

Myanmar: Mass Protests against Military Coup

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Picture on the Cover: Mass protests against the military coup in Myanmar; Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Myanmar_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat#/media/File:2021_Myanmar_Protest_in_Hleden.jpg

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Spain: Freedom for Pablo Hasél!

Support the mass protests! Down with the Chauvinist-Bonapartist State!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 19 February 2021

1. Widespread street protests are sweeping Spain after the left-wing rapper Pablo Hasél was imprisoned to serve a 9-month prison sentence for “insulting” the Spanish monarchy and “praising terrorist violence” in his songs. In addition, he faces an additional prison sentence of 2,5 years for “obstructing justice” and “assault” in 2017. Since Tuesday thousands of people, mostly youth, are demonstrating in Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, and other cities. The police try to suppress these rallies with brute force, but the youth are determined to fight back. A young woman has lost an eye after she was hit by a rubber bullet.

2. Pablo Hasél is a well-known rapper who in his lyrics denounces the police for torturing and killing demonstrators as well as targeting migrants and refugees. He also defends members of armed organizations like ETA – a now dissolved organization associated with the national liberation struggle of the Basque people. Hasél is not the only one who has been victimized by the Spanish State’s assault on free speech. Several other artists and social media personalities were put on trial in the last years. Among them is another rapper, Valtonec, who was forced to flee to Belgium in 2018 after being convicted of similar crimes.

3. The scandalous attacks of the Spanish State on free speech and on the right to demonstrate are only the latest examples of the reactionary offensive of the ruling class in Spain. Since years, the Spanish state suppresses the right of the Catalan people as well as the Basque people for national self-determination. Madrid even imprisoned leading representatives of Catalunya – including members of the regional government – or forced them to go into exile only because they support the pro-independence campaign!

4. Likewise, the Spanish government has imposed a draconic Lockdown policy since nearly a year under the pretext of the COVID-19 campaign. It mobilized the army on the streets and ordered curfews against the people.

5. All these attacks have taken place under a so-called “left-wing” government led by the social-democratic PSOE of Pedro Sánchez. Other parties of this government are *Unidas Podemos*, led by Pablo Iglesias, as well as the *Partido Comunista de España* – the historic party of

Spanish Stalinism – and its ally *Izquierda Unida*. The PCE and IU are both part of the *Party of the European Left* (PEL), a Europe-wide alliance of ex-Stalinist parties like the LINKE in Germany, SYRIZA in Greece or the French PCF.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) points out that these developments in Spain must not be viewed in isolation. They are part of a reactionary, anti-democratic offensive of the ruling class in Europe and indeed globally. Macron’s war against Muslims and his notorious police law, the numerous police raids against Muslims in Austria, the police brutality against Black people and migrants in the U.S., the occupation of Kashmir and the anti-Muslim CAB Bill by the Modi government in India, the arrest of Navalny by the Putin regime and the brutal suppression of mass protests in Russia, the draconic clampdown in Hong Kong as well as against the Uyghur people by the Xi regime in China – these are only a few examples of a global tendency. Most importantly, since spring 2020 the ruling classes in nearly all countries have waged an unprecedented assault on civil liberties and democratic rights under the pretext of a pandemic. As the capitalist world order is fundamentally shattered – the global economy has entered its worst depression, acceleration of the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia, Japan) and popular uprisings in many countries – the ruling class is waging the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* in order to safeguard their power and to raise the profits of the big corporations. All these developments are united by the very same essence: Massive attacks on democratic rights and expansion of the police and surveillance state. We Marxists characterize this development as *Chauvinist State Bonapartism*.

7. The RCIT states its unconditional solidarity with Pablo Hasél and all others who face persecutions by the Spanish State. We repeat our solidarity with the legitimate struggle of the Catalan people as well as the Basque people for national self-determination. Down with the anti-democratic Lockdown policy! Fight Chauvinist State Bonapartism in all countries!

International Bureau of the RCIT

Spanish State: Freedom for Catalunya!

See all RCIT documents on the national liberation struggle of the Catalan people on a special section on our website:

www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/collection-of-articles-on-catalunya-s-independence-struggle/

Anti-Curfew Protests in the Netherlands: The People are Right to Rebel!

Popular resistance against the anti-democratic Lockdown policy is growing throughout Europe

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 January 2021

1. Netherlands is rocked by a spontaneous youth rebellion which has lasted for several consecutive nights. Across the entire country – including in all major cities like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Nijmegen, and Haarlem – youths took to the streets “seeking a confrontation with police.” (Rotterdam police). Police, including military police, reacted with full force and deployed water cannon and officers on horseback. More than 470 people have been arrested during three days of unrest. In response, youth threw stones, built barricades, and set some cars on fire.

2. These spontaneous youth protests are a reaction to the imposition of a curfew by the parliament. Beginning last Saturday, it lasts from 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. It is a historic watershed moment for the Netherlands as it is the first curfew since World War Two. Like in many other countries, the government uses the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to attack fundamental democratic rights.

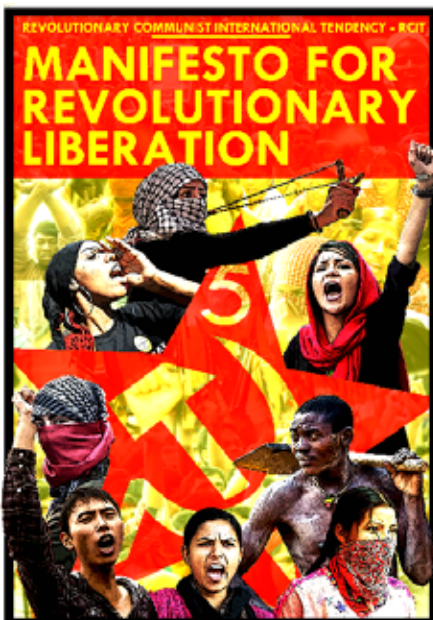
3. Unsurprisingly, parties, police and media hysterically denounce the youth rebellion. Prime Minister Mark Rutte said: “This has nothing to do with protest, this is criminal violence and we will treat it as such.” The Rotterdam Mayor called the protestors “shameless thieves”. The notorious right-wing politician Geert Wilders, a Islamophobic provocateur who advocates the publication of racist caricatures about the Prophet Mohammed, even called on the government to send in the army to quell the protests.

4. Public anger about this anti-democratic assault has been doubled by a disgusting child welfare scandal which forced the ruling government coalition led by the bourgeois-liberal Prime Minister Mark Rutte to resign a few days ago. As an official investigating committee has established, more than 20,000 working class families were

wrongly pursued for fraud before the courts, ordered to repay child support benefits and denied the right to appeal over several years from 2012. Some were pushed close to bankruptcy or forced to move house by unjust claims for tens of thousands of euros when the alleged fraud amounted to an incorrectly filled-out form or a missing signature. This shameful anti-poor attack had also a strong racist character as 11,000 of those families were migrants.

