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Picture on the Cover: Rally in Mexico City in Solidarity with the Popular Uprising in Colombia (8.5.2021)

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Revolutionaries Have to Fulfil their Responsibility in such an Extraordinary and Historic Period!

Formation of a Liaison Committee between CS and RCIT

Joint Declaration of Convergencia Socialista (Argentina) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 2 May 2021

1. After a short but very intensive period of discussion and collaboration, *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina) and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have decided to constitute a *Liaison Committee*.

2. We are doing so in recognition of the huge responsibility of authentic revolutionaries given the current historic and extraordinary world situation. This situation is characterized by the dramatic crisis and decay of capitalism. This is reflected not only in the depression of the world economy but also in the historic political crisis of bourgeois order. Furthermore, this historic decay has also resulted in an unprecedented crisis of the bureaucratic apparatus of the traditional reformist and populist parties, trade unions and popular organizations.

3. This historic decay of capitalism has several, contradictory consequences. On one side, it has provoked the ruling class all over the world to launch the most determined counter-revolutionary offensive since 1945. As a result, we see gigantic attacks on social and economic conquests of the working class as well as on democratic rights (under the cover of COVID-19) and a shift towards chauvinist state bonapartism. Likewise, there is an acceleration of the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., EU, China, Russia and Japan).

4. However, at the same time, we have seen a historic wave of global class struggles and popular uprisings from Myanmar to Chile and from Iraq to the U.S. in the past 18 months. The enormous victory achieved by the workers and popular masses of Colombia who have just rolled back the government's tax reform, the port strike in Chile which imposed on President Piñera the possibility of a "third withdrawal" of retirement funds; or the triumph of the health workers of Neuquén, in Argentina, after two months of strike with roadblocks and pickets – all these events show the course of the class struggle in the continent and in the rest of the planet. These mass struggles often result in the spontaneous formation of popular assemblies and action councils (or at least rudiments of it) – in other words, elements of dual power or soviets – through which the mass movement will not only fight for power, but will keep and defend its power once it has conquered it via triumphant revolutions. We could witness such a process already in the Arab Revolution – a process which

started in 2011 and which is ongoing despite various defeats and setbacks. There can be no doubt that the global class struggle has reached a level not seen since 1968-76 – despite the massive setback cause by the global Lockdown policy since spring 2020.

5. In such a historic revolutionary period, authentic Marxists bear the responsibility more than ever to join forces in order to overcome the dramatic crisis of revolutionary leadership! This is even more the case as we are faced with a gigantic political collapse of the reformist, Stalinist, populist and centrist forces. Similar to the historic events of 1914, the vast majority of the so-called "left" experiences another "4 August" as it is capitulating to the reactionary Lockdown policy of the ruling class. Such a historic betrayal means that these "leftist" parties and groups have become *social-bonapartists* – socialists in words and supporters of capitalist bonapartism in deeds.

6. In such a historic situation, authentic revolutionaries have the responsibility to join forces in the struggle for the formation of a *World Party of Socialist Revolution*. Likewise, it is of utmost importance to fight against the reactionary influence of the social-bonapartist forces within the workers and popular movement.

7. *Convergencia Socialista* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* are constituting a *Liaison Committee* in order to open a period of systematic and close discussion and collaboration. Such a forum should allow us to clarify existing different assessments and positions as well as to gain experience and trust in joint practical collaboration. Via such a process we hope to be able to lay the basis for the fusion of our forces in the next few months. In constituting a Liaison Committee and working towards fusion of our forces, we are fulfilling our responsibilities as revolutionaries in such an extraordinary and historic period!

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

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

Revolutionary Struggle for Women's Liberation

See all RCIT documents on Women's Liberation

on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/oppresed/>

RCIT Greetings to Socialist May Day Rally in Buenos Aires

Socialists in Argentina and all over the World Should Join Forces to Fight against the Capitalist Lockdown Policy!

Greetings from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency for the May Day Rally in Buenos Aires, 27 April 2021

Compañeros y compañeras,
The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends the warmest greetings to your May Day!

This historic day of working-class liberation struggles takes place – in Argentina as well as globally – already the second time under the conditions of the of the capitalist Lockdown policy.

Together with our comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* we denounce this policy as the *COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution*.

It is obvious that the ruling class – all over the world – approaches the pandemic primarily not as health issue. Rather, the Lords of Power and Money cynically exploit it for their own interests. They attack fundamental democratic rights and to put the popular masses under curfew in order to prevent them for protesting against the effects of the gigantic depression of the capitalist world economy. Furthermore, the big corporations – pharmacy, online-retail, bio-technology, security, etc. – utilize the pandemic in order to make gigantic profits.

We Marxists warned since February/March 2020 that the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* is not a short-term episode but rather reflects a long-term reactionary offensive of the ruling class!

It is a historic shame that nearly all of the so-called “left-wing” parties – Stalinists, Bolivarians, Maoists and pseu-

do-“Trotskyists” – have capitulated to this offensive!

What we see is a repetition of the great betrayal of 1914 when social democracy raised the banner of the imperialist “fatherland” and stopped the masses from protesting against the world war. Today, again, the vast majority of the “left” supports the key elements of the bourgeois policy of “national unity”.

Rehashing the phrases of capitalist governments and media, the so-called “left” shares the idea that the current pandemic would be a qualitative bigger threat than other pandemics in the past decades, that people should be isolated from each other and stay at home, that shops, cultural and sport facilities should be closed and that mass assemblies should be banned.

Together with our comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* we call all authentic socialists to join us in building a new *World Party of Socialist Revolution!*

* *Support popular struggles against the capitalist Lockdown policy!*

* *Oppose all imperialist Great Power (U.S. EU, China, Russia, Japan)! For an independent stance of the international working class!*

* *Solidarity with the global class struggles and popular uprisings – from Chile, the Black Lives Matter protests, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan to Myanmar!*

* *Long live international socialism!*



May Day Rally in Buenos Aires: Juan Giglio speaking for *Convergencia Socialista*

May Day 2021: Under the Shadow of the COVID Counterrevolution

A Report (with Pictures and Videos) by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 2 May 2021

In many countries around the world, May Day this year was characterized by the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution*, i.e. the counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling class under the pretext of the pandemic.¹

This capitalist offensive – a gigantic attack against the social and economic gains as well as against the democratic rights of the working class and the oppressed – is assisted by the reformist and populist bureaucracy within the workers and popular mass organizations. Even large sectors of the so-called “radical left” support the main features of this counterrevolutionary offensive – the Lockdown policy, banning of mass demonstrations and assemblies etc.

These developments are no accident. As capitalism as a system faces its historical decay, so does the reformist and populist bureaucratic apparatus because it is organically linked to this system. In response to its deep crisis, the bureaucracy retreats and boycotts spontaneous mass struggles. The “radical left” – including various pseudo-Trotskyists – follow this policy of retreat because they are organically linked to the bureaucratic apparatus. May Day this year demonstrated this policy of capitulation very clearly.

While reformism, Stalinism, left populism, and pseudo-Trotskyism retreat, the masses show that they are determined to fight back against the capitalist offensive. The popular uprising in Myanmar², the powerful peasants’ struggle in India³, the general strike in Colombia⁴, the mass protests in Chile, the ongoing Syrian Revolution fighting in the last trenches in Idlib⁵ – all these are powerful signs of the militant spirit of the workers and oppressed!

It has been left to a small minority of authentic revolutionaries to swim against the stream of the treacherous reformist and centrist left. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and our Argentinean comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* are fighting hand in hand against the COVID-19 Counterrevolution and the capitulating Lockdown Left. Together we work towards the construction of a new, revolutionary leadership which can lead the masses towards victory against the bourgeoisie

and against the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan)!

It is in this spirit that CS and RCIT have issued a joint May Day statement which has been published in nine languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, French, Russian, Korean, Turkish, and German).⁶ We participated in May Day activities and distributed this statement in many countries all over the world.

Below are reports as well as many pictures and videos which we received from comrades in several countries.

