisticated co-optation, repression, destabilization and media propaganda structures in the region. (...) The crisis in Ecuador is an expression of the distortions that the Venezuelan and Cuban dictatorships have installed in the political systems of the hemisphere. However, what recent events have also shown is that the intentional and systematic strategy of the two dictatorships to destabilize democracies is no longer as effective as in the past.”<sup>7</sup>

Reactionary propagandists in the service of Trump, Bolsonaro & Co. are repeating the same smear about the mass revolts in Chile and other countries. Manuel Suarez Mier, a right-wing Mexican economist of the notorious “Chicago School”, claims in a recent article with the title “Latin America is on fire: Who’s to blame?” that the Bolivarian governments are behind the wave of mass protests. “Throughout Latin America, several countries are aflame with violent protests. The protests are all for different reasons. But there are common denominators: unprecedented violence and well-organized actions designed to disrupt life and cause as much damage as possible. If successful, the protests could remove the democratically-elected governments of moderate centrist leaders. Perú, Ecuador, Colombia (to a lesser extent) and, most recently, Chile (with exceptional fury) have endured violent protests challenging government policies that reduced subsidies to products and services. These four countries are all critical of Venezuela and its dictator, Nicolás Maduro, and have called for his removal. Maduro has responded with a vow to harm them in any way possible.”<sup>8</sup>

Following the same line of dumb conspiracy theories, the White House said in a statement that U.S. President Donald Trump “denounced foreign efforts to undermine Chilean

*institutions, democracy, or society.*" And two days ago, the U.S. State Department claimed that it had seen indications of Russian "influence" on recent mass protests in Chile. A senior State Department official said there were "clear indications" people were taking advantage of the unrest in Chile and "skewing it through the use and abuse of social media, trolling. (...) We have seen indications of Russian activity supporting this negative course of the debate."<sup>9</sup>

It is a well-known method of the ruling classes to smear popular revolts as "foreign conspiracy" which has been deployed many times in the history of class societies riven with explosive tensions between the oppressors and the oppressed. It was already in the times of the Roman Empire that uprisings of the oppressed were linked to "foreign conspiracies". Cicero became famous when he speculated about such a "foreign conspiracy" at the time of the Great Slave Uprising led by Spartacus in 73-71 BCE. Likewise did the Western powers and the social democrats denounce the Russian Revolution in 1917 led by Lenin and Trotsky as a conspiracy financed by the "German Kaiser". In recent years, the Stalinists and Bolivarians have shamefully smeared the popular uprisings in Libya and Syria in 2011 as a CIA-led coup.<sup>10</sup>

The Greek KKE – a party which plays an important role in international Stalinism – denounced the Syrian Revolution as an "imperialist conspiracy": "It should be noted that the KKE from the very first moment, in 2011, denounced the intervention that has very serious consequences for the people of Syria and also for the people of the wider region. When bourgeois and opportunist parties celebrated the so-called "Arab Spring", our party exposed the organized efforts to fund and arm the so-called Syrian opposition by the imperialist powers."<sup>11</sup>

We note in passing that various Stalinists and semi-Stalinists are repeating the same lies today about the mass revolt in Hong Kong.

Now, it is certainly true – as the RCIT has pointed out repeatedly – that world politics is characterized since a number of years by accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan) as well as between regional powers.<sup>12</sup> Hence, while the rulers are worried about popular uprisings in their zone of influences, they look with favour upon domestic problems in the zones of influences of their rivals. This is why *Russia Today* and *TeleSur* report enthusiastically about mass protests in Chile and France ... but not about Hong Kong. And for very similar reasons there is an extensive and favourable coverage of the revolt in Hong Kong on *Fox News* ... but not of those in Chile and Ecuador.

So, yes, there are certainly attempts of "foreign forces" to intervene in one form or another in protest movements in their rival's zone of influences. However, and this is the whole point, mass popular uprisings are neither caused nor led by "foreign powers". Big mass movements are primarily a result of the class contradictions in the countries itself, of the misery and social inequality, of the unbearable living conditions under corrupt and authoritarian regimes.

Hence, it is not surprising that smart representatives of the ruling classes understand the necessity to unity and jointly smash the global wave of popular uprisings. As we demonstrated in a recent article, the Stalinist-capitalist regime in China has already directly appealed to their imperialist colleagues in the West to jointly defend "the rule

of law and multilateral global trade order" against the "virus" of mass unrests.<sup>13</sup> An important element to legitimize the brutal suppression the protests is smearing them as "foreign conspiracies".

We conclude by emphasizing that it is an urgent duty of revolutionaries around the world to counter these reactionary smearing campaigns and to build international solidarity between the popular uprisings in all corners of the world. There exist already spontaneous attempts in this direction as one could see in the support expressed by Hong Kong demonstrators for their brothers and sisters in Catalunya (and vice versa).<sup>14</sup> We saw the same at the demonstrations in Idlib – the last bastion of the Syrian Revolution – where people raised the flags of Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt to show their support for the popular uprisings in these countries. And at the same time, demonstrators in Lebanon stated their support for the Syrian revolutionaries fighting against the Assad tyranny.<sup>15</sup>

We consider it as particularly important to build an international revolutionary organization which supports all liberation struggles in East and West and which fights against all imperialist Great Powers and all reactionary regimes. We don't choose between Washington and Beijing, between Brussels and Moscow or between Tokyo and Seoul. We stand with the workers and oppressed all over the world against the ruling classes! The RCIT calls all revolutionaries to unite with us on such a program!

#### Footnotes

1 It would exceed the limits of this little article to list all relevant works of the RCIT on the various struggles which have been taking place around the world in the past few months. We limit ourselves to a few references:

For the general background see the following essay by Michael Pröbsting: Are We Nearing a New "68 Moment"? A massive upsurge of global class struggle in the midst of a dramatic shift in the world situation, 22 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/are-we-nearing-a-new-68-moment/>; Another Great Recession of the Capitalist World Economy Has Begun. The economic crisis is an important factor in the current dramatic shift in the world situation, 19 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/another-great-recession-of-the-capitalist-world-economy-has-begun/>; The Gang Leaders of Western Counterrevolution Are Faltering. Some observations on an interesting historic moment in the world situation, 25 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/the-gang-leaders-of-western-counterrevolution-are-faltering/>.

For a series of articles and statements on the struggles in the respective countries we refer readers to the regional sections on our website (go to <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/>).

2 Michael Pröbsting: Beijing: Global Popular Uprising "Worse Than SARS". Leading Chinese diplomat hysterically denounces the mass protests in Hong Kong and around the world, 25 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/beijing-global-popular-uprising-worse-than-sars/>

3 Kimmy Chung: Hong Kong protests: 'virus of violence' deadlier than Sars and is spreading overseas, says China's top diplomat in city, Xie Feng, South China Morning Post, 24 Oct, 2019, <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3034365/hong-kong-protests-virus-violence-deadlier-sars-and>

4 Khamenei: 'Enemies seek to sow discord' between Iran and Iraq, 7 October, 2019 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/10/7/khamenei-enemies-seek-to-sow-discord-between-iran-iraq>

5 Quoted in: Iranian officials growing concerned about

Iraqi protests, October 7, 2019 <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/10/iran-officials-concern-protests-iraq.html>

6 Qassim Abdul-Zahra and Joseph Kraus: Protests in Iraq and Lebanon pose a challenge to Iran, 2019-10-30 <https://apnews.com/62642940e3fe4b1b87323decc9487fea>

7 Statement of the OAS, October 16, 2019 [https://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=E-081/19](https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-081/19)

8 Manuel Suarez Mier: Latin America is on fire: Who's to blame? 2019-10-30 <https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/10/opinion/latin-america-is-on-fire-whos-to-blame/>

9 David Brunnstrom, Dave Sherwood: U.S. warns Russian trolls stoking conflict in Chile, October 31, 2019 / <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-chile-protests-russia/u-s-warns-russian-trolls-stoking-conflict-in-chile-idUSKBN1XA2OR>

10 See on this e.g. these essays by Michael Pröbsting: Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“. The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia – A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism, 21 April 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syria-great-power-rivalry-and-the-failure-of-the-left/>; Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference. The failure of sectarian “anti-imperialism” in the West: Some general considerations from the Marxist point of view and the example of the democratic revolution in Libya in 2011, Autumn 2012, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/liberation-struggle-and-imperialism/>. The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements, and articles on the ongoing Syrian Revolution that can be accessed on a special sub-section of this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/af-rica-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>.