5. This scandalous robbery of poor working class and migrant families has not been the act of one person or one party but involved all levels of the capitalist state apparatus. It confirms once more the Marxist thesis of the thoroughly reactionary class character of the bourgeois state. Even the official investigating committee had to admit that “government ministers, MPs, civil servants and court judges all bore their share of responsibility.”

6. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) strongly rejects the hypocritical denunciations of the youth uprising by the capitalist establishment and right-wing provocateurs like Geert Wilders. We say that this is a just rebellion against the anti-democratic Lockdown policy! The official claim that the curfew is aimed at containing the pandemic is an obvious lie. Since nearly one year, Europe’s governments have imposed Lockdowns and curfews without much success in fighting the pandemic. In fact, countries like Sweden – which have not imposed any Lockdown – don’t have higher excess mortality rates than countries imposing hard lockdowns (e.g. France, Spain, UK). This has also been confirmed by a recently published study of the Stanford University. Furthermore, if the capitalist governments would be seriously concerned about the pandemic, why do they not invest



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

massively in expanding the public health sector?!

7. The RCIT has explained in numerous documents that the ruling classes all over the world are expanding the police and surveillance state because their system faces a dramatic decay. Since late 2019, the capitalist world economy has entered a period called the *Greater Depression*, the imperialist world order is shattered by the acceleration of Great Power rivalry (above all the Cold War between the U.S. and China), and many governments fear the global wave of popular uprisings. In such a situation, the ruling class exploits the pandemic as a pretext to attack fundamental democratic rights and to advance the formation of a chauvinist bonapartist state. Of course, this does not mean that COVID-19 is “fake” – as Trumpian idiots claim. However, as critical scientists and forces like ourselves have shown in various studies, while COVID-19 is severe it is neither unprecedented nor more dangerous than other pandemics in past decades.

8. We do not deny that such riots also include some misdirected acts of vandalism. Likewise, it is quite possible that some reactionary hooligans joined the riots. However, these are not the main characteristics of the rebellion. The youth uprising has been provoked by the imposition of an anti-popular curfew. The government responsible for this attack is a discredited coalition of bourgeois parties (VVD, CDA, D66 and CU). The rebellion is obviously of spontaneous nature as it spread like fire all over the country within hours. And even the police must recognize that the protesters mainly target the uniformed representatives of the state.

9. It is shamefully as well as characteristically that the misnamed “*Socialist Party*” supports the anti-popular curfew which dramatically increases the powers of the repressive state apparatus. (<https://international.sp.nl/nieuws/2021/01/parliament-supports-sp-tackle-companies-that-break-the-corona-measures>)

[ws/2021/01/parliament-supports-sp-tackle-companies-that-break-the-corona-measures](https://international.sp.nl/nieuws/2021/01/parliament-supports-sp-tackle-companies-that-break-the-corona-measures)) This ex-Maoist party has transformed into a left-reformist force long ago. It hopes to be able to join a government coalition in the near future. At the last elections it received 9.1% of the votes and 14 seats in parliament. Its support for the anti-democratic Lockdown policy is in line with the policy of nearly all social democratic, Stalinist and pseudo-Trotskyist forces. In Spain, a government coalition of such forces has imposed draconic Lockdowns with special powers to police and army since nearly one year. Since some time, such “left-wing” forces are calling in Europe for a “ZeroCOVID” strategy which would mean a total shutdown of all social and economic activities, i.e. a 24-hour curfew like in Wuhan. (Not accidentally, the advocates of “ZeroCOVID” call China as a model!) This would mean nothing but an overall dictatorship under control of the bourgeois state – a regime which naturally would stay in power as long as possible. Any sincere socialist, any consistent democrat must strongly oppose such “ZeroSocialist” policy and break with the Lockdown Left!

10. The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionaries, all youth willing to fight for freedom, to join forces. Down with the new Leviathan – the Capitalist State Monster! The people are right to rebel – in the Netherlands, in Europe and globally!

* * * * *

The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February we have published more than 70 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/col-lection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>.

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle

In *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* Michael Pröbsting analyses the dramatic events in spring 2020 which have opened a new historic era. A triple crisis has shocked the world. The Third Depression has begun, characterized by a devastating economic slump of the capitalist world economy which is certainly no less dramatic than the crisis which started in 1929.

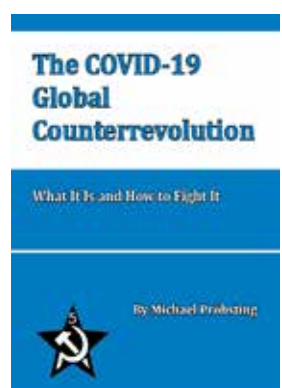
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

And finally, the world faces COVID-19 – a pandemic which endangers many lives and which is exploited by the ruling classes in order to spread fear, to deflect attention from the capitalist causes of the economic crisis and to justify the turn towards chauvinist state bonapartism.

The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution also shows that large sectors of the reformist workers movement and the

so-called left fail to understand the meaning of this triple crisis. Similar to the situation in 1914 after the beginning of World War I we can observe a gigantic wave of opportunist capitulation by many self-proclaimed socialists as they support or at least do not denounce the global lockdown and the suppression of democratic rights which the ruling classes are imposing in the name of combat against the pandemic. *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* offers a Marxist analysis of this historic crisis and elaborates a revolutionary perspective for the struggles ahead.

The book contains an introduction and 6 chapters plus an appendix (176 pages) and includes 5 figures and a diagram.



COVID-19: Impressive Mass Demonstration in Austria Despite Police Ban

*Report (with Pictures and Videos) about big protests against the governments' COVID-19 policy
in Vienna on 31. January 2021, RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT)*

On 31. January Vienna saw an extraordinary, one could say historic event. Way more than 10,000 people demonstrated against the anti-democratic policy of the conservative-led government – despite a ban by the police which had been widely reported in advance by the media in order to deter people from joining. In addition, there were several smaller rallies in other cities of Austria.

The conservative interior minister had ordered about 1,000 police from all over the country which tried to suppress the rally by force in the center of Vienna. All in all, police filed 2,300 charges and arrested 32 people.

However, due to the huge numbers of demonstrators it was impossible for the police to stop the demonstration from taking place. In the end about 10,000 (according to mainstream media, in reality the figures was certainly much larger) marched for more than five hours on main streets of Vienna. Due to the massive intervention of the police, the demonstration was split into several contingents widely apart.

