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English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 122, August 2021

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Picture on the Cover: Mass protests in Teheran in 2009 (Source: Wikipedia, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/Tehran_protest_%281%29.jpg)

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Russia, Nigeria, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

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Successful Fusion of RCIT and Convergencia Socialista (Argentina)!

Announcement of the RCIT plus Declaration of the Conference of Convergencia Socialista, 19.7.2021

A conference of delegates of *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentina), taking place on 18 July, discussed the issue of fusion with the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The conference was also attended by several representatives of the RCIT. At the end of the discussion, the delegates voted unanimously in favor of fusion. (See the CS resolution below.) From now on, *Convergencia Socialista* will be the Argentinean section of the RCIT.

In addition, comrades discussed about the mass mobilizations in Cuba against the Stalinist-capitalist regime. CS and the RCIT consider these protests as a crucial event in international and, in particular, in the Latin American class struggle, as we have explained in a number of statements and articles. ¹

Comrades pointed out in contributions the counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism – something which has been highlighted very concretely by the recent death threats by Stalinist thugs against Gabriela Capurro, a female leader of CS. ²

We consider the fusion of our organizations as one of the most important steps forward in the history of the RCIT! In the past few months, we have reached agreement – documented in joint statements – on numerous important issues of world politics and international class struggle. These agreements include, among others, our analysis and program of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution, the inter-imperialist rivalry of the Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan), the popular uprisings in Palestine, Burma-Myanmar, Colombia, Cuba, etc.

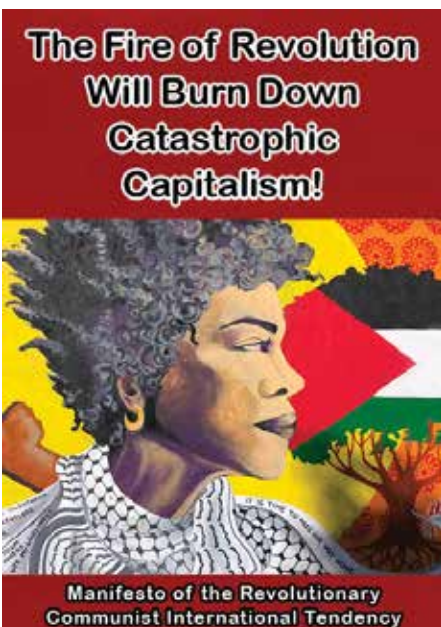
Convergencia Socialista is a long-standing Trotskyist organization with a historical cadre coming from the tradition associated with Nahuel Moreno – the largest and most influential current of Latin American Trotskyism. The comrades carry out an impressive range of propagandistic as well as practical activities. Among these are the publications of 2-3 articles per day on their website ([https://con-](https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/)

[vergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/](https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/)), two TV shows every week ³, trade union work in factories and schools, organization of protest activities of artists against the bourgeois Lockdown policy ⁴, as well as systematic campaigning activities among working class women ⁵. They have initiated the women's organization *Defensorías de Géneros* and one of their members, Karen Marín, has been imprisoned for almost two years for defending herself from the attack of a gang. ⁶ As a result of their courageous activities, the organization has grown and includes both a nuclei of long-standing Trotskyist cadres as well as a number of younger militants, among them many women comrades.

The fusion between our organization takes place at a turning point in world politics. One does not need to be an Einstein to recognize the deep crisis of capitalism, the dramatic turmoil in the imperialist world order and the explosive nature of the class struggle. Just look back to the last two years! The wave of popular uprising beginning in summer 2019 – spreading around the globe from Hong Kong and India to Ecuador and Chile. Then the counter-revolutionary offensive in spring 2020 under the cover of the pandemic. And from summer 2020 again a rising tide of struggle and uprising. ⁷

The world we live in is unrecognizable compared with the world 2-3 years ago. And how will the world look like in 2024?! Naturally, we don't know in detail but we have no doubt that it will be characterized by substantially more wars, counterrevolutionary attacks of the ruling class and revolutionary insurrections.