11 Elisseos Vagenas: The Military-Political Equation in Syria, (Extensive excerpts from the article published in “Kommunistiki Epitheorisi”, the political-theoretical journal of the CC of the KKE, issue 1 of 2016), <https://inter.kke.gr/en/articles/>

[THE-MILITARY-POLITICAL-EQUATION-INSYRIA/](https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/)

12 See e.g. our articles on the Global Trade War which are collected in a special sub-page on the RCIT's website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>; for an extensive study of the Great Power rivalry see e.g. our book by 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2019. The book can be read online or downloaded for free here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>. For the RCIT's analysis of China and Russia as imperialist Great Powers we refer readers to the literature mentioned in the special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

13 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Global Popular Uprisings: Beijing Calls West to Jointly Defend “the Rule of Law”. Central organ of the ruling Stalinist party reiterates the regime's counter-revolutionary position, 30 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/global-popular-uprisings-beijing-calls-west-to-jointly-defend-the-rule-of-law/>

14 See e.g. John Geddie, Jessie Pang: Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters rally for Catalan separatists, October 24, 2019 / <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests/hong-kong-protesters-to-rally-in-support-of-catalan-activists-idUSKBN1X308F>; Holmes Chan: ‘Fight against oppression’: Hong Kong and Catalan protesters hold parallel solidarity rallies, 25 October 2019 <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/10/25/fight-oppression-hong-kong-catalan-protesters-hold-parallel-solidarity-rallies/>

15 See e.g. Ghalia Alwani: Lebanon protests also bring Syrians, Palestinians out onto the streets, October 24, 2019 <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/10/palestinians-syrians-participate-in-lebanon-protests.html>

# Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers

# Global Popular Uprisings: Beijing Calls West to Jointly Defend “the Rule of Law”

Central organ of the ruling Stalinist party reiterates the regime’s counter-revolutionary position

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30.10.2019

A few days ago, we reported about the denunciation of the global wave of class struggles by the Stalinist-Capitalist regime in China. Their leading representative in Hong Kong has called the mass protests in Hong Kong and all over the world as a “virus worse than SARS” which could “plunge civilisation as a whole into calamity and no country would stay immune.”<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday, the regime reiterated this counter-revolutionary stance. This becomes evident from an article in the “Global Times”. This daily newspaper is the international English-language edition of People’s Daily – the central organ of the ruling “Communist” Party of China. Titled “HK rioters set bad example for the West”, the Stalinist paper appeals to the Western imperialists to recognize the global wave of class struggles – from Hong Kong to Chile – as a common enemy.<sup>2</sup>

The very first sentences make already clear that, faced with the popular upsurges around the world, the capitalist regime in Beijing find itself on the opposite side of the barricades: “Rioters in Hong Kong have set bad examples affecting the globe. Cities such as London in the United Kingdom, Catalonia in Spain and Santiago in Chile have recently been through radical violent protests and confrontations between protesters and police. Western countries used to believe their lands are immune to Hong Kong-style “color revolution.” However, in the era of globalization when the internet is so developed, direct interaction between young people from different places has continuously broken this immunity. Despite the differences in topics and specific legal orders, youngsters in London, Catalonia and Santiago have imitated the full range of tactics of the Hong Kong rioters in a short time, posing serious threats to the rule of law and social order in their countries. The destruction of the rule of law in one place will inevitably bring about a chain reaction. Imitators will take it for granted that they are able to do whatever Hong Kong rioters can do; the rule of law in Hong Kong can be damaged and so can that of their own countries.”

This introduction sets already the central theme of the article: the defence of the “rule of law” by any means necessary. (Characteristically, the reactionary phrase “rule of law” is repeated 8 times in an article with less than 800 words!)

It is hardly necessary at this place to explain that “the rule of law” means nothing else but the rule of law as it the imposed by the ruling class, i.e. the bourgeoisie. Law is not something which stands above classes but which rather serves the interests of the dominating class. Marx made this unmistakably clear. In Volume III of his famous *Capital*, he wrote:

„It is furthermore clear that here as always it is in the interest of the ruling section of society to sanction the existing order as law and to legally establish its limits given through usage and tradition. Apart from all else, this, by the way, comes about of itself as soon as the constant reproduction of the basis of the existing order and its fundamental relations assumes a regulated

and orderly form in the course of time. And such regulation and order are themselves indispensable elements of any mode of production, if it is to assume social stability and independence from mere chance and arbitrariness.”<sup>3</sup>

As we have elaborated in various documents in the past weeks, the huge global upsurge of class struggles is part of a dramatic shift in the world situation. We have entered a “pre-68” phase.<sup>4</sup> The elder generation among the readers will remember that in the 1960s, in a period of a worldwide youth radicalization, the capitalist rulers lamented that the young people no longer respect the “values and authorities of the society”. China’s ruling imperialists share exactly the same outlook! The *Global Times* moans: “Hong Kong’s extreme social movement has become a paradigm that was duplicated in Western countries. This has triggered structural decline in value and authority of rule of law around the world.”

The article concludes with an impassioned plea to the Western imperialists to “jointly safeguard the core values of the rule of law and multilateral global trade order.”

“This dangerous and radical pattern is not a rational process of normal competition between countries, but rather an anti-globalization game dominated by the extreme hawks and intelligence agencies of the West. They attempt to reshuffle the global power and interests through extreme riots, retrieving the benefits they lost in the normal global competitive order in this extremely unethical and unscrupulous sinful way. In short, in the face of the impact of extreme social movements on global governance and the rule of law, political leaders and people of all countries should be sober and conscious and jointly safeguard the core values of the rule of law and multilateral global trade order. We believe that after this round of riots in Hong Kong and its spillovers, people around the world will cherish the core values of the rule of law and be more convinced that only global cooperative governance and common development are the correct path to resolve all conflicts arising from globalization.”

All this reactionary garbage should not come as a surprise. The formal commitment of the ruling party to the ideology of “communism” has the same significance like the formal commitment of the Catholic bishops to the teachings of the *New Testament* or of Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Salman to the teachings of the *Koran*. In other words, it is a hypocritical commitment with no meaning at all!

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has explained for a long time that China has become a capitalist country many years ago.<sup>5</sup> We have elaborated in a number of studies that China has not only become capitalist but that it has even emerged as a leading imperialist Great Power with a strong monopoly bourgeoisie.<sup>6</sup> The rivalry between Washington and Beijing is not based on “ideological differences” but on opposing interests as Great Powers – similarly to the rivalry between Britain and German before World War I or the U.S. and Japan before WWII.<sup>7</sup>

Hence, the Stalinist and Bolivarian “friends of China” who vigorously defend China as a “socialist” or a “progressive” state are, in fact, servants of Chinese imperialism. They are on the other side of the barricade and revolutionaries around the world must combat their influence in the workers and popular movements.

We note in passing that Beijing’s passionate call to the Western imperialists to jointly defend the “rule of law and multilateral global trade order” reminds us to similar public appeals of Libya’s long-time dictator Muammar Gaddafi during the beginning of the Arab Revolution in spring 2011. When the supposedly “left-wing, anti-imperialist” Gaddafi was faced with the wave of popular uprisings, he publicly denounced the mass protests in neighboring Tunisia which had brought down the long-time pro-Western dictator Ben Ali. Two weeks after the overthrow of Ben Ali, Gaddafi praised him and denounced the people. *The Electronic Intifada* issued a report about a speech made by Gaddafi in February 2011: “Gaddafi turned to pay homage to Ben Ali, whom he refers to as “Zine”: ‘I do not know anyone from Bourguiba [Tunisia’s first post-independence president] to Zine, but Zine for me is the best for Tunisia. He was the one who gave Tunisia pride of place [in terms of economic growth]; I don’t care whether you like him or not, whether you’re against him or not; I tell you the truth, regardless; do you think that Zine gives me money, glory or any kind of reward for saying this? He gives me nothing, but I tell you the truth. I’m usually candid with the Arab public, pointing out the truth to them. No one is better than Zine at the moment. What I wish is not for Zine to remain in power till 2014 [which is one of the concessions/promises Ben Ali made in his third and last speech before his flight to Saudi Arabia] but for him to remain in power for life, okay! If anyone close to Zine is corrupt or if Zine himself is corrupt, they should stand trial. Bring your evidence and try them; this is usually a normal practice. But it’s inadmissible that whenever there is corruption, we burn our country and kill our children at night. Ala Tunis al-salaam.’”<sup>8</sup>

Irrespective of all rivalry, the “left-wing” bourgeois dictator Gaddafi understood that his class brothers are the rulers in other Arab countries and that the protesting Arab people are their common enemy. It is the same with the Great Powers. Irrespective of inter-imperialist rivalries, Beijing recognizes that it shares a common interest with Washington and Brussels in containing and eliminating the “virus” (“worse than SARS”) of global popular upsurges.

The latest statement of China’s rulers confirms once more that revolutionaries must oppose all imperialist Great Powers. As the RCIT has explained repeatedly, it is impossible to build an authentic revolutionary socialist international without recognizing the imperialist character not only of the Western Great Powers (U.S., EU, and Japan) but also of the new Eastern Great Powers (Russia and China). Only on such a basis is it possible to build a Revolutionary World Party which links solidarity with the current global popular upsurge with a program of international socialist revolution. The RCIT calls revolutionary activists around the world to join us in building such a Revolutionary World Party!<sup>9</sup>

## Footnotes

1 Michael Pröbsting: Beijing: Global Popular Uprising “Worse Than SARS”. Leading Chinese diplomat hysterically denounces the mass protests in Hong Kong and around the world, 25 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/beijing-global-popular-uprising-worse-than-sars/>

2 Tian Feilong: HK rioters set bad example for the West, *Global Times*, 2019/10/29 <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1168385.shtml>

3 Karl Marx: CAPITAL, Vol. III, MECW Vol. 37, pp. 779-780

4 See on this e.g. the following essays by Michael Pröbsting: Are We Nearing a New “68 Moment”? A massive upsurge of global class struggle in the midst of a dramatic shift in the world situation, 22 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/are-we-nearing-a-new-68-moment/>; Another Great Recession of the Capitalist World Economy Has Begun. The economic crisis is an important factor in the current dramatic shift in the world situation, 19 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/another-great-recession-of-the-capitalist-world-economy-has-begun/>; The Gang Leaders of Western Counterrevolution Are Faltering. Some observations on an interesting historic moment in the world situation, 25 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/the-gang-leaders-of-western-counterrevolution-are-faltering/>. For a general background we refer to the *World Perspectives 2019* document of the RCIT: *World Perspectives 2019: Heading Towards a Volcanic Political Eruption. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries*, 2 March 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2019/>

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# Beijing: Global Popular Uprising “Worse Than SARS”

## Leading Chinese diplomat hysterically denounces the mass protests in Hong Kong and around the world

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25.10.2019

A leading representative of China’s ruling class made a very telling statement about the popular uprising in Hong Kong and the spreading wave of global mass protests. Xie Feng, commissioner at China’s ministry of foreign affairs in Hong Kong, spoke at a conference in the city on 24 October. He condemned the popular upsurge for democratic rights in a tirade of hate.

