



## **Fight for Women's Liberation through Global Revolution!**

- \* Myanmar: Popular Uprising Continues
- \* Nigeria: Declaration of Yoruba Nation
- \* 10th Anniversary of Syrian Revolution
- \* Elections in Israel / Occupied Palestine
- \* Sweden and the Lockdown Left
- \* State Repression in Paraguay
- \* Brazil: Crisis of the Bolsonaro Regime
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# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 116, April 2021

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Picture on the Cover: Rally in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 14.3.2021)

*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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8 March 2021:

## Our Greatest Generation of Revolutionary Women

By Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the RCIT, 8 March 2021

The First Women's Day was organized in 1911 by the Second International by the initiative of the revolutionary women's leader Clara Zetkin. Ten years later, since the 8 March 1921, the Women's Day is held every year all around the world. It is a day to celebrate our struggle for equality, for women's liberation and for socialism.

Today, on the 8 March 2021, our tradition hits the century milestone, and we look back proud on each and every struggle we fought, every lesson we learnt – often enough out of defeat, but also out of victories we achieved. We celebrate our sisters all around the world who never stopped fighting and who will keep up the revolutionary struggle by any means. We celebrate what is the greatest generation of revolutionary women!

We celebrate our Uyghur sisters who fight against the draconic attacks and oppression of Chinese imperialism against their people. It is our sisters who openly speak up against rapes and forced sterilizations which they suffered from in the detention camps of the Chinese state. Their fight is our fight!

We celebrate our sisters in Poland who took the streets again and again to fight against the new, reactionary abortion law. We rejoice the acquittal of the LGBTQIA2S+ activists and celebrate the solidarity in our joint struggles. The activists in Poland make clear that no individual, no organization, no party or movement, and no state has any right to decide on our bodies. Their fight is our fight!

We celebrate our sisters in Myanmar who stay shoulder to shoulder with their revolutionary brothers in the struggle against the brutal military forces. The cowards of the military even fear to walk under the lines of the stringed up women's clothes as they believe it emasculates men. They are right to believe so, because on the other side of the clothes stand our sisters willing to fight by all means. They are the worst nightmare for the military and the strongest asset of the revolutionary movement! Their fight is our fight!

We celebrate our sisters in Syria who have not stopped fighting against the tyranny of Assad despite all of the years of counterrevolutionary attacks and brutal war. They do not fear the dictatorship as they do not fear the imperialist forces from Russia, the United States and the European Union. To hold the banner of the revolution high whatever comes the way, is the lesson our sisters have taught us. Their fight is our fight!

We celebrate our sisters in Algeria, in Iraq, in Palestine and in many other countries of the Middle East. Not only are they a leading force of the revolutionary process, they embody new generations of women – the bravest of the brave who are determined to end oppression ones and for all. Their fight is our fight!

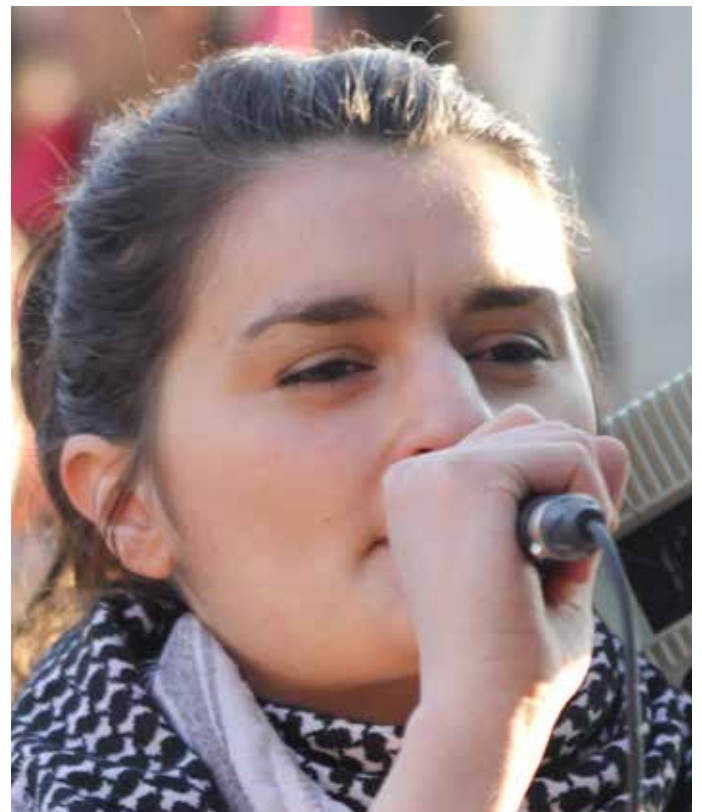
We celebrate our sisters in the various countries of Sub-Saharan Africa! Poverty-stricken by the inhuman exploitation by the imperialist nations, our sisters organize themselves not only in protests and political fights. They have to come together and join forces to provide their families with the basic needs like water and food, medicine and care. The

spirit of collective effort is the strongest where daily life is full of struggle. There is not a single woman in the world who can not learn from our persistent and strong sisters in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa! Their fight is our fight!

We celebrate our sisters in Argentina, in Mexico and the whole region of Latin America who fight for their safety of our lives! Feminicide is one of the ugliest faces of women's oppression and one that our sisters in Latin America know very well. While the capitalist states all around the world use the pandemic as a cover to implement anti-democratic attacks in the name of health, they enable and protect the monsters who are one of the biggest threats for our health. They want us to stay silent because of the fear to die by a virus – but what is with the death by the hand of sexist murderers? *Ni una menos* (Not one [women] less) is the answer. Their fight is our fight!

We as women face triple attacks – when we take the streets, we are attacked by the repression apparatus in the name of pandemic measures. Likewise we are attacked by military, by right wing forces, by gangs, by dictators, by imperialists and their lackeys, and by many other reactionary elements who want to silent democratic and social protests. Last but not least we face the daily threat by violent partners, family members and strangers who take their aggressions out on our bodies! Enough is enough.

Today, on the 8 March 2021, we declare our unity as revolutionary women worldwide! Nothing can and nothing will stop our struggle! We will rise united in a revolutionary women's movement that spans around the globe! Join in the struggle for this goal!



Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the RCIT

# Myanmar: Bloody Military Crackdown on Pro-Democracy Mass Protests!

**For an indefinite general strike and armed insurrection  
to bring down the dictatorship! For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!**

*Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 1 March 2021*

1. Sunday, 28 February, marks the bloodiest day yet since the popular masses began their protests against the military coup. With hundreds of thousands demonstrating, police fired live ammunition into crowds in Yangon, Dawei, Mandalay, Myeik, Bago and Pokokku. According to a U.N. human rights official at least 18 people were killed and 30 were wounded. The independent media company *Democratic Voice of Burma* reported that there had been 19 confirmed deaths in nine cities, with another 10 deaths unconfirmed. About 1,000 people are believed to have been detained on that day alone.

2. Soon after the coup d'état on 1 February, the workers, students and poor peasants started to organize mass protests nearly every day. They oppose the putsch and demand that the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi be restored to power. They also call for the release of the former Prime Minister and all others who have been arrested by army which is called *Tatmadaw*.

3. While the military reacted relatively restrained to the protest in the first days, yesterday's bloody crackdown could signal a dramatic shift towards a "final solution", i.e. that the army command is determined to brutally annihilate all forms of popular resistance on the streets. In other words, Myanmar could head towards a scenario like Syria in spring 2011 when the Assad dictatorship tried to drown the popular protests in blood. Another example is Egypt where the military first toppled the elected government of Morsi on 3 July 2013 and, a few weeks later (on 14 August), carried out one of the worst massacres in modern history, killing about 2,600 demonstrators on a single day!

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) states its full and unconditional solidarity with the protests of the popular masses in Myanmar. We support the demands for the release of all those arrested by the military. We say: The military dictatorship must be overthrown by a popular uprising by the armed workers and poor! For this, it is crucial to build *action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities* which could organize *armed militias* in order to defend the people against the state repression. Such popular mass organs

would form a strong fundament for launching an *indefinite general strike* culminating in an *armed insurrection*. The appearance of organized activists with helmets and shields at the frontline of the demonstrations is an encouraging sign! Likewise, activists should develop *agitation among the soldiers* in order to split the army. This is not an unrealistic task as the organized refusal of whole units to follow the orders of the generals shows.

5. In our opinion, the objective of the struggle should not be the return of the Suu Kyi government – a pro-imperialist bourgeois government which for years closely collaborated with army command and which fully supported the bloody massacres against the Rohingya Muslims a few years ago. The goal of the armed insurrection should be rather the convocation of a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* elected and controlled by the armed masses!

6. The RCIT warns against bourgeois manipulators from the imperialist West who call for "peaceful demonstrations". Look at Belarus: for half a year, the masses limited themselves to peaceful demonstrations as they were urged to do so by pro-EU politicians. As a result, they lost their struggle and the Lukashenko regime succeeded in putting down the protests (at least for now).

7. Likewise, we warn against any illusions in the UN or Western imperialist powers. They do not care at all about democracy. Just look to the West's closest allies in the Middle East – like the autocratic dictatorships in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates or the Zionist state of Israel which builds its existence on the expulsion and ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people! The U.S. and the EU have imposed symbolic sanctions against a few generals only because the army command is close to China – the most important imperialist rival of the West. In contrast, the detained Prime Minister Aung San Suu Kyi has been rather closer to the U.S. and the EU.

8. An important reason for Beijing's support for the *Tatmadaw* is Myanmar's role in its famous *Belt & Road Initiative* (China's version of the U.S. Marshall Plan after World War II). The planned *China-Myanmar Economic Corridor* is a huge infrastructure project (with over \$21 billion dollars in

## Revolutionary Struggle for Women's Liberation

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approved Chinese foreign direct investment as of March 2020) which would allow Beijing direct connection to the Indian Ocean, bypassing the Malacca Strait. Like the *China-Pakistan Economic Corridor*, this project would advance China's access to the world market (including the crucial oil and gas imports) and substantially improve its geopolitical position in the region.

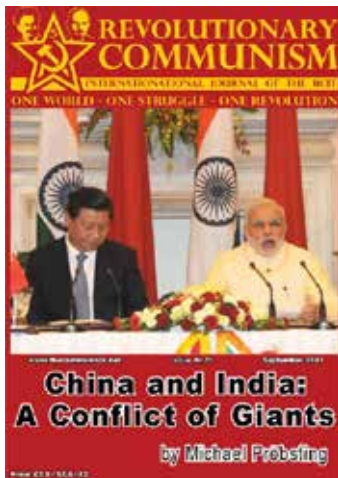
9. Beijing's decisive support for the putschists in Myanmar demonstrates once more the thoroughly reactionary nature of the Chinese regime. As it is well known, the military carried out – with the support of then-Prime Minister Aung San Suu Kyi – horrific atrocities against the Rohingya Muslims minority in 2016-17, which forced over a million people to flee to other countries. This has not stopped Beijing praising the military. Only a few weeks before the coup, China's Foreign Ministry stated after an official meeting with Myanmar's General Min Aung Hlaing: "*China appreciates that the Myanmar military takes national revitalization as its mission.*" Beijing's support for such genocidal generals as well as its own shameful record in barbarically suppressing Uyghur Muslims in Xinyang and the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong demonstrate beyond doubt the anti-popular character of the Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship.

10. The RCIT states that the principles of defending democracy against capitalist dictatorships, of defending the interests of the workers and oppressed against the capitalist ruling class are *indivisible* as they are relevant for *all parts* of the world! Hence, socialists oppose *all Great*

*Powers in East and West* as they also oppose *all reactionary dictatorships* – irrespective if they are close to one or the other imperialist camp! Hence, socialists must decisively fight against the reactionary myth that China (or Russia) would represent a kind of "*progressive*" or "*anti-imperialist*" power! Forces which spread such ideas – numerous social-democrats, Stalinists, Bolivarians and Trotsko-Revisionists – only aid one imperialist camp against the other. Authentic socialists must defend an internationalist, revolutionary working-class position and combat the influence of such *social-imperialist* ("*socialist*" in words but *pro-imperialist* in deeds) forces within the workers and popular movements.