To those who are aware of the nature of the current period, those who are not cynical bystanders, those who refuse the poison of Stalinism and corrupted populism, those who are not satisfied with centrist confusion and opportunist adaption to the labor bureaucracy – to those we say: do not lose any time, study our program and join the RCIT! ⁸ We have a world to win – but we can only win it if we start to organize and fight NOW!



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

Convergencia Socialista: Resolution on Joining the RCIT

When we decided, from *Convergencia Socialista* (Socialist Convergence), to denounce the policy of restrictions and quarantines imposed by the world bourgeoisie, through the WHO and capitalist governments of all colors, we were left alone trying to make contact with forces resistant to this tremendous pressure, that brought practically the entire left to its knees in the face of imperialism.

At that moment we said that we were like the revolutionaries who proposed a defeatist policy in the face of the carnage of the First War, fighting hand in hand against social-chauvinism, which now reappears behind the call to “take care of health” before all, which means once again capitulating to the local bourgeoisies and their “stay at home” policies.

Rowing “against the current” we meet the comrades of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT), which spoke out against the Lockdown policy since its beginning and which elaborated a book that will be, from now on, key to the construction of the Revolutionary World Party: “*The COVID-19 Counterrevolution*”. The general agreement on this text and with the CCRI program was expressed in the joint statements that we have published about Burma, Colombia and other issues.

In these joint statements we responded with the methods of Trotskyist politics and the Transitional Program, to central events of the class struggle. Furthermore, we also agreed on theoretical and programmatic issues like the characterization of China and Russia as imperialist countries. These powers are fighting for their place in the world economy with methods of a great war. While this war is currently conducted by commercial means, its intensification will eventually result in military clashes.

To these coincidences we must add the intention to develop our relations based on a proletarian method, with healthy discussions and without factional maneuvers, as other groups that claim to adhere to the banner of Trotskyism or the socialist revolution tend to do. All this means that the fusion, which we will resolve in our International Conference, is based on solid pillars, which we will have to consolidate by intervening boldly in the next events of the class struggle.

In that sense, what is happening in Cuba is not just any event, but one of the most important ones in the current period. It creates a deep gulf in the left, since a sector, instead of supporting the just demands of the mobilized people, has come out to attack them. These sectors call for

repression, using the Stalinist excuse of “*Yankee interference*” or “*worms*”. Our principled position is, in this context, a quality leap in the construction of an international leadership collective.

For these reasons, our conference resolves: to accept the fusion proposal put forward by the comrades of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*, joining us in continuing to give socialist responses and contributing to the construction of a Revolutionary General Staff, without which and without a coherent program, there will be no final victory for the working class and the people in the next insurrections.

In order to help the proletariat taking power, we will have to raise slogans against the plans of adjustment, robbery and repression, proposing the method of direct action – which includes the formation of militias – and the setting up of organs of self-organization bodies, “*Soviets*”, without which it will not be possible to advance towards Socialism, since a new society without exploited or exploiters is inconceivable without the exercise of direct democracy by the mass movement.

Footnotes

1 All documents of RCIT and CS on Cuba are compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/cuba-solidarity-with-mass-protests-against-the-stalinist-capitalist-regime/>

2 See on this Argentina: Denounce the Stalinists Threats against Gabriela Capurro! <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/argentina-denounce-the-stalinists-threats-against-gabriela-capurro/>

3 See on this <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXX-mov7T7idAk15XDZERUdg>

4 See e.g. <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/argentina-socialists-organize-artistic-protests-against-lockdown-policy/>; see also <https://cs-arteyrevolucion.blogspot.com/>

5 See e.g. <http://culturacs.blogspot.com/>

6 See on this <http://libertadescs.blogspot.com/2021/01/karen-marin-otra-causa-armada.html>

7 The RCIT has dealt on numerous occasions with the global class struggle in the past two years and the consequences of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution. Here is our latest article on this which includes also references to other works. Michael Pröbsting: Interesting Assessments of the Global Class Struggle by a Bourgeois Think Tank. A commentary on the findings of the latest issue of the “Global Peace Index” by the “Institute for Economics & Peace”, 21 June 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/interesting-assessments-of-the-global-class-struggle-by-a-bourgeois-think-tank/>.

