

REVOLUTIONARY



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Greetings for the New Year of 2020

In the midst of a global wave of class struggle and popular uprising we must join forces in building a Revolutionary International!

An Open Letter from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27.12.2019

Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters!
The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest New Year greetings to all fighters for liberation and justice!

12 months ago, we opened our New Year Greetings by warning: *"We are sending these greetings in a historic moment. Everyone with open eyes can see that the capitalist world order is in severe turmoil. We are heading towards a political volcano eruption."*

And so it has been. The capitalist world economy has entered a new Great Recession, most likely even more devastating than the one in 2008/09. The rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan) continues to determine the dynamics of world politics.

Most importantly, a global wave of class struggles and popular uprisings is shaking the capitalist world order. Even bourgeois observers admit the historic significance of this process. *The Washington Post* made 2019 into *"the year of the street protester"* and the *Financial Times* compare this year with 1848 and 1968.

And indeed, from Chile to Iraq, from Bolivia to Catalunya, from Lebanon to Hong Kong and from France to India – millions of workers, oppressed and youth are rising up against reactionary regimes which are trampling democratic rights and social gains. In Syria, the heroic popular masses are still continuing the struggle against the tyranny of Assad and the Russian-Iranian occupation – after nearly nine years of civil war with hundreds of thousands of martyrs! In addition, a new Intifada can begin in Palestine as well as in Kashmir at any moment with far-reaching consequences for their whole regions. There can be no doubt: a *new world political stage* has opened up which is characterized by a *pre-revolutionary dynamic*.

The vanguard of the workers and oppressed have thrown themselves heroically into battle. However, they suffer from the *absence of revolutionary leadership*. It is one of the most deplorable facts of the current world situation that the revolutionary forces are weak and dispersed and often lack a clear programmatic fundament. This problem is exacerbated by the criminal betrayal of the established reformist leaderships in parties and trade unions as well as the chronic confusion among centrist forces. Clearly, there is a river of blood between revolutionaries and those who offer social-imperialist support for Great Powers like China, Russia or the EU or who are siding with the Assad dictatorship.

Hence, the most important task today is the *creation of such a revolutionary leadership!* The RCIT appeals to revolutionaries around the world to unite with us in jointly building a *New International*, i.e. a *Revolutionary World Party* with sections in each country! Such a party should be based on a program of struggle for the period ahead, a program which combines each and every struggle with the strategic goal – for the socialist world revolution! Comrades, brother and sisters, in order to meet the great tasks ahead, we must overcome routine, national-centeredness and complacency!

The RCIT is proud that in 2019 it could integrate revolutionary organizations in Kashmir and South Korea into its ranks as well as establishing fraternal relations with revolutionary socialists in Costa Rica and Kenya. However, we are aware that much more is necessary in order to overcome the crisis of revolutionary leadership!

Concretely, this requires that revolutionary organizations start a serious process of discussion and collaboration. If fusion is considered as premature, they could jointly form a *bloc* or a *movement* in order to intensify and organize such a process of rapprochement. Such a bloc should jointly confront the major turns in world politics and intervene in the global wave of class struggles. Such an approach will allow the construction of a Revolutionary International together with new generations of fighters who are on the forefront of the global liberation struggles.

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! We have no time to lose! Let us jointly tackle the great tasks of the year 2020! Join forces with the RCIT and let us march forward!

Unity – Struggle – Victory!

Revolutionary Greetings,
International Bureau of the RCIT

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! The struggle for liberation must be based on dedication and knowledge! Read and study the analysis and program of the RCIT! You will find numerous statements, pamphlets and books on our website www.thecommunists.net. In particular we refer you to the RCIT's program – the *"Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation"* (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/>) – as well as our *Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today* (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/>).

Comunismo Revolucionario

Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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India: Down with CAB!

Solidarity with the uprising of the Assamese people!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 December 2019

1. India's parliament – dominated by the extremely right-wing Hindutva chauvinist BJP – has passed the so-called *Citizenship Amendment Bill* on 11 December. This law allows for the fast-tracking of citizenship applications on the basis of religion. While it grants Indian nationality to Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs migrants who fled Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2015, it excludes Muslim people – like the Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled persecution in Myanmar. Other people left out from the CAB list are Tamils from Sri Lanka or Tibetans from China.

2. The CAB is an important element in the racist Hindutva policy of the extremely right-wing Modi government. Its purpose is to alter the national composition in Assam and other areas in the North East of India in order to consolidate the national oppression of the indigenous people. This measure was necessitated because the *National Register of Citizens* process in Assam would have excluded all those who entered the state after March 24, 1971. As a result 1.9 million people in Assam were excluded from the list – about half Hindus and the other half Muslims – and have been asked to prove their citizenship or else be rendered stateless. The CAB will allow the Modi government to increase the share of non-Muslim people living in Assam at the cost of the indigenous population.

3. The Assamese people have reacted to the passing of CAB with a spontaneous mass uprising in which university and school students play a leading role. Protesters marched on the streets, uprooted telephone poles and burned several buses and other vehicles. They also set fire to four train stations. As a result train services were suspended and flights to the state cancelled. Protesters also attacked the homes of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and other officials of the governing BJP as well as the regional group *Assam Gana Parishad*. The government, fearing to lose control of the state, deployed thousands of troops to the state. It imposed a curfew in Gauhati, the state capital of Assam, and suspended mobile internet in 10 districts in Assam, claiming that social media platforms could potentially be used to “*inflame passions and thus exacerbate the law and order situation*”. In addition, protests are taking place in many other parts of India. A coalition of the largest reformist parties – the *Communist Party of India (Marxist)*, *Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-Liberation*, *All India Forward Bloc* and *Revolutionary Socialist Party* – have called for an All India day of action against CAB on 19 December. As a result of the popular uprising in Assam, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering to cancel his upcoming visit to India for an annual summit “*for security reasons*”.

4. As it is well-known, the Modi government is pushing its ultra-racist agenda because of its chauvinist strategy of Hinduization of the country. However, it is also driven by the fact that India is in the midst of one of its worst economic downturns. According to official figures, unemployment is at a 45-year high, while private consumption and economic output have collapsed in the

last two quarters. The country's fiscal deficit hit 102.4% of the 2019-20 budget. According to a survey by the *All India Trade Union Congress* a fifth of India's 63 million small businesses contributing 32% to the economy and employing 111 million people has faced a 20% fall in profits since the GST rollout on 1 July 2017 and had to fire hundreds of thousands of workers. Inflation is rising dramatically and this has already sparked a nationwide outcry as onion prices have soared tenfold this year. In pushing its Hindutva chauvinism, the BJP hopes to deflect popular attention from the increasing social and economic problems.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* strongly supports the popular protests against CAB. It is urgent that all mass organizations of the workers, poor peasants, students and oppressed not only denounce the CAB but also mobilize for decisive mass actions. In Assam, revolutionaries should call for a united front of all workers and popular mass organisations to organise an *indefinite bandh*. They should *warn against any bureaucratic manoeuvres of the reformist leaderships* of these parties and unions. Revolutionaries should also call for the formation of *action committees in workplaces, neighbourhoods, villages and universities* so that the struggle can be democratically controlled by the masses.