As it is well-known, these youth-led mass protests dominate political life in Hong Kong since 9 June. Despite brutal police repression and threats by the Beijing regime to send the army to crack down, hundreds of thousands of people continue to march courageously on the streets. The RCIT has stated its support for this democratic struggle since the beginning.<sup>1</sup>

### “Civilisation as a whole would be plunged into calamity”

China’s top diplomat in Hong Kong said: “*The true motive of the opposition in Hong Kong and the foreign forces behind them is to mess up the city, overthrow the legitimate government ... and ultimately destroy ‘one country, two systems’ by turning Hong Kong into an independent or semi-independent political entity.*” He warned that “*black hands*” were behind the mass movement and that the democratic demands, like their opposition to the now-withdrawn extradition bill, were merely a pretext for insurrection.<sup>2</sup>

In his hate-filled speech, Xie hysterically spoke about the city’s “*virus of street violence*”, adding that it was more deadly than the “*severe acute respiratory syndrome*” (SARS) virus which caused 299 deaths in Hong Kong in 2003. “*The virus of street violence knows no boundaries or limits. It is highly susceptible to being complicated by other viruses such as populism, separatism and extremism, developing into the tumour of terrorism. (...) From Spain to the UK to Chile, protesters are threatening to copy Hong Kong. Should the Pandora’s box of street violence be opened ... civilisation as a whole would be plunged into calamity and no country would stay immune.*”

He concluded his remarkable speech with an appeal to the “*international community*”, i.e. the ruling classes of other Great Powers. “*The international community cannot afford to remain silent, sit idly by or gloat over the unrest in Hong Kong,*” he said, calling on the world to help maintain prosperity and stability in the city.

### What does Xie’s speech reveal?

Xie’s speech is very telling for several reasons. First, it underlines the panic-stricken state of the China’s ruling class. While it is true that the popular upsurge has been limited to Hong Kong – a region of more than 7 million people – until now, Beijing evidently fears that the “*virus*” might spread to the mainland.

Secondly, the hysterical language demonstrates that Beijing is preparing for a military crackdown of the popular revolt. As we have warned since some time, the regime plans to violently suppress the mass protests – preferably

by the Hong Kong forces alone, but with PLA forces if necessary.

Thirdly, China’s ruling class (correctly) views the mass protests in Hong Kong as part of a global wave of popular upsurge (“*from Spain to Chile*”). In dramatic words, it warns the rulers of other capitalist states of the consequences of these global mass protests (“*civilisation as a whole would be plunged into calamity and no country would stay immune*”).

As we have elaborated in a recently published essay, the Hong Kong mass protests are indeed part of a global upswing of class struggles which amounts to a kind of “*pre-68 period*”.<sup>3</sup> In fact, this global wave of mass movements is a crucial feature of the dramatic shift in the world situation which we are currently facing.<sup>4</sup>

There is also an increasing understanding among activists around the world that the popular upsurges in the different countries have a common bond and that they should support each other. Yesterday, for example, about 3,000 people in Hong Kong staged a rally in solidarity with the mass protests in Catalunya. People waved Catalan flags and banners urging “*a fight for freedom together*”. At the same, time there was also a small rally in Barcelona expressing support for their brothers and sisters in Hong Kong.<sup>5</sup>

### Stalinism and Chinese imperialism

Fourthly, this statement reveals once more very clearly the character of China’s ruling class. While Stalinists and other pseudo-leftists stupidly claim that China is a “*socialist*” or at least a “*progressive*” state, Xie’s speech demonstrates the opposite. It shows that China is dominated by a capitalist class which views its interests as similar to their class counterparts in other bourgeois states. Xie understands very clearly that all these protests around the world are the result of the same “*virus*” and that “*we*”, i.e. the ruling classes of the imperialist Great Powers, must stand together in order to save “*civilisation*”.

This confirms once more the analysis of the RCIT that capitalism has been restored in China long ago.<sup>6</sup> In fact, China has become a leading imperialist Great Power which channels the long-time hegemony of U.S. imperialism.<sup>7</sup>

We are under no illusion that the Stalinists and other “*friends of China*” will be able to recognize that they effectively support – under the banner of “*socialism*” and “*anti-imperialism*” – the ruling class of one imperialist Great Power against its rivals. They remain, as the RCIT has pointed out repeatedly, servants of Chinese imperialism.

We emphasize once more that it is impossible to build an authentic revolutionary socialist international without recognizing the imperialist character not only of the Western Great Powers (U.S., EU, and Japan) but also of the new Eastern Great Powers (Russia and China). Likewise, it is impossible to advance in building a Revolutionary World Party without linking solidarity with the current global popular upsurge with a program of international



socialist revolution. The RCIT calls revolutionary activists around the world to join us in building such a Revolutionary World Party!

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## Books of the RCIT

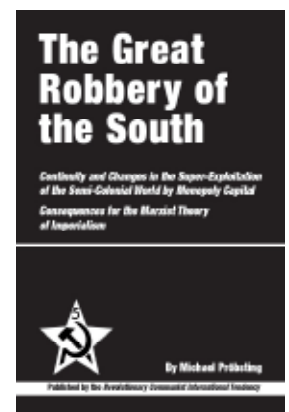
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



## The Revolution in Iraq Continues

By the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 12 November 2019

**W**e live in a pre-revolutionary period around the world, a period we characterize as a pre 68'. In country after country, the class struggle is sharpening. The immediate cause for the upsurge of the different struggles can be different but behind all of these struggles is the revolt of the forces of production against the relationship of production, namely the revolt against the control of the world economy by the imperialists, using their local servants.

*"The growing accumulation of the world's wealth shows that the 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people, who make up the poorest half of the planet's population. According to Oxfam report a wealth tax on the 1% would raise an estimated \$418bn (£325bn) a year – enough to educate every child not in school and provide healthcare that would prevent 3 million deaths."* (1)

The revolutionary struggle began in 2010, following the economic crisis of 2008, in the Middle East in what is known as the Arab Spring. When the revolutionary struggle in Egypt was defeated by the military backed by the USA in 2013, the capitalists around the world felt secure once again. Now they are afraid once again. Even capitalist economists are saying that the world economy is in growing crisis.

*"The world is sleepwalking towards a fresh economic and financial crisis that will have devastating consequences for the democratic market system, according to the former Bank of England governor Mervyn King".... He added that the US would suffer a "financial Armageddon" if its central bank – the Federal Reserve – lacked the necessary firepower to combat another episode similar to the subprime mortgage sell-off...Citing the US-China trade war, riots in Hong Kong, problems in key emerging countries such as Argentina and Turkey, the growing tensions between France and Germany over the future direction of the euro, and the increasingly bitter political conflict in the US at a time when the willingness of the US to act as the world's policeman was disappearing."* (2)

The Arab revolution has raised its wonderful head again like the Phoenix in Algeria, Lebanon and Iraq in the context of world revolutionary movement. For the imperialists, whether they are in the USA, Russia, China, Japan, or the EU, their urgent need is to crash the revolutionary movement. The interest of the international working class is to crash the imperialists and their servants. As Lenin said: *"For humanity to live imperialism must die"*.

If in the past the USA and Western imperialism controlled the Middle East, today Russian imperialism, using its local allies like Iran, is the strongest imperialist in the Middle East and at the same time Chinese imperialists are deeply involved in the exploitation of the working class. *"China has emerged as Iraq's number one trading partner and Iraq as China's third-leading source of oil after Saudi Arabia and Russia. Upon arriving in Beijing on September 19 at the head of a 55-member delegation, Iraq Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi described the visit to China as heralding a "quantum leap" in bilateral relations. The five-day visit culminated in the signing of eight wide-ranging memoranda of understanding (MoUs), a framework credit agreement, and the announcement of plans for Iraq to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)." (3)* At the

same time the American soldiers that left Syria are sent to western Iraq.

The revolutionary mass movement in Iraq that began on October 1<sup>st</sup> demanding the resignation of the government of Adel Abdul Mahdi, is uniting people from different religious background against the regime which was imposed after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq founded on a sectarian confessional system. In spite of the killing by the army that uses live ammunition, our brave brothers and sisters continue the uprising. So far the army killed at least 270 people and wounded hundreds of the protesters.

The government of Iraq is composed of two blocks. One of them is the Shia Islamist Sadrist Integrity Party led by the populist Al Sadr in a coalition with the Iraqi Communist Party. The other one led by pro-Iranian Hadi al-Amiri. The Communist party true to its reformist nature does not struggle for a socialist revolution and does not call for a workers and poor peasants government but like Sadr it call for a "new government". (4)

The struggle of the masses in Iraq is a class struggle between those who have enriched themselves since the American invasion toppled Saddam Hussein, and those who are struggling to feed their families and to have clean water, electricity, work.

The Sunnis, Shiites and the Kurds do not support any more their (mis)leadership. The protests against the Shia-led government have come from the central and southern provinces of Iraq, which in the past supported Iranian influence in Iraq. Today they want to remove Iran and disperse its corrupted militias. The Kurdish leadership does not support the revolutionary struggle but the Kurdish people do.

Like in Lebanon, Iran is using crude demagoguery that blames Israel, U.S and Saudi Arabia for the uprising.

