



# REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

Theoretical Review of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency



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June 2021

## War & Intifada in Palestine: A Turning Point in the World Situation

COVID-19 and the so-called "deadly virus"

Occupied Palestine: The Racist Oppression of the Arabs

## English-Language Theoretical Review of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), New Series No.55, June 2021

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*Pictures on the cover: Arab Migrants at a pro-Palestine Demonstration in Vienna (12.5.2021)*

*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 is in a Liaison Committee with *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina)

**[www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net) - [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)  
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

# COVID-19: The Demystification of the so-called “deadly virus”

by Medina Gunić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 May 2021

**A**uthentic revolutionaries have rejected the reactionary lockdown policy from the very beginning. It was (and still is) obvious that the bourgeois governments have chosen to implement these anti-democratic measures for very specific reasons, which had nothing to do with real health protection. The longer science is studying SARS-CoV-2, the more it becomes clear which health measures really make sense and, unsurprisingly, they are not different to general hygiene rules for other diseases.

Furthermore, the long-term side effects of lockdown policy – not only the erosion of democratic rights but also the negative impact on public health – have become strikingly painful. The next years will show a massive increase of deadly cases as a result of undiscovered cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, mental illnesses and belated initial immunizations of children. Not to speak about the consequences of the greater depression of the capitalist world economy.

The bourgeoisie may argue that the lockdown methods saved lives who would be lost to COVID but, in reality, lives have been put on the line. Medically unsupervised quarantine is dangerous and so is the massive decrease of preventive check-ups. Until today, billions and trillions of tax money worldwide was put into support of bigger companies respectively multi-national corporations while the ICU and hospital infrastructure were kept instable. People have been forced into lockdowns with the argument that ICU and hospital structure would be overwhelmed otherwise, but nothing has been done to improve those structures!

Today, the health system worldwide would be similar incapable in face of a new pandemic as it was already two years ago. However, today bourgeois governments world-

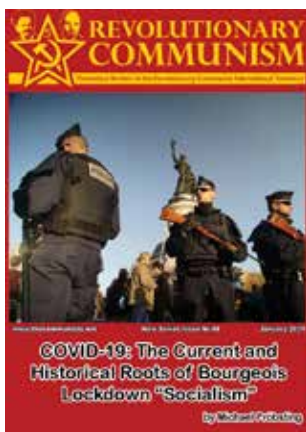
wide find it easier to implement new police laws, mobilize the military, force people into isolation, demobilize revolutionary mass movements than it was two years ago. How could any thinking revolutionary activist “forget” that capitalism is not stopped but rather encouraged by mass isolation?!

But what about the dangerous virus, this cannot be ignored – argues the lockdown supporter.

## Let`s talk medicine

The basic concept of medicine is both prevention and cure. Specific diseases are battled by isolation of individuals. However, isolation respectively quarantine is a method mostly implemented in two cases: One is a known infection with a contagious disease and the other is a potential infection with a contagious disease after contact with one or more infected individuals. The latter means isolation for a specific time, the so-called incubation period, i.e., the time between the first contact with a pathogen and the first symptoms of infection. Not every exposure with a pathogen leads to an infection. Often enough our immune system is stable and defeats the pathogen without our conscious recognition. We sneeze, we spit, we blow our nose respectively sweat it out.

The problem starts when either our immune system is too weak or the pathogen is too aggressive, or both. Medicine is capable of making quite precise estimations how certain pathogens will affect certain individuals under certain circumstances. It is far more complicated to estimate the development of exposure to a pathogen by such a large group of people like a whole population. Isolation as a



## 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*



method of prevention is therefore mostly done on an individual level. This is the reason why no other pandemic has ever led to worldwide lockdown strategies in history. And we had quite many pandemics yet!

What are preventive isolation methods on an individual level? For example, it is obvious that recommendations are made for travelers to avoid certain regions where severe epidemics are ravaging. Further, it is often the case that medicine informs and educates certain people about their individual health risks. A pregnant woman is informed to avoid certain foods, environments, and activities. However, the recommendations for travelers and pregnant women are not taken serious by other (not-traveling respectively non-pregnant) individuals. Why? Because there is no reason for prevention. Even more-so, exaggerated and unsubscripted prevention can harm people. To avoid certain foods or even food groups which are not generally harmful can put people at risk for malnutrition. Excessive cleaning of living spaces can increase the risk for allergies. Hospitals are known to be breeding grounds for bacteria resistant to anti-biotics not because they are lacking hygiene but because they have to use disinfection so excessively and host people with a poor immune system.

General lockdowns are nothing else but an exaggerated and medically unsubscripted prevention. It means de-facto the decrease of preventive check-ups, increase of mental illnesses, increase of the isolation of victims of violence and has many more negative side effects. The long-term harm from the point of view of public health is very likely to be more severe than the pandemic itself.

### Prevention making sense for COVID ... and harmful pseudo-prevention

In case of SARS-CoV-2 it was obvious from the first published studies on the disease that quarantine for all is contraindicated. A virus that even after explicit contact leaves so many people without an outbreak of infection; a virus that is deadly just to certain (known!) groups of the population; a virus that has not a severe impact on the youngest members of human society; such a virus can and should not be tackled via lockdowns, i.e., general quarantines for all. When China decided to shut down Wuhan and isolated it completely for weeks in January 2020, it was a decision made on absolute lack of information how contagious and how aggressive this new virus is.

It was an emergency measure, and it should never become a general strategy. Especially not after the first medical

studies have been published. The RCIT has based its argumentation from the very beginning on both revolutionary politics as well as on interpretation of scientific studies of the virus. We have exhaustively dealt in numerous documents with the subject of mortality rates, of the (non-)effectiveness of lockdowns and excess mortality.

Like the comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina), we gave revolutionary answers from the very beginning of the pandemic and have not fallen into the trap of blindly cheering every Bonapartist burp of the bourgeoisie that was made under the cover of health protection.

Today, science give us even more knowledge to understand the virus and make it obvious what forms of prevention really make sense. Spoiler alert: lockdown is not one of them.

In a new study elaborated by the medical university in Vienna, it is proven that the cases of severe complications of COVID-infections by completely healthy individuals is mostly based on a genetic mutation of the natural killer cell responses. Approximately 4% of population have not developed the usual effectiveness of the NKG2C receptors. Their immune system is therefore less armed to tackle the virus and make them more prone to develop severe complications.

In addition to the risks groups that are already known (people of a certain age, cancer patients, people with various forms of immune suppression, etc.) we can now add to those who are genetically prone to develop complications during virus infections.

We do not surveil or even punish woman who eat sushi during their pregnancy (and of course we should not!). We do not force medical treatments on sick people if they reject them (and of course we should not!). People at risk for complications by COVID infections should decide how much they want or do not want to expose themselves to public life. A certain percentage of the population is dangerously allergic to bees or to nuts. We have not killed all beans or banned all nuts as a prevention method in "solidarity" with those who are highly allergic. The first antihistamine drugs were developed in 1942. Until then it was a calculated risk to eat nuts and to be exposed to bees. Since the beginning of SARS-CoV-2 the method of calculated risk should have been implied.

### Easy prevention methods, expansion of health structures and lockdown panic

Calculated risks in case of COVID means to use hygienic



## 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

rules like rigorously washing hands with soap (kills generally at least 80% of pathogens), sneezing into the arm-pit (i.e. not into the face of others), staying at home if you have any symptoms (under supervision of a doctor) and enabling risk groups to isolate if they want to. It means to take enormous resources into hand to treat those accurately who are infected. This means the massive expansion of health system and the battle to have it under workers' control. It means to enable people to find out if they are genetically at higher risk.

It means to recommend vaccinations for those at risk and to encourage vaccinations where they make sense but not to force and punish. It means to apply common sense when it comes to wearing a face mask (you are longer in a closed room with strangers more than 15min during pandemic season and not recently tested? Wear a mask. Otherwise, do as you please). It means to get tested before you join long-lasting mass events in closed rooms like concerts. But first and foremost, it means *not to give full control over your life and health to the bourgeoisie!*

After all, the ruling class enforces lockdowns because they love to see us isolated. SARS-CoV-2 is presented as a new medieval-style plague to enable their Bonapartist attacks. More and more people recognize that this totally wrong and it is just a matter of time that the revolutionary uprisings worldwide will revive completely.

We as RCIT and the comrades of the *Convergencia Socialista* can proudly say that we have always been ahead of time, never supporting the Bonapartist measures and the scare tactics of the ruling classes, basing our argumentation on scientific studies. Which so-called "left-wing" organization can also say this about itself?!

\* \* \* \* \*

### Sources and further reading material:

Deletion of the NKG2C receptor encoding KLRC2 gene and HLA-E variants are risk factors for severe COVID-19. Hannes Vietzen, Alexander Zoufaly, Marianna Traugott, Judith Aberle, Stephan W. Aberle & Elisabeth Puchhammer-Stöckl. *Genetics in Medicine* (2021), <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41436-020-01077-7>

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Use of Preventive Health Care. Katie Martin, Daniel Kurowski, Phillip Given, Kevin Kennedy, Elianna Clayton Friday, 16 April 2021, Health Care Cost Institute, <https://healthcostinstitute.org/hcci-research/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-use-of-preventive-health-care>

Daniel Bovet, Italian pharmacologist. WRITTEN BY The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. Last Updated: Apr 4, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Daniel-Bovet>

All RCIT documents on the COVID-19 crisis are compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>.

In particular we refer readers to the RCIT Manifesto: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>.

In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle*, RCIT Books, April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>. See also by the same author: *How the Ruling Class Prepared for COVID-19*.

A number of events before and after the beginning of the pandemic demonstrate the political nature of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution, 3 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/how-the-ruling-class-prepared-for-covid-19/>; *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/>;

*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/>.

## 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.

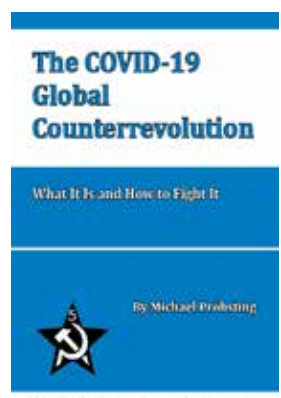
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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.