8 Our actual program, adopted at the III. World Congress of the RCIT in April 2021, can be read here in several languages: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-fire-manifesto-2021/>



26 July: The Cuban Revolution is Dead! Long Live the Cuban Revolution!

Neither the Stalinist-Capitalist regime nor the gusanos! For a true Socialist Revolution!

Joint Statement of the Argentinean, Mexican and Brazilian Sections as well as the International Bureau of the RCIT, 24.7.2021

The 26 July is a widely celebrated day as it marks the anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks in 1953 – the beginning of the liberation struggle against the Batista regime. This struggle had its ups and downs but ended with the successful overthrow of the dictator and the victory of the revolution on New Year 1959.

The Cuban Revolution was a historic victory not only for the workers and poor peasants on the island itself but for all oppressed in Latin America and around the world. It dealt a severe blow against capitalist dictatorships as well as against Yankee imperialism as whose loyal puppet Batista served. This was even more so as the revolutionary process – the pressure of the popular masses as well as the counterrevolutionary threats of Washington – pushed the leaders of the revolution to go much further than they initially intended. Faced with the alternative “*Revolución o Muerte*”, they were forced to expropriate the bourgeoisie and the imperialist corporations and to create a workers state – the first in Latin America.

However, this workers state was deformed or degenerated from the very beginning. Political power was usurped by a small political elite around Fidel Castro which quickly transformed itself into a Stalinist bureaucratic caste. In a healthy, revolutionary workers state there would be no bureaucracy, but political power would rest on the working class and the poor peasants organized in popular councils and militias (like the Soviets and the Red Guards in Russia in 1917).

Consequently, the Castro-Stalinist regime suppressed the Cuban Trotskyists and other left-wing dissidents. The degeneration of the revolution also convinced Che Guevara to leave the country and to continue the struggle for world revolution (albeit with inappropriate methods like the guerrilla strategy). *Che Guevara sacrificed his life for the revolution. In contrast, the Castro-Stalinists sacrificed the revolution for a life full of privileges!*

The Castro-Stalinist regime obstructed the expansion of the revolutionary process and became a servant of Moscow and their geopolitical strategy. When the USSR collapsed in 1991, it was clear to everyone that the Havana regime was in a cul-de-sac. Soon the regime began to enter the road to the restoration of capitalism – similar to the Stalinist dictatorships in China, Vietnam, Laos and North Korea. As a result, capitalism has been restored in these countries while the same political regime continues to keep political power in its hands and to suppress all forms of opposition.

This is why we strongly refute the lie of the Stalinist supporters who claim that Cuba would be a sort of “socialist” state. We also disagree with those misled socialists who claim that there would still exist a “deformed workers state” on the island.

No, the truth is that Cuba is ruled by a Stalinist-capitalist regime which has abolished the planned economy! It is not the popular protests which “endanger the revolution”, as the

Castro-Stalinist die-hards claim. It is the Stalinist-capitalist regime itself which has liquidated the anti-capitalist gains of the revolution. This is why we say: *The Cuban Revolution is Dead! Long Live the Cuban Revolution!*

The great popular uprising of the Cuban workers and poor in mid-July was a first powerful response of the masses against the consequences of the capitalist restoration and the continuing dictatorship. It is a harbinger of future struggles and uprisings!

The liberation struggle of the Cuban workers and poor has not one but two enemies: the Stalinist-Capitalist regime, backed by Chinese and Russian imperialism, as well as U.S. imperialism and its reactionary *gusanos*. The economic sanctions imposed by Washington are nothing but blunt imperialist aggression against the Cuban people! Socialists all over the world call for their immediate lifting!