*"A senior Iranian official has called for peace and non-interference in Iraq and Lebanon, blaming the US, Saudi Arabia and Israel for fomenting unrest in the two Arab countries. Mahmoud Vaezi, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian president, told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday that "the US, Saudi Arabia, certain regional countries and the Zionist regime have been riding a wave of popular demands" and providing financial support to foreign forces, saying such policies harmed both the Iraqi and the Lebanese nations. "The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance has always been that governments should pay heed to public demands and the demands should be put forward in such a way that will not lead to disorder, commotion, destruction or the killing and injuring of people," Vaezi added. "Our advice has always been a call for peace and stopping interference by foreign forces [in these countries] that seek to advance their own goals and weaken the present governments and ... depict authorities and legal parties as corrupt," he noted."* (5)

The spontaneous movement is led by groups mostly of the working class and the professional middle class that are not affiliated with any party. This spontaneous movement lacks a revolutionary leadership and for this reason the revolution cannot win unless a revolutionary leadership of the working class is forged. But the masses can learn many important lessons that will advance the political consciousness for the next round.

So far the masses have learned some important lessons. These include: It is not only the president or the Prime Minister have to be removed but the entire political system that is subordinated to imperialism and regional powers that serve one or another imperialism. The generals and the high officers are defending the ruling class while the sympathy of the simple soldiers is with the revolution. There is a need for new non-sectarian constitution to unite all the exploited and the oppressed. These are important democratic demands. What is missing is to connect these demands with socialist demands. What is needed to learn is the strategy of the Permanent Revolution and the transitional program leading to an armed socialist revolution. The demand of technocrat government is an illusion as it can serve only the capitalist class and its masters. An illusion that must be overcome and replaced by the demand of a workers and poor peasants government. What is needed is to adopt the strategy of the Permanent Revolution.

### The Strategy of the Permanent Revolution

In "What is the Permanent Revolution? Basic Postulates" Trotsky explained:

*"With regard to countries with a belated bourgeois development, especially the colonial and semi-colonial countries, the theory of the permanent revolution signifies that the complete and genuine solution of their tasks of achieving democracy and national emancipation is conceivable only through the dictatorship of the proletariat as the leader of the subjugated nation, above all of its peasant masses.*

*Not only the agrarian, but also the national question assigns to the peasantry – the overwhelming majority of the population in backward countries – an exceptional place in the democratic revolution. Without an alliance of the proletariat with the peas-*

*antry the tasks of the democratic revolution cannot be solved, nor even seriously posed. But the alliance of these two classes can be realized in no other way than through an irreconcilable struggle against the influence of the national-liberal bourgeoisie.*

*No matter what the first episodic stages of the revolution may be in the individual countries, the realization of the revolutionary alliance between the proletariat and the peasantry is conceivable only under the political leadership of the proletariat vanguard, organized in the Communist Party. This in turn means that the victory of the democratic revolution is conceivable only through the dictatorship of the proletariat which bases itself upon the alliance with the peasantry and solves first of all the tasks of the democratic revolution.*

*The dictatorship of the proletariat which has risen to power as the leader of the democratic revolution is inevitably and, very quickly confronted with tasks, the fulfillment of which is bound up with deep inroads into the rights of bourgeois property. The democratic revolution grows over directly into the socialist revolution and thereby becomes a permanent revolution.*

*The conquest of power by the proletariat does not complete the revolution, but only opens it. Socialist construction is conceivable only on the foundation of the class struggle, on a national and international scale. This struggle, under the conditions of an overwhelming predominance of capitalist relationships on the world arena, must inevitably lead to explosions, that is, internally to civil wars and externally to revolutionary wars. Therein lies the permanent character of the socialist revolution as such, regardless of whether it is a backward country that is involved, which only yesterday accomplished its democratic revolution, or an old capitalist country which already has behind it a long epoch of democracy and parliamentarism.*

*The completion of the socialist revolution within national limits is unthinkable. One of the basic reasons for the crisis in bourgeois society is the fact that the productive forces created by it*

# 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.

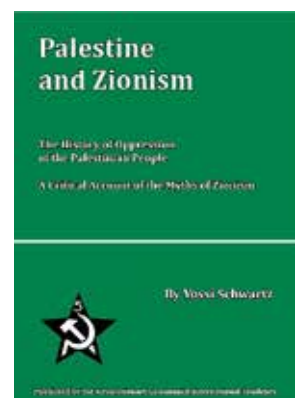
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership 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/>



can no longer be reconciled with the framework of the national state. From this follows on the one hand, imperialist wars, on the other, the utopia of a bourgeois United States of Europe. The socialist revolution begins on the national arena, it unfolds on the international arena, and is completed on the world arena. Thus, the socialist revolution becomes a permanent revolution in a newer and broader sense of the word; it attains completion, only in the final victory of the new society on our entire planet.

Insofar as capitalism has created a world market, a world division of labour and world productive forces, it has also prepared world economy as a whole for socialist transformation.

Different countries will go through this process at different tempos. Backward countries may, under certain conditions, arrive at the dictatorship of the proletariat sooner than advanced countries, but they will come later than the latter to socialism.

A backward colonial or semi-colonial country, the proletariat of which is insufficiently prepared to unite the peasantry and take power, is thereby incapable of bringing the democratic revolution to its conclusion. Contrariwise, in a country where the proletariat has power in its hands as the result of the democratic revolution, the subsequent fate of the dictatorship and socialism depends in the last analysis not only and not so much upon the national productive forces as upon the development of the international socialist revolution."

### The Centrists and the Revolution in Iraq

Revolutionary events are a great litmus paper which shows the real nature of centrist organizations. These petit bourgeois organization wavering between the two main classes are caught in the wheels of history without being able to show the way forward for the international working class and the oppressed. This is very clear in the case of Iraq.

The British SWP simply describes the protest without offering any program and strategy to win the revolution. (6) The CWI including their section in Israel does not bother to relate specifically to the revolution in Lebanon and Iraq. The IMT of Woods published an article in support of the revolution and says that: "One of the main weaknesses of the movement is its lack of organisation, leadership and a clear programme. This is vital to its success and to satisfy the demands of the masses." (7) However they do not put forward such a program nor the strategy to win the socialist program. The League for the Fifth International while supporting the revolution also does not offer a program and strategy to win the revolution. Instead in an article on Iraq they conclude: "The real question is can they find the strategies and the leadership to make a revolution that puts power into their hands, creates a working class democracy and makes counter-revolution, by the generals, capitalists and imperialism, impossible". (8) However, the necessity to build a revolutionary party is not mentioned once in the article, just the abstract need for "leadership". If the workers and the oppressed can win without a revolutionary leadership what is the reason for the existence of the League? The Spartacists of Robertson do not find the time to relate to Iraq as they are busy in defending imperialist China, which they claim is still a deformed workers state.

FOR A GENERAL STRIKE TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORGANIZES SELF DEFENSE

FOR A WORKERS AND POOR PEASANTS GOVERNMENT

FOR A REVOLUTIONAT WORKING CLASS PARTY

FOR EXPROPRIATION OF THE BANKS AND THE INDUSTRY UNDER WORKERS CONTROL

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# NIGERIA: DOWN WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME OF MUHAMMADU BUHARI! FREE SOWORE, BAKARE AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigeria, 12th November, 2019*

Today marks the 4th time the Take-It-Back movement will stage anti-government protest hinged on five cardinal demands bordering on minimum wage; improvement of the general economy; the end to systemic corruption and the restoration of freedom of speech and unionism in Nigeria. The protests are being participated in several cities in Nigeria since the #RevolutionNow nationwide protests of August 5, 2019. This is without mentioning other demonstrations organized by other civil rights groups across the country since that time. However the today's protests and the demonstrations organized for the past few weeks have been given substantial momentum by the continued detention of the convener of the movement Omoyele Sowore and other activists like Olawale Bakare (Mandate) by the Department of State Services (DSS) which is in defiance of two standing court orders for their release. The duo were first granted bail on September 24th, at the Abuja High Court in Maitamah by Justice Taiwo Taiwo who had before then given the order for Sowore to be detained by the DSS for forty-five days after he was picked up on August 3, just two days before the #RevolutionNow protest of August 5th which he was to lead.

Olawale Bakare, on the other hand is the campus coordinator of the Take-It-Back movement in Osun State and was arrested by DSS operatives during the #RevolutionNow protest in Osogbo, the Osun state capital. Ever since all attempts of legal intercession for the duo has been abortive as the Buhari led regime has filed against them bogus charges ranging from treason/treasonable felony to money laundering to breach of public peace. All of these is due to the reactionary argument of the Nigerian ruling elite and their cronies in the media that the call for "revolution" is an attempt to stage a coup d'état against the Nigerian

government. Apart from these two, several other activists are in police detention, an example is the journalist Agba Jalingo who is from Cross River State and has been in police custody for more than two months for uncovering the 500 million naira corruption scandal of the incumbent governor of Cross Rivers State, Ben Ayade. Like Sowore and Bakare, Jalingo too is involved in a lengthy and agonizing court proceeding that is full of drama. He is being charged with similar offences of conspiracy, terrorism, treasonable felony and an attempt to topple the Cross Rivers State government

On two occasions the state prosecutors have brought in masked witnesses against the accused in the first case against Jalingo, in the second case against Sowore and Bakare (Mandate). Although the similarities in the cases are increasing both have the same ruling class character because even Jalingo was charged majorly for the same offences as Sowore and Mandate. The three "offenders" have remained unbailable since their detention either through blatant denial of bail applications by the High court in Calabar, Cross Rivers or by the Herculean and near insurmountable bail conditions which are on their own an infringement on human rights in the Abuja High Court. After the attempt by the DSS to stampede the court with masqueraded witnesses on November 7th ended in a fiasco the court was forced to grant bail to Sowore and Bakare as they managed to meet the stiff bail conditions but the DSS have refused to release them giving as an excuse that the court bailiff arrived by 3:30pm which is closing hours for them not minding that they abducted Sowore in Gestapo style by 1am at his hotel room in Lagos.