Argentina

The main alliance of “Trotskyist” parties in Argentina – FIT-U (consisting of four parties which are also the leading forces of their respective international tendencies: PTS/FT, PO/CRCI, IS/UIT and MST/LIS) – has traditionally organized May Day rallies with thousands of participants. However, they are all opportunistic supporters of the Lockdown policy. Consequently, they cancelled their May Day rally already last year and, again, this year. Such a retreat symbolizes very well the centrists’ policy of capitulation!

In contrast, the comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* – together with a few other groups – organized a May Day rally in Buenos Aires. Comrade Juan Giglio, a leader of CS, addressed the rally. In his speech, he denounced the capitulation of the Lockdown Left and emphasized the importance to build a new leadership to organize the struggle for socialism.⁷ The RCIT had sent May Day greetings which were read out at the rally.⁸

Mexico

In Mexico, thousands of workers and oppressed from different trade unions, popular sectors and revolutionary organizations went to the streets in defense of their social, economic and democratic rights and against the neoliberal reforms.

Our comrades from *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* (RCIT Section in Mexico) distributed the leaflet with the joint CS-RCIT May Day statement and marched with the contingent of the militant teacher’s union CNTE.



Pictures from May Day Demonstrations in which comrades of the RCIT and CS participated (here: Buenos Aires and Mexico City)

Brazil

About 1000 people participated in a May Day rally in downtown Sao Paulo. The demonstration was organized by the PCO and was attended by rank-and-file sectors of the PT, movements in defense of housing, street vendors, LOI, POR, etc.

Comrades of *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (RCIT Section in Brazil) participated in the rally and distributed our joint statement. Comrade Joao Evangelista, a leading member of CCR, was invited to deliver a speech in which he denounced the lockdown as a tool for the rich to become even more rich. He forcefully attacked the disastrous health policy for which not only Bolsonaro but the whole bourgeoisie is responsible!

Kenya

Comrades from the *Revolutionary Socialist League* (an organization with which the RCIT has fraternal relations) organized protest actions in the poor districts of Nairobi. They initiated an impressive campaign around a series of slogan like the immediate lifting of the lockdown, an end of police killings, an end of femicide, provision of clear water and decent housing, etc.

South Korea

May Day in South Korea is a prime example of the treacherous retreat of the reformist bureaucracy. In the past the leadership of the KCTU – a militant trade union which has been globally known for organizing massive strikes and occupations of factories – organized May Day rallies with 50,000 or more participants. This year, however, they organized a rally in Seoul, the capital city, with ... 500 participants! It was the smallest May Day rally ever!

A positive highlight of May Day in South Korea has been another rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in Myanmar Uprising Solidarity. Comrades of the RCIT Section in South Korea participated in this rally and stated our support for the heroic liberation struggle of the workers and oppressed in Myanmar. Although the number of workers participating in the rally was small, it has been a politically highly significant event. Until now, the leadership of the KCTU has not even expressed its position on

the Myanmar uprising under the pretext of internal differences. And the Stalinist “National Liberation” current – strongly influential in the Korean left – has denounced the popular uprising as a “conspiracy organized by U.S. imperialism”.⁹

Germany

Like in other countries, the traditional demonstrations on May Day organized by the trade unions were small. Here too, the bureaucracy used the pandemic as a pretext to sabotage the May Day mobilizations. However, in the evening, up to 30,000 people, mostly youth, demonstrated in Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Leipzig. The police tried to implement the general curfew (supposedly because of the pandemic) with brutal violence, resulting in numerous clashes and street battles.

Comrades of the RCIT Germany participated in the rally in Kassel, distributed our joint May Day statement and sold newspaper (despite the ban on such activities imposed by the bureaucracy – again under the pretext of the pandemic).

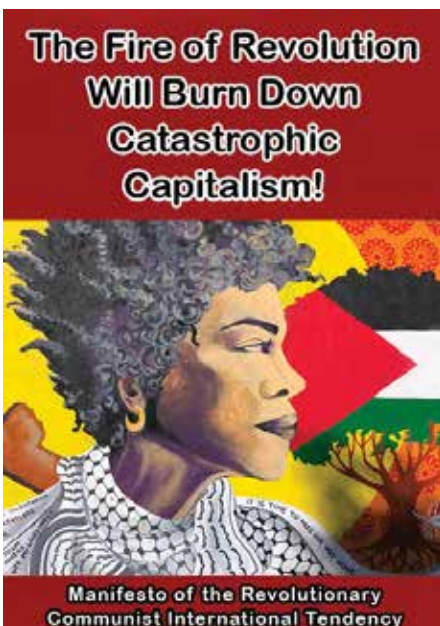
Austria

Similar to many other countries, the social democratic party in Austria cancelled their traditional May Day demonstrations. Usually, up to 100,000 people are marching on this day in the center of Vienna. This year, the party leadership shamefully replaced the demonstration by a ... digital event! As a result, only small rallies and demonstrations took place.

Comrades of the *Revolutionär-Kommunistische Organisation BEFREIUNG* (Austrian Section of the RCIT) participated in these events and distributed the joint May Day statement. Comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, spoke at a rally. In his speech he denounced the capitulation of the social democratic party under the pretext of the pandemic and called for the mobilization of mass struggles against the capitalist offensive.

Britain

About 500-600 people participated in a rally on 3 May in Chesterfield. Similar to some other countries (like Greece)



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

the May Day rally was held this year on Monday. The rally was organized by the local TUC. Branches from various local trade unions were present with banners like UNITE, ASLEF, GMB, National Education Union, Royal College of Nursing (who led the march), Justice for Orgreave Miners as well as a number of environmental groups.

Comrades from the RCIT Britain participated in the rally and handed out over 100 leaflets with our joint May Day statement with Convergencia Socialista (Argentina). The RCIT monthly magazines were also sold and the response on the Streets was encouraging as various people agreed with our statements.

Footnotes

1 The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published more than 80 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. In particular we refer readers to the RCIT Manifesto: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>. In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle, RCIT Books, April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>. See also our very first article on this issue by Almedina Gunić: Coronavirus: "I am not a Virus" ... but WE will be the Cure! The chauvinist campaign behind the "Wuhan Coronavirus" hysteria and the revolutionary answer, 2 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution. On the ruling class strategy in the current conjuncture, its inner contradictions and the perspectives of the workers and popular resistance, 20 July 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/the-second-wave-of-the-covid-19-counterrevolution/>; by the same author: The Police and Surveillance State in the Post-Lockdown Phase. A global review of the ruling class's plans of expanding the bonapartist state machinery amidst the COVID-19 crisis, 21 May 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/police-and-surveillance-state-in-post-lockdown-phase/>; COVID-19: The Great Barrington Declaration is indeed Great! Numerous medical scientists protest against the reactionary lockdown policy, 11 October 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-the-great-barrington-declaration-is-indeed-great/>; Michael Pröbsting: COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown "Socialism". Police State and Universal Basic Income are key elements of the new version of reformist "War Socialism" of 1914, 19 December 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/covid-19-the-current-and-historical-roots-of-bourgeois-lockdown-socialism/>.

2 We have published a number of documents of the RCIT on the military coup in Myanmar which are compiled on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-military-coup-in-myanmar/>

3 See e.g. RCIT: India: Victory to the "Dilli Chalo" Uprising! Poor peasants are waging the largest struggle in modern history against the reactionary BJP government, 22.12.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-victory-to-the-dilli-chalo-uprising/>

4 See e.g. from the CS comrades Tito Vitali: Primero Chile, ahora Colombia, la llama de la rebelión sigue prendida el abril 29, 2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/04/primero-chile-ahora-colombia-la-llama.html>

5 The RCIT has published numerous documents and reports on the Syrian Revolution: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>.