# War and Intifada in Palestine: A Turning Point in the World Situation

## The current war reveals the changes in the relation between the Great Powers

*Joint Statement of the Liaison Committee of the RCIT and Convergencia Socialista (Argentina), 22 May 2021*

**Introduction:** *The document at hand is the result of discussions between leading comrades of RCIT and CS since the beginning of the Fourth Gaza War. Its purpose is not to provide a comprehensive analysis of all features of the world situation. Rather, the document focuses on the consequences of the war for the Middle East and the world situation and on the tasks for revolutionaries following from these. In order to keep the document as short as possible, we will limit ourselves to a condensed presentation of theses – even more so as many issues have been already elaborated in more detail somewhere else.*

*Furthermore, we want to draw attention to the fact that this statement was elaborated and discussed when the war was still going on, i.e. before the ceasefire was implemented on 21 May. We have dealt with the ceasefire and its meaning in a separate joint statement (*The Fourth Gaza War Ended in a Historic Victory for the Palestinians! // David venció a Goliat en Gaza*, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-fourth-gaza-war-ended-in-a-historic-victory-for-the-palestinians> and <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/david-vencio-goliat-en-gaza-declaracion.html>) In any case, the character of the ceasefire fully confirms the analysis elaborated in the present document.)*

*Finally, we refer to an article by comrade Damián Quevedo, a leading member of Convergencia Socialista. The article deals with important contradictions in the capitalist world economy, an issue which is only briefly mentioned but not elaborated in more detail in the present document. This article is attached in the Appendix in Spanish and English language.*

\* \* \* \* \*

1. As we are writing these lines, the Fourth Gaza War is still going on and, hence, its concrete outcome unknown. However, already now there can be no doubt that this is a historic event with important consequences both for the Middle East as well as for the world situation.

2. First, the beginning of the *Third Intifada* represents not only a new upswing of the Palestinian liberation struggle. It also represents a struggle on a *higher level* than the past Intifadas (which began in 1987 respectively in 2000) because it is not limited to the Westbank and Gaza but also includes the Palestinians in the '48 areas, i.e. those living inside the Israeli Apartheid state, and East Jerusalem. This new unity has been reflected, among others, in the historic general strike on 18 May.

3. Secondly, while the war is still going on, it looks very unlikely that the Zionist state will be capable of defeating the Palestinian resistance in Gaza. Quite the opposite, the massive and far-reaching missile strikes of Hamas and other factions demonstrated that the resistance is even stronger than it was in the three previous wars when Israel was also incapable of defeating the Palestinians (in 2008/09, 2012 and 2014).

4. Thirdly, the repeated demonstrations at Israel's borders (both with Jordan as well as Lebanon), the burn-

ing of (unmanned) Israeli border posts, the attempts of militants to cross the border into Israel, the repeated firing of rockets against Israel from the south of Lebanon – all these demonstrates that the Palestinian uprising is provoking mass solidarity in the neighboring countries. Not only this, it also shows that the Zionist state comes under attack on all fronts.

5. The very fact of these two important events taking place at the same time – the Third Intifada in all parts of historic Palestine and the Fourth Gaza War resulting (most likely) in another failure of Israel to crush the resistance – reflects a fundamental change in the relation of forces in favor of the oppressed people!

6. It is already clear by now that the Israeli settler state is now weaker than ever before. This is reflected not only in the paralysis of the country's government since more than two years as four elections have failed to produce any stable government. It is also reflected in the fact that long-time Prime Minister Netanyahu has to provoke one crisis after the other ... in order to avoid jail because of his numerous corruption scandals. In general, the Zionist ruling class is deeply divided and shifts more and more to the right, provoking the growth of fascist forces like *Kach*. This development is not only a threat for the Palestinians but also deepens the divisions within the Israeli-Jewish society itself (e.g. with the Orthodox Jews, with liberal Zionists, etc.). In short, the decline of the Zionist state results both in a radicalization of its militarist, racist and fascist features and, at the same time, weakens its fundament of existence as a settler state in foreign territory.

7. The war and the new Intifada have provoked a massive international solidarity movement resulting in numerous mass mobilizations all over the world. In the port of Livorno/Italy, militant unionists even stopped the shipment of arms to Israel. At the same time, Israel is more isolated than ever. True there have been some shameful symbolic actions of support by imperialist governments in Europe (like Austria's Chancellor Kurz hissing the flag of Israel at the roof of his office). But when it comes to concrete political support, Israel is isolated as the current diplomatic negotiations in the UN Security Council demonstrate where China and others push for a statement strongly calling for an immediate ceasefire.

8. Growing isolation of Israel is most importantly reflected in the fact that its support by the White House is weaker than ever before. While Biden makes general declarations of sympathy with Israel's "*right of self-defense*", it is obvious to every observer that support for Israel in the U.S. – among the masses, among American Jews, even among the Democrat (and even Republican) lawmakers in Congress – is weaker than at any time before. This is reflected in open political criticism against Israel by the bourgeois public (it has been called an "*Apartheid state*" within the venerable halls of the Congress for the first time!) and the more and more determined calls by leading



Senators for an immediate ceasefire.

9. Weak support of Washington for Israel is not because of any “progressive” nature of the Biden Administration. It rather reflects the decline of U.S. imperialism itself which was the long-time hegemon after 1945. However, the decay of global capitalism has also resulted in the inevitable decline of its hegemon. For this reason, the ruling class of the U.S. is more divided than ever and in the field of foreign policy, it has to retreat and to focus its political, economic and military forces against its imperialist rivals (like China, Russia and the EU). For this reason, the U.S. is no longer in a position to dominate the Middle East and to lend strong and unconditional support to its traditional allies (Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.). Such retreat has been reflected in the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan, the preparation of such withdrawal from Iraq, the failure to forcefully defend Saudi Arabia from missile and drone attacks (by Iran, Houthis, etc.) and, at the same time, in the fact that traditional allies – like the dictators of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and UAE – are looking for alternatives and build closer relations with China and Russia.

10. Of course, the retreat of the U.S. from the Middle East is not a total retreat. But it is a step back, being no longer the unchallenged and strongest force. There is no other Great Power which could replace the U.S. as the *hegemon*. (By the way, the same is true for the whole world situation as there can be no new imperialist hegemon without a new world war). In fact, the next years will be characterized by accelerating rivalry between powers and the lack of any hegemon. As a result, the Middle East will become an even more instable region with several imperialist powers as well as regional powers trying to expand their influence at the cost of their rivals. And all this takes place at a time of the Greatest Depression of the capitalist world economy since 1929. Hence, in the coming years the Middle East will inevitably constitute a crucial trouble spot of the world situation – characterized by deep domestic political crisis, foreign military adventures, revolutionary as well as counterrevolutionary situations and wars.

11. Given the fact, that the Fourth Gaza War is in the center of global public, Israel’s failure to defeat Gaza and the refusal of the U.S. to energetically support its most important ally in the Middle East will have decisive consequences for politics in the Middle East and the world. It shows everyone that Israel is an aggressive but wounded animal, weaker than ever before. Equally, it shows the world that the U.S. does no longer call the shots. And it shows Washington allies that the U.S. can not provide them with a safety net – hence, they better look for alternative Great Powers for support. In short, the current events in Palestine can not but encourage the masses to revolt against U.S. and Israeli imperialism. Likewise, it will inevitably make regional and global rivals of Washington and Tel Aviv bolder and more aggressive (most importantly China and Russia but also Europe).

12. Historically, the Palestinian liberation struggle has always been part of the struggle of the Arab popular masses against Zionism, imperialist Great Powers and domestic tyrants. However, while there were always mass actions in Arab (and Muslim) countries demonstrating strong support for the Palestinian cause as well as demonstrations of Palestinians in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution, there has been no unified mass struggle. The

current Third Intifada has the potential to change this situation and to create a new and historic development: a *united Intifada in Maghreb and Mashreq* – uniting the Palestinian liberation struggle against the Zionist state with the ongoing Syrian Revolution against the butcher Assad, the popular struggle against Egypt’s military dictatorship of General Sisi, the mass mobilizations in Iraq, Lebanon, Algeria, the national liberation struggle of the Yemeni people against the Saudi-led invasion, etc.

13. Furthermore, the Palestinian Intifada adds another important struggle to crucial popular uprisings outside the Arab world like those in Myanmar and Colombia. Hence, we see an important change in the world situation. From summer 2019 to early 2020 we saw a global wave of popular uprising – an unprecedented event since the period of 1968-76. The *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* – launched by the ruling class in spring 2020 under the pretext of the pandemic – was a reaction by the monopoly bourgeoisie in order to pacify this revolutionary wave. While they temporarily succeeded in pushing back and confusing the masses, the workers and oppressed regrouped. A first important answer was the *Black Live Matters uprising* in the U.S. It is indeed the *Black Lives Matter* movement that also enabled a shift in the class struggle of the United States, not only making anti-racism but in consequence also Anti-Zionism more popular than ever before. However, the current events in Palestine and their electrifying effects in the Middle East and globally represent a powerful revolutionary strike back of the workers and oppressed against the counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling class.

14. These contradictors developments reflect an important feature of the current world situation. The ruling class has launched a counterrevolutionary offensive characterized by attacks on democracy, chauvinism and racism, a shift to bonapartism, wars, etc. However, this is the offensive of a class *in decay*. Hence, it is a counterrevolutionary offensive which results first and foremost in instability and chaos, which deepens the divisions within the ruling class and between the capitalist states, which does not achieve its key goals and which provokes massive resistance of the masses. As a result, we see an *instable* counterrevolutionary offensive and an *instable* bonapartism. This is a phenomenon which the late Argentinean Trotskyist Nahuel Moreno has called the “*mad fireman’s law*”, trying to extinguish fire with fuel.

15. In summary, the current events in Palestine have important implications for the world situation.

\* They decisively weaken U.S. imperialism as well as Israel and accelerate the rivalry with other powers both on a regional as well as global scale.

\* They encourage the struggle of the Arab masses against Zionism, imperialist powers as well as domestic dictatorships.

\* They can result in a third wave of the Arab Revolution – more powerful than those in 2011 and 2019. Such a development would have massive and inspiring consequences for the workers and oppressed all over the world.

In other words, the current events will result in more political crisis, militaristic threats and wars, revolutionary and counterrevolutionary situations. They massively destabilize the regional and global equilibrium, provoke a revolutionary offensive of the masses, and *lay the fundament for a possible world revolutionary situation*.

16. Considering these developments and prospects the *Liaison Committee* of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* and *Convergencia Socialista (Argentina)* identify the following tasks as crucial for revolutionaries.

\* Full and unconditional support for the Palestinian liberation struggle. The workers and popular mass organizations must build a *global boycott movement* against Israel. Sabotage all forms of military support for Israel. In Arab and Muslim countries as well as other semi-colonial countries we call for the rupture of all relations with Israel.

\* *Spread the Intifada to the whole Middle East!* Link the Palestinian liberation struggle with the ongoing Syrian Revolution defending the last trenches in Idlib, with the mass mobilizations in Iraq and Lebanon, with the popular resistance against Egypt's dictatorship, etc.

\* We fight for the *destruction of the Zionist state* and a *single democratic and red Palestine from the River to the Sea* (i.e. a workers and poor peasant republics in historic Palestine). Similarly, we fight for *permanent revolution* in all countries of the region – i.e. combining the tasks of the democratic with the those of the socialist revolution – and for a *socialist federation of the Middle East*.