6. The Assamese people face severe national oppression by the Indian state since many decades. In fact, Assam – like Kashmir and other states in the North-East – constitutes an internal colony of the Indian state. It confirms the nature of India as a “*prison house of nations and lower castes*”, as we have pointed out in past documents. We therefore reaffirm the RCIT's *unconditional support for the right of national self-determination of the Assamese people including the right to separate and to constitute their own state*. Such a perspective is an inextricable part of the strategy of socialist revolution in India aimed at the destruction of this prison house and the creation of a *Socialist Federation of South Asia*.

7. The RCIT views the struggle against CAB as part of the struggle to stop the virulent chauvinist policy of the Modi government. As we have repeatedly pointed out, the BJP has intensified its efforts in the past few months to accelerate the oppression of the Kashmiri people as well as the oppression of India's 201 million Muslim minority (e.g. state of emergency and removal of autonomy rights of Kashmir by revoking Article 370 of India's constitution; verdict of India's Supreme Court represents paving the way for building a Hindu temple in the town of Ayodhya). At the same time, as we have noted above, Modi's Hindutva chauvinist policy can not be separated from India's economic crisis and the popular struggle against its social consequences for the workers and poor peasants. The upcoming country-wide general strike on 8 January 2020 – organised by the trade union in protest against privatisation of the public sector, alarming unemployment and job losses, anti-worker labour law amendments and increasing precarious employment – is an excellent opportunity for revolutionaries to link these issues!

8. Hence, the RCIT urges revolutionaries in India to combine the struggle against CAB with the support for the Kashmiri people as well as the defence of the Muslim minority. Likewise, it is necessary to link the struggle for democratic rights with the economic struggle against rising unemployment and inflation. Revolutionaries should emphasize such a strategy as part of the struggle for a transitional program in India culminating in the struggle for a *workers and poor peasant government!*

9. Finally, we point out once more that the current explosive events in India take place at a crucial moment in the world situation. The capitalist world economy is entering another Great Recession, the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers is accelerating, key leaders of the world bourgeoisie face massive domestic crises (e.g. Trump, Netanyahu) and, most importantly, a global wave of class struggles and popular uprisings is spreading from Chile; Haiti and Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon and Algeria, Catalunya to Hong Kong – to name only the most explosive ones. In short, we have entered a new *global political phase* where the world is heading towards a political rupture!

10. In such a period it is highly urgent that militants in India advocate a consistent revolutionary program which includes a perspective of internationalist unity with such struggles in other countries. In particular, it is urgent that *revolutionaries in India and internationally unite on a clear programmatic basis*. They should work towards the formation of an authentic revolutionary party – nationally and internationally. The RCIT is dedicated to advance the building of such a *Revolutionary World Party* and we call revolutionaries in India and internationally to work with us hand in hand in this task!

* * * * *

We refer readers also to other documents of the RCIT relevant to this issue:

India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's "Israel-Style" Attack! India's ultra-chauvinist BJP government abolishes decades-old autonomy rights of Muslim-majority province, 6 August 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-defend-the-kashmiri-people-against-modi-s-attack/>

India: Another Orgy of Hindutva Chauvinism, 11 November 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-another-orgy-of-hindutva-chauvinism/>

Michael Pröbsting: The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today. Marxism, Stalinism and centrism on the national liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people (Pamphlet), 26 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/kashmir-question-and-indian-left-today/>

Michael Pröbsting: India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes (On the Reasons for Modi's Coup in Kashmir). Essay on the social and national contradictions of Indian capitalism and the rise of Hindutva chauvinism, 16 August 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/india-is-a-a-prison-house-of-nations-and-lower-castes/>

Michael Pröbsting: Revolutionaries and the Slogan of "Azadi Kashmir". Should Marxists advocate the independence of Kashmir? 13 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/revolutionaries-and-the-slogan-of-azadi-kashmir/>

We have collected the RCIT's statements and articles on Kashmir in a special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-liberation-struggle-in-kashmir/>.

International Bureau of the RCIT

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**
- * **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power**

*Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

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Indian-Occupied Kashmir: “We Can Also Do It Like Israel”

A very telling statement by a leading Indian diplomat

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, 30 November 2019

A video has recently gone viral on social media in which Sandeep Chakravorty, India’s consul general in New York, addresses participants at a private meeting on 23 November. The video attracted wide attention because Chakravorty’s speech reflects the arch-reactionary mindset of the right-wing extremist Indian government in an undisguised manner.

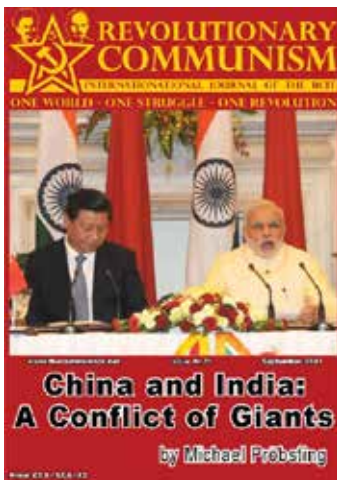
In his speech, Chakravorty referred to the exodus of tens of thousands of Kashmiri Hindus in 1989 after an armed rebellion against the Indian occupation started and said: “I believe the security situation will improve, it will allow the refugees to go back, and in your lifetime, you will be able to go back ... and you will be able to find security, because we already have a model in the world. I don’t know why we don’t follow it. It has happened in the Middle East. If the Israeli people can do it, we can also do it.”¹

These sentences show once again the plans of the Modi government to enforce an “Israeli” solution in Kashmir. This means nothing but the expulsion and annihilation of large sectors of the Kashmiri Muslims who constitute the majority in the region since the beginning of the Indian occupation in 1947/48. In parallel, Delhi plans to systematically bring Indian Hindu settlers to Kashmir in order to change the ethnical and religious balance of forces. In

short, the Hindutva chauvinists plan to do the same what the Zionists did (and still do) in Occupied Palestine.

This statement has understandably provoked widespread outrage. What is happening in Kashmir is an ongoing historic crime taking place in front of the eyes of the world. The Kashmiri people are brutally oppressed by the Indian state since many decades. They have shown their desire for independence by a long history of heroic resistance. They started a popular uprising in 1989 which the Indian army tried to smash with utmost brutality. Since then, nearly 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed and nearly 10,000 women have been gang raped by marauding bands of Indian soldiers.

On 5 August this year the Hindu-chauvinist government has revoked Article 370 of India’s constitution which removed some formal autonomy rights of the region. Since then, Delhi has imposed de facto a state of emergency in the whole region. This has resulted in dramatic consequences for the Kashmiri people. They have only limited or none access to essential things for survival like food and medicine. They are cut off from nearly all forms of communication. Currently, at least 800,000 Indian soldiers and police forces are deployed in Kashmir – an area that has a population of only 8 million Muslims. This means that



Publications of the RCIT

The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements?

A Pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format

Introductory Remarks * I. Recent Developments * II. The Struggle for Domination of Bhutan * III. The Background: Accelerating Rivalry between China and India in a Period of Capitalist Decay * China’s Belt and Road Initiative * India’s OCOR as an Alternative to OBOR? * India’s Increasing Ties with US and Japanese Imperialism * How are the chances in a military confrontation between India and China? * IV. China as an Emerging Great Imperialist Power * China’s Monopolies * Super-Exploitation of the Working Class * China’s Capital Export * China as a Military Power * V. India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power * A Brief Historical Review * The Characteristics of India’s Semi-Colonial Economy * India’s Economic Elites: Many ... and at the same time Few * The Parasitic Nature of the Indian Bourgeoisie * India as a Regional Power and an Oppressor State * Brief Remarks on an Historic Analogy: The Ottoman Empire * VI. Revolutionary Tactics in the China-India Conflict * Appendix: Imperialist vs. Semi-Colonial State: Some Theoretical Considerations * 1. What are the Respective Characteristics of an Imperialist vs. a Semi-Colonial State? * 2. Is a Transition from Being One Type of State to Another Possible? * 3. Is the Category of “Sub-Imperialism” Useful? * Footnotes

there is almost one Indian soldier for every ten Kashmiri Muslim! In other words, the tyrant Modi, has transformed Kashmir into a huge concentration camp!

The statement of the high-ranking diplomat reflects that India's government is not satisfied with this state of oppression. It wants to go even further and to expel and marginalise the Muslim-majority population in their own country – "like Israel does" to put it in the words of Chakravorty.

For revolutionaries this declaration does not come as a surprise. In our statement with the title "*Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's "Israel-Style" Attack*", published one day after Modi's revocation of Article 370, we drew already attention to the similarities of the BJP's policy with that of the Zionists.²

To avoid any misunderstanding: We strongly defend the existence of a *multi-national* and *multi-religious* Kashmir. The Kashmiri Pandits, as the Hindu minority in the region is called, are a legitimate and historic part of Kashmir. They shall continue to live in the region with all their cultural and religious rights. It is not the Pandits which must leave Kashmir but the Indian state and its army!

We point out that the Kashmiri nationalists have always directed their fire against the Indian state and not against the Pandits. This is also reflected in the fact, according to government figures, 219 Kashmiri Pandits were killed between 1989-2004. This is a relatively low number compared to the more than 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims which were killed in the same period and also compared to the 7,000 police personnel which were liquidated by the freedom fighters.³ This reflects that the Kashmiri liberation movement does not direct their resistance against the Hindu minority but rather against the Indian state forces.

At the same time, it is clear that new Hindu settlers from outside, i.e. not Pandits, must not be allowed to be brought to Kashmir by the Indian state. Revolutionaries have always opposed the transfer of white settlers to Africa by the colonial state⁴ or of Jewish settlers to Palestine by the

British Empire and later the Zionist state.⁵ Likewise we strongly oppose today the transfer of Han Chinese to the historic Muslim majority region of East Turkestan (or Xinjiang as the province is officially called by the Chinese authorities). The RCIT takes the same approach to any Hindu settlement policy of the Indian state.

We conclude by emphasizing once more: All socialists, all democrats, all righteous people around the world must support the struggle of the Kashmiri people for freedom. We repeat: Kashmir is our second Palestine! Their liberation is our liberation!

Footnotes

1 Quotes from: India consul general in United States calls for 'Israeli model' in Kashmir, 26 November 2019 <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/india-consul-general-united-states-calls-israeli-solution-kashmir>; Anger over India's diplomat calling for 'Israel model' in Kashmir, 2019-11-27 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/anger-india-diplomat-calling-israel-model-kashmir-191127150235613.html>

2 RCIT: India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's "Israel-Style" Attack! India's ultra-chauvinist BJP government abolishes decades-old autonomy rights of Muslim-majority province, 6 August 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-defend-the-kashmiri-people-against-modi-s-attack/>

3 Reuters: India revises Kashmir death toll to 47,000, November 21, 2008, <https://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-36624520081121>

4 See on this e.g. RCIT: Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa, 13 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/africa-theses/>

5 The RCIT has published numerous documents on Palestine and the Zionist oppression. They are collected on our websites at <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>. In particular we refer to the book of our comrade Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism. The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism, April 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/palestine-and-zionism/>



Michael Pröbsting speaks at a rally in solidarity with the liberation struggle in Kashmir (Vienna, 26.10.2019)

French Imperialism Lick its Wounds

13 French soldiers died in Mali during colonialist combat mission

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 29 November 2019

France – Europe most important imperialist power besides Germany – suffered a humiliating blow on 25 November. 13 soldiers died in a crash of two helicopters in Mali's Liptako region while supporting French commandos on the ground during a combat mission against supposedly Islamist militants. This is France's worst single loss of troops for 36 years.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed "deep sadness". He wrote on Twitter: "These 13 heroes had only one goal: protecting us."¹ This is an extraordinary cynical statement. In reality, these French soldiers did not die because they were "protecting us", i.e. the French or any European or African people. They died because they were protecting the interests of imperialist interests of the ruling class in Paris!

France has been, besides Britain, the leading colonial power in Africa's history. While its global influence has declined since then – today the U.S., China and Russia are certainly more influential Great Powers – France remains an important imperialist state.² This is particularly the case in Western and Central Africa. France's operation in that region is its largest overseas military mission and involves 4,500 personnel. They are part of the "Operation Barkhane", a military campaign which is led by Paris and which also involves thousands of African troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (called the "G5 Sahel"). The purpose of this campaign is to secure the interests of French imperialism and other Great Powers as well as those of the local ruling classes.

Characteristically, many local troops died in recent weeks in clashes with so-called Islamist fighters while they were protecting convoys for a Canadian mining company which exploits Mali's raw materials.³

However, France's military intervention faces increasing resistance of local forces. Since 2013, at least 44 French soldiers have died. The G5 Sahel Force is not able to provide sufficient support. Paris is now looking for help from other imperialist states. In June Macron urged European powers to provide Special Forces to support the G5 Sahel force. However, a recently published report of the news agency Reuters quotes a western diplomat in West Africa that the European Union's "commitments so far had been minimal and the deaths of the French troops would not encourage more". "No European government is keen on body bags," the diplomat said.⁴

Paris is becoming increasingly disillusioned. General Francois Lecointre, chief of staff of the armed forces, said in an interview that France's military role in the Sahel region was "useful, good and necessary", but it was hard to see the moment when the war would finally be won. He added pessimistically: "We will never achieve a definitive victory."

No one should have any illusions about the true character of France's military intervention. The "G5 Sahel Force" are, similar to the AMISOM troops in Somalia, "foot soldiers for imperialism".⁵ Naturally, we are opposed to the political ideology of petty-bourgeois Islamist forces. However, their resistance against the French imperialist intervention

is a legitimate struggle. Mali and Western Africa cannot be free without the expulsion of imperialist forces and their local allies!⁶

We reiterate the conclusion from the RCIT's programmatic document on the struggle against imperialist wars: "In cases of imperialist wars and occupations of semi-colonial countries (e.g. US in Afghanistan since 2001, in Iraq since 2003, France in Mali since 2013, Russia in Syria since 2015, Israeli settler state occupying Palestine), socialists call for the defeat of the imperialist aggressors and the military victory of the forces representing the oppressed people. The same tactic is required in cases of aggressions by proxy armies for the Great Powers (e.g. AU forces in Somalia, G5 forces in the Sahel countries in West Africa)"⁷

International Bureau of the RCIT

Footnotes

1 13 French soldiers killed in helicopter collision in Mali, Thomson Reuters, Nov 26 2019, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/13-french-soldiers-killed-helicopter-collision-mali-1.5373358>