The trial of Jalingo today saw the restriction of journalists and pressmen from entering the court room or observing



## RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

# Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017*

**Introduction \* Foreign Exploiters – Out of Africa! \* The Wealth to Those Who Create It! Economic Freedom Now! \* Down with the Capitalist Dictatorships and Corrupt Pseudo-Democracies! \* Organize the Workers and Oppressed for the Mass Struggle! \* For a Government of Workers and Poor Peasants! For a Socialist Revolution! \* For Pan-African Unity! For the United Socialist States of Africa! \* For a United Front of Struggle! Overcome the Crisis of Leadership – Build a Revolutionary Party Nationally and Internationally! \* Appendix**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*

the proceedings. Even some members of the legal team were forced to leave the court room by two court guards and the clerk as they brought in the masquerade witness again. All of these and more have afforded Nigeria a high ranking position amongst the most hostile places for journalism and press freedom. At present, a student journalist, Alfred Olufemi, has been charged to court for reporting about misconducts in the work ethics of the staff of Hillcrest Agro-Allied Companies which is owned by Mrs Sarah Alade, the Special adviser to president Muhammadu Buhari on Finance and Economy. Sarah Alade is also the former Deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. The editor of NewsDigest (the online news platform used by Alfred), Gidado Yushau, has also been arrested alongside Adebowale Adekoya, the platform's professional webmaster. Yushau and Olufemi have been charged with criminal conspiracy and defamation and will have their next day in court come January 13th.

For us in the Vanguard, all these developments are the display of a frantic attempt by the Nigerian bourgeois ruling class to stabilize an already collapsed political order. The Nigerian ruling elite is entering its most vulnerable state, hence it must launch all artillery in its weaponry to forestall the prevalence of radical and revolutionary tendencies. However, at any rate, all these attacks can only promote chaos in the system and enhance the reawakening of the masses to their class role of dashing the capitalist system through a popular revolution. According to a publication; "A Downward Spiral" by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP);

*At least 36 Nigerian journalists were attacked between January and July 2019, with 30 of the attacks recorded during the 2019 general elections..... The attacks on the press during the elections included: illegal arrests and detention; harassment; physical attacks; denial of access; death of a journalist covering the elections in Delta State. The platform noted that the attacks were perpetrated by both thugs and state actors and were recorded mostly in the south-south, south-east, and north central part of the country....., the Bayelsa Government House photographer, Reginald Dei, was shot dead in his house on February 23 by gunmen in military uniform while waiting for the Presidential and National Assembly election results. "During this period, 44 other broadcast stations were sanctioned such as the Jay 101.5 FM, based in Jos, which was shut down for what the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) described as 'inciting broadcast' in a letter it sent to the station on March 2. In 2018, over 21 attacks were recorded with seven unlawful arrests, which include the arrest of PREMIUM TIMES' reporters, Samuel Ogundipe and Azezat Adedigba, by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on the order of the Inspector-General of Police. In 2017, PAT recorded 16 attacks and 3 deaths including the gruesome murder of Famous Giobaro of Bayelsa radio station, Glory FM 97.1, who was shot dead on April 16 (A Downward Spiral: How Federal & State Authorities are Tightening the Screws on Media Freedom in Nigeria pg23. For the list of media houses sanctioned see pg 25-28)*

Further indications to this brazen display of callousness by the APC government is expressed through the attempt to bribe, Deji Adeyanju, one of the lead protesters with 1 million naira to boycott the #OccupyDSS protest; the major demands of protests being freedom for Sowore and Bakare on 12th November in Abuja.

However the APC government is formulating its attack

on the media from disruptive and arbitrary forms to more concerted methods which is the major motive for the Hate Speech Bill that has just passed the first reading at the National Assembly. Besides the promulgation of repressive laws the Nigerian state is also working on the militarization of the whole country through a new military initiative termed "Operation Positive Identity" (OPI) to intimidate civil rights groups and Nigerians generally from taking part in public demonstrations and movements. The "Operation Positive Identity" was a direct response by the government to anticipated remonstrances that will emanate from flaunting court orders for the release of detained activists, albeit it is a veritable tool to hamper mass-based democracy if allowed to take root.

The Hate Speech Bill seeks to make short work of media rights and freedom of expression by flagrantly imposing capital punishments for hate speech 'offenders'. The provisions of the bill entails that a new government agency called the Independent National Commission for the Prohibition of Hate Speech be formed. It like every other draconian measure cited in this piece has a predecessor or precursor. It was first brought to the floor of the Red Chamber in March 2018 by the then Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate, Abdullahi Aliu Sabi, from Niger State he proposed in 2018 that a similar committee be set up for the man-hunt, although there are some slight differences in the names of the committees as the proposed committee was called National Commission for the Prohibition of Hate Speech. The only difference in the name being the "Independent" yet Nigerians should not be deceived by this as whatever commission constituted for this reason cannot be anymore independent than the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) who have become tools in the hands of incumbent regimes during ruling class in-fighting. The bill is captured by the reportage of The Guardian Newspaper Nigeria as follows:

*It was the 12th item on the Order Paper yesterday and was granted automatic first reading on the floor of the Senate. It stipulates: "Any person who commits an offence under this section shall be liable to life imprisonment and where the act causes any loss of life, the person shall be punished with death by hanging." On offences like harassment on the basis of ethnicity, racial contempt, the bill proposes not less than five-year jail term or a fine of not less than N10 million or both.*

*"A person who uses, publishes, presents, produces, plays, provides, distributes and /or directs the performance of, any material, written and/or visual which is threatening, abusive or insulting or involves the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour commits an offence if such a person intends thereby to stir up ethnic hatred, or having regard to all the circumstances, ethnic hatred is likely to be stirred up against any person or person from such an ethnic group in Nigeria."*

*According to the bill, "Conduct shall be regarded as having the effect specified in subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this Section if, having regard to all the circumstances, including in particular the perception of that other person, it should reasonably be considered as having that effect. "A person who subjects another to harassment on the basis of ethnicity commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to an imprisonment for a term not less than five years, or to a fine of not less than ten million naira, or to both."*

*The bill, according to its sponsor, is aimed at ensuring the elimination of all forms of hate speeches; promoting the elimination*

of all forms of hate speeches against persons or ethnic groups; as well as advising the Federal Government on the matter. Other situations which the bill condemns are when "a person subjects another to harassment on the basis of ethnicity for the purposes of this Section where, on ethnic grounds, he unjustifiably engages in a conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating that other person's dignity; or creating an intimidating, degrading, hostile, humiliating or offensive environment for the person subjected to the harassment." The commission will be headed by an executive chairperson to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the National Council of State, subject to the confirmation of at least two-thirds majority of the National Assembly.

This commission when set up will give unprecedented ease to the ruling class to conduct a systematic witch-hunt across the federation more successfully than the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS). In this case such a commission will be a broader non-partisan instrument to silence voices of dissent and pro-democracy than the likes of EFCC, DSS and SARS. The report continues;

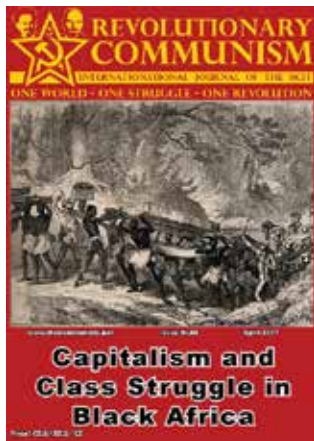
*Other functions of the commission include discouraging persons, institutions, political parties and associations from advocating or promoting discrimination or discriminatory practices through the use of hate speeches; promoting tolerance, understanding and acceptance of diversity in all aspects of national life and encouraging full participation by all ethnic communities in social, economic, cultural and political life of other communities. It is also to plan, supervise, coordinate and promote educational and training programmes to create public awareness, support, and advancement of peace and harmony among ethnic communities and racial groups. But the planned law is already eliciting criticism from some quarters.*

It goes without saying at this point that the Nigerian capi-

talist class is through the auspices of the National Assembly setting up a propaganda cum repression machinery to zombify Nigerians by panic and police tactics. This is a crucial feature of any authoritarian regime and it should be noted that such were used by Stalinist Russia to sustain the dictatorship and force blind loyalty on the workers for the regime. It will ultimately lead to conditions very similar to the organized mass torture of the Uyghur Muslims in China where the Uyghurs are forced to accept the Chinese state and its "ideals" by Xi regime. Or it may assume a form which tends toward the conversion of Kashmir into a concentration camp by the Modi government in India. The Nigerian military are already systematically implementing the gradual militarization of regions hostile to the regime with Operation Positive Identity, a mechanism being positioned for fascist style mass arrests of dissenting parties and ethnic groups.

Nigerians must not make the mistake of characterizing the present repressive state as a feature of the ruling All Progressive Congress, APC. Rather the events of the past few months must be correctly situated as the advent of the exacerbation of class interests between the ruler and the ruled in a capitalist system that is heading for the rocks. The behavior now displayed by the APC would have been replicated by its Siamese twin the PDP were they in power. Nigerians should not be too quick to cast aside the fact that the APC is only the offspring of failures of the PDP and all that they do are already laid down practices of the preceding party but on steroids. However some of the key members of the PDP like Atiku Abubakar, the presidential candidate in the recent elections, are out to 'critique' and 'expose' the Buhari administration as reported in the Guardian:

*"The contemplation of such laws is in itself not just hate speech,*



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but an abuse of the legislative process that will violate Nigerians' constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech. "Those behind the bill should wake up to the fact that Nigeria's democracy has survived its longest incarnation because those who governed this great nation between 1999 and 2015 never toyed with this most fundamental of freedoms. It is prudent to build upon the tolerance inherited from those years and not shrink the democratic space to satisfy personal and group interests" he advised."

