



On May Day & Beyond: Fight against the COVID-19 Counterrevolution!

- * Joint May Day Statement of CS & RCIT
- * Argentina: Rally against Lockdown
- * Brazil: Crisis of Bolsonaro Government
- * Afghanistan: Good Riddance, Yankees!
- * Nigeria: Support the NARD Strike!
- * On the Recent Elections in Israel
- * War between Russia and Ukraine?
- * UK: March against Police Bill

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 117, May 2021

Joint Statement of CS and RCIT: No to the Lockdown Policy!	p.3
Argentina: Socialist Rally in Buenos Aires against the Lockdown!	p.4
RCIT Greetings for Anti-Lockdown Rally in Buenos Aires	p.4
Brazil: Another Major Crisis of the Bolsonaro Government Explodes	p.5
Afghanistan: Good Riddance, Yankees!	p.7
Nigeria: Support the Ongoing NARD Strike!	p.9
Nigeria: Is It Just An Hijab Controversy?	p.11
On the Recent Elections in Israel	p.13
Who is a Jew?	p.14
A New War between Russia and Ukraine?	p.15
UK: Thousands March against Lockdown Restrictions and the Police Bill	p.17
RCIT: What We Stand For	p.19

Picture on the Cover: Comrades of Convergencia Socialista at a Rally against the Lockdown in Buenos Aires (19.4.2021)

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. Furthermore, the RCIT has fraternal relations with *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina)

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

Joint Statement of CS and RCIT: No to the Lockdown Policy!

Stop the Policy of Lockdowns against the Global Working Class under the Pretext of Covid-19! Down with Austerity Plans, Plundering of Resources & Capitalist Super-Exploitation! For a May Day to Organize New Rebellions and a Worker and Socialist Solution!

Joint Statement of Convergencia Socialista (Argentina) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 20.4.2021

The global capitalist system, dominated by the strongest sectors of imperialism, is trying to take advantage of the wave of contagions of Covid-19. They sow fear within the popular mass movements and they deploy a gigantic campaign. The objective of this campaign has nothing to do with "taking care of the health" of the workers and popular masses. Their goal is rather to demobilize them, to prevent them from organizing to fight against the savage austerity plans, against the plundering of resources and against super-exploitation.

The capitalists use this deception, because it is not easy for them to resort to the most classic instruments when their system is in crisis, such as those applied in the two world wars or in countries where fascism and Bonapartist dictatorships reigned. The fact is that in the period after the crisis of 2008-09 the popular masses have launched massive battles and started dozens of rebellions. The most important of these has been the Arab Revolution which started in 2011 and, despite defeats and setbacks, continues with mass struggles and armed resistance in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and other countries. Although these struggles were stopped or partially diverted, they are starting to resurface again and will explode in a very short time with more force than before.

The bourgeoisie has tried to stop this process with quarantines, curfews or lockdowns in order to face the devastating economic recession ("Third Great Depression"), the destruction of the productive forces and to impose very high levels of super-exploitation of the working class. To do this, the ruling class deploys a series of anti-democratic attacks on a scale not seen in the imperialist countries since 1945 and unleashes a – conjunctural – turn of the world situation towards chauvinist state bonapartism. At the same time, all ruling classes of the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., EU, China, Russia and Japan) are accelerating their aggressive foreign policy characterized by chauvinism and militarism.

Although the wave of infections affects millions and endangers many lives – mainly of the poorest sectors – its dangerousness has been exaggerated to sow fear, to divert attention from the capitalist causes of the economic crisis and to justify the shift towards Bonapartism. Although such policy partially stopped the insurrectional dynamism,

they did not achieve a strategic victory, therefore the current Bonapartist impasse will quickly give rise to new rebellions. Authentic revolutionaries are preparing to lead them!

The current reality has similar features like the situation in 1914, after the start of the First World War, which pushed the majority of the left to support bourgeois policies. 107 years later we see a similar process – different in forms but with the same counterrevolutionary substance – which results in mass confinement and suppression of democratic rights. From the RCIT and CS we repudiate the leadership of these parties! We call on their membership to break with such leadership and to turn to a process of unity of those socialists who really fight for a revolutionary change.

The conditions are more than ripe, because despite the temporary advances of the class enemy, the wave of rebellions is resurfacing and will explode again, in a context of deep crisis of the Global Capitalist System. This crisis is so devastating that no government will be able to satisfy any of the elementary demands of the popular masses. Only the socialist program will provide them with solutions, offering them a program that the big left organizations have abandoned. No doubt, these organizations will fall into the dustbin of history due to their capitulation!

From the RCIT and CS we call on workers and oppressed peoples from all over the world, to join this May Day with all its acts and actions in order to advance their struggles for work, wages, health, education, housing, etc. We also tell you that in the period that is coming, you will not only have to defeat the plans of the capitalist governments, you will also have to replace them with your own governments, established in the workers' assemblies and other democratic bodies! That is socialism, the system that knocks on the doors in the face of the terminal crisis of capitalism, which becomes more and more dangerous with each day that it continues to exist!

Convergencia Socialista (Argentina), <https://convergencia-decombate.blogspot.com/>

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Russia, Nigeria, Kenya, Britain, Germany, and Austria), www.thecommunists.net



Argentina: Socialist Rally in Buenos Aires against the Lockdown

Report from *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina), 19 April 2021

Today there was a day of agitation called by the *Convergencia Socialista*, the People's Assemblies and the MTR Historic. They protested against the restrictions of democratic freedoms, the night curfew and other restrictions, imposed by a government. In fact, the government cares little about the health of the population but rather acts in the interests of large monopoly companies, such as pharmaceutical companies, which are doing fabulous business.

The slogans with which we called for this rally are the following: No to the curfew, quarantine against the IMF, out with the militias from the streets, stop paying the foreign debt in order to spend the money for increasing the

health budget by five times, building wards and hospitals, providing all the necessary supplies and instruments and incorporating thousands and thousands of health workers. Below we reproduce the intervention of Juan Giglio, a leader of *Convergencia Socialista*. At the end of the event, a message of solidarity from the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT), with a presence in more than 12 countries, was read out.

For videos and pictures see:

<https://youtu.be/FP7TtiNPxQM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbLpgASCFE0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1w_h-M965Q

In Argentina and all over the World: Down with the Capitalist Lockdown Policy!

Greetings from the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (CCRI/RCIT) to the Rally in Buenos Aires on 19.4.2021

Compañeros y compañeras,
The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends the warmest greetings to your important protest action against the capitalist Lockdown policy of the Fernández government. All over the world, governments are imposing draconic curfews against the popular masses.

The bourgeois governments and their media claim that this would be necessary to combat the COVID-19 virus. As a matter of fact, the lockdowns don't help against the virus. They only help the ruling classes to frighten and contain the popular masses which are facing mass unemployment and misery caused by the worst crisis of capitalism. The real purpose of the lockdown policy is to stop the

workers and oppressed fighting for their rights!

It is a shame that nearly all so-called left-wing parties – in Argentina as well as globally – support the reactionary Lockdown policy. This means that they have become lackeys of the ruling class!

The RCIT strongly welcomes the initiative of *Convergencia Socialista* and other forces to organize protest actions in defense of democratic rights. Socialists in Argentina and all over the world should join forces in building a global left-wing movement against the capitalist Lockdown policy.