2 On the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers see e.g. 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/>

3 Baba Ahmed and Sylvie Corbet: 13 French soldiers killed in helicopter collision in Mali, Associated Press, 2019-11-26 <https://apnews.com/9bc294a465f147a2ad77eefbf9f35f4a>

4 Sophie Louet, Tiemoko Diallo : As France mourns 13 soldiers, top general says full victory in Africa impossible, November 27, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-mali/as-france-mourns-13-soldiers-top-general-says-full-victory-in-africa-impossible-idUSKBN1Y11X4>

5 See on this e.g. RCIT: Somalia: Drive Out the AMISOM and Western Occupation Forces! Daring Guerilla Attack against U.S. Army Base and EU Military Convoy, 30 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/somalia-drive-out-the-amisom-and-western-occupation-forces/>

6 See on this e.g. RCIT: Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/chapter-1/>

7 RCIT: Theses on Revolutionary Defeatism in Imperialist States, 8 September 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-on-revolutionary-defeatism-in-imperialist-states/>

Defend Idlib! Defeat Assad and the Russian-Iranian Occupiers!

An emergency call for international solidarity with the Syrian people suffering from the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin!

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

In the last days the barbarous Assad regime and the Russian-Iranian occupiers have once more launched a deadly offensive against the last liberated enclave of the Syrian Revolution – the province of Idlib in the north-west of the country. The Russian Air Force, the Iranian mercenaries and Assad's butchers are paving a bloody road of destruction without mercy.

As many as 30,000 people have already fled the area around the town of Maarat al-Numan which is the current focus of the latest counter-revolutionary offensive. Since

the beginning of the assault on Idlib in April, more than 1,400 people have been killed and almost 1 million were forced to flee to the Turkish border. Thousands of families are struggling to survive in makeshift camps in winter conditions as fuel shortages threaten medical care and push up prices of food and transport.

The Syrian liberation fighters are waging a heroic defensive battle in order to halt the counter-revolutionary assault. They have rightly called this battle "*a war of liberation and independence*" as Assad is a mere puppet of Russian



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



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –*

A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

imperialism and the Iranian dictatorship. However, the Syrian Revolution faces also additional enemies as other parts of the country are occupied by U.S. imperialism and its YPG foot soldiers and some parts are under Turkish occupation. Furthermore, the revolution is confronted by reactionary Arab dictatorships which are licking the feet of the Great Powers in East and West as well as of Israel.

The RCIT sends its warmest greeting to the heroic popular masses in Syria who are still continuing the struggle for freedom – despite nearly nine years of civil war with hundreds of thousands of martyrs! They urgently need our support as they are facing an overwhelming enemy. Hence, we call the mass organizations of the workers and popular masses around the world to rally in support of the Syrian Revolution fighting in the last trenches!

We are under no illusions that the Stalinists which have hailed the tyrant Assad as well as Russian and Chinese imperialism for many years stand on the other side of the barricade. Sadly, many liberals and pseudo-socialists have also deserted the Syrian Revolution.

But we appeal to all authentic socialists, consistent democrats and all righteous Muslim and non-Muslim people to stand by the Syrian people in this difficult time! We reiterate our call from June 2019 and urge those forces to unite in organizing a global solidarity campaign in defense of the Syrian Revolution. We propose that such an international united front campaign should focus on the following:

- * Organization of global days of solidarity action.
- * Obstruction of all efforts to support and legitimize the Assad regime.

* Stepped up pressure on governments, especially in Europe, to open borders for refugees.

* Support efforts for humanitarian aid for the civilian population in Idlib.

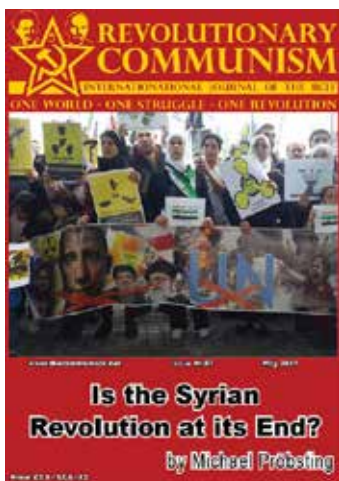
* Support for the legitimate right of Syrian liberation fighters to acquire material aid (including weapons and volunteers) to defend themselves against the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin.

* Organization of a political struggle against the pro-Assadist and Islamophobic criminal forces that are slandering the struggle of the Syrian people for their freedom.

Brothers and sisters, we appeal to you not to abandon the Syrian people in this most difficult hour! Rally now under the slogan: Defend Idlib - Defeat Assad and the Russian-Iranian Occupiers!

International Bureau of the RCIT

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements, and articles on the Syrian Revolution that can be accessed on a special sub-section of this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>. Our call "Save the Syrian Revolution!" has been published in six languages and can be read here in English: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/call-save-the-syrian-revolution/>.



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

France: For an Indefinite General Strike in All Sectors!

Stop the neoliberal pension “reform” and bring down the Macron government!

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

1. Mass protests are sweeping France in reaction to the neoliberal plans of the Macron government to attack the existing pension system. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe claims that this pension “reform” would make the pension system “fair and sustainable”. At the same time, he himself was forced to admit that, as a consequence, the French “will need to work longer.” In fact, the plans would force people born after 1974 to work until the age of 64 to get a full pension, instead of 62 previously. At the same time, they would receive smaller pensions. This is utterly cynical in a period of increasing inequality where the rich elite are grabbing a constantly increasing share of social wealth since many years!

2. The anger of the French workers and popular masses has exploded in an unprecedented wave of mass struggle. On 5 December, the first day of action, 1.5 million people demonstrated on the streets (800,000 according to the police). These were more demonstrators than on the first day of the mass protests against another neoliberal pension reform in November and December 1995 which resulted in the withdrawal of the plans and the ousting of Prime Minister Alain Juppe. Another day of action with hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took place on 10 December. In reaction, the government offered some small concessions. However, the trade union leaders, who are under massive pressure from ordinary workers, ridiculed these concessions as “a joke”. Meanwhile, even the leaders

of the CFDT – the most conciliationist of the major trade union federations – have been forced to join the struggle and announce their support for the next day of action on 17 December.

3. While transport workers (railway, metro, flight attendants) constitute the heart of the struggle – 90% of the trains were cancelled on 5 December – there has been also an impressive strike rate among teachers (70%). In fact, a multitude of sectors – from health workers and gas electricians to lawyers – are participating in the struggle. Particularly important is the fact that the railway workers voted to extend the strike beyond the single days of actions, breaking with previous reformist union tactics. The current strike wave builds upon the courageous struggle of the “Yellow Vest” movement which began one year ago and which faced brutal repression by the French police resulting in at least 24 *Yellow Vests* losing eyes.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to the workers and youth in France who are fighting against the neoliberal pension “reform”! The people are fully aware that the Macron government’s plan constitutes a strategic attack on the social achievements of the working class movement in that country. We warn that the workers should not blindly trust the bureaucratic trade unions leaders who in the past have repeatedly sold out struggles (or even refused to support them at all as it has been the case with the “Yellow

Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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

By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

Vest" movement)!

