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Issue Nr.104

April 2020

## Revolution and Women's Liberation - One Struggle!

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Picture on the Cover: Women demonstrating at a rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Iraq (Vienna, 16.11.2019)

*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.

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## Syria: Protestors Stop Russian-Turkish Joint Patrol on M4 Highway

**On the 9th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution, people demonstrate their determination to continue the liberation struggle against the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers!**

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

1. Today, mass protests stopped the first joint patrol of Russian and Turkish military which should have taken place on the M4 highway in Idlib. Such joint patrols on the most important highway in Idlib – the last free territory of the Syrian people – have been a crucial part of the treacherous Moscow ceasefire agreement between Putin and Erdoğan on 5 March. These patrols are essential for the implementation of the reactionary plan to establish a so-called security corridor on either side of the M4. If implemented this corridor would effectively cut the southern part of Idlib, which is still controlled by the liberation fighters, from the rest of the region.

2. The treacherous Moscow deal, and in particular the so-called security corridor around the M4, has provoked widespread opposition from the Syrian people. It has likewise been rejected by various petty-bourgeois Islamist factions like the *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* and others which play a central role in the ongoing liberation struggle by the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers.

3. Two day ago, hundreds of civilians started to occupy central sectors of the M4 highway and built barricades. They made clear that Russian military will not be allowed to enter the free territory. Today, these protests swelled into mass demonstrations. When Turkish military vehicles came close, the protestors peacefully blocked and climbed on them, ultimately forcing them to withdraw. (For a short video report with interviews with male and female protestors, produced by Bilal Abdul Kareem, a great Black American Muslim journalist reporting from free Syria for years, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7iSb6hQzno&feature=youtu.be>)

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes this spontaneous initiative of the popular masses! These heroic protests on the 9<sup>th</sup> anni-

versary of the beginning of the Syrian Revolution demonstrate that the liberation struggle – contrary to the slander of the demoralized renegades – is not dead but continuing!

5. The RCIT has warned from the beginning that the Moscow deal between Putin and Erdoğan is a counter-revolutionary conspiracy against the ongoing liberation struggle. It is nothing but a continuation of the treacherous Astana and Sochi deals which have weakened the Syrian Revolution in the last years. We repeat that the popular masses and the liberation fighters must not allow the implementation of the Moscow agreement! We also state once more that any illusions in the Turkish government are misplaced. Erdoğan is far more interested in making deals with imperialist Great Powers (like Russia and the U.S.) and in getting money from the EU than in the fate of the Syrian Revolution. For Ankara, the Syrian people are just a pawn whom it is willing to sacrifice for the right price. We call again for a broad international campaign in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution!

*Defend Idlib - Defeat Assad and the Russian-Iranian Occupiers!  
Don't Let Idlib Die!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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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/>.

## 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](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)*

# Idlib: Putin-Erdoğan Deal is a Sell-Out of the Syrian Revolution!

## Syrian liberation fighters must reject the deal and continue the struggle against the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 6 March 2020*

1. At their meeting on 5 March in Moscow Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan have agreed once again on a ceasefire deal on Idlib. Its official results are summarized in a so-called “*Additional Protocol to the Memorandum on Stabilization of the Situation in the Idlib De-Escalation Area*”. The main points of this agreement are the following:

\* Cessation of all military actions along the line of contact in the Idlib de-escalation area starting from 00:01 on 6 March.

\* Establishment of a so-called “security corridor” 6 kilometers deep to the north and 6 kilometers deep to the south from highway M4. Specific parameters for the functioning of the security corridor shall be agreed between the Defense Ministries of Turkey and Russia within 7 days.

\* Launching of joint Turkish-Russian patrols along highway M4 from the settlement of Trumba (2 kilometers to the west of Saraqeb) to the settlement of Ain al-Havr.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly denounces this deal as another vicious blow against the Syrian Revolution! This deal serves the interests of Russian imperialism and the tyrannical Assad regime. It might also be the case that Putin and Erdoğan secretly agreed on some political or economic is-

ues which are important for the Turkish government (e.g. Libya, Eastern Mediterranean gas, SS-400). In any case, this deal means – like the Astana and Sochi deals in the past – another stab in the back of the liberation struggle of the Syrian people.

3. Concretely, this agreement is a sell-out of the Syrian Revolution for the following reasons:

\* A ceasefire in this situation only serves the militias of Assad since they suffered terrible losses in the past days. Thanks to the deployment of Turkish armed drones and also because Ankara provided the rebels with some modern arms against war planes and tanks, the liberation forces were able to challenge the huge military superiority of the counter-revolutionary forces for the first time. In the last days alone, Assad’s militias lost at least three fighter jets, three helicopters, nine air defense systems as well as numerous tanks. Hence, the rebels were advancing and managed to liberate some towns and villages which they had lost in the past weeks. A ceasefire in such a situation means that the rebels can no longer advance and that the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupation forces can rebuild their forces. In the past, Assad’s militias have broken all ceasefires once they felt strong enough. They will do the same now as they have repeatedly announced that they

## Books of the RCIT

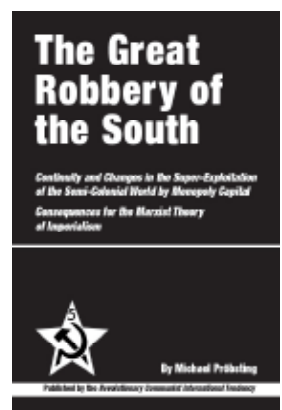
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



intend to conquer all free territories, i.e. the whole of Idlib.

\* The agreement does not mention the important high way M5, linking Damascus with Aleppo. This highway is currently mostly under control of the Assadist forces and has been a major issue in the current battles. As it is not mentioned, this means nothing but continuing control of it by Russian-Iranian-Assadist forces.

\* The agreement includes the establishment of a large "security corridor" on both sides of the M4, the other crucial highway which links Latakia with Aleppo. This highway is currently under full control of the rebels. Creating a "security corridor" with Turkish-Russian patrols is a pretext for expelling the rebels from this area and cutting off the area of southern Idlib. This area includes the strategically important town of Jisr al Shughur which is currently controlled by rebel forces which have until now consistently opposed the Astana-Sochi sell-out policy.