11. The RCIT calls workers and popular mass organizations in all parts of the world to show their support for the fighting masses in Myanmar. The young activists in Thailand, who are protesting their own putschist regime since months, are an encouraging example for such international solidarity. They have spontaneously expressed on the streets their solidarity with the brothers and sisters in Myanmar as well as in Hong Kong (the so-called "*Milk Tea Alliance*")! At the same time, socialists must oppose calls for sanctions by Western imperialist powers. No alliance with the big bandits against the small bandits! Most importantly, activists should unite in a revolutionary party – nationally and internationally – based on a program of struggle. Join the RCIT!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

### The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format*

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

# Myanmar: Popular Masses turn against Chinese Imperialism!

**For an indefinite general strike and armed insurrection  
to bring down the dictatorship! No illusions in US and European imperialism!**

*Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16 March 2021*

1. The military dictatorship attempts to drown in blood the popular uprising which has began in response to the coup d'état on 1 February. Since weeks, hundreds of thousands of people are marching on the streets nearly every day. The army tries to brutally suppress the protests by shooting at demonstrators, arresting activists in night raids, etc.. In response, workers organize strikes, activists build barricades and self-defense units are formed to fight back against the repression apparatus. According to the UN at least 138 people have been killed since the beginning of the coup, 56 of them during the last weekend.

2. The regime has now imposed martial law in several working-class districts of Yangon, as well as in several parts of Mandalay – the two largest cities of the country. It is evident that the *Tatmadaw* – the Myanmar army – fears to lose control. There are several reports that some units of the police and army are refusing to follow orders.

3. The *Tatmadaw* dictatorship is particularly nervous since the Myanmar workers and youth are increasingly directing their protests against factories and buildings of Chinese corporations. On 14 March, demonstrators torched several Chinese-owned factories in the city of Yangon and damaged others. *Global Times* – an official newspaper of the Beijing regime – quotes the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar that “a total of 32 Chinese-invested factories have been vandalized in attacks in Yangon, Myanmar, with property losses reaching 240 million yuan (\$36.89 million) ... after perpetrators in Yangon smashed, looted and burnt Chinese

*factories on Sunday.”*

4. It is hardly surprising that popular anger in Myanmar is directed against Chinese imperialism. Beijing's Stalinist-capitalist regimes has close relations with the *Tatmadaw* and has de facto supported the coup d'état. China is one of the largest foreign investors and plans to integrate the country in its *Belt & Road Initiative*. The so-called *China-Myanmar Economic Corridor*, a huge infrastructure project (with over \$21 billion dollars in approved Chinese foreign direct investment as of March 2020) would allow Beijing direct connection to the Indian Ocean, bypassing the Malacca Strait. Hence, it would advance China's access to the world market and substantially improve its geopolitical position in the region.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) reiterates its full and unconditional support for the popular uprisings of the workers, youth and poor peasants in Myanmar. We support the demands for the release of all those arrested by the military. The military dictatorship must be overthrown by an *indefinite general strike* and an *armed insurrection* of the popular masses! For this, it is crucial to build *action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities* which could organize *armed militias* in order to defend the people against the state repression. We also repeat that, in our opinion, it is crucial that activists develop agitation among the soldiers in order to split the army.

6. We consider militant actions against property of

## 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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Chinese imperialism as fully legitimate. The military dictatorship desperately needs the support of Great Powers and China is without doubt its most important backer. Naturally we oppose any form of nationalism directed against the Chinese people. It is the Stalinist-capitalist ruling class in Beijing which is the enemy of the popular masses in Myanmar as well as in China. A public statement of Thinzar Shunlei Yi, a protest leader, indicates that many activists share such an understanding. She said on Twitter that Myanmar people do not hate their Chinese neighbors though their rulers had to understand the outrage felt over their stand. *“Chinese government must stop supporting coup council if they actually care about Sino-Myanmar relations and to protect their businesses.”*

7. The popular outrage against Chinese enterprises has sent chitters throughout the community of foreign capitalists. *Global Times* reports: *“Some Chinese businessmen in Yangon planned to suspend their business operations; some moved to downtown areas while others chose to stay to protect their businesses.”* In response Beijing demands from the military regime in strong words to react with full force. *“We wish that Myanmar’s authorities can take further relevant and effective measures to guarantee the security of the lives and assets of Chinese companies and personnel,”* foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. An editorial of the *Global Times* on 15 March demands: *“Those who maliciously defame China and instigate attacks against Chinese factories are common enemies of China and Myanmar, they must be severely punished.”* At the same time, *Global Times* is forced to recognize that hostility is not restricted to a few “fanatics” but rather widespread among the Myanmar people. *“The anti-China sentiment in Myanmar has hurt normal Chinese residents and economic activities, which will force some Chinese enterprises to rethink the investment environment in Myanmar.”* Hence, the Stalinist-capitalist regime directs its warning – through its mouthpiece – to the popular masses in the title of an article: *“Myanmar people called on to refrain from being incited by West in damaging China-Myanmar relations”*.

8. At the same time, the RCIT warns against any illusion in Western imperialism. The U.S. and the EU have imposed symbolic sanctions against a few generals. They have done so because the *Tatmadaw* is an ally of China.

In contrast, the detained Prime Minister Aung San Suu Kyi has been rather closer to the U.S. and the EU. But American and European imperialism are no allies of the Myanmar people and no advocates of human rights and democracy. Just look at their dictator allies in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates! The Western imperialists are exclusively interested in advancing their geopolitical interests against China – their most important rival in the struggle for world domination.

9. The RCIT calls revolutionaries in China to take a stand in solidarity with the democratic struggle of the Myanmar workers, youth and poor peasants. Surely, the Stalinist-capitalist regime in Beijing will tell its people that the protests in Myanmar are a “Western-conspiracy”. But Marxists know that class struggle is the driving force in history and popular rebellions are the work of millions of people fighting for their fundamental democratic and social rights – and not the result of conspiracies by this or that security service!

10. No doubt, the regime in Beijing will appeal to the patriotic feelings of the Chinese people. It is true that China suffered during the *century of humiliation* (1839 to 1949) by the arrogant and brutal colonial powers. At that time, every authentic democrat and socialist stood with the Chinese people and against the foreign imperialists. But China’s history is much longer as it is one of oldest living civilization in the world. Before and since the *century of humiliation* China has been a power which was not an oppressed nation but rather an Empire which oppressed other people. This is particularly true today where Chinese imperialism suppresses not only its own working class but also the Muslim Uyghur people, the people in Tibet as well as in Hong Kong. Furthermore, China has become one of the biggest imperialist foreign investor, super-exploiting workers and poor on all continents. Today, Chinese Marxists recognize oppressed people in Xinjiang and Tibet, the rebellious youth in Hong Kong, the workers exploited in Chinese-owned factories abroad as their true allies in the struggle against the ruling class in Beijing! The struggle for socialism is an international struggle!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

## China: Free Xiong Yan!

### Solidarity with the struggle of the delivery workers!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 8 March 2021*

**X**iong Yan, the founder of the *Drivers’ Alliance* mutual aid network, was arrested by the Beijing police on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Since then, his whereabouts remain unknown. Xiong has been active in organizing delivery drivers and couriers and brought together several thousand of them via social media platforms. His *Drivers’ Alliance* states as its aims: *“Aims: solidarity, mutual assistance, friendship, determination, sharing, and winning together”*. It also says: *“No matter if you ride for Ele.me or for Meituan, for Fengniao, Shansong, Dada, or Shunfeng, we’re all in the same hustle.”*

Xiong has attracted widespread media attention last month when he criticized the food-delivery platform Ele.me’s Spring Festival holiday bonus system. Ele.me is an online food delivery service platform which is owned by the Alibaba Group of China’s richest man, Jack Ma.