The protest was rightly directed against the despotic and silly government measures. Instead of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic with serious health policy (e.g. additional public hospitals, more staff with better wages), the government utilizes the pandemic as a pretext for political and economic power interests. In times of the worst crisis of capitalist world economy the Austrian government – like many others globally – is not interested in public health but in expanding the police and surveillance state and the degradation of democratic rights. Furthermore, the policy of hysteria and lockdown serves the profit interests of big corporations (pharma, high-tech, online retail, etc.)

This illegal mass demonstration was remarkable also because it had not been organized by any sizeable organization but rather exclusively via mobilizations of smaller networks in social media.

The demonstration was distinguished by the fact that it represented the broad masses of the population. Instead of petty-bourgeois pseudo-intellectuals and hipsters the demonstration was dominated by families with working class and lower middle class background, migrants, old hippies, bikers, people from rural areas, etc. Another very impressive development was the spontaneous solidarity from people on the sidewalks and from houses.

Among the most popular slogans were “Peace – Freedom – No Dictatorship” and “Bring Down Kurz” (Kurz is the name of the conservative Prime Minister). This was a spontaneous mass demonstration which was not dominated by any political force. Of course, among the huge mass of people there were various small groups. A few people from left-wing as well as right-wing groups distributed leaflets. Christians with cross and pictures of Jesus were also present. One could see repeatedly people with the colorful peace flag.

Government and media present the demonstration as one

dominated by right-wing extremists. This is simply a lie which only serves the purpose to slander a spontaneous mass movement. Of course, such forces were present. But the presence of 20 or 50 right-wingers within a mass demonstration of 10-20,000 people can hardly be called “dominating”!

However, it is a fact that the so-called “left” was hardly present at the demonstration. If there would have been a substantial and organized number of left-wing forces, it would not have been difficult to remove any right-wing provocateurs. But this is not possible since the so-called “left” has hardly any relations to the working class and “ordinary people” and shows no interest to overcome this. This years-long self-isolation has resulted in the fact that such “left” is mostly confined to the university milieu and bobos – and is quite happy with this situation.

This shamefully marginal existence has been intensified more recently by the fact that most of the “left” – in Austria as well as internationally – supports the anti-democratic lockdown policy of capitalist governments. If they have any criticism, it is that they want even more and longer lockdowns! (e.g. the ZeroCOVID campaign) Some of these Lockdown Left had the effrontery to make silly provocative stunts on the sidewalks against the mass demonstration on 31. January (e.g. by shouting the slogan “We will vaccinate all of you!” – a slogan which is surely highly popular among the bosses of drug corporations!)

By the way: these “leftists” were also mostly silent when the same Austrian government launched a huge raid with 1,000 police on 9. November 2020 when they arrested several dozen Muslims in their homes. Despite announcing the most absurd accusations against them in media at that time, prosecution has been unable to put forward any charges against the Muslim brothers until now!

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the demonstration. We call for:

* *Massive expansion of public health service – under control of the working population and not drug corporations and corrupted politicians!*

* *Down with the Lockdown policy and restrictions of democratic rights! No police and surveillance state!*

* *Stop the hate-mongering against refugees! No persecution of our Muslim brothers and sisters!*

* *No cuts in wages, no sacking! For a public employment program! Expropriation of corporations under workers control!*

See photos and video clips here: <https://www.thecommu-nists.net/rcit/austria-covid-19-protest-31-jan-2021/>

UK: Strikes taking place at Heathrow Airport, British Gas, ...

Turn the strikes into an Indefinite General Strike to Bring down the Government

Article by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 3 February 2021

With Covid-19 pandemic raging throughout Britain, there are now over 97,000 people dead. Capitalists are preparing to lay workers off using short time working, hire and rehire tactics as well as sackings. However, there is a big response from the workers of various. The Workers of various industries are fighting against the attacks from the bosses but there is even more to fight against. Boris Johnson and his imperialist government is enforcing bonapartist measures against democratic rights and creating isolation via Lockdowns. Poverty, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness exists in this 6th richest imperialist nation on a new level. It is only a matter of time that the combination of the health crisis during this pandemic, the great depression of the capitalist economy and the ongoing bonapartist attacks will lead to social unrest. This is a social explosion in the making and the various workers strikes might be its preface.

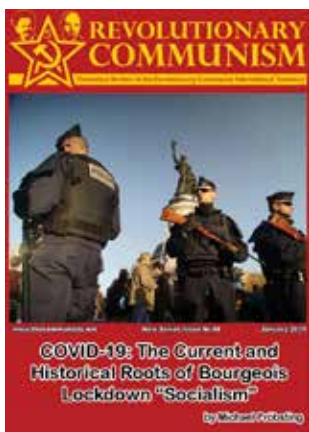
Cabin Crew at Heathrow Airport at strike

Cabin crew workers employed at Heathrow airport have been on selective strikes since Christmas when management threatened to sack and dismiss them only to employ them respectively new workers on temporary contracts. Strike action is continuing until February. The capitalists at Heathrow airport are blaming the Covid-19 restrictions as the Johnson government tries to control the virus via border restrictions and reduce traveling. This is eating into their profits at Heathrow.

“Workers at Heathrow Airport will next week step up strike action in their increasingly bitter dispute over massive wage cuts that the company is imposing on them through a controversial fire and rehire policy. The workers will be taking a second day of targeted strike action on Monday 14 December and will be staging a huge car-based rally, while also maintaining socially distanced picket lines around Heathrow.

Speakers at the protest will include several local MPs, including John McDonnell MP and James Murray MP, as well as local councillors and representatives of the striking workers. The workers will remain in their cars throughout the protest to avoid the risk of spreading Covid-19.” [1]

The cabin crew workers are members of the trade union Unite. The Bureaucracy of the union is engaging in consultative ballots and negotiations. They are constantly talking to the managers and their limited actions are in support of the Lockdown policy. The bureaucrats are not surprisingly just another part of the Lockdown left who only supports the strike action because of the pressure they face by the militancy of the trade union membership. Like the left activists from the middle class (mainly academics), the labor bureaucracy has all resources for a comfortable existence at home during the lockdowns. Meanwhile, a big part of the working class (mainly migrants) and the poor suffer from the worsening of their working conditions and the fear to lose their very existence. While the cabin crew workers pressure for strike actions, the bureaucracy mourns the time they lose because they must deal with the workers instead of sitting on their couch at home ordering



Publications of the RCIT

COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown “Socialism”

Police State, Universal Basic Income & a new version of “War Socialism” of 1914

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2021

Introduction * 1. An Overview of the Policy of the Lockdown Left * 2. A Marxist Critique of Lockdownism and Universal Basic Income * 3. The Bourgeois Ideology of the “Caring State” (The Capitalist Handout State) * 4. The Objective Basis for Lockdown Socialism: Changes within the Political and Economic Physiognomy of Capitalism * 5. A Historical Analogy: The Mobilization of the Imperialist State for World War I * 6. War Socialism in 1914: The Social-Chauvinist Lensch-Cunow-Haenisch Group in German Social Democracy * 7. Lenin and other Marxists Declare War on War Socialism * 8. The Lockdown Left: A Worthy Successor of Social-Chauvinist War Socialists * 9. Once Again, the State Question: Marxism versus the Opportunist Left

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

pizza. But the cabin crew workers are not the only ones willing to fight against the capitalist attacks.