\* In summary, the Putin-Erdogan deal is a sell-out of the Syrian Revolution because it calls for a stop of the fighting in a moment when the rebels are advancing, because it leaves control of the M5 highway to Assad and because it potentially hands-over the M4 highway as well as southern Idlib to the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers.

4. This sell-out does not come as a surprise. The RCIT has repeatedly warned for years that the Erdogan government is primarily interested in consolidating its alliance with Russian imperialism (or other powers). Likewise, Ankara is determined to let no more Syrian refugees into the country. Political or military support for Syrian rebels has always been only a tactical instrument for Ankara in

order to serve these primary goals. In a statement of 10 February, we said: *"We warn that the Turkish army in Idlib should not be trusted. Since Erdoğan desires to keep his alliance with Putin the butcher, it is quiet likely that he will strike again a treacherous deal against the Syrian Revolution. As a result the Turkish troops could be used to expel, disarm or crush the Syrian liberation fighters and to hand over parts of Idlib to the regime."* We repeated this warning even when the recent escalation forced the Turkish army to lend some support to the rebels in the last weeks: *"However, we warn once more that Ankara's current flexing of muscles could be a prelude to strike a new deal with Moscow with the aim of pacifying the Syrian Revolution and disarming the militant factions. For these reasons, liberation fighters in Idlib must avoid any political subordination to Ankara and its foreign policy goals."* (29 February)

5. The RCIT calls all factions of the Syrian resistance to denounce the Putin-Erdogan deal and to reject its implementation. We warn once more that this deal could be a pretext to disarm and suppress the factions which have always opposed the treacherous Astana-Sochi deals. We urge the factions to refuse any political subordination to Ankara. We call for a broad united front of all those opposed to the Astana-Sochi policy in order to continue the liberation struggle. For an international solidarity campaign with the Syrian Revolution!

*Defend Idlib - Defeat Assad and the Russian-Iranian Occupiers! Don't Let Idlib Die!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 26.1.2020)

# Syria: On the Turkish-Russian Confrontation in Idlib

**Continue supporting the heroic Syrian resistance! Kick out the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers! But don't trust Ankara's political games!**

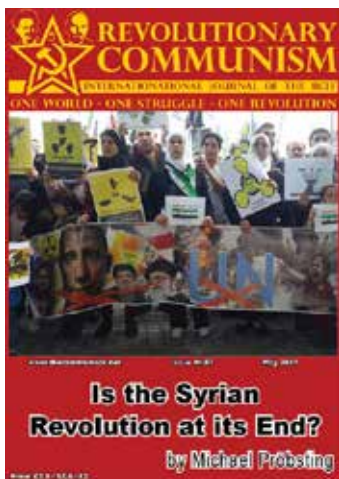
*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 29 February 2020*

1. The dramatic events in Idlib have taken a new turn in recent days and weeks. Relentless carpet bombing by Putin's warplanes and a scorched-earth policy of the barbarous Russian-Iranian-Assadist killer gangs have resulted in important setbacks for the liberation fighters in the last free enclave in Idlib. This has provoked another gigantic wave of refugees. Nearly one million Syrians have been displaced since early December, desperately fleeing the murderous forces of the regime. Many of these refugees want to cross the border to Turkey – a country which already hosts 3.66 million registered Syrian refugees. In response, Turkey has now sent troops to Idlib in order to stop the Russian-Iranian-Assadist aggressors.

2. This has led to a situation where Turkish troops support the rebel fighters in defending their homeland against the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers. Consequently, there have been a number of confrontations between rebels and allied Turkish troops against Russian-Iranian-Assadist forces. As a result, 52 Turkish soldiers have died in Idlib since the start of February. On 27 February alone 33 Turkish troops were killed by Russian air strikes. Russia has also sent two warships – the *Admiral Makarov* and the *Admiral Grigorovich* – armed with cruise missiles to waters off the Syrian coast.

3. The background of these developments are the fundamental contradictions of the treacherous Astana-Sochi policy in which Russian imperialism and the Turkish and Iranian regimes agreed on a pacification of the Syrian Revolution. At the same time, the Assad regime – with the support of Putin and Rouhani – is determined to wipe out every kind of popular resistance. However, since the Syrian people don't want to live any longer under the tyranny of the Assad regime – half of the whole population are refugees, many of them are living abroad (!) – the fall of Idlib could only mean new waves of refugees for Turkey. This is something which the Erdoğan government wants to avoid at any costs. As a result, Turkey and Russia, which have established a strategic alliance in past years, are now close to stumble, against their initial wishes, into a military confrontation in Idlib. Both, Erdoğan and Putin, hope for a compromise (in their respective favor) and both are gambling that the other side blinks first. As the events in recent days demonstrated, this is a gamble which can easily get out of control and provoke a serious military confrontation which initially neither Ankara nor Moscow intended.

4. The EU is determined to avoid letting a new wave of Syrian refugees into Europe. It wants to keep the poor people out of the imperialist fortress. While the US Ad-



## *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*

ministration expressed some “concerns” about Russia’s scorched-earth policy in Idlib, it made clear repeatedly that it has no intention to become involved in this conflict. Erdoğan’s policy of playing the Western imperialist powers against their Eastern rivals seems not to come to fruition – at least until now.

5. In light of these developments, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) repeats its call for international solidarity with the Syrian people and the heroic liberation fighters. In this difficult hour, Idlib – the last free bastion of the revolutionary uprising which began on 15 March 2011 – must be defended by any means necessary! All material aid in order to bolster the resistance struggle against an overwhelming enemy is welcome. It is a shame that Ankara preferred to strike deals with Russian imperialism for years instead of giving desperately needed MANPADS, ATGM’s and other modern weaponry to the liberation fighters!

6. The RCIT has always opposed the Astana-Sochi policy of the Erdoğan government. Hence, it is to be welcomed if the course of events forces Ankara, against its wishes, to enter into a confrontation with Russian imperialism and its local allies. In such a conflict, revolutionaries welcome any defeat for the Eastern Great Power and its proxies.

7. However, we warn once more that Ankara’s current flexing of muscles could be a prelude to strike a new deal with Moscow with the aim of pacifying the Syrian Revolution and disarming the militant factions. For these reasons, liberation fighters in Idlib must avoid any political subordination to Ankara and its foreign policy goals. As long as Ankara is forced to side with the rebels and to fight against the Russian-Iranian-Assadist occupiers, military-tactical coordination with Turkish troops is legitimate in order to expel the enemy. However, the liberation fighters must not rely on political support by Ankara or any other foreign government. The goal must be to fight for a broad front of the popular masses in Syria irrespective of their confessions and ethnic affiliations and to link the struggle for freedom with the popular struggles of the Arab, Turkish, Kurdish and Iranian peoples.