However, we strongly denounce the slander of Castro-Stalinist fanatics who claim that the popular protests in Cuba were organized and dominated by the *gusanos*, i.e. the reactionary agents of U.S. imperialism. True, such forces will always try to exploit any difficulties of the regime in Havana. But the uprising spontaneously originated in the working class districts in many cities. The people were driven not by any conspiracy of right-wing *gusanos* but by hunger for food and freedom!

We call socialists all over the world to take a clear stance: side with the Cuban workers and poor and support the popular mass protests! The Stalinist-Capitalist regime is not a defender of the gains of the revolution. It has undermined and abolished these gains. This regime is an enemy of the people!

We call socialists to show their support for the Cuban people and to organize, wherever possible, solidarity committees.

We also call socialists to express their support for our comrade Gabriela Capurro, a long-standing and leading member of *Convergencia Socialista* in Argentina, who received death threats by Stalinist thugs because of her solidarity with the mass protest in Cuba. *No pasaran* for the demoralized and desperate Stalinist cadre!

Comrades, brothers and sisters: the capitalist system is in deep crisis all over the world! In many countries – including Cuba – workers and oppressed are rising up against the ruling class! Join us in the international struggle for liberation, for a socialist future!

Support the popular protests of the Cuban workers and poor!

No to all social cuts and austerity measures by the regime!

For democracy – for freedom of expression, for the right to assembly, to demonstrate, for free press and for independent trade unions! Free all political prisoners!

Down with the Stalinist-Capitalist regime!

Down with the reactionary gusanos!

Immediate lifting of the U.S. sanctions against Cuba!

For a true socialist revolution – in Cuba, in Latin America and all over the world!

Cuba: Support the Popular Masses in Struggle – for a true Socialist Revolution!

Joint Statement of the Liaison Committee of the RCIT and Con-vergencia Socialista (Argentina), 12 July 2021

Similar to Colombia and Chile, protests have started in Cuba, where thousands of people took to the streets for the same reasons that this happened in other countries: to confront the growing misery and lack of freedoms suffered by the majority of the population.

“The streets of Havana and several cities and towns in Cuba experienced the largest demonstrations against the government this Sunday since the 1994 Maleconazo, during the so-called Special Period, when hundreds of Cubans came out to protest the precarious economic situation on the eve of the outbreak of the crisis of the rafters.” (El País 12/07/21).

The Cuban government has already begun to repress and detain protesters, resorting to a kind of propaganda, which is already almost a cliché for Latin American populisms, in the sense that these protests would be nothing but actions promoted by the United States and the “worms” exiled in Miami

Like his colleagues, Ortega and Maduro, Cuban President Díaz Canel called yesterday on state television for the “communists”, - i.e. members of the ruling party and their henchmen – to come out to face the demonstrations wherever they take place.

Drawing conclusions from the successful repressive experience of the governments of Nicaragua and Venezuela, the Cuban president, who commands a Stalinist-capitalist regime, understands that repression coming from the public force has a higher political cost, a worse international repercussion, and that the gangs organized by the PCC could play that role more effectively.

The Cuban government calls to defend Socialism?

The entrenched bureaucracy in the Cuban state survived the fall of the USSR, in the same way as in China, almost without making any changes to the regime, that is, the one-party form of government and the political persecution against any dissonant voice. This regime has been very different from what happened in Russia during the first revolutionary period, when rule of the Bolsheviks was based on direct democracy, coming from the Soviets, which Stalin liquidated later!

The defense of “socialism” with such characteristics is a hoax, used ad nauseam by the Cuban regime. For several decades now, there exist only traces of the expropriations of 1960 and other measures that pointed towards socialism. However, there never existed in Cuba organs of workers and popular self-organization, which constitute the essence, the backbone, of a consequent revolution.