\* In wars between oppressor and oppressed, revolutionaries stand for the *military victory* of the latter without lending political support for their political leadership. When imperialist powers or reactionary powers attack oppressed peoples, or if reactionary dictators suppress their own people, we side with the latter (e.g. with the Syrian people against Russia and Iran, the Houthi-led resistance in Yemen against the Saudi invasion, the Kurds against the Turkish army, etc.). Likewise, we would defend Iran – despite its reactionary Mullah regime – against any military attack by the U.S. or Israel.

\* We defend bourgeois democracy against all forms of dictatorship (hence we opposed the military coup in Egypt in July 2013) but we stand for workers democracy as a higher form of democracy.

\* In the same spirit we call the masses to fight against the COVID-19 Counterrevolution, to reject the hysteric fear-mongering of the bourgeois media and their allies among the reformist and centrist left, to oppose the Lockdown policy, mass curfews, and all other attacks against democratic rights. Likewise, all laws strengthening the power of police must be fought. Furthermore, it is essential to fight against the ferocious economic attacks against the working class and poor as the bourgeois tries to upload the costs of the depression on the popular masses.

\* A decisive task in Palestine, in the Arab world and in all other mass struggles around the globe is to aid the workers and oppressed in building *councils of actions* (i.e. *soviets like in Russia 1917*) as well as *militias* in order to organize their struggle as well as to overthrow the ruling class and build their own power.

\* Most importantly, we call revolutionaries to join our *Liaison Committee* and to build a *Revolutionary World Party*. Only such a party will be able to remove the existing bureaucratic leaderships of reformism, Stalinism, Bolivarianism, and their centrist appendix as well as various petty-bourgeois democrats, nationalists and Islamists.

17. The very next task of authentic revolutionaries is to help the best elements of the vanguard to find a correct orientation in a *complex world situation characterized by sev-*

*eral axes of contradictions.*

\* The relentless counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling class and its shift towards chauvinist state bonapartism. (COVID-19, expansion of the police and surveillance state, racism, austerity policy, etc.)

\* The acceleration of inner-imperialist rivalry between the Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan).

\* The heroic popular uprisings of the masses in Palestine and the Arab world, in Myanmar, in Colombia, etc.

Such political work requires also, by definition, the task to demask the treacherous character of various reformist and centrist forces which capitulate to the Lockdown policy, take a neutral position in liberation struggles or even side with reactionary butchers like Assad, Gaddafi or Sisi, or which opportunistically adapt to one or the other wing of the bourgeoisie. It is impossible to build a revolutionary party and International without a decisive rupture of the vanguard with such forces! The RCIT and CS are fighting for such a perspective.

18. From this follow two tasks:

\* To unite those revolutionary elements which join us in taking a principled stand on these key axes in world politics – revolutionary defense of democracy against the COVID-19 Counterrevolution, internationalist anti-imperialism against all Great Powers, unconditional defense of all struggles of the workers and oppressed and fighting for a soviet strategy.

\* To relate to the fighting masses instead of abstract commenting on the sidelines. Any revolutionary force must relate to the fighting masses – even if their consciousness is “raw” – instead of standing on the sidelines. It is characteristic for most opportunist forces that they prefer to relate to the more privileged sectors of the working class and the labor bureaucracy instead of fighting and living side-by-side with the lower strata of the workers and oppressed!

Join the RCIT and CS in fighting for the construction of a Revolutionary World Party!

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## Bitcoin's Crash Heralds Another Widespread Crash

By Damián Quevedo, *Convergencia Socialista (Argentina)*

Long before the outbreak of sub prime mortgages, in 2008, other bubbles exploded, such as the so-called dot.com or the one that took place through the Tequila Crisis in the 90s, since the expansion of fictitious capital comes from decades. Although this - through global financial engineering - occupies a hegemonic place in capitalism of the last century, since the mid-1970s it has increased notably, due to the impossibility of solving the stagnation in a classical way, through wars or fascist coups.

Before bursting, financial bubbles created - like a placebo - a certain sense of economic growth. Hence its name, which indicates the existence of a matter or phenomenon with little consistency. The last great crisis, when Lehman Brothers and other financial institutions collapsed, demonstrated two fundamental questions when it comes to analyzing the role of fictitious capital: one is that these spawns inevitably expose by not being able to reproduce like capital, in classical terms. .

The other issue, of equal or greater importance, is that



there is no sharp division between financial capital and another of a clear industrial nature, as populism tends to invent to give the impression that it "fights" the first and defends the other, that it would play a more "progressive" role for the whole. What we say is demonstrated by the Lehman Brothers debacle, which immediately after it occurred caused the bankruptcy of General Motors.

Today, with the policy of lockdowns, so-called virtual currencies, such as Bitcoin, come to take the place of previous bubbles. For that reason, on February 8 it was reported with great fanfare, that the price of Bitcoin marked a new all-time high, continuing its sustained rise after Tesla announced that it had decided to get USD 1.5 billion of this cryptocurrency. After breaking the \$ 45,000 barrier on Monday, the digital currency reached \$ 48,215, which is its all-time high. (Infobae)

The accelerated growth of this cryptocurrency is another of the forward escape routes of capitalism, which tries to flee forward, escaping from the impending debacle. The disproportionate increase in this is determined by the arbitrary, anarchic tendencies of the capitalists who rush to take them as a form of investment, given the impossibility of placing their remittances of surplus value in the real cycle of capitalist production, precisely, due to the generalized stagnation and the absence of markets.

On the same date that the records of virtual currencies were announced, from our site we anticipated what was going to happen, saying that: The growth of virtual currencies is not, then, a sign of good health, but quite the opposite and the bourgeoisie knows it, only that as long as it can, it will continue dancing on the Titanic. The task of men and women revolutionaries is to understand this context, which heralds the explosion of new and more radical rebellions. (CS, international section, February 10)

For all this, we are not surprised that several Chinese banks and state entities have decided to suspend transactions in Bitcoin, causing a huge drop in it, dragging others and Wall Street! All three major NY indices hit session lows in morning trading. Meanwhile cryptocurrencies sank. Bitcoin and ether were on track to post their biggest one-day loss since March last year, following China's move to ban financial and payment institutions from providing cryptocurrency services. BTC fell 11% and ether plummeted 26%. (Ámbito Financiero, Argentina, May 19)

The path that capitalism travels is the same that led it to the outbreak of 2008, although now there is no light at the end of the tunnel, since the international crisis is much more serious than when sub-prime mortgages exploded. Today, the trade war is much more open and stark, expressing itself in the competition for market shares between the pharmaceutical industry and other capitalist fractions. All this accelerates the crisis and puts pressure on the Imperialist States to take desperate measures!

What happens is the deepening of a fall - impossible to stop - of the bourgeois system, something that most of these recognize despite the fact that they continue dancing - as long as there is music - on the deck of the Titanic. The logic of capital, particularly the one that moves the preponderant financial capital, is none other than that of obtaining enormous profits in the shortest possible time, despite the fact that the collapse of their businesses is inevitable.

The fall of the cryptocurrency creates the conditions for

the financial market to explode, in the short term, giving rise to a new crack of unusual dimensions. It is necessary to clarify that this is not only a problem of financial capital - also constituted by industrial capital - but of the general stagnation of Capitalism, which pushed the flight forward, seeking refuge in virtual currencies or other speculative forms. What underlies, is the impossibility of finding new markets, that allow another cycle of growth!

Coronacoma, the terminal crisis of a patient who refuses to die

In an interview published in the New York Times on 04/01/2020, titled Coronacoma, the Nobel laureate in economics, Paul Krugman, compared the critical situation of the world economy - exacerbated by the effects of quarantines - with the drug-induced coma. This reality would be similar to when doctors cannot change the condition of a terminally ill person and use remedies not to cure but to avoid pain.

The cyclical crises of capitalism tend to occur with shorter intervals, since the development of productivity causes the periods of expansion to be reduced due to the oversaturation of the market with all kinds of products in smaller and smaller periods. In the midst of such a storm, all the heads of state act like blind pilots, because none of the great powers has a concrete plan to get out of the crisis and it is very difficult for them to find it in the short term.

The salvage policies used during the 2008 explosion can no longer be implemented, and if carried out, they will lack the same effects as at that time! Einstein said that it is crazy to do the same thing over and over again and expect different results, which is what all governments are doing. Neither of these ways solves the absence of markets, which is what capitalism needs to supply the enormous mass of surplus merchandise! "The whole point of bourgeois society consists precisely in that in it there is no a priori conscious, social regulation of production. The reasonable, the naturally necessary only manifests itself in the form of an average, which acts blindly." (C. Marx, letter to L Kugelmann, July 11, 1868)

In these types of periods, the bourgeoisie tries to unload the weight of the crisis on the workers' backs, causing the emergence of the mass movement and creating situations where those at the top cannot govern as usual and those at the bottom do not want to continue to be governed. The mobilizations that travel the world, having their center in Colombia and Palestine, are part of a new revolutionary wave that is beginning to develop, due to the great depression!

The great task is to take advantage of these circumstances to launch a Workers' Party -national and international- that helps to centralize the fight against adjustment policies and shift adjusters, fighting for the imposition -by revolutionary way- of governments. of those below who begin to build Socialism, the only way to seriously combat all the pests that flourish with Capitalism.

## A Jewish Anti-Zionist in Israel Says: For Military Victory of Gaza against Zionist Apartheid!

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 11 May 2021

The Gaza Strip is home to a population of approximately 1.9 million people, including some 1.4 million Palestine refugees expelled by Israel in 1947-8. The socio-economic situation in Gaza has been in steady decline. The blockade on land, air and sea imposed by Israel continues to have devastating effects.

According to the United Nations: *"The UN Secretary-General has found that the blockade and related restrictions contravene international humanitarian law as they target and impose hardship on the civilian population, effectively penalizing them for acts they have not committed. Years of conflict and blockade have left 80 per cent of the population dependent on international assistance."* (1)

Gaza that came in under Egypt in 1948 was occupied by Israel 1967. Because of the heroic resistance to the Zionist settlements Israel, under the butcher Sharon, was forced to withdraw from Gaza in 2005. By 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian elections and has since been the local government. Israel has blockaded the Strip since then and turned it to the largest Ghetto in history.

Israel has launched assaults against the people of Gaza in 2008-09, 2012 and 2014. Every time killing more civilians than of Hamas' fighters. In 2014 Gantz, who is today the minister of war of Israel, was the head of the Zionist army in 2014 was responsible for the killing of 2,251 people, of whom 1,462 were civilians. On the Israeli side, 67 soldiers were killed along with six (!) civilians.

