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Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 120, July 2021

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Picture on the Cover: Mass demonstration against Brazil's President Bolsonaro in Sao Paulo

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)

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There are no left-wing and right-wing Zionists, only shades of right-wing Zionism!

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 3 June 2021

A new government headed by the far-right politician Naftali Bennett has been formed. It is composed of 8 parties of the Anti- Benjamin Netanyahu block. The first question to ask is who is Naftali Bennett? Who are his partners?

Bennett is a multi-millionaire known for his extreme right positions on the Palestinian rights and on working class rights. In simple words, he is an ultra-reactionary and to the right of Netanyahu. He leads *Yamina* (To the right) that has called for Israel to annex parts of the occupied West Bank. He was a major in *Sayeret Matkal*, a special forces commando that has an history of assassinations of Palestinian and Lebanese leaders. It assassinated PLO second-in-command Khalil Ibrāhīm al-Wazīr, known as Abū Jihād, in 1988 inside his Tunis home and kidnapped Hezbollah's spiritual leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid in July of 1989.

In 2010, Bennett became the head of Yesha Council, which lobbies for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank. In 2013 he called for the killing of Palestinians fighters, not for releasing them in an exchange of prisoners. He served as Netanyahu's Defense, Economy minister and Education minister. In Netanyahu's government he was in its right-wing section. He separated from Netanyahu over a personal conflict.

Gideon Moshe Sa'ar was an intelligence NCO in the Golani Brigade in his army service. He was a member of the Likud between 2003 and 2014 and was the Education Minister and the Minister of the Interior. At the end of 2020, he left the Likud after he ran unsuccessfully for the leadership of the Likud and established a new party by the name *New Hope*.

Yair Lapid was a journalist who in March 2013, following his coalition agreement with Likud, was appointed to be minister of Finance and a member of the Security Cabinet. Blue and white leader Benny Gantz was the chief of the Israeli army during the war on Gaza in 2014 and he bragged about his killing of more than 2000 Palestinians. He has served as a minister of war in Netanyahu's government.

In 1988 Avigdor Lieberman began to work with Benjamin Netanyahu. From 1993 to 1996, after Netanyahu was elected to the position of the Likud leadership Lieberman became a Director-General of the Likud. After Netanyahu was elected Prime Minister, Lieberman served as Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office from 1996 to 1997. He resigned from this post in protest after Netanyahu promised some concessions to the PA in the Wye River Memorandum (Oslo 2) in which Israel promised to withdraw from 13% of the West bank. He established his party, the *Yisrael Beiteinu*, to the right of the Likud. Later on, he was in and out of the government of the Likud. He opposed the withdrawal from Gaza in 2004. In 2012, Lieberman and Benjamin Netanyahu merged their political parties before the elections of 2013.

He was appointed the Minister of war in May 2016. In 2004 he announced his plan for the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians citizens of Israel and transferred them to the PA controlled area. In 2014 he repeated the same plan.

The Zionist *Labor Party*, the Zionist *Mertz* and the *Islamic Southern Branch* – the *United Arab List* led by Mansur Abbas – joined this far right block. They only prove that there is no left and right among the Zionist parties and that among the oppressed nations there are the collaborators with the oppressors.

Hadash - the Stalinist block – decided in the last minute, in a typical Stalinist fashion, not to join this right-wing coalition. However, it did recommend Gantz to the position of PM after the previous elections round and Lapid after this election round, and by this it opened the door before Mansur Abbas to join the new right-wing government.

Furthermore, the six members of the *Joint List* added their signatures to the call of the anti-Bibi right-wing block in which Levin of Likud is set to be replaced with Yesh Atid MK Mickey Levi, a move that would enable the new government to be sworn in as early as next Monday. In response Yesh Atid and *Yamina*, have both distanced themselves from the support of the Arab-majority Joint List in their move to replace Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin and expedite the swearing-in of the government.

"Yesh Atid has said the Joint List's declaration of support wasn't coordinated with the party, according to Channel 12 news. The report says the bloc may elect not to rely on the Joint List votes for the move. Similarly, Yamina sources are quoted by the Walla news site as saying they won't rely on Joint List support and will elect a new Knesset speaker when the government is sworn in and not before, meaning the move won't be expedited." (Times of Israel, 3.6.2021)

Thus if the leaders of the Joint List thought that the Bennett-Lapid government can treat them better than donkeys to ride on, and that the Zionists want to integrate them into the Zionist society, reality has given them a slap in the face. However, considering their class nature it is very difficult to believe they have learned their lesson.

It is not likely that this new government will stay in power for 4 years due to the internal fights under the circumstance which Israel exists in following its defeat in the last war against Gaza. The Zionist state is facing its worst crisis in history and for this reason it pushes for a war with Iran.

While the ISL was right for warning that the line of "everyone but Bibi" will lead to another right-wing government not better than the government of Netanyahu, we did not expect that the political defeat of Israel will lead to the replacement of Netanyahu by Bennett who won six seats in the elections.

In our estimation Israel is in the same situation that the South African apartheid regime was at the beginning of the 1980's. The isolation of the Zionist state is only deepening, and the massive pro-Palestinians mass movement is calling for a Palestine free from the river to the sea. This is a call for a democratic revolution. We support this demand and add that to win this demand the workers in alliance with the poor fellahin must lead the revolution as part of the regional Arab revolution.

*Down with the new right-wing coalition!
For a free red Palestine from the river to the sea!*

On the Coalitions Negotiations in Israel

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 30 May 2021

In Israel there is a political storm in a glass of water. It is now more than possible that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be replaced by Yair Lapid, from the *Yesh Atid* party, who will form a new government headed by the far-right politician Naftali Bennett whose *Yamina* party has six key seats in parliament. *Yamina* leaders Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked spoke in favor of forming a unity government with Lapid on Sunday. The other far-right party led by Gideon Moshe Sa'ar of *New Hope* demands six ministries for its six MK. "*New Hope* leader Gideon Sa'ar turned down offers from Likud on Sunday morning to rotate as prime minister with Benjamin Netanyahu and then Bennett in a three-man rotation." (1)

If such a government will be formed, it may still need the outside support of the Islamic party led by Mansour Abbas' – the *United Arab List (Ra'am)* that split from the *Joined List*. Abbas made it clear that he is ready to support Netanyahu or Lapid for the price he asks for. The *United Arab List* broke with the *Joined List* at the end of January, as it decided "to leave the *Joint List* after the other parties refused two ultimatums to vote together against LGBTQ issues, and to be able to have greater freedom to vote with the Right." (2)

The leading ultra-Orthodox rabbi Chaim Kanievsky had approved a potential government with Abbas's *Ra'am* Party, when asked whether the right-wing can join forces with *Ra'am*. In a speech in January in Hebrew language Abbas spoke about peace and security, partnership, humanity, and tolerance. This speech won applause from both the left and right Zionists. "In his speech he made no reference to Palestine, the Palestinians, the occupation, or discriminatory laws targeting Arab citizens such as the new *Kamenitz law* or the *Jewish Nation-State Law*." (3)

What he demands is a larger budget for the police allegedly to fight violent crime in the Arab community and recognizing three Bedouin communities in the south of the country that are considered illegal.

Let us not make a mistake and think that he is the only

Quisling. At the end of April five of the *Joint List*'s six lawmakers - recommend *Yesh Atid* leader Yair Lapid as prime minister, according to the *Kan* public broadcaster. (4) The only exception was the *Balad* party. Later on, "*Joint List* MK Ahmad Tibi said that his party will not support a government with *Yamina*'s Naftali Bennett and *New Hope*'s Gideon Sa'ar in an interview with *KAN Reshet Bet*." (5)

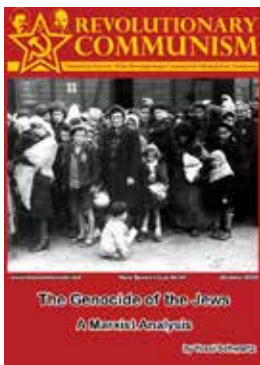
On April 8, *Hadash* – the Stalinist front – said it will not support a government led by Bennett. However, *Hadash* has not made any new statement in the last few days about a government formed by Lapid and Bennett. If *Hadash* will be ready to support this government from outside, it is very likely to split.

We still have to see its position. Meanwhile, the so-called left-wing Zionist parties have expressed their willingness to participate in a government led by Bennett.

The fact that the so-called left and liberal Zionists are ready to support a government led by Bennett brings to mind the South African Labor party, a party racist to the core. It is clear that the so-called left Zionist parties – the Labor Zionists and *Meretz* – believe that such a government will support the Palestinian Authority that is very busy with arresting and torturing young Palestinians who participated in the protests during the Zionist war on Gaza with the demand: "*Palestine free from the river to the sea*".

According to *Channel 12* news, the agreement of Lapid with *Meretz* gives the party three ministries. Party leader Nitzan Horowitz is slated to be the health minister, Tamar Zandberg the environmental protection minister and Issawi Frej the regional cooperation minister. In other words, his job will be to coordinate between Israel and the PA against the Palestinians, who see the PA collaboration with Israel as a betrayal of the Palestinian struggle.

Any way you look at it, the outcome will be either a right-wing government led by Bennett whose political position is to the right of Netanyahu or a new round of elections. Even if Lapid will announce that his government will



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

replace Netanyahu it is not sure that it will be actually formed as this coming Saturday is the Palestinian *Naksa Day* (Arabic: *Yawm an-Naksa*, meaning "day of the setback"). This is the annual day of commemoration for the Palestinian people of the displacement that accompanied Israel's victory in the Six-Day War on 5 June 1967.

The Zionist police that is arresting hundreds of Palestinian citizens of Israel who participated in the protests and in the general strike is ready to use force against the Palestinian protesters and it may force Abbas to withdraw his support as most likely all the Zionist parties will back the police.