In addition, since the fall of the USSR, Cuba lost all the benefits that the Castro-Krushchev marriage had granted it, since the country on which it depended disappeared with the events of 1989-91, when Cuba began, not coincidentally, a process of opening to the entry of transnational capital, mainly European, as a result of the Yankee blockade.

This reality, although it further strained the relationship with the United States, allowed the island to receive a bit

of economic oxygen, with dollars coming via such measures, which meant the direct exploitation of large working masses by the European bourgeoisie and their partners, who joined the Cuban bureaucracy as a necessary participant in their business.

This process was deepened a few years ago via the last reform to the constitution, when the regime accepted – or rather legalized – the possibility that Cubans who own small workshops or businesses, hire workers, that is, that Cubans exploit the salaried work of their impoverished compatriots.

There is nothing in Cuban society, in terms of production relations, that is far from capitalism, since all the central features of this mode of production can be appreciated on the island, even in its most brutal forms. Those who deny this fact and continue to speak of “*Revolution*” and “*defense of Socialism*”, are accomplices of the hunger and repression suffered by the workers and the people of Cuba, who began to fight against Cuban capitalism.

The workers’ and popular rebellion in Cuba is part of the process of struggle of the masses that is sweeping through the world and that is entering Latin America, with the force of a hurricane. All this will happen, regardless of whether there are reactionary sectors that try to take advantage of it. It is that the mobilizations will tend, objectively, to be channeled towards a progressive course, since they are actions to fight against the main virus that makes the majority sick, Capitalism.

In that sense, the Cubans who began to win the streets are not fighting against any regime, but against a dictatorship, led by the agents of capitalism: the officials of the Cuban Communist Party. We revolutionaries must stand in solidarity with the people in struggle, waving the flags of authentic Socialisms, drawing lines with the pro-capitalist leaderships, both those that govern and those that oppose them, financed by worms!

As socialists, i.e. as defenders of democratic freedoms, we make our own the demand for the immediate freedom of detained persons, such as the journalist Frank García Hernández, the physics student Leonardo Romero Negrín, the director of the magazine *Tremenda Nota*, Maykel González Vivero, or the pre-university student Marcos Antonio Pérez Fernández.

Solidarity with Mass Protests in Cuba: Greetings to Socialist Rally in Argentina

Statement by the International Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19.7.2021

The International Bureau of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to all participants of the socialist rally on 20 July in Buenos Aires in support of the workers and poor in Cuba. Jointly with our comrades from *Convergencia Socialista*, the RCIT has supported the mass demonstrations from the very beginning. Together we said: the people are right to rebel against capitalist austerity and dictatorship!

The recent austerity measures which have hit the poor particularly hard and the vicious repression against the protests have demonstrated the reactionary nature of the regime very once again.

We strongly refuse the myth that the Cuban regime would be socialist in any way. No, it has become a Stalinist-capitalist regime and an ally of Chinese and Russian imperialism.

Our support for the mass protests goes hand in hand with an energetic opposition against the sanctions of U.S. imperialism and all forms of interference by the notorious *gusanos*. The struggle for a socialist future of Cuba must be directed *both* against the Stalinist-capitalist regime as well as against the right-wing *gusanos*. Such a struggle must aim for the creation of socialist Cuba which is neither a semi-colony of U.S., of European or of Chinese imperialism.

The struggle in solidarity with the Cuban people is inextricably linked with the international struggle against Stalinism. This is a counterrevolutionary force which has become a servant of capitalist regimes like those in Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea, South Africa or Spain as well as of imperialist Great Powers like China and Russia.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our full support for comrade Gabriela Capurro, a long-standing and leading member of *Convergencia Socialista*, who received death threats by Stalinist thugs because of her solidarity with the mass protest in Cuba. Obviously, the demoralized and desperate Stalinist cadre sense that the tide of history has turned against them!

We congratulate our comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* for taking the initiative for this rally. We are glad that we could recently fuse our forces so that CS has become the Argentinean section of the RCIT.

Solidarity with the mass protests of the Cuban people!

Down with the Stalinist-capitalist regime in Havana!