Israel is using brutal force once again against Gaza in response to its humiliation defeat in Jerusalem. On Monday due to the heroic resistance of the Palestinians the Zionist police was forced to change the route of the Jerusalem Day march, in which thousands of far-right Zionists flag-waving and chanting "death to the Arabs" usually march in the Moslem quarter of the old city in Jerusalem. As the marchers were diverted toward Jaffa Gate, sirens sounded alerting Israelis to incoming rockets from Gaza, forcing the marchers and other Zionists to flee for cover in Jerusalem, nearby towns and in Israeli settlements near Gaza.

For the Zionist it is essential to break the resistance of the Palestinians by killing and injuring many Palestinians, most of them civilians. On Monday, more than 300 Palestinians were injured there in clashes with Israeli police, who fired rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas in the compound, according to the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The interest of the international working class is to see the defeat of the Zionist apartheid state.

There are people who consider Israel a Nazi-type state but in my opinion the Zionist wars against the Palestinians are similar to the USA Indian's wars of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the USA cavalry murdered entire Indian villages.

As I write this article the Zionist army has attacked more than 130 targets throughout the Strip. The Palestinian Wafa news agency reported that a total of 25 people including children were killed in the strikes and another 103 were injured.

At the same time 5000 Jewish reservists have been called up. The Zionist chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi also ordered the reinforcement of the Gaza Division with infantry and armored brigades.

So far Hamas and the other resistance organizations have used homemade 250 rockets since Monday afternoon, injuring 31 Israeli civilians.

Palestinian citizens of Israel are demonstrating and expressing political sympathy for the Palestinians in East Jerusalem. They say that we are all of the same Palestinian nation. In Lod an Arab Jewish city Zionists shot and killed a Palestinian.

In response the Zionist president Rivlin has called on the Arab leaders to act as collaborators and "be a clear voice for calm" *"I just made an urgent phone call to Mudar Younes, chair of the Arab Councils Mayors Committee, and passed on a sharp message about the Arab violence that went wild in the streets of some mixed cities last night, including Lod, Ramle, and the cities of the Triangle," Rivlin said in a statement on social media."*

In spite of the political line of Hadash and of Tibi's Ta'al of recommending Lapid, who support the police against the Palestinians, to the position of the next Prime Minister and their call on the Zionist police to defend the Palestinians citizens of Israel, they cannot accept at the present this role without losing their base of support.

The heroic struggle of the Palestinians may lead not only to a new Intifada but to the full renewal of the Arab revolution. All the Arab rulers who collaborate with Israel and other imperialists are shacking in their boots!

*Victory to the Palestinian struggle!*

*Military defeat for Israel!*

*For the full renewal of the Arab revolution!*

### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip>
- 2) <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-tensions-soar-rivlin-urges-arab-israeli-leaders-to-be-clear-voice-for-calm/>



## Occupied Palestine/Israel: The Racist Oppression of the Arabs in Lydda/Lod

### Defend the Oppressed! Down with the Curfews on the Palestinian Citizens of Israel!

By Yossi Schwartz, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 13 May 2021

While Netanyahu planned to divide the “Anti-Bibi” bloc and for this he ignited the events, he did not expect that the outcome would be such a disaster for the Zionist state. So far, the Palestinians have won in this conflict. The Israeli army does what it knows best - kill children in Gaza while Hamas and the Islamic Jihad retaliate with rockets that reach every corner of Israel including Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv and even paralyzed Ben Gurion airport. The government of Israel may plan an invasion of Gaza, but invasion of Gaza will cost Israel a very heavy price and the longer they will stay in Gaza the price will be higher.

At the same time, the liberal Zionists who have advocated the “anyone but Bibi” and hoped to ride on the votes of the Arab Palestinians and get their support for a right-wing block that oppose Netanyahu, are in shock. They, who believed that they offer a great generous idea that the Palestinians citizens of Israel should happily accept their position as second-class citizens and turn their back on the Palestinian in Jerusalem the West Bank and Gaza, feel betrayed. They are suffering as they have realized that close relations between the Israeli Jews and the oppressed Palestinians (“*the Arabs of 1948*”) based on discrimination is no more than an illusion. Now after Mertz stated that they will join a right-wing racist government they are very disappointed and angry at the Arabs for shattering this illusion. How dare the Arabs of Israel stand with their Palestinian brother and sisters rather than with the liberal Zionists!? They think and tell the Palestinians to go back stop resisting save our common home even when we live on the second floor and you live in the basement.

Indeed, we can expect that now they will remove their masks and appear in their real naked nature as common right-wing racists unless Israel will be badly defeated and most of these liberals will escape the country.

When Jews suffered from pogrom in Russia the Russian working class came with weapons in their hands to defend the Jews from the Black Hundreds” That correct policy pushed many Jews to be on the side of the socialist revolution. Jews said: “*better red than dead*”.

Unlike the Russian workers these liberal Zionists did not come to defend the Palestinians when hundreds of far-right demonstrators attacked Arabs in April in Jerusalem Jaffa and other places. Even the *Jerusalem Post*, a right-wing newspaper wrote: “*It appears that a dry-run for the current clashes took place in late April in Jerusalem after a series of attacks on Orthodox Jews were filmed and posted on Tik Tok by Arabs. This led to a far-right demonstration on April 22. The hundreds of demonstrators who turned out were kept away from clashes with Arabs by the Israeli police. This followed two nights of low level attacks and clashes. However, the message of April 22 was largely lost on the public. On April 19, similar clashes in Jaffa had taken place and several had been injured. Yet the chaos in Jaffa also went largely unnoticed. All of this meant that many communities were waiting for a spark to erupt on May 11*

*and May 12. That spark came with the end of Ramadan and the al-Aqsa mosque incidents where Israeli police were seen in the mosque dispersing protesters on May 10 and 11.”* (1)

Following the high tensions in Jerusalem and the physical battles between the Moslem worshipers and the Zionist Police on the Haram esh-Sharif, large numbers of Arab Palestinians citizens of Israel have joined the struggle against the Zionist apartheid state on a scale we did not see even in 2000. As result the tension in Arab-Jewish towns where most Jews support the repression of the Palestinians has risen as Israel conducted air strikes in Gaza and Palestinian militants fired rockets into Israel. They include residents in what was known prior to 1948 as Lydda and today as Lod.

#### Zionist Terror in Lydda in 1948-49

In 1948 the Haganah and IZL (the right-wing Zionist terrorists) forces attacked Lydda from the East and North.. During the attack on the city, the Zionists used fighter bombers for the first time to bomb the city and the nearby airport. Soon after the city’s occupation, the Zionist army committed its biggest massacre in Palestine, which resulted in the murder of 426 men, women, and children. At least, 176 of these people were slaughtered in Dahmash mosque, which functioned as the city’s main mosque.

This massacre was part of the 1948 Palestinian expulsion from Lydda and Ramle, also known as the Lydda Death March. 50,000–70,000 Palestinian Arabs were forced to walk to Jordan. Out of the 19,000 people who used to live in al-Lydd, only 1,052 were allowed to stay.

Yitzhak Rabin, a Zionist criminal and Noble Prize winner, has written in his diary soon after Lydda’s and Ramla’s occupation: “*After attacking Lydda [later called Lod] Ben-Gurion would repeat the question: What is to be done with the population?, waving his hand in a gesture which said: Drive them out! ‘Driving out’ is a term with a harsh ring, .... Psychologically, this was on of the most difficult actions we undertook.”* (2)

Ari Shavit, a Zionist reporter, wrote in his book “*My Promised Land*” that at high noon, more than 200 civilians are killed. Since then, the Palestinians who remained in Lod are systematically discriminated in building, education and employment.

The term ‘mixed cities’ is widely used in Israel, describing an urban situation in which Jewish and Arab communities occupy the same urban jurisdiction. Lod is one of them. Such terminology, which raises images of integration and mutual membership is misleading. It has resulted from a historical process during which the Israeli territory, including previously Arab cities, has been profoundly Judaized. In this process, the Palestinian community remaining in Israel after the 1948 war has become a marginalized and dispossessed minority.

It is more accurate to call these cities ‘ethnocratic cities’, which are subject to a persistent Israeli policy of deliberate



Judaization, to Arab resistance, and are hence sites of constant ethnic conflict and instability. The Judaization strategy is at the heart of Israel's racist regime. It has its roots in pre-1948 Jewish settlement methods, which attempted to create contiguous "blocks" and "chains" of segregated Jewish localities, mainly along the coastal plains and northern valleys. But the project swung into full force only after 1948, backed by the legal and planning apparatuses and the force of the state.

In April 1949, the military administration regime in Lod ended, but there was still a wide agreement concerning the necessity to control the Arab population in the city. Thus, every aspect of this population's life was under surveillance including education, social services, and spatial planning. The Palestinian-Arabs in Lod were dominated by Jewish immigrants, who embodied the project of 'demographic engineering' by settling in the 'abandoned' Arab houses. In the first period after the war, Palestinian refugees tried to return to, and resettle in their vacant houses in Lod. The authority's reaction included military acts against such 'infiltration' as well as a massive settlement of Zionist new immigrants in a process of internal colonization.

### Discrimination in Lydda/Lod today

The racist spokesman for Lod stated: *'Thank God! What really saved us demographically was the mass immigration of 15,000 or 16,000 new immigrants who arrived in Lod from the former USSR.'* (3) Despite minor improvements, the policy towards the Arab citizens of Lod has not changed qualitatively over the years. They are still the 'enemies', subject to spatial and demographic oppression. In the last two decades a new flow of Jewish immigrants has arrived in Lod mainly from the former Soviet Union, who now form 25% of the city's population. Two areas in Lod are dominated by Arabs: one block includes Pardess-Shanir the other Ramat-Eshkol.

Pardess-Shanir accommodates mainly land-owning Arab families. However, local planning policies prevent them from transferring the land from agricultural use to housing. Given the difficulties Arabs in Lod experience in residential mobility, this planning policy generated a widespread phenomenon of unauthorized dwelling construction. In Ramat Eshkol, the population is 70% Arab and 30% Jewish. The Jewish community is part of the process of the Judaization of the neighborhood.