Long live the popular struggle against the capitalist Lockdown policy!

Long live the international unity of the workers and oppressed!
Long live international socialism!



Socialist Rally in Buenos Aires against the Lockdown; in the center: Juan Giglio speaking for *Convergencia Socialista*

Brazil: Another Major Crisis of the Bolsonaro Government Explodes

Political turmoil on the eve of the 57th anniversary of the military dictatorship

Statement of Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of RCIT), 1 April 2021

On the morning of the 30th of this month, the eve of the 57th anniversary of the nefarious military coup of March 31, 1964, President Jair Bolsonaro dismissed the defense minister, General Fernando de Azevedo Silva, and the commanders of the Army, Navy and of Aeronautics.

The day before, the president was forced to dismiss the foreign minister, Ernesto Araujo. Araujo was the main overseas representative of the Bolsonaro government's submission to former U.S. President Donald Trump, even making statements that Joe Biden's election was through fraud, immediately causing a crisis with the new government even before Biden took office. Moreover, he was very comfortable to utter various offenses to the government of China and its ambassador to Brazil while he was in office. Such attitudes deeply frightened the powerful export agribusiness sector fearful of losing billionaire deals with commodity sales to the Middle Kingdom. At least half of the national congress is made up of landowners.

The president was felting the danger of an impending impeachment process not only as a result of Trump's defeat, but also being considered primarily responsible for Covid-19's immense death toll (318,000). Genocide is the most common name that is today called the president. The country has been experiencing a growing economic crisis for some years and which worsened in the face of the pandemic with rising inflation that reached almost 5% in 2020, a devastating drop in GDP of less than 4.1%, unemployment in the range of 15% of the active population (14 million people), the devaluation of the currency against the dollar reaching 40%, and consequently a sharp increase in hunger and the misery of the people.

However, the factor that further triggered the crisis in the Bolsonaro government was the return to the scene of former President Lula da Silva after the Supreme Court, in a

still temporary decision, canceled the trial in which he was convicted. A judgment considered to be a kind of lawfare and full of impartiality by Judge Moro, including reported by the New York Times newspaper that in an article considered the judge as the one who "*perverted the Brazilian judicial system*". (1) Lula's return infuriated President Bolsonaro. It is said that he demanded from the, meanwhile dismissed, defense minister, General Fernando de Azevedo Silva, a statement of repudiation to the Supreme Court for having released Lula, which was categorically rejected by both the minister and the other commanders of the Armed Forces.

The dismissal of the defense minister and the commanders of the Armed Forces took place in this turbulent context. But this is no guarantee for Bolsonaro that in future the substitutes would support a *coup within the coup* to allow the rise of the former Captain to establish an explicit Bonapartist dictatorship. Brazil is not Myanmar. The national financial bourgeoisie knows that the new U.S. Administration of Joe Biden does not have confidence in Bolsonaro. The European Union with Macron at the head leads the rejection of the president purposely and claiming defense of the Amazon, but in fact for electoral reasons it is managing to delay a billionaire EU agreement with Mercosur.

The current situation can be summarized as follows: The traditional right represented by the bourgeois PSDB, PMDB, PP, DEM, which are traditional opponents of the Workers' Party, do not have the strength to impose themselves as a protagonist in this dispute. Left-wing sectors such as PT, PSOL, PCdoB, etc., also do not achieve this condition. Much less strength has the extreme right which tends to supporting the president, PSL, Republican Party, New Party, etc.

This impasse demonstrates that there is no possibility of

The Failure of the PTS/FT to Recognize China's Capitalism

- * **An analysis of the capitalist character of China's State-Owned Enterprises and its political consequences**
- * **Eclectic empiricism and the failure of the PTS/FT to recognize the imperialist character of China**

Two Essays by Michael Pröbsting (in English and Spanish language)

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an immediate impeachment, not for now. However, the consequences of this week's events could be one of the following:

- 1) A possible impeachment putting Vice President General Mourão in power, which is difficult because it is considered by all to be a process that takes months.
- 2) Immediate removal of the president due to complete inability to hold office.
- 3) A Bolsonaro government that will arrive until the elections of 2022 with permanent instability, without imposing itself, but also not very weakened.

The dream of a large part of the Brazilian reformist left is a new alliance with the traditional right. Lula da Silva already made a speech on March 10, shortly after the Supreme Court decision pointing to this solution, that is, a strong *Frente Ampla* (Broad Front coalition) with the same sectors that made the parliamentary coup in 2016 possible and paved the way for the ascent of the extreme right in the person of Jair Bolsonaro.

Such an alliance is in no way in the interest of the workers and the oppressed. It would be an alliance in which to face defeating Bolsonaro there will be a condition for the left to not hinder the so-called neoliberal reforms.

We from the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária*, Brazilian section of RCIT, consider it as important to strongly resist to any attempt by Bolsonaro to harden the regime through a coup within the coup. However, we also reject such a broad *Frente Ampla* with the sectors of the traditional right, justified with the argument of fighting fascism. In practice, such an alliance would only serve to intensify more neoliber-

eral economic measures. The task of defeating Bolsonaro regime and his far-right militias lies with the workers in an organized manner and not with right-wing parties and the bourgeoisie. The same with an impeachment process. We don't prefer General Mourão to Bolsonaro!

We call the left and the trade union to go into the offensive and to mobilize for a *plano de luta* (fight plan) including mass demonstrations strikes and general strikes. Such a plan needs to include social, economic, democratic and health demands.

We propose to fight for a *workers and popular government* based on *popular councils and militias*. We call the left and the trade union to fight for such a perspective instead of any treacherous electoral alliances with the right wing.

In fact, what we need is an independent and authentic revolutionary party – nationally and internationally. The RCIT calls revolutionary activists in Brazil and globally to unite on the basis of a program of struggle against the current reactionary offensive of the bourgeoisie.

1 Operation Car Wash Was No Magic Bullet. The largest anti-graft effort in the world couldn't stop endemic corruption in Brazil. By Gaspard Estrada <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/26/opinion/international-world/car-wash-operation-brazil-bolsonaro.html?smid=tw-nytopinion&smtyp=cur>

See on this also: Michael Pröbsting: Military Coups and Revolutionary Tactics. Some Theoretical Thoughts on Different Types of Coups in the Present Period and the Consequential Tasks of Marxist Revolutionaries, 5 December 2017, <https://www.thecomunists.net/theory/military-coups-and-revolutionary-tactics/>



Publications of the RCIT

The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation
by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its*

"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"

Introduction * A Note on the PO's term "Catastrophism" * What did the Marxist Classics Say? A Brief Overview * Empirical Evidence for the Long-Term Decline of Capitalism * What will come after Capitalism? * Epoch and Periods * The Current Historical Period which Opened in 2008/09 * Empirical Evidence for the Decay of Capitalism in the Present Historic Period * The Dialectical and the Mechanistic Interpretation of Cycles on Capitalism * Permanent Collapse? No, there is Collapse and Collapse * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (I): Confusion on Capitalist Restoration * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (II): Confusion on China and Russia as Capitalist Powers * Excuse: The Theory of "Long Waves" and Dialectical Materialism * From Economic Crisis to Revolutionary Situation? * Can the Crisis of Leadership be Solved without an International Democratic-Centralist Organization? * Conclusions * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

Afghanistan: Good Riddance, Yankees!