6 See Joint Statement of CS and RCIT: No to the Lockdown Policy! 20 April 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-y-convergencia-socialista-declaracion-primero-de-mayo/>

7 See also several reports published by CS on their May Day Rally. Discurso de CS en el Acto del 1 de Mayo Plaza Constitución, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/discurso-de-cs-en-el-acto-del-1-de-mayo.html>; Exitoso acto callejero del 1M convocando al Argentinazo, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/exitoso-acto-callejero-del-1m.html>; Claudio Colombo: 1M y la izquierda que cambio Plaza de Mayo por la virtualidad, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/1m-y-la-izquierda-que-cambio-plaza-de.html>.

8 See RCIT Greetings to Socialist May Day Rally in Buenos Aires. Socialists in Argentina and all over the World Should Join Forces to Fight against the Capitalist Lockdown Policy! 27 April 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-greetings-to-socialist-may-day-rally-in-buenos-aires/> resp. https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-greetings-to-socialist-may-day-rally-in-buenos-aires/#anker_1.

9 See two statements of the RCIT Section in South Korea: <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/%ED%95%9C%EA%B5%AD%EC%96%B4/myanmar-no-intervention-of-international-community/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/%ED%95%9C%EA%B5%AD%EC%96%B4/us-imperialism-armed-and-trained-the-protesters/>



Pictures from May Day Demonstrations in which comrades of the RCIT and CS participated (here: Seoul and Nairobi)

Out with Duque and the Corrupt and Criminal Colombian regime! For a workers and popular government, based on its democratic decision-making bodies!

Joint Statement of Convergencia Socialista (Argentina) and RCIT, 11 May 2021

Colombia is going through one of the biggest rebellions in its history, setting the course for the rest of the continent, where the Chilean port strike had been the highest point of the labor and popular struggles. After a few months of a certain setback – due to the counteroffensive of imperialism and the local bourgeoisies under the pretext of Covid-19 – exploded again in several countries of the region.

The murderous government of Iván Duque had to back down with the implementation of an alleged Tax Reform, which affected the working class and the impoverished middle class of that country, where savage abuses of the ruling classes are commonplace. In this framework, the Colombian president had to pay a high price, handing over the head of his finance minister, Alberto Carrasquilla.

However, the government backsliding and its call for “dialogue” did not stop the mobilizations at all, since the demands that underlie them provoked an explosion of hatred in broad sectors of the population against those above, the rich and the powerful ones as always. This sentiment is expressed in an increasingly advanced level of consciousness of the mass movement in struggle, which began to demonstrate the obsolescence of the institutions of the “Republic”.

This reality is expressed in the emergence of germs of dual power, which questions the one that the capitalists exercise through the State: by this we mean the power of the assemblies that are born and spread in the working-class and popular neighborhoods, where the neighborhood discusses its problems and, in order to confront them, resort to democracy and direct action, two methods that grow with the advance of the revolutionary situation.

Ultimately, this is what the workers and the people of Syria did, who built local councils from below, which took charge of the production, distribution and control of the roads in vast areas of that country, in addition to driving, at least in the first part of the process, the popular militias who heroically confronted the murderous army of the butcher Bashar al Assad.

Here too, in the neighborhood assemblies, the way to confront the enemy’s bullets is discussed as well as ways to organize the self-defense of the thousands who won the streets in their struggle for dignity. From the *Liaison Committee* – made up of *Convergencia Socialista (Argentina)* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* with a presence in more than 12 countries on all continents – we stand in solidarity with the heroic people of Colombia, calling on them to deepen the construction of their tools of discussion, resolution and self-defense.

There, the bases must decide democratically about the *Economic and Social Plan* to replace the one imposed by Duque and his family, which is nothing more than the continuity of the capitalist plans of the previous governments, subordinated to the interests of the domestic and international monopolies. With the struggle it will be necessary to impose a government from below which will implement an *Alternative Workers and Popular Plan*. Such a

plan would change once and for all the living conditions of the majority of the population, as currently almost 50% of the Colombian population live in conditions of poverty and 15.1% of it in extreme poverty.

This Alternative Plan must be financed with funds derived from refusing the payment of debts contracted with the large international financial institutions and from the implementation of progressive taxes for large companies and fortunes. The money derived from such measures should be used to launch a *Public Works Plan*, which – in addition to improving the quality of life for the broad masses by building schools, hospitals, factories, roads, railways, power lines, etc. – would provide jobs for the millions of unemployed and underemployed.

Another crucial task is the implementation of an authentic agrarian revolution, to abolish the dependence of thousands and thousands in the countryside and in the jungle from the infamous trade built around drug trafficking. Such a plan can only be implemented with the defeat of the government and of the capitalist system that it represents. For this purpose, the rebellion must lead to the replacement of the outdated institutions of the regime by those assemblies that are being born in the depths of the working class and the people.

Furthermore, we call for the removal of all U.S. military bases in Colombia and the expulsion of all imperialist “advisors”, “contractors”, etc.

When the masses settle accounts with Iván Duque and company, it will be necessary to try them for crimes against humanity, since the government repression, which beats, tortures, rapes and imprisons, claimed the lives of dozens of Colombians, while more than 500 remain “disappeared”. Not to mention the murder, in recent years, of hundreds of social leaders, as has been denounced by different democratic, national and international spaces!

Cali, one of the main economic and industrial centers of Colombia, after Bogotá and Medellín, is playing a central role in the resistance. This is not only because of its combativeness, but also because of the political experience that is developing there in places such as Puerto Rellena, or “*Puerto Resistencia*” for its inhabitants. Here, according to reports – with horror – from the bourgeois media, people have erected a small independent republic, where the presence of the state practically disappeared.

There, the grassroots assemblies, which discuss the future of the nation, grow and multiply, together with different self-defense groups, which, taking the example of the Chilean rebellion, have been baptized as the “*Pimera línea*”, which plays a fundamental role in helping to neutralize gases, covering the mobilization and facing the bullets of the repressive forces.

From our *International Liaison Committee* we tell the workers and the people not to be fooled by the calls for “dialogue” made by Duque and the governors, under pressure to lift road blockades, which should rather be followed spreading. Likewise, we say that people should not be afraid of government threats to decree the state of emer-

gency. These are maneuvers, perpetrated in complicity with opposition bosses, to gain time. Such maneuvers only serve the continuation of the regime of the ruling party which is massacring the insurgent people – similar to what the Myanmar dictatorship is doing or what Bashar al Assad did years ago in Syria.

Some sectors of the bourgeoisie, which realize the existence of a very great crisis and the impossibility of Duquen continuing to govern, due to the combativeness of the masses, are thinking of handing over power, before the 2022 elections, to the pseudo-left senator, Gustavo Petro, to form a kind of “transitional government” or national unity.

For this, Petro already has the support of vast sectors of the employer opposition, a situation that was revealed in an article published by *El Tiempo*, belonging to the richest man in Colombia, Luis Carlos Sarmiento. There, one of the journalists paid by this mega millionaire, who with the lockdown policy won like few others, wrote a note whose title is more than significant: “Let Petro rule now!”

“That Mr. Gustavo Petro rise to power under pressure, to cover the fiscal hole left by [Duque’s predecessor] Juan Manuel Santos, to keep all the past and future subsidies, to keep the teachers happy (so they don’t hit like did two months after Duque took office), taxi drivers, Uber and other platforms, health workers, associations, the public and private sector and the country in general “... If installing Petro ends this chaos and achieve peace, may he rise to power today.”

From our international organization we denounce this possibility as a great maneuver to change something so that nothing changes, as capitalists tend to do every time they enter into crisis. The political representatives of the big multinationals are masters in the art of deception! They must not be allowed to continue cheating the workers and the people. For that, those below have to take power in their hands, exercising it democratically and applying revolutionary measures, measures of a socialist nature!

For this reason, we believe that we must continue fighting and agitating for the slogan of “Out with Duque and his entire economic plan!” Out with the government, with all its reforms! Trial and punishment, with popular juries, of the material and ideological culprits of the hundreds of mur-

ders, disappearances, torture, sexual violence and other attacks on democratic freedoms, perpetrated by the gang of gangsters that leads the capitalist state of Colombia!