The systematic discrimination is well documented. For example: *"Kerem Al-Tufaah, an impoverished Arab neighborhood in the city of Lod, has only one public space – a neglected plot of land where local children come to play. Instead of correcting a historical wrong and finally creating a master plan for the neighborhood that uses the space to improve the residents' quality of life, the Regional Planning Committee has approved the construction of a seven-story municipal police station on the lot. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), along with Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights, filed a petition yesterday on behalf of local residents in the District Court for Administrative Matters in the Central District. The petition alleges that the Planning Committee failed to take into account the residents' opposition or the social considerations associated with the building of a giant police station in the middle of the neighborhood, and did not adequately examine alternative sites*

*for the station.* (4)

And Attorney Auni Bana, Director of Arab Minority Rights Department at ACRI, said: *"Throughout the process we have seen that local residents of Kerem Al-Tufaah are invisible to the authorities. In violation of the law, the authorities did not bother to inform them about the plan, casually rejected their objections and did even always bother to answer their inquiries. There is no justification – legal or moral – for the disparaging treatment and blatant discrimination against these residents in favor of Lod's other residents, and it is impossible to ignore the clear national (ethnic) taint of this discrimination."* (5)

Alexander Jacob Shapiro, a liberal Zionist who lived for a while in Lod, wrote: *"Furthering my doubts about cooperation was my experience on the ground in Lod, where I discovered a marginalized Arab community with scores of grievances against the Jewish majority, which is led by a right-wing Likud mayor and a prominent bloc of Jewish religious nationalists. I found that Lod's Jewish and Arab populations are largely segregated and have little desire to integrate. I sat at Shabbat dinner with Lod's Municipal CEO, Aaron Attias, who has once been quoted by saying that his goal is to emphasize Lod's Jewish nature."* (6)

New upscale neighborhoods have been expanding in the city, among them Ganei Ya'ar and Ahisemah. According to the *Economist*, a three-meter-high wall was erected in 2010 to separate Jewish and Arab neighborhoods, and limits have been imposed on Arab building, whereas construction in the Jewish areas is promoted. Some municipal services, such as street lighting and rubbish collection, are only provided to Jewish areas. (7) The synagogues and the Maoz yeshiva in Ramat Eshkol in Lod are forts of right-wing nationalists.

### Arab resistance

No wonder that during the course of the Palestinian protests throughout the city, the Maoz Yeshiva was fire-bombed, causing massive damage to one classroom and lesser damage to another, as well as superficial damage to the façade of the building. In addition, a synagogue was set on fire.

Around 200 Arab youth arrived to protest in solidarity with Palestinians in east Jerusalem. Many were seen throwing stones and bottles and launching fireworks at the police station, while also burning trash cans and tires. Musa Malakh Hassuna, a 33-year-old Palestinian Lod resident and father of three, was shot dead by a Jewish gunman on Hahashmonaim Street in Lod. Two more Palestinians were moderately injured in the incident, including a 20-year-old man.

Heavy clashes erupted after thousands of mourners joined the funeral for Malakh Hassuna killed on Tuesday. A synagogue, a Muslim cemetery and dozens of vehicles were set on fire, according to Israeli media reports.

Arutz 7, a voice of right-wing religious Zionism, acknowledged that the Palestinians of Lod attacked the racist Zionists. *"A Religious Zionist community in central Israel was attacked by Arab rioters late Monday night, amid a wave of Arab violence across Israel. Dozens of Arab rioters mobbed the Religious Zionist 'Garin Torani' (core group of religious families who settle in low-income communities) of the central Israeli city of Lod overnight. Rioters hurled stones and firebombs at Jewish-owned buildings, while some in the mob removed an Israeli flag and replaced it with the Palestine Liberation Organization flag."*

Several Jewish residents opened fire on the rioters. One rioter was killed and another wounded. The fatally wounded rioter has been identified as Moussa Hassun." (8)

For the Israeli government, the president and the Zionists of the Anti-Bibi coalition it is the time to speak of Anti-Jewish pogroms in preparation of setting the motion for Anti-Arab pogroms.

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, declared a state of emergency in the city on Tuesday night as protesters threw rocks at police, who responded with stun grenades. He called for the Israeli military to restore order. "An intifada [uprising] erupted in Lod, you have to bring in the army." he said (9)

Minister of war Benny Gantz ordered the emergency call-up of 10 companies of Border Police to deploy them against the uprising.

Yair Lapid, the head of the Anti-Bibi block, who currently holds the mandate to form a new government, expressed support for Israeli security forces already on Saturday. (10) So have Lieberman, Benet and Shar – the leaders of his right-wing parties and partners. The same block which the heads of the Arab Jointed List recommended as a prime minister.

Rivlin, the Zionist president of Israel, condemns what he called 'Pogrom' by Israeli Arabs as Police Announce Curfew on Lod. (11) He also called on the Joined Arab list to calm the Arabs in Israel.

On the Facebook site of Hadash - the Stalinist front – we find the following: "We are very worried from the violent situation. We oppose all injuries to innocent civilians and call to drop all violence. We warned that Netanyahu will drug the entire region to stay in power. We support and encourage protest demonstrations of Arab and Jews against the occupation but we oppose the lynches the burning of houses of praying and any injury to Jews and Arabs."

Thus, the Stalinists like in 1948 when they supported the

creation and Israel once again shamefully put on the same level the oppressed and the oppressor, the violence of the oppressors against the oppressed!

To win the struggle it is important to set up elected action committees in every village and every district with a national elected leadership. Such committees should:

*Organize self-defense against the police and the right-wing hooligans!*

*Break the siege on Gaza!*

*Fight for a red democratic Palestine from the river to the sea!*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/is-israel-reaching-a-tipping-point-with-internal-clashes-6>
- 2) Y. Rabin: Soldier Of Peace, pp. 140-141
- 3) Interview with a Lod municipality spokesman (20 November 2000)
- 4) The Association for civil rights in Israel: Instead of a Park, Neglected Arab Neighborhood of Lod to Get a Massive Police Station, 16 Aug. 2012
- 5) Ibid
- 6) Alexander Jacob Shapiro: Examining Newly-Formed Mixed Arab-Jewish Municipal Coalitions
- 7) Pulled Apart, The Economist. 14.10.2010
- 8) Aerutz seven: Arab rioters attack Religious Zionist community in Lod, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305966>
- 9) <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-rivlin-condemns-pogroms-by-arabs-netanyahu-touts-iron-fist-to-quell-unrest-1.9798620>
- 10) <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-backs-security-forces-we-wont-allow-violence-or-terror-threats/>
- 11) <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-rivlin-condemns-pogroms-by-arabs-netanyahu-touts-iron-fist-to-quell-unrest-1.9798620>
- 12) <https://www.facebook.com/hadash.org.il>

# 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/>



# Occupied Palestine: The Lie of Coexistence

## On the reality behind the Zionist propaganda

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 19 May 2021

Israel has always used lies and myths in its propaganda based on the technique that if they repeat the myths and the lies again and again, people will believe it. They are able to do it because of the support they received from other imperialist states like the USA and Europe.

The first myth of the Zionists is that Palestine was an empty land waiting for the Jews to return. For this reason, the aim of the Zionist archeology is to prove that Jews lived in Palestine. That Jews lived in Palestine is a fact, however the claim that the European Jews, the backbone of the Zionist movement, are the same people as the ancient Jews is nonsense. The ancient Judea and Samaria were societies based on slavery while the European Jews in Israel are colonialists of a capitalist society. In order to argue that the ancient Jews and the European colonialists are the same people, the Zionists use pseudo-racist science to prove that it is the same genes of the chosen people. The Jews who remained in Judea after the Romans had exiled the Jewish elite, converted to Islam in the seventh century (so the modern day Palestinians in Al-Halil are much closer to the ancient Jews than Ashkenazi Jews).

The second big lie is that Palestine was an empty land waiting for its children to return. In the real-world Palestine was settled with the native Arabs. According to Zionist source *Jewish Virtual Library*, during the Ottoman rule of Palestine the population of Palestine only had a small minority of Jews. (See Table 1)

This is unreliable information based on the Zionist narrative aiming at showing that Palestine was an empty land. The Ottoman census of 1878 indicated the following demographics for the Jerusalem, Nablus, and Acre districts. (See Table 2)

Naturally, figures for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are more detailed. They confirm that Muslim and Christians (who were Arabs) constituted a majority albeit their shares declined with the advance of Zionist settlement project. (See Table 3)

Thus, in 1942, the number of the Palestinians was 1.100,000 while the Jews were 484,408 including Non-Zionist Jews. On the eve of 1948, the UN commission gives the following figures. (See Table 4)

This means that before 1948 while the Palestinian population was at least 1,200,000 the number of the Jews was 650,000.

### Ethnic Cleansing

The third big lie is that the Palestinians left Palestine because their leadership called on them to leave the country and return after the Arab armies would occupy the country. For example: *"The Palestinians left their homes in 1947-49 for a variety of reasons. Thousands of wealthy Arabs left in anticipation of a war, thousands more responded to Arab leaders' calls to get out of the way of the advancing armies, a handful were expelled, but most simply fled to avoid being caught in the crossfire of a battle"* (5)

This lie does not hold water: *"A general theme running*

*through the Zionist account of the events between November 1947 and May 1948 is that orders were broadcast to the Arabs to leave the country in order to pave the way for entry of the regular Arab armies"... To return to this order: Surely an order of such importance must be traceable somewhere? You do not ask the entire population of a country to leave without somebody debating the matter, without a decision somewhere being taken, without an impression somewhere being made. I have gone through the files of the press releases of the Arab League. These releases include every important pronouncement made by the League at the time. There is no trace of an order. The minutes of the meetings of the Arab League General Assembly—minutes which are limited to official circulation—have been unofficially examined. There is no trace in them of an order."* (6)

At the end of the 1948 According to the American Friends Service Committee (The Quakers): *"Approximately 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and became refugees as a result of the 1948 war which led to the founding of Israel. None of these displaced persons were ever allowed to return to the homes or communities from which they were displaced and the Palestinian refugee population has continued to grow in the time that has passed since 1948. Today there are more than 7 million Palestinian refugees scattered around the world."* (7)

According to Britannica: 1,400,000 Palestinians lived in the country in 1947 and by 1949 150,000 remained in Israel. They were not expelled because Israel needed super-exploited labor. (8) *"Approximately 150,000 Arabs remained in Israel when the Israeli state was founded. This group represented about one-eighth of all Palestinians and by 1952 roughly the same proportion of the Israeli population. The majority of them lived in villages in western Galilee. Because much of their land was confiscated, Arabs were forced to abandon agriculture and become unskilled wage laborers, working in Jewish industries and construction companies."* (9)

The ethnic cleansing did not stop in 1948; it continued between 1949 and 1956. According to the Zionist historian Benny Morris, Israel had displaced and expelled between 30,000 and 40,000 Palestinians and Bedouin. Many villages along the ceasefire lines and the Lebanon border area were also leveled, many emptied villages were resettled by new Jewish immigrants and demobilized Israeli military forces. (11)

For example, on 17 August 1950 the remaining Palestinian Arab population of Majdal (Ashkelon that is in the news for the falling rockets) were expelled and the city was populated with Jewish immigrants living in the houses of the Palestinians. Many of them became refugees living in Gaza. So was the case of the people of Wadi Fukin. In 1954, Israel expelled the Palestinian villages of Baqqara and Ghannama in the Syrian demilitarized zone. The Chief of Staff of the UNTSO made a report in January 1955 to the United Nations where it was decided that:

*"(a) Decides that Arab civilians who have been removed from the demilitarized zone by the Government of Israel should be permitted to return forthwith to their homes and that the Mixed Armistice Commission should supervise their return and rehabilitation in a manner to be determined by the Commission; and*



**Table 1: Share of Jews in Total Population in Palestine, 1517-1882 (1)**

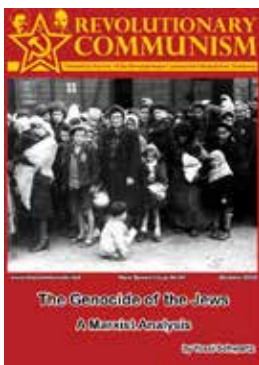
<i>Year</i>	<i>Jews; (core population)</i>	<i>Non-Jews</i>	<i>Total Population</i>	<i>% Jewish</i>
1517	5,000	295,000	~300,000	1.7%
1533-39	5,000	151,000	157,000	3.2%
1882	24,000	276,000	300,000	8.0%

**Table 2: Share of Muslims, Christians and Jews in Total Population, 1878 (2)**

<i>Census Group</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Muslim	403,795	85.5
Christian	43,659	9.2
Jewish	15,001	3.2
Jewish (Foreign-born)	Est. 10,000	2.1
Total	472,455	100.0

**Table 3: Share of Muslims, Christians and Jews in Total Population, 1922-42 (3)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Muslims</i>		<i>Jews</i>		<i>Christians</i>		<i>Others</i>	
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1922	752,048	589,177	78.34	83,790	11.14	71,464	9.50	7,617	1.01
1931	1,033,314	759,700	73.52	174,606	16.90	88,907	8.60	10,101	0.98
1931	1,036,339	761,922	73.52	175,138	16.90	89,134	8.60	10,145	0.98
1932	1,073,827	778,803	72.52	192,137	17.90	92,520	8.61	10,367	0.97
1933	1,140,941	798,506	69.99	234,967	20.59	96,791	8.48	10,677	0.94
1934	1,210,554	814,379	67.27	282,975	23.38	102,407	8.46	10,793	0.89
1935	1,308,112	836,688	63.96	355,157	27.15	105,236	8.04	11,031	0.85
1936	1,366,692	862,730	63.13	384,078	28.10	108,506	7.94	11,378	0.83
1937	1,401,794	883,446	63.02	395,836	28.24	110,869	7.91	11,643	0.83
1938	1,435,285	900,250	62.72	411,222	28.65	111,974	7.80	11,839	0.83
1939	1,501,698	927,133	61.74	445,457	29.66	116,958	7.79	12,150	0.81
1940	1,544,530	947,846	61.37	463,535	30.01	120,587	7.81	12,562	0.81
1941	1,585,500	973,104	61.38	474,102	29.90	125,413	7.91	12,881	0.81
1942	1,620,005	995,292	61.44	484,408	29.90	127,184	7.85	13,121	0.81



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# The Genocide of the Jews A Marxist Analysis

*By Yossi Schwartz*

Introduction \* The Conditions of the Jews on the Eve of World War II \* The Pseudo-Scientific Racist Theory of Social Darwinism \* Anti-Semitism as a Branch of Social Darwinism \* The Nazi Labor-Death Camps \* Zionist Ideology as a Branch of Social Darwinism \* The Genocide of the Palestinians \* Who Are the Guilty Parties for the Genocide of the Jews? \* The Uniqueness of the Genocide of the Jews \* The Use of the Holocaust \* So What Is Unique About the Genocide of the Jews? \* Conclusions \* Footnotes

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

**Table 5: Refugee Statistics, 1948 and 2000 (10)**

<i>District</i>	<i>Number of depopulated villages</i>	<i>Number of refugees in 1948</i>	<i>Number of refugees in 2000</i>
Beersheba	88	90,507	590,231
Beisan	31	19,602	127,832
Jenin	6	4,005	26,118
Haifa	59	121,196	790,365
Hebron	16	22,991	149,933
Ramle	64	97,405	635,215
Safad	78	52,248	340,729
Tiberias	26	28,872	188,285
Tulkarm	18	11,032	71,944
Acre	30	47,038	306,753
Gaza	46	79,947	521,360
Jerusalem	39	97,950	638,769
Nazareth	5	8,746	57,036
Jaffa	25	123,227	803,610
Total	531	804,766	5,248,185

**Table 4: Settled Population of Palestine by Town and Sub-District, Estimated as at 31st December, 1946 (4)**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Moslems</b>	<b>Jews</b>	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Others</b>
Total	1,845,560	1,076,780	608,230	145,060	15,490
Urban	894,570	328,810	447,840	115,980	1,940
Rural	950,990	747,970	160,390	29,080	13,550
<b><i>Galilee-Acre District</i></b>					
<i>Safad Sub-district</i>	56,970	47,310	7,170	1,630	860
Safad	12,610	9,780	2,400	430	–
Villages	44,360	37,530	4,770	1,200	860
<i>Acre Sub-district</i>	73,600	51,130	3,030	11,800	7,640
Acre	13,560	10,930	50	2,490	90
Villages	60,040	40,200	2,980	9,310	7,550
<i>Tiberias Sub-district</i>	41,470	23,940	13,640	2,470	1,420
Tiberias	11,810	4,990	6,030	780	10
Villages	29,660	18,950	7,610	1,690	1,410
<i>Beisan Sub-district</i>	24,950	16,660	7,590	680	20
Beisan	5,540	5,080	–	440	20
Villages	19,410	11,580	7,590	240	–
<i>Nazareth Sub-district</i>	49,910	30,160	7,980	11,770	–
Nazareth	15,540	6,290	–	9,250	–
Afula	2,470	10	2,460	–	–
Villages	31,900	23,860	5,520	2,520	–
<b><i>Haifa District</i></b>					
<i>Haifa Sub-district</i>	253,450	95,970	119,020	33,710	4,760
Haifa	145,430	41,000	74,230	29,910	290
Hadera	7,590	–	7,570	20	–
Shafa 'Amr	3,740	1,380	10	1,590	760
Villages	96,690	53,590	37,210	2,190	3,700

**Table 4 (continued)**

Locality	Total	Moslems	Jews	Christian	Others
<b><i>Samaria District</i></b>					
<i>Jenin Sub-district</i>	61,210	60,000	–	1,210	–
Jenin	4,310	4,150	–	160	–
Villages	56,900	55,850	–	1,050	–
<i>Nablus Sub-district</i>	94,600	92,810	–	1,560	230
Nablus	24,660	23,740	–	690	230
Villages	69,940	69,070	–	870	–
<i>Tulkarm Sub-district</i>	93,220	76,640	16,180	380	20
Tulkarm	8,860	8,560	–	280	20
Natanya	5,290	–	5,290	–	–
Villages	79,070	68,080	10,890	100	–
<b><i>Jerusalem District</i></b>					
<i>Ramallah Sub-district</i>	48,930	40,520	–	8,410	–
Ramallah	5,180	660	–	4,520	–
Villages	43,750	39,860	–	3,890	–
<i>Jerusalem Sub-district</i>	253,270	104,460	102,520	46,130	160
Jerusalem	164,440	33,680	99,320	31,330	110
Bethlehem	9,140	2,630	–	6,490	20
Beit Jala	3,740	200	–	3,540	–
Villages	75,950	67,950	3,200	4,770	30
<i>Hebron Sub-district</i>	93,120	92,640	300	170	10
Hebron	26,390	26,220	–	160	10
Villages	66,730	66,420	300	10	–
<b><i>Lydda District</i></b>					
<i>Jaffa Sub-district</i>	409,290	95,980	295,160	17,790	360
Jaffa	101,580	53,930	30,820	16,800	30
Tel Aviv	183,200	130	182,510	230	330
Petah Tiqva	18,160	140	18,010	10	–
Villages	106,350	41,780	63,820	750	–
<i>Ramle Sub-district</i>	134,030	96,590	31,590	5,840	10
Ramle	16,380	12,910	–	3,470	–
Lydda	18,250	16,250	20	1,970	10
Rehovot	10,350	–	10,330	20	–
Rishon le Zion	8,790	–	8,790	–	–
Villages	80,260	67,430	12,450	380	–
<b><i>Gaza District</i></b>					
<i>Gaza Sub-district</i>	150,540	145,700	3,540	1,300	–
Gaza	37,820	36,760	–	1,060	–
Majdal	10,900	10,810	–	90	–
Khan Yunis	12,350	12,310	–	40	–
Villages	89,470	85,820	3,540	110	–
<i>Beersheba Sub-district</i>	7,000	6,270	510	210	10
Beersheba	6,490	6,270	–	210	10
Villages	510	–	510	–	–



*"(b) Holds that no action involving the transfer of persons across international frontiers, armistice lines or within the demilitarized zone should be under-taken without prior decision of the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission..." (12)*

The reason the Palestinians left Palestine was more than 60 massacres committed by the Zionists armed forces and the psychological warfare that included threats of further massacres. *"Between 1947 and 1949, at least 750,000 Palestinians from a 1.9 million population were made refugees beyond the borders of the state. Zionist forces had taken more than 78 percent of historic Palestine, ethnically cleansed and destroyed about 530 villages and cities, and killed about 15,000 Palestinians in a series of mass atrocities, including more than 70 massacres."* (13)

### **The oppression of the Palestinians who remained in Israel**

The Palestinians remaining in Israel lived under military rule systematically oppressed while the Zionist state stole their lands to build for example a new Jewish city by the name of Karmiel. In 1956 the Zionist special police-military force *"Magav"* (Border police) committed a new massacre of 49 poor peasants from Kafr Qassam as part of a new ethnic cleansing plan of Ben Gurion. The general who gave the order Shadmi was found guilty and had to pay less than one cent.

The reason the Israeli state ended the military regime was its need to divide the Palestinians citizens of Israel from the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians citizens of Israel were called since then the *"Israeli Arabs"* and not Palestinians.

The policy of stealing the Palestinians lands led to the protest of the Land Day. In 1976, in response to the Israeli government's announcement of a plan to expropriate thousands of dunams of land for state purposes, a general strike and marches were organized in Arab towns from the Galilee to the Negev. The Zionist army murdered in cold blood 4 unarmed demonstrators.

The policy of divide and rule of the Palestinians has been successful to a large degree as many Palestinians from the West-Bank and Gaza saw the *"Israeli Arabs"* as agents of Israel. Meanwhile, the racist parliament of Israel passed dozens of laws that discriminate against the Palestinians citizens of Israel in every aspect and sphere of life.

### **The new line of Zionist propaganda**

The new Zionist war against the people of Gaza has put an end to this policy. The Palestinians citizens of Israel are supporting the struggle of the Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank and of Gaza as their struggle. This is a great step forward.