Strikes at British Gas

More than 7,000 engineers have been on strike over planned pay cuts and a hire and fire policy by Centrica, the corporate owner of British Gas.

The engineers are members of the GMB, another industrial union like Unite. Again, the bureaucracy in the GMB is using consultative ballots to take decisive action and deal a blow to Centrica.

"Thousands of British Gas engineers and call centre workers will down tools from Thursday as part of a national five-day strike in response to the energy giant's "fire and rehire" plans. The GMB trade union called the strike after 89% of its 9,000 British Gas members voted in favour of industrial action following the breakdown of talks with executives at Britain's biggest energy supplier last year. The union expects the majority of the 7,000 engineers and 2,000 call centre workers who are part of its membership to take part, but will limit picketing due to coronavirus restrictions. The strike marks the end of months of tense negotiations between union representatives and energy company executives over plans to reduce the workforce and shift employees on to new contracts." [2]

Strikes at Go-Ahead Manchester (Bus Operator), DHL and Eddie Stobart Logistics

Go-Ahead in Manchester has over 500 bus drivers, who are all members of Unite. The Bus drivers face the same hire and rehire policy where security of employment, decent pay and working conditions are cut massively. Go-Ahead has a shifting share capital, but it shows the widening gulf between rich billionaires and poverty-stricken workers.

"Nearly 500 Manchester bus drivers employed by Go North West are facing the threat of being fired and rehired, which will see a 10 per cent reduction in the number of drivers employed, an increase in unpaid working hours and drivers' conditions slashed. Unite has made proposals for cost reductions of around £1 million and a pay freeze worth around £200,000. However the company has deemed these savings insufficient.

Last week, the company announced that it was no longer prepared to negotiate and is now attempting to restart the Section 188 process. This will see existing work schedules ripped up and workers will be nearly £2,500 per annum worse off as they will be forced to work longer hours for no additional pay. Unite is demanding that Go North West immediately suspend the threat of firing and rehiring workers who have worked throughout the pandemic and return to the negotiating table. If Go North West does not end the threat of fire and rehire, Unite will be utilizing all available options to defend our members' pay, conditions and job security." [3]

Another strike is developing amongst Unite members at the DHL supply chain in Croxeth, Liverpool. More than 120 workers have held strike days over the Christmas period and intend to strike during the first days of February. There is a witch-hunt by the management who have suspended or sacked some of the workforce. In December they even called the police, officially because the Covid-19 restrictions have been violated. This was not only pure provocation but is rather another example for the dangerous power that is given to the capitalist class by allow-

ing them to enforce Bonapartist measures like lockdowns against the workers and oppressed. Even the right to strike enshrined in British laws can easily be removed under the cover of health measures during pandemic.

DHL is owned by Deutsche Post (German multinational company) and has been raking in billions of profits with the pandemic as people are using online deliveries more and more.

"Liverpool West Derby MP Ian Byrne has accused the police of over-reacting when they intervened on the DHL picket lines this morning. Unite regional officer Kenny Rowe was threatened with arrest shortly before 6am, in an incident witnessed by the Labour MP.

He told union-news.co.uk "The police over reacted when the pickets wanted to engage with drivers coming in to outline what the dispute was concerning and ask for solidarity. They were shut down which was unnecessary and counterproductive." [4]

Even the bourgeois media criticized the call for police. *"A strike which began at a Liverpool distribution centre is still going strong in the run-up to Christmas.*

The 120 workers at the DHL Liverpool site, who undertake the Burton Biscuits and AB World Foods delivery contract, are striking in a dispute over "low pay, victimization of workers and the complete collapse of industrial relations", say Unite. The union called eight days of strike action, to take place between December 19 and January 5. They warned the dispute could lead to shortages of Burton Biscuits.

Today a peaceful picket line of striking Liverpool delivery drivers and warehouse staff maintained a presence outside the gates of the DHL Supply Chain depot in Portal Way, off the East Lancs Road in Croxeth.

They were watched over by a small number of police while Lorries came to and from the site, leading the union to claim the logistics giant was "wasting police time." [5]

At Eddie Stobart Logistics there is a pay freeze for its Lorry drivers in Lancashire. Another section of workers who are members of Unite. They have had an overtime ban and are going to strike from February 28th-March 2nd. Again, Eddie Stobart owners are multi-Billionaires increasing their profit margins from £6 MM to £16 MM.

The Origins of the Trade Union Bureaucracy

The trade union bureaucracy and labor aristocracy fulfill a pernicious role in the labor movement. They are a bureaucratic apparatus which controls the union through a rule book and unappointed officers. The exception is that General Secretaries are now elected, but regional and national officials are appointed through an Executive Council or on advice from the General Secretary. They police the working-class movement on behalf of the bosses respectively the capitalist class. Their role is to act as a brake, ensure that negotiations with the employers continue and at all costs prevent strike action. The rank and file in the trade union meanwhile has no formal possibilities to challenge these bureaucrats except at periodic elections.

V.I. Lenin, the Leader of the Russian revolution explains in his essay Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, the parasitic role of this bureaucratic layer. Monopoly capital in the time of the Empire was able to exploit the Colonies and to amass great profits and wealth for itself. Although the epoch of colonialism is over, the robbery of the former colonies is not. Part of Britain's wealth accumulated by the

exploitation of the semi-colonial countries is still used to buy off an opportunist layer in the working class.