Even if such a government will be formed it will not exist for long time as the crisis of the Zionist state is only growing and such a government will be paralyzed and in the next elections round most likely Netanyahu will win again. Let us remember that the politics of Obama and its failure led to Trump victory in the next presidential elections.

Finally, it is important to understand the tumultuous events in Israel's domestic policy in the context of the recent Gaza War and the new Intifada. The *Internationalist Socialist League* and our international organization – the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* – have stated that the war ended in a political defeat for the Zionist state and a victory for the Palestinian resistance. (7) The recent events completely confirm our analysis. While Israel's government is about to fall, Hamas – the leading force of the Palestinian resistance – is stronger and more

popular than ever.

Down with the Netanyahu and Bennett governments!

To hell with the Zionist left!

Free all Palestinians heroes who protest the Zionist war with Gaza in Israel and the PA!

Self-defense of the Palestinians on Naksa Day!

Democratic Red Palestine free from the river to the sea!

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/yesh-atid-new-hope-teams-to-meet-669589>
- 2) <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/hadash-balad-taal-announce-joint-run-without-raam-657765>
- 3) <https://www.mei.edu/publications/mansour-abbas-islamist-kingmaker-or-good-arab>
- 4) https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/most-joint-list-members-said-set-to-recommend-lapid-as-pm/
- 5) <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/tibi-lapid-brave-to-say-he-will-support-coalition-with-joint-list-667388>
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naksa_Day
- 7) See e.g. RCIT & CS: The Fourth Gaza War Ended in a Historic Victory for the Palestinians! 21 May 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-fourth-gaza-war-ended-in-a-historic-victory-for-the-palestinians/>; RCIT & CS: 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, 22 May 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/war-and-intifada-in-palestine-a-turning-point-in-the-world-situation/>

Syria: Rally against Assad's Fake-Elections

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 26 May 2021, Austrian Section of the RCIT

Nearly 100 Syrian migrants assembled in Vienna to protest against Assad's fake-elections. They denounced these elections as a cynical manoeuvre of the dictatorship to win international support.

Comrades of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the rally. We sold a number of copies of the latest issue of THAWRA - the RCIT's Arab-language paper. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was asked to address the rally. Comrade Pröbsting

condemned the regime and emphasized that the Syrian Revolution is not defeated but continuing. He also stressed the link between the liberation struggle of the Syrian people, the Palestinian Intifada, the mass mobilizations in Iraq and other countries.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/syria-rally-against-assad-s-fake-elections/>



Rally against Assad's fake elections in Vienna (26.5.2021)

Nigeria: June 12: A Face-off with State Bonapartism!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian section of the RCIT. 13th June, 2021

The RCIT have in a good number of recent works explained that the behaviour of world governments in this time of severe capitalist crises can be summarised as *chauvinist state bonapartism*, that is, a government that rolls back democratic rights with immense expansion of the state apparatus while leaning on accelerated aggression towards minority nationalities and rival factions of the bourgeois camp to maintain power.¹

This cannot be more true than in the case of Nigeria. The convener of the Take It Back (TIB) movement and one of the notable faces of the Coalition for Revolution, Omoyele Sowore, had earlier this month called for mass protests on June 12, Nigeria's Democracy Day, but in the days leading up to the protests President Buhari imposed a ban on the social media app, Twitter after his genocidal tweet was deleted. This in turn spurred anti-government agitations amongst all strata of the populace bolstering mobilisations for the June 12 protests.²

After he had restricted himself from using the social media app, he took to television broadcasts to advance his hatred towards the Igbo people especially the IPOB; attack Nigerian youths; and painted the whole secessionist movements in the south in bad light. Again further fanning up the flames of discontent which will make participation in the coming protests swell.

Despite all these attacks the masses remained defiant and like the proverbial pit into which the digger himself falls, Buhari's twitter ban only aroused anti-government sentiments the more and gave a broader global reach to Nigerian "trends" on the app. As no sooner had the regime deactivated the local servers did youth and activists begin using Virtual Private Networks (VPN's) giving discussions on the app a wider global outreach.³

Seeing that all attempts to gag free speech had only backfired, the regime sponsored scare-mongering tactics to demobilise the masses by warning of an unspecified attack on June 12. This was of course followed by a massive mobilization of police and other state forces in top gear which makes one wonder if truly the incessant kidnappings and killings have been taking place in Nigeria. Then followed the threats and official releases from the top ranks of the police and other organs of repression.⁴

Yet all this could not deter the people who marched out on to the streets in droves of hundreds in a face-off with the bonapartist machine armed with two major demands: *End bad governance* and *Buhari must go*. Demonstrations of this kind occurred in at least 25 states throughout the country and also in Diaspora. In some places protesters reassembled even after being dispersed with teargas canisters for a third time.⁵

The fact that the major mobilisers for this demonstration was amongst other things the character of the regime shows it is a product of a period of serious decay in capitalism moreso of the current capitalist crises.

It is true that mass mobilisations of this kind were in a way resuscitated in the 2019 Days of Rage launched by the Coalition for Revolution (CORE) but this is not just a Nigerian thing as the Washington Post themed 2019 as *"the year of the street protester"*. Since the new historic decline of

capitalism began in the "Economic meltdown" of 2008/09 which gave rise to the second Intifada (Arab revolution) in 2011 and the Nigerian anti-subsidy removal uprising of 2012 then the 2019 Days of Rage was a reaction to the worst stage of this decline.

If anything gave the June 12 protests more publicity and significance it was the pro-secessionist demonstrations for Oduduwa and Biafra nations by immigrants in the US and UK. More than one hundred immigrant protesters from South Western Nigeria joined in solidarity by their Biafran counterparts marched through Trafalgar Square demanding the actualisation of the right of nations of southern Nigeria to self determination and the removal of Buhari from office. This is a confirmation of our analysis that; *"the struggle for national liberation of oppressed southern ethnic nationalities has come to stay as part of the long term revolutionary onslaught against the bourgeois regime"*.⁶

Neglecting or alienating the fight against national oppression is to deny the very roots of the massive turnout for the demonstrations. Recall that it was the pulling down of Buhari's bigoted tweet against the Igbo nation that led to the ban on twitter and resulted in the subsequent nationwide anti-government agitation that followed.

That is why it is necessary to situate the demonstrations of Democracy Day in the global context of capitalist collapse which stirs up all unanswered and underlying question part of which includes: police brutality; rape and other forms of feminine oppression; and of course national oppression. All of these must be given due consideration if system change is the goal!

We seize this medium to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Victor Udoka and Emmanuel Larry, two activists arrested and torture for two months now by the Kogi state government for protesting in the state.

We shall overcome!

(1) <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-fire-manifesto-2021/>
<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>

(2) <https://thenationonline.net/reactions-trail-sowores-call-for-june-12-nationwide-protest/>
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(3) <https://www.thecable.ng/werey-trends-in-us-june-12-protest-in-the-netherlands-how-vpn-twitter-is-making-nigeria-top-charts-globally>

(4) <http://saharareporters.com/2021/06/10/june-12-store-food-stuffs-ahead-d-day-nigeria-will-shut-down-if-yoruba-person-killed%E2%80%9494>

#June12: US alerts citizens to stay off protest grounds

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/06/10/exposed-nigerian-army-puts-soldiers-nationwide-high-alert-clamp-down-june-12-protesters>

<https://punchng.com/june-12-police-protesters-draw-battle-lines-in-lagos-edo-delta-others/>

(5) <http://saharareporters.com/2021/06/03/31-cities-confirmed-anti-buhari-mega-protest-june-12>

<https://punchng.com/breaking-june-12-police-fire-tear-gas-at-protesters-in-lagos/>

<https://punchng.com/breaking-june-12-police-fire-tear-gas-at-protesters-in-lagos/>

(6) <https://revolutionarysocialistvanguard.wordpress.com/2021/06/02/in-solidarity-with-biafra-remembrance-day/>

Nigeria: Twitter Ban and Kidnappings

The Official and Unofficial Faces of the Fulani Hegemon

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian section of the RCIT. 5th June, 2021

According to Al Jazeera over 700 school children have been abducted since December. Over 300 people were killed by armed bandits in the first three months of this year in Kaduna state alone! Benue and Taraba states have been literally turned into slaughter houses for armed Fulani herders even though skirmishes by these herders now spread almost throughout the length and breadth of the nation. The recent slaughter of no less than 50 villagers in communities along the Benue-Ebonyi border stands as a fresh confirmation.¹

Two mothers of the recently abducted over 148 school children in Tegna, Niger state gave up the ghost at the shocking news of the kidnap of their underage children. The insurgents perpetrating all these atrocities are Fulanis imported and armed by the northern (Fulani) pro-caliphate syndicate with the help of the Nigerian state from surrounding West African countries.² The same Nigerian state after converting the South Eastern or Igbo states into a potential war zone have through the newly appointed Inspector General of police given a shoot-on-sight order for suspected or confirmed Igbo nationalist militant.³

Just days ago, the president tweeted: *"Many of those misbehaving today are too young to be aware of the destruction and loss of lives that occurred during the Nigerian Civil War. Those of us in the fields for 30 months, who went through the war, will treat them in the language they understand."*

The palpable hostility in the tweet led to thousands of Nigerians on the app reporting it, which in turn led to its subsequent deletion. Enraged by the deletion of his tweet which made explicit allusions to a second genocide of the Igbos president Muhammadu Buhari declared a ban on twitter in Nigeria.⁴

One does not need to be Sherlock Holmes to connect the dots within a ruling class that facilitates the influx of a certain nationality and the government that issues direct

threats of war to another. Neither is the help of a talisman needed to know that the goal of the topmost section of this ruling class is war, ethnic cleansing and conquest.

If you admit that this is true then you must also admit that the conflict will to a considerable extent be along national lines. Since this is the case, you must call for the defeat of the Northern conquistadors in their war with the oppressed nationalities, a war which has started in earnest but is yet to take all-out dimensions.

