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Picture on the Cover: US Navy and Air Force; Source: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:US_Navy_060618-N-8492C-212_An_Air_Force_B-2_bomber_along_with_other_aircrafts_from_the_Air_Force,_Navy_and_Marine_Corps_fly_over_the_Kitty_Hawk,_Ronald_Reagan_and_Abraham_Lincoln_Carrier_Strike_groups.jpg

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

**www.thecommunists.net - rcit@thecommunists.net
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

Open Letter: The Time Has Come!

The global wave of workers and popular struggles demonstrate the urgent need for revolutionaries to unite in order to overcome the historic crisis of leadership!

An Open Letter from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19.01.2020

We are living in a historic time full of class struggles and popular uprisings in which the ruling class tries to keep power by launching vicious reactionary attacks. Even bourgeois observers admit the pre-revolutionary dynamic of the current world political stage as they compare the present times with revolutionary periods in history like 1848 or 1968.

These developments do not come as a surprise to Marxists. The RCIT has explained repeatedly that a historic period has opened in 2008 characterized by a comprehensive crisis of the whole capitalist system. The decay of this system has provoked not only another Great Recession beginning just now – it also threatens the very existence of humanity with the dramatic climate crisis. Against the background of capitalist decay, the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan) inevitable accelerates. This provokes militarism and a terrifying arms-race which will ultimately provoke the danger of World War III. Furthermore, the decay of the capitalist system pushes the ruling classes to intensify their brutal attacks on the social and democratic gains of the popular masses. The inevitable resistance against this onslaught is answered by the bourgeoisie by a rampant turn towards authoritarian regimes or outright military dictatorships. Furthermore, they encourage reactionary forces spreading hatred against women as well as national and religious minorities (e.g. Islamophobia).

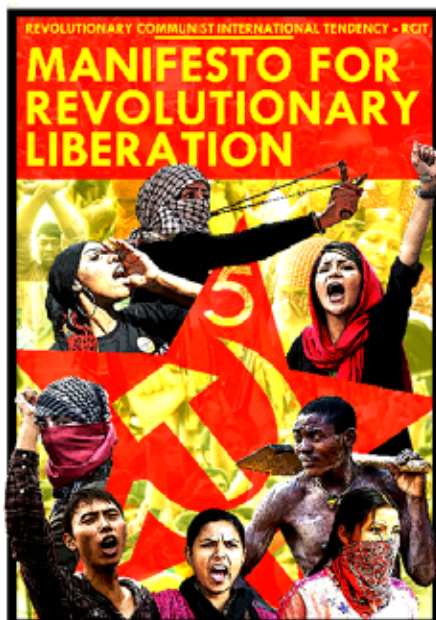
The vanguard of the workers and popular masses do not lack determination and courage to fight against the attacks. From Chile to Iraq, from Bolivia to Catalunya, from Lebanon to Hong Kong and from France to India – millions of workers, oppressed and youth are rising up against reactionary regimes which 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.

No, the masses do not lack readiness to fight for their future. What they lack is a leadership which is up to the challenges of the struggle, in other words, they lack a *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.

How can we overcome this deficit? Such a revolutionary leadership will not arise spontaneously in the struggles. Nor will it emerge as a result of a self-critical process of renewal of hardened Stalinists and reformists who are not ashamed to offer their services to the rulers in Beijing, Moscow or Brussels or who kiss the feet of serial killers like Assad and General Sisi. A new revolutionary leadership can only be the result of collective efforts of hundreds and thousands of activists, of organizations which join forces on the basis of a common program and strategy for the current period of struggle. It is only via such conscious steps to build a *New International* that revolutionaries can effectively fight against the treacherous reformist leaderships in parties and trade unions which serve sectors of the ruling class or one or the other imperialist power.

The RCIT has always stated that building such a *Revolutionary World Party* is the most important task to which we dedicate our limited forces. (For the RCIT's program see the links at the end of this document.) However, there can be no doubt that such a great task demands the joint efforts of all revolutionaries. Hence, the RCIT appeals to revolutionary organizations and activists around the world to unite with us in jointly building such a *New International*



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

with sections in each country! It is only via such an instrument that the vanguard of the workers and oppressed can remove the obstacles of the reformist traitors and centrist confusionists and open the road towards the international socialist revolution and workers and popular governments.

Comrades, it is high time to move from words to deeds! To those, who agree with us and our programmatic perspectives, we propose energetic efforts towards fusion of forces. To those, who see a lot of agreements but also some important differences, we propose to start a process of serious discussion and collaboration. If we don't have full agreement now, we should form a *bloc* 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 was conducted by Lenin within the Zimmerwald Movement after 1914. It seems highly relevant for the current period as it could again advance the construction of a *Revolutionary International* together with new generations of fighters who are on the forefront of the global liberation struggles. Every authentic organization should be fully aware of its historic responsibility in a period like the current one. Comrades, no time must be lost to start such a process! The time to act is *now*!

Concretely, we propose to revolutionary organizations and activists to constitute a joint bloc to build a revolutionary leadership on the basis of the following principles.

1.) *Unconditional support for all class struggles and popular uprisings against neoliberal governments and authoritarian capitalist regimes* (e.g. Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Iran, Hong Kong, India, France)! Solidarity with the popular struggle to bring down the Assad dictatorship and the Russian-Iranian occupiers! Down with reactionary coup d'états like in Bolivia!

2.) *Unconditional support for all popular struggles against national oppression and foreign occupation* (e.g. Palestine, Kashmir, Syria, Afghanistan, Catalunya, East Turkestan, Chechnya)!

3.) *Down with sanctions and military aggression by Great Pow-*

ers resp. their proxies (e.g. Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, Mali, Somalia)!

4) *No support for any Great Power in East and West!* Down with the trade wars, arms race and proxy wars! The main enemy is at home! Against U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan – for international unity of the workers and oppressed!