In the past, this layer came from craft workers, electricians and skilled, conservative workers who opposed militancy and became adjuncts of management in the factories when the new mass unions of the 1880's emerged. One prominent example was the couple Sidney and Beatrice Webb, both Fabian reformist socialists in the 1900's. Sidney Webb is not only the author of the Clause IV, which described the values and aims of the Labour Party in its constitution. He also became Baron Passfield and served as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Leon Trotsky, who together with Lenin was leading the Russian revolution, wrote important essays on the nature of this trade union bureaucracy and how they must be expelled and driven from the working-class movement. In his essay called *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay*, Trotsky identifies the role of the trade union bureaucracy and their function in the labor movement. "This position is in complete harmony with the social position of the labor aristocracy and the labor Bureaucracy, who fight for a crumb in the share of superprofits of imperialist capitalism. The labor Bureaucrats do their level best in words and deeds to demonstrate to the "democratic" state how Reliable and indispensable they are in peacetime and especially in time of war. By transforming the Trade unions into organs of the state, fascism invents nothing new; it merely draws to their ultimate Conclusion the tendencies inherent in imperialism. It demands of the reformist bureaucracy and the labor aristocracy who pick the crumbs from its banquet table, that they become transformed into its Political police before the eyes of the working class. If that is not achieved, the labor bureaucracy is Driven away and replaced by the fascists. Incidentally, all the efforts of the labor aristocracy in the Service of imperialism cannot in the long run save them from destruction." [6]

The Errors in Principle of Syndicalism, an essay written in 1923 by Trotsky shows how the trade union bureaucracy polices the working-class movement. "If there were not a bureaucracy of the trade unions, then the police, the army, the courts, the lords, the monarchy would appear before the proletarian masses as nothing but pitiful and ridiculous playthings. The bureaucracy of the trade unions is the backbone of British imperialism. It is by means of this bureaucracy that the bourgeoisie exists, Power must be wrested from the hands of the bourgeoisie, and for that its principal agent, the trade union bureaucracy, must be overthrown." [7]

Since that time, the key aspect of the bureaucracy in the worker's movement remained its betrayal of the interest of the workers. This is true for the bureaucracy of Unite, the GMB and other trade unions and it became painfully obvi-

ous during the attacks under the cover of fighting the pandemic. In order to really support and develop the strike actions of the workers of DHL, British Gas and all others, a set of revolutionary demands must be the basis in challenging the leadership of the movement.

Revolutionary demands in service of the worker's struggle

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following revolutionary demands in order to resolve the crisis of leadership and to successfully challenge the treacherous bureaucracy.

* *Full Support of the Strike Actions at Heathrow airport, British Gas, DHL, Go-Ahead and Eddie Stobart Logistics! Build strong links between these strike movements and rally on the streets in solidarity of the strikes! Fight for the organization of strikes in other sectors and the preparation of a big, political strike!*

* *Reject the Lockdowns! Oppose these attacks on democratic rights! For a Nationalised Health Service controlled by the workers! Especially for companies in the Health sector, we must demand the end of the business secret and the opening of the books! Pharmaceutical companies must now be nationalised under workers control without compensation! Fight for the organizing of an Indefinite General Strike to remove the Boris Johnson government!*

* *Challenge the trade union bureaucracy by self-organizing of the rank-and-file members! Those bureaucrats not willing to obey to the demands of the membership must be expelled immediately! Overthrow the bureaucratic apparatus and replace it with truly accountable representatives subject to immediate recall! Otherwise, the trade union bureaucracy remains the agent of the Bourgeoisie in the workers movement.*

Help us build the 5th International - Join the RCIT!

Footnotes

- [1] <https://unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2020/december/heathrow-strike-workers-to-hold-huge-car-protest-as-strikes-deepen-in-fire-and-rehire-dispute/>
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- [4] <https://www.union-news.co.uk/police-called-to-dhl-picket-line-in-liverpool/>
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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

France: The Parliamentary “Left” Fails to Oppose Macron’s Anti-Muslim “Separatism Law”

Another example of social-chauvinist capitulation to Islamophobia and Police State policy by the Stalinist PCF and Mélenchon’s LFI

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14.2.2021

Since the 1 February, the French parliament debates Macron’s notorious Anti-Muslim “Separatism Law” (officially called bill on “*Respect for the Principles of the Republic*”). This law is a far-reaching attack against the freedom of association and religious freedoms. It is particularly aimed against the France’s 5.7 million-strong Muslim migrant community.

As is well known, Macron has waged a ferocious hate campaign against so-called “Islamic separatism” in the past months. His government is outdoing with the conservative opposition (“*Les Républicains*”) and Le Pen’s extreme right-wing party (“*Rassemblement National*”) in calling for repression against Muslims and their associations and for expanding the police and surveillance state. The bill aims at criminalizing all forms of so-called “*online hate speech*”, tighter controls on homeschooling, limits on donations to religious groups from abroad, and a requirement for all associations in France receiving public funding to sign a contract pledging to “*respect Republican values*”.¹

Article 4 of this bill, for example, sanctions the use of threats, violence or “*intimidation*” aimed at obtaining “*total or partial exemption from, or different application of*” the rules governing a public service. Those convicted face five years’ imprisonment and a €75,000 fine.

Macron’s political calculations behind his crusade against Muslims

As we reported in several statements and articles Macron has launched a massive campaign against Muslims last year. He promoted the exhibition of the disgraceful Anti-Muslim cartoons of *Charlie Hebdo* in public places.² He also praised the Islamophobic teacher Samuel Paty (who was killed in revenge by an 18-year old Chechen youth) as a “*quiet hero*” who “*incarnated the Republic. He was killed because the Islamists want our future.*” In short, Macron started a political crusade against Muslims – an imperialist campaign which provoked global outrage and an international boycott campaign against France.³

There are several reasons for Macron’s Anti-Muslim campaign. His bourgeois government faces a severe domestic crisis as it has visible failed in combating the pandemic as well as the economic crisis. It needs to deflect attention from its highly unpopular plans for the police law and plans for social cuts.⁴ Furthermore, Macron hopes to rally public support for France’s imperialist foreign policy against Muslim peoples (e.g. military intervention in West Africa⁵, interference in Libya⁶ and Lebanon⁷, foreign policy manoeuvres against Turkey⁸). As this all takes place a bit more than one year before the next Presidential election, Macron is desperate to ensure support among different sectors of the ruling class and the reactionary middle class.