Xiong was already detained for several weeks in 2019 because of his activities in organizing delivery workers.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls for the immediate release of Xiong Yan! We also demand the freedom of association of all workers in China!

# Nigeria: On the Declaration of Yoruba Nation by Sunday Igboho

**Join the campaign for Independence of the Southern Ethnic Nationalities  
but no political support for the Southern governors and their proxies!**

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT), 21.03.2021*

Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Sunday Igboho the acclaimed leader of the Yoruba rights movement had on Wednesday 17th, March declared the establishment of Yoruba nation in the South West through a press conference attended by Prof. Banji Akintoye, President of Ilana Omo Oduduwa, another Yoruba nationalist association and other national rights activists. In response, Yerima Shettima on behalf of the Arewa Youth Forum has given a 72 hour ultimatum to all northern based Yoruba people to evacuate the north. This follows a long drawn war of words between the Southern and Northern governors surrounding the activities of Northern armed groups across the nation.<sup>1</sup>

At this point it is imperative that revolutionaries fight for the leadership of the nationalist movements. This must be done by giving unconditional support to the call for secession of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the agitators for Oduduwa nation while giving no political approval to their openly reactionary leaderships. Genuine leftists, democrats and socialists must support the campaign or initiative for autonomy, self-government and even the establishment of self defense militias like the ESN by the southern ethnic nationalities while reserving the right to take position on issues concerning or surrounding the movement including forming a political opposition to the leaderships of these movements.

We however clamour for the founding of prospective Biafra and Oduduwa nations on a socialist bases, that is, added to the stance against northern-Fulani hegemony, must be the expropriation of the southern bourgeoisie without compensation and the establishment of a workers state through a planned economy. This workers and poor peasant government must be led by a Revolutionary Workers Party which surrounds itself with the workers

vanguard-the most advanced layers of the working class.

It is important to bear in mind that it is the same southern ruling class viz the southern governors and their proxies who have sold out the working masses time and again for executive positions, business deals, the purchase of national assets and corporations etc., to their counterparts in the north. All indications point to the northern hegemony's refusal to grant key executive positions to the southern mostly the south western ruling class in the 2023 general elections as the main motivation for the push towards secession by the southern ruling class. Albeit, the overall current that makes the marriage of convenience of the Nigerian ruling class factions now unbearable cum the heightened support amongst the masses to burst asunder this prison house of ethnic nationalities is the global crises of capitalism.

That is why the quest for national liberation comes up as one of the episodic upheavals of the present phase of capitalist chaos. Thus we warn of a tendency for betrayal by the so-called leaders of these movements when they are thrown a bone by their hegemonic masters in the north. Sunday Igboho and his more easterly colleagues like Asari Dokubo have an history of being political bedmates with the southern ruling class. Sunday Igboho has been alleged countless times of being a stooge of the former governor of Lagos State, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the brainchild of whom is the All Progressives Congress (APC). The southern ruling caucus have been responsible for the riveting hardship that has plagued the southern working class and poor so they are not in any position to lead the fight against northern oppression.

In spite of the almost certain propensity for their betrayal in one way or the other, the balance of national forces might have reached a Rubicon meaning that in the advent



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# The Inter-Imperialist Cold War between the US and China

*By Michael Pröbsting, March 2021*

**Introduction \* A symbolic public row \* Two thieves as upholders of moral standards \* Escalating the conflict between China and Japan \* The Quad Summit \* Inter-Imperialist tensions in the Taiwan Strait \* Unavoidable continuation and acceleration of inter-imperialist rivalry \* Continuing doing business \* Towards escalation on the Korean Peninsula? \* "Fuck the EU" and Russia, again? \* Confirmation of the Marxist analysis \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format*



of a betrayal many southerners would lose confidence the more in the southern ruling class and seek a more radical alternative not only to the national question but other aspects of living creating some vacuum for revolutionary socialists to fill. Fundamentally, the worsening catastrophe of global capitalism is responsible for the same. The extent, however, to which this vacuum will be filled depends on the participation of socialist activists in the campaign for liberation of the southern ethnic nationalities.

Unfortunately, even at this stage many activists, a sizable chunk from the "socialist" camp do not recognize any revolutionary or progressive content in the nationalist campaigns. They define the movement in terms of its reactionary leaderships and make the increased control of the southern bourgeoisie over the economy in the South the only possibility or end of the nationalist movements.

For us in the Vanguard, the fight for the equality of nations especially in the epoch of international oppression or imperialism, is an indispensable feature in the quest for socialist transformation of society. We know that the fight against national oppression, imperialism and for national liberation is more than capable of sparking a socialist revolution. Hence we do not advocate prosecuting the struggle for national liberation through legal or bourgeois parliamentary means such as referendums. A look at nations that have hinged their liberation on referendums have proven to be a disappointment. Just look at the British during fiasco called Brexit. Another example is Catalonia where after a regional referendum the Spanish authorities still denied to them independence.

We also discourage any attempt by the southern governments to achieve autonomy or independence through constitutional amendments. These methods will only lead to painful compromises, concessions and limit the revolutionary potential of the campaigns. Workers unity is only possible when the Northern workers recognise their privileges and relinquish them by supporting the call of the Southern ethnic nationalities for secession. We therefore denounce the quit notice from the Arewa Youth Forum for all northern based Yoruba to leave the North. The North-

ern workers must form self defense units to protect the workers of Yoruba or southern descent from attacks from bigots and chauvinist aggressors.