The Zionist new line of propaganda is that the majority of the Palestinians want to be loyal supporters of Israel and only a small part of criminal elements confronts the police and Jews and this element must be crashed.

Speaking in Lod, Netanyahu said the Israel Defense Forces were trained in containing such unrest and should be called in *"to prevent these riots, this calamity and violence."* Citing the response to the 1976 *"Land Day"* mass protests in which IDF troops were deployed to several Arab Israeli cities (and four Arab Israeli civilians were killed by

the IDF), Netanyahu said there was precedent for such a move and that Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai *"has the approval and permission to use IDF forces in the way that is already permitted by law today. (...) There are nationalist elements here who are breaking the law, in fact, disturbing the framework of the State of Israel, so in the face of such a threat, it is possible to use administrative detentions,"* Netanyahu said. In a video posted online on Wednesday, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin came down hard on the Arab rioters." (14)

Rivlin, the Zionist right-wing president, said: *"The sight of the pogrom in Lod and the disturbances across the country by an incited and bloodthirsty Arab mob, injuring people, damaging property and even attacking sacred Jewish spaces is unforgivable,"* he declared. *"Tearing down the Israeli flag by Arab rioters and replacing it with the Palestinian flag is a brutal assault on shared existence in the State of Israel,"* he added." (15)

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid condemned the violence, which he described as a *"complete loss of control"*. *"Jewish and Arab rioters declared war on Israel,"* he said in a series of tweets. *"The rioters in Lod and Acre do not represent Israeli Arabs, the rioters in Bat Yam... do not represent Israeli Jews,"* he wrote. *"The extremists will not ruin our lives."* (16)

Meanwhile, the traitor Mansour Abbas, Chairman of the *Ra'am Party* and a potential kingmaker in government coalition negotiations, took a tour of Lod Sunday amid the clashes in the mixed Arab-Jewish city between Palestinians and the fascists, where he called for calm and security for all residents.

There is nothing new in these statements, these were always the statements of the imperialists and the colonialists and their servants in reaction to the uprising of the oppressed. Just read the stories of Kipling in India like Gunga Din.

*Al Jazeera* reflecting reality writes: *"But an extraordinary phenomenon has also taken root inside Israel, where thousands of Palestinian citizens in towns, villages and so-called 'mixed' cities have taken to the streets to assert their identity while living in a self-defined Jewish state. What is remarkable is that within '48 [modern-day Israel, with reference to the 1948 declaration of the state], Palestinians who have long been ignored or deemed as 'Israeli Arabs' are once again restating powerfully that they are Palestinians,"* said Layla Hallaq, a Palestinian activist based in Haifa. Hallaq told *Al Jazeera* that the current demonstrations are *"unprecedented"* and characterized by a popular solidarity movement among Palestinians within Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in the diaspora." (17)

*"Despite holding Israeli citizenship, rights groups have documented several dozen Israeli laws that discriminate against Palestinian citizens across a wide spectrum of issues, including education, housing, political participation and due process. They are treated as second- and third-class citizens. During the past week, Palestinian protests have taken place in towns and cities across Israel, from the Naqab (Negev) Desert in the south to Ramla, Yafa and Lydd (Lod in Hebrew) in the centre of the country, to the "Triangle" region and to Haifa and Nazareth in the north. The demonstrators rallied in solidarity with Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, who are facing imminent forced expulsion from their homes, and against the Israeli storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which left hundreds of Palestinians wounded."* (18)

While the Palestinians are fighting against oppression the Israeli government and police back the mobilization of the fascists led by Ben Gevir and the other fascists in the Zion-

ist parliament. *“Police chief Kobi Shabtai tells Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that extreme-right MK Itamar Ben Gvir is responsible for ongoing Arab-Jewish riots, Channel 12 reports. During a morning briefing, Shabtai says that every time police appear to be getting an area under control, Ben Gvir, the Kah-anist member of the Religious Zionist party, shows up to fan the flames. The person who is responsible for this Intifada is Itamar Ben Gvir. It started with the Lehava protest at Damascus Gate,” Shabtai says. “It continued with provocations in Sheikh Jarrah, and now he is moving around with Lehava activists.”* (19)

Very nice but empty words. On May 12 dozens of right-wing Jewish extremists were rioting in Bat Yam, attacking and vandalizing businesses owned by Arabs. Posts calling for participation in the violence were distributed on social media earlier. Yet 116, all of them are only Palestinians, were charged for attacking police, yet no similar charge has been issued against the fascists!

### **The reformists and the centrists who pretend to be the friends of the Palestinians**

Hadash, the front of the Stalinist party that recommended Lapid at the head of the anti-Bibi right-wing block to be the prime minister, says about itself: *“To be a pacifist in a country which maintains an occupation since 1967; to be supporters of democracy in a regime which advances eviction from lands and laws that trample on human rights; to implement a Jewish Arab partnership in a system which institutionalizes racism and discrimination in all spheres; to be the leaders of a struggle against a regime of privatization, and for the right of workers to unionize – this is a lifelong project.”* (20)

Lenin wrote on pacifism: *“In order not to embellish the imperialist war and help the bourgeoisie falsely represent it as a national war, as a war for the liberation of nations, in order to avoid sliding into the position of bourgeois reformism, one must speak not in the language of Kautsky and Turati, but in the language of Karl Liebknecht: tell one’s own bourgeoisie that they are hypocrites when they talk about national liberation, that this war cannot result in a democratic peace unless the proletariat “turns its gulls” against its own governments. That is the only possible position of a genuine Marxist, of a genuine socialist and not a bourgeois reformist. Those who repeat the general, meaningless, non-committal, goody-goody desires of pacifism are not really working for a democratic peace. Only he is working for such a peace who exposes the imperialist nature of the present war and of the imperialist peace that is being prepared and calls upon the peoples to rise in revolt against the criminal governments.”* (21)

Trotsky wrote on pacifism in a very similar way: *“Only very slight injury can be done to the machinery of war of the ruling class by pacifism. This is best proved by the courageous but rather futile efforts of Russell himself during the war. The whole affair ended in a few thousand young people being thrown into prison on account of their conscientious objections.... In the old Tsarist army, the sectarians, and especially the Tolstoians, were often exposed to persecution because of their passive resistance to militarism; it was not they, however, who solved the problem of the overthrow of Tsarism.”* (22)

While the ISL, the section of the RCIT in Israel (Occupied Palestine) has stood with the Palestinians from the very beginning, the reaction of the centrists around the world shows their rotten politics. (23)

It took the IMT, led by Alan Woods, more than a week to come with a statement. This statement came after the

large pro-Palestinians masses took to the streets. In this statement the IMT wrote: *“The launching of these rockets is completely counterproductive for the Palestinian struggle and only serves to strengthen Netanyahu, pushing Israeli workers into the arms of the Israeli state. As Marxists and internationalists, we are not neutral or above sides in such a conflict. We defend the right of the Palestinians to a homeland and their right to resist against oppression and defend their livelihoods by any means necessary. The violence of the oppressed can never be equated to that of the oppressors.”* (24)

The IMT does not explain what is a Palestinian homeland and how this formulation is different from the imperialist hypocritical line of two states which is a pie in the sky and used by Israel to steal more lands. Nor they call for a military victory for Hamas in a war of the oppressed against the Zionist imperialist apartheid state. As a matter of fact, they denounce Hamas! No wonder that at the end of their statement they express their support for a self-determination for the Zionists in their slogan: *“For the right of both the Palestinians and Jews to a homeland within a Socialist Federation of the Middle East!”*

Lenin never called for the right of self-determination for imperialist nations which Israel apartheid state is one of them. Trotsky on the South Africa situation called for a black workers republic.

*Socialist Struggle* in Israel (the section of the ISA, which split from the CWI in 2019 and whose most prominent section is Socialist Alternative in the U.S. led by Kshama Sawant) is not much better: *“Stop the war! End the missile strikes and military attacks on Gaza. End the siege Stop the police and military repression of protest. Stop the arbitrary arrests. Mobilize for demonstrations against the military attacks and against the occupation.”* (25)

What does it mean to stop the war? Who will stop the war and how? This is a bourgeois pacifist line, not a revolutionary line. It is an appeal to the imperialists to put pressure on Israel. They equate Israel the imperialist settler colonialist state with Hamas, an organization of the oppressed nation. They do not raise the slogan for a military victory for Hamas without giving them political support. Nor do they call for one democratic Palestinian socialist state from the river to the sea. It is against the occupation of only the lands occupied by Israel in 1967. In other words, Socialist Struggle/ISA stands for two-states solution which means, among other things, opposition to the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland. In summary, they stand for a semi-Zionist line.

The British SWP has a better line of one Palestinian state. (26) Yet, what they cannot deal with is the theory and strategy of the Permanent Revolution of the struggle to win. It is necessary for the working class, led by a revolutionary party, in the Arab countries and in Iran – together with the Palestinians – to participate in the democratic struggle but also to lead it to a socialist revolution. Such a theory and strategy is expressed by the RCIT in the demand for a *red democratic Palestinian state from the river to the sea.* (27) Thus, the SWP holds on to the two stages of Menshevik theory. They have the same politics of the RS in Egypt that contributed to the failure of the revolution by tailing the liberal bourgeoisie and by initially supporting the military coup of General Sisi in July 2013. (28)

*Military victory for Gaza’s resistance!*

*Forward to the full Intifada and the Arab revolution!*

*For a revolutionary working-class leadership of the Arab revolution!*

*Crash the fascists!*

*Free all political Palestinian prisoners!*

*Break the siege on Gaza!*

*For a red democratic Palestine from the river to the sea as part of the socialist federation of the Middle East!*

*Long live the Palestinian unity in the struggle against the Zionist oppression!*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-and-non-jewish-population-of-israel-palestine-1517-present>
- 2) Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East: Demographics of Historic Palestine prior to 1948, 2004, [https://www.cjpmc.org/fs\\_007](https://www.cjpmc.org/fs_007)
- 3) Ibid
- 4) United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine: Palestine population estimates for 1946 – UNCCP – Working paper, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-210930/>
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- 7) <https://www.afsc.org/resource/palestinian-refugees-and-right-return>
- 8) <https://www.britannica.com/place/Palestine/Palestine-and-the-Palestinians-1948-67>
- 9) Ibid
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- 11) Wikipedia 1949–1956 Palestinian exodus, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1949%E2%80%931956\\_Palestinian\\_exodus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1949%E2%80%931956_Palestinian_exodus)
- 12) UN Doc S/3343 of 11 January 1955 Report dated 6 January 1955 by the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine to the Secretary-General on complaints concerning the observance of the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Syria
- 13) <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/5/23/the-nakba-did-not-start-or-end-in-1948>
- 14) <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-calls-for-administrative-detentions-to-quiet-arab-jewish-violence/>
- 15) <https://www.jns.org/bloodthirsty-arab-mobs-wreak-havoc-across-israel-but-experts-believe-they-are-a-minority/>
- 16) BBC News Israel: Jewish and Arab mobs spread violence
- 17) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/16/palestinian-protests-in-israel-showcase-unprecedented-unity>