While Macron’s Anti-Muslim “*Separatism Law*” has been triggered by certain national factors, its subjacent cause lies in more fundamental global developments. The imperialist crusade against the Muslim world did already start long ago – at least since 9/11 in 2001 and the subsequent occupation wars by various imperialist Great Powers (U.S., EU, Russia) against Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other countries.⁹ Chauvinist repression against Muslim minorities have taken place in many countries – from Trump’s USA to Austria¹⁰, India¹¹, and China.¹²

In addition, we have seen in the last years – and in particular since spring 2020 – a dramatic shift from parliamentary democracy towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism. Under the pretext of various “*threats*” – most importantly the COVID-19 pandemic – the ruling class all over the world has launched massive attacks on democratic rights and advances the creation (or expansion of) a police and surveillance state.¹³

Actions speak louder than words

In such a situation it is the political duty for socialists and consistent democrats to fundamentally oppose this reactionary campaign against Muslim people. However, as we have pointed out on several occasions, the vast majority of the French left has totally failed to stand up consistently for the Muslim brothers and sisters. Most left-wing forces publicly stated their support for Samuel Paty, *Charlie Hebdo* and “*our republic*” – in other words, their solidarity with the French imperialist state.¹⁴

The debates and the vote in the French parliament in the last days have demonstrated this sorry state of the reformist parties once again. As the comprehensive “*anti-separatism*” bill contains numerous articles and amendments, the articles are voted individually.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon – the dominating leader of the left-populist *La France Insoumise* (LFI) – has expressed criticism against Macron and the “*anti-separatism*” bill in public speeches. Likewise does the Stalinist PCF mutter a few critical words against Islamophobia.

However, their actions in parliament speak a very different language. When the assembly voted on the above-mentioned Article 4 of the bill, not a single deputy voted against it! Despite all their talk against Islamophobia, the LFI deputies abstained and those of the PCF even voted in favor of the article! All in all, the LFI supported nearly 40% of the articles which have been voted on until now and the PCF supported even more!¹⁵

Conclusions

Such sharp contrast between words and actions of the French parliamentary left is not surprising. It is the po-

litical DNA of reformism – in France and globally. Their mantra has always been: *talk progressive – in order to get votes; act reactionary – in order to get positions and privileges!* We repeat that it is urgent for revolutionaries in France and elsewhere to break decisively with such reformist traitors!

We call revolutionaries all over the world to join forces based on unity on the most important political faultlines of international class struggle. Among these issues are the imperialist aggression against oppressed people (including Islamophobia and, in general, chauvinism against migrants), the rivalry between imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan) as well as the COVID-19 Revolution. The RCIT is committed to build a *World Party of Socialist Revolution* in close collaboration with other revolutionary organizations and activists on the basis of consistent anti-imperialism and Marxist internationalism!

Footnotes

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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)



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Books of the RCIT

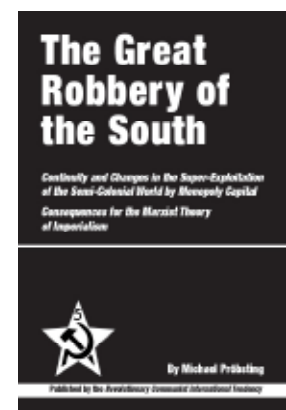
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



Myanmar: Down with the reactionary Military Coup!

Prepare for a General Strike! No political support

for Aung San Suu Kyi! No to imperialist sanctions!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 February 2021

1. Myanmar's military – called *Tatmadaw* – carried out another coup on 1 February. The overthrow took place hours before lawmakers of the newly elected Parliament were supposed to meet to hold their oath-taking session. The military junta – led by General Min Aung Hlaing – immediately detained long-time leader Aung San Suu Kyi and allied politicians. Meanwhile she has been charged with having several illegally imported walkie-talkies in her home for which she could carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison! The junta has also blocked Facebook in order to suppress the emerging popular resistance.

2. The background of the coup is the massive victory of Aung San Suu Kyi's party – the *National League for Democracy* (NLD) – at the last elections in November 2020 election. The NLD captured 396 out of 476 seats contested in the lower and upper houses of Parliament. In contrast, the main "opposition" party, the military-backed *Union Solidarity and Development Party*, won only 33 seats. As a result, the army command feared to lose its traditional political domination – even though the *Tatmadaw* is automatically allocated 25% of the seats in the combined houses under the 2008 Constitution that was drafted under a previous military government.

3. The military justifies its coup d'état by claiming that the elected civilian government failed to properly investigate its allegations of electoral irregularities. However, the state Union Election Commission has said there were no significant problems with the vote. The *Tatmadaw* junta has declared a one-year state of emergency. After this, General Min Aung Hlaing told a business group yesterday, the regime plans to keep power for another six months. Only the regime would "hold fair elections".

4. Activists of the NLD have called for protests. While communication has been severely restricted by the *Tatmadaw* junta, there are several reports about street protests. Small rallies have taken place in Yangon and Mandalay – the two largest cities of the country. There are also

various acts of disobedience. Staff at government hospitals and workers at the agriculture ministry stopped work or wore ribbons in the NLD's red color. For two nights, people in Yangon and other cities have banged on pots and pans and honked car horns. In Tokyo, the *Union of Myanmar Citizen Association* organized a protest rally against the military coup. About 3,000 Burmese migrants joined the demonstration and chanted "Free, free Aung San Suu Kyi, free, free Myanmar."

5. Western imperialist powers immediately condemned the coup d'état. The G7 Foreign Ministers of the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain, and the EU's High Representative, issued a joint statement on 3 February: "We call upon the military to immediately end the state of emergency, restore power to the democratically-elected government, to release all those unjustly detained and to respect human rights and the rule of law." The new U.S. Administration of Joe Biden even threatened to impose unspecified sanctions.

6. In contrast, imperialist China warns the West against "external interference". Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry, said "China is a friendly neighbor of Myanmar, and we hope all parties in Myanmar can properly handle differences under the constitutional and legal framework and safeguard political and social stability."

7. The background for such different responses is the fact that China has traditionally close relations with Myanmar's military. When the West imposed sanctions on the country after the bloody military coup in 1989, China was the only power which offered the regime an economic lifeline. The West had traditionally closer relations with Aung San Suu Kyi albeit the later has worked hard in the last years to improve their relations with Beijing and backed China's imperialist *Belt and Road Initiative*. This does not necessarily mean that China was actively involved in preparing the coup – in fact its main interest is "stability" in order to advance its economic and geopo-

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)

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litical projects. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that General Min Aung Hlaing met with China's State Councilor Wang Yi – one of its top diplomats – only three weeks before he carried out the coup! After the meeting China's Foreign Ministry said: "China appreciates that the Myanmar military takes national revitalization as its mission." In any case, the coup and the looming Western sanctions will most likely drive the *Tatmadaw* junta closer Beijing. This is certainly not an unwelcomed development for China as it will strengthen its position in South-East Asia – a key region on world politics – in its inner-imperialist rivalry against Western powers.

8. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly denounces the military coup. While we have no illusions about the semi-democratic capitalist system which existed in Myanmar before and which already reserved a dominant position for the army, the coup certainly destroys all democratic freedoms and strengthens the bonapartist power of the notorious *Tatmadaw*. Hence, we fully support all forms of popular resistance against the military junta. However, we also oppose any imperialist sanctions. Big bandits – like the U.S. or the EU – can not be allies in the liberation struggle against the small bandits!