The Meaning of the U.S. Retreat from Afghanistan and its Consequences for the inter-imperialist Cold War with China

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 17 April 2021

1. A few days ago, the Biden Administration announced that it will fully withdraw its troops from Afghanistan by September this year. Shortly afterwards, London also released a statement that British troops will also retreat from the Western Asian country. Soon it became clear that all NATO soldiers will decamp within the next four months. This means, as Biden said, the end of "America's longest war" in history.

2. There can be no doubt about the historic character of Washington's decision. First and foremost, this represents a full-scale defeat for the strongest imperialist Great Power. Twenty years ago, it invaded the country and has occupied it since then with more than 100,000 troops. It spent billions of US-Dollars to finance this operation and to impose a puppet-regime in Kabul. The whole Western imperialist world supported this operation. Despite all these gigantic efforts, the U.S. and other Western imperialists failed to defeat the popular resistance. In contrast, the armed insurrection grew stronger and stronger and now, it is the imperialists who are on the run! As there can be no doubt that the pro-American Quisling regime of Ashraf Ghani will fall soon too, we are witnessing the most important defeat of U.S. imperialism since its debacle in Vietnam in the early 1970s.

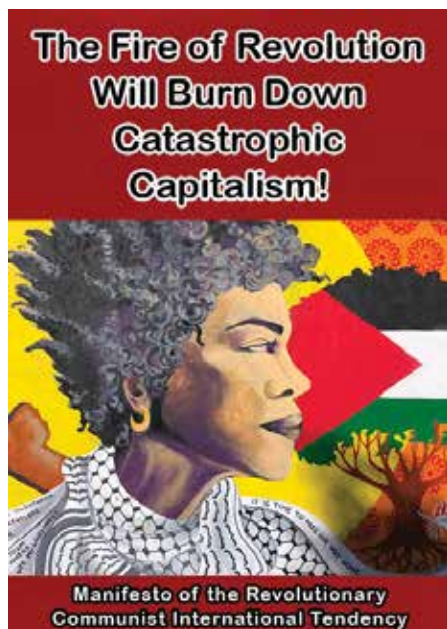
3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the defeat of U.S. imperialism! Our movement has joined the anti-war movement from the very beginning. As soon as the Bush Administration decided to launch a war of aggression against Afghanistan under the pretext of 9/11, we immediately raised the slogan "Defend Afghanistan! Defeat Imperialism!". When American bombs started to fall on Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz and Kandahar in November 2001, we called for support of the popular resistance against the occupiers. Since then, the RCIT sided with the Afghan insurrection

against the imperialist forces and their local stooges.

4. Naturally, we did not lend any political support to the petty-bourgeois Islamist leadership of the resistance. But as it is so often the case in history, the lack of revolutionary leadership results in situations where the popular masses, fighting against imperialist aggression or reactionary dictatorships, rally behind various types of non-revolutionary leaderships. Numerous reformist, Stalinist and centrist forces refuse supporting such objective progressive popular struggles under the pretext that they take place under the leadership of politically backward parties. Such pseudo-socialists oppose imperialism in general declarations only, but cowardly refuse to support anti-imperialist struggles when they actually take place! In contrast, the RCIT and all authentic Marxists always side with such objective progressive liberation struggles against imperialist aggression or reactionary dictatorships without lending any political support to the non-revolutionary leaderships. Today, revolutionaries can't help but rejoicing the U.S. defeat in Afghanistan and saying: "Good Riddance, Yankees!"

5. Washington's retreat from Afghanistan is an undeniable acknowledgement of the historic decline of U.S. imperialism. The withdrawal of its troops from the most important battlefield without having accomplished its goal reflects the historic failure of 20 years of imperialist "War on Terror". This is even more the case since the U.S. also agreed in early April to withdraw its combat forces from Iraq in the next period. Here too, this retreat represents a defeat since the U.S. military faces an increasing number of attacks by local militias. In addition, we point to Washington's attempts to reopen negotiations with the Mullah-regime in Teheran which also reflects a retreat from its years-long policy of aggression against Iran.

6. Furthermore, the decision of the Biden Admin-



New Program of the RCIT

Manifesto for the Liberation Struggle

Adopted at the III. World Congress of the RCIT in April 2021

- * **Introductory Note**
- * **A New Era of Counterrevolutionary Offensive and Revolutionary Upheavals**
- * **The Capitalist State Monster Attacks Democracy! Defeat Chauvinism and Bonapartism!**
- * **Great Power Rivalry and Imperialist Aggression in the South: Turn the Guns against the Lords of Power and Money!**
- * **Crisis of Revolutionary Leadership: How to Organize and How to Fight?**

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

istration also reflects another crucial turn in U.S. foreign policy as well in the world situation. Recognizing its weakened economic and military resources, Washington seems to give up the desire to regain its role as absolute hegemon of the Middle East. Hence, we will see additional growth of intervention of other imperialist Great Powers in the region. In the last years one could already observe such a process. Russia's devastating military intervention in Syria, for example, was decisive to keep Assad the Butcher in power and to isolate the liberation forces in the Northwestern province of Idlib. In addition, China could also massively increase its influence in the Middle East resulting, most importantly, in the recently concluded *25-Year Strategic Cooperation Agreement* with Iran. This treaty includes Chinese investments of \$400 billion in Iran's economy within this period and will also result in a military presence in the region. It is beyond doubt that the acceleration of Great Power rivalry can only result in more imperialist threats, chaos, and wars in the Middle East.

7. Biden's recent foreign policy decisions mean that U.S. imperialism is decisively shifting its focus to Asia. This process started already in the years of the Obama Administration ("*Pivot to Asia*") and has gained pace since then. It reflects that fact that South and East Asia have become the most important region in terms of capitalist value production and global trade. It is telling that the recently released report of U.S. intelligence agencies ("*Annual Threat Assessment 2021*") lists "*China's push for global power*" as the first and most important threat to U.S. interests. Hence, Washington will focus its reduced military capacities to South and East Asia in order to contain the rise of China which the report characterizes as a "*near-peer competitor*".

8. Reflecting the near consensus of the U.S. ruling class about such a turn in U.S. foreign policy, the *New York Times* – a mouthpiece of the American monopoly bourgeoisie – commented: "*And if Mr. Biden can truly focus the country on far bigger strategic challenges – in space and cyberspace, against declining powers like Russia and rising ones like China – he will have finally moved the country out of its post-9/11 fixation.*" (New York Times: With Afghan Decision, Biden Seeks to Focus U.S. on New Challenges, 13 April 2021). China's ruling class fully understands the meaning of the turn in U.S. foreign policy and the unavoidable escalation of the Cold War between the world's largest imperialist powers. The *Global Times* – the English-language mouthpiece of the Stalinist-capitalist regime – published an editorial in response to the release of the above-mentioned U.S. intelligence report: "*First, China needs to urgently consolidate its deterrent capabilities to prevent the US from carrying out extreme strategic intimidation against China. In particular, China's military buildup must fit the rapidly growing national security needs. For instance, if we are determined to reunify the island of Taiwan by force, if necessary, we will need*

to significantly increase our deterrent against external threats. That includes nuclear deterrent." (Global Times: Targeted by US, China has to do three things, 15 April 2021) In short, both Washington as well as Beijing are accelerating their militaristic efforts and prepare for future wars.