To advance in this sense, the popular assemblies, the self-defense organs and the coordination tools that the insurrectionary Colombian people have generated, need to create a *national body of struggle*, which unitarily promotes forceful actions. The goal should be to organize an *indefinite general strike* which paralyzes the production in all industrial and strategic centers, such as airports, routes and sea and river ports. To achieve this, in addition to solving it in the assemblies, we must take the example of the truckers, who maintain their strike with pickets throughout the country!

Such an *indefinite general strike* could form the basis to move forward to an *armed insurrection* for the revolutionary overthrow of the government and the creation of a *workers and popular government based on popular assemblies and militias*.

It is crucial that the militants of the vanguard who agree on such a perspective unite in a *revolutionary party*. Only the construction of such a party in time will allow to remove the influence of various reformist and Stalinist forces which are misleading the masses.

Such a revolutionary party needs to be built in parallel with a new *World Party of Socialist Revolution* since the struggle against the capitalist exploiters and imperialist Great Powers is an international one by its very nature. We call all militants from the vanguard – in Colombia as well as international – to enter in a dialogue with our Liaison Committee in order to exchange experiences and jointly work for a socialist future!

The popular assemblies, the self-defense organs and the coordination tools of all these, must make a great call to the peoples of the whole world to support the Colombian rebellion with solidarity, tying the claws to the murderous regime of Iván Duque and isolating it from all its political, military and economic allies. The socialists of the Liaison Committee do this and combine this with a strategic perspective – the construction of a *Federation of Socialist States of South America*.



Publications of the RCIT

The Inter-Imperialist Cold War between the US and China

By Michael Pröbsting, March 2021

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Myanmar: International Solidarity with the Popular Uprising! Arms for the revolutionary masses! Down with the imperialist masters of the Tatmadaw – China and Russia! No illusions in US and European imperialism!

Joint Statement of Convergencia Socialista (Argentina) and the RCIT, 6 May 2021

1. The popular uprising against the military dictatorship in Myanmar is at a turning point. The *Tatmadaw* – the Myanmar army – is doing everything in its power to drown the uprising in blood. Since its coup d'état on 1 February, the army has killed at least 750 people and arrested more than 4,000. Make no mistake: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing – the commander-in-chief of the Tatmadaw – is Asia's Assad in waiting! Since the early days of the heroic Syrian Revolution in 2011, fanatical supporters of the tyrant have spread the slogan: "Assad or we burn the country". Min Aung Hlaing is copying the terrorist tactics of the butcher of the Syrian people.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Convergencia Socialista* (CS) call the international workers and popular movement, all socialists and sincere democrats to stand up in solidarity with the masses in Myanmar! Many youths have fled the cities to areas under control of guerrilla forces of Myanmar's numerous oppressed nationalities. In several cases, such national liberation armies – like the *Karen National Liberation Army* or the *Kachin Independence Army* – have joined forces with the insurgents and launched armed attacks against the army. However, workers and youth are also spontaneously waging armed resistance in several cities and regions (e.g. in Kalay in Sagaing Region and in Chin state). There have also been attacks with Molotov cocktails against police stations in Yangon, Mandalay and Monywa. However, until now the workers and youth are forced to rely on the most primitive forms of weapons (hunting weapons, bow and arrow, etc.)

3. The RCIT and CS have supported the popular uprising from the very first hour. We have always denounced

bourgeois charlatans like the Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders as well as their liberal friends in the West who are preaching pacifism in the face of a brutal military dictatorship. History has shown that fundamental questions in class society can never be solved without violence since the ruling class does not give up power voluntarily. Myanmar is no exception to this historic law.

4. It is the duty of the international workers and popular movement to organize solidarity actions around the globe. This includes rallies and solidarity campaigns by trade union, youth and popular organizations. Such solidarity activities also include boycott campaigns against imperialist corporations which are making huge profits through their corporations with the military dictatorship and the suppression of workers' rights.

5. International solidarity with the popular uprising also means to struggle against imperialist interference by any Great Power. Hence, socialists strongly denounce Chinese and Russian imperialism without which the military dictatorship would not survive a single day! Likewise, we denounce the tacit support for the military dictatorship by Japan. We support all efforts to undermine the political, economic and military aid for the *Tatmadaw*. At the same time, we also oppose all forms of interference of U.S. and European imperialism which try to utilize the crisis in Myanmar to advance their geopolitical interests.

6. Furthermore, the RCIT and CS call the international workers and popular movement to support efforts of the rebels in Myanmar to get access to weapons. Without arms, the workers and oppressed are at the mercy of the *Tatmadaw* killers! Hence, socialists call for the arms delivery to the insurgents without any political conditions! We

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

* **An analysis of the capitalist character of China's State-Owned Enterprises and its political consequences**

* **Eclectic empiricism and the failure of the PTS/FT to recognize the imperialist character of China**

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

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welcome the formation of local resistance organizations and call to transform them into authentic popular militias, i.e. armed organizations of the workers, poor peasants and oppressed.

7. Given popular support for bourgeois forces like Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD, it is unavoidable that any significant international solidarity campaign will include supporters of this party. While such practical collaboration is legitimate as long as it is strictly limited to concrete solidarity activities, socialists must openly state their political criticism of the NLD. This party is a staunch defender of capitalism, it has collaborated for years with the *Tatmadaw* and built relations with imperialist Great Powers (in particularly the U.S. and the EU). Furthermore, no one must forget that Aung San Suu Kyi – Prime Minister at that time – defended the army when it committed one of the worst massacres of recent history by killing, raping and expelling hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya in 2016-17.

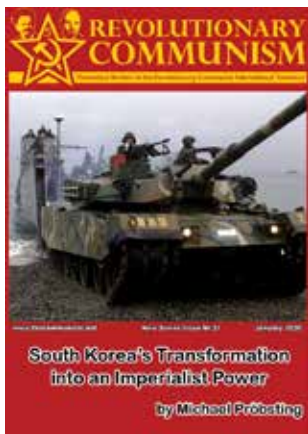
8. Hence, while the RCIT and CS defend the NLD against persecution by the military, it sharply denounces this shameful bourgeois party and calls for the construction of a new revolutionary party. Such a party should be committed to the formation of workers and popular councils and militias, the expropriation of the domestic as well as foreign capitalist corporations, the smashing of the *Tatmadaw* and the overthrow of the military dictatorship by permanent revolution and its replacement by a workers and poor peasant government. Such a party should also unconditionally support the right of self-determination for all national and ethnic minorities – including the right to separate and to constitute an independent state.

9. The RCIT and CS call all revolutionaries in Myanmar and around the world who support such a perspective to unite with us in fighting for such a perspective. Comrades, brothers and sisters: the existence of a revolutionary party is no guarantee for victory. But the lack of such a party is a guarantee for defeat!

10. Finally, we ask all those committed to the liberation struggle of the oppressed masses to pay attention to the international significance of the current events in Myanmar. The country is centrally located in the region and a neighbor state of two powers – China and India. It also shares border with two other important countries in the region – Thailand and Malaysia. It is evident that all imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, Japan, EU and Russia – try to utilize the civil war in Myanmar for their geopolitical interests. Hence, the revolutionary struggle in Myanmar affects world politics in general and the international class struggle in particular. There are strong indications that the popular uprising could transform Myanmar into the Syria of South-East Asia. As the liberation struggle in Syria has become a key axis of the Arab Revolution, the popular uprising in Myanmar might become a focal point of the revolutionary process in Asia!