5) Since revolutionary forces are currently weak and fragmented, just workers and popular struggles usually take place under reformist, nationalist, populist or Islamist leaderships. *Revolutionaries oppose any sectarian approach but advocate the most energetic participation in such mass struggles.* However, while this will include various forms of practical agreements and putting demands on such forces, this must be combined with constant warning of their shortcomings and a consistent advocacy for the formation of an *independent Workers' Party as well as for the socialist program for a workers and popular government.*

The RCIT calls upon all organizations and activists which broadly agree with these five principles to enter into a dialogue. This could open a process of discussion, collaborations, meetings and conferences focusing on concrete steps to form a bloc and to work towards the formation of a New International.

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! Let us live up to the historic tasks ahead of us! There is no justification for any routine, national-centeredness and complacency! The time has come to act now and to act decisively!

Unity – Struggle – Victory!

International Secretariat of the RCIT

* * * * *

The RCIT has published numerous books, pamphlets and statements outlining our analysis and programmatic perspectives. They are all available on our website www.thecommunists.net. In particular we refer 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/>).

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

Korean Revolutionaries join the RCIT!

Statement on the foundation of a Korean section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 27 December 2019

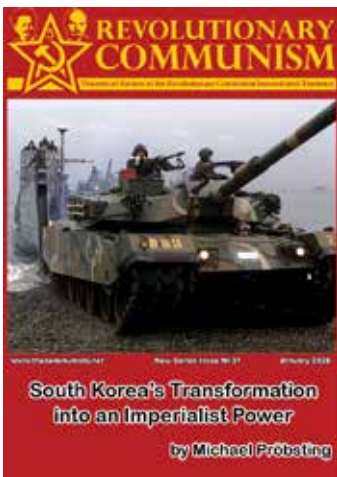
1. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) welcomes a new Korean organization of revolutionary workers as its section. This has been the result of nearly one year of joint discussion and collaboration – a process which was concluded by two visits and a conference organized by the comrades which was also attended by a representative of the RCIT's international leadership.

2. The fusion reflects a broad range of theoretical and programmatic agreements. In particular we agree on the analysis of South Korea as an imperialist state as well as on the analysis of the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan). Likewise we share a common understanding of the anti-imperialist task in defending semi-colonial North Korea against any imperialist aggression while, at the same time, calling for a workers' revolution to bring down the Stalinist-capitalist ruling class. These agreements have been documented in a number of documents. (See numerous documents published on the Korean-language section of the RCIT's website. In particular we refer to our joint statements: *Down with the Imperialist Trade War between Japan and South Korea! Down with all chauvinist boycott campaigns! Class War instead of Trade War!* 19 July 2019; *Korea: There Is No Peace Without Overthrowing Imperialism and the Rule of Capital! Peace through the Proletarian Socialist Revolution!* 8 March 2019; see also our *Theses* as well as a study on

South Korean imperialism.) In addition we share a broad programmatic outlook as reflected in the RCIT's "*Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation*".

3. Our new Korean section brings together a number of comrades with many years of experience in the class struggle. As it is well known South Korea was in the period after the downfall of the military dictatorship on 1987 a country with one of the highest levels of class struggle in the world. Its militant trade union federation KCTU was for a long time a byword for hard class struggle. Likewise, the country had a highly combative students' movement. However, the creation of a labor aristocracy and the reformist bureaucratization of the KCTU as well as vicious state repression based on various "anti-communist laws" resulted in severe defeats for the workers and student movements and the collapse of several attempts to build a revolutionary workers party (including trials and imprisonment of leading militants). These specific conditions determine the priorities in the process of building the new organization as well as the relevant security concerns which have to be taken into account.

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



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

Expel French Imperialism from West Africa! Macron and his G5 Lackeys plan to intensify their colonialist "Operation Barkhane"

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 January 2020

1. French President Emmanuel Macron and the leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mauritania (the so-called "G5 states") held a summit on 13 January in the southwestern French town of Pau in order to coordinate their efforts "to fight against terrorism" in the region. They decided to create a new structure, named "Coalition for the Sahel", which brings the G5 states, French forces and any future troops under a single command. It aims to enable joint operations, greater intelligence-sharing and quicker response time in particular for French forces. In a joint declaration, they reaffirmed their "determination to fight together against the terrorist groups." They also expressed their gratitude toward the "crucial help" of the United States and appealed to the Trump Administration not to withdraw its troops from the region. Macron also tries to involve other European states to join this imperialist "Coalition for the Sahel" and to send troops to West Africa.

2. Furthermore, Macron announced that France will send an extra 220 soldiers to West Africa. This comes in addition to the 4,500 French soldiers already stationed in the region as part of the so-called *Operation Barkhane*. This operation is a military campaign led by French imperialism and which also involves thousands of African troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Contrary to the claims of these state leaders this operation has nothing to do with "human rights", "freedom" or "justice". Its purpose is rather to secure the political and economic interests of French imperialism and other Great Powers in the region and to keep the local ruling classes in power. In addition, the campaign shall stop refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea and entering Europe.

3. It is the ordinary people in the ground who suffer the brutal consequences of this imperialist campaign. According to Maureen Magee of the *Norwegian Refugee Council* more than 80,000 people had to flee last year in Mali because of the military operations.

4. It is therefore hardly surprising that popular resistance against the French and G5 troops is growing. Hundred of G5 troops have already died in battles with rebels. Last November, France suffered a humiliating blow when 13 soldiers died during a combat mission. It was France's worst single loss of troops for 36 years. On 10 January hundreds of people gathered in Mali's capital, Bamako,

to protest against the presence of foreign troops, carrying posters reading: "Down with France, Barkhane must leave" and "France is a brake on our development."

5. The French imperialists are fully aware that the African peoples despise the presence of the *Operation Barkhane* troops and consider them as colonial occupiers. As a result, Paris is increasing its pressure on the G5 state leaders to clamp down on such opposition. During a visit to Niger's capital, Niamey, last month Macron complained of a lack of "clear political condemnation of anti-French feelings" on the ground. He said: "I see opposition movements, groups, who denounce the French presence as a neo-colonial, imperialist," adding he was loath to send soldiers to countries where their presence was not "clearly wanted".

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly condemns the decisions of the summit in Pau to intensify the military intervention in Western Africa. We denounce the *Operation Barkhane* / "Coalition for the Sahel" as a campaign to safeguard the rule of imperialist France and other Great Powers as well as the local capitalist classes. It is an imperialist campaign to secure the exploitation of the region's vast raw material by the multinational corporations. It is a racist campaign to stop African people to enter Europe.