9. While we oppose the coup and call for the release of all political prisoners, we do not lend any political support for Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD. These forces are thoroughly bourgeois and pro-imperialist. Furthermore, Aung San Suu Kyi has always been a strong supporter of the horrible genocide against the Rohingya Muslims. The RCIT reiterates its unconditional support for the struggle of the Rohingya Muslims for national self-determination. We oppose the military coup not because we have any political sympathies for Aung San Suu Kyi but rather because we defend each and every democratic right. Such rights

improve the conditions of the liberation struggle against the ruling class.

10. It is crucial for advancing the struggle against the military coup that the workers and oppressed organize for preparing a *general strike* to bring down the *Tatmadaw* junta. For this it is necessary to form *action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities*. Furthermore, the movement needs to get arms and to create *self-defense units* so that it can defend itself against the repression apparatus. Activists should develop agitation among the soldiers so that they do not follow the orders of the coup generals. Revolutionaries have to explain the necessity of an armed uprising and the creation of a workers and poor peasant government which will open the road to socialism. Uniting all supporters of such a program in a revolutionary party – nationally and internationally – is the most important task in the coming period. Join the RCIT!

International Bureau of the RCIT

The RCIT has published numerous documents on the Arab Revolution. We draw reader's attention to the following links:

Myanmar: Solidarity with the Uprising of the Rohingya Muslims! No to the Regime's Buddhist Chauvinism! For the Rohingya's Right of National Self-Determination! 27.08.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/solidarity-with-rohingya-muslims/>

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RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- * **“Azadi Kashmir”: Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- * **The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today**
- * **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
- * **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power**

Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)

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Nigeria: End SARS - Where Petty Bourgeois Activists and Influencers Fail, The Masses Must Continue!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) [Nigerian Section of the RCIT], 10.02.2021

3 months and some days have passed after the barbarous massacre of youths all over Nigeria on the 20th of October 2020 led to the severe dampening of the End SARS movement. What is clear, however, is that the stoppage of physical demonstrations under whatever name is only temporary in Nigeria. Yet it will be slothful simplicity to assert that the movement was interrupted by just the machine of state terrorism of the Nigerian government since it should be by now glaring to all that the labour leaderships and the whole bureaucratic milieu behind it betrayed the struggle mainly led by the youths.

Just to recapitulate, the struggle was not just about police brutality, the growing acceptance of the slogan to “end bad governance in Nigeria” is sufficient proof of this. Add to this the fact that such an uprising exploded within a global revolutionary period that was although interrupted by the COVID-19 counterrevolution became rekindled and spread like a forest conflagration through the Black Lives Matter protests in the US. This should have at least convinced all those comrades who think only a hike in fuel, electricity or food price can lead to a revolution (even though there were successive government imposed hikes in the price of these commodities in the days leading up to the End SARS protests) to take the movement with more seriousness, at least to begin a campaign for the removal of the rotten bureaucracies atop the Labour unions.

Developments following the cessation of street demonstrations show that these “socialist” or “pan-africanist” milieu of comrades have no interest in ousting the moribund leadership of the trade unions, in fact this is a far cry from their intentions. No sooner had the embers of

the protests began to smolder did these comrades start organizing online symposiums to discuss “tactics” and “strategies” for the 2023 general elections. The reaction of the liberal milieu was not so different. The musicians, actors, social media influencers who had earlier refused to push for any official leadership of the protests became the strongest advocates for the relocation of the campaign to online forms. This was the origin of the Coalition of Protest Groups Across Lagos and Nigeria/Nigeria Coalition of Protest Groups barely days after the Lekki massacre.

As already mentioned this crust of activists in order to save their skins and expand their sphere of influence at the same time discouraged or ignored genuine attempts to create official leaderships at the various protest grounds. This “leaderlessness” also had strong support throughout the opportunist and centrist left who also had their own agenda of getting mass support for parties they would field in bourgeois elections.

The so-called influencers refused to openly declare or mobilize for a second phase of the protests on 7th December, last year. In contrast, the RSV called for democratically elected and collectively controlled coordination committees with self defence units in every protest ground from the onset of the protests. We posited that only the combination of these unanimously controlled bodies can form a national leadership which will move in the direction that the masses want and at the same time will be used to measure the progress of the movement. We defended this position throughout the length of the demonstrations and even after. We called for the uprising to be turned into an indefinite general strike to bring down the Buhari regime.



RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

Now new mobilizations have been sparked by the most heart wrenching betrayals—one of the online activists/influencer, Segun Awosanya (Segalink) who is on the Lagos state panel of inquiry for the Lekki massacre voted that the Lekki toll gate, the epicenter of the protests and the site where over a dozen people were killed in one day should reopened for business. Youths are now mobilizing for mass action We have always held the position that no justice can come out of the panel since it was not even democratically constituted. Revolutionaries can only argue to promote the interests of the working masses by showing that the government and its institutions in the present form are enemies of the people, thus winning more people to the revolutionary cause.

Which is more heart wrenching? To vote for the reopening of the illicit business scheme at the site where innocents were massacred or to hold symposia or conferences with class traitors like Ayuba Wabba, (Where Is The Light) the National President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). We leave our “socialist” activists to decide. We have always called for the removal of the degenerate bureaucracy heading the labour movement, not only in writing but by pushing for an actual campaign to that effect.

In time, the youth and popular masses will rise again to shake the system but for that shake to possess the power to collapse the system we must organize democratically and rely on our own strength not in petty-bourgeois, liberal activists or pacifists. The permanent emancipation of Nigeri-

ans from economic hardship, state high-handedness, insecurity, tribalism can only be founded on a socialist bases. Socialism is impossible without a Revolutionary Workers Party which will drive the revolution to a socialist victory. Building an international Revolutionary Workers Party is the ultimate commitment of the RCIT!

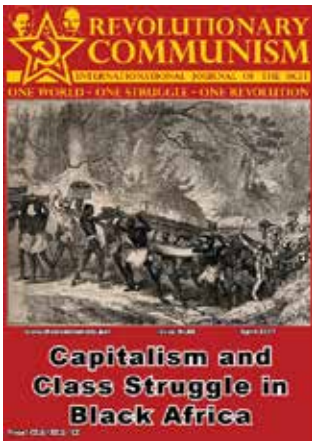
Justice for the victims of Black Tuesday, extrajudicial killings and police brutality all over Nigeria! For the reversal of all hikes in PMS price and electricity tariff! Fight for a publicly controlled employment program! Stop the toll collection at Lekki permanently!

Support the #OccupyLekkiTollGate campaign! Form Action Committees and Armed Self Defence Guards to fend off state sponsored thugs in uniform or without! No more “leaderless” movement! For an indefinite general strike now!