* * * * *

We draw reader's attention to other documents of the RCIT on the military coup in Myanmar which are compiled on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-military-coup-in-myanmar/>



Publications of the RCIT

South Korea's Transformation into an Imperialist Power

On the nature of South Korean monopoly capital and the ensuing programmatic tasks of the workers vanguard

By Michael Pröbsting, December 2019

The Relevance of the Issue * Definition: What Constitutes a State as Imperialist? * Historical Background: Extraordinary Conditions Allow for Rapid Industrialization * South Korea as a Highly Industrialized, Modern Capitalist Country * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Domination of Domestic Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Global Players on the World Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: The Role of Capital Export * On Some Political Issues Resulting from South Korea's Imperialist Transformation * The Emergence of a Labor Aristocracy and Inequality within the South Korean Working Class * The Political Role of South Korean Imperialism and its Limited Independence * The Stalinist Myth of South Korea Being Still a Neo-Colony of U.S. Imperialism * The Mistaken Conception of Sub-Imperialism * The Program of Revolutionary Defeatism * Anti-Imperialist Tasks in South Korea Today * Appendix: A Historic Analogy: Marxist Tactics in Germany in 1891 and 1914 * Capitalist Development in South Korea and Taiwan (1996)

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format

Assad's "Socialist" Friends

A commentary on a shameful statement of U.S. "anti-war" groups

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

A short while ago – on the 10th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution – about 300 Syrian activists as well as international supporters of the popular uprising against the Assad tyranny published an important statement. This statement – called *"Erasing People through Disinformation: Syria and the 'Anti-Imperialism' of Fools"* – denounced those in the so-called "left" who directly or indirectly support the reactionary Assad regime and discredit the popular resistance as *"proxies of U.S. imperialism"*.¹

As the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has been an ardent supporter of the Syrian Revolution since the very first day, we fully share the message of this statement.² Hence, the author of these lines has been one of the initial signatories of this statement and we have also republished it on our website.³

In response, a group of U.S. reformist pacifists, Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists published a kind of counter-statement.⁴ Therein, they basically repeat the usual lies spread by Assad's "socialist" friends. They claim that our statement would *"support the goal of the US and its allies of regime change in Syria"*, i.e. they cynically suggest that the Syrians' struggle against the dictatorship has not been driven by the popular hatred against the tyranny which exists since decades but ... by Washington's desire for "regime change"! Obviously, these boneheads ignore that in the whole Arab world – from Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon to Syria – millions and millions have heroically risen up against capitalist dictatorships since 2011.

Hundreds of thousands have been martyred and millions incarcerated in the struggle for freedom! Only the most foolish among professional conspiracy theorists can deny that these have been legitimate popular uprisings but rather manipulated "regime change" maneuvers of outside imperialist powers!

It is only logical that these bunch of obscurantists characterizes Assad's desperate attempts to stay in power by slaughtering his own people as *"the right of Syria to defend its national sovereignty against this outside aggression."*

The whole statement presents the situation in Syria as a war between U.S. imperialism and the Assad regime – irrespective of the fact that the Pentagon carried out only a handful of military strikes against Assad's forces within the whole last decade! Hence, while they (rightly) denounce the U.S. military intervention in Syria and call for their withdrawal, they don't express any criticism on the military intervention of Russian imperialism! To be more accurate, the statement does not even mention this intervention with a single word!

This is a remarkable example of willful ignorance! As it is well-known, Russia's Air Force regularly bombs Syrian villages and hospitals since 2015, Moscow owns several military bases in that country (a naval facility in Tartus as well as the Khmeimim Air Base, Tiyas Military Airbase, and Shayrat Airbase), and it employs thousands of regular troops as well as mercenaries of the notorious PMC Wagner groups, etc. Every observer has recognized that without the massive military intervention of Russian im-

perialism, Assad would have shared the fate of Gaddafi many years ago!

But since the motley crew of pacifists, Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists are dedicated partisans of the Russian (and Chinese) imperialism and Assad the Butcher, they don't mind about Putin's gigantic military intervention. You know, in politics it is important to know the art of decoding. This general truth is particularly relevant in reading the texts of petty-bourgeois muddle-heads. One has to know the real meaning of their categories. When these people raise the banner of *"Anti-War"*, they mean only opposition against U.S. wars and support for Russia's war as well as support for Putin's and Xi's proxies like Assad.⁵

This is very similar to two other statements with which we dealt in the recent past. In these statements, various "progressive" parties and intellectuals (rightly) denounced the militarism and Cold War rhetoric of U.S. imperialism but didn't utter a single word of criticism against the reactionary policy of the Eastern Great Powers China and Russia!⁶

It is no accident that the signatories of one of these statements are nearly identical with the declaration of love for Assad with which we have dealt at this place! Once more we meet the petty-bourgeois pacifists and Stalinists of the *United National Antiwar Coalition*, *Syria Solidarity Movement*, *U.S. Peace Council*, *Hands off Syria Coalition*, the *Workers World Party* (which runs the so-called *"International Action Center"*), the *Freedom Road Socialist Organization*, and others.⁷

And, this should not go unmentioned, we also meet again Jeff Mackler's *Socialist Action*, the dominant force of the so-called "Left Opposition" in the "Fourth International" (in the tradition of Pablo and Mandel). Other pseudo-Trotskyists – like the PTS/FT, the fragments of Altamira's PO, Peter Taffee's CWI, Alan Woods' IMT, the ISA, the Cliffite SWP/IST, etc. – have also dropped support for the Syrian Revolution many years ago. They utilize the petty-bourgeois Islamist and nationalist leadership of this popular liberation struggle as a pretext to slander it as a *"reactionary civil war"*.⁸

This demonstrates once more that verbal adherence to "Trotskyism", defending "orthodox Trotskyism" in words does not mean anything. As the RCIT emphasized repeatedly every organization must be measured by its combat program, by its approach to the main issues of the world situation and the class struggle. All too often, verbal adherence to "orthodox Trotskyism" is nothing but a fig-leaf for direct or indirect support of sectors of the bourgeoisie and one or the other imperialist Great Power!⁹

In summary, the statement reveals the real political nature of various reformists, Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists. Under the pretext of "socialism", "Marxism" or even "Trotskyism" they act as servants of imperialist powers like Russia and China and as cheerleaders of reactionary dictators like Assad and Gaddafi. The shameful statement of the "socialist" friends of the butcher of the Syria people confirms this once more.

Nicolas Boileau, a great French poet of the late 17th century, once wrote: *"A fool always finds a greater fool to admire him."* It seems that Assad has found quite a number of them!

Footnotes

1 The statement has been published in parallel on the websites of *Al-Jumhuriya* as well as *New Politics*. (<https://www.aljazeera.net/en/content/erasing-people-through-disinformation-syria-and-%E2%80%9Canti-imperialism%E2%80%9D-fools> and <https://newpol.org/erasing-people-through-disinformation-syria-and-the-anti-imperialism-of-fools/>)

2 The RCIT has published numerous documents on the Syrian Revolution which are compiled on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>.

3 <https://www.thecommunists.net/forum/erasing-people-through-disinformation-syria-and-the-anti-imperialism-of-fools/>

4 Sign-on Statement on Syria, <https://unac.notowar.net/statement-of-solidarity-with-the-syrian-people/>

5 The RCIT has dealt in detail with the Great Power rivalry. See e.g. the book by Michael Pröbsting: *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective*, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>; See also the latest pamphlet by the same author: "A Really Good Quarrel". *US-China Alaska Meeting: The Inter-Imperialist Cold War Continues*, 23 March 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/us-china-alaska-meeting-shows-continuation-of-inter-imperialist-cold-war/>; we refer readers also to numerous documents of the RCIT on the Global Trade War which have been compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>. For our analysis of China as an imperialist power see e.g., in addition to the above-mentioned book "*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry*", Michael Pröbsting: *Chinese Imperialism and the World Economy*, an essay in the second edition of *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism*, edited by Immanuel Ness and Zak Cope. It has been published by Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, in 2020, https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-3-319-91206-6_179-1; https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-91206-6_179-1; see also by the same author: *China's transformation into an imperialist power. A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power*, in: *Revolutionary Communism* No. 4, <http://www.thecommunists.net/publications/revcom-number-4>; How is it possible that some Marxists still Doubt that China has Become Capitalist? (A Critique of the PTS/FT), An analysis of the capitalist character of China's State-Owned Enterprises and its political consequences, 18 September 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/pts-ft-and-chinese-imperialism-2/>; Unable to See the Wood for the Trees (PTS/FT and China). Eclectic empiricism and the failure of the PTS/FT to recognize the imperialist character of China, 13 August 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/pts-ft-and-chinese-imperialism/>; The China Question and the Marxist Theo-

ry of Imperialism, December 2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/reply-to-csr-pco-on-china/>

6 Michael Pröbsting: *One-sided and Naïve ... at Best! A joint call by the friends of Chinese imperialism and the daydreamers of well-meaning global capitalism*, 31 March 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/joint-call-by-friends-of-chinese-imperialism-and-the-daydreamers/>; by the same author: *Stalinist and "Trotskyist" Supporters of Chinese Imperialism under the Fig-Leaf of "Anti-Imperialism"*. A commentary on the statement "No to U.S. war threats against China!" by the "United National Antiwar Coalition" in the U.S., 4 April 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/stalinist-and-trotskyist-supporters-of-chinese-imperialism-under-the-fig-leaf-of-anti-imperialism/>.