In like manner socialists must oppose all forms of ethnic cleansing or reprisal expulsion of northerners or northern ethnic groups from the south as we already pointed out in one of our statements earlier on: "We denounce the call of Sunday Igboho and governor Akeredolu for the evacuation of Fulanis/Fulani nomads from Igangan and Ondo state respectively."<sup>2</sup> We are against the creation of a "nationally pure" sovereign state rather we vie for a workers and poor peasant Oduduwa and Biafra republic which respect and protect the rights of minorities within their borders. This remains the only state form that can truly end national oppression and ethnic discrepancies.

As Africans we have been cut off from people who share innumerable cultural similarities with us and our nations divided by the imperialist robbers who partitioned Africa like the spoils of war after 400 years of Transatlantic slavery and plunder. In the Nigerian case, we are surrounded by close nationalities on every side of our borders. On the Eastern side we have the Igbos of Cameroon; on the Western border the Yorubas of Benin Republic. We call for a popular uprising upto an armed insurrection to dislodge the age-old hegemony of northern Nigeria; overthrow the southern bourgeoisie and establish a Socialist Republic of West Africa in which all nations and ethnic nationalities are equal and free from all imperialist burden!

1. <https://punchng.com/we-dont-want-nigeria-again-but-yoruba-nation-sunday-igboho/>, Benin Republic Chief to FG: Stop senseless killings in Nigeria, emulate us, ban open grazing, After Dokubo's Formation of 'Biafra Government,' Igboho Declares South-West as 'Yoruba Nation'

2. See on this: Nigeria: National Question and the Liberation Struggle Today, <https://www.thecommunists.net/publications/revolutionary-communism-new-series-51/>; See also: For A People's Militia To Defeat the Conquest of Northern Hegemony! Defend the Right of Southern Ethnic Nationalities to Secession and Autonomy! For an Indefinite General Strike to Bring Down the Buhari Regime! Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) [RCIT Nigeria]. 01 Mar, 2021. <https://revolutionarysocialistvanguard.wordpress.com/2021/03/01/for-a-peoples-militia-to-defeat-the-conquest-of-northern-hegemony/>



## 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*

# On the 10th Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution: A Heroic People Which Refuses to Abandon the Field!

## Defend Idlib against All Attacks! Down with the Assad Tyranny and its Imperialist Masters!

*Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 11 March 2021*

On the 10th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution, the RCIT sends its warmest greetings to the brothers and sisters in Syria, in the refugee camps abroad and in the diaspora! Since March 2011, the workers, youth and poor peasants have heroically fought against the criminal regime of Bashar al-Assad.

The ongoing Syrian Revolution faces gigantic difficulties and setbacks.

\* The Assad tyranny is continuing its barbaric mass killings which has already resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives. About half of the 22 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes!

\* The Syrian people face the devastating military intervention of Russian imperialism without which Assad could not stay longer in power.

\* It also suffers from the brutal invasion of forces controlled by the dictatorial Iranian regime.

\* Furthermore, US imperialism – which sometimes cynically pays some lip service to democracy and human rights – continues to occupy the east of Syria and exploits its oil reserves with the aid of their stooges in the SDF/YPG.

\* In addition, the liberation movement is forced to deal with terrorist attacks of the Takfiri Daesh/ISIS.

\* The popular resistance in Idlib also faces the moderating influence and the double-dealing of the Turkish government. Ankara wants to increase its regional influence and, at the same time, striking lucrative deals with Moscow, Teheran and Washington.

However, despite all these obstacles, the Syrian people have not abandoned the field and are continuing their liberation struggle.

The RCIT – like all authentic socialists and democrats, all righteous men and women – has supported the Syrian Revolution since the beginning in March 2011. Our solidarity continues irrespective of our political opposition to the dominating forces in the liberated areas in the North. And our solidarity will continue because the cause of liberation remains a just one!

While we oppose the political strategies of the leading factions (FSA, SNA, HTS, HaD, etc.), we send our warmest greetings to the heroic freedom fighters in Idlib, to the courageous youth in Dar'a, and the protesting popular masses in Raqqa.

We declare our solidarity with Bilal Abdul Kareem, Tauqir Sharif, and with the courageous women protesting in Idlib against all forms of restrictions by the authorities in Idlib.

The RCIT emphasizes that the liberation struggle must be based not on self-appointed leaderships but on democratically-elected workers and popular councils and militias.

The Syrian Revolution is not an isolated event but it part of the Arab Revolution. Furthermore, since the beginning of the global wave of popular uprisings in autumn 2019,

the Syrian people have found potential allies all around the world.

It is crucial to link the liberation struggles in Syria and all other countries and to direct them against the common enemy. This enemy has different names and different faces. But in essence, they are one and the same: regimes in the service of imperialist powers and capitalist corporations.

In order to build such strong international solidarity, it is necessary to defeat the political influence of the treacherous forces within the workers and popular movements. Social democrats, Stalinists, Bolivarians, and other forces serve one or the other imperialist Great Power (e.g. U.S., China, Russia, European Union) and sabotage the unity of struggle of the oppressed.

Only an authentic revolutionary party – nationally and internationally – can lead the liberation struggle to victory!

*Victory to the popular liberation struggle against the tyranny and its imperialist masters!*

*For an international solidarity movement with the ongoing Syrian Revolution!*

*For a free Syria, a socialist Syria – a Syria which respects the national and religious rights of all people!*

*Unity – Struggle – Victory!*

*International Bureau*

\* \* \* \* \*

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements and articles on the Syrian Revolution which can be read on a special sub-section on this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>



## Rally at the 10th Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 14 March 2021, Austrian Section of the RCIT

**M**ore than 200 Syrian migrants and some solidarity activists assembled in the centre of Vienna at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Syrian Revolution. They came together despite the massive restrictions which the government has imposed on public rallies. We stated our support for the ongoing liberation struggle against the criminal regime of Assad and its Russian imperialist master.