7. While the RCIT is opposed to the political ideology of petty-bourgeois nationalism and Islamism, we support the local resistance against the French imperialist intervention as a just and legitimate struggle. We call for "Open Borders" and defend the right of people from the South to enter Europe. We call for an international solidarity campaign against the imperialist intervention in West Africa. Western Africa can only be free when the imperialist troops and monopolies are expelled and when the capitalist system will be replaced by a socialist society!

* *Down with the Operation Barkhane* / "Coalition for the Sahel"! *Expel all imperialist troops!*

* *Defeat the imperialist forces and their G5 lackeys! Victory to the popular resistance!*

* *Open the Borders – Refugees are welcome in Europe!*

* *For a united and socialist Africa free from imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation!*

International Bureau of the RCIT



Publications of the RCIT

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

Migrant Caravan in Central America: Let them all in!

Internationalist Solidarity against the Criminalization of Immigrants from Central America!

Statement from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21.01.2020

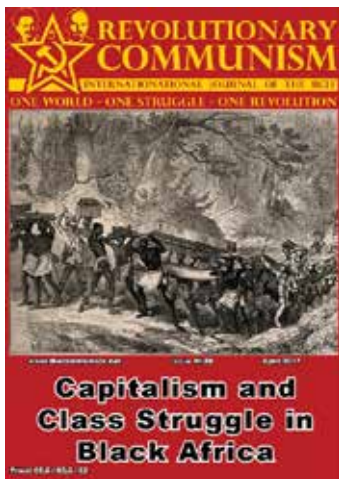
On 15 January, another massive immigrant caravan departed from San Pedro Sula, Honduras – similar to those which have taken place in the last years. These caravans attract each time more people who are running away from the extreme poverty, violence, lack of opportunities and the repression from their governments for opposing to austerity measures against the people and the authoritarianism of their political leaders. On 20 January thousands of immigrants were repressed by the Guatemalan police and the Mexican National Guard at the border between both countries, forcing many of these immigrants to cross the Suchiate River in order to get into Mexican territory.

Immigration from Central America towards the United States has a long history that results principally from the colonization that the North American companies have driven in all the countries of Latin America, the exploitation of their natural resources and their labor force. By making this dangerous journey, that implies the risk of dying or being kidnapped by the organized crime in Mexican land, by heat strokes, fatigue and many other dangers, the Central American immigrants are just seeking to obtain a bit of the fruit of their labor that has been taken away from them through many years. Never before in history has so much liberty existed for commodities to cross the

borders while, at the same time, the labor forces who produce these commodities has had so much restrictions to do enter other countries.

Unlike the claim of many “analysts” in the media, these caravans are not encouraged by sinister forces that want to destabilize the Administrations of Donald Trump or Lopez Obrador. Of course, there are people joining these caravans who would like to get political and economical advantages but the main reason these caravans are created is because proletarians know they have more possibilities of achieving their goal if they join forces as a group, especially if they do it massively.

Faced with this desperate attempt by thousands of poor workers and peasants alongside with their families to obtain a new, more bearable life than in their homeland, the Mexican government has chosen to obey to U.S. imperialism led by the white supremacist Donald Trump and by deploying the brand new National Guard to the Mexican southern border to keep Central American immigrants from having a chance of getting to the United States. The immigration retention policy by the Mexican government goes from the militarized containment through the false promise of humanitarian visas that never get to be acquired by immigrants, plus the offer of informal badly paid employment in its welfare programs “*Jovenes Construyendo el*



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

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

Futuro (Young People Building the Future) and *Sembrando Vida* (Sowing Life) with the condition of getting back to their homeland. With this measure the government of the so called "Fourth Transformation" meekly complies with the U.S. anti-immigration policy. Since last year this policy has caused the detention of more than 77.000 Honduran immigrants. Those who have been retained at the immigrant attention centers run away desperately because of the terrible conditions in which they are held. This is dividing them and making their path more dangerous. While the demand of the immigrant caravans is to be allowed to travel together in order to be safer, the Mexican government seeks to split them and to make their journey more dangerous. And all of this has been done under a progressive speech from the Mexican president in which he talks about "solidarity and fraternity with our immigrant brothers". This speech contrasts completely with the reality of his actions.

Meanwhile, in the north, the U.S. government keeps thousands of immigrants in detention centers that are nothing but concentration camps where people suffer from diseases, hunger and despair, besides that immigrant families are systematically separated. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents and put in custody of ICE, where they have been victims of all kind of abuse, including sexual abuse.

From the *Revolutionary Communists International Tendency* (RCIT) we oppose this repressive and inhumane treatment to the immigrants by the Mexican and the US governments. We call for the complete opening of the borders

of imperialist countries so that the workers, poor peasants and their families can enter them. We denounce the Mexican government for trying to stop these caravans. We repudiate the xenophobic and racist campaign intended to criminalize the immigrants. We make a call to all the revolutionaries and activists in North and Central America to join in solidarity with the immigrant caravans to pressure our governments to end this anti-migration policy of U.S. imperialism, and stop the repression in Central American countries and to do everything that is in our hands to help the path of our class brothers and sisters in their way to the United States. Likewise, we call revolutionaries and activists in the U.S. to fight the racist and authoritarian government policies that chase and criminalize immigrants from all the oppressed countries.

The RCIT calls all revolutionaries in Latin and North America to join us on the basis of an anti-imperialist program that promotes working class internationalism! Forward in building revolutionary parties as part of a new World Party of Socialist Revolution!

* *For an International Solidarity Movement to Support the Migrants' Caravans!*

* *Stop the militarization of the Mexican borders, both the north and the south!*

* *Open the Borders!*

* *Undermine All Efforts of U.S. Imperialism to Stop the Migrants' Caravan!*

Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (Mexican Section of the RCIT)
International Bureau of the RCIT

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.