True, high rates of youth unemployment; devaluation of the naira and inflation; poverty and hunger; climate change; etc., contribute to the escalation of armed insurgency in Nigeria yet this does not disprove the agenda to subjugate southern ethnic nationalities rather it gives it an economic bases which can be understood within the general concept of the collapse of global capitalism.

History and even current events shows us that chauvinist Bonapartism is one of the inner mechanisms of maintenance of power by the ruling class especially in a period of deep crises. The rise of anti-Semitism in the 1930's leading up to the Holocaust is one example. The heightened aggression of the Netanyahu government against the Palestinians and Iran is another. The acceleration of chauvinist attacks of the US and other Western imperialists against China last year is a third. Even on the US mainland there has been a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes or an increase in attacks on the AAPI community.

As we speak, there are speculations of a hand-over to the military. Though he denies it, there are reports that the Attorney General has in a memorandum advised the president to suspend the constitution and declare martial law.⁵ All these happen as Boko Haram/ISWAP have regained more territory in the north where forced conversions to Islam take place and even pay stipends for those willing to join their ranks. Still the focus of the Nigerian Police Force



RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

and the Nigerian Army is to hunt down and kill secessionists. It becomes clear now that the barbaric treatment of many a civilian by military personnel is a reflection of the chauvinist orientation of the Fulani barons.

So we see that the progression of events is that of the official and unofficial faces of the Fulani hegemony.

In this light, acknowledging the war mongering posture of the Nigerian state goes hand in hand with recognizing the decades long marginalization of the southern and minority ethnic nationalities in the Middle Belt. All calls for the overthrow of the Buhari regime must include demands for reparations and justice for the victims of the genocide of 1967-70.

Bringing down the Buhari regime is impossible without the total disbandment of the Fulani oligarchy that represents its foundations unless only an affidavit change is required. The only way to do this remains destroying its imperialist sanctioned dominance on the southern and minority ethnic nationalities by supporting their calls for independence, autonomy and secession.

Putting a stop to the kidnappings and massacre impresses on the revolutionary forces to go further than destroying the official wing of this oligarchy, that is, to vanquish both ISWAP & Boko Haram. The former military general Buhari already stated that an attack on Boko Haram is synonymous to attacking the northern power structures.⁶

For this cause, as much as the historic responsibility lies on the Southern masses to begin this task, it cannot be led by the southern ruling class nor their stooges at the head of the southern nationalist movements as they have sold out and continue to sell or impede the national liberation struggles of the south for the expansion of their own capital. Only on a socialist bases can the ethnic nationalities in the south be truly free because what keeps them tied to northern oppression and imperialist super-exploitation is big business in the south.

The northern workers and masses must openly support the right of self determination and secession of the southern ethnic nationalities for in so doing they weaken their own ruling class and unite with their southern brothers and sisters to fight the bourgeoisie in all nooks and crannies of Nigeria.

At any rate, the only party capable of bringing this historic task to fruition is the working class which rallies around a Revolutionary Workers' Party of International Socialism that combines the democratic demands with the fight for a workers and poor peasant government.

Only such a party can lead the working class and poor on an independent path to fight Fulani dominance; ensure national liberation of oppressed nationalities; resist imperialist attacks and overthrow capitalism! Join the Liaison Committee of the RCIT and CS to build this party!

Footnotes

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/31/dozens-kidnapped-from-islamic-school-in-northern-nigeria>
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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

Nigeria: In Solidarity with Biafra Remembrance Day

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian section of the RCIT, 31st May, 2021

Today, 31st May, millions of Igbos the world over are observing a remembrance of the declaration of independence in 1967 of Biafra. This remembrance was initially slated for 30th of May by the exiled leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu since it was on May 30th and not May 31st that Biafran independence was declared in 1967 but was shifted to a working day (Monday).

The years following this independence would see the brutal killing of thousands of Ibos many of whom were children and women who died of starvation and displacement of millions more by the hatchetmen of British Imperialism. This crime against humanity is known today as the Nigerian civil war.

While we hold no admiration for the dictatorial leadership of Col. Odemegwu Ojukwu, the military governor of the old Eastern region of Nigeria during the 1967-70 civil war we acknowledge that on this day 54 years ago the heroic Biafran masses resolved to end the oppression of the Northern dominated and British backed Nigerian state.

In the same manner, we reserve very profound differences with Nnamdi Kanu, the exiled leader of the movement yet we do not deny the fight of the Biafran people against national oppression and their quest for justice decades after genocide of the Nigerian state during the Nigerian civil war. Rather we support the fight for freedom of Biafra.

Today, Biafrans in South Eastern Nigeria are observing a sit-at-home for the remembrance while others in diaspora hold rallies and demonstrations in support of the right of Biafra to secede. The Nigerian state and its Islamic extremists launch attacks against the Igbo people without provocation. About 50 people were rounded up by the police in a church service in Owerri yesterday because of their alleged membership of the IPOB. There are reports of police raiding student hostels in Imo State University (IMSU). About 50 people have been killed in a village by Fulani herdsmen in Ebonyi state.

Biafra Remembrance Day has garnered solidarity amongst other ethnic nationalities seeking self-determination or increased autonomy, most notable, are the agitators for Oduduwa Republic in the South West. Even on

social media apps such as Twitter youths all over Nigeria acknowledge this historic day with hashtags #BiafraRemembranceDay and #BiafraHeroesDay. The nationalist movements in Nigeria have become a cause of contention between members of the ruling class. The leaderships of these movements despite their reactionary shortcomings are becoming more frequently at loggerheads with the government officials of their regions like the southern governors and bosses of the ruling APC and PDP.

Many activists beat a retreat as the struggle for national liberation of oppressed southern ethnic nationalities becomes more violent more so as the agitators recognize the necessity of armed self-defence. Others fail to understand that the struggle for national liberation of oppressed southern ethnic nationalities has come to stay as part of the long-term revolutionary onslaught against the bourgeois regime.

We reiterate our unconditional support for the southern nations in their fight for secession and increased autonomy. All progressives, sincere leftists and genuine revolutionaries must defend the national agitators in the south against the Nigerian state and the terrorists in its payroll. In case of a war between the southern ethnic nationalities and the Nigerian state all revolutionaries must support the former militarily without giving any political support to their reactionary leaderships.

For us, the secessionist movements will only lead to long-lasting freedom and equality for the masses if the new nations are founded on socialist bases. That is if prospective Biafra and Oduduwa republics are run by a workers and poor peasant state. Indeed, this is the only way to free these prospective states from the yoke of imperialism by expropriating the southern bourgeoisie.

For this to happen the movements must be run democratically through open discussions involving all members of the movement to map out goals and next steps at every point in time.

Victory is certain when agitators combine the national democratic demands with socialist ideals!

For a Free Socialist Biafra!

China's transformation into an imperialist power

A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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Nigeria: Not Just Pantami But Out with Whole Fulani Hegemony!

No Trust in the US or Any Other Great Power!

Rather, Destroy the Neo-Colonial Order Of The Imperialists!

Declaration of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard, Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 23rd April, 2021

Recent revelations of the conclave held by 4 governors of the Far North as far back as 2010 confirms our analysis that there is an entrenched enclave of Fulani led Northern hegemony over Nigeria who are unmistakable proponents of an Islamic fundamentalist state.

The news of this meeting which was not in reality hidden, received a quantum boost because of the alarming levels of daily attacks on civilians by armed northern religious extremists plus media reports that the US was considering shortlisting Alhaji (Dr) Isa Pantami, the Minister for Communications and Digital Technology, the same person who chaired the 2010 meeting between the governors, as one of the enablers respectively collaborators with Boko Haram in the high ranking officialdom of the federal government of Nigeria.

This initial report this month has created a domino effect revealing links and sympathies of the Minister to a kind Wahhabi-Salafi Islamic ideology of the Boko Haram/ISIS. Despite all these the presidency has defended the Communications minister and has refused calls to fire him.

It is now clear that the Nigerian government at all levels has been infested with radical fundamentalist who are of northern extraction from the get go as this could just be one of many open meetings to this end, without of course counting the hidden ones. The enamel of many one Nigeria activists is shattered as they can no longer place the blame for the advance of this pro-emirati conquest squarely on the shoulders of president Buhari. If 4 northern governors were already having a meeting with a person like Pantami 5 years before Buhari's emergence as dictator in civilian garb then it was only a matter of time before a extremist potentate becomes the commander in chief.

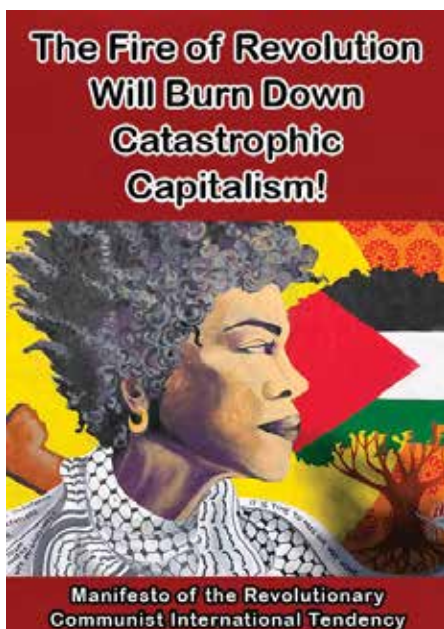
Moreover, the recentness of this meeting proves that the reality of Fulani dominance in Nigeria is not something

that was effective only during the colonial or military era; the modern carriers of the Fulani/northern agenda have followed us into the post-military and are very much with us as more Pantami's will show.