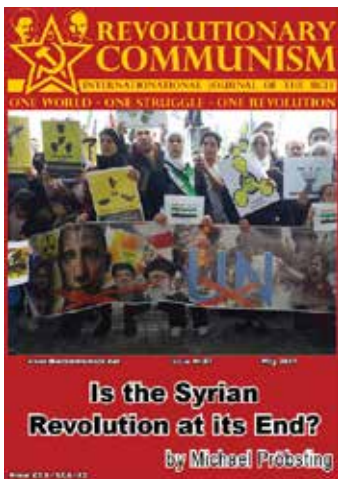
The Austrian section of the RCIT was invited to participate and our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secre-

tary of the RCIT, was asked to address the rally. Comrade Pröbsting condemned in his speech the slaughter of the Syrian people by the Assad tyranny as well as Russian imperialism and emphasized the need for an international solidarity movement.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-syrian-revolution-2011/>



Pictures from the Rally at the 10th Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 14.3.2021)



### 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

## Israel / Occupied Palestine: We Call to Vote for the Joint Arab List in the Coming Elections

*Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 24.2.2021*

The new elections in Israel (Occupied Palestine) will take place on March 23, 2021. According to the latest polls the general movement, as is expected, is towards the right. The right-wing parties would get the following seats: Likud would get 29 seats, Yesh Atid 18, New Hope 14, Yamina 13, Shas 8, Yisrael Beytenu and United Torah Judaism 7 each. Of what is considered in Israel as left: The Joint List 9, Labor 6, and Meretz 4, and "Blue and White" would not cross the 3.25% electoral threshold. It means that either Netanyahu will be once again the Prime Minister or there will be another new round. There is a better chance for the second option as the right-wing parties are not united. The left Zionists are so desperate that according to the last survey, "taken by Panels Research pollster Menachem Lazar 62% of left-wingers want the Joint List in the government, 20% oppose it, and 18% said they had no opinion." (1)

In the coming general elections, the ISL will give critical support to the Joined List. For us as a working-class revolutionary organization calling for participation in elections for a bourgeois parliament is not a question of a principal but of tactic. We vote and give critical support to certain parties of the working class and the oppressed under certain conditions. We are not obliged to vote or give critical support to any party regardless of the conditions. When the militant workers have illusions in a labor reformist party, we call to vote for them in order to expose the reformist leadership. The same can be true for parties of oppressed nations. When the popular classes of an oppressed nation have illusions in certain parties of the oppressed nation, we give them critical support.

For us under the existing conditions there are only two options, either to vote for the Joined list or not vote at all.

If the majority of the Palestinians were boycotting the Zionist parliament-the Knesset because of a strong movement to the left, we would join them. However, we estimate that the majority of those Palestinians who would not vote, will do it because of demoralization. Therefore we call to critically vote for the Joined List.

At the same time, we are aware of the fact that the Joined list is losing support. If until a few months it was expected

to win 15 seats out of 120, today, according to public polls it will receive only seven to nine seats. This is mainly because of two major wrong positions. The first one is recommending Gantz as a Prime Minister. Gantz was the chief of the general staff of the Zionist army from 2011 to 2015 and during his election campaign he bragged that he was responsible for the killings in Gaza. The leaders of the list announced at the time that Gantz is the lesser evil. This very serious opportunistic position opened the gate for the renegade Ra'am party chief Mansour Abbas to pursue closer ties with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a move seen by the other parties of the Joint List as beyond the pale. Mansour Abbas says that if they recommended Ganatz why cannot he support Netanyahu?

The other wrong position of the Joined list has been their calling on the Zionist police to save the Palestinian's citizens of Israel from the criminal gangs. As could be expected, the police entered the village Tamara and killed two ordinary civilians. Unless the Palestinians workers and poor peasants will organize their own self-defense the police will continue to kill the Palestinians.

In any case, the election will not bring any fundamental change. In order to liberate the Palestinian people, it is necessary to fight for a democratic revolution from the river to the sea led by the Arab workers and Fellahin, joined by a section of the Jewish working class losing its chains that currently bind it to murderous Zionism. Only a workers and Fellahin republic in the whole historic Palestine can open the road to a socialist future without oppression and exploitation!

1) <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/poll-62-percent-of-left-wants-arabs-in-government-659004>

\* \* \* \* \*

We refer reader for more information on the ISL's and the RCIT's stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people to our websites <http://www.theisleague.com> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>.



### *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**

## Mr. and Mrs. Lockdown Left: We Told You So!

### Official studies on extra mortality in Europa show Sweden which had no Lockdowns performed better than most other countries

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 March 2021

**M**r. and Mrs. Lockdown Left, it is now for more than 12 months that you parrot the bourgeois governments and their media and wholeheartedly support the Lockdown policy. Repeating their words, you told us that lockdowns are the best available response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of you even praise the ultra-authoritarian “Zero COVID” policy, a reactionary policy calling for police and army to lock up the whole population in their houses for a long time (“until the last virus has been eliminated”)!<sup>1</sup>

In concert with your masters, you condemned Sweden as its social democratic government did not follow the “consensus” of the ruling class in the imperialist states. You said that Sweden behaves reckless and doesn’t care about its population. You even claimed that Sweden would suffer particularly badly from the pandemic.

We, and a few other socialists who didn’t capitulate to the bonapartist COVID-19 Counterrevolution, strongly opposed this nonsense. We showed and explained in numerous documents that this is simply wrong and that the Lockdown policy is mainly politically motivated (in order to justify a shift towards an authoritarian state) and not based on health considerations.<sup>2</sup> We published a number of articles where we demonstrated on the basis of official statistics and studies (among them reports on Sweden) that a) the rise of extra mortality did not justify mass curfews of the whole population and b) that countries resp. regions which did not impose the Lockdown policy did

not fare worse (or even better!) than those which did so.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Lockdown Left, fortunately we do not need to debate any longer about the facts. Eurostat, the EU official agency for statistics, has published now a report about extra mortality in Europa in 2020. Several news agencies like Reuters have reported about these studies.<sup>4</sup>

Here is what the EU statistics report (and, please, Mr. and Mrs. Lockdown Left, read this carefully!):

“Sweden, which has shunned the strict lockdowns that have choked much of the global economy, emerged from 2020 with a smaller increase in its overall mortality rate than most European countries, an analysis of official data sources showed. (...) While many Europeans have accepted lockdowns as a last resort given the failure to get the pandemic under control with other methods, the moves have in recent months prompted street protests in London, Amsterdam and elsewhere.

Sweden, meanwhile, has mostly relied on voluntary measures focused on social distancing, good hygiene and targeted rules that have kept schools, restaurants and shops largely open - an approach that has sharply polarised Swedes but spared the economy from much of the hit suffered elsewhere in Europe. Preliminary data from EU statistics agency Eurostat compiled by Reuters showed Sweden had 7.7% more deaths in 2020 than its average for the preceding four years. Countries that opted for several periods of strict lockdowns, such as Spain and Belgium, had so-called excess mortality of 18.1% and 16.2% respectively. Twenty-one of the 30 countries with available statistics had higher excess mortality than Sweden.”