9. The RCIT has emphasized since a number of years that one of the most important features of the world situation is the historic decline of U.S. imperialism and the rise of imperialist China. We explained that this development – in itself a result of capitalism's decay, particularly since the Great Recession in 2008-09 – has inevitable provoked a massive destabilization of the imperialist world order since no clear hegemon is longer in command as the "*World's Policeman*". As a result, global political developments are increasingly dominated by the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan). It is impossible to understand the world situation and its explosive contradictions – resulting both in revolutionary as well as counterrevolutionary developments – *without* recognizing the inter-imperialist rivalry as one of its key features!

10. The RCIT reiterates that in such a period it is crucial for socialists to take a consistent anti-imperialist and internationalist line towards Great Power rivalry. The only possible, the only revolutionary tactic is the intransigent opposition against *all* imperialist Great Powers. Socialists must denounce all forms of imperialist chauvinism and militarism. Likewise, they must oppose imperialist sanctions and punitive tariffs. We denounce those "progressive" forces which side with one of the Great Powers as social-imperialist lackeys. The RCIT advocates the program of *revolutionary defeatism* as it has been developed by the Marxist movement. This means that socialists must oppose *all* Great Powers and act in each imperialist country on the basis of Liebknecht's famous slogan: "*the main enemy is at home*". They should utilize any conflict in order to weaken and eventually overthrow the ruling class. They should support liberation struggles of oppressed people against imperialist powers – against those in the West as well as against those in the East.

11. It is of utmost importance that revolutionaries strive towards international collaboration and unity in order to advance the building of a *World Party of Socialist Revolution!* Recognizing the reactionary character of the capitalist Lockdown policy under the pretext of the latest pandemic (the *COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution*), taking an intransigent position against all Great Powers in East and West, supporting the global wave of class struggles and popular uprisings without any political support for non-revolutionary leaderships (from Chile to Syria and Myanmar) – these are the crucial pillars on which revolutionary unity has to be forged! The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionaries to join us in this struggle!

Comunismo Revolucionario

Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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Nigeria: Support the Ongoing NARD Strike!

Fight To Oust the Wabba Bureaucracy from the Labour Unions! For an indefinite general strike to bring down the Buhari regime!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) [RCIT Nigeria]. 06 April, 2021

The nationwide strike of the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) enters its sixth day today. A national strike of this nature and magnitude has bordered on inevitable since March 2020 where doctors threatened to down tools around the time that the national lockdowns were imposed. In fact some some state chapters of the NARD commenced strikes disregarding the lockdowns and the hysteria raised by the bourgeois media. In short, for bodies like the NARD there has been an epileptic pattern of strikes sometimes national, sometimes statewide, since the pandemic began over the poor pay or outstanding salaries of medical staff, peanut hazard allowance, unavailability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers and the overall deplorable state of the health sector in Nigeria.¹

The whole matter took an interesting turn when the routine medical checkup of the president, Muhammadu Buhari was fixed just days before the strike on 1st April. In his usual non-challant manner the president failed to address the brewing workers strike and embarked on his medical trip to the United Kingdom (UK). This has enraged many Nigerians especially the youth who took to Twitter, the social media app, to resuscitate the #BuhariMustGo campaign. Since his arrival in England, UK based Nigerian migrants have followed the president from hospital to his presidential quarters with pickets saying #harrassBuhari-OutOfLondon and #BuhariMustGo.²

Moreover the Buhari government stirs up internal adversity inside the ruling class by refusing to handover administrative power to the vice-president Yemi Osinbajo, a westerner paired with Buhari during the sorting out of candidates in the APC for regional/religious balance. Instead he prefers to rule from abroad.³ The Minister of La-

bour and Employment, Chris Ngige, who himself was a medical practitioner has brazenly threatened the striking workers with a “no work, no pay” dictum after a meeting with their union leaders without considering that one of the key demands of the striking doctors and other medical workers is the payment of outstanding salaries⁴

We fully welcome and strongly support the NARD strike. We call the for a general strike of all healthcare workers with protests and demonstrations on the streets to allow concrete collaboration with the #BuhariMustGo campaign. We say that the strike should be run and the next steps in the struggle should be decided in democratic deliberations of local and state branches of the unions. The national functionaries must only act on the conclusions from this deliberations amongst workers of the local branches periodic meeting or congresses.

We say that this struggle must be combined with the campaign to flush out the odious Wabba bureaucracy which betrays the workers every time and stands to blunt the antagonism between workers and the oppressive neo-colonial government. Many left organizations like to jump on the opportunity of a strike to brag about their “orientation to the working class” yet none of them have outrightly called for the removal of Ayuba Wabba from the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the disbanding of all those loyal to him even in the Trade Union Congress (TUC). This is because many of these comrades have ties with the labour bureaucracy which they orientate towards so their criticism only ends with verbal expressions of ‘betrayal’ and ‘ineptitude’ but never a strategic desire to see the utterly corrupt leadership of the trade unions removed.

For sometime now these comrades have been wailing



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

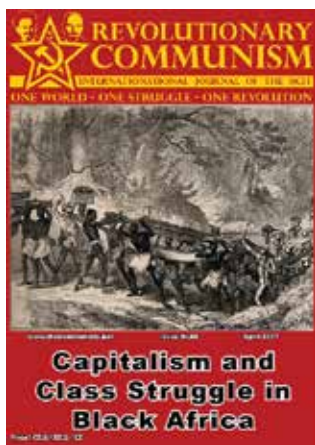
over vaccine nationalism but what did they expect. When at the outset of the pandemic in March 2020 they paused the struggle in support of lockdowns and staying at home leaving totally the handling of the pandemic to bourgeois governments, did they not know that all governmental administrations the world over have the interests of imperialism front, back and center? This is because they ignored the imperialist nature of the global COVID-19 measures, that part of what aided the hysteria and Bonapartist attacks on the working class was that the imperialist countries were mostly affected. If it was a disease ravaging the population of the global south perhaps all hell would not have been let loose.

In contrast, the RSV advocated for the expansion of the health sector as a means to keep the pandemic at bay. We called for an intransigent struggle up to a general strike to increase monumentally healthcare workers pay and put the health system under workers control. We called for publicly controlled research by experts for the treatment, cure and vaccines for the virus which must be funded by taxes from the rich. Free food, housing and medical supplies for the poor and homeless.⁵

All these demands are more relevant today, however, we reiterate that our opposition to lockdowns, mass curfews, travel bans, school closure as it should be now visible to the blind that all these measures only serve to worsen state of living both health-wise and economically. Just look at the transfer of wealth to the world's richest people to the tune of 1.8 trillion dollars in the last year while many middle income and poor workers were sacked or had their wages cut or unpaid. Even the Federal Government of Nigeria had to cut funding for healthcare to fund renovations of the national assembly building.

We send our deepest solidarity to the Nigerian migrants in the UK fighting to send Buhari back to Nigeria. For us only an international fighting party of the workers and oppressed can overthrow neo-colonialism at home, defeat imperialism globally and replace it with a system of working class and poor government all over the world. Join like minds in the RCIT to achieve this great task!

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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

Nigeria: Is It Just An Hijab Controversy?