Some leftists who are still under the yoke of bourgeois electoralism express this bondage by blaming what they call "radical Islam" or "religion" for "terrorism" and "insecurity" instead of understanding that religion is merely one of the many constructs the ruling class uses to justify its advance against the masses or ruling class of a lesser and/or oppressed nation. The Fulani/northern hegemon maintain their economic and political grip or even extend it using Islamic "teachings" but enforce this hegemony through the Nigerian state and other auxiliaries of Fulani extraction because religious conquest is the way to motivate Fulani zealots to take to arms. To put it simply, religion is not an absolute feature of the capitalist system, the nation state, on the other hand, is.

We have pointed out times without number before now that the upswing of incursions of Fulani extremist invaders in the South and subsequent intensification of their attacks in the North is prompted by a collapse in the capitalist world order which comes with heightened rivalry between states, nations, imperialist powers; semi-colonies and Great Powers. Therefore the US which took the bastion of oversight of the semi-colonies from Britain on behalf of Western imperialism now seeks to shorten the leash on its lackeys—the Fulani hegemony, before their activities spiral into an all out war with the southern ethnic nationalities.

It seems to us that the links of Minister Pantami with the Boko Haram and his ugly history of harlotry with Salafism were uncovered through efforts sponsored by Western imperialism, the US to be precise just to curb the



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

“excesses” of their stooges, for a “united” Nigeria under northern dominance is the play book that favours the interests of Western imperialism in Nigeria.

Such revelations or threats, maybe even sanctions in a later period by the US government or any other government from the camp of the Western powers should not be mistaken for a push for equality of nations. First because the US is the number one imperialist hegemon so by its very nature it feeds off the oppression of semi-colonies and the conflict with Eastern Imperialism to survive. That is why minority nationalities and immigrants like blacks, Asians, aboriginal Americans and other people of colour suffer age-long oppression from the imperialist government. Despite the trial of Derek Chauvin at least an additional 3 black people were killed by police in the US.

Worse still is the fact that the US is ready to go to any lengths to maintain its grip on the nations of the global south. Just imagine its support for the hyper-reactionary regime of Bin Salman in Saudi Arabia; its material and moral protection of the Israeli apartheid state which has carried out systematic genocide of the Palestinians. It is also worth remembering that the greatest enabler of extreme Islamism globally is the US as they sponsored at the outset groups like the Mujahedeen and the Taliban. Only when they are given a taste of their own medicine do they cry “wolf” and invoke terms like “terrorist”, “fundamentalist” etc. So the US or any other Western imperialist have no justification to wage a “War on Terror” anywhere!

Meanwhile such revelations reveal that the Nigerian government is overly intertwined with a syndicate of Fulani/northern dominance and the advance of an Islamic state agenda. We call for the dismantling of the neo-colonial or-

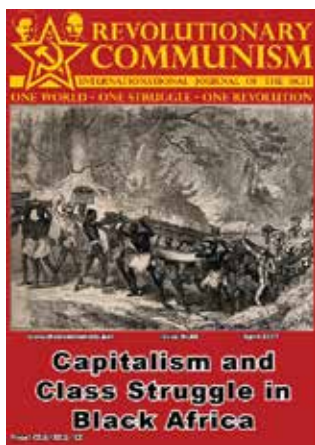
der throughout West Africa. We say that sacking Pantami alone would do nothing to change the situation, instead we call for the defeat of the Northern ruling class! Remember the ruling class will sacrifice one of its own to maintain its system of oppression or to postpone the hour of reckoning of the masses. Just look at the case of the substituted security chiefs which will hold its own in the annals of gross injustice—promoting corrupt service chiefs to ambassadorial posts while replacing them with a replica that are toothless bull dogs in the face of northern terrorists but fire-spitting dragons to southern nationalist militias.

Boot out Pantami and whole Fulani-led Northern Hegemony! They are the chief gendarme of the neo-colonial order in Nigeria! No Reliance on the US or Western imperialism to Fight “Terrorism”! Free West Africa from the Tight Grip of Western and Eastern Imperialism!

Defeat Boko Haram/ISWAP, Fulani Herdsmen, and the so called Bandits! Defend the Right of Southern Ethnic Nationalities to Self-determination, Autonomy and Secession! Northern and Muslim Workers Must Defend this Right for True Workers’ Unity to be Established!

Defend the ESN and Amotekun Against Nigerian State Aggression! No Man Hunt of Southern Nationalist Agitators, Whether Oduduwa or Biafra! End the Exile of Nnamdi Kanu! In case of A War Between Southern Ethnic Nationalities and the Nigerian State, Revolutionaries and Progressives Must Support the Former Without Any Political Empathy for their Reactionary Leaderships!

For An Indefinite General Strike to Bring Down the Buhari Regime! For A Workers and Poor Peasants’ Government Based on A Planned Economy which Defends the Equality of Nations and Rights of Minorities!



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle

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Introduction * Some Background Notes on Black Africa’s Modern History: How Colonial Plunder and Oppression Blocked Independent Development * Popular Struggles against Colonialism Led to Formal Independence * Formal Independence as Disguised Imperialist Dependency * The Reactionary Role of White Settlers * Is Capitalist Black Africa Rising? * Africa in the Grip of Imperialism * China as a new Imperialist Great Power Challenging the Western Domination * The Working Class and the Oppressed * Rising Class Struggle * Key Lessons for a Revolutionary Strategy in Black Africa * Imperialist Domination and Authoritarian Regimes Remain in Place despite Formal Changes * Breaking the Capitalist Chain – The Program of Permanent Revolution * The Revolutionary Struggle against Imperialism * Imperialist Chauvinism and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotism of the Oppressed * The Independence of the Working Class and the Struggle against the Popular Front * The Struggle for Pan-African Unity * The Revolutionary World Party and its African Sections * Footnotes

Au Revoir, Français!

Popular resistance is forcing French imperialism to reduce its troops in Africa's Sahel

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 13 June 2021

In a news conference on 11 June, President Emmanuel Macron announced the future reduction of France's military presence in Africa's Sahel region. He spoke about the "profound transformation" of his country's military operation in Mali and neighboring countries without going into details.

Macron stated that France's *Operation Barkhane* will formally end and will be replaced by another mission focused on fighting "Islamic extremists" that relies more on its allies in the region. Currently, Paris has stationed about 5,100 troops in the Sahel. However, Macron said that "the final goal is to reduce our multiple military deployments" in the region. "We will make a drawdown in an organized way," Macron told reporters, adding that details, including on the number of soldiers France is keeping in the region, will be finalized by the end of June. "We will have to hold a dialogue with our African and European partners. We will keep a counterterrorism pillar with special forces with several hundred forces ... and there will be a second pillar that will be cooperation, and which we will reinforce."¹

While Paris has always claimed that the goal of its intervention is to combat "Islamic extremists", the real purpose is rather its political and economic power interests. French resp. European imperialism wants to keep Northwest Africa under their control as this is a region of strategic relevance. It contains important raw materials which are exploited by multinational corporations with huge profits. With a rapidly growing population, Africa's market is increasingly relevant for imperialist monopolies – even more so as we are living in a historic of decay of capitalism.

In addition, the region is the "gate" for migration to Europe which the imperialist states want to control as much as possible. For these reasons, the imperialists are determined to keep the local dictators in power as these allies are crucial for their control of the Sahel.

A series of setbacks

France's partial withdrawal is no surprise. As the RCIT explained in several statements in the past, French imperialism suffered several setbacks in the recent pasts. Armed resistance groups have dealt severe blows to the occupation forces. The French military presence is highly unpopular among the African people who had to suffer already a lot from centuries of French colonialism.²

Furthermore, France lost two crucial allies in recent time. In August 2019, Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta was overthrown by a military coup of young officers with strong popular support.³ And in April this year, Chad's long-time dictator, Idriss Déby, was killed in battles with rebels (or killed by his own people – the concrete circumstances of his death remain mysterious).⁴

The RCIT and all anti-imperialists strongly welcome the setback for French imperialism. Paris has been the main imperialist occupation force in the region for a long time. Every step which weakens the foreign invaders, and which increases the room for maneuver for popular resistance forces, is a step forward!

France: a malicious imperialist power

France is not only one of the strongest European imperialist powers and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council with veto power. Its aggressive advocacy of Islamophobic hate-mongering by promoting the racist Charlie Hebdo propaganda, its chauvinist domestic campaign based on the so-called "French values", its new repressive laws against Muslim migrants, its massive expansion of the police and surveillance state, and its aggressive foreign policy in the Middle East and in the Eastern Mediterranean – all this has rightly made France deeply resented in the Muslim world.

Of course, socialists should have no illusions about the current situation. France is forced to withdraw some forces, but its troops still remain in the region. Furthermore, there are still thousands of other occupation forces – both from the European Union as well as from allied African regimes – which operate in Mali as part of the UN-Mission MINUSMA. In addition, it is said that Mali's new strong man – coup leader Assimi Goïta – plans to invite Russian troops to replace the French. (This is, we note in passing, another reflection of the decline of the Western imperialist powers and the rise of Russia and China as new imperialist powers.⁵)

Nevertheless, French imperialism has suffered a defeat, and this is to be welcomed! The struggle of the workers and poor peasants in Mali, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania needs to continue until all imperialist occupiers and all reactionary dictators have been driven out!

Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. Sylvie Corbet: Macron to reduce French military troops in Africa's Sahel, 2021-06-11 <https://ap-news.com/article/europe-africa-government-and-politics-aaf-c8384982070d6c2bc713a008d9638>; Macron: Barkhane mission ending, French presence to stay in Sahel, 10 Jun 2021 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/10/sahel-macron-announces-end-operation-barkhane-it-exists>; Baba Ahmed and Krista Larson: French military suspends joint operation with Mali military, 2021-06-03 <https://apnews.com/article/europe-africa-mali-8a2bd531f3074b7f705fba64c70d5d3e>

2 See on this e.g. RCIT: Expel French Imperialism from West Africa! Macron and his G5 Lackeys plan to intensify their colonialist "Operation Barkhane", 15 January 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/expel-french-imperialism-from-west-africa/>; Down with French Neo-Colonialism in West Africa! Protest against the imperialist "Operation Barkhane" / "Coalition for the Sahel"! Joint Statement of Anti-Imperialist and Socialist Organisations, 12 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-down-with-french-neo-colonialism-in-west-africa/>; RCIT: French Imperialism Lick its Wounds. 13 French soldiers died in Mali during colonialist combat mission, 29 November 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/mali-french-imperialism-lick-its-wounds/>

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must take power in their own hand! 19 August 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/mali-the-imperialist-puppet-ruler-keita-has-fallen/>; Mali: No to Imperialist Sanctions after the Dismissal of the Authoritarian Keita Regime! Joint Statement of Revolutionary and Anti-Imperialist Organisations, 27 August 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-no-to-imperialist-sanctions-after-the-dismissal-of-the-authoritarian-keita-regime-in-mali/>; Malians, Don't Repeat The Mistake Of History! For independent bodies of the popular masses to lead the struggle! For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly now! Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT) and Revolutionary Socialist League (Sympathizing RCIT Section in Kenya), 21 August 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/malians-don-t-repeat-the-mistake-of-history/>

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5 On the RCIT's analysis of the Great Power rivalry and China's and Russia's rise as emerging imperialist powers see the literature mentioned in the special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>. In particular we refer to 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 our numerous documents on the Global Trade War which have been collected at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>. See also the latest pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting: "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/>

Books of the RCIT

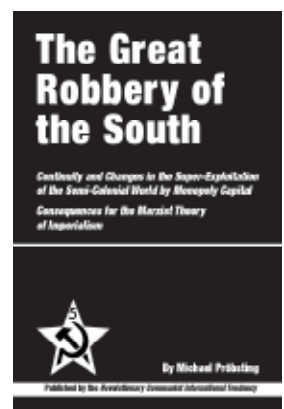
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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)



Peru: The Meaning of Pedro Castillo's Electoral Victory

*Statement of the Liaison Committee of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)
and Convergencia Socialista (Argentina), 11 June 2021*

1. The electoral victory of Pedro Castillo is a highly important development as it reflects a significant political shift to the left among the masses. This shift itself is the result of the massive acceleration of the class struggle in Latin America (and globally) as it has been expressed in the revolutionary uprising in Colombia, the shift to the left at the recent elections in Chile, new mass mobilizations in Brazil, important strikes in Argentina, etc.
2. Marxists, in contrast to the opportunist left, have no illusions about the real political nature of Castillo's electoral campaign resp. of his party *Peru Libre*. Castillo electoral victory is highly remarkable because the masses voted for him despite being an "outsider", i.e. coming from outside the bourgeois establishment. He has become famous in the past years as an organizer of strikes and a militant leader of the teachers trade union. He won popular support because he has been identified with the hopes of the masses for radical changes in the constitution and massive economic reforms (including the nationalization of key sectors).
3. The political significance of Castillo's victory lies in these developments, i.e. that it reflects a radicalization of the masses. Marxists strongly refute the view of the opportunist left which wrongly claim that the elections would have put a "socialist" into power. Such a view can only create confusion among the workers vanguard instead of helping them to overcome illusions.
4. Castillo and the leading group of *Peru Libre* represent a classic reformist, left-populist policy. They promise various radical reforms but are neither willing nor capable to seriously challenge the rule of the capitalist class. This has been made clear by Castillo himself who promised to refrain from nationalizations once he has come to power. Likewise, he preaches the classic reformist path of winning elections and working within the bourgeois institutions instead of militant mass mobilizations against these institutions. In fact, the recent public statement of the army command to respect the electoral result reflects the fact that the ruling class does not consider Castillo as a radical socialist but rather as a politician with whom they believe to be able to collaborate.
5. For that reason, it seems unlikely in the present situation that the ruling elite intends to initiate a coup against Castillo. If such a coup would take place, Marxists naturally would side with the masses to defeat such a reactionary assault.
6. The main danger now is that Castillo will utilize his victory in order to pacify the masses, i.e. to make them wait for any reform initiatives of his new administration. Failing to make any serious step towards expropriation and overthrowing the bourgeoisie and pacifying the popular masses – these are the real characteristics of the new Castillo Administration. And it is these characteristics which make it objectively a servant of the bourgeoisie.
7. While Marxists warn against any illusions in Castillo, they also need to take the hopes of the popular masses into account. Revolutionaries in Peru have to relate to the illusions of workers and poor peasants and help them to overcome this. Explaining the real, bourgeois nature of Castillo's policy is a necessary part of this. However, revolutionaries in Peru also need to formulate a program of struggle which puts in the center a strategy to overthrow the bourgeoisie and which relates to the desire of the masses for radical change.
8. Such a program needs to entail a series of urgent minimum social, economic and health demands. Such demands should be combined with the call for the massive expansion of the public health sector under popular control. For the nationalization of key sectors of industry, service and banks under workers' control! Land for the poor peasants – expropriate the big landlords and multi-nationals! For a workers' and poor peasants government based on action councils and armed militias of the popular masses!
9. Given the importance of the issue of the constitution, Marxists need to pick up this issue but pose it in a revolutionary, anti-reformist way. For a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* that is convened and controlled not by the bourgeois regime but by the fighting masses organized in councils of action and armed militias.
10. Castillo won the elections because the popular masses hope that he would implement radical reforms. While Revolutionaries need to patiently explain that Castillo can not and will not implement such a program, they should relate to these illusions by calling the masses to mobilize for such demands. They need to say to the masses: "Well, we do not believe that Castillo can implement such demands. However, if you believe so, let us mobilize on the streets in order to demand from the new administration to implement such radical reforms." Such calls need to be directed also to the mass organizations (trade unions, peasant and indigenous organizations, etc.) which constitute an important basis of support for Castillo.
11. The crucial thing is that revolutionaries help the masses to overcome their illusions by *both* patiently explaining the real reformist nature of Castillo *and*, at the same time, calling for mass mobilizations around concrete demands. An inextricable part of such a program is the creation of organs of popular assemblies and self-defense units so that the masses control their struggle. Marxists insist that without such organs of self-organization, the masses are in danger of remaining under control of the bureaucratic apparatus which will mislead them into demobilization and defeat.
12. Finally, we emphasize that militants of the vanguard who agree on such a perspective need unite in a *revolutionary party* as part of a *new International*. Only the construction of such a party in time will allow to combat the influence of various reformist and Stalinist forces within the mass organizations.

Argentina: Socialists Organize Artistic Protests against Lockdown Policy

By a Correspondent of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 May 2021

Our Argentinean comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* are playing a leading role in organizing protests against the reactionary Lockdown policy. Like the RCIT, the comrades denounce such policy of mass curfews and restrictions as an anti-democratic counter-revolutionary attack under the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic. They correctly characterize the Lockdown policy as an instrument for the interests of the ruling elite and capitalist monopolies.

In response, *Convergencia Socialista* – together with independent comrades – has launched the campaign *Autodefensa del Arte* (Self-Defense of Art). This initiative denounces the massive restrictions and demands work and space for artists, one of the sectors hardest hit by medieval quarantine policies.

On 25 May, *Autodefensa del Arte* organized an artistic protest in Buenos Aires at the *Obelisco* (a national historic

monument and icon of Buenos Aires).

We consider such activities as highly remarkable and exemplary forms of resistance against the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution*, reflecting the socialist, revolutionary democratic and deeply humanist nature of our struggle against the reactionary offensive of Chauvinist State Bonapartism! Below are links to articles, pictures, and videos on this protest action.

<https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/artistas-y-socialistas-de-cs-en-primera.html>

<https://libertadescs.blogspot.com/2021/05/el-tango-que-se-sintio-fuerte-protesta.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1649988641875966&set=pcb.1649989805209183>

<https://www.facebook.com/Autodefensa-Del-Arte-112201870645182/videos/771486553733834/>

Argentina: Artistic Protests against Lockdown Gain International Media Attention Policy

By a Correspondent of the Liaison Committee of *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina) and the RCIT, 31 May 2021

As we reported recently, comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* are playing a leading role in organizing protests against the reactionary Lockdown policy in Argentina. This policy represents an anti-democratic and counter-revolutionary attack under the pretext of COVID-19 and only serves the interests of the ruling elite and capitalist monopolies.

Comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* are part of the campaign *Autodefensa del Arte* (Self-Defense of Art) which organizes protest activities. Among these are Tango resp. Milonga events where people break the Lockdown restrictions by meeting and dancing in the center of Buenos Aires. These events are combined with popular agitation against the COVID-19 Counterrevolution.

These protest activities are gaining increasing attention – not only in Argentina itself but also in international me-

dia. In the last days, several reports have been published – among them *Associated Press* and the *Los Angeles Times*. (See the link to the section about media reports)

See also <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/05/repercusion-internacional-de-protesta.html>

Media Reports about Anti-Lockdown Protests in Argentina co-organized by *Convergencia Socialista*

<https://www.latimes.com/espanol/internacional/articulo/2021-05-29/protestan-contra-confinamiento-bailando-tango-en-argentina>

<https://apnews.com/article/noticias-42a51e1d-c45b4504630240220a4890df>

<https://www.ruptly.tv/en/videos/20210530-012-Argentina--Tango-protest-demands-reopening-of-venues-amid-COVID-hardship>



Pictures from the artistic protest in Buenos Aires, organized by *Autodefensa del Arte* (25.5.2021)

Brazil: Military Police of Rio de Janeiro Executes 27 Residents in the Jacarezinho Favela

Statement of Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of RCIT), 9 May 2021

Summary executions of residents in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro regularly take place. But this time, the murder of 27 residents, called by police and the bourgeois press as “suspects”, reached a sad record. The invasion of the Jacarezinho favela, on May 6, was characterized by a war operation. The Civil and Military Police launched an offensive, with the clear and explicit objective of making a killing, under the justification of defending the children and young people that would be enlisted by drug trafficking.