8. At the same time, the workers movement in Europe must pressurize their government to open the borders for Syrian refugees. We denounce the reactionary policy of the European Union to stop refugees from the Middle East or from Africa entering the continent. We say: Open the borders for refugees! The RCIT also denounces the reactionary policy of the Greek governments (first by the post-Stalinist SYRIZA, now by the conservative ND) to isolate the refugees in camps on islands. In fact, these are nothing but prison camps! We fully support any protests organized by the refugees and their supporters against the inhuman incarceration in such camps and for all improvements of the material living conditions there. Shamefully, right-wing forces have repeatedly attacked refugee camps in many countries in order to threaten, injure or even kill our unprotected brother and sisters. Therefore we need to organize self-defense units of refugees and progressive supporters to fight back against any threat or attack by such reactionary forces respectively by the repression apparatus of the state!

9. The RCIT also denounces the Stalinists, Bolivarists and other so-called “leftists” who refuse to support

the Syrian liberation struggle. Shamefully, the two “Communist” Parties in Syria are even part of Assad’s ruling bloc! Likewise, the Turkish Stalinist TKP agrees with the bourgeois opposition parties in Turkey (CHP, İYİ, etc.) in calling for realignment with the butcher regime in Damascus. Many “leftist” parties around the world refuse to side with the Syrian Revolution because of their pro-Russian social-imperialist position and/or because of their Islamophobic stance and their uncritical praise of the YPG. While we fully support the right for national self-determination of the Kurdish people and their struggle against oppression by the Turkish regime, we oppose any characterization of Turkey as the “biggest enemy” in each and every situation – as it is done by many so-called “left-wing” organizations. In case of the defense of Idlib and the protection of the Syrian Revolution in this very moment, Turkish troops play a positive role in aiding the exhausted rebels on military terms. Authentic revolutionaries understand the necessity of military collaboration in order to defend the revolution without giving any political support to the temporary practical ally.

10. We reject the Stalinists’ claims that Turkey’s current policy primarily represents the interests of NATO or Western imperialism in this conflict. The Western Great Powers have refused for years to lend any serious support to the Syrian rebels and there are no signs that this has changed now. Quite the opposite, they have watched a gigantic massacre – up to one million Syrians have been killed by the butcher trio Assad, Putin and Rouhani – without lifting a finger! The background of the current confrontation between Russia and Turkey lies in their temporary conflicting interests in the Syrian civil war, not in the global Great Power rivalry. Likewise, to give an analogy, we reject the notion that the conflict between Iran (which is allied with Russia and China) and U.S. imperialism resp. Israel would be primarily a reflection of Great Power rivalry (which is why we side with former against the later).

11. We appeal once more 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. Such a campaign should include all that is needed: medication, clothes, weapons, volunteers, etc. Brothers and sisters, do 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! Don’t Let Idlib Die!

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

# Open Europe's Borders for Syrian Refugees - Now!

## Down with the imperialist Fortress Europe!

### Support the liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Russia/Iran/Assad!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 March 2020*

1. The imperialist rulers of the European Union have declared war against the Syrian refugees! The Greek police, with full political support of other EU governments, brutally attack the worn out women, men and children. These thugs in the service of the rich and powerful merciless beat up defenceless refugees, attack them with tear gas, ram their small rubber rafts with their military ships, and even use live ammunition! At least one refugee has been already shot dead, several injured and one child drowned in the sea as a result of the blatant aggression of the Greek police.

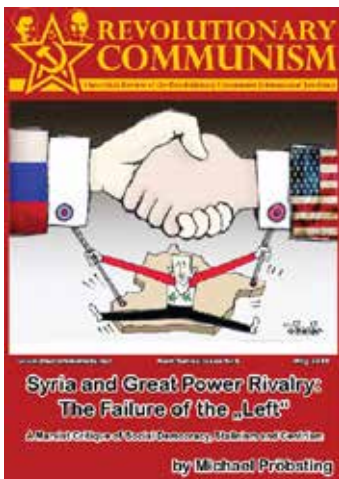
2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sharply denounces the racist policy of the Greek and all other EU governments against the refugees! These Syrian refugees are treated like criminals while their only "crime" is that they desperately want to flee war and misery. They can not live any longer in a country which is ruled since decades by a tyrannical regime – a dictatorship which has slaughtered up to one million people since the beginning of the popular uprising in March 2011! The barbarous policy of Assad the Butcher – with the decisive help of Russian imperialism and the Iranian Mullah regime – has transformed 11 million people into refugees, half of the whole Syrian population!

3. The RCIT calls the workers movement, migrant and popular organizations in Europe to jointly fight for the immediate opening of the borders of European Union! We say: down with the overcrowded refugee camps on Greece's islands which are nothing but open-air prisons!

There is enough space in Europe for refugees: every major city has tens of thousands of empty apartments! Open the labour market for refugees which would enable them an independent income and, furthermore, it would also allow a cut in working hours for Europe's workers. The bourgeois governments and their media claim that there is not enough money for refugees. What a silly lie! Europe is home of hundreds of billionaires – lazy parasites who got rich at the expense of the workers in Europe and the South! Let us take the money from them with a special tax so that they, for once, could make a useful contribution to the society!

4. We know that refugees are often victims of brutal attacks by racist and fascist gangs as well as of reactionary police forces. It is urgent that the workers and popular organizations, in cooperation with migrants and refugees, build self-defence units in order to prevent such racist aggressions.

5. Finally, the RCIT calls once more the international workers and popular organizations to rally to the defence of the Syrian people who are fighting in Idlib for freedom! For a global solidarity campaign in defense of the Syrian Revolution! Such a campaign should include all that is needed: medication, clothes, weapons, volunteers, etc. Brothers and sisters, do 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! Don't Let Idlib Die!