5. The RCIT calls for the *election of delegates at daily work place assemblies who should unite to a regional and national coordination*. Such coordination should lead the struggle instead of the trade union bureaucrats. The trade unions must be put under pressure to provide their vast resources to such democratic structures of the workers and popular masses. As long as such coordinations do not exist, it is crucial to put demands on the leaderships of the CGT, FO, CFDT and other unions to extend the strikes. Such a united front policy towards the trade unions should be combined with constant warning of their leaders' bureaucratic policy.

6. It is urgent to advance the struggle to a higher level. This means that the strikes must extend to *all public and private sectors of the economy*. Furthermore, it is necessary to transform the struggle from single days of action to an *indefinite general strike*. This is particularly important since there exists the danger that the movement might weaken during the upcoming Christmas holiday period. In addition, it is necessary to build *self-defense committees* in order to fight back against the brutal police.

7. While the strikes currently focuses on the defeat of the neoliberal pension "reform", the RCIT considers it as important that revolutionaries in France link this economic struggle with other important issues of the class struggle. It is crucial to unite these struggles – like the "Yellow Vests" movement, the struggle against Islamophobia and racism or against Macron's imperialist foreign policy in Western Africa and other parts of the world – into a single mass movement. We also call to extend the goals of the general strike so that it is directed not only against the pension reform but also against its originator – the reactionary liberal Macron government. *Down with the Macron government – for a workers government based on mass organs of struggle!*

8. The French general strike takes place at a crucial moment in the world situation, as the RCIT has elaborated in several documents in the last few months. The capitalist world economy is entering another Great Recession – probably worse than the last one in 2008/09. The rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – in particular between the U.S. and China – is accelerating. Key leaders of

the world bourgeoisie face massive domestic crisis (e.g. Trump, Netanyahu). A global wave of class struggles and popular uprisings is spreading from Chile; Haiti and Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon and Algeria, Catalunya to Hong Kong – to name only the most explosive ones. In short, we have entered a new *global political phase* where the world is heading towards a political rupture which involves both tremendous opportunities as well as dangers for the international working class and oppressed peoples!

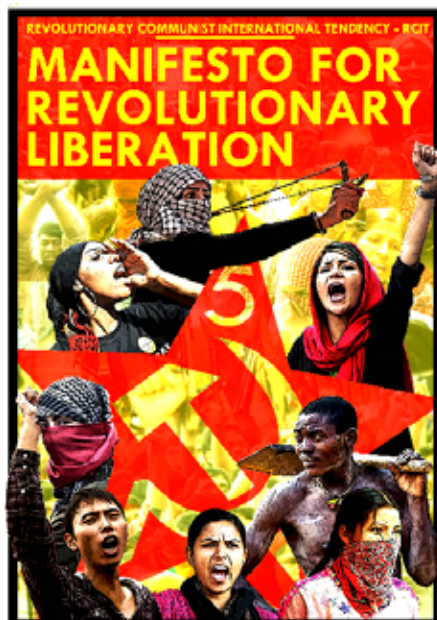
9. Hence the French general strike must be understood not as an isolated event but rather as part of a world-wide series of struggles with pre-revolutionary and revolutionary situations in a number of countries. Even bourgeois commentators are recognizing the explosive potential of the events in France as the *Associated Press* news agency links the current general strike to "the events of May 1968, when France reached the brink of revolution." (AP: French government raises retirement age as strikes grind on, 11.12.2019)

10. It is urgent in such a period that militants in France advocate a consistent revolutionary program which includes a perspective of internationalist unity with such struggles in other countries. In particular, it is urgent that *revolutionaries in France and internationally unite on a clear programmatic basis*. They should work towards the formation of an authentic revolutionary party – nationally and internationally. Since without such a *Revolutionary World Party*, the heroic efforts of the workers and oppressed will be futile and end in defeats. The RCIT calls revolutionaries in France and internationally to work with us hand in hand in jointly building such a World Party!

We refer readers also to other documents relevant to this issue:

RCIT: France: Defend the "Yellow Vests" Movement against State Repression! Build local Action Committees! Push the Trade Unions to Join the Movement! Organize an Indefinite General Strike! 03.12.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-defend-the-yellow-vests-movement-against-state-repression/>

RCIT: France: Pour la Grève Générale – Illimitée, militante, multinationale! 2 May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-pour-la-greve-generale/>



Program of the RCIT

Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

Adopted at the 1st World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format

Britain: Johnson & Tories win the General Election

Labour suffers its worst defeat for many years!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 19th December 2019

The Tories in the 2019 General Election fought the election campaign on one issue and that was Brexit. Boris Johnson had said 'get Brexit done' and that is what he did. This election was fought on clear class lines between the bourgeoisie and the more advanced sections of the working class and the middle class. The Liberal Democrats, the main Remain party was being eclipsed by the SNP who won the majority of seats in Scotland. Jo Swinson, the right wing leader of the Liberal Democrats lost her seat to the SNP. The bourgeois media has produced graphs as evidence to show how Labour supporters in the North and the West Midlands (Labour's heartland) stayed at home or voted for the Tories.

"The resounding Conservative victory was driven by a dramatic swing of working-class support away from Labour, according to an FT analysis.

Boris Johnson's party secured a big win in Thursday's election as Labour collapsed across the country, leaving the Tories with a majority of 80 seats as Labour fell to its lowest number of MPs in 84 years. The Conservatives won 365 seats to Labour's 202.

In seats with high shares of people in low-skilled jobs, the Conservative vote share increased by an average of six percentage points and the Labour share fell by 14 points. In seats with the lowest share of low-skilled jobs, the Tory vote share fell by four points and Labour's fell by seven.

The Remain tactical vote, however, made little headway. One of its biggest successes came in St Albans, where the Labour vote fell by 14 percentage points and the Lib Dems ticked up by 18 points, lifting them above the Conservatives into first place.".[1]

Although the Brexit party took no seats in the election, Nigel Farage and his right-wing, racist party damaged the Labour vote and helped to increase the vote for the Tories. More backward layers of the working class and the lower strata of the petty-bourgeoisie have been attracted by the Brexit party.

"The data also suggest the Brexit party played an important role in the Conservatives' success. Where the Brexit party contested seats, they took more votes from Labour than the Tories, and Labour suffered greater losses on average where the Brexit party stood than where it did not". [2]

Graphs show that it was the age range of 55-64 who largely voted for the Tories. The figures show 45% of the vote for the Tories and 33% for Labour. When it is broken down into gender, it shows 48% male voters for the Tories and 29% female amongst the 55-64 age range. Amongst younger voters there was generally greater support for Labour.

The Campaign to Stop Corbyn

The bourgeoisie used all its resources to issue a torrent of lies against Corbyn. The press led by the BBC printed vitriol of abuse and slander against the Labour leader accusing him of being a terrorist, anti-semitic, racist and a threat to national security. The full weight of the ruling class was to support Johnson whatever he said or did. Within Labour's ranks the Blairites and the Zionists dredged up a filthy campaign denouncing him at every opportunity. Zionist MP's like Ruth Smeeth working as an ally for the Israeli Embassy heaped lies and slander onto Corbyn at every opportunity. The Chief-Rabbi and the Archbishop of Canterbury used their religious authority to slander Corbyn as anti-semitic and racist. Corbyn has a long record in campaigning on human rights issues and in consequence defending Palestinian people against Israeli wars. The Zionists in the Labour party however defend and support the state of Israel irrespective of its imperialist, racist and colonial apartheid character. As the RCIT stated in a recent article: "The origin of these attacks on Corbyn stems from the Blairites and right-wing Zionists who are determined to see Corbyn and his supporters removed and expelled from the Labour Party. Corbyn, a known supporter of

Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- * **Marxism, EU and Brexit**
- * **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**
- * **The Reformist Pipe Dream of a "Socialist" European Union**

*Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*



Palestinian rights has criticized the Zionists in Israel for their slaughter of Palestinians and Arabs in the torture camp they call the West Bank. Defenseless women and children have been gunned down by Israeli police and the IDF. Corbyn's weakness is that his reformist backbone has pandered to the Zionists and conflated anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism." [3].