The last of the great massacres that the Rio de Janeiro police carried out against the population was in January 1998, when the police killed 23 people in Vila Operária, in the neighboring municipality of Duque de Caxias. Human rights organizations and the press denounce the existence of death squads, formed within the state repression apparatus, in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The relationship between police and drug trafficking became explicit. The violent right-wing militias, support base for President Bolsonaro, were born out of this relationship. It was not possible to hide the existence of a powerful criminal faction within the state apparatus. It is present in the Executive, the Legislative, the Judiciary and the Police. It could not be otherwise, since drug trafficking and organized crime in general express an important economic-financial movement. Drug trafficking

is recognized as a funder of candidates in elections.

Latin America, steeped in backwardness, and deeply marked by unemployment, underemployment and hunger, has long since become a breadbasket for drug trafficking, and an area for arms smuggling, which comes from the United States. This explains, to a large extent, the constant strengthening of the police, the huge budgets for repressive apparatus, and the importation of war techniques and materials to be used against workers’ demonstrations. In this context, the Bonapartist police state, with common characteristics across the continent, has become larger.

The Brazilian congress stands out having in its staff a group of politicians known as the “*Bancada da Bala*”, whose members are active in defending conservative agendas along with evangelical fundamentalist congressmen, with special emphasis on the defense of the legal age of 16 and the approval of the death penalty.

The President of the Republic was elected with the active and wide participation of the civilian police, military police, militias of extreme right and of the Armed Forces. Several denunciations exist, but so far the judicial processes that investigate the links of the president’s children with these militias in Rio de Janeiro have not advanced. 24 hours before the killing in the Jacarezinho favela, the current state’s governor of Rio de Janeiro, Cláudio Castro, met

Brazil: Mass Demonstration to Bring Down Bolsonaro

Statement of Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of RCIT), 31 May 2021

Brazil experienced impressive mass mobilizations against the Bolsonaro government on Saturday, 29 May. More than 200 demonstrations were held in numerous cities in the whole country and also abroad. The number of demonstrators was larger than most observers expected.

As usual, the biggest demonstration took place at Av. Paulista, in the city of São Paulo with about 100,000 people. Aerial images showed that the event occupied almost the total of 3 km of Avenida Paulista, the heart of the Brazilian financial system. In other important cities, such as Rio de Janeiro, Brasília, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, the demonstrations were also very large.

Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of the CCRI / RCIT) has emphasized since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis that it is urgently necessary to organize a fightback against the government on the streets. We denounced the official policy of the larger left-wing parties which (with the exception of the PCO) called people to “stay at home” because of the pandemic.

Two things were particularly remarkable about these mobilizations on 29 May. First, there was a massive presence of youth among the demonstrators. Second, there was a relatively small presence the larger left-wing parties. Those who were present mostly marched within the contingents of the different trade union federations (CUT, CGT, CTB, INTERSINDICAL, etc.).

The turning point for the successfully mobilization on 29 May was the great demonstration in São Paulo on May

Day several weeks ago. When we marched on that day we could already see the strong desire of people to have face-to-face mobilization on the streets which were suppressed for such a long time by the bureaucratic leaderships of the left-wing parties.

We cannot waste any more time on electoral illusions waiting for the presidential elections in 2022. We need to strengthen the struggles on the streets now. The rank-and-files must pressure the large left-wing parties to effectively mobilize in the streets to overthrow the Bolsonaro/Mourão bonapartist regime and its neoliberal economic program. In the last few months, it has become clear that the worst virus that the Brazilian people face today is this arch-reactionary Bolsonaro / Mourão government!

* *Down with Bolsonaro/Mourão government!*

* *Defeat the neo-fascist extreme right groups and the traditional right in the streets!*

* *No illusion in the electoral field for 2022! Down with the electoral “Frente Ampla” with the traditional right-wing parties!*

* *Repeal all neoliberal economic measures, such as Pension Reform, labor reform, past and future privatizations, and especially the administrative reform.*

* *No to any intervention by the Armed Forces.*

* *Make the rich pay for the crisis!*

* *Free access to vaccination on a voluntary basis!*

* *No more military police and police violence!*

* *Create self-defense units and popular militias in neighborhoods and workplaces!*

with the president and it is not possible to consider this fact as a mere coincidence. Recently, Bolsonaro directed the party PSL parliamentarian, Major Vitor Hugo, to carry out a project of law that could subordinate state police directly to the President of the Republic. This onslaught exposed the tendency for the police state to intensify.

Rio de Janeiro is a symbolic city, not only because it is an icon in the world, but also because it concentrates the contradictions between wealth and misery, between development and the country's backwardness. Police violence against the poor residents of the favelas, mostly coming from the oppressed black community, once again gained worldwide prominence with the furor of the killing in Jacarezinho.

In the first half of 2020 alone, 3,181 people were murdered by the police in Brazil, the majority appointed by the military police which has enormous similarities with the carabineros of Chile. This fact is a complete demonstration of the economic and social decomposition of capitalism and, therefore, of the advance of barbarism, especially in Brazil. It must be borne in mind that this number of deaths in police actions does not exist only in the state of Rio de Janeiro. From January to May 2020, the state of São Paulo broke the record in the last two decades, with 442 people murdered by the police. It is a fact that this not only happens in the two main cities of the country, but in the other major state capitals.

The easiness and impunity with which police kill in favelas and poor neighborhoods indicate, not only the increase in militarization of the police, but also the absence of responses from workers' and popular movements. The favelas are under the control of NGOs, fundamentalist churches and rightists' parties. In order to break the strait-jacket of these organizations, which serve to contain the instinctive revolt of the oppressed, it is necessary that the working class, organized in their unions and their popular movements, put themselves ahead of the exploited's demands. Unemployment, underemployment and the mini-

mum wage (200 US Dollars), which do not cover the needs of the working family, are at the basis of all the tragedies experienced in poor neighborhoods and favelas. It is not unknown that youth are drawn into drug trafficking and all types of criminality due to poverty and misery. These young people are surrounded by poverty, misery, promiscuity and completely without perspective on life.

Faced with a massacre like Jacarezinho's favela, the unions, national trade union centers, the so-called left-wing parties and the popular movements are in a lethargic state. During a year and three months of pandemic, the policy of these directions was to stop the instinctive revolt by supporting the reactionary lockdown. With rare exceptions, not even the May Day celebrations were utilized to carry out mobilizations and protests across the country. The main National Trade Union Center, the CUT, under the leadership of the Workers' Party, organized a great May Day ... *online*. Neither the mass layoffs nor the escalation of hunger have removed the passivity of these bureaucratic leaderships.

The Federal Supreme Court had already banned police actions in the favelas for the duration of the pandemic. The police, mostly Bolsonaroistas in Rio de Janeiro, did exactly the opposite. This has been a clear provocation to the Supreme Federal Court itself. This demonstration of strength by the Rio de Janeiro police took place after Bolsonaro's supporters were on the streets on the 1st of May, with the banners inflating the military coup.

The set of these factors exposes the leadership's betrayal against the exploited that have suffered and have been suffering during the pandemic. This event must serve to alert the working class and its vanguard, about the gravity and dangers of the passivity in which workers are immersed.

** Abolish the military police and the repressive apparatus!*

** End police operations in favelas and poor neighborhoods!*

** Condemnation of the murderers of the residents of the Jacarezinho's favela!*

** Build an authentic revolutionary workers party!*

Brazil: Mass Protest against Bolsonaro

Report by Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of RCIT), 20 June 2021

Comrades of the Brazilian section of the RCIT attended a second day of mass protests against the Bolsonaro government which took place all over the country. The first was on 29 May. This time, in the city of São Paulo more than 110,000 demonstrators were present. The acts were registered in 25 state capitals, Federal Capital (Brasília) and more than 300 cities. According to the reports of the organizers, around 750,000 people were on the streets.

In places like Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, demonstrators occupied all the roads and mobilized the population for several hours.

The main slogans chosen by the protest leaders were: "Fora Bolsonaro", "Vaccination for All" and return of emergency aid of 600 reais (110 dollars).

We from the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (Brazilian section of RCIT) consider these slogans as politically insufficient and reaffirm what we said in our last document of 1 June: "We cannot waste any more time on electoral illusions waiting for the presidential elections in 2022. We need to strengthen

the struggles on the streets now. The rank-and-files must pressure the large left-wing parties to effectively mobilize in the streets to overthrow the Bolsonaro/Mourão bonapartist regime and its neoliberal economic program. In the last few months, it has become clear that the worst virus that the Brazilian people face today is



Picture from the mass demonstration against Bolsonaro

Britain: Keir Starmer's Labour Party is defeated in English Local Elections

Article by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain

In the English local elections on the 6th May 2021 many of the Council elections in places like Sheffield and Durham were won by the Tories. Labour did badly, losing a number of Councils to the Tories. The turnout was quite low in many parts of England with only 29-30 percent. The right-wing leadership of Starmer and his close association with Boris Johnson in the Covid-Counterrevolution meant many working class and Labour supporters stayed at home and did not vote. Starmer has provided no serious opposition to the attack on democratic rights by the Johnson Government. In many respects he has gone further to restrict our freedoms and our rights, supporting the Bourgeoisie's move towards dictatorship and Bonapartism.

"The Conservatives have continued to sweep aside Labour in its traditional north-eastern English heartland. The party lost control of Durham County Council, which it has run since 1925, losing 15 seats as the Tories took 14. This follows the Conservatives winning the Hartlepool parliamentary by-election and receiving 73% of the vote in the Tees Valley mayoral election. The elections are the biggest test of public opinion since the 2019 general election and the first electoral test for Sir Keir Starmer since he became Labour leader last year." [1]

"The Conservatives have made significant gains across England, adding 13 councils and an extra 235 councillors to their overall tally by Sunday. Labour has lost control of eight councils, including Durham County Council." [2]

The loss of West Hartlepool in the byelection showed that the working class is now drifting away from Labour, which has moved to the right very fast under Starmer's Leadership. No wonder as he is a professed Zionist and right-wing Blairite. This test of his leadership in the local elections has proved that the Tories and Labour's policies are perceived as identical in the approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic policies.