## *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*



## Ireland: Sinn Féin Wins in Historic Result

### But Stalemate in Irish Politics remains! For a 32 County Workers Government!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 16 February 2020

Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Republican movement under Mary Lou McDonald, won a historic victory in the General Election in Éire on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February. Éire, unlike England, has a proportional representation system of the single transferable vote and in essence a more democratic system with Sinn Féin coming first winning all the first preference votes, but failing to win an outright majority. They did not field enough candidates so Fianna Fáil, one of the two bourgeois capitalist parties, won 36 seats or TD's (Members of parliament in the Irish dail). Sinn Fein won 37, however Fianna Fáil was only ahead because of its speaker.

*"Sinn Féin has won the election. We have won the popular vote," McDonald said, as counting of votes to fill seats in Dáil Éireann, parliament's lower house, continued in constituencies across the country. Fianna Fáil emerged with the most seats after counting was completed early on Tuesday morning. Micheál Martin's party finished with 38 seats compared with Sinn Fein's 37 but because the Fianna Fáil speaker was re-elected without contest, both parties are effectively on the same number. Won 24.5% of the first-preference vote in Saturday's election, almost doubling its share from 2016 after harnessing voter anger at homelessness, soaring rents and fraying public services Fine Gael slid to 20.9% and the main opposition party, Fianna Fáil, slipped to 22.2%, widely perceived as punishment for having propped up Varadkar's minority administration in a confidence and supply deal. The Greens, independents and small leftwing parties accounted for the rest. Turnout was 62.9%, down from 65.2% in the 2016 election. The fragmented results will produce a hung parliament with no party close to 80 seats – the number for a majority and stable government in the 160-seat chamber, which includes a speaker". [1]*

Unlike in England, where Brexit dominated the election, here in Ireland Brexit had not the same effect on the masses. The masses have voted for the petit-bourgeois, left-wing, nationalist party which is the political wing of the former Irish republican movement fighting imperialism. The developments with Brexit re-encouraged the struggle to establish an independent, *United Ireland* against England's rule over Northern Ireland. However, the main issues of the campaign were the struggle against homelessness, rising prices and austerity together with the lack of housing. The two capitalist parties, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, re-

fuse to form any part of a coalition with Sinn Féin quoting their anti-imperialist struggle over a number of years before the Blair government had organized the *Good Friday Agreement* whereby the IRA laid down their arms.

#### Demands for a United Ireland

The election result has produced no comment from Boris Johnson or the Tory government. McDonald has said that there should be a border poll to establish a United Ireland. Éire as a member of the European Union and Northern Ireland as (forced) part of Britain (which rules through a devolved assembly) voted heavily in favor to remain with the European Union - which if the poll proceeds will surely produce conflicts with the imperialist mainland in Britain. Meanwhile McDonald is trying to hatch a coalition with independents and even Fine Gael which is clearly against the electorate's mandate and because they did not field enough candidates they will not be able to form a government.

*"McDonald told RTE her preference was to form a government without either of the two formerly biggest parties but that she would speak to Varadkar and Martin because "that's what grownups do". She called for an end to the era of her party, formerly led by Gerry Adams, being frozen out of coalitions. "The democratic thing is for them to speak to me and stop this business of saying Sinn Féin can be put on the margin ... So many people now have chosen us to represent them." [2]*

It is very likely that if no solution is found Éire might be going to the polls again to resolve this situation. Horse-trading is now taking place but the bourgeois parties of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael who were on opposite sides in the Irish Civil War (Cogadh Cathartha na hÉireann) of the 1920s which led to partition were thoroughly rejected by the masses of workers and small farmers. However, the capitalist state is determined to ensure that Sinn Féin is frozen out of government because of its former history of fighting British imperialism to a standstill. Irish politics has always produced unstable results and the bourgeoisie is seriously threatened with this result. It could mean a border poll to produce a United Ireland and that is what the extreme reactionary Unionists in the North are concerned about.

*"The Fianna Fáil parliamentary party has decided not to enter*



## 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

talks with Sinn Féin about forming a new Irish government. All eyes are on the makeup of the next Dáil (Irish parliament) after an election that led to an historic surge for Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin topped the first preference poll but its total of 37 seats is one fewer than that of Fianna Fáil. No single party has enough seats to govern.” [3].

### RCIT response to the Situation

The RCIT in many of its documents has paid great attention to the policy of the *Anti-Imperialist United Front* which was first adopted and discussed by both Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky. As Marxist revolutionaries it is important to pay attention to any anti-imperialist struggle and for a number of years the IRA conducted such a military anti-imperialist struggle against British imperialism. The reactionary Blair government in 1998 negotiated the treacherous *Good Friday Agreement* with Gerry Adams, the then president of Sinn Féin, and others for a ceasefire which led to devolved powers to Northern Ireland.

“However, as Marxists know, in the long run petty-bourgeois parties cannot play an independent role. They have to follow either the working class – represented by a revolutionary mass party – or the bourgeoisie. Similarly, various petty-bourgeois populist forces of the nationalist-type have played leading roles in the national liberation struggle of oppressed peoples in the semi-colonial world as well as in some imperialist countries. The Sinn Féin/IRA in Northern Ireland, before its 1998 capitulation, is another example. Recently Sinn Féin, which has for a long time been an opposition party in the Republic of Ireland, has significantly increased its influence by playing a leading role in the *Right2Water* campaign, which has become the largest social movement in Ireland for decades in its struggle against the imposing of water fees by the government as part of its austerity program to make ordinary citizen pay for the crisis of the banks.

In the latest election (2016), Sinn Féin received 13.8% of the votes cast becoming the third-biggest party in Ireland’s parliament.” [4]

This has now being confirmed with the latest developments in Sinn Féin’s favour.

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following demands to unite the Irish working class, the oppressed and the poor.

\* Give critical support for Sinn Féin and defend them against any attacks! However, no trust in the leadership of Sinn Féin which has betrayed the liberation struggle of the Irish people against Britain many times! Ensure in the event of a Sinn Féin Government that policies on anti-austerity and extensive social housing are carried out!

\* Against any coalition government of Sinn Féin with bourgeois forces like Fine Gael or the Green Party!

\* Campaign on water charges and pressure a Sinn Féin Government to cut prices for water and other commodities! Rally on the streets via protests and strikes to put pressure on such a government!

\* Fight for a 32 County Workers Government!

\* To end the need of Food Banks and to really resolve poverty once and for all, capitalism must be smashed! For a Socialist Transformation of Society – which can only happen via the working class and oppressed taking power through an armed uprising!