Other factors in Corbyn's defeat was the whole issue of Brexit, which was decided at the Labour Party conference in which Corbyn argues for accepting the result of Brexit and if elected to campaign for a second Referendum. The Blairites were determined to impose on Corbyn a remain position which engulfed the Labour leadership drawing John McDonnell, Emily Thornberry and Diane Abbot, his closest supporters to support a remain position. Research proved that many Labour supporters in the North and West Midlands supported a Leave position but the Blairite wing of the Labour Party ignored this position. Labour paid the price in the General Election for getting involved too much into the Brexit/Remain debate instead of elaborating a correct, defeatist position and instead of concentrating on crucial questions of today's class struggle. Much of the responsibility of this debacle was the role of the trade union bureaucracy who pushed the Remain agenda against the decision of the Referendum. At the top of the bureaucracy is a layer of Labour aristocrats who have backward and even pro-racist views which contributed to Labour's defeat. Together with the Blairites this white Labour aristocracy are mainly to blame for Labour's defeat.

Laura Kuenssberg breaches Election Law

Laura Kuenssberg is political editor for the BBC and a known Tory. She has been hostile to Corbyn and launched attacks on him using the most blatant racist newspapers like the Daily Mail and Daily Express. She was instrumental in encouraging the Blairites and others in the two coups, launched by the Blairites with the aid of the capitalist media and state. During the election she had access to postal voting forms, revealed their content and indicated that Corbyn would lose the election by a big majority. This was a clear breach of the bourgeois Election Law.

"Kuenssberg to be reported to POLICE for 'breaking election rules' by saying postal votes looked 'grim' for party on air The BBC's political editor has allegedly been reported to the police amid claims she breached election law in a live broadcast.

Laura Kuenssberg said last night, in a live two-way on the BBC's Politics Live, that she understood postal votes already counted were painting a 'grim' picture for Labour.

The statement drew outraged accusations that Ms Kuenssberg had broken the law, and now twitter users including left-wing publication Evolve Politics have claimed to have reported the journalist to the police." [4].

Centrists confused positions on the Election

Many centrists took a confused position over the election, especially over Brexit and the wider issues of the election. The League for the Fifth International (L5I) for instance encouraged a vote for staying in the European Union in the 2016 Referendum, while the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and the Socialist Party (SP) advocated a Lexit vote.

The RCIT took the principled position of neither Remain nor Brexit but revolutionary defeatism and abstained in the 2016 Referendum.

The LFI has now issued a statement full of gloom and despair about the result. Many centrist groups put forward a one sided view of the bourgeoisie with the catastrophic result of giving support to the one or the other pro-imperialist camp.

"LABOUR'S SHATTERING DEFEAT at the hands of Boris Johnson is a bitter day for millions of class conscious workers and most young people. Their hopes of reversing the ravages of austerity, of seriously addressing climate change, of breaking the shackles on the unions, have been cruelly dashed. Armed with a huge Commons majority, with a blank cheque of a manifesto, we must prepare for a Johnson cabinet of Thatcher disciples that will launch a vicious series of economically and socially reactionary policies.

Britain will leave Europe on January 31, 2020 with a government determined to make a bonfire of workers' rights and environmental regulations and to open the country's economy to Trump's "massive" trade deal. The carnival of reaction that internationalist socialists warned of in 2016 will become even worse as our fellow workers from the continent are pressured to leave.

In short, a cold, dark decade is dawning – one whose challenges will include the chaos of Brexit, an approaching severe recession, the onset of climate change and the threat of war as Trump seeks to make America great again. All this points to the inevitability of hard class struggles ahead." [5]

The LFI appears to be living in a glass bowl, not recognizing the revolutionary class battles taking place all over the world and shaping the current world situation irrespective of electoral results in Britain. The LFI appears now concerned to throw up its hands and say all is lost in the best reformist manner. It blames Corbyn's softness towards Brexiteers for the defeat. Confusion reigns. Instead of putting a revolutionary programme at the forefront, recognizing the global crisis of western imperialism and capitalism as such they bemoan the fact that there is no Labour Government. They criticize Corbyn for his limited reformist programme which contains fighting austerity through partial nationalization, demanding of council housing, repeal of the anti-union laws and measures to help the poor and disadvantaged and to end homelessness. However, authentic revolutionaries should know that Corbyn is a left reformist and that in consequence his programme is limited and needs to be challenged but not from a wrong pro-EU stance like the L5I does. His failure to defend his own supporters against witchhunts by the Blairites and Zionists shows how much a revolutionary leadership with a scientific and Marxist outlook is needed today. In our statement 'Are we reaching a new '68' moment' we said: "We are in the midst of a massive upsurge of the global class struggle. In the past weeks a number of countries have experienced heightened class struggles which often resulted in the emergence of pre-revolutionary or even revolutionary situation as we have already pointed out somewhere else, the current upswing of the global class struggle must not be viewed in isolation. It has to be seen – in fact it can only be understood – in combination with several other crucial developments which,

in combination, herald a dramatic shift in the world situation. These additional developments are a) the decay of the capitalist world economy, b) the decline of U.S. hegemony globally and, in particular, in the Middle East ¹[16] and c) the political domestic crisis of counter-revolutionary leaders in the West (e.g. Trump, Netanyahu, Mohammed bin Salman, General Sisi). ²[17]

The combined process of these four fundamental developments will, most likely, result in a significant aggravation of the economic and political crisis of capitalism and a massive intensification of the struggles between the classes and the states. While the outcome of this process is undetermined, it is evident that there exists the possibility of the emergence of a pre-revolutionary world situation.”[6].

Follow France’s Example and mobilize to drive Boris Johnson out of Office

The RCIT has analysed the political situation in Britain and elsewhere. The world is currently in a pre-revolutionary situation and we need a Revolutionary International to prepare the working class for the battles that lay ahead. The weakness of left reformism was evident with all its limitations. History has taught us important lessons and that it is only through a disciplined Marxist International that Socialism will be achieved. The crisis of humanity must be resolved through the construction of a Revolutionary leadership through a Revolutionary party.

The RCIT IN BRITAIN puts forward the following programme to unite the Working class and the oppressed:

* Fight for open borders, full equality for all migrants and equal wages! Full citizenship rights should be given to all people living in Britain as well as the unlimited right to speak in their mother tongue and to live their cultural and religious beliefs! Stop the “War on Terror” that is only an excuse to discriminate Muslim people!