Bourgeois commentators have suggested that the situation is so serious that civil war has erupted in Labour. Accusations are thrown about different labour party figures below Starmer.

"Labour has plunged into civil war after the Tories demolished a line of Red Wall bricks to claim a stunning victory in England's elections. Keir Starmer's party suffered losses in a swathe of English council seats - including losing control of Durham for the first time in a century - and lost control of Hartlepool for the first time since the 1960s in a by-election. In the Tees Valley mayoral contest, Conservative incumbent the Tees Valley mayoral contest, Conservative incumbent Ben Houchen trounced his Labour rival by a landslide, with 73% of votes to 27%. The West Midlands mayoral race piled on the agony for Labour as reigning mayor Andy Street was comfortably re-elected." [3]

Starmer has sought to divert the blame for Labour's defeat on others in the party, particularly his deputy Angela Rayner. Starmer, this former state agent, uses his position as Labour leader to dismiss or sack people he disagrees with. Rayner was directly elected by Labour party members, so Starmer was unable to take any effective action except dismiss and rearrange his Shadow Cabinet.

The centrists of the *Socialist Party* stood candidates under

the banner of the *Trade Union and Socialist Coalition*, but they received a paltry number of votes.

SNP and Scottish Nationalists win a comfortable majority in Scotland

In Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP won a crushing victory over Labour and the Tories in the Scottish assembly elections. Labour is entirely eclipsed, its former working-class support has evaporated, and Labour came a poor third in the Elections, again behind the Tories. The capitalist regime in Scotland which voted against Brexit is now going to have a stronger hand in pushing for a second referendum for Independence from Britain.

"Nicola Sturgeon has pledged to press ahead with plans for a second independence referendum after the Scottish National party won its fourth consecutive Holyrood election, triggering a constitutional battle with Boris Johnson. In a letter issued before the final results were declared, Johnson attempted to blunt Sturgeon's attack by urging the first minister and her opposite numbers in Wales and Northern Ireland to join a UK-wide Covid recovery summit involving all four governments. It was in the UK's interests for the governments to work collaboratively, the British prime minister wrote, taking a softer approach than on Friday when called a fresh referendum "irresponsible and reckless." [4]

Johnson is caught in a dilemma because of the huge support that the SNP received in the Scottish assembly elections. The controversy with Alex Salmond, the former First Minister does not appear to have affected her standing of the SNP in Scotland. *The 1701 Act of Union* gives Westminster the constitutional right to decide on another Independence referendum.

Welsh Labour Party wins a majority in the Senned (Welsh Assembly)

The Welsh Labour Party (like the SNP in Scotland) again retained a majority in the Senned. Mark Drakeford, the First Minister professes to be a leftist, but all the so-called leftists have supported the Lockdown policy. Like England and Scotland, they have used very restrictive and anti-democratic practices to enforce the Lockdown. They have taken a far more restrictive policy than the Johnson Government again as all capitalist governments have done to curb freedoms and democratic rights and keep people locked up in their homes without any medical supervision. Both in Scotland and Wales, they have used the same Lockdown procedures as in England. The political map shows in these elections that although some restrictions are being removed the tendency of the global capitalist system is towards Bonapartism (likewise intense conflicts between the major powers and war). Both Labour and the SNP provide no real alternative to the Tories but prove that they are all working together to expand exploitation, poverty and mass unemployment. The era of Labour moving to the left (like it happened under Corbyn) is over again. However, it would be wrong to believe that this automatically means the end of Labour on an electoral level.

Labour wins Mayoral Seats and London Assembly

Labour in the major cities was more successful, winning the Mayoral seats in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, West of England, West Yorkshire and London. Labour also won control of the London assembly again. There were also elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners who oversee police authorities, control police budgets, investigate irregularities and wrongful arrests. However, most of these PCC are former MPs in a functionary role with no real power. The capitalist state and its agents adopting their extreme racist policy are arresting, deporting and putting people of colour and migrants from the semi-colonial countries into detention centres like Yarlswood in Bedfordshire. The recent *Crime and Police Bill* will soon restrict our freedoms even more. It exonerates spy cops and police, helping them to carry out illegal and unlawful acts. This is nothing more than the move towards further Bonapartism.

For a Revolutionary Offensive

British imperialism and capitalism are riven with crisis and decay. The continuing rivalry between the great powers will lead to even more poverty, homelessness, austerity and war. Here in Britain, the ruling class has used the COVID-19 pandemic to impose lockdowns, attacks on democratic rights and prevent the masses and poor to exercise their rights through protest. Curfews have increased, police and military repression was levelling up with new technological weapons. Same is going on all around the world – rising Bonapartism under cover of fighting COVID-19.

The masses meanwhile (although remaining as prisoners in their own homes under no medical supervision) will

erupt when a true revolutionary offensive led by a powerful working-class leadership enables them to truly fight back.

The last thing the bourgeoisie wants to do is to improve and widen the health service which is under great pressure. Many doctors and nurses have died because of the austerity policy erupting the health system which becomes more obvious in times of a pandemic. Meanwhile the bourgeoisie during this pandemic has made millions in comparison to the proletariat who remain destitute, poor and starving.

The RCIT has consistently opposed the Lockdown. We warned the masses that it is the bourgeoisie's role to control of the masses in order that exploitation and oppression continue under an outmoded system that is crashing ever deeper into crisis. It is time that this rotten system is swept away into the dustbin of history. Many reformists, the trade union bureaucracy and centrists defend and are part of this Lockdown policy. In Britain they advocate a policy of "Covid Free Zones everywhere". They follow the bourgeoisie at every step and are completely obeying to its repressive apparatus. We refer to them as the Lockdown-Left.

"One has to add to all this that, as we have pointed out repeatedly in our documents, the authoritarian methods which the ruling class apply in their combat against the pandemic are not particularly efficient. Countries which are putting their population under lockdown – like Italy or Spain – suffer nevertheless the highest numbers of casualties in the world. In contrast, countries like South Korea, which have not put their population under lockdown but applied mass and free testing, have been much more successful. This is all the more remarkable as South Korea has been the first country after China which faced a significant number of people infected by the Corona Virus. There are also other countries which have contained the number of death until

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.

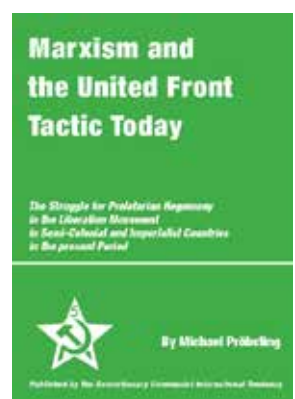
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



now without any mass lockdown of the population." [5]

"In many countries the leaderships of the trade unions and popular organizations agreed to the emergency economic, social and health programs decreed by the bourgeois governments. In several cases, reformist parties were even active promoters of the austerity and state bonapartist programs. A number of self-proclaimed "Trotskyist" organizations share this outlook. The International Marxist Tendency (IMT) led by Alan Woods is an example for social-bonapartism in "Trotskyist" clothes. The IMT's central statement on the COVID-19 crisis praises the draconic lockdown policy of the Stalinist-capitalist regime in China as an example. It even supports China's criticism of the lockdown policy of the Italian Conte government that it is not draconic enough." [6]

The RCIT in BRITAIN puts forward the following policies, calling on the masses and the working class to break from these reformist and centrist parties. We call all revolutionaries to join the RCIT. Help us to build a revolutionary leadership in the working class!

* The task still remains: Organize protests and strikes up to an Indefinite General Strike to overthrow the Johnson Tory Government through Insurrection and the taking of power! Organise every section of the Working Class and the Oppressed. Break and leave the Reformist, Stalinist and Centrist Parties. For a Revolutionary Offensive!

* No to concepts like Covid Free Zones. For a Socialised, Nationalised Health service free at Birth to everyone! Nationalisation of all Pharmaceutical companies under Workers Control without compensation. Expand the Health service, recruit nurses and doctors – but also increase the wage massively for all the health staff! For ventilators, testing without control or coercion by the repression apparatus and their lackeys. A full, safe, and free vaccination programme must be offered but not forced as mandatory! Stop any attempts of prohibiting access to public

life (including restaurants, festivals, etc.) for those without vaccinations!

* Nationalise all major Corporations and Multinationals who made profit during the pandemic under Workers Control without compensation! Reject all Hire and Rehire contracts being pursued by employers. No to surveillance and speed up systems as advocated inside Amazon factories! For a truly planned system of production under the control of the masses and the working class!

* For self-defence committees of all oppressed (like women, people of colour, the LGBTQIA2S+ community and any other oppressed group in capitalist Britain)!

* For popular Constitutional assemblies and Councils of Actions! Fight for a Workers Government!

Forward in the Struggle to Build a Truly Revolutionary Socialist International, the 5th International!

Join the RCIT and help us to succeed in these tasks!

Footnotes

(1) Election results 2021: Conservatives hurt Labour in its former heartlands - BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-57033273>

(2) England local elections 2021 - BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c481drqqzv7t/england-local-elections-2021>

(3) Local election results in full: Summary of all polls in England, Scotland and Wales - Mirror Online, <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/local-election-results-2021-live-24053106>

(4) SNP election win: Johnson sets up summit as Sturgeon pledges second referendum | Scotland | The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/08/nicola-sturgeon-second-independence-referendum-snp-scottish-elections-holyrood>

(5) I. The peculiar character of the current crisis: a Triple Catastrophe, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/chapter-1/>

(6) V. The Lockdown Left: A Critique - International Revolution (thecommunists.net), <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/chapter-5/>



Publications of the RCIT

The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution

On the ruling class strategy in the current conjuncture, its inner contradictions and the perspectives of the workers and popular resistance

By Michael Pröbsting, July 2020

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Between Ceuta and Gibraltar (1)

Thousands of refugees try to reach the Spanish enclave on Moroccan land

By Adam Smith, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 20 May 2021

In the last days thousands of migrants tried to reach Ceuta – the North African enclave on Moroccan land but under control of the Spanish imperialist state.