Keep out the gusanos!

Down with U.S., European and Chinese imperialism!

Long live the new Cuban Revolution! For a socialist and independent Cuba!

Argentina: Rally in Front of the Cuban Embassy We stand against the bureaucracy as well as against the worms

Report (with Pictures and Videos) by a Correspondent from Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 21 July 2021

Yesterday our party organized a rally in front of the Cuban embassy to support the people of that country. The Cuban masses are facing austerity programs as well as repression in the streets by the false socialists led by Díaz Canel and the Stalinist bureaucracy. The event was convened with the slogans "*Neither parasites nor worms!*". We drew clear lines of demarcation with the counterrevolutionary opposition organized from Miami. It is the established position of Trotskyism to fight for the end of the regime, for a workers government, based on their democratic decision-making bodies.

At the beginning Matías, an independent comrade, read a

text written on his blog. This was followed by reading out messages from the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* and from a revolutionary group in Peru called "*Anticapitalistas*" were announced. The next speaker was Jéssica, a female comrade from *Convergencia Socialista* and *Autodefensa del Arte*, who read an emotional poem. She was followed by Gabriela Capurro, a female leader of CS who has been threatened with death by Stalinist thugs, who explained her situation and called for a repudiation of these attacks. Finally, the act was closed by a speech of our leader Juan Giglio, who at the end made a call to set up a Workers' and Socialist Solidarity Committee.



Pictures from the rally in solidarity with the protests in Cuba; on the right: Gabriela Capurro (Buenos Aires, 20.7.2021)

Argentina: Denounce the Stalinist Threats against Gabriela Capurro!

Castroite thugs threaten “to shoot” a female leader of Convergencia Socialista

Emergency Statement of the International Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16.7.2021

Gabriela Capurro, an Argentinean Trotskyist and activist in the teachers trade union, has received several threats on social media by fanatical Stalinists – including one telling her “we are going to shoot you.” Comrade Gabriela is a long-standing and leading member of *Convergencia Socialista* – an Argentinean Trotskyist organization with which the RCIT is in a process of fusion. The Stalinist fanatics are enraged that our comrade stand in solidarity with the Cuban workers and poor peasants who have protested in the last days against the consequences of the austerity policy by the Stalinist-capitalist regime.

Stalinism has a long and notorious history of attacking and killing its left-wing critics. They have killed Leon Trotsky – leader of the Russian Revolution in 1917 together with Lenin – and tens of thousands of his supporters.

The policy of vicious repression by Stalinist-capitalist regimes – in China, Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba – seems to embolden local thugs to emulate their masters.

We call all socialist, democratic and progressive forces to protest the brutal threats against comrade Gabriela Capurro!



Debate in the Brazilian Left: Is China “Socialist”?

Report by Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of RCIT), 1 July 2021

Joao Evangelista, representative of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of the RCIT), participated in a livestreamed Zoom debate on the issue “Is China Socialist?!” Our defense of China’s characterization as an imperialist Great Power begins at 38 minutes, and the final analysis at 1:07 hours

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7ljkzgz3dE>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/emancipacaodotrabalho/videos/633918737568605>



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)

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

Brazil: 3rd July Shows Mobilizations against Bolsonaro is Growing! It is necessary to further advance in the struggle!

Report by *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (Brazilian section of RCIT), 7 July 2021

Last Saturday, July 3rd, there were new huge popular acts against the Bolsonaro government in more than 300 cities in the country. The acts were neither bigger nor occurred in more cities than the previous ones on June 19th because of the short time of preparation and popular call between these dates. Anyway, it is said that at least 800.000 people attended the events across the country. In many cities, in addition to the cry “*Out Bolsonaro!*”, came the defense of the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous peoples who are fighting against the current Bill 490, which is being processed in the National Congress, and threatens the right to demarcate Indigenous Lands.