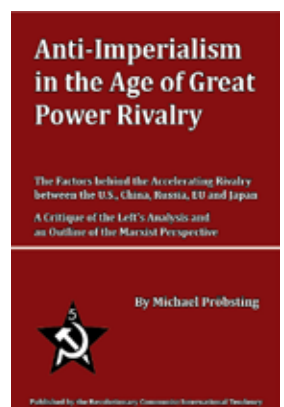
Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is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



Rally in Solidarity with the Syrian People in Idlib

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 4 January 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

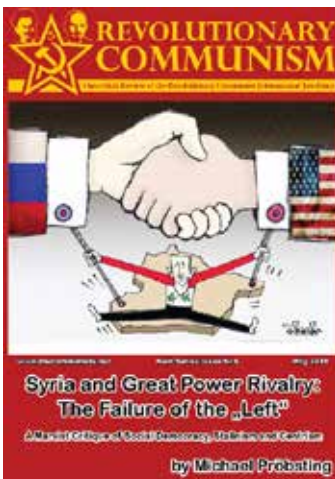
About 100 Syrian migrants held a rally in front of the Russian Embassy in Vienna (Austria) to demonstrate their solidarity with the Syrian people in Idlib. This is a particularly burning issue since the butchers Assad and Putin resumed their military offensive against the last liberated territory in the Northwest of Syria. Nearly ¼ of a million people had to flee in recent weeks. The rally was addressed by Michael Pröbsting, Interna-

tional Secretary of the RCIT. Our comrade denounced Russian imperialism and stressed the importance of continuing the support for the liberation struggle of the Syrian people.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/syria-rally-in-solidarity-with-idlib-4-1-2020/>



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 4.1.2020)



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

The U.S. Aggression against Iran and Revolutionary Tactics

Defend Iran against any imperialist aggression! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! Continue the popular liberation struggles of the Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Iranian people!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 06 January 2020

1. The killing of the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani – one of the most influential leaders of the ruling elite in Teheran –, the Iraqi PMF commander Abu Mahdi al Muhandis and other generals by the U.S. military has opened a new stage in the political dynamics of the Middle East.

a) It has dramatically accelerated the conflict between Washington and Teheran and provokes the risk of a full-scale war in the near future;

b) In reaction, Iran announced it will no longer abide by the limits contained in the 2015 nuclear deal, i.e. it brings Teheran closer to building an atomic bomb;

c) Iraq's Parliament voted for a resolution calling for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil. In reaction U.S. President Trump threatened to impose "sanctions like you've never seen" on Iraq.

2. These developments have caused massive confusion among activists around the globe. While many people in Syria and Iraqi rejoice about the setback for the counter-revolutionary Iranian regime and its local allies but are unaware of the nature of Washington's war drive, many opponents of U.S. imperialism ignore or are silent about the just the ongoing liberation struggles of the Syrian, Iraqi and Iranian peoples. Hence, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls activists – in the Middle East as well as globally – to take a consistent revolutionary, anti-imperialist and democratic stand which takes the complex realities into account.

3. The overriding goal of revolutionaries must be to strengthen the independent struggle of the workers and oppressed against all Great Powers as well as against all reactionary capitalist regimes. It is crucial to overcome all religious and national divisions between the people and to unite the struggles on the basis of a program committed to the expulsion of all imperialist powers and the overthrow of all dictatorships and reactionary regimes. It is on the basis of such a socialist program that revolutionaries must support all legitimate popular struggles against local reactionary regimes and, at the same time, they must support semi-colonial countries against the aggression of any Great Power. However, such tactics must not contain any political support for the bourgeois or petty-bourgeois leaderships of the forces involved.

4. Hence, the RCIT calls the workers and popular mass organizations around the globe:

a) to support the liberation struggles of the Syrian people in Idlib against the Assad tyranny and against the Russian-Iranian occupation;

b) to support the popular uprising of the Iraqi workers and youth against the ruling elite in Bagdad and against the Iranian interference;

c) to support mass protests of the Iranian people against the reactionary Mullah regime;

d) to support the struggle of the Yemeni people against the Saudi-led aggression.

5. At the same time, revolutionaries around the world are obligated to oppose all attacks of U.S. imperialism against Iran and its allies. While we shed no tears for Soleimani who has been a key organizer of the counter-revolutionary repression of the popular uprisings in Syria and Iraq, it is clear that the U.S. aggression has nothing to do with support for these popular uprisings. Washington's sanctions and air strikes against Iran are exclusively motivated by the domestic political crisis of the Trump Administration, by support for the Zionist Apartheid state Israel and, more fundamentally, by the desperate drive of U.S. imperialism to reverse its decay and to regain absolute hegemony in the Middle East.

6. Hence, the RCIT calls the workers and popular mass organizations around the globe:

a) to oppose all imperialist sanctions against Iran;

b) to demand the expulsion the US forces and its allies from the Middle East;

c) to oppose any interference of imperialist Russia or China, which might turn this conflict into a prelude for a new inner-imperialist war;

d) in any military conflict between the US and its allies against Iran resp. pro-Iranian forces, revolutionaries must call for the military defeat of the imperialists and for the military victory of their opponents.

7. Only such a combination of tactics will enable liberation fighters to open the road to socialist revolution towards the establishment of workers and peasants republics and a socialist federation in the Middle East. We call revolutionaries to join the RCIT in building a Revolutionary World Party committed to such a perspective!

International Bureau of the RCIT

Comunismo Revolucionario
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Iranian General Soleimani: Neither Anti-Imperialist nor Pro-People

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 January 2020

The recent killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in a US military strike has provoked various reactions. Many people around the world have been outraged about the arrogant show of force by the largest imperialist power on the globe.¹

On the other hand, numerous activists of the liberation struggles in Syria and Iraq feel relief. This is hardly surprising since Soleimani was the mastermind behind Iran's massive military intervention in Syria to save the tyrannical Assad regime against the popular uprising. And likewise, he was the central figure behind those pro-Iranian militias which brutally attacked the mass protests since October last year, resulting in the killing of hundreds of demonstrators.²

In contrast, numerous Stalinist and so-called "progressive, anti-war" forces have rather praised Soleimani as a kind of anti-imperialist hero. This false image has been reinforced by claims of the Trump Administration that Soleimani was a "deadly puppet master" responsible for the "killing of numerous U.S. soldiers".