By Oladipupo Jimoh, *International Liaison Personnel, Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RCIT Section in Nigeria)*, 22.03.2021

The media space had been rent for a fortnight by shocking news of bloody clashes between Christians and Muslims in Ilorin, Kwara state over whether or not Hijabs, one of the head coverings of Muslim women, should be allowed in Christian missionary schools.¹

Interestingly, the government of Kwara state was neck deep with one of the sides in this conflict. The government claimed that it had won the proprietors of the missionary schools, that is, the churches and other Christian religious organizations when the dispute was tabled in the Kwara State High Court, yet the religious proprietors of these institutions insisted that they have been wronged by the government for allowing the use of the Hijab by students in their Christian missionary schools and were determined to continue their crusade against such "profanity" by all available means.

The government's defence was that since it has funded those institutions for decades it reserved the right to make policies concerning the institutions of learning which in its opinion should reflect "secularism" and "pluralism". The milestone in this government funding or takeover was alleged to have occurred as far back as 1974 when the process of partial or full transfer of these missionary schools to the Federal and state governments began in earnest throughout Nigeria.

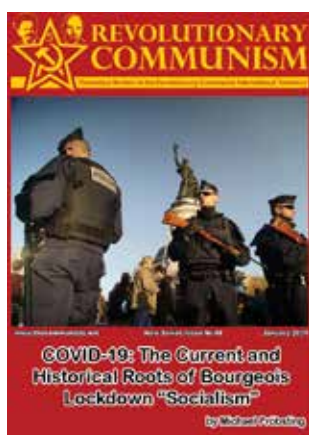
Every consistent democrat and progressive should support the separation of governance from religion and the promotion of religious indifferent views and policies by the government. Naturally this should include the shunning of any official ban on voluntary religious coverings such as the Burka, Hijab, Niqab etc., as well as any mandatory or enforced dress pattern for all sexes. Yet what we

find in those countries perceived as models for secularism and/or pluralism is shockingly in contrast to the expected standard. In France, legislators have passed a law effectively banning the use of head coverings like the Hijab and the Burka for Muslim women citing "security" reasons by saying CCTV cameras hardly identify women using these coverings if they were to be involved in, say a shop-lift. While some have claimed that wearing a hoodie and a facemask produces the same effect, others argue that this legislation does little to stop robbers who come mask on and guns blazing. In Switzerland a similar law has been passed this time around, it follows the banning of minarets in architecture (!)²

If our model secularist governments from the West have faulted this badly then cross-checking the pro-Western justification the Kwara state government uses to enforce the use of Hijab in Christian missionary schools becomes necessary.

A convenient place to start is the 1974 agreement. Did the government throughout Nigeria tell these clergymen that they would gradually but consistently erode the clerical statutes with which they ran those schools? Was the government of that period really a secularist or quasi pluralist one? If both Christian and Muslim missionary schools were grant aided or adopted by both state and Federal levels of the government, could this not have been seen as a brand of secularism/pluralism at the time?

To answer these questions, a little more contextual background maybe required. You see the Missionary schools were the brainchild of the European colonialists who after plundering our lands and peoples for 400 years had the meat of their hearts tenderised by only God knows what



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

and decided to give us schools. For decades these schools served as, if you like, the de facto institutions of learning of the colonial governments. So they were not just set up by religious bodies but they had the blessing of a state where not just religion and government were fused but that was also non-secular in that it was monarchical—The British Colonial Government.

To be clear, this 1974 pact took place across Nigeria and Kwara state is not the only state where such climactic conflicts have occurred over the use of Hijabs in Christian missionary schools. The 1974 pact which took place only 14 years after independence was part of a process of hand over of “government assets” from the colonial masters to the “colonised” and the spirit of that hand over still persists even though in a different form today.

Every mature political thinker at least knows that Nigeria is the worst kind of semi-colony (a neo-colony) and the celebrations in 1960 were just over the new flag. In like manner the state that inherited this new form of dependence from its masters was not secular. It was at best a multireligious state. This is where the distinction comes in. Now you no longer have to wonder where the tradition of starting meetings with a Christian opening and ending them with an Islamic closing came from. A multireligious government is not the same as a non-religious one.

So the multireligious nature of the Nigerian state underpinned the take over of both Christian and Muslim missionary schools by the government even though it may have passed as secularism or pluralism at the time. The only question is why this multireligious state suddenly chose to become more “secular”. Or did it really? If so when did this process of “pluralisation” begin.

The post-independence policies of the Nigerian government are an extension of the imperialist policy in a new form, however, since the mantle for the preservation of the neocolonial economy was placed in the hands of the northern Islamic caliphate every other thing was to follow the sanctimony of the emerging state religion and not even the Christian missionary schools were exempt.

The secular state remains a pipe dream in today’s world. Even in a country as advanced as the US we still see Christian rituals of prayer and sermon during the last presidential inauguration ceremony. All those countries which have for decades posed as the model for secular values are soon exposed by one crisis or the other whether domestic or international. It is worth pointing out that not only those states lower the standard of secularism who enforce religious dressings or coverings like Saudi Arabia, etc., but also those states like France and Switzerland which bans voluntary religious coverings or directly attacks religious minorities like China.

While the US especially in Trumpian times uses religion to manipulate public opinion, Macron’s France uses Islamophobia to replace government dissatisfaction in the face of a domestic crisis through anti-religion.³ In both cases religion or “anti-religion” still legitimised the power grip of both governments. A truly secular state is one which does not need religion or “anti-religion” as the case maybe to fulfill its goals. This remains the only progressive form of separation of religion and government.

So what played out in Ilorin through the Hijab controversy is not a conflict between the conservative Christians and secular Muslims rallying behind the pluralist government

of Kwara state. It was a fight for the soul of the government between two religious forces where the one (Christian forces) was trying to stop the advance of the other (the Islamic forces). It should be clear by now that a state order enforcing the use of Hijabs in Christian missionary schools has the same spirit as the outright ban on Muslim coverings in France. This is the case since both the campaign of Islamophobia in Macron’s France and the enforcement of Hijabs in those schools only revived the religious fires in the Muslim world and in the Christians of Ilorin, and Nigeria as a whole, respectively.

Revolutionaries and genuine leftists should know the side to take when faced with a conflict similar to the violent face-off over the Hijab in Ilorin. Lenin, that great Russian philosopher, always emphasized the distinction between what he called proletarian and bourgeois anti-clericalism. Progressives must take the side that, for whatever reason, promotes the separation of religion from government meaning the return of the missionary schools to the religious organizations and the side advocating for this was the Churches.

The Hijab was only a symbol in the conflicts. The bloody clashes were in the real sense over the changing balance of religious forces in the governance of the state. In such a fight the position of consistent democrats could only be to eviscerate all religious influence, content and standing from the government and in the specific case of the Hijab brawl in Ilorin only the losing side of the fight stood for this by demanding the reversal of the institutions back under their control. Enforcing the use of religious articles in an incompatible religious association by state decree or court order is tantamount to abolishing religion. The blowback for this can only be the reinforcement of religious zeal and the birth of new religious prejudices.

It becomes inconsequential who has been funding the institutions since 1974 since we have established that it was with the same religious purview, only the face changed from Parishioners to government officials! It is equally hardly surprising that instead of building new institutions of learning the government chose to take over the missionary schools because the mission of the neo-liberal government is to stall development so that Nigeria can remain a neo-colony. Hands off missionary schools! Fund free quality education for all! No state/government involvement in any religious establishment of any kind! Religion should be a private matter!