18) Ibid

19) [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/police-chief-said-to-blame-extreme-right-mk-ben-gvir-for-fanning-violence/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/police-chief-said-to-blame-extreme-right-mk-ben-gvir-for-fanning-violence/)

20) <http://hadash.org.il/english/>

21) V. I. Lenin: Bourgeois Pacifism and Socialist Pacifism (1917), <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/jan/01.htm>

22) Leon Trotsky: 'On Pacifism and Revolution', 1926 (written in reply to a review by Bertrand Russell of Trotsky's book Where Is Britain Going?); quoted in <https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/writers/pearce/1961/xx/defeatism.html>

23) We refer reader to a special sub-page on the RCIT website where we have compiled all our documents on the Fourth Gaza War: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-fourth-gaza-war/>

24) IMT: Stop the bombing of Gaza! End the occupation! – International mobilization in support of the Palestinian struggle! 14 May 2021, <https://www.marxist.com/stop-the-bombing-of-gaza-imt-statement.htm>

25) ISA: Israel and Palestine: Stop the War: No Peace Without Struggle Against Occupation, Poverty and Capital – Updated, 13 May 2021, <https://internationalsocialist.net/en/2021/05/israel-and-palestine>

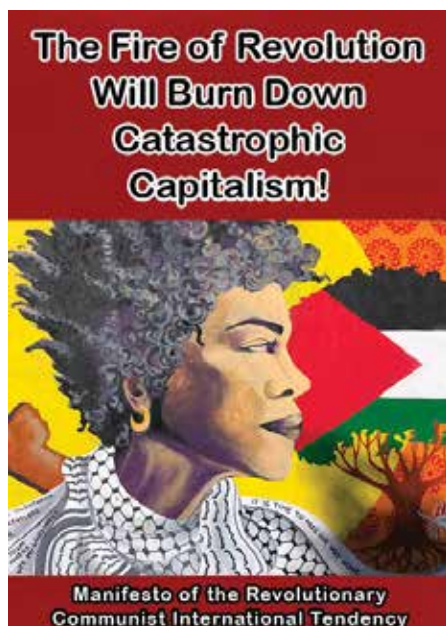
26) SWP: It's right to resist - Israel's bloody assault is not 'self-defense', 16 May 2021, <https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/51799/Its+right+to+resist+Israels+bloody+assault+is+not+self+defence>

27) For our theoretical analysis and programmatic perspective for the Palestinian liberation struggle, we refer reader to the following documents: The ISL's program which can be read here: <http://www.the-isleague.com/our-platform/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/summary-of-isl-program/>

Yossi Schwartz: Israel's War of 1948 and the Degeneration of the Fourth International, <http://the-isleague.com/1948-war-5-2013/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/israel-s-war-of-1948/>

Michael Pröbsting: On some Questions of the Zionist Oppression and the Permanent Revolution in Palestine, <http://the-isleague.com/zionist-oppression-and-permanent-revolution/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/permanent-revolution-in-palestine/>

28) The RCIT has published a number of documents on the military coup in Egypt. See e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Coup d'État in Egypt and the Bankruptcy of the Left's "Army Socialism", August 2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/egypt-and-left-army-socialism/>; Yossi Schwartz: Egypt: The U.S. Support for the Military Coup and the Left's ignorance, 11.7.2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-us-support-for-military-coup/>



## *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*

## Israel, the Least Safe State for Jews!

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 2 May 2021

Last Friday, 45 people were crushed to death at a Jewish religious festival on Mount Meron. Those people died in an annual pilgrimage that ended in a stampede by large crowds of ultra-Orthodox at the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, in the north of the country. It is estimated that some 100,000 people attended the event.

It is clear that this was a disaster waiting to happen as the pilgrimage site has been designated as hazardous by state investigators years ago.

The problem is not the fact that it was a religious festival but that too many people entered a very narrow path without a safe exit.

There is a growing debate who is responsible for these deaths. Many Israelis accuse the police, because it allowed people into a cordoned-off area even though it was already extremely crowded and for not opening the exits on either side quickly enough after people started panicking.

But it is not only the police who are responsible for this tragedy; so are the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Internal Security, the Minister of Health and the Prime Minister of Israel.

Here it is important to remind ourselves the law of the contradiction between necessity and chance and what Trotsky wrote on this subject: *"The entire historical process is a refraction of historical law through the accidental. In the language of biology, we might say that the historical law is realized through the natural selection of accidents."* (1)

### The Zionist State Bought Support by Ultra-Orthodox

The Israelis are unable to understand it, but the Zionist ideology and colonialist practices are the real reasons behind the disaster. The Zionists from the very beginning needed the Jewish religion to claim that Palestine is God promised land to the Jews. Prior to 1967, the ultra-Orthodox were anti-Zionists (not only in words) and had political sympathy for the Palestinians. After 1967, the government of Israel bought the support of the ultra-Orthodox for the racist nationalist policies against the Palestinians by offering them settlements in the West Bank, positions in the state bureaucracy, and the upper layer of this religious community has won multiple benefits from the state administration.

The anti-Netanyahu camp claims that Benjamin Netanyahu has been able to identify the potential of this minority and has managed to form a government with the help of the ultra-orthodox politicians and Rabbis.

But this policy began long before Netanyahu became Prime Minister. The allocations designated for ultra-Or-

thodox schools and Yeshivas function are, in part, a selective welfare system which assures a minimal standard of living for some of the ultra-Orthodox families in Israel that are unable to obtain a secure social and economic foothold through the state education system and the labor market. The allocations that finance a long school day, hot school lunches, and a modest income for yeshiva students can be viewed in this way. Thus, under state auspices and state financing, ultra-Orthodox organizations operate a welfare system complementary to that set up by statute.

In 1998, the *Adva Center* wrote: *"The Ministry of Religious Affairs' support of ultra-Orthodox schools and yeshivas is ostensibly justified by the fact that they train rabbis, religious judges and other religious functionaries. In fact, however, the Ministry supports private educational institutions belonging to two ultra-Orthodox political parties, Agudath Israel and Shas. In doing so, it functions as a second Ministry of Education -- one that provides special support to only one part of the Israeli educational system. The information provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs does not indicate how the allocations to ultra-Orthodox schools are actually used. Since they are transferred to institutions that constitute part of ultra-Orthodox bureaucratic edifices, it is reasonable to surmise that at least some of the monies are used to cover costs that are not necessarily educational. Moreover, it appears that the per capita support provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs to ultra-Orthodox schools and yeshivas is not based on the actual needs of the educational institutions, but rather represents what the ultra-Orthodox parties are able to obtain from the government through political bargaining Between 1980 and 1998 Ministry of Religious Affairs allocations for ultra-Orthodox schools and yeshivas increased more than six-fold. The Ministry of Construction and Housing assists the ultra-Orthodox population in three major ways: By providing ultra-Orthodox families with public housing units. By freeing land for the construction of homes for persons described as "of religious nature," and by including ultra-Orthodox communities in National Priority Areas, whose residents are eligible for special assistance. As a result of the latter two arrangements, in 1997, ultra-Orthodox Jews took advantage of their entitlements to government mortgages at a higher than average rate. This was especially true for those building or purchasing homes in the occupied territories."*

In 1998, the Prime Minister of Israel was Shimon Peres of the Zionist Labor Party, so any claim that this alliance between the Ultra-orthodox and the government began with Netanyahu is simply false. Nor will it end with the replacing of Netanyahu with a government led by Benet, who is to the right of Netanyahu.

Most Zionists, and especially the so-called left Zionists,

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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hate the ultra-Orthodox because many of them do not serve in the army. Their arguments against the ultra-orthodox are the same anti-Semitic arguments that were used in Europe against the Jews. Some left-wing Zionists go as far as claiming that the Haredim (ultra –Orthodox) rule Israel. It is the same “theory” of the protocol of the elders of Zion.

### The Zionist State Bought Support by Ultra–Orthodox

If we return to the event the government and the police knew that the place is a death trap and yet the ultra-Orthodox were encouraged to participate in the event for political reasons.

*“On Friday night, multiple reports in Hebrew media outlets indicated that there had been immense pressure by religious lawmakers ahead of the festivities to ensure that there would be no limits placed on the number of attendees. Some 100,000 ultra-Orthodox pilgrims ultimately attended the event; a framework drawn up by the Health Ministry, in consultation with other government officials, police and others, would have limited the event to 9,000 participants, but was not implemented.” Officials with knowledge of the investigation told Channel 13 that cabinet ministers had pressed police to allow large numbers of people to enter the gravesite of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, saying this was to compensate for last year’s event being canceled due to coronavirus.” (3)*

Thus, what stood behind the tragedy is the need of the Israeli state to encourage religious chauvinism and at the same time to direct the hate of most Israelis not only against the Palestinians but also against the ultra-Orthodox. As long as the Israeli Jews will not break from Zion-

ism such events or similar events will happen again. Israel is not only an oppressive state against the Palestinians but a (quite literal!) death trap for the Jews.

*Down with the Netanyahu government! No support for Benet and Shar Coalition!*

*For a red democratic Palestine with equal rights for Palestinian and Jews!*

### Footnotes

1) Leon Trotsky: My Life, Penguin 1971, p. 515

2) Dr. Shlomo Swirski, Ety Konor, Yaron Yechekel: Government Allocations to the ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Sector in Israel, August 1998

3) Times of Israel: After tragedy, reports emerge that politicians pressed not to limit Meron event, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

### Additional Documents from the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: The Zionist Wars, RCIT Book, 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-zionist-wars/> ISL Program: <http://www.theisleague.com/our-platform/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/summary-of-isl-program/>

Yossi Schwartz: Israel’s War of 1948 and the Degeneration of the Fourth International, <http://the-isleague.com/1948-war-5-2013/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/world-wide/africa-and-middle-east/israel-s-war-of-1948/>

Michael Pröbsting: On some Questions of the Zionist Oppression and the Permanent Revolution in Palestine, <http://the-isleague.com/zionist-oppression-and-permanent-revolution/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/permanent-revolution-in-palestine/>

## Books of the RCIT

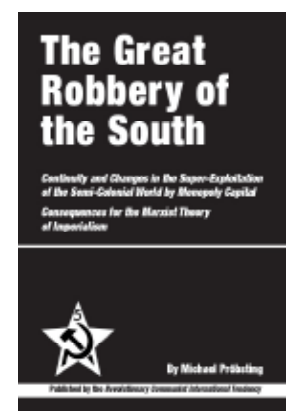
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



# 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!*