A key figure of the Mullah regime

As a matter of fact, General Soleimani was neither anti-imperialist nor pro-people. He was the commander of the *Quds Force* which was the *Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps's* division responsible for foreign operations. He was considered as one of the most important figures behind Ayatollah Khamenei. In other words, he was a key exponent of the Mullah regime, i.e. the current regime repre-

senting the semi-colonial Iranian capitalist class.

In this role, Soleimani was a key figure in various political and military events. Hence, he played a key role when the Iranian bourgeoisie tried to expand their influence in the Middle East. For the same reason, Soleimani was central in aiding Hezbollah in its conflict with Israel. Furthermore, he was a key figure in the repression of popular uprisings in Syria and Iraq.

Contrary to some claims by Western commentators, Soleimani did not play an important role in organizing the Iraqi resistance against the U.S. occupation forces after 2003.³ The reason for this was that the Iranian regime was interested in expanding its influence in Iraq while keeping a kind of coexistence with the Americans. Hence, the central forces of the Iraqi insurrection against the American occupiers were various remnants of the nationalist Baathist party, Sunni Islamists as well as Shia Islamist-nationalists led by Muqtada as-Sadr. Those Iraqi forces with close links to Teheran (and therefore to Soleimani), like the *Badr Corps*, were not part of the anti-colonial insurrection but were rather part of the pro-US government.⁴

This was even truer in the period 2014-17 when Iran and the U.S. collaborated in fighting against the insurrection led by Daesh. In this period, pro-Iranian militias – which have been part of the so-called *Popular Mobilization Forces* – fought hand in hand with the U.S. Marines.⁵ There exist even pictures of Soleimani surrounded by American marines in Iraq from this time.⁶

Obviously, being an instrument of the Iranian semi-colonial capitalist class, Soleimani became an important oppo-

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.

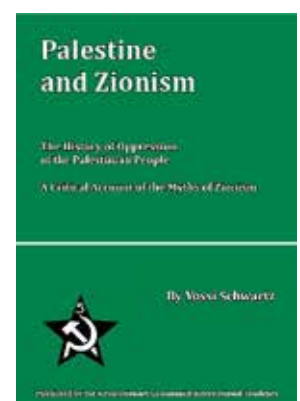
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analyzes the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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



ment of the U.S. since May 2018 when Trump withdrew from the so-called *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*, the nuclear deal of the Great Powers with Iran, and started a campaign of economic sanctions.

In short, Soleimani was a representative of a regime which has oppressed for years the popular masses in Syria, Iraq as well as in Iran and which, at the same time, has also come – sometimes more, sometimes less – into conflict with the largest imperialist Great Power.

Complex tactics in a complex world

From this follows the stance of revolutionaries. Where the Iranian regime (including Soleimani) oppresses the liberation struggles in Iran, Iraq and Syria, they act as an enemy of the people. In such circumstances, the RCIT fully supports those liberation struggles so that these reactionary tyrants get defeated.⁷ The same is true when the regime suppresses mass protests of the Iranian workers and poor.⁸

Where the Iranian regime (including Soleimani) resp. its allies enter into clashes with the U.S. (or Israel), revolutionaries side with the (pro-)Iranian forces against the imperialist main enemy. Hence, in such cases, the RCIT defends the former against the imperialists.⁹

Some critiques might accuse us that we have a “contradictory” position. But the Marxist set of tactics only reflects the contradictions in real life where imperialists oppress semi-colonial countries and where, at the same time, semi-colonial capitalist classes suppress popular protests. A complex world requires complex tactics.

Real life knows various such contradictions. To give only one analogy: when an authoritarian mother beats up her child, we will rush to the defense of the child. But when a man tries to rape the same woman on the street, we will defend her without hesitation.

Such a dialectical approach reflects the complex reality. It avoids the “anti-imperialism of idiots” propagated by the Stalinist and Bolivarian cheerleaders of Assad, Rouhani, Putin and Xi. Such “Anti-imperialism” is, in actual fact, just “anti-Americanism” and at the same time pro-Russian and Chinese social-imperialism.¹⁰

The only consistent anti-imperialism is that which opposes *all* imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan) and which support *all* liberations struggle of the workers and oppressed against the ruling classes in East and West. Only such anti-imperialism is compatible with a program of international socialist revolution. This is what the RCIT stands for.

Footnotes

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2 See on this e.g. Malak Chabkoun: Soleimani is no anti-imperialist hero, 06.01.2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/soleimani-anti-imperialist-hero-200105211451136.html>

3 See e.g. the silly article by Jefferson Morley: Soleimani managed to weaken US Mideast presence, 08.01.2020, <https://www.asiatimes.com/2020/01/article/soleimani-managed-to-weaken-us-mideast-presence/>

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9 See on the confrontations between the US and Iran the following RCIT statements: Aramco Attack: Defeat the US/Saudi/Israeli Warmongers! Defend Iran against any imperialist aggression! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 16 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/aramco-attack-defeat-the-us-saudi-israeli-warmongers/>; Strait of Hormuz: Escalating Tensions between the US/UK and Iran. Drive the Great Powers out of the Middle East! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 22 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/escalating-tensions-between-the-us-uk-and-iran/>; Iran: Down with Trump's Sanctions and Military Threats! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 11 May 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/down-with-trump-s-sanctions-and-military-threats-against-iran/>; Warmongering in the Middle East: Down with all Imperialist Great Powers and Capitalist Dictatorships! 13 May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-warmongering-in-the-middle-east/>

10 For a Marxist analysis of the Great Power rivalry and a critique of the left see e.g. Michael Pröbsting's book: 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, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

Iraq: Down with U.S. Imperialism

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 31.12.2019

According to the American military command in Baghdad a rocket attack on Friday on an Iraqi military near Kirkuk base killed an American civilian contractor and wounded a few American soldiers and Iraqi personnel.

It was not clear who was behind the attack. The 5,000 American soldiers in Iraq are the remnants of the occupation and the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure. The occupation of Iraq by the American imperialists has cost the life of more than 200,000 civilians.