(1) <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/03/hijab-controversy-christians-muslims-in-violent-clash-as-kwara-govt-reopens-schools/amp/>

(2) <https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/world-europe-56314173>; https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/society/political-history_the-controversial-minaret-ban--ten-years-on/45399822; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-13038095>

(3) See on this: Michael Pröbsting: 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, 14 February 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/world-wide/europe/france-the-parliamentary-left-fails-to-oppose-macrons-anti-muslim-separatism-law/>

On the Recent Elections in Israel

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 30.03.2021

The results of the fourth round of the general elections in the last two years show that Israel has moved further to the right. There are basically two camps. The one which is led by *Netanyahu*, a coalition made of *Shas*, *United Torah Judaism*, the *Religious Zionist Party* and maybe *Yamina* (The Right). The other camp is made of *New Hope* leader Gideon Sa'ar, maybe *Yamina* led by Naftali Bennett, *Israel Beiteinu* led by Liberman, *Yesh Atid* led by Lapid, the Zionist "Labor" party led by the bourgeois feminist Merhav Michaeli, the left petit-bourgeois *Meretz*, and the *Joined List* mostly of Palestinians. And then, there is a recent split from the *Joined List* by the name of *Raam* that is willing to join a coalition but it is not likely that Netanyahu will be able to convince his very far right partners to allow a conservative Arab party to join any Zionist government. Without *Yamina* and *Raam*, Netanyahu will not be able to form a government.

If Netanyahu will be able to form a government, it will include Kahanist Itamar Ben-Gvir – a fascist and the extreme right-winger; Bezalel Smotrich who tweeted in support of segregating Jewish and Arab women in maternity wards and has organized anti-gay protests and recently compared gay marriage to incest; and Avi Maoz – the homophobic leader of the Noam faction. It will be the most right-wing government in the history of the Zionist state.

New Hope, *Yamina* and *Israel Beiteinu* are extremely right-wing parties, yet the Zionist "Labor" party and the left petit-bourgeois *Meretz* have expressed their willingness to join these right-wing parties and it is possible that even the *Joined List* will join them or support that coalition as a minority government from outside. It is far from clear if such a government will be formed because they may not agree who will be the Prime Minister.

It is also possible that the two coalitions will not be able to form the government and a fifth round of elections will be

called. Thus Israel is in a very deep political crisis. In such a case, Netanyahu will remain the Prime Minister of Israel until the new round of elections.

The *Joined List* that we gave critical support to, as a list of the oppressed Palestinians is an alliance composed by Balad, Hadash (the Stalinist front) and Ta'al, that has suffered a bad defeat. It lost 250,000 voters and won only six mandates. This is result of the fact that on 22 September 2019, following the September 2019 election, Odeh the leader of the list and most MK of the Joint List agreed to endorse Benny Gantz the former head of the Zionist army for prime minister. It was the first time that an Arab party endorsed anyone for prime minister since Yitzhak Rabin in 1992. In 2015, the Joint List won 13 seats with 10.6% of the total vote.

The Palestinians in Israel are very demoralized and mistrust this leadership. In addition, they are demoralized because of the failure so far of the Arab revolution.

If the *Joined List* endorses once again a Zionist government we will not support it not even critically. It is also possible that Balad will refuse to endorse a Zionist coalition and in this case, we will give it critical support. We should keep in mind three members of Balad MK did not recommend Gantz to be a prime minister.

It is clear that there are no political parties in the Israeli settler colonialism movement that can lead a progressive change in Israel. The only solution is a red democratic Palestine as part of the Arab revolution, that will open the gates for the Palestinian refugees and form a red democratic Palestine from the river to the sea. The Israeli Jews who will join such a state or at least accept it will have equal civil rights, and the rest probably will leave.

No support for the two right wing Zionist blocks!

For a Red democratic Palestine!

For the right of return of the Palestinian refugees!



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

Who is a Jew?

By Adam Smith, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 30.03.2021

For many years this question has come back to haunt the Zionist state. The many rulings, often contradictory, have shown that this is first and foremost a political question.

The first challenge to the right of return law was in 1962 when a Polish Christian Zionist sought to receive citizenship under the Law of Return law, and was originally denied as he was a Christian, but the Supreme court ruled that he is a Jew from a nationality standpoint (and not from a religious standpoint, so from a "secular" (judicial) point of view what matters is the religious definition, and from a religious standpoint the secular doesn't...). After that, in 1970, the law was changed to define Jews as those who were born to Jewish mothers and had not converted. ¹

The Jewish religion underwent many transitions throughout history. The Judaism of today in Israel is very different from the one in the Diaspora pre-WWII, or from the Judaism in the U.S. today for that matter. In adapting to Zionist chauvinism, the Chief Rabbinate in Israel prohibits Palestinians ² and migrant workers ³ from converting to Judaism (or puts many barriers for Jews from ex-USSR countries), because of fears it is "done for other reasons". Recently, the Supreme Court has forced the state to accept Reform conversions.

The other way to bypass the Rabbinate Authorities was to be converted during the army - aka "the religion of the tank" as it is aptly put. Of course, during a recent row ⁴, a Ultra-Orthodox MK called army converters "Shiksha", a racial slur for non-Jews. The liberal side went on to criticise him, but by defending the speed up army conversion process. While we oppose the ultra-orthodox racism (and we shall see soon that it is a different side of the same coin), we also oppose the notion serving in the Zionist Army is a good thing, or for that matter, that it makes you a Jew!

The reason the liberal side cares about this, is because there are numerous privileges in Israel for being a Jew, for example the ability to marry in the country, or work in a kosher restaurant - which are the vast majority in Israel (another way in which traditional isolationist orthodox racism combines and blends with the new Zionist racism to form a new kind of religious-nationalist racism, different from both earlier religious orthodox and secular Zionist racisms).

The reform movement in Israel (and the US, although in

the US it is more critical of the occupation, with organizations like Jewish Voice for Peace) has many other blind spots with regard to the Palestinian cause. For example, their demand to have equal standing in the Western Wall, while ignoring its history (thousands of Palestinian homes were demolished in order to make way for it, quite different than the propaganda that has always existed in its current form...). Another one is their support for the law of return and Israel in general (a bit a "Liberal" and "benevolent" form of Israel). The material explanation for this is the transition of the Jews from an underclass in the West a hundred years ago (from "No Jew/Irish Need Apply" and the Lower East Side cramped apartments) to the upper middle class in the U.S today, ⁵ for example having one of the highest incomes for any ethnic group. ⁶

The law of return was intended to create a demographic shift in favour of Jews in Palestine, and as such, it needs guards to make sure non-Jews don't slip in, and who better to define who is a Jew in a narrow and ethnic way than the ultra-orthodox? The liberals like to complain that the Orthodox do nothing and get paid a lot by the state. What they don't understand is that the payment is for their role in expanding the settlements, and maintaining Judaism as a separate and "pure" identity for the Zionist worldview, and guardian of Zionism and the faith.

We call for:

Abolishing the Rabbinate!

A voiding of the racist Law of Return - yes for the right of return for the Palestinians!

Down with the Zionist Occupation!

A one red democratic Palestine (with limited pilgrimage right to the Wailing Wall)!