7 For a critique of another pro-Assad statement of various Stalinist parties see e.g. Michael Pröbsting: *Stalinism: Assad's Best Friends Forever*. A commentary on a joint international initiative of Stalinist parties, 3 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/stalinism-is-assad-s-best-friends-forever/>

8 We have dealt with such slander in various documents. See e.g. these two pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting: *Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the "Left"*. The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia – A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism, 21 April 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syria-great-power-rivalry-and-the-failure-of-the-left/>; *Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified? An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution*, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>.

9 On the degeneration of various "Trotskyist" organizations see e.g. *Workers Power* (the precursor of the RCIT): *The Death Agony of the Fourth International and the Tasks of Trotskyists Today* (1983); this book can also be read online or downloaded as a pdf for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/death-agon-y-of-the-fourth-international-1983/>; Michael Pröbsting: *Healy's Pupils Fail to Break with their Master*. The revolutionary tradition of the Fourth International and the centrist tradition of its Epigones Gerry Healy and the "International Committee", <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/healy-and-fourth-international/>; There are also critical assessments of various so-called Trotskyist organizations in our above-mentioned book *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* as well as in Chapter 13 in our book by Michael Pröbsting: *The Great Robbery of the South. Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital*. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism, RCIT Books, Vienna 2013; this book can also be read online or downloaded as a pdf for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>.

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

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

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

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

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

UK: The Conviction of the 24 Shrewsbury Building Workers in 1972

Treacherous Conspiracy by the Stalinists of the British Communist Party and the Trade Union Bureaucracy

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 18 April 2021

On the 23rd March 1972, the convictions in of 24 Shrewsbury building workers was quashed by the Court of Appeal. Six of those building workers are now dead. The national strike of 1972 coincided with great class battles from 1972 to 1974. UCATT and the TGWU launched national strikes against working conditions and better pay. These battles were to lead to the election of a minority Labour Government under Harold Wilson after the Miners and the NUM defeated the Heath Tory government.

"The Court of appeal has overturned the convictions of 14 men sentenced for their involvement in pickets in 1972. Trade unionists who picketed during the national builders' strike were charged with offences including unlawful assembly and conspiracy to intimidate. Lawyers for the so-called Shrewsbury 24 had argued the destruction of witness statements made their convictions unsafe." [1].

The Role of the Labour Government

In an editorial on the decision to pardon the Shrewsbury building workers, the Stalinist Morning Star (organ of the British Communist Party) seeks to excuse its role in the conspiracy against Des Warren, the most politically advanced picket organizer and a member of the party at the height of the strike. Unsurprisingly, there is no mention of their despicable role in relation to Warren and their ultimate betrayal of the strike.

"Nearly five decades have passed since 24 building workers were prosecuted for picketing during the first national builders' strike. Several died before their names were cleared, including Des Warren, whose three-year jail sentence was the longest handed down. His health was broken in prison and he was black-listed on release; he never worked again." [2].

In 1972, with the election of the Tory Heath administra-

tion, Heath's Home secretary Robert Carr was determined to smash the building workers strike by criminalising workers, charging them under the 1875 Conspiracy Act and under the accusation of violence and affray. The Tories used the capitalist press to portray the pickets as violent men with Warren as their ringleader. Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson faced the most serious charges and were jailed for 3 years. Warren was the last to be freed.

Roy Jenkins, the Labour Home Secretary, refused to hear any appeals from Warren. All the time he was incarcerated, he was moved from jail to jail, suffered beatings and victimisation from prison officers. Jenkins, who eventually broke with the Labour Party, was de-facto a right-wing politician inside Social Democracy. He can be compared to other traitors who recently did the same when Jeremy Corbyn was leader of the Labour Party.

In 1972, Warren was a militant in the Communist Party and part of the Charter Group, a rank-and-file group of building workers under control and leadership of the Communist Party. Pete Carter was the leader and an executive member of the Communist Party at that time. Warren describes in his book "The Key to my cell", his incarceration in 1973: *"From the very start of my sentence I had to keep fighting, not submit and refuse to accept guilt."* [3].

Warren's disquiet with the Stalinists is also revealed in his book: *"I had no illusions in the TUC or any of the Unions executive committee's but my attitude was always that the Communist Party leaders were professionals acting in the interests of the working class. When I came out of Jail however I had developed a different idea of responsibility. This was I think the beginning of the breach between myself and the Stalinist leadership of the CP."* [4]. While Warren was in jail, he refused to do prison work, even went on hunger strike because of the violence meted out to him and the refusal of Jenkins to consider him a political prisoner.

Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- * **Marxism, EU and Brexit**
- * **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**
- * **The Reformist Pipe Dream of a "Socialist" European Union**

Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)



The treacherous Trade Union Bureaucracy

Warren has a whole section on how the trade union bureaucracy deserted the jailed building workers and refused to mount any action of solidarity. Both Jack Jones of the TGWU and George Smith of UCATT refused to act while working class prisoners were jailed.

"The Bureaucratic clique in UCATT achieved its aim insofar as the T&G leaders were concerned. The leaders of the latter union wanted no mass action to free us met at Congress house on January 23rd. the unanimous demand of the T%G committee for our release was transformed into a request for a review of the sentence." [5]. There was no mass action and just a letter writing campaign to Jenkins. This was their response when the mass movement organised demonstrations, pickets, and other solidarity actions. The bureaucracy turned a blind eye and did nothing. When Warren and Tomlinson made appeals to the capitalist courts for bail and release, they were rejected. So much for the bureaucracy's plan to fight on Warren's and Tomlinson's behalf.

"On March 6th Len Murray (General Secretary of the TUC) said on behalf of the General Council that there was no question of calling for the release of the 6 men jailed at Shrewsbury." [6].

Warren's Fight for Political Status and the Betrayal by Stalinists

While Warren was in Lincoln Prison, he refused to wear any clothes except a blanket similar to the internees at Long Kesh led by Bobby Sands. Bert Ramelson, the Industrial Organiser of the British Communist Party and a

hardened Stalinist, wrote to Warren to cease the protest of only wearing a blanket. This was the final betrayal by the Stalinists. Warren tells the whole story: *"He then told me (Ramelson) that if we cannot force your unconditional pardon through Industrial action my supporters would understand me going for parole. Give up the protest, get out any way, you can go for Parole we cannot force your release by action outside."* [7].

This was then the treacherous role of Stalinism. Ramelson and the leaders of the TUC wrote the whole campaign off. Warren was again moved from prison to prison, spending jail time at Wormwood Scrubs, Leicester, Bedford, Nottingham and lastly Lincoln. He had engaged in 3 hunger strikes in protests. At the same time Warren was given the liquid cosh medication (tranquilizer drug) prescribed by doctors after his hunger strikes. This made Warren disorientated, confused and unable to think rationally. Ramelson, the trade union bureaucrats, Jenkins and the Labour Government are all guilty of crime against Warren. Des Warren was released on August 5th, 1976. He was a changed man, affected by the liquid cosh given to him in prison. He would later develop Parkinson's disease and end up in a wheelchair. In 1980, Warren finally broke with the Communist Party and joined the Trotskyist Movement. He died in 2004 from Parkinson's disease, but the real culprits are the trade union bureaucracy, Stalinism and the Labour Government of the time. They colluded to destroy one of the best fighters involved in that historic battle of building workers to improve their conditions and pay. He must be remembered by all militants and principled socialists as one of our Greatest.