In the real sense Atiku's claim that his party between 1999 to 2015 has never toyed with democracy is at best a hoax. In November 1999, shortly after transition to civilian government over 2,500 people were slaughtered by the Nigerian Army in the Odi Massacre sanctioned by the grand patron of the PDP and the then 'civilian' president Olusegun Obasanjo in whose administration Atiku Abubakar was vice president. Beyond this the PDP have in any case laid the foundations for the repression the Nigerian people now suffer either through collapsing the economy or by passing their fare share of repressive laws. One of which is the Cybercrime Prohibition Act of May 2015. The head count of journalists and media practitioners attacks before and after this law is endless but according to accounts from SERAP a few are brought to bare.

On March 28, 2014, a Columnist and an Editor with the Daily Sun newspaper, Ebere Wabara was abducted from his Aguda, Lagos home by policemen from the Abia State Command reportedly at the behest of the then Abia State Governor, Theodore Orji. Wabara was a staunch critic of the Governor and had used his articles to severely criticize the state Governor. On October 22, 2017, Mr Paul Ifere, a social media critic of the Governor of Cross Rivers State, Ben Ayade, was arrested and charged to court over his comments on his Facebook wall against the Governor. He was arraigned at Magistrate Court 1, Calabar. He was earlier arrested in Abuja and driven to Calabar to face a four-count charge. Chief Magistrate E. E. Edogi granted him bail. March 21, 2018, social media activist in Ebonyi State, Chika

Chika, who is known for criticising politicians in the State, was viciously attacked by unknown assailants. A day prior to the attack, he had raised an alarm on Facebook, alleging that some people had been sent to 'warn' him to desist from criticising some persons in the State. The attack took place at his residence in Abakaliki. He sustained injuries on his head and body during the attack.

It should be noted that all instances cited above are evils orchestrated and perpetrated by PDP governments yet in the immediate there's an on-going persecution on freedom of the press being sustained by a governor from our opposition party the PDP, the person of Ben Ayade, against Abga Jalingo a journalist has earlier mentioned.

In all the murder of Jamal Khashoggi by the Bin-Salman regime of Saudi Arabia marked the beginning of a resurgence of global attacks by right-wing regimes on freedom of speech, expression and the press such that similar attacks around the world are not by coincidence but are reactions to heightened chaos in the capitalist system hence Nigerians must recognize the historical significance of the present times with a global perspective and must link the current attacks by the Buhari government to the general resistance against imperialism, dictatorships and colonialism all around the world. Hate speech is a consequence of long term impoverishment and ill-education of the Nigerian masses. All forms of this vice in the society originates from the hardships that has been enforce on the plebs by the 56 year reign of the same extreme right dictators since Nigeria gained independence in 1960. Only a planned economy based on a workers' and poor peasant government can dissolve the economic contradictions which breed ethnic tensions and extreme nationalist/partisan tendencies.

To say that the authoritarian regime of president Buhari with consonance with his other counterparts in PDP has launched a war against the Nigerian masses is a state-

## RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- \* **"Azadi Kashmir": Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- \* **The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today**
- \* **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
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Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)

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ment which continues to claim practical value each day. The conglomerate of the ruling class has first unleashed an unprovoked attack on the people through state sponsored terrorism in which groups such as Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen have continued to slaughter Nigerians without restraints. Now they have come for the democratic rights of the Nigerian people through the Hate Speech Bill and the agenda of a military-police state.

To make matters worse the Buhari government has closed the borders for the past three months making life more unbearable for the many Nigerian workers. The border closure is just another example of the tussle of foreign and national capital for the economy just like Brexit process in Europe because months into the border closure after inflation in food prices has reached cut-throat levels for many Nigerians, the Buhari government is revealing plans to give the richest man in Africa, Alike Dangote, exclusive rites to rice farming. This is the same man who the Nigerian moguls own shares in his group of companies and have also given the license to erect a new petroleum refinery in Lagos after having crippled all state owned refineries. The border closure will in the long run serve to quarantine international media from reporting human rights abuses when OPI and the Hate Speech Commission swing into full action.

The current tactics used by the APC government are by no means new and they are as, we have emphasized before consistent with the features of any state tending towards fascism. Buhari is only following closely the steps of president Trump who has been hell-bent on building a wall across the southern border of the US

Leftists, revolutionaries and authentic socialists must with the Nigerian people be ready to wage an unending struggle against the authoritarian regime of president Buhari and all members of the Nigerian ruling class at all levels. To make reference to history all the current features have occurred at one time or the other. What we see now is only a repetition. In 2016/2017 Operation Python Dance (OPD) was launched against pro-Biafra separatist movement in South-eastern Nigeria. Now Nigerians are faced with Operation Positive Identity (OPI). The Cybercrime

Act was passed in 2015; now Nigerians are faced with the Hate Speech Bill. There has also been a resurgence of controversial cattle rearing policies such as Cattle Colony, Universal Grazing Bill and now Rural Grazing Bill (RUGA). The same way the Hate Speech Bill was almost passed last year.

We say that the struggle of the Nigerian people to preserve democracy and fight economic insolvency is one with the global uprisings of workers and people around the world from Chile to Ecuador to Venezuela to Bolivia to Iraq, Iran, Egypt Syria and Palestine. For us in the Vanguard, the struggle for democracy, economic emancipation and independence are intertwined phases of the war against imperialism and capitalism. Hence we call for a general anti-government strike of workers and the popular masses. The #OccupyDSS protests must be given a broader scope to cover the general demands for freedom of expression and the press; for immediate opening of all close borders and the stoppage of operation positive identity

For us an immediate general strike should ensue under the joint umbrella of civil rights groups, workers unions, and mass movements such as the Take-It-Back and CORE with the following slogans:

*Down with with the Hate Speech Bill! No to social media regulation! Free Sowore, Bakare, Jalingo and all political prisoners! Reject the Militarized/Police state! Down with Operation Positive Identity (OPI)! Defeat the Buhari/APC government!*

At the same time the RSV warns of any confidence or political support for the PDP! We call revolutionary activists to jointly fight with us!

*For a unitary struggle of all Nigerians at Home and in Diaspora to undermine the Buhari administration! For a workers and peasant militia to combat terrorism and the repressive state machinery!*

*Open all national borders! For an economy that is democratically control by peasant and workers councils! For international solidarity with all oppressed people of the world*

*For a revolutionary socialist party of Nigeria as a prelude to a United Socialist Republic of West Africa and the world!*

## Kashmiri Revolutionaries join the RCIT!

*Statement on Jammu Kashmir Revolutionary Socialists (Kashmir) becoming a sympathizing section of the RCIZ, 28.10.2019*

1. After a period of joint discussion and collaboration the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its Pakistani section welcome the *Jammu Kashmir Revolutionary Socialists* (JKRS) as a sympathizing section of the RCIT. The JKRS is a revolutionary socialist organization which is active under highly repressive conditions in both the Pakistani- as well as the Indian-occupied part of Kashmir.

2. The programmatic basis for the fusion constitutes the RCIT's Action Program for Pakistan (<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/pakistan-action-program/>), the RCIT's "Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation" <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/> as well as the RCIT Statement "India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's "Israel-Style" Attack!", <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-defend-the-kashmiri-people-against-modi-s-attack/>).

3. We agree in supporting the struggle of the Kashmiri people against the oppression by the Indian state as well as by Pakistan. We call for an *independent, united and socialist Kashmir*. We agree in opposing all imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan) as well as regional powers like India. We share the socialist perspective of the liberation struggle of the working class in Kashmir, Pakistan and India against the imperialist powers as well as against the local ruling capitalist class. The revolutionary struggle must aim for a voluntary *Socialist Federation of South Asia* which respects the right of national self-determination of all oppressed people!

4. We call upon revolutionaries in Kashmir, Pakistan and India to join us in our struggle to rebuild a Revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution in South Asia and around the world!

## The Only Way Is Self-Defense

By Yossi Schwartz, *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*, 29 October 2019

The violence committed by organized, as well as street crime, in the Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel communities, is a very serious problem. According to a police report published on October 3rd, 2019, there have been more than 70 killings this year, nearly as many as in the past two years combined and more than half of all murder victims nationwide.

There are a few questions to ask: why is there organized crime in the Arab communities? Why have these gangs been allowed to accumulate so many weapons and kill so many? Does the police have an interest in ending organized crime in the Arab communities? And assuming for a moment that the police wants to eliminate organized crime, is it even capable of disarming gangs? How to protect communities against such criminals?

Organized crime has always been an alternative way to accumulate wealth in a poverty stricken society. The poverty rate for Arab families increased to 49.2% in 2017 from 47.1% in 2016. [1] Since very few Palestinian citizens of Israel have been able to become mainstream capitalists by exploiting workers legally, crime became the answer.

The Arab middle class in Israel is, however, somewhat growing, but so is poverty. Prof. Haidar of the Hebrew University says: "The rate (of the middle class) has grown from 17% [of the Arab population] two decades ago to 27% today. There are still not a lot of wealthy people, only 3% fit that category, and the majority is still in the lower income brackets, but without a doubt it's a growing segment among the young, educated professionals." [2]

Thus while the Arab middle class may have illusions that the police will defend them, it is easy for the organized crime to recruit young poor people.