“Spain’s prime minister arrived in the north African enclave of Ceuta vowing to “restore order” after an unprecedented 8,000 migrants crossed into the territory over 36 hours, deepening the tense diplomatic standoff between Madrid and Rabat. After a day of veiled recriminations, Morocco on Tuesday recalled its ambassador from Spain for consultation. Relations with Spain need a moment of “contemplation”, a diplomatic source told Reuters. Thousands of people – ranging from teenagers from neighbouring Morocco to sub-Saharan Africans and mothers cradling babies – swam and made use of inflatable rafts to navigate their way around the breakwater that marks the border between the two countries. About 2,000 of them are believed to be minors.” (2)

The latest migration attempt is probably caused by the Moroccans border guards looking the other way, because of the hospitalization of a Sahrawi rebel leader in Spain. The economic situation around COVID-19 is also no doubt contributing.

“On Tuesday, Spain’s prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, said anyone who had entered Ceuta and Melilla irregularly would be “immediately returned”, in keeping with a bilateral agreement that allows for the return of Moroccans who swim into the territory. “As the president of Spain, I believe firmly that Morocco is a partner country, it’s a country that is a friend of Spain and it should continue this way,” he added. “To be effective, this cooperation needs to always be based on respect. Respect for mutual borders.” Relations between Morocco and Spain have been strained after Madrid decided to allow Brahim Ghali, the leader of the Polisario Front, to be hospitalised in northern Spain after

he contracted Covid-19. The Polisario Front has long fought for the independence of Western Sahara from Morocco.” (3)

“The EU commissioner for home affairs, Ylva Johansson, described the situation as worrying and said: “Spanish borders are European borders.” She added: “The most important thing now is that Morocco continues to commit to prevent irregular departures, and that those that do not have the right to stay are orderly and effectively returned.” (4)

The center-left’s support, as well as the EU’s support for the border clampdown, should be also noted. Before the EU’s existence, many Moroccans went to work on Spain’s farms with fewer legal hardships. *“Morocco annexed the region on the west coast of Africa in 1975, scoring a diplomatic victory last year when Donald Trump’s US administration recognised Rabat’s sovereignty over the region in a deal aimed at normalising relations between Israel and Morocco. Spanish officials said the independence leader had been allowed to access medical treatment in Spain for “strictly humanitarian reasons.”* (5)

No doubt, the Moroccan regime is using those migrants cynically as pawns for their gains, like Erdoğan in Turkey. But this does not mean we should support Fortress Europe. This incident’s highlights the corrupt and reactionary deal between Morocco and the EU over migration, with the Moroccan border guard doing the dirty work for the EU, and the enormous potential if it were to stop collaborating with the EU and Spanish regimes, as they were completely overwhelmed yesterday.

Of course, the recent standoff between Morocco and Spain is not about Morocco seeking more independence from the forces of imperialism, but rather deepening its reactionary occupation of the Sahrawi people, after a boost

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/>

THE ZIONIST WARS

A HISTORY OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT AND IMPERIALIST WARS

BOOK BY YOSSE SCHWARTZ

PUBLISHED BY REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY (RCIT)

PRINTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY (RCIT)



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and recognition from the USA and Israel.

Morocco, being a semi-colony, has a greater ability to show the hypocrisy of Spain, by, for example, pointing out that it has supported Spain's territorial integrity against the Catalan independence referendum and that Spain has enclaves in Ceuta and Melilla (when Morocco has none in Spain, but Britain does, which Spain doesn't like). It should be noted that Pablo Iglesias has said that he supports an independence referendum for the West Sahara region. He said he views the Sahrawi people as his brothers. "Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is frustrated with Podemos party leader Pablo Iglesias and his calls for a referendum in Western Sahara. With Podemos a part of the Spanish coalition government and Iglesias serving as the country's second deputy prime minister, the party's pro-Polisario rhetoric complicates Spain's relations with Morocco." (6)

This is a notable change from the 1920's, when Spain occupied Western Sahara and the left's support of Spanish colonialism later led to Franco's ability to recruit troops from Morocco which immensely helped Franco in the early stages of the civil war.

"After the Tragic Week of 1909, the Spanish government starting in 1911 tried to raise as many Regular units as possible to avoid further working class resistance to colonial wars as much of the Spanish working class had no desire to see their sons sent to Morocco, beginning a policy of what the Spanish historian Jose Alvarez called "Moroccanizing" the conquest of the Rif.^[27] Following the difficulties and setbacks that it had experienced in 1909-11, the Spanish army began to adopt much in organization and tactics from the French North African forces garrisoning most of Morocco and neighboring Algeria. Particular attention was paid to the French Foreign Legion and a Spanish equivalent, the Tercio de Extranjeros ("Foreigners brigade"), known in English as the "Spanish Legion", was formed in 1920. The regiment's second commander was then-Col. Francisco Franco,

having risen rapidly through the ranks.^[28] In the Rif war, it was the Regulares and the Spanish Foreign Legion founded in 1919 that provided the elite forces that won Spain the war.^[29] Less than 25% of this "Foreign Legion" were, in fact, non-Spanish. Harshly disciplined and driven, they quickly acquired a reputation for ruthlessness. As their number grew, the Spanish Legion and the Regulares increasingly led offensive operations after the disasters that had been suffered by the conscript forces." (7)

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) calls for:

- * For Open Borders! Down with Fortress Europe!
- * Down with the Western Sahara Occupation by Morocco!
- * Down with the Abrahams Accords with Israel and the US!
- * Down with the Monarchy in Morocco!
- * Down with the Spanish Regime!

Footnotes

- 1) <https://genius.com/Manu-chao-clandestino-lyrics>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/18/spanish-pm-vows-restore-order-migrants-reach-ceuta>
- 3) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/17/record-1000-migrants-reach-spains-north-african-enclave-ceuta-in-a-day>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/18/spanish-pm-vows-restore-order-migrants-reach-ceuta>
- 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/17/record-1000-migrants-reach-spains-north-african-enclave-ceuta-in-a-day>
- 6) <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/11/326889/podemos-calls-for-sahara-referendum-anger-spains-foreign-ministry/>. "...Reitera su empeño en que celebre, sin más demora, un referéndum libre, limpio e imparcial para la libre determinación del pueblo del Sáhara Occidental..." Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas (13 de enero de 1995)" (<https://twitter.com/pabloiglesias/status/1328058819004538890?lang=en>)
- 7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rif_War

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.

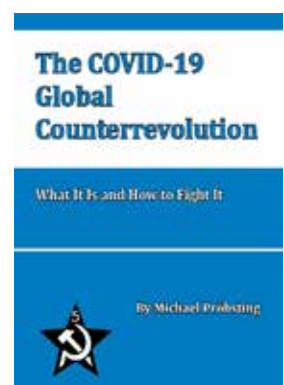
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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.



Britain: Tens of Thousands Protest against the Lockdown Regime

by the European Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 3 May 2021

A huge mass demonstration against the anti-democratic Lockdown policy took place on 24 April. While the pro-Lockdown media put the number of participants to 10,000, organizers claim that 500,000 people joined the demonstration. While it is difficult to estimate the exact number, there can be no doubt that this was a very large demonstration.

The demonstration started at Hyde Park. Since access to Trafalgar Square, the proposed rally point, was deliberately blocked, people walked through central London for hours before returning to the starting point. Due to the spontaneous and popular nature of the demonstration, the atmosphere of the march did bear reminiscences to a festival.

People in Britain have suffered from a draconic lockdown for several months. The government basically prohibited people to meet others in public space. Likewise, all non-essential shops were closed.

The composition of the anti-Lockdown demonstration was very mixed, similar to various other mass protests which took place in Europe in the past year. Many workers and self-employed, young and old participated.

The bourgeois establishment and their media like to denounce such demonstrations as assemblies of right-wing conspiracy theorists, QAnon supporters and similar crackpots. While it is certainly the case that such people also take part in such large demonstrations, they constitute only a small minority. Most demonstrators are driven by a fundamental and very legitimate outrage against the dramatic restrictions of democratic rights and the devastating consequences of the Lockdown for unemployment and poverty.

It is particularly shameful that large sectors of the British left – from the Labour Left, Stalinists like the “Morning Star” to various pseudo-Trotskyists – fully support the Lockdown policy. Several of these organizations even support the so-called “ZeroCOVID” campaign – a ridicu-

lous initiative which criticizes the government for not imposing an even harder lockdown!

These forces call the government to impose ultra-draconic mass curfews for the people and to close all workplaces (accept “essential” businesses) “until the virus has been eliminated”. It is not accidental that the campaign praises the brutal Lockdown policy of the Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship in China as a model!

Among the enthusiastic supporters of this reactionary campaign is the largest “Trotskyist” organization in Britain – the “Socialist Workers Party” which stands in the tradition of Tony Cliff.

It is left to a tiny minority of Marxists – in Britain as well as in Europe – to oppose the capitalist Lockdown policy. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has been one of the very few socialist forces which denounced the reactionary and anti-democratic offensive of the ruling class from the very beginning in February/March 2020. We characterize this policy as the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* as its purpose is to atomize and weaken the working class and oppressed.

We are glad to join forces with likeminded revolutionaries like the comrades from *Convergencia Socialista* in Argentina!

Footnotes

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

2) The RCIT has 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 subpage on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>.

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)