\* Socialists should rally to build a revolutionary workers party in Ireland (including Northern Ireland) and fight for the 5<sup>th</sup> International!

### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/10/sinn-fein-declares-victory-irish-general-election>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/10/sinn-fein-declares-victory-irish-general-election>
- 3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-51489261>
- 4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/book-united-front/chapter-4/>

# Books of the RCIT

## Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

### A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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

*Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the “Nakba” in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland.

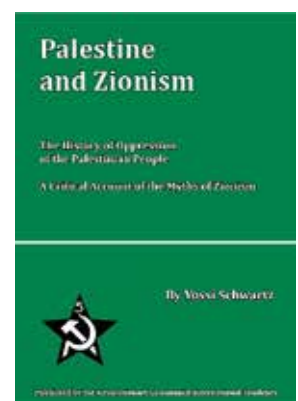
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

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

outlines a socialist perspective. He emphasizes that the only solution is the right of millions of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and to replace the Zionist entity with one democratic state from the river to the sea – a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews.

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

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



# Scotland: For the Right of National Self-Determination!

## No support for Brexit or Remain!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 4th March 2020

Since the General Election of the 12<sup>th</sup> December there has been a war of words between Boris Johnson and Nicola Sturgeon's demands to be allowed to call another referendum for independence. Britain has the constitutional (yet undemocratic) power to either grant or refuse another referendum on independence for Scotland irrespective of the demands of the Scottish people. The RCIT fully supports the right of Scotland to decide by its own if it wants to become independent. We oppose the reactionary rule that a referendum on independence can be rejected by Britain.

*"Sturgeon is counting on Brexit to drive divergence to the point where independence feels irresistible. Two-thirds of Scots wanted to stay in the EU, and their ejection from it on Boris Johnson's terms reinforces old resentment of rule by remote English Tories. Sturgeon hopes fresh anger will keep her party buoyant through next year's Scottish parliament elections despite a heavy freight of incumbency. The SNP has been running Scotland for nearly 13 years". [1]*

The Brexit referendum in 2016 showed that support for Brexit was centered in England. Scotland and Northern Ireland voted overwhelmingly for the remain position. Over 62% in Scotland voted to stay in the European Union. The popular sentiment in Scotland against Brexit is fueled by the fear of becoming more dependent by London's rule. The public sector accounts for 22.5% of jobs in Scotland, which is even more compared to the average 18.9% for whole Britain. In England spending on the public sector is 3% below the average of Britain while Scotland spends 17% (!) above the average. Scotland spends also 7% more for the NHS than England does for its health system.

The independence movement in Scotland gained momentum in 2014 when the SNP linked Scottish independence with a better chance to save the health and social system against privatizations.

This strategy of the SNP completely destroyed the Labour party's electoral campaign in the 2015 general election and every general election since. Many Labour party members

are now supporting the independence movement. This development is being driven by Sturgeon and the SNP. However, today it is noticeable that the working class and the oppressed are far less involved in the independence movement than it was the case in 2014, when bigger and active mobilisations took place in the streets of Scotland. There is a clear shift towards arguments about economic strength of business in Scotland if it remains in the EU, instead of the former focus on health and social demands.

The arguments by Sturgeon are for a European-driven capitalist block in which Scotland can benefit from the markets in Europe. Combined with the weakness of the Labour Party in Scotland it is no wonder that the influence of the working class and its active participation decreased inside of the independence camp.

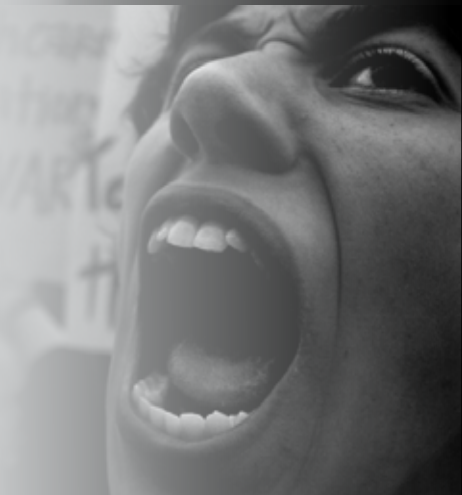
The clamour for independence in Scotland commenced when Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were given devolved powers by the Tony Blair Government. Since then independence and the fight for self-determination have become more and more of an important issue for the working class and the oppressed in Scotland. This had its peak in the 2014 Referendum on independence. However, the majority vote rejected independence and favoured to stay in the union irrespective of the larger number of working class people and organizations at the forefront of the campaign for an independent Scotland. Real self-determination for Scotland would most likely have turned the independence movement into a small minority because the biggest motivation for working class activists in Scotland was not to rally for a nationalist agenda. It was to rally for the defence of the achievements of the labour movement in Scotland. However, the nationalist influence took its toll on the centrist forces in Scotland.

Centrist organizations were mainly influenced by the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP), which was created after Scottish Militant Labour split from the CWI and became very active with its leader Tommy Sheridan. Sheridan had earned his fame from his role in the important Poll

## 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)



tax non-payment campaign which eventually led to the resignation of Margaret Thatcher. The SSP in Scotland supported the call for independence and many left activists - driven by their own opportunist politics - joined the SNP. There were protests and demonstrations and a social movement organised by activists of the working class and the oppressed. However, the SSP has collapsed since then and Sheridan and others do not appear today to have anything to say and have been fully integrated into the SNP as straightforward nationalists at the cost of their former socialist ideology.

### For a Workers Government in Scotland

The RCIT in Britain at the time of the 2014 Referendum for Scotland and at all other times supported the just demands of the workers and oppressed to defend the achievements of the labour movement. We, as Revolutionary Marxists have always supported the right for self-determination of oppressed nations. We also defend the right for self-determination of discriminated nations like the Scottish people, who are dominated by the English rule.

*"The RCIT would argue that the Scottish masses have the right to decide their own democratic future. Although the referendum for an independent Scotland failed, the SNP itself was greatly strengthened during their campaign and on the average won around 25% more in wealthier parts of Scotland and gained even around 35% and more of the vote in working class areas. In addition their membership rose from 25,000 members at the end of 2012 to more than 100,000 members today. Both the election results and the size of the party's membership is a new historical mark for the SNP as well as for Labour in Scotland". [2]*

However, we don't give any political support for the SNP which is a bourgeois force and an enemy of any working class organization. Any political affiliation with the SNP leads straightforward to a development like the degeneration of Tommy Sheridan and his comrades. Authentic revolutionaries rather understand and rally for the formation of a new workers party, including the fight for a left wing in Labour to split and join such a project.