Footnotes

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_Return

2 <https://www.kikar.co.il/%D7%A2%D7%A8%D7%91%D7%99-%D7%92%D7%95%D7%99%D7%A8-%D7%91%D7%94%D7%A2%D7%93%D7%94-%D7%94%D7%97%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%99%D7%AA.html>

3 <https://www.makorishon.co.il/nrg/online/11/ART2/764/495.html>

4 <https://www.ynet.co.il/judaism/article/HkDZeWjzu>

5 <https://www.amazon.com/Became-White-Folks-About-America/dp/081352590X>

6 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_and_religion#United_States



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

A New War between Russia and Ukraine?

Neither Russia-China nor NATO! Down with imperialist Great Powers in East and West!

Statement of the RCIT Russia and the International Bureau of the RCIT, 3 April 2021

1. Media both in Russia as well as in the Ukraine are full of speculation about the outbreak of a new war in the Donbass region. Tensions have escalated in the recent months. Since 1 January, 21 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in action. On 3 March the military commanders of the “Donetsk People’s Republic” (DPR) announced that they would launch pre-emptive strikes in defense against “Ukrainian terror”. Both sides have sent massive military reinforcement to the region.

2. The background to the recent escalation is the political events in the Ukraine in 2014/15 which resulted in a bloody civil war. In spring 2014 a reactionary pro-Western government came to power as a result of the right-wing Euro-Maidan movement. This has been a reactionary movement which included fascist forces, and which was instigated and controlled by U.S. and European imperialism in order to weaken Russia’s regional hegemony. The subsequent civil war in the Donbass region of Ukraine has been a reactionary conflict between the Ukrainian government (acting as proxy for Western imperialism) and the Donbass insurgents (acting as proxies for Russian imperialism). The latter were led and controlled by a reactionary red-brown alliance of forces like far-right monarchist Strelkov, Stalinists, pro-Moscow “left” Borotba, and various pro-Russian fascists forces. This civil war was brought to an end by the so-called *Minsk II accords* in February

2015.

3. In the last few months, both Kiev as well as Moscow have shown determination to alter the relation of forces to their advantage. The bourgeois government of President Volodymyr Zelensky is increasingly adapting to right-wing, war-mongering forces. In February 2021, the Ukrainian *National Security and Defence Council* sanctioned Viktor Medvedchuk – a key contact man of Putin to Kiev – and banned broadcasts by three pro-Russian television channels owned by his ally, Taras Kozak. The army has deployed tanks, armored vehicles, anti-aircraft systems and rocket-propelled grenades near Donbass. In addition, there are increasing calls by public figures to launch a surprise attack on Donbass similar to the Azeri success against the Armenian forces in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

4. Both France as well as Germany stated their support for the Ukraine. Likewise, U.S. President Joe Biden used a first official phone call with Zelenskiy on 2 April to offer staunch support in Ukraine’s standoff over Russian troops near its border.

5. Russia made also clear that it is determined to alter the current status-quo so that it could consolidate its control over the Donbass region and weaken Ukraine’s government. Analysts close the Kremlin call for the deployment of Russian peacekeepers similar to the “solution” of

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 of Workers

the recent Karabakh war. Some Russian military specialists call for the ousting of the Ukraine from the Azov Sea and moving Russian forces to the Dnipro. Leaders of the DPR are calling for the official annexation of the Eastern Ukraine to Russia. There has been also a significant Russian military build-up near eastern Ukraine.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its comrades in Russia strongly denounce the reactionary war-mongering on both sides. The governments of Russia as well as of the Ukraine pursue reactionary goals. Russia is an imperialist Great Power which strives for domination of the region. It is a close ally of China, the second-largest Great Power aside of the U.S. While the Ukraine is a semi-colonial capitalist country, its government acts as a proxy for U.S. and European imperialism. It is unthinkable that it could enter a military conflict with Russia without close coordination with EU and U.S. imperialists. The recent statements of Washington, Berlin and Paris only underline this fact. The RCIT therefore advocates a defeatist position on both sides in this conflict. None is the "lesser evil" for the working class and the oppressed people.

7. It is crucial that socialists in Russia as well as in the Ukraine oppose all military efforts as well as chauvinist war-mongering of their respective governments. Socialists in Russia have to denounce the reactionary character of Russian imperialism. They must sharply condemn any form of Great Russian patriotism and the ideology of "Russkij Mir" ("Russian World"). This chauvinist ideology advocates the concept of a Great Russian world which includes large regions outside of Russia (like e.g. the Ukraine). Hence, it is an ideology which aims to legitimize Great Russian expansionism.

8. The RCIT reaffirms its unconditional support for

the liberation struggle of the Chechen people and their desire to constitute an independent state. Likewise, we support the right of national self-determination – including separation – for all national minorities in Russia.

9. We strongly denounce all those "communists" and "Marxists" who side with Russian imperialism under the fig-leaf of "anti-imperialism". Reformist Stalinists like the KPRF, the RKR and the OKP as well as various Trotsko-Revisionists (like IMT) either deny the imperialist character of the Russian state or they portray the struggle of Moscow's proxies in Donbass as a "progressive anti-fascist liberation war". In any case, they act as Great Russian social-patriots.

10. Likewise we condemn those reformist forces which directly or indirectly back the aggression of the Ukraine government or of its Western imperialist backers. We point out that the Spanish PCE and IU – Ex-Stalinist parties which are affiliated to the "Party of the European Left" (LINKE in Germany, PCF in France, SYRIZA in Greece) – are part of the Sanchez government and as such directly involved in the political decision-making of the imperialist European Union.

11. We call revolutionaries to join the RCIT in the struggle against all Great Powers, in solidarity with the liberation struggles of the working class and the oppressed people and for international socialism. Such a struggle requires the creation of a new *Revolutionary World Party*. Join us in building such a party!

* *Down with the Warmongering in Russia and Ukraine!*

* *In Case of Military Conflicts: No Support for Any Imperialist Camp – Neither Russia nor Ukraine/NATO!*

* *No to any Imperialist Sanctions!*

* *Workers and Oppressed – Unite against the Great Powers in East and West!*

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

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

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

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

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

UK: Thousands March against Lockdown Restrictions and the Police Bill

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 31st March 2021, www.thecommunists.net

On Saturday March 20th thousands of people mainly young people marched and demonstrated against the Lockdown which stipulates that only 6 people can meet. The Johnson government is using the Lockdown to keep people locked up and prevent social unrest and restrict people's right to legally peacefully demonstrate against these draconian and anti-democratic attacks. The capitalist state is preparing a move towards creating an authoritarian regime. This government has made no effort to cure or stop the virus but has used it as a cover to expand a police and surveillance state and to remove basic democratic rights.

"Thousands of people have marched through central London under a heavy police presence to protest against lockdown measures, and more than 30 were arrested. Demonstrators gathered at Speakers' Corner by Hyde Park at about midday where anti-lockdown figurehead Piers Corbyn gave a speech saying he would "never take a vaccine" and falsely claiming that the scale of deaths from Covid was not dissimilar to those from flu each year. As police surrounded him and detained a handful of people as they ordered demonstrators to disperse, the crowd then marched out of the park and through London from Marble Arch." [1]

Many of the crowd marching held placards displaying progressive messages including Lockdown leads to homelessness, poverty, despair and suicide amongst a number of people suffering from mental health problems which the Johnson government has done nothing to alleviate. There were a number of scuffles as the police used aggressive tactics to prevent any peaceful demonstrations. People are angry because they know that the Lockdown is not

in place to cure the pandemic but as a cover to attack basic democratic rights. Naturally, police present themselves as victims of "violent demonstrators".