* Expel and purge all Zionist and Blairite MP’s or former MP’s from the Labour Party. All Zionist Organizations like the “Friends of Israel” must be proscribed as Racist organizations which have no place in a democratic socialist Part!

* For a United Ireland as a 32 County Workers Republic as part of a United Socialist States of Europe!

* Defend the right for self-determination for Scotland!

* Reject any support to the camp of the Brexiteers or the Remainers! Neither an imperialist Britain nor an imperialist European Union is the solution, but rather the fight to smash both of them!

* For self-defense guards and action committees to protect workers, the oppressed and migrants from the police, racist or fascist attacks!

* For the formation of peoples assemblies and action committees, based on direct democracy, to mobilize for demonstrations and strikes up to a general strike in order to put pressure on Labour to reject any collaboration with capitalist parties and politicians! People assemblies, action committees of the workers and oppressed as well as mobilizations on the streets up to an indefinite general strike are the backbone of the fight against austerity and cuts, and in consequence also the initial ignition that opens the road towards the struggle for socialism! A workers republic as well as the United Socialist states of Europe can only be won via the armed uprising of the working class and oppressed!

* For a Workers Government pledged to overthrow Capitalism and establish Socialism!

Footnotes

(1) <https://www.ft.com/content/bc09b70a-1d7e-11ea-97df-cc63de1d73f4>

(2) <https://www.ft.com/content/bc09b70a-1d7e-11ea-97df-cc63de1d73f4>

(3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/britain-critical-support-for-labour-at-general-election-on-december-12th/>

(4) <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7784763/Election-watchdog-issues-legal-warning-BBCs-Kuenssberg-claims-postal-votes-grim-Labour.html>

(5) <https://fifthinternational.org/content/uk-election-failure-strategy>

(6) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/are-we-nearing-a-new-68-moment/>



RCIT Africa Program

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

Adopted at the 2nd World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

Britain: Critical Support for Labour Party and Jeremy Corbyn!

Fight for a Workers Government and the United Socialist States of Europe!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 7th December 2019

The general election on December 12th will be the third general election since 2015. The crisis of British imperialism over Brexit and the austerity policies of this Tory government reveals the unstable nature of British capitalism. Bourgeois pundits forecast an overwhelming majority for Theresa May's Government in 2017. In fact it produced a minority Tory Government with large gains for Corbyn's Labour party.

Boris Johnson, the extreme chauvinist, racist and Islamophobic demagogue became Prime Minister when Theresa May was continually defeated by the combined strength of the Remain section in Parliament, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP and right-wing sections inside the parliamentary Labour Party. Johnson also failed to get Brexit through Parliament, organised a coup suspending Parliament and was then overruled by the judiciary with effectively no government at all. Johnson called a general election and split the party between the *Remainers* in the Tory Party and the *Brexiters*. Former Ministers like Michael Heseltine and Ken Clarke have said they will vote for the Liberal Democrats.

Zionists attacked Jeremy Corbyn...again

With two weeks to go before the general election Corbyn has apologised after been attacked as a racist and anti-semitic by the so-called chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis.

"Jeremy Corbyn has apologized for anti-Semitic incidents involving Labour party members and said he was dealing with the issue.

The Labour leader said: "Obviously I'm very sorry for what has happened," after being asked to apologise directly by presenter Phillip Schofield, in an interview on ITV's This Morning.

Corbyn has previously apologised for anti-Semitic incidents involving party members but during the general election campaign he has been dogged by criticism that has not said sorry again when he has been given the opportunity. He declined to apologise four times during an interview with the BBC presenter Andrew Neil". [1].

It was Ephraim Mirvis who praised the Islamophobic Boris Johnson on Twitter, saying: *"I am delighted to congratulate Boris Johnson on becoming the next leader of the Conservative Party & our next PM. May he be blessed with the wisdom to successfully navigate the political uncertainties we face & bring healing & prosperity to our great country."* [2]. In addition to this very obvious right-wing position, the so-called chief-rabbi was supporting the brutal war against the Palestinians in Gaza in 2014, defending Israel although it killed at least 1,900 of Palestinians including 550 children while the Apartheid state itself lost only 67 IDF soldiers and 5 civilians. The 5 civilians however included an old woman who died of a heart attack (!) during siren alarm, a Bedouin who was hit by a rocket in the Negev Desert that was not stopped by the Israeli defense system with calculus because it would land in a desert anyway and an ultra-orthodox Rabbi who was hit by shrapnel during his voluntary service to distribute food to IDF soldiers at the front line.

Gus John, a leading Black academic, has done the right thing by resigning from a Church of England advisory body because of the Archbishop of Canterbury's support for the Zionist chief-rabbi.

"A leading campaigner against racism has resigned from a Church of England advisory body in protest at the archbishop of Canterbury's support for the chief rabbi's comments last week on antisemitism in the Labour party. The church's record on combating racism was "no less woeful now that it was 30 years ago", John's letter said. "Black and global majority people in the church, whether as clergy, laity or employees are still experiencing discrimination and exclusion, benign and sugar-coated or otherwise, at every level of organization in the church and yet, their active presence in communion with the church is responsible for its survival and buoyancy in many communities. "In an accompanying statement, John said: "What gives the archbishop of Canterbury the right to endorse the chief rabbi's scaremongering about Corbyn and adopt such a lofty moral position in defense of the Jewish population". [3]

The origin of these attacks on Corbyn stems from the Blairites and right-wing Zionists who are determined to see Corbyn and his supporters removed and expelled from the Labour Party. Already Chukka Umunna and a minority of Blairites have left the Labour Party and joined the Liberal Democrats. Tom Watson, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, a known Blairite and leader of the pro-war and pro-austerity right-wing MP's has announced his resignation as deputy leader and will not be standing for parliament. This was a notable victory for Corbyn, as the Blairites are now leaderless. Corbyn, a known supporter of Palestinian rights has criticized the Zionists in Israel for their slaughter of Palestinians and Arabs in the torture camp they call the West Bank. Defenseless women and children have been gunned down by Israeli police and the IDF. Corbyn's weakness is that his reformist backbone has pandered to the Zionists and conflated anti-zionism with anti-semitism.

"Over Ken Livingstone's suspension he sided with the Blairites and he gave in to the Zionist amalgam confusing the difference between Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism. There are still a number of socialists still suspended and expelled (auto excluded) from membership of the Labour Party by the unaccountable and unelected Compliance Unit". [4].

A number of Anti-Zionists have been expelled from the Labour party, mainly for their support for the Palestinian struggle. The Blairite, right wing elements in the Labour party are still in a position to wield effective power in the Party. Shamefully, the Labour party historically has a strong affinity with Zionism. The Labour Friends of Israel is a very powerful lobby for the Zionists in Britain and they have been active recently helping and assisting the Blairites to expel anyone in the Labour party who supports the Palestinian cause. Unsurprisingly, the Labour government after World War I immediately recognised the state of Israel in 1948.