### Are we also supporting the independence for Scotland?

It is for the masses in Scotland to decide their own future and the RCIT as revolutionary Marxists argue that if the Scottish masses wish to separate, we would support that move although we do *not* raise the slogan for independence. We said so in 2015 and we reiterate our position:

*"Again, we would argue that the Scottish masses have the right to decide their own democratic future. It is absurd that the referendum about the question of Scottish independence is limited to "once in a lifetime". The RCIT is not in favour of separation of the Scottish working class and the English working class. However we support the right of the Scottish workers to separate if they want to. Labour was punished by the Scottish workers during the elections because of their refusal to campaign for more democratic rights for Scotland. Revolutionary Communists in Britain have to support the right of the Scottish people to have as many referenda on at least every bigger democratic question as they want. In addition revolutionary communists, like every honest democrat, have to support the right for an independent Scotland if this is the wish of the Scottish working class. On this question the RCIT is on the side of the working class and masses. We would support a programme calling for the expropriation of the means of production and capital by the working class. We would advocate joint action with the English working class so that workers can speak as a single class together with English in their demands to defend jobs and services. While we would prefer to and try to win the Scottish people to separate if it so decides. Therefore, we would campaign for joint action of the entire British working class even if the Scottish workers decide that they want an independent Scotland." [3].*

However, the political situation in Scotland has changed since the emergence of a social movement back in 2014 when independence was more of a burning issue for the working class. The issue of independence of Scotland today is more influenced by the bourgeois capitalist politics of the SNP and the imperialist agenda of the European Union. In addition to this, no bigger rallies of the working class and oppressed have been organized since the last

### RCIT Africa Program

## Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*



ones in 2014. In such a situation, the progressive nature of a wish for independence by the working class and oppressed is linked to a renewal of a broad protest movement linked with social and democratic demands.

The RCIT clearly opposes both camps, Brexit and Remain, as they mean to choose between an imperialist Britain as part of the imperialist European Union or as an independent national state. Both decisions mean the same for the life of the working class people and oppressed. One has only to look at the case of countries like Norway or Swiss until today or Britain until Brexit is implemented. The only difference is that it suits the political calculations of this or that camp of the ruling class.

However, it is noticeable that the right-wing bourgeois media is stirring up stories that Nicola Sturgeon is being challenged as First Minister. There is constant gossip about Sturgeon resigning. This of course is being used by Boris Johnson to ensure that there is no opposition to his drive for the Brexit irrespective of any deal with the European Union. The recent resignation of Derek McKay, Sturgeon's finance Minister has put further pressure on the SNP government. Although we do not give support to any of the imperialist camps and do not support the SNP, we clearly oppose any chauvinist attacks against the Scottish nation if it occurs in the current conflict.

#### RCIT'S Positions on Scotland

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following demands as a first step to unite the working classes in both England and Scotland.

*\* For the right of self-determination of Scotland! Support the*

*implementation of the wish of the Scottish working class and oppressed, even if it would mean independence! However, this wish is in the current circumstances only authentic if it is also expressed by rallies and mobilisations of the masses!*

*\* No support for the Scottish National Party led by Nicola Sturgeon! However, no support for Boris Johnson and his attacks on the SNP either! Oppose any chauvinist attack against the Scottish nation!*

*\* Defend the NHS and the social system in Scotland not by creating illusions in the imperialist EU or the imperialist Britain! Instead it is important to organize rallies and strikes up to an indefinite general strike to oppose any cuts respectively privatizations! Workers in England – support the Scottish workers in this fight irrespective of their stance on independence!*

*\* Fight for a new workers party in Scotland! Fight for a split of the left wing in Labour to participate in the building of such a new workers party! Authentic revolutionaries argue in favour of a revolutionary program for such a new workers party!*

*\* Fight for a Workers Government in Scotland instead of the SNP government!*

*\* Neither Remain nor Brexit! Fight for the Socialist States of Europe and for Scotland being a workers republic in such a federation!*

*\* Join the RCIT!*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/feb/12/nationalism-scottish-border-tory-boris-johnson-nicola-sturgeon>
- 2) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-election-results/>
- 3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-election-results/>

## 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 Secretariat

## Thailand: Future Forward Party banned

### Down with the Prayut-Chan-O-cha Government but no political support for the FFP!

Article by Joseph Adam, RCIT Britain, 18th March 2020

The *Future Forward* party, a bourgeois liberal party which is well supported by the youth and students, gained 89 seats in the 2019 General Election. The Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-O-cha influenced the decision of the constitutional court to ban the Future Forward party because its leader had given a large loan to the party. However, the real reason for this decision was to eliminate any opposition to his rule.

Before the general election of last year, Prayut Chan-O-cha was leader of the military coup overthrowing Yingluck Shinawatra, leader of the *Pheu Thai Party* (another bourgeois party with mass support among the poor peasants and workers) in 2014. The present government only gained power because the regime appointed 250 senators in the Upper House of Parliament, mainly military personnel to ensure a majority in parliament and establish a government favourable to the bourgeoisie and large capitalist interests.

*"Thailand's Constitutional Court ruled on Friday to dissolve the country's most dynamic opposition party over claims it broke election laws. The Future Forward Party (FFP) and its leader, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, were accused of breaking election finance laws when he loaned 191.2 million-baht (\$6.06m) to his party during the campaign last year. The court also banned 16 FFP leaders from politics for 10 years."* [1]

*"Future Forward was Thailand's newest political party. Its candidates and young supporters looked to challenge and change the government run by Prayuth Chan-o-cha - the army general who gained power in a 2014 coup. But that all changed last week when it was shut down by the courts."* [2]

The decision to ban the Future Forward party was a deliberate decision by the regime in Thailand to eliminate any opposition to its rule. Thailand with its notorious, undemocratic system of government faces demonstrations and protests from mainly students in the universities opposed to the decision of the courts to ban the Future Forward Party. Political analysts in Thailand have also pointed to the crisis of the Coronavirus epidemic coupled with climate change which is affecting Thailand's ability to compete on the capitalist markets in Southeast Asia.