"No one knows with certainty how many people have been killed and wounded in Iraq since the 2003 United States invasion. However, we know that over 182,000 civilians have died from direct war related violence caused by the US, its allies, the Iraqi military and police, and opposition forces from the time of the invasion through November 2018. The violent deaths of Iraqi civilians have occurred through aerial bombing, shelling, gunshots, suicide attacks, and fires started by bombing. Because not all war-related deaths have been recorded accurately by the Iraqi government and the US-led coalition, the 182,000 figure for civilians killed from 2003 to 2018 is lower than the actual figure". (1)

The American official line is that Washington was motivated by Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program. In reality the weapons of mass destruction provided by the USA were used in the 1980s Iraqi-Iranian war that cost the lives of a million Iraqi and Iranian soldiers.

Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who came to power by a military coup backed by the CIA. An article of the *New York Times* from 2003 states:

"On the brink of war, both supporters and critics of United States policy on Iraq agree on the origins, at least, of the haunted relations that have brought us to this pass: America's dealings with Saddam Hussein, justifiable or not, began some two decades ago with its shadowy, expedient support of his regime in the Iraq-Iran war of the 1980's. Both sides are mistaken. Wash-

ington's policy traces an even longer, more shrouded and fateful history. Forty years ago, the Central Intelligence Agency, under President John F. Kennedy, conducted its own regime change in Baghdad, carried out in collaboration with Saddam Hussein." (2)

The real reasons behind the U.S. war on the Iraqi people were oil and gunboat diplomacy – to show that the USA is the master of the Middle East and other parts of the world. Ahsan I Butt, a journalist of *Al Jazeera*, wrote on this subject: *"A quick and decisive victory in the heart of the Arab world would send a message to all countries, especially to recalcitrant regimes such as Syria, Libya, Iran, or North Korea, that American hegemony was here to stay. Put simply, the Iraq war was motivated by a desire to (re)establish American standing as the world's leading power. Indeed, even before 9/11, then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld saw Iraq through the prism of status and reputation, variously arguing in February and July 2001 that ousting Saddam would "enhance US credibility and influence throughout the region" and "demonstrate what US policy is all about." (3)*

Thus whoever attacked the Iraqi military base used by the American army had very good reasons to kill the American contractor who came to Iraq to enrich himself from the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The U.S. reaction was the bombing five sites of the Iraqi militia *Kataeb Hezbollah* which is pro-Iranian. The U.S. claims that this militia is behind the attack on the military base. However it is more likely that ISIS that has bases in the region of Kirkuk was behind the attack. It is also possible that it was an Israeli operation.

Would Israel attack an American base to push the USA to attack a pro-Iranian militia? While we do not have any knowledge of such Israeli involvement, Israel has a history of attacking American units and we will deal with two such cases.

A) The Lavon Affair. The Lavon Affair refers to the scandal over a failed Israeli covert operation in Egypt known as



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

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Operation Susannah, in which Israeli military intelligence bombed Egyptian, American and British-owned targets in Egypt in the summer of 1954. It became known as the Lavon Affair after the Israeli defense minister Pinhas Lavon, who was forced to resign because of the incident, or euphemistically as the Unfortunate Affair. Israel admitted responsibility in 2005 when Israeli President Moshe Katsav honored the nine Egyptian Jewish agents who were involved. (4)

B) The case of Liberty. The Americans have findings that show our pilots were aware the ship was American,' a newly published document by the State Archives says. Amid the jubilee celebrations for the Six-Day War, the tragic story of the American spy ship USS Liberty – which was bombed by an Israeli fighter jet and torpedo boats on June 8, 1967 in the eastern Mediterranean – was somewhat overlooked. Thirty-four American sailors were killed in the Israeli attack and many others were wounded. 'The Americans have findings that show our pilots were aware the ship was American,' a newly published document by the State Archives says. (5) In the recent bombing on Iraq the American imperialists killed at least 25 people and injured dozens. This was a pure imperialist state terrorism.

In response to this criminal attack by the USA, hundreds of Iraqi protesters tried to storm the US embassy in Baghdad shouting "Down, Down USA!"

The American attack may lead to a military conflict between the USA and Iran on Iraqi soil. This is the wet dream of the Israeli Prime Minister. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday and congratulated him on the US attack on Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. In his remarks, Netanyahu praised the US's important action against Iran and its militias in the Persian Gulf region.

Last week, before the American base was attacked, the chief of the Israeli army Aviv Kohavi said: "It would be better if we weren't the only ones responding to them [militarily to Iran]", Kohavi said, in an apparent criticism of the United States and Persian Gulf countries, which also see Iran as a major foe. The military chief, in his first major speech, said the IDF was operating throughout the region – openly, covertly and clandestinely – in order to thwart the plans of Iran and its proxies, "even at the risk of war." He also issued a bleak warning to Israelis that the next war, when it came, would hit the home front hard. "It must be known and recognized that in the next war – whether in the north or against Hamas – heavy fire will be directed against our home front. I'm looking people in the eye, and saying, there will be heavy fire. We have to recognize this and we have to prepare for this... We have to prepare for this militarily; the civil hierarchies have to prepare for this; and we have to prepare for this mentally." (6)

Is it possible that Trump decision to attack the pro-Iranian militia is connected with the speech of Kohavi? Time will tell.

As a revolutionary Marxist organization the RCIT wants to see the end of the reactionary regime in Iran toppled by a working class revolution. The role of this regime in Iran, Syria and in Lebanon is counter revolutionary. In the clashes between the mass protesters in these countries we side with the masses against the Iranian regime and its allies.

Nevertheless in a case of a military confrontation between

Iran which is not an imperialist state and the USA which is an imperialist state, we want to see the defeat of the USA. Hence, the RCIT takes the position for a military victory of Iran and military defeat for the USA. The Iranian regime is an enemy of the working class but the imperialists are the worst and the most dangerous enemies.