Until recently, most killing of Arabs by Arabs was ignored by the mass media. "If an Arab kills another Arab, the police don't care, it's only when the weapons make their way out of our communities does anyone pay attention," said Renin Oudeh Shawana, the director of the "Mustaqbal," or "Future," a youth program in Jaljuliya. Her relative was one of the two victims in 2007 of killings in the village following a disagreement between two gangs. After the shootings, police came to look for evidence, but never returned to follow up." [3]

Gun-Free Kitchen Tables Campaign, a coalition of women's organizations working to eliminate gun violence says: "most illegal firearms in Israel are actually registered to the army. According to Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, 90 percent of illegal firearms in the north of Israel can be traced back to the military. According to Irshaid, there are around 300,000 registered firearms in Israel, and they are mostly owned by law enforcement and Jewish citizens.

In 2013, police estimated around 400,000 unlicensed guns in Israel, and that most of them are owned by Palestinians citizens. The problem is that Israeli authorities treat violence in Arab communities as an internal Arab problem. All it would take is a single gunshot in a Jewish neighborhood of Tel Aviv and police would do everything in their power to find the perpetrator.

The state is directly responsible for the violence. Based on the organization's research, in addition to weapons

stolen or illegally purchased from the army, the primary source of weapons in the Arab community in Israel are those smuggled from Jordan, guns that were once legally licensed in Israel, and guns that were manufactured in the occupied territories. [4]

Since most of the weapons in the hands of the gangsters come from the army, we should ask how it is possible that the army does such a poor job of guarding its own weapons. Is it possible that the army allows this theft so Arabs kill Arabs? In addition, is it more than possible that the police collaborate with gangs as it was proven in other countries?

Ayman Odeh, the head of the Joint List, says that the racist government has neglected the Arabs and the police have abandoned the Arab neighborhoods to gangs and criminals. He demands more and effective policing.

The police reject the allegations of indifference and claim that the police are doing everything they can to stem the violence. However, to succeed in disarming the gangs, the police says, local leaders need to do more to cooperate with police and prevent violence.

In other words, the police are blaming the Arab citizens of Israel for the gang violence. Erdan, the Public Security Minister, decided to allocate 620 additional police officers to the Arab communities. A decision was also made to transfer responsibility for handling organized crime among Israeli Arabs to the Lahav 433 Major Crimes Unit.

It is the same unit that a former top police corruption investigator was convicted of failing to report an attempted bribe offered to him by a well-known rabbi. Former police deputy commissioner Menashe Arviv, who headed the national police force's top corruption and fraud investigative body Lahav 433, was convicted of the relatively minor crime of "failure to carry out an official duty." The conviction comes as part of a plea bargain that saw fraud and breach of trust charges excised from the indictment. [5] This is not the first nor the last time that the police are involved in criminal activity.

Ayman Odeh is right when he says that racist policy of the government is responsible for the problem. So what makes him think that under popular pressure, all of a sudden, the police will change its policy and start defending the Arabs?!

In reality calling for more policing of the Arabs citizens of Israel will just open the door to more police violence against Arabs. It is a dangerous reformist illusion to believe that the Zionist Police will eliminate Arab organized crime.

The Israeli police force has a long history of using excessive and even murderous violence against Arab citizens of Israel. To give but a few examples: the 1956 Kafr Qasim massacre, the 1973 "Land Day" massacre and the October 2000 massacre. We ask Odeh: what has changed? Do you believe that demonstrations of 20,000 Arabs will change the nature of the Zionist Police?

This attempt to pressure the Zionist police to defend the Palestinian citizens of Israel is a continuation of the line of recommending that the Blue and White party should form the new government. This party is led by general Gantz

who was in charge of massacring 2000 Palestinian in Gaza during "Operation Pillar of Defense" in 2012.

This position reflects the illusion of the Arab middle class that it is possible to be integrated into the Zionist society. Similar illusion Odeh and Tibby shared with the leadership of the Kurds that they can rely on US imperialism and now when they were deserted by Trump they join the army of Assad the butcher and Russian imperialism.

The police is a very important element of the state apparatus. Contrary to the bourgeois propaganda that the state was formed to create a peaceful social order for the citizens, the police is a brutal force created to defend the ruling class against the working class and the oppressed.

Yet reformists, centrists and petit bourgeois nationalists tell the exploited and the oppressed that they can trust the police to protect them from criminal gangs and fascist thugs. According to liberal and reformist theories the police is in a contradictory position. Under the pressures of the ruling class on one hand and the working class and oppressed on the other, it may act sometimes to protect the ruling class but in other times to protect the oppressed.

To give two examples: Prior to the Nazis taking power in Germany the SPD (German Social Democrats) refused to mobilize the youth movement against the Nazi Hooligans because they trusted that the state would defend them. This of course did not happen. Instead they were sent to concentration camps. Prior to the Nazis taking over Austria and Germany, sections of the police considered themselves "socialists". However, when the fascists in Austria were ready to seize power by a coup, the police joined them and attacked the workers. In Germany, they joined the storm troopers.

Following Trump's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), agents have been dragging undocumented immigrants to deportation centers. Kshama Sawant, a leading member of the right wing centrist CWI and a member of Seattle's city council, at a rally against the deportations

on February 17, 2017 stated:

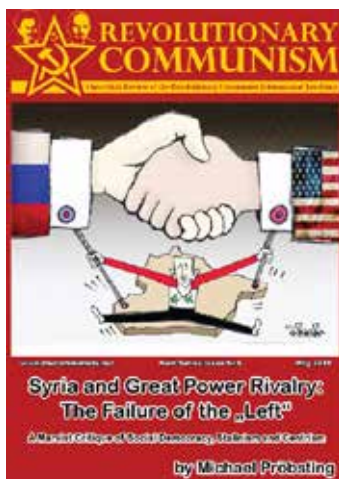
"I'm urging Mayor Murray – if this is a sanctuary city – do not use Seattle police against peaceful protesters. Deploy Seattle police to block ICE from seizing immigrants." [6]

Spreading illusions in the police is the opposite position to Marx, Lenin or Trotsky.

On this question Lenin wrote: "On the one hand, the bourgeois, and particularly the petty-bourgeois, ideologists, compelled under the weight of indisputable historical facts to admit that the state only exists where there are class antagonisms and a class struggle, "correct" Marx in such a way as to make it appear that the state is an organ for the reconciliation of classes. According to Marx, the state could neither have arisen nor maintained itself had it been possible to reconcile classes. From what the petty-bourgeois and philistine professors and publicists say, with quite frequent and benevolent references to Marx, it appears that the state does reconcile classes. According to Marx, the state is an organ of class rule, an organ for the oppression of one class by another; it is the creation of "order", which legalizes and perpetuates this oppression by moderating the conflict between classes. In the opinion of the petty-bourgeois politicians, however, order means the reconciliation of classes, and not the oppression of one class by another; to alleviate the conflict means reconciling classes and not depriving the oppressed classes of definite means and methods of struggle to overthrow the oppressors". [7]

You do not have to be a revolutionary Communist to understand the class nature of the police. You have only to look with open eyes at the role of the police.

In the US police officers kill every year at least 1000 people, especially people of color. According to a 2016 study published in *Injury Prevention*, the police killed or injured over 55,000 people in 2012; the police-brutality monitoring website Mapping Police Violence reports that over 1,000 people have been killed by police in 2017. Previous stud-



## Publications of the RCIT

# Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation  
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –  
A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism*

**Introduction \* The liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Assad retains its just character \* Against all imperialist aggressors! \* Old and new Great Powers \* The Ex-Stalinist turned social democrats: "God save the United Nations" \* The Stalinists (and some caricatures in Trotskyist camouflage): social-imperialist servants of Assad and Putin \* The Morenoite LIT, UIT and FLTI: the heart on the right place but not their brains \* CWI and FT: failure to understand the imperialist nature of China and Russia \* CWI / SWP(UK) / FT: refusing to support the Syrian Revolution \* Conclusion \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

ies have found that the police disproportionately use excessive force, search, and kill people of color, particularly black people”.

...“In 1983, City University of New York School of Law professor Sidney L. Harring published *Policing a Class Society: The Experience of American Cities 1895–1915*, which addresses the history of working-class repression by the police. In *Policing a Class Society*, Harring argues that police have not historically “served and protected” the general population, but rather violently divided the working class and protected the interests of the upper classes. Harring uses Milwaukee and Chicago as case studies to illustrate repressive tactics of the police during the late 19th century and turn of the 20th century.

Upon the release of his book’s second edition, *Pacific Standard* interviewed Harring about the relationship between class, race, and the police; working-class resistance to police repression; and the role of pop culture in signaling messages about the police.

“Looking at the trajectory of policing in working-class communities from the early 1800s until today, does it seem that policing is getting worse for working people, or has its relationship to the community remained steady?”

“I think in general it’s worse. Partly it’s because there are more guns, more technology, and better police databases. It’s more technocratic and militaristic. And as far as strikes, if we even have strikes, they’re pervasively policed.” [8]

The only way to fight organized crime is self-defense by the Palestinians themselves. But for this it is necessary to form a revolutionary Palestinian leadership.

### Some Examples of Self Defense

There are examples of workers and oppressed nationalities who came to realize that they cannot rely on the police to defend them, so they organized self defense.

When the Tzar’s government in Russia organized pogroms from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century against the Jews, the most known was in Kishinev in 1903, the revolutionary socialist worker movement together with the Bund and Po’ale Zion Left organized self defence against the black hundreds and repealed them.