*"At the same time, a new round of street politics has begun. Following the dissolution of the FFP, a party popular among young people, students from universities and schools across the country have held rallies to express their dissatisfaction with the verdict. Nobody can predict how this new wave of protests will end"*. [3]

#### Demonstrations and protests continue

Demonstrations and protests continue throughout Thailand in protest against this punitive action against the Future Forward Party. The Future Forward Party had some support amongst students and the youth similar to the *Pheu Thai* party founded by Thaksin Shinawatra - another billionaire who had some support amongst the masses and urban poor. The political crisis of the Prayut-Chan-O-cha regime is driven by the crisis of world imperialism where the rate of profit is falling and capitalists continue

to search for markets while oppressing the masses and poor peasants.

*"Markets already sense Thailand's emerging economic and financial weakness, judging by the recent offloading of Thai stocks and dumping of the local baht currency by foreign investors and traders. Last week, the Stock Exchange of Thailand fell 4.1% to its lowest intraday level in three years, albeit amid a global rout. The baht, Asia's best performing currency over the last two years, is down 6% against the dollar in 2020, making it the region's worst performer. A controversial court decision in late February to dissolve the opposition Future Forward party, the third biggest vote-getter at the March 2019 elections with a fervent youth following, could not have come at a more inopportune time for former coup-maker Prayut. The verdict has sparked anti-government, pro-democracy protests at high schools and universities across the nation in recent days, a student-led mobilization not seen since the volatile 1970s when soldiers opened fatal fire on students."* [4]

#### For a Workers and Poor Peasants Government

The RCIT welcomes and supports the demonstrations and protests and calls for the widening of the protests to include an indefinite general strike to remove the dictatorship of Prayut-Chan-O-cha and his government. This government rules by decree and with a strong military



Poster for Women's Day by the Mexican Section of the RCIT

presence. At the 2019 general election in Thailand it was a stalemate result with both the Thai Pheu Party and the Future Forward Party with more seats in Parliament. But because of the undemocratic nature of Thailand's constitution Prayut Chan-o-cha was able to appoint 250 senators to the Upper House, mostly from the military, to form a government.

This is clearly a government of dictatorship and this latest move to ban the FFP is to show that no opposition will be allowed in Thailand. As the RCIT has stated in other documents this period is a revolutionary historic period with the capitalist mode of production in conflict with the nature of production. The working masses, the rural and urban poor and its vanguard, the most revolutionary section of society has to march forward with the construction of a revolutionary party. Such a party can lead the revolutionary struggle to success and enables the masses to end capitalism forever and to move towards socialism.

The RCIT puts forward the following transitional demands to organise the struggle for socialism, overthrow the military junta and establish a workers and poor peasant's government. We call on everyone who supports the fight for socialism to join the RCIT and to help building a section in Thailand.

*\* Support the strikes and protests by students against the regime! Defend the Future Forward Party and their supporters against the undemocratic attacks of the regime! Refuse the forced dissolution of the FFP! However, don't give any political support for the FFP! Fight for the building of a new workers party instead!*

*\* Overthrow the Prayut-Chan-O-cha regime! Organize pro-*

*tests up to an indefinite general strike!*

*\* For a Sovereign Constituent Assembly under the control of the organized and armed popular masses! In such a constituent assembly revolutionaries would put forward and argue in favour of a Workers and Poor Peasants Government, based on councils of action!*

*\* For armed defense guards of workers and the oppressed to protect themselves from provocations from attacks from the police, the military and fascist gangs!*

*\* End the imperialist exploitation! Expropriate the multi-national corporations and put them under workers control! Abolish all debts without compensation! Summarize all banks into one State Bank under control of the workers!*

*\* Only an armed insurrection led by the working class can end the military dictatorship and imperialist exploitation with a minimum number of lost lives! Only a revolutionary workers and poor peasant government can open the road towards a future of freedom, equality and peace, a future of socialism!*

We call on all workers and poor to study the manifesto of the RCIT and to join the RCIT! Let us build together a new World Party of the Socialist Revolution, a revolutionary 5th International!

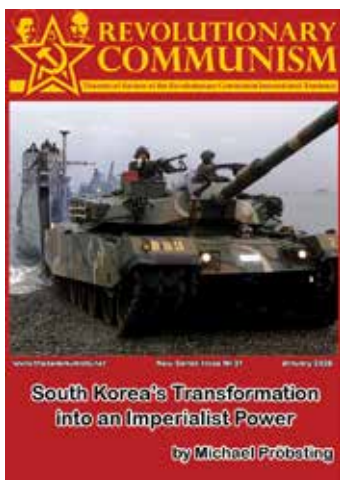
#### Footnotes

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/thai-court-dissolves-main-opposition-party-illegal-loan-200221085248199.html>

[2] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/newest-thai-political-party-shut-courts-200224161012965.html>

[3] <https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/1871949/political-instability-adds-to-viral-woes>

[4] <https://asiatimes.com/2020/03/thailand-caught-in-a-destabilizing-viral-spiral/>



## 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*

## Mexico: For A Proletarian and Militant 8th March!

### On the Activities around the International Women's day 2020 in Mexico

*Report of the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (ALS, the RCIT Section in Mexico), 12th March 2020*

We, as the *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* (ALS, the RCIT Section in Mexico) set ourselves the goal to organize a campaign for a "proletarian and militant 8th March" to honour the international women's day. Traditionally we march on this day together with urban and rural women workers, young women and with families of victims of feminicide. This year, in 2020, we participated in a mass mobilisation which was bigger than it has been for many years. This has been a result of a new nationwide and international movement against violence and feminicide.

In preparation of this big day of action, we as ALS developed a number of graphics and slogans focused on the central demands for the liberation of the working class women, the poor and the peasants. We distributed our material via a broad campaign on social media, via leaflets which we hand out at central stations, transport hubs and at various mobilisations of protests and events around the 8th March.

Likewise, we promoted the meeting "Enabling the Participation of Women in Social Struggles", in coordination with teachers of the Coordination Assembly of sections 10 and 11 of the CNTE on Saturday, 7th March. The meeting included the participation of such honorable comrades like the former political prisoners from Atenco, victims of the many families in Tlalpan, militant teachers from the National Coordination of Education Workers (CNTE), Chilean students and Oaxacan comrades in defense of Itsmo. The meeting was very fruitful and profound as it reflected the main debates between ideological trends within feminist currents and the women's movement as such. It showed also the need to organize ourselves as teachers in

addressing the issue of violence against women.