The movement’s organization decided to anticipate the acts that had been scheduled for the distant 24th of July. This was due to increased pressure on the president by the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry in the senate which investigates the actions of the Bolsonaro government in relation to the management of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the same week, a group of leftist parties (PT-PcdoB, PCO, PDT, PSTU) and sectors of the traditional anti-Bolsonarist rightist parties (including sectors that supported the 2016 coup d’état) got together to deliver to the president of the federal chamber, Arthur Lira, a so-called super request for impeachment against the president, that is, a unified set of more than 120 impeachment requests against the president.

In the past few days, evidence has emerged that the real reason Bolsonaro has ignored during the full-year 2020 Pfizer’s offer to sale vaccines, by supposedly very high prices, was a hoax. It contradicted the appearance of a signed contract in April 2021 with a shell company to import the Covaxin vaccine, manufactured in India, with an over-invoicing reaching 1.5 billion reais and that those involved, members graduates of the Ministry of Health, would receive 1 dollar bribe for each dose of vaccine. The most sung slogans at the rally on July 3rd “*Our life is worth 1 dollar!*” and “*It wasn’t scientific negativity! It was bribe!*”.

Even with the whole range of corruption allegations involving the president and his family, polls show him support of almost 30%. Bolsonaro also has a majority of 300 congressmen who still support him in the federal chamber, and more importantly, the Armed Forces has thousands of positions in the public machine. (It is said that at least 6,000 military personnel have positions in the government). No wonder Bolsonaro likes to boast that the Brazilian Army is “*my army*”, obviously a poorly disguised threat. Each week he declares that he won’t recognize anything other than his 2022 victory and that any other result “*It would be a fraud!*”

Current polls shows that the presidential candidate who leads the polls is Lula da Silva-PT, with strong chances of victory already in the first round. That is why the group of reformist leftist parties, with the leadership of the Workers’ Party at the front, bet everything on bourgeois democracy, therefore, they support in the presidential elections of October 2022 the creation of a *Frente Ampla* (Broad Front) with the traditional rightist parties. Obviously, such a *Frente Ampla*, if it happens, with will be a serious harm

to workers and the oppressed, as the neoliberal economic agenda will remain, such structural reforms actually mean the total destruction of the state’s presence in its social role and the guarantee of privileges of the richest.

The traditional right and its parties (PSDB, PMDB, DEM, PP, etc.) still don’t have any weighty name that would be a third option. But any predictions 16 months before the 2022 presidential election is mere speculation. It is impossible to rule out that the bourgeoisie opts for Bolsonaro’s impeachment, elevating Vice President General Mourão, a military man as reactionary as the president, who would serve to maintain the status quo for the military and guarantee the continuity of neoliberal reforms.

We from the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR*, Brazilian section of the RCIT, we have been present at all major acts against the Bolsonaro government since May 29 (1) and at the following demonstration on July 3 in which we declare: “*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 govern.*” We also emphasize that we reject the formation of a *Frente Ampla* with traditional right-wing parties and, on the contrary, we defend a Left Front of Workers.

* *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!*

* *General strike to overthrow the Bolsonaro/Mourão government!*

Footnotes

1) <http://elmundosocialista.blogspot.com/2021/06/o-slogan-fora-bolsonaro-finalmente.html>

Russia Fires Warning Shots against UK Warship in the Black Sea

Down with Cold Warmongering! No support for any imperialist Great Power!

Emergency Statement of the International Bureau of the RCIT, the RCIT Russia and the RCIT Britain, 24 June 2021

1. The Russian Defense Ministry reported today that a British warship – the HMS Defender – had entered its territorial waters near Sevastopol, the main Russian naval base in Crimea. In response a Russian patrol ship fired warning shots and a Russian Su-24 bomber also dropped four bombs ahead of the vessel to force the HMS Defender to change course. Minutes later, the British warship left Russian waters, the ministry said.