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan.
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting analyses the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan. He shows that the diplomatic rows, sanctions, trade wars, and military tensions between these Great Powers are not accidental or caused by a mad man in the White House. They are rather rooted in the fundamental contradictions of the capitalist system. This rivalry is a key feature of the current historic period and could, ultimately, result in major wars between these Great Powers.

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

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting critically discusses the analysis of modern imperialism by a number of left-wing parties (left social democrats, Stalinists, Trotskyists and others). He demon-

strates that most of these organizations fail to understand the nature of the Great Power rivalry and, consequently, are not able to take an internationalist and revolutionary stance.

The author elaborates the approach of leading Marxist figures like Lenin, Trotsky and Luxemburg to the problems of Great Power rivalry and imperialist aggression against oppressed peoples. He outlines a Marxist program for the current period which is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future.

The book contains an introduction and 29 chapters plus an appendix (412 pages) and includes 61 figures and tables. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers

For a Workers' Government

Nine years ago, I wrote an article which showed the role of Stalinism during the great class battles from 1972-1974, organised by the building workers, the miners and the dockers. The miners defeated the Tory Government in 1974 and a minority Labour government was elected. The British Communist Party continued its historic role to betray, defend the bureaucratic apparatus and acted as agents of the bourgeoisie in the workers movement.

"During his time inside, both he and Tomlinson were to learn very quickly the nature and role of the Ucat leadership and the Communist Party. Ucat even refused to provide legal aid, despite previously having agreed to do so. Warren and Tomlinson fought for their status as political prisoners and refused to wear prison uniforms. They also went on hunger strike in protest at the refusal of the state to give them political status. As Des wrote, "It should be made clear to the movement as soon as possible that it was not a legal attack on us personally, but a political attack on the movement as a whole Des thought that while he was in prison the CPGB would be mobilising a mass movement to free him and Ricky. The working class in its thousands did attend many demonstrations and lobbies, but the Ucat leadership did no more than lobby Labour, especially when it was returned to power in the 1974 general election. At no time did it consider trying to use the combined strength of the unions to free Warren and Tomlinson. It seems the Communist Party wanted to wash its hands of the whole affair. Ramelson and CPGB executive member Pete Carter bore the main responsibility for this treachery. They provided left cover for union bureaucrats like Ucat's George Smith. They had no intention of using their industrial influence to help free Warren and Tomlinson. They called for a public enquiry, sponsored motions in the House of Commons and mobilized for lobbies and demonstrations, but there was never a move to call for strike action at any time, despite the lessons of the Pentonville Five: if the TUC had called a general strike they would have been freed." [8].

The Boris Johnson Government today, like the Heath government, wants to criminalize workers and the oppressed by bringing in legislation like the 'Spy Cops Bill' and the

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021. The turn towards chauvinism, racism and bonapartism shows the same determination that the Tory Government took during the Shrewsbury building workers' strikes. Indeed, revolutionaries can prepare for today's struggle by learning the lectures of the Shrewsbury's strike.

In this spirit, the RCIT in Britain puts forward the following proposals to organize the working class for the battles of today.

** Defeat bonapartism and chauvinism, fight against any attack on basic democratic rights! Revolutionaries argue for protests and strikes up to an indefinite general strike in order to overthrow this reactionary and hated Tory Government! Fight for a Workers' Government!*

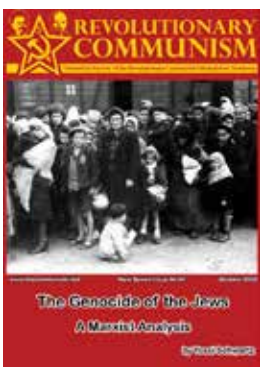
** We need self-defense units to fight back against police violence and racist attacks! In case of an indefinite general strike, we even need a Workers Defence Guard armed to protect workers, migrants and the militant masses from police provocations and fascist attacks!*

** To solve the health crisis, we need both to fight against bonapartism as well as we need to fight for a strong healthcare system! How to finance this? By the Expropriation of the Corporations and Global companies without compensation - and under workers' control!*

Join the RCIT become part of the struggle for the 5th International! Help us build a truly revolutionary, Socialist World Party!

Footnotes

- (1) [Shrewsbury 24: Court of Appeal clears picketers' convictions - BBC News](#)
- (2) [Editorial: Justice at last for the Shrewsbury Pickets – what can today's left learn? | Morning Star \(morningstaronline.co.uk\)](#)
- (3) Warren.D: Shrewsbury Picket. THE KEY TO MY CELL: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS. P.69
- (4) IBID: p.72
- (5) IBID: p.99
- (6) IBID: p.105
- (7) IBID: p.130-131
- (8) [UK: On the 1972 Building Workers Strike - International Revolution \(thecommunists.net\)](#)



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

Germany: An Insidious Campaign against Migrants

by Manfred Meier, RCIT Germany, 17 April 2021

The *Robert Koch Institute (RKI)* is the most prominent institute for disease research and control in Germany. Its head, Lothar H. Wieler, has launched a campaign against migrants in Germany in cooperation with the boulevard paper *Bild-Zeitung*.

The *Bild-Zeitung* referred to quotes from a conversation between Wieler and doctors in high positions in January. They said that 4.8% of the population accounted for more than 50% of intensive care patients. One would need “hard-as-nails social work”, preferably in the mosques. Another doctor even talked about 90% of all intubated patients and calls them “patients with communication barriers”. Again, Muslim migrants are meant.

They claim not to want to start a debate on racism, “it was a taboo”, but there would simply be a “communication deficit” among certain population groups. Later, Wieler said that his statements had been taken out of context. Indeed, papers like *Bild-Zeitung* have a disgraceful tradition of misquoting in order to create lurid headlines. Nevertheless, in this case it is obvious that the meaning of Wieler’s argumentation wasn’t altered that much as he focused on a typical racist scapegoat for the crisis in the health system: the unreasonable migrants who don’t want to obey to social-distance rules.

This is very reminiscent of the propaganda of the AfD and other right-wing groups: Obviously, the migrant patients are themselves to blame because they do not understand what they have to do to escape the virus. Or even harm the German population by not following “rules”.

If the head of the *Robert Koch Institute*, the central authority for combating the pandemic, has such conversations and they “accidentally” fall into the hands of the *Bild* newspaper, then this cannot be a coincidence. This is a massive

attempt to stir up sentiment and name scapegoats. Like in medieval times of the plague or other devastating diseases, when Jews were murdered or women were burned as witches.

This shows how much representatives of the government and its leading officials understand that the mass sentiment has changed. They can no longer give answers to the pandemic that are uncritically accepted by the public. The first wave of shock and obedience is over. Obviously, the government and its leading officials are absolutely guilty of dismantling of the health system and lack of effective health preparations for pandemics. They have screwed up and even more tried to misuse the pandemic as a cover for bonapartist attacks. Unfortunately, many medical experts which have been promoted by the government offered themselves as spokespersons for anti-democratic attacks under the name of pandemic control. There, the old damnation of the German medical profession and medical officials from the time before 1945 is coming to the surface again. It is the old patterns of racist profiling in medicine.

That they are now campaigning against people with a migrant background is cheap, shabby and pure racism that must be denounced and fought.