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

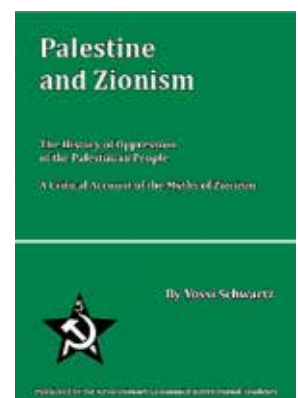
A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



We note in passing that these are calculations based on absolute figure. This means that they don't take into account the growth of population in the last years. As we did show in our articles, Sweden's population (as well as that of many other countries) increased in the past years. Hence the increase of mortality per capital has been lower than the figures in absolute numbers.

Anyway, the Eurostat report is a total confirmation of the Marxist position which has been upheld only by very few people on the left.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Lockdown Left: We have nothing else to say to you except that we told you so!

#### Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: COVID-19: Zero Socialism in the "ZeroCOVID" campaign. Following the model of China and Australia, some British Stalinists and "Trotskyists" call for a "total and indefinite lockdown", 22 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-zero-socialism-in-the-zero-covid-campaign/>

2 The RCIT has analyzed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published nearly 80 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special subpage 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/>; Michael Pröbsting: COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown "Socialism". Police State and Universal Basic Income are key elements of the new version of reformist "War Socialism" of 1914, 19 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/covid-19-the-current-and-historical-roots-of-bourgeois-lockdown-socialism/>.

3 See on this our numerous articles on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for total mortality: Michael Pröbsting: COVID-19: A Comparison of Historical Data. An analysis of the COVID-19 death figures and those of past pandemics and climate disasters based on data from the World Bank, 19 January 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-comparison-of-historical-data/>; by the same au-

# 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.

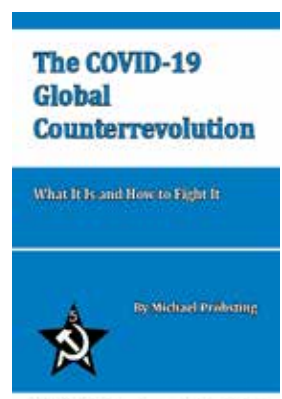
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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.



thor: COVID-19: Sweden's Total Mortality in 2020 Compared with Past Years, 23 January 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-sweden-s-total-mortality-in-2020-compared-with-past-years/>; COVID-19: Some Interesting Facts (Which Governments & Media Conceal) Some Calculations about Total Mortality in Europe in 2020 compared with 2016 and 2018, 23 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-and-total-mortality-in-europe/>; COVID-19: How Severe is the Pandemic in Sweden Really? Once again, a comparison demonstrates that the mortality rate in 2020 is barely larger than in 2018, 8 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-how-severe-is-the-pandemic-in-sweden-really/>; COVID-19: Revealing Figures from Sweden. A comparison of the mortality rates of the first 9 months in 2020 with previous years confirm that this is a serious but not unprecedented pandemic, 23 November 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-revealing-figures-from-sweden/>; see also the chapter "Telling figures for Europe, Sweden and Ischgl" in the above-mentioned essay "The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution".

4 Johan Ahlander: Sweden saw lower 2020 death spike than much of Europe – data, 24 March 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-europe-mortality/sweden-saw-lower-2020-death-spike-than-much-of-europe-data-idUSKBN2BG1R9>; Sweden's 2020 death spike lower than much of Europe, data shows. Despite shunning strict COVID lockdowns, Sweden's overall mortality rate was lower than most other European nations. 24 March 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/24/swedens-2020-death-spike-lower-than-much-of-europe-data-shows>

5 On our critique of the Lockdown Left see e.g. chapter V of our above-mentioned book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It; see also by the same author the last chapters in the above

mentioned essay: The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution; COVID-19 and the Lockdown Left: The Example of PODEMOS and Stalinism in Spain, 24 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-lockdown-left-podemos-and-stalinism-in-spain/>; Social-Bonapartism in Argentina. The Partido Obrero (Tendencia) of Jorge Altamira supports the State of Emergency, 29 April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/social-bonapartism-in-argentina/>; When Ultra-Leftism marries Social-Bonapartism and Gives Birth to "Post-Marxist" Obscurantism. A reply to the CWG/ILTT, 5 May 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-when-ultra-leftism-marries-social-bonapartism/>; Brazil: Social-Bonapartism of the Lockdown Left in Practice. How the leaderships of the trade unions, PT, PCdoB, the pseudo-Trotskyist PSTU and PSOL sabotage the struggle against the Bolsonaro government, 10 June 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-social-bonapartism-of-the-lockdown-left-in-practice/>; Lockdown Left says: "Cops Need to Enforce Laws". The ex-revolutionary L5I as another example for shameful social-bonapartism in the era of the COVID-19 counterrevolution, 24 July 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/lockdown-left-l5i-says-cops-need-to-enforce-laws/>; COVID-19: Zero Socialism in the "ZeroCOVID" campaign. Following the model of China and Australia, some British Stalinists and "Trotskyists" call for a "total and indefinite lockdown", 22 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-zero-socialism-in-the-zero-covid-campaign/>; COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown "Socialism". Police State and Universal Basic Income are key elements of the new version of reformist "War Socialism" of 1914, 19 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/covid-19-the-current-and-historical-roots-of-bourgeois-lockdown-socialism/>



## Publications of the RCIT

# 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*

*By Michael Pröbsting, July 2020*

**Introduction \* The localized version of Lockdown policy is spreading \* New information concerning severity (or not so severity) of the pandemic \* Telling figures for Europe, Sweden and Ischgl \* The worst pandemic in Africa? Really? \* Capitalism and care homes as deadly traps for old people \* The real nature of the ruling class bonapartist offensive under the cover of COVID-19 \* Why is the ruling class opting for a local lockdown strategy? \* Excuse: A crisis characteristic for the present period of capitalist decay \* The nature and inner contradictions of the local lockdown strategy \* Preparing for a new counter-revolutionary offensive \* The Lockdown Left: a never ending embarrassment \* The shameful example of the PSTU/LIT-CI \* The imperialist aristocratism of the Lockdown Left \* Building a Revolutionary World Party \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format*

## Paraguay: Down with the State Repression against Workers and Youth!

**No to the lockdown of people in Asunción and other cities by the regime!**

*Joint Statement of the CCR (Brazil Section of the RCIT) and the International Bureau of the RCIT, 8 March 2021*

Paraguay is rocked by a spontaneous youth and popular rebellion. On Friday, March 5, thousands of people marched in the capital Asunción. They call for the departure of Paraguay's president, Mario Abdo Benítez from the Colorado party, due to the bad management of the pandemic and against the draconic lockdown imposed by the government. At least 20 people were injured and one dead after street clashes between police and protesters.