"London police arrested dozens of people on Saturday (March 20) after thousands turned out in the British capital to protest against ongoing coronavirus lockdown restrictions, with the city's police force in the spotlight over its officer's conduct after a series of recent incidents. The Metropolitan Police Service said it had made 36 arrests, most for breaching months-old virus regulations that outlaw leaving home except for a limited number of reasons. Several thousand people were estimated to have gathered for the demonstrations, which began on Saturday lunchtime at Hyde Park. After the crowd marched through central London, a group of around 100 returned to the park where police said they threw missiles at officers. "Several were injured as a result of targeted assaults," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor, who led the policing operation." [2]

"Thirty-six people have been arrested during a protest by anti-lockdown campaigners in central London. Most of the arrests were for breaching COVID-19 regulations, Scotland Yard said. Officers were forced to run back to their vans as protesters threw bottles and cans at them in Hyde Park." [3].

The New Police and Crimes Bill

The New Police Bill which is being rushed through Parliament is an attempt by the Johnson government to curtail any sort of peaceful protest, further evidence of eroding democratic rights in Britain. After protests by Extinction rebellion and the Black Lives Matter, Priti Patel Johnsons

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: The Zionist Wars

A History of the Zionist Movement and Imperialist Wars

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz gives an overview about the process of Zionist colonialization of Palestine as well as the resistance of the indigenous Arab population. He deals in detail with the popular struggles of the Palestinians against their expulsion by the Zionists. *The Zionist Wars* elaborates in detail the character of Israel's military campaigns in 1948 and the following decades which resulted in the expulsion of large parts of the Palestinian population. These wars were also crucial to implement the imperialist subjugation of the Arab countries.

However, as Yossi Schwartz elaborates, the Zionist state has passed its peak already some time ago which has been demonstrated by its failed military campaigns in Lebanon as well as in Gaza.

In *The Zionist Wars* the author also discusses in much detail the program of the communist movement on the Palestinian question. He shows the adaptation and finally capitulation of Stalinism to the Zionist project – culminating in massive arms shipments for the Israeli forces during the War of 1948.

In this book Yossi Schwartz elaborates the analyses and conclusions of Leon Trotsky and the Fourth International for the libera-

tion of Palestine. He also discusses the strength and weakness of his successors in dealing with the Zionist state and the Arab liberation struggle against it.

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz defends the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people and outlines a socialist perspective.

The book contains an introduction and 20 chapters (136 pages) and includes 2 Tables and 4 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/the-zionist-wars/>



Home Secretary wanted to find ways to curtail free speech and legislate against any sort of protest. The Bill gives the police the right to insist on start and finish time of any protest. There are restrictions on localities and making any undue noise. Fines can be imposed as much as £2500 per person and anyone breaking these regulations will be arrested and fined.

This police bill is related to the new spy cops bill which gives allows intelligence agents to penetrate any organisation legally, giving false names and if they commit any serious crime they will face no penalties of the law. Damaging statues and Memorials including everything from Trees to statues is forbidden. This is being directed at Black Lives Matter activists who have correctly challenged the statues of imperialist slavers who were responsible for slavery in the 18th century.

Demonstrations against the New Police Bill

Last week there were a number of demonstrations against the new Police Bill in London, Manchester and Bristol. People are angry about the decision by the Tories to curtail basic freedoms and rights. Globally the actions of the Tories are in line with most capitalist governments which under the cover of the pandemic are developing these new powers of bonapartist rule. The situation is like a powder keg and could explode at any time producing a possible pre-revolutionary situation.

"Violent protests erupted Sunday night in the British city of Bristol over a proposed police and crime bill that would create sweeping new restrictions on protests and grant broad new powers to the police. Video from the scene showed a police vehicle ablaze and protesters charging at the graffiti-strewn vehicle. One officer suffered a broken arm and another a broken rib, the authorities said. The "kill the bill" rally drew thousands of protesters in the southwest city, witnesses reported". [4].

"The situation became violent when about 450 protesters targeted the city's central New Bridewell police station. Three hundred officers were deployed to the scene. Local police said officers were pelted with stones and fireworks, leaving 20 injured, two seriously. Twelve police vehicles and the police station was damaged. The protest ended around 01:30 GMT on Monday". [5]

Many of the capitalist politicians made much of the violence in Bristol over the Police and Crimes Bill but the capitalist state is armed to the teeth. It dishes out violence whenever it can and does kill people in the process. The pictures show that the police were armed with helmets, batons and tear gas if necessary. An authoritarian regime is in the making in Britain! All the demonstrators were trying to do was defend themselves. Anger and frustration is boiling up in Britain.

The RCIT at the very outset has fought the imposition of the Lockdown as a cover for the ruling class to attack democratic rights and to create a Bonapartist state, at the same time ensure that the masses and oppressed are locked up in their homes continue to suffer poverty, homelessness and exploitation. The RCIT has recognised that the COVID 19 pandemic is a serious virus, and it is only through an accountable nationalised health system under workers control that the virus can be brought under control. This will require a much-enlarged health system under proper workers control, managed by workers and health professionals.

For a Workers Government!

The new Police Bill which is being rushed through parliament by the Johnson Government has led to many demonstrations up and down the country in places like London, Manchester and Bristol. The RCIT fully supports these demonstrations which are in defence of democratic rights. The response of the ruling class to the crisis of capitalism and imperialism caused by the third depression and slump is to attack the right to peacefully demonstrate and prepare the way for a Bonapartist regime. Its aim, of course with the collusion of Keir Starmer and the Labour party, is to smash the working class and the oppressed. It is no accident that the Lockdown has the full support of Her Majesty's loyal opposition the Labour party which under the leadership of Keir Starmer is now moving in the direction of becoming a bourgeois capitalist party. The RCIT has identified the bureaucracy of the Labour party and the Trade Union as well as many centrist groups as the Lockdown left. They have now effectively joined the bourgeoisie as their most loyal servants.

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following transitional demands as part of a programme to abolish capitalism and establish Socialism.

** Nationalise the NHS under workers control! All Pharmaceutical companies must be nationalised without compensation so that necessary medication is for public use free on demand!*

** For an enlarged health system in Britain with a massive campaign to recruit more health workers, to pay better wages and to allow carrying out their work with proper PPE Equipment and protective clothing.*

** Defeat the new police, crimes and sentencing bill as well as the spy cops bill which are direct attacks on democratic rights.*

** For armed defence guards organised in every community to protect the masses and exploited from fascists and police provocation.*

** For Open Borders, no to racism and Islamophobia. Migrants to be given the right to practice their own religion and customs and speak their own Language without interference from the state.*

** For a workersgovernment!*

Join the RCIT and help to build the 5th International as part of a worldwide Revolutionary socialist movement.

Footnotes

- 1) [Dozens of arrests as thousands march in London against Covid lockdown | London | The Guardian](#)
- 2) [Scuffles and arrests as anti-lockdown protesters march through London, Europe News & Top Stories - The Straits Times](#)
- 3) [COVID-19: Arrests at anti-lockdown protest in London as MPs call for restrictions ease for campaigners | UK News | Sky News](#)
- 4) [Bristol Riots: Protests Over U.K. Crime Bill Turn Violent - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- 5) [UK: What is the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill? | United Kingdom News | Al Jazeera](#)

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!