Furthermore, we published the Bulletin "This 8 and 9M: Stop the Exploitation and the Violence! Lets get organized on the streets, at the work places and schools!" (See more at: <https://agrupaciondeluchasocialistablog.wordpress.com/2020/03/08/este-8-y-9-m-a-parar-la-explotacion-y-la-violencia-organizadas-tomemos-las-calles-los-trabajos-y-las-escuelas/>), in which we denounce the politics of the ruling parties who try to hijack the just protests of women as well as the broad opportunism of various forces. Instead we aim to differentiate ourselves from these forces via reviving the tradition of the struggle of our class and via demanding a political program on our own, together with our conscious class brothers.

On the 8th March, we organized a militant contingent with great enthusiasm, joining forces to raise our voices together and to raise the slogans: *Enough is enough! Stop Violence and Exploitation! Demand Justice for each murdered Woman!* We also denounced the culture of impunity by the institutions of the capitalist state and showed our resistance against the precarious conditions under which we as workers live.

Finally, on the 9th March, we participated in the public meeting "Fight against Capitalism and Patriarchy" within the framework of the Feminist Unemployment Organization formed by dissident teachers of the CNTE. At this meeting we made important contributions to balance the demonstrations and to give perspectives to advance the women's movement in order to make it able to overthrow the patriarchal capitalist state worldwide and to build a new society free of violence, exploitation and oppression of women!



Meeting on Women's Day in Mexico City, coorganized by the comrades of the ALS (Mexican Section of the RCIT)



## Femicide: They may hurt us...but we will destroy them!

### Call for the International Women's Day: Fight for a revolutionary 8th March! Fight to end violence against women once and for all!

*Almedina Gunić, for the International Secretariat and the International Women's Bureau of the RCIT, 8th March 2020*

There are many forms of violence which are directed at us as women. We are attacked verbally and physically by strangers but also by far more familiar enemies like family relatives, partners and even friends. It is reported that at least one-in-three women experience violence. This violence is often so cruel that it literally kills us. A total of 87,000 women were murdered in 2017 because of their gender. In the particular case of Mexico 22,482 women were killed in the years from 2007 to 2016. On average 10 women are killed per day (reported by state prosecutors).

Femicide also distinguishes itself from the murders of men in the tortuous and brutal manner in which they are committed: the murderers of women use three times more often methods like hanging, suffocation and drowning, as well as they use corrosive substances and fire. The extreme violence is not limited to Latin America. India is perceived as the least safe country for women, even worse than war-torn countries like Afghanistan and Syria. Four years ago more than 39 crimes against women were reported every hour in India. Half of our murdered sisters have known their killer as their intimate partner respectively as a family member. More than 13 Million women experience domestic violence in Russia with more than 14,000 dying from the injuries every year. These are just a few countries but violence up to femicide can be found in every country in the world. But it doesn't end here.

Two major types of murder of women exist: the most visible and brutal form of violence is the direct murder of women, i.e. femicide. But there is another, quieter, but

systemic and consistent one: women die from negligence, from the despotism and corruption of institutions and from the direct exploitation of capital such as maternal death, hunger, preventable or curable diseases. Women die from clandestine and, in consequence, very dangerous abortions, from strenuous working hours and poor hygienic conditions. Women are killed as a punishment for their journalistic work or their activism in the social struggle.

Even the International Women's Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> March, is a date chosen to remind us of the killing of 129 women workers in the United States, who died in a fire in the Cotton Textile Factory in 1908. They were locked by the factory owner who wanted to stop them from joining a big strike which took place in March. Still today, the cause for violence against us women up to femicide is to find in the class society, in capitalism as such. The exploitation of our class and the super-exploitation of women workers is the skeleton of today's society. Any form of violence that we as women experience is directly or indirectly linked to this fact.

Our sisters in the semi-colonial countries experience additional oppression including violence because of the super-exploitation of the so-called Third World by imperialist powers. Our black sisters in the American continent and in Europe experience additional oppression including violence because of racism. Likewise our sisters from oppressed nations and sister with a migrant background respectively discriminated religious background experience additional forms of violence due to racism. Although



Comrades of the ALS (Mexican Section of the RCIT) at the demonstration on Women's Day in Mexico City

various brutal forms of attacks are led against us women, we can not be stopped to fight against the oppression. We show this every day.

We fight on the streets of Iraq, Chile, Hong Kong and many other countries and cities. We do not hesitate to be in the frontline of any resistance struggle. In Palestine we fight with the slingshot against tanks of the Israeli Apartheid state. In Syria we are even qualified snipers in the war against the dictatorship of Assad. We are firmly convinced that the class society, imperialism and dictators may try to break us, but *we can not be broken*.

On this day, the International Women's Day, we remind ourselves that no revolution can be done without women. On this day, the 8<sup>th</sup> March we remember all sisters who we

lost to the violence against us.

But we also promise them as we promise ourselves: Our struggle will not stop until the victory of the proletarian revolution. Our struggle will not stop until we have achieved a society of freedom and justice, a socialist society!

Sisters, lets rally together as workers and oppressed to honour and revive the history of the 8<sup>th</sup> March as a day of struggle!

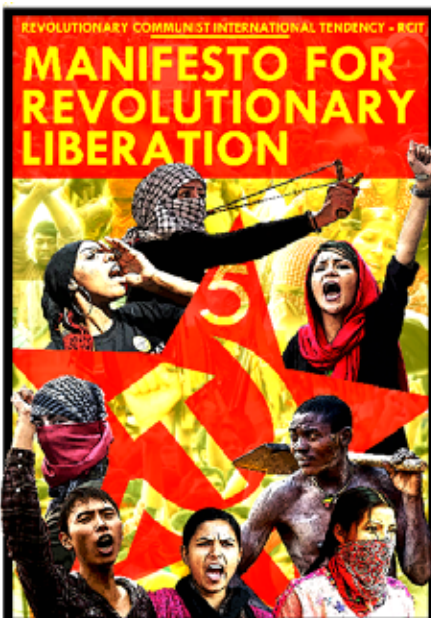
*No Future without Socialism!*

*No Socialism without Revolution!*

*No Revolution without Women!*



Comrades of the ALS (Mexican Section of the RCIT) at the demonstration on Women's Day in Mexico City



## *Program of the RCIT*

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*

# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