An editor-in-chief of the bourgeois newspaper, *Westdeutsche Zeitung (WZ)* took the same line these days. “Mr. Lothar Leuschen, editor-in-chief of the *Westdeutsche Zeitung*, claims in the local political commentary for Wuppertal “Reden ist Gold” of Saturday, 20 March 2021 (*Wuppertal edition*, page 18) that “statistical comparisons among the municipalities in Germany (.) strongly suggest [that] the number of infected people is related to the structure of the population”. For him, this means that “cities with a more diverse population are at a disadvantage”. The reason is that there are more “education-



Publications of the RCIT

Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –*

A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism

Introduction * The liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Assad retains its just character * Against all imperialist aggressors! * Old and new Great Powers * The Ex-Stalinist turned social democrats: “God save the United Nations” * The Stalinists (and some caricatures in Trotskyist camouflage): social-imperialist servants of Assad and Putin * The Morenoite LIT, UIT and FLTI: the heart on the right place but not their brains * CWI and FT: failure to understand the imperialist nature of China and Russia * CWI / SWP(UK) / FT: refusing to support the Syrian Revolution * Conclusion * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

ally distant families" with higher "barriers to understanding". These groups do not abide by the pandemic rules, he claims: "the messages [from the administration] do not get through, or they are ignored". Thus he insinuates more frequent misbehaviour on the part of the groups he has flagged." (1).

Something similar happened in Hamm and other cities, and the press is happy to run "outrage campaigns". Who do they actually want to prove they are not the lying press conjured up by the right-wingers?

Right-wing agitation against migrants and Muslims

The "narrative" of the right insinuates that Muslims are segregated, that they form parallel societies, that they have insufficient language skills and do not recognise (read: obey to) German authorities.

AfD and blogs like *Tichys Einblick* have gratefully pounced on the issue, once again a notch more disgusting than Wieler and alike.

The *DIVI (German Interdisciplinary Association for Intensive and Emergency Care)* has strongly contradicted Wieler and branded such arguments as "discriminatory". Moreover, there is no recording of patients according to origin, language or religion.

In general, it is more likely that the working class and poor faces complications during a COVID-19 infection and any other kind of disease. Poorer housing conditions, residential areas with polluted air, stressful jobs and unhealthy workconditions - all in all, bad living conditions have a severe impact on the immune system and on health in general.

Furthermore, even those who religiously believe in social distancing and lockdowns should at least admit that it is of utter stupidity to believe of this as a realistic concept for the poorer layers of the working class and society as such. Many underpaid working class jobs don't give any possibility to keep distance at the workplace. Further, it is a mindset similar to the times of colonialism to demand a solution for the pandemic that means staying in relatively comfortable homes for the wealthier part of the society while getting everything handed by underpaid workers (mostly from a migrant background). Lockdowns are a dream solution for the privileged only.

Last but not least demanding from migrants and refugees to keep the strict COVID-19 hygiene rules without offering explanations in their mother tongue (like Farsi, Pashto, Arabic, etc.) is typical social-chauvinist ignorance. Since February at least some kinds of bilingual documents were produced, albeit in limited amount.

Many hospital employees have a migrant background and due to their profession, they have an increased risk of infections. Similarly with workers in the elderly care sector. There are cases where infected workers were forced by their supervisors to come to work and they were forbidden to talk about it. Often masks, hygiene and disinfection items were missing for the health workers (even if provided to the patients).

Attacks against migrants by state institutions

In October 2020, several people became infected in a refugee camp for initial reception in Kassel. Police and private security guards cordoned off the grounds and building.

No one told the residents the reasons for those measures. Translators were not present. Naturally, arguments exploded. Doctors who worked in the facility voluntarily and had criticised the hygienic conditions in the facility were banned from the building. The whole incident however was presented as yet another example of migrants respectively refugees who are unwilling to integrate themselves.

Another case were incidents in typical log construction areas in Göttingen. Bourgeois press claimed that illegal celebrations by residents had led to a COVID hotspot. When police attacked and tried to impose detentions, many of the tenants resisted. Again, the bourgeois press claimed it to be another incident of Muslims neglecting important hygiene rules. Short time later, same claims were brought forward against Roma and Sinti. In reality the police attacks were targeted against migrants living in the area, irrespective if they were just on the way to work, caring for family members, or any other reason. Racial profiling is the daily bread of the racist police. Unsurprisingly, such attacks increased under the cover of health protection.

Revolt of the youth

Already last year there were youth riots in Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Dietzenbach (near Hanau) and in other cities. Recently, youths in Stuttgart were given draconian sentences of several years. They were involved in scuffles with the police. In the first months of the year, there were again clashes in Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

There is a training ban for young people, the amateur clubs in almost all sports have finished their rounds of matches. The youth centres are closed. Parks are closed for gatherings of all kinds. There is absolutely no public place left for social life, which is especially important to the working class youth. No wonder they suffer particularly from the lockdowns. No wonder spontaneous social gatherings attacked by the police forces result in violent clashes and even (until yet smaller) riots.

The younger ones still live with their parents, schools are closed or there is home schooling, there is a lack of social contacts, youth centres are closed. There is little space at home if any and no way to balance this out with activities outside.

Students cannot get into universities and even their financial situation is becoming more precarious due to the loss of part-time jobs.

Time to fight the Bonapartist attacks

We call the present state politics Bonapartist, which in case of imperialist countries like Germany always contains repugnant racism. Bonapartist measures are not a guarantee for stability, as the last few weeks have shown us; the decline of the two "people's parties" clearly demonstrates this.

The protest of industry against the Maundy Thursday holiday has shown that the government (the state capitalist) is not assertive towards the economic capitalist anymore. The Grand Coalition has shown that it can assert itself vis-à-vis the small capitalists in the hotel and catering industry and other self-employed people and precarious livelihoods, but the multinational corporations are an-

other story. It is only a matter of time that small businesses will go bankrupt on a massive scale while most of the multinational corporations profit from the crisis.

The increased power of the state capitalist since the beginning of the pandemic was not marked by nationalisation of the industry but rather by an acceleration of monopolization. While the socialdemocratic concept, the reformist hope is focused on a social state capitalist which has the economy under its control and which builds a strong health and social system – reality shows again how delusional this worldview is. It would not be surprising if impoverished petty-bourgeois mass elements will turn towards fascism in the coming up years of this great depression. Just like it happened in the late 1920s and early 1930s. At such a point the same dreamers of social state capitalism and „solidary lockdown“ will scratch their head in confusion how this could happen albeit bourgeois school system taught pupils so much about the danger of Nazi ideology. They will blame the masses instead recognizing that it was their own betrayal that enabled such developments.

Only if organized revolutionaries rally against the Bonapartist measures; only if organized revolutionaries join the spontaneous protests of the working class youth and transform them into a militant, anti-racist and anti-Bonapartist movement; only if organized revolutionaries enable future general strikes – only then the potential for a revolutionary solution is given. Not if the working class is disarmed by social-distance and stay-at-home prayers.

We see a great danger in the bonapartist state measures which are imposed on the people. The new great depression has already started and was only masked by financial aids since the beginning of the pandemic. The reformist leadership of the labour movement has completely obeyed and demobilized the working class. Nearly all centrist

forces followed suit. Spontaneous protests by mass elements respectively the youth are ignored by the leadership of the labour movement or even denounced. While we see a number of important class struggles and uprisings in the world – be it Myanmar, Iraq or others – we must state that the German speaking countries still suffer from the massive demobilization of anti-capitalist protests.

More and more attempts are made by the bourgeoisie and their lackeys to find scapegoats and to incite against various layers of the population (migrants, ethnic minorities, the youth, etc.). This is why it becomes so important to form an united front against the lockdowns, based on an anti-capitalist and anti-racist platform. To fight together against the Bonapartist state apparatus, means to discuss the following topics:

* *What are the political and economic interests behind governments' lockdown policies?*

* *Why has the majority of the left failed and supports the anti-democratic lockdown policy?*

* *What is our position on the mass protests against the Corona measures? What can we learn from such important protests against police violence as BlackLivesMatter or the youth protests in Stuttgart?*

* *How can we build a social and democratic opposition to authoritarian corona capitalism?*

* *How can we who are particularly affected by the lockdown policy and its consequences (women, migrants, young people, etc.) - best fight back?*

We invite all activists and organizations who are opposed to the Bonapartist lockdown policy and who want to get organized on an anti-capitalist and anti-racist joint platform to get into contact with the RCIT.

(1) <https://wuppertal.vvn-bda.de/2021/03/20/nein-zur-ethnisierung-der-pandemie-wuppertal-ist-bunt/>

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