We reiterate what we said in a RCIT statement after the Aramco Attack more than three months ago: "We condemn the rampant aggression of U.S. imperialism against Iran and call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from the region. We call for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all sanctions against Iran. In case of any military conflict between Iran and the US, Israel or any of its allies, we will side with the former and advocate the defeat of the imperialists. We support all activities that undermine and defeat imperialist aggression." (7)

To those who reject such a position by saying that Iran is a reactionary or a semi fascist regime, Trotsky replied many years ago: "I will take the most simple and obvious example. In Brazil there now reigns a semi fascist regime that every revolutionary can only view with hatred. Let us assume, however, that on the morrow England enters into a military conflict with Brazil. I ask you on whose side of the conflict will the working class be? I will answer for myself personally – in this case I will be on the side of "fascist" Brazil against "democratic" Great Britain. Why? Because in the conflict between them it will not be a question of democracy or fascism. If England should be victorious, she will put another fascist in Rio de Janeiro and will place double chains on Brazil. If Brazil on the contrary should be victorious, it will give a mighty impulse to national and democratic consciousness of the country and will lead to the overthrow of the Vargas dictatorship. The defeat of England will at the same time deliver a blow to British imperialism and will give an impulse to the revolutionary movement of the British proletariat. Truly, one must have an empty head to reduce world antagonisms and military conflicts to the struggle between fascism and democracy. Under all masks one must know how to distinguish exploiters, slave-owners, and robbers!" (8)

Footnotes

- 1) Watson Institute Brown University, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians/iraqi>
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- 6) Judah Ari Gross: IDF chief warns Israelis: The next war will hit our home front extremely hard, The Times of Israel, 25 Dec. 2019
- 7) RCIT: Aramco Attack: Defeat the US/Saudi/Israeli Warmongers! Defend Iran against any imperialist aggression! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 16 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/aramco-attack-defeat-the-us-saudi-israeli-warmongers/>
- 8) Leon Trotsky: Anti-Imperialist Struggle Is Key to Liberation. An Interview with Mateo Fossa (September 1938)

Rally on the 9th Anniversary of the Egypt Revolution 2011

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 26 January 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

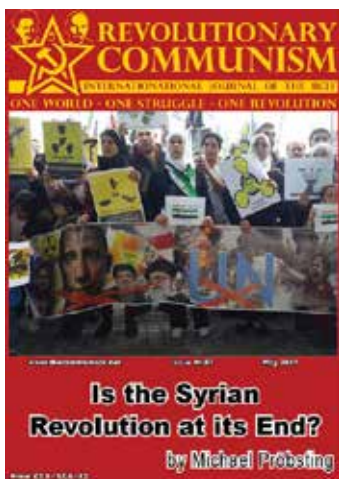
The Egyptian migrant community organized a rally in the centre of Vienna to commemorate the 9th anniversary of the Egypt Revolution. As a result of a heroic popular uprising, the Egyptian workers and poor toppled the regime of the dictator Mubarak on 25 January 2011. This revolution won important democratic rights. However, these gains were crushed two and a half years later when General Sisi launched a bloody military coup on 3 July 2013. Since then, the regime has killed thousands of people and threw more than 60.000 people into prison.

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT attended the rally and our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed those gathered. In his speech, comrade Pröbsting stressed the solidarity of the RCIT with the resistance of the Egypt people against the military dictatorship.

See photos and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-on-9th-anniversary-of-egypt-revolution/>



Michael Pröbsting speaks at a rally in solidarity with the Egyptian people (Vienna, 26.1.2020)



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

UK: Labour Elects New Leadership after Humiliating Defeat

By Joseph Adams, RCIT BRITAIN, 17 January 2020

After the humiliating electoral defeat Jeremy Corbyn has resigned as party leader. As a result a leadership election campaign has begun with the result known at a special Conference on April 2nd. The main contenders for the leadership Election are Rebecca Long Bailey, a close ally of Corbyn, and Sir Keir Starmer, former Brexit Shadow Secretary and a noted Blairite. Jess Phillips and Lisa Nandy other less known Blairites are also standing. Emily Thornberry, former Shadow Foreign Secretary, is also standing,

The latest odds are that Starmer is in the lead with the most nominations from MP's and he has gained the support of the right wing trade union *Unison*. Starmer is a former state official having been Director of Public Prosecutions involved in some high profile prosecutions including Julian Assange. He is a vicious Blairite with no connection to the working class.

"Sir Keir Starmer has won the backing of the UK's largest trade union, Unison, to become the next Labour leader. Unison, which has 1.3 million members, said the shadow Brexit secretary was best placed of the candidates to unite the party and regain public trust. Unite, Labour's largest financial backer, will decide later this month who to back in the contest. Sir Keir has also become the first to secure enough nominations from MPs and MEPs to get on the ballot paper. The Holborn and St Pancras MP has, so far, secured the backing of 41 colleagues - well above the minimum of 22 required" [1]

Rebecca Long Bailey who gave Corbyn 10/10 for his leadership is no Corbynite and refuses to be labelled one and has consistently tries to unite the party with the Blairites. Long Bailey recently received the support and backing of

several trade union leaders. She also has serious pro-Zionist sympathies having attended the Jewish Labour movement conference, a noted Zionist Organisation, where she stated she would not readmit Chris Williamson, a noted anti-Zionist, back into the party. Williamson was witch-hunted and driven out of the party for campaigning against the Blairites and Zionists. Unlike Corbyn she is not opposed to the use of nuclear weapons as Corbyn was and she said if elected as Prime Minister she would have no problem in taking Britain to war. It is on the issue of perceived Anti-Semitism where she criticises Corbyn for his softness to the issue.

"Interestingly, though, in a subsequent interview with the BBC, she adopted a slightly more nuanced approach. She acknowledged that Brexit harmed the party in the election. She also conceded on anti-Semitism - saying that behind the scenes she was pressing for tougher action on this". [2]

The RCIT BRITAIN has consistently shown the role of Zionism in Britain and how even Corbyn and now Long Bailey conflate the issues of Anti Zionism with Anti-Semitism. Ruth Smeeth MP, a Zionist agent who lost her seat in Stoke on Trent, has accused the party of 'Racism'. No action was taken against her, yet honest socialists and pro-Palestinian supporters were expelled and witch-hunted out of the party. This shows the double standards of potential leaders like Long Bailey who wants to strengthen the IHRA definition and continue to allow Blairites and Zionists to remain within the Labour Party.