The repression began around 8 pm, when police began to crack down on protesters in response to the provocation of a small group of hooded men. Security forces fired rubber bullets and gas bombs against groups who gathered near Congress. Activists broke down security barriers, built barricades and threw stones at agents. The popular uprising spread through the streets of the city center, which recorded scenes of pitched battle. The acts gained strength after the departure of the Minister of Health, Julio Mazzoleni. He stepped down after the Senate passed a resolution calling for his removal. His management was criticized for the lack of supplies in hospitals, the delay in the arrival of vaccines and for cases of corruption that were not punished. Protests continued until the following day.

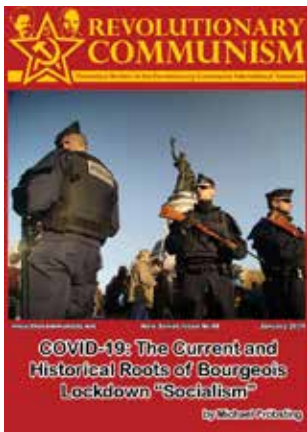
The Paraguayan government is led by Mario Abdo Benítez, known as "Marito". Benitez is a businessman

whose family had strong ties to the military dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner. His father, also called Mario Abdo, was the private secretary of the deceased dictator. When Stroessner died in 2006, Mario Abdo's father proposed that the Colorado Party Board of Directors pay tribute on the basis that Stroessner "did a lot for the country".

The mass movement, which was not satisfied with the fall of the Minister of Health, is now demanding the resignation of the president, shouting "Out Marito!" Other slogans of the movement are such as "united against corruption" and "out with all the corrupt".

Pressed by the huge protests, the president said he understood that a change is necessary. "I have informed the entire cabinet that they will surrender their positions and the decrees of the new appointments will be published in the next few hours," he announced in the video. "I will appoint authorities in areas of peacemaking, ahead of positions such as health, education, women and the civilian office."

It is becoming increasingly clear that quarantine or lockdown policies are not the answers to solve the health problems for which they were supposedly imposed by the ruling class. In fact, these policy has aggravated the physical and mental health of most peoples, condemning them to all kinds of economic and social deprivation, which are the fundamental basis of the development of the plagues that



### *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*



mainly devastate the working class and the poorest sectors of society.

Exactly one year ago, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) published its very first article about the COVID-19 pandemic and the following global counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling class. In this article – called “*The chauvinist campaign behind the “Wuhan Coronavirus” hysteria and the revolutionary answer*” – Almedina Gunić analyzed, based on the knowledge at that time, the nature of the pandemic and elaborated several key aspects of its political consequences. Since then, we have published on this issue more than 70 pamphlets, essays, articles, and statements as well as a book of which a number have been translated into other languages. (1)

We also emphasized the necessity for an anti-capitalist approach on this issue. “*The costs of all measures must be financed by the multinational corporations, especially the pharmaceutical industry which needs to be nationalized under workers control.*”

To defend the health of workers, measures very different from those carried out by the corrupt governments of the region will have to be taken, firstly ensuring that they earn decent wages, live in comfortable homes, eat well, play sports, and have a good life, full access to culture, education – things which the capitalist system has no desire and is not in a position to guarantee.

The RCIT supports the call for the downfall of the Marito regime and its replacement by a *workers and popular govern-*

*ment*. It must be brought by a general strike resulting in a popular uprising by the armed workers and poor! For this, it is crucial to build *action committees* in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities which could organize armed militias in order to defend the people against the state repression. Such popular mass organs would form a strong fundament for launching an indefinite general strike culminating in an armed insurrection.

*\* Down with the repression against the youth and the working class!*

*\* No to the lockdown of people in Asunción and other cities by the regime!*

*\* Organize a general strike and popular uprising!*

*\* Bring down the Marito regime! For a workers and popular government!*

*\* For systematic and complete health screening of all people who might have had contact with the virus. This screening must be free for all people but should be mandatory. The same is necessary for any potential treatment which should include quarantine if necessary.*

*\* For the nationalization of the health system under workers' control!*

1) The RCIT on COVID-19: One Year Ago. The first anniversary of the beginning of the Marxists' struggle against the capitalist counterrevolution taking place under the cover of the pandemic. <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/global/rcit-on-covid-19-one-year-ago/>

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

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

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

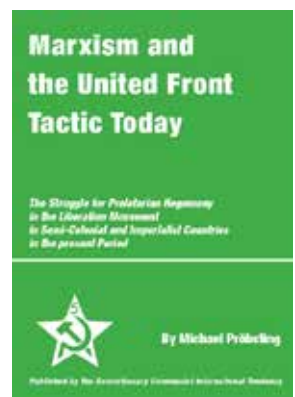
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



## Brazil: Debate about the Crisis of the Bolsonaro Regime

Report (with Video) on a Facebook and YouTube Meeting on 13 March 2021

João Evangelista, representing *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (Brazilian section of the RCIT), attended a public Zoom debate on 13 March on the Facebook and YouTube Channel *emancipação do trabalho* channel. The participants discussed the question “*Bolsonaro means death, hunger and unemployment. Is it possible to wait until the presidential elections in 2022?*”

The debate discussed the need for immediate mobilization

against the Bolsonaro/Mourão government. The participants criticized the leftist’s parties for prioritizing the electoral process. They also emphasized the necessity to fight against neoliberal reforms NOW!

Below are the links to the video of meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfdgc-aGY8w&t=818s>

<https://www.facebook.com/emancipaodotrabalho/videos/259648688994006>



## 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.

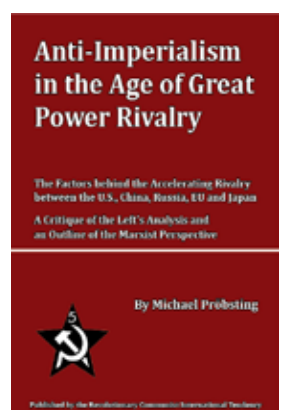
*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is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



# 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!*