In 1905 a pogroms was organized against the Jews in Odessa. This time the hooligans faced organized self defense. Just before Easter the National Committee of Jewish Self-Defense urged all Jews to join self-defense brigades and prepare to counter any attack on Jews and their property. Men were told to arm themselves with guns, knives, clubs, and whips, and women were encouraged to prepare solutions of sulfuric acid. Bundists, Bolsheviks, and Mensheviks joined in these efforts

On this Lenin wrote in 1905: “There can be no doubt that the experiment will be further extended. The laurels won by some of the Black Hundreds will give the others no rest until they too will have put their strength to the test. Where there is revolution there is counter-revolution too, and, therefore, Borisoglebsk must also be prepared to experience the organizing skill of the eminent representatives of the Black-Hundred trend. We have reason to expect also in Borisoglebsk pogroms against the Jews, against the workers, and against the intellectuals; therefore, in preparation for proper resistance to the ‘illegal measures’ which the government has adopted to suppress the revolutionary

movement, the Borisoglebsk group is starting a subscription for the organization of armed self-defense, and invites all those whose sympathies do not lie with the government and the Black Hundreds to help in the organization of self-defense groups with money and arms.” [9]

Another example of self defense is the civil rights movement in the US. According to the myth the movement was pacifist. However, this is not true, as Charles E. Cobb Jr., who participated in the movement, proved in his book, *This Nonviolent Stuff’ll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible*.

He wrote that the nonviolent organizers in the deep South were often protected by armed farmers and workers. In Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and other states run by white supremacists who used terrorism to impose their domination, guns were not an option but a necessity for African Americans. [10]

The black Panther party that was established in 1966 was famous for self defense against police brutality. They grew to a size of 5,000 full time party workers, organized in 45 branches across America. At their peak, they sold 250,000 papers every week. Opinion polls of the day showed the Panthers to have 90% support amongst Blacks in the major cities.

Of course the US capitalist state at the end won because the struggle of the oppressed did not end with a socialist revolution, but they left a legacy. For example the Black Women’s Defense League, a Dallas-based organization that teach women to use arms to fight against white racism. The idea of black self- defense is, today, on the rise again.

In South Mexico the native population organized self-defense against organized crime and corrupt police. For example, in March 2013 a force of 1500, armed with rifles entered the Mexican town of Tierra Colorada, which sits on the highway from Mexico City down to the Pacific coast. They seized at gunpoint 12 police officers and a local security official, whom they believed responsible for the murder of their commander. The men were members of a self-defense group, one of a growing number of organizations aiming to restore order to Mexican communities. “[11]

In April this year an association of shopkeepers in Mexico City’s historic center has sent a letter to the Attorney General’s Office demanding action from authorities against the Unión de Tepito, one of the most powerful criminal groups in the capital. The letter says they have been the victims of extortion, torture, kidnappings and even killings at the hands of the group, El Universal reported.

“They must understand that everything has a limit ... [and] don’t be surprised by the emergence of self-defense groups ... given the slowness and inaction of the authorities in charge of security and law enforcement [in Mexico City],” said the letter signed by around 240 vendors, including some that have closed up shop due to the costs of extortion”. [12]

As this article is being written we hear that during the Sukkot holiday not only Arabs but Jews were killed by the gangs. If the police cannot prevent the killing of Jews there is no chance they will stop the killing of the Palestinian citizens of Israel by organized crime.

However, more policing will allow the police to terrorize communities even more. If you want to know how the

Zionist police enforce a colonialist racial hierarchy, you can ask the Ethiopian Jews suffering from police brutality. How the police protect Arabs you can ask the Palestinians in the West Bank. According to the human rights organization B'Tselem:

“Violence by settlers (and sometimes by other Israeli civilians) toward Palestinians has long since become part of daily life under occupation in the West Bank. These actions range from blocking roads, throwing stones at cars and houses, raiding villages and farmland, torching fields and olive groves, and damaging crops and property to physical assault, sometimes to the point of hurling Molotov cocktails or using live fire. Over the years, this widespread violence toward Palestinians has resulted in injuries to life and limb, as well as damage to property and land.

Under international law, Israel has a duty to protect Palestinians in the West Bank from this conduct. However, Israeli authorities routinely shirk this responsibility, even when the violent actions can be anticipated. Thousands of testimonies, videos and reports, as well as many years of close monitoring by B'Tselem and other organizations, reveal that Israeli security forces not only allow settlers to harm Palestinians and their property as a matter of course – they often provide the perpetrators escort and back-up”.

[13]

#### Army of occupation in oppressed communities

In the Black and Brown communities, the police play the role of a foreign occupation army and practice a form of cruelty and brutality which differs only in degree from the U.S. occupation army in Vietnam or Cambodia.

As a token of the high esteem and affection in which these

communities hold the police, they have coined the word “pig” as synonym for cop and this word has passed into the universal language of the oppressed.

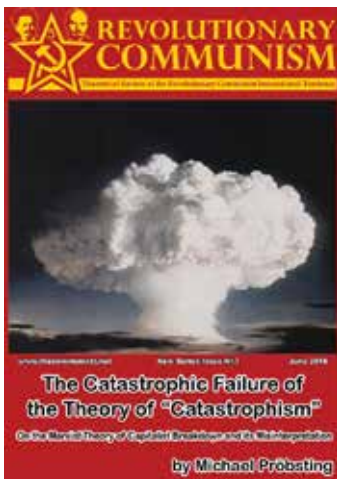
Every cent paid to the police comes out of the hides of the workers. Every cent they get is at the expense of welfare, housing, schools, and other facilities and services that are needed by the people and is responsible for *reducing* crime and domestic violence.

Unlike workers, when police go out on strike [or engage in job negotiations], they are not trying to retrieve money withheld from them for useful work done on behalf of society. Their services are solely and exclusively in the interests of one class of society only: the ruling class.

Clarity on this point is absolutely indispensable. If the police find themselves in a controversy with the ruling class over the amount of money they should get as mercenaries, the workers should treat this as an internal struggle in the camp of the enemy and not confuse it with a struggle of their own class.

Of course, there are exceptional cases where police strikers, in a struggle with the capitalist state, have no alternative but to turn for support to the workers. These cases are rare indeed, such as the Boston police strike of 1919, which Calvin Coolidge, then governor of Massachusetts, broke. In such cases, it is the duty of the workers' leaders to adroitly intervene in the struggle.

In doing so, they must make clear that their intervention is not motivated by any class solidarity with the police (who on the morrow of their victory will again proceed to club the heads of striking workers) but out of motives of working-class expedience — that is, to help the police undermine the capitalist state structure. The longer a police strike lasts, the more it undermines capitalist law and



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

# 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. In that task, a revolutionary worker should help, while helping even more to build workers' self-defense groups.

The various parasitic elements which constitute the capitalist state are always in conflict with each other on how to divide among themselves the juiciest portions of the city, state and federal treasuries. Like thieves, they are invariably at each other's throats, each seeking a greater share of the loot.

These parasitic elements comprise of the police, detectives, prison officials, executioners, various state and local anti-subversive squads, and the judicial bureaucracies. These are not to be compared to firefighters, sanitation workers or other workers who have been co-opted by the government into the capitalist state apparatus so as to keep their wages in check. These workers perform useful tasks and will continue to do so even in the highest form of socialist society.

### Will there be cops when classes are gone?

One way for a Marxist to judge whether a specific social group in the present capitalist state setup is parasitic or really performs socially necessary and useful work is to ask whether such groupings would be needed in a socialist system after the abolition of all class divisions.

Clearly police will not be needed. With the abolition and disappearance of all vestiges of class privilege, the need for a coercive special force, even a workers' militia, becomes superfluous.

However, men and women who work to make a more sanitary social environment and make it free from all sorts of hazards, such as fire, will of course be needed. If even in a socialist society the need for a coercive force such as police continually diminishes as the socialist system develops to a higher and higher form, then all the less do we need police in a capitalist society.

Here its fundamental function is to suppress the working class and in particular use the most brutal violence against the Black, Chicanx and Puerto Rican people.

It is to be noted that the current wave of police insurgency comes after a considerable period when they have been engaged in actual civil war against the Black and Brown communities.

The ruling class has felt itself more and more indebted to the police precisely because of this. Having been highly flattered for their brutal role in the recent period, the police are now demanding extra privileges and remuneration for their stormtrooper role in those communities and on college campuses as well as in the recent strike struggles throughout the whole country.

The police have also become more vociferous in denouncing the so-called lenient judges and demanding that the government "take the handcuffs off the police." This cry is nothing but a fascist demand for the right to unrestricted use of force and violence against the civil population. It is in this context that we must view the police strikes [and job negotiations] as well as the general historical role that they play in the class struggle.

### Paris Commune dispelled cops — and crime

That the working class needs no capitalist police to secure and defend them, was never more clearly demonstrated than in the first great proletarian revolution, more than a hundred years ago — during the Paris Commune.

Scarcely had the Paris Commune been established (the first truly working class government had just begun to survey the tasks ahead of it) when the world had its first vision since the dawn of class society of what would happen to the entire capitalist police establishment on the day of the proletarian revolution.

"No more corpses at the morgue, no nocturnal burglaries, scarcely any robberies," says Karl Marx about the Paris Commune in his celebrated book, "The Civil War in France."

"In fact, for the first time since the days of February 1848," he remarks, "the streets of Paris were safe and without police of any kind."

Is there a capitalist government anywhere in the world that can make such a claim even for one day? Is there any large city anywhere in the capitalist world which is free even for a single day of any crime and could do without any police of any kind as was the case with the Paris Commune?

Merely to ask the question is to answer it. To put an end to crime it is first of all necessary to put an end to the thoroughly criminal rule of the bourgeoisie. It is their very existence which breeds not only crime and corruption but virulent racism, imperialist war and genocide.

To infuse the working class with a revolutionary attitude toward the police is at the same time ideological preparation for the overthrow of the capitalist class.

ORGANIZE SELF DEFENSE OF THE PALESTINIANS BY THE PALESTINIANS IN ISRAEL!

NO TRUST IN THE ZIONIST POLICE!

NO SUPPORT FOR NEITHER BLUE NOR WHITE!

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# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries! For a 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!*