RED LIBERATION (Socialists in the Labour Party) wholeheartedly condemns these expulsions and states that the Palestine Liberation struggle is a just cause. We support joint activities with other Socialists to highlight and show the oppression

of Palestine by imperialism and Israel – its agent in the Middle East” [5]

Corbyn has even defended the use of the *International Holocaust Characterization* that there must be no criticism of Zionism or the state of Israel. This is not only a slap in the face of the Palestinian people suffering from the Israeli Apartheid state, it is also an attack against all Jewish activists who fight against Zionism or at least criticize the racist methods of the Israeli state. This includes the survivors of the Holocaust and their relatives who signed a letter sharply rejecting the Israeli-led war on Gaza in 2014. [6]

Corbyn wins against Johnson in first televised debate

In the first television debate between Johnson and Corbyn, the latter easily won the debate by attacking Johnson for working a deal out with Donald Trump in a massive sell out of the NHS through massive privatization via American trade deals. Johnson’s election proposals continue to echo racism and attacks on migrants, coupled with further attacks on the working class with more of the same. The Labour leader announced a wide range of reformist measures to help the poor and disadvantaged as well as helping workers through the repeal of the Anti-Union Laws.

The Tory leader however, faces a threat from the Brexit party led by Nigel Farage. This racist, islamophobic party spouts chauvinism and hatred against muslims and migrants. Fascists like Tommy Robinson will no doubt be supporting the Brexit party with its reactionary and racist programme. Boris Johnson will face fierce opposition from Farage and could affect their support and be deci-

sive in who is the next Prime Minister. The Bourgeoisie in Britain remains deeply concerned about the possible election of a Labour government and is using the polls to misinform and discredit Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party, although the latest polls suggest a narrowing of the gap. These polls must be treated with caution as they are promoted by the most right-wing and pro-capitalist news outlets, who are desperate for a victory of Boris Johnson.

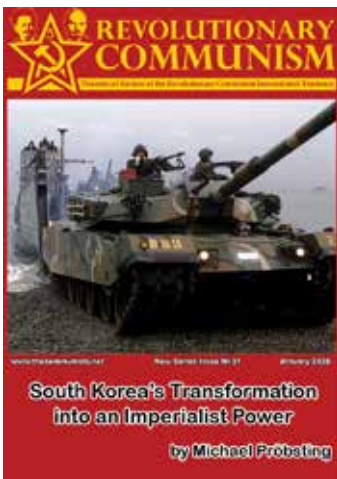
Labour Party Manifesto redistribute wealth in Britain

Jeremy Corbyn introducing the Labour Party manifesto which is a reformist programme to bring about changes in government and society. It promises a massive council house building programme, partial nationalization of railways and energy companies, abolishment of student fees and universal credit, an end to the sanctions regime over benefits, taxation of the rich and an attempt to redistribute wealth. This of course is a reformist programme within the frame of capitalism as it not deal with the question of working class power at all. Labour Governments have been elected before but bankers and owners of capital will do everything to halt all aspects even of this obviously reformist programme.

“Labour has launched its general election manifesto, promising to “transform” the UK and to renationalise rail, mail, water and energy.

Leader Jeremy Corbyn also vowed “a green transformation” of the economy, aiming to get the UK “on track” for a net-zero carbon system by the 2030s.

The 105 page manifesto includes a windfall tax on oil firms and



Publications of the RCIT

South Korea's Transformation into an Imperialist Power

On the nature of South Korean monopoly capital and the ensuing programmatic tasks of the workers vanguard

By Michael Pröbsting, December 2019

The Relevance of the Issue * Definition: What Constitutes a State as Imperialist? * Historical Background: Extraordinary Conditions Allow for Rapid Industrialization * South Korea as a Highly Industrialized, Modern Capitalist Country * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Domination of Domestic Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Global Players on the World Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: The Role of Capital Export * On Some Political Issues Resulting from South Korea's Imperialist Transformation * The Emergence of a Labor Aristocracy and Inequality within the South Korean Working Class * The Political Role of South Korean Imperialism and its Limited Independence * The Stalinist Myth of South Korea Being Still a Neo-Colony of U.S. Imperialism * The Mistaken Conception of Sub-Imperialism * The Program of Revolutionary Defeatism * Anti-Imperialist Tasks in South Korea Today * Appendix: A Historic Analogy: Marxist Tactics in Germany in 1891 and 1914 * Capitalist Development in South Korea and Taiwan (1996)

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format

scrapping rises in the state pension age.

Mr Corbyn said his offer to voters was "radical" and would mean "real change".

He accused "bankers, billionaires and the establishment" of wanting to thwart his plans, adding: "They don't own the Labour Party. The people own the Labour Party." [7]

Irrespective of the limitations of its programme, the RCIT and the members in BRITAIN advocate critical support for the Labour party in this election. Even the minimal reformist programme Labour offers could be the springboard to strengthen left-wing activists who are open to fight beyond the boundaries of reformism. However, many of these activists still have big illusions in Corbyn and his leadership. This of course requires that revolutionaries in Britain support the election campaign of Labour but criticize its limitations and offer a revolutionary programme leading to the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism. In practical means we march together with all activists who defend Corbyn and Labour against Zionists and right-wing attacks and who support Labour at the elections. We offer them to build an united front in order to fight back the Tories, the Brexit Party, the Liberal Democrats and all other right-wing threats! However, we warn all honest activists that the limitations of reformism will lead to betrayal by Labour and Corbyn as it was done already in the past. In the end, we need to challenge the reformist leadership and to build a revolutionary one – together!

We put forward the following demands as the revolutionary answer to the crisis of capitalism and imperialism:

** Critically support the election of Labour and a Labour Government, based on an anti-austerity programme! Expel and purge all Blairite and Zionist Labour MP's and cleanse the party of all pro-war and pro-austerity elements! Defend Jeremy Corbyn and all others who are unrightfully attacked and slandered by Zionists! Give practical support to the effort of Jewish voice for Labour and others who are crucial defenders against right-wing Zionist hatred!*

** Fight for Open Borders, full equality for all migrants and equal wages! Full citizenship rights should be given to all people living in Britain as well as the unlimited right to speak in their*

mother tongue and to live their cultural and religious believes! Stop the "War on Terror" that is only an excuse to discriminate muslim people!

** For a United Ireland as a 32 County workers republic as part of a United Socialist States of Europe!*

** Defend the right for self-determination for Scotland!*

** Reject any support to the camp of the Brexiteers or the Remainers! Neither an imperialist Britain nor an imperialist European Union are the solution, but rather the fight to smash both of them!*

** For self-defence guards and action committees to protect workers, the oppressed and migrants from the police, racist or fascist attacks!*

** For the formation of peoples assemblies and action committees, based on direct democracy, to mobilize for demonstrations and strikes up to a general strike in order to put pressure on Labour to reject any collaboration with capitalist parties and politicians! People assemblies, action committees of the workers and oppressed as well as mobilizations on the streets up to an indefinite general strike are the backbone of the fight against austerity and cuts, and in consequence also the initial ignition that opens the road towards the struggle for socialism! A workers republic as well as the United Socialist states of Europe can only be won via the armed uprising of the working class and oppressed!*

** For a Workers Government pledged to overthrow Capitalism and establish Socialism!*

Footnotes

(1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/dec/03/corbyn-apologises-for-antisemitism-in-labour-party>

(2) <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/a-brief-response-to-chief-rabbi-mirvis/>

(3) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/03/academic-quits-c-of-e-body-over-chief-rabbis-labour-antisemitism-comments>

(4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/critical-support-for-corbyn/>

(5) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/zionism-labour-party/>

(6) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28916761>

(7) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50497288>

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

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

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

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

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

What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