"In July 2017, Labour's leadership – the National Executive Committee (2) - adopted the so-called International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition that includes the

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

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

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

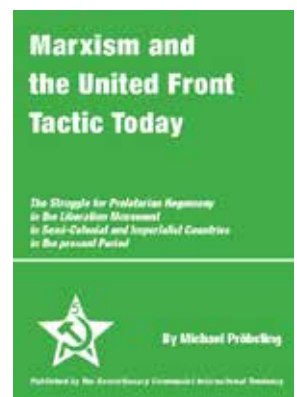
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



notion that criticism of Israel can amount to Anti-Semitism. In February and July 2019, complaints of Anti-Semitism led to a process where 350 members resigned, expelled or received formal warnings. Thus even on the issue of Zionism Corbyn caved in and even apologized to the Zionists." [3]

BOURGEOIS STATE WILL BE HAPPY WITH LONG BAILEY OR STARMER AS LEADER

The election result will be decided by a vote by every member of the party including MP's, Constituency Labour Party members, MEP's and trade union affiliated members as well as registered supporters. Both candidates, Long Bailey and Starmer, have no connection to the working class or the trade unions. Starmer, a former State Agent, and Long Bailey, a commercial solicitor, of course need the support of the trade union bureaucracy. It seems that Corbynism as a movement is dead with his defeat. The bourgeoisie are now quite happy with the possibility of either Starmer or Long Bailey being elected. They are hoping that once again the Labour party can be turned into an openly pro-capitalist Blairite party again. Long Bailey, the so called pseudo-left candidate, will as Corbyn did compromise and capitulate to the Blairites in the Labour Party.

There are two main candidates in the Deputy Leader election campaign, Richard Burgon and Angela Rayner. Angela Rayner has a political outlook similar to Rebecca Long Bailey. Richard Burgon, on the other hand, is a committed socialist. The *Left Labour Alliance*, formerly *Labour against the Witch-Hunt*, is supporting the election of Richard Burgon and the RCIT BRITAIN will also campaign for Richard Burgon as the best candidate to succeed the vicious Blairite Tom Watson the former deputy Leader who in the end lost out to Jeremy Corbyn. Good riddance.

Naturally, this does not mean that we share all the political viewpoints of Richard Burgon (e.g. his political sympathies for Maduro or Castro).

BORIS JOHNSON'S REACTIONARY AND RACIST PROGRAMME

Boris Johnson in his Queen's speech to Parliament presented a fundamentally reactionary programme which in-

cludes the privatization of the NHS with an Atlantic deal with President Trump. Strikes in the public sector including the recent strikes on the railways by members of the RMT and ASLEF will be illegal and banned. Showing his support for the Zionist racist and imperialist state of Israel the Boycott Diversity and Sanctions campaign will also be illegal and NGO's like the Palestine Solidarity campaign campaigning for BDS faces a prison sentence. Anti-Gypsy and anti-Roma measures are parts of his immigration laws which he will introduce in the new Parliament. Both Europeans and non-Europeans will face deportations and evictions from Britain.

The General election in the end was fought on Brexit and Johnson won because he promised Brexit would be done. His European Withdrawal motion was passed with an 84 majority and is now the main plank of this parliament. The Pro-European remain Blairite MP's ensured Corbyn's defeat and many voted for the Liberal democrats. The Blairites more than any other forces helped to destroy Corbyn and ensure a Tory victory.

"The European Union (withdrawal agreement) bill will ratify the deal the prime minister struck with EU leaders in the autumn and which was voted down by parliament repeatedly. He is set to put this bill to MPs on Friday and hopes to have this passed by 31 January The immigration and social security co-ordination (EU withdrawal) bill proposes an Australian-style points based system that would end free movement in UK law The government will stop public institutions, including councils and universities, from imposing their own views on international relations with boycotts and sanctions. The prime minister said he wants to end institutions developing their own "pseudo-foreign policy" against countries that, "with nauseating frequency, turn out to be Israel". [4].

There is also evidence that over 1,000 fascists have applied to join the Tory Party to support Johnson's extreme Islamophobic programme against Muslim migrants living in Britain. *Britain First*, a prominent fascist organization, and the *English Defence League* have been prominent in attacks on anti-fascists while the police have stood by and let it happen. This demonstrates that the Tory party under Johnson's leadership has now massively shifted to the right. He has expelled many Pro-European Tories. Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have left the Tory

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Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)



party and voted for the Liberal Democrats at the General Election.

"Britain First says two-thirds of its 7,500 members have joined the Conservative Party after being drawn in by Boris Johnson's 'firm stance against radical Islam'. The far-right group, whose leaders were jailed for Muslim hate crimes last year, added that the mass defection had taken place in the wake of the general election". [5]

PERSEPCTIVES

It is highly urgent that socialist activists draw the right conclusions from the defeat of Corbyn's left reformism. Any way forward is impossible if socialists remain within the same party like the Blairites and pro-Zionists. An important issue in the leadership election must be the issue of splitting with these reactionary forces.

Furthermore, socialists must advocate a program of militant class struggle against the austerity, racist and anti-democratic attacks which the Johnson government plan.

The RCIT BRITAIN calls for a campaign to rearm the leftward moving forces in the Labour Party like the *Labour Left Alliance*. It is essential in these leadership elections to support Richard Burgon for the Deputy Leadership election and for Constituency Labour Parties to nominate him as Deputy Leader.

The RCIT BRITAIN calls for a determined fight inside the Labour Party and in the working class and trade union movement for protests, demonstrations and occupations in a campaign to remove the Johnson government. The RCIT BRITAIN puts forward the following programme.

** Form a united front with organizations like Labour Left Alliance. Support and vote for Richard Burgon for Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.*

** 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!*

** 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" and the Jewish Labour Movement 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. Combine with Irish activists to campaign for demonstrations and protests in the campaign for a 32 County United Workers Republic!*

** 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-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.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51035448>
- 2) https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51012381?int-link_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/clm-1wxp5pxxt/rebecca-long-bailey&link_location=live-reporting-story
- 3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/elections-in-uk-role-of-zionism/>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/dec/19/queens-speech-what-is-in-boris-johnson-2020-programme>
- 5) <https://metro.co.uk/2019/12/28/far-right-group-britain-first-says-5000-members-joined-tories-11970687/>

China's transformation into an imperialist power

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

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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

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!