The hope that the UN will wade in to save the day has been exposed for what it is—a hoax. *No trust in the ICC, UN or any other imperialist institution! No trust or illusion in the US, EU or Chinese government for pro-masses intervention! Form rather solidarity links with the masses fighting dictatorship and anti-people governments in Thailand, Myanmar, Haiti!*

Only consistent mass actions can pressurize any panel to bequeath justice! Justice however can only be fully served when the incorrigible ruling class are vanquished and replaced by a planned economy controlled by the workers and poor peasants government!

For a Revolutionary Workers Party in Nigeria and globally! This is what the RCIT is fighting for! Join the RCIT!



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

The “Moral Imperative” of Imperialist Killing

How leading circles in the U.S. cynically justify the development of Artificial Intelligence weapon systems

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30 January 2021

One of the most important duties of every socialist, in fact every reasonable person, is to refuse trusting the announcements and explanations of the ruling class, its institutions and its media. Everything must be approached with the highest possible suspicion, one must read between the lines and behind the words, try to discern elements of truth (if they exist at all) from the fog of lies and half-truths. One must understand that the bourgeois politicians and journalists have developed a whole discipline of art how to whitewash the bitter reality of capitalism and the evil intentions of its lords.

Here is an example, one could say a particularly cynical example, how representatives of the ruling class present their ill intentions in hypercritical moralistic language.

A few days ago, a government-appointed panel in the U.S., called the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, said in a draft report for Congress that the United States should not agree to ban the use or development of autonomous weapons powered by artificial intelligence (AI) software. Furthermore, the panel’s report “recommended use of AI by intelligence agencies to streamline data gathering and review; \$32 billion in annual federal funding for AI research; and new bodies including a digital corps modeled after the army’s Medical Corps and a technology competitiveness council chaired by the U.S. vice president.”¹

This contrasts with the wishes of many states to ban AI from military use as discussions in the United Nations on this issue since 2014 have shown. It is not difficult to recognize the motivation behind the recommendations of the panel. We are living in a period of capitalist decay and ruptures in the world order.² Under such conditions it is inevitable that the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, EU, and Japan) is accelerating.³ U.S. imperialism – the long-time hegemon which is declining while China is rising – tries to keep its military superiority by any means possible. The development of AI-powered weapon systems naturally provides an advantage for any imperialist Great Power.

Let us note in passing that this panel has been led by former Google Chief Executive Eric Schmidt. This confirms once more the Marxist thesis that imperialist capitalism is characterized by a close relationship between the big corporations, the state apparatus, and the military. This is hardly surprising. The corporations want to raise their profits, the army wants to increase its ability to kill and the purpose of the state in capitalism is to realize (and pay for) these interests.⁴

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to understand that all this is about developing even more deadly and effective killing machines in order to get an advantage in the global arms race between the Great Powers. It is equally clear that the Lords of Power and Money do not want to present openly their motivation. So they look for ways to conceal their desire for developing killer robots with “humanitarian” arguments. This can result in the most gro-

tesque formulations.

The above-mentioned Reuters report quotes the panel’s Vice Chairman Robert Work, a former deputy secretary of defense, as saying that “autonomous weapons are expected to make fewer mistakes than humans do in battle, leading to reduced casualties or skirmishes caused by target misidentification. It is a moral imperative to at least pursue this hypothesis.”

You see, the U.S. imperialists want to develop AI-powered weapon systems not for killing more efficiently, not for winning future wars, not for raising the profits of high-tech and arms corporations. No, their motivation is solely humanitarian – they want to “reduce casualties”! Their concern for human lives is so big that they even call this a “moral imperative”!

What an extraordinary example of 1984-like language! There is a “moral imperative” to develop killer robots since they are humanitarian instruments! Of course, this is just one of many examples. Today, when Great Powers send troops in a foreign country they don’t call it “war” but “peacebuilding operation”.

Only naïve fools can trust the imperialists and their ideological PR-stunts. Unfortunately, today the virus of credulity has spread wide among the so-called left which blindly believes the ruling class which utilizes the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse for launching an unprecedented counterrevolution by expanding the police and surveillance state and dramatically restricting democratic rights.⁵ Those leftists who do not break down the propaganda lies of the ruling class – be it because of stupidity or because of evil intentions – are not socialists but useful idiots of the bourgeoisie!

Footnotes

1 Jeffrey Dastin, Paresh Dave: U.S. commission cites ‘moral imperative’ to explore AI weapons, January 26, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-military-ai/u-s-commission-cites-moral-imperative-to-explore-ai-weapons-idUSKBN29V2M0>

2 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of “Catastrophism”. On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its “Coordinating Committee for the Re-foundation of the Fourth International”, RCIT Pamphlet, May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-catastrophic-failure-of-the-theory-of-catastrophism/>; RCIT: Advancing Counterrevolution and Acceleration of Class Contradictions Mark the Opening of a New Political Phase. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries (January 2016), Chapter II and III, in: Revolutionary Communism No. 46, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2016/>; Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, RCIT Books, Vienna 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>; 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>; Michael Pröbsting: Imperialism, Globalization and the Decline of Capitalism (2008), in: Richard Brenner, Michael Pröbsting, Keith Spencer: The Credit Crunch - A Marxist Analysis, London 2008, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-and-globalization/>

3 See on this e.g. the numerous RCIT's documents on the Global Trade War which have been collected at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>; for a more fundamental analysis of the Great Power rivalry we refer to our book by Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>. Other RCIT documents on the accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers are compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

4 The RCIT has dealt with state monopoly capitalism in various works. See e.g. chapter II in our book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle, RCIT Books, April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>.

5 The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February we have published more than 70 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. In

particular we refer readers to the RCIT Manifesto: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>. In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle, RCIT Books, April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>. See also our very first article on this issue by Almedina Gunić: Coronavirus: "I am not a Virus"... but WE will be the Cure! The chauvinist campaign behind the "Wuhan Coronavirus" hysteria and the revolutionary answer, 2 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution. On the ruling class strategy in the current conjuncture, its inner contradictions and the perspectives of the workers and popular resistance, 20 July 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/the-second-wave-of-the-covid-19-counterrevolution/>; by the same author: The Police and Surveillance State in the Post-Lockdown Phase. A global review of the ruling class's plans of expanding the bonapartist state machinery amidst the COVID-19 crisis, 21 May 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/police-and-surveillance-state-in-post-lockdown-phase/>; COVID-19: The Great Barrington Declaration is indeed Great! Numerous medical scientists protest against the reactionary lockdown policy, 11 October 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-the-great-barrington-declaration-is-indeed-great/>.

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

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!