2. London claims that “no warning shots have been fired” at the destroyer. The UK defense secretary, Ben Wallace, said HMS Defender was carrying out “routine transit from Odesa towards Georgia across the Black Sea” using an “internationally recognized traffic separation corridor”. He said that “Russian vessels shadowed her passage” and that the HMS Defender’s crew “did observe training noises somewhere to the rear of her but beyond visual range.”. It is obvious that Britain tries to downplay the incident.

3. This is a dramatic escalation of the Cold War between the imperialist Great Powers. It was the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that Moscow acknowledged using live ammunition to deter a NATO warship.

4. Western warships had entered Russian waters several times in recent past. The British destroyer HMS Dragon intruded waters near Crimea in October 2020, and the U.S. destroyer USS John S. McCain violated the Russian border in the Sea of Japan one month later. Similar developments are taking place in the South China Sea and, in particular, in the Taiwan Strait where the U.S. navy is challenging China’s territorial claims.

5. Likewise, Russian imperialism has intervened in the civil war in the Ukraine in 2014 and, since then, it con-

trols parts of the country’s Donbas region. It also annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has repeatedly pointed out in the past years that the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers is massively accelerating given the deep political and economic crisis of the capitalist world system. Every Great Power tries to gain an advantage at the expense of its rivals. In fact, in the current historic period characterized by the decay of capitalism, it can not be otherwise.

7. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its comrades in Britain and Russia strongly denounce the reactionary warmongering on both sides. The governments of the UK resp. NATO states as well as of Russia pursue reactionary goals. We repeat that socialists must not lend support to any imperialist Great Power – neither UK, the U.S. or Russia and China. The RCIT therefore advocates a defeatist position on both sides in this conflict. None is the “lesser evil” for the working class and the oppressed people. Hence, we also oppose all imperialist sanctions.

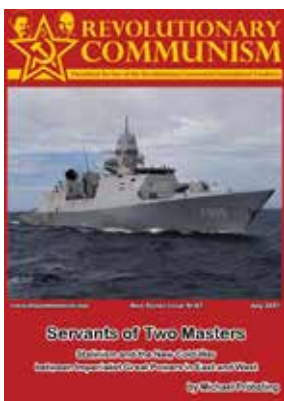
8. We call revolutionaries to join the RCIT in the struggle against all Great Powers, in solidarity with the liberation struggles of the working class and the oppressed people and for international socialism. Such a struggle requires the creation of a new *Revolutionary World Party*. Join us in building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

* *Down with the Cold Warmongering of UK, NATO and Russia!*

* *In case of military conflicts: no support for any imperialist camp – neither UK/NATO nor Russia!*

* *No to any imperialist sanctions!*

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



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Servants of Two Masters

Stalinism and the New Cold War

between Imperialist Great Powers in East and West

by Michael Pröbsting

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Introduction * **The New Inter-Imperialist Cold War** * **A View on the Military Strength of the Great Powers** * **The Main Point of both Statements: Siding with Chinese and Russian Imperialism** * **Stalinist Fantasies Shredded in the Light of Reality: The Rise of Chinese Imperialism** * **The KKE’s “criticism” and its fraternal bonds with the Chinese CP** * **Beside the Servants of Assad the Butcher - Who Signed the KKE-initiated Joint Statement?** * **The Xi Fan Club: Signatories of the CPUSA-initiated Joint Statement** * **The Concept of Multilateralism and Peaceful Coexistence: A Reactionary Illusion** * **“Socialism in One Country”:** **The Historical Roots of the Stalinist Concept of “Peaceful Coexistence”** * **Serving Two Masters: The Eastern Imperialists as well as Sectors of the Domestic Bourgeoisie** * **A Note on the tight-lipped “Trotskyists” (CWI, IMT, ISA)** * **Conclusions** * **Footnotes**

“Next Time We Will Bomb the Target”

Shooting incident in Black Sea between UK and Russia shows that capitalism in decay is stumbling towards war

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24 June 2021

One can hardly underestimate the meaning of the incident in the Black Sea which took place yesterday between Russian and British armed forces. A British warship had entered waters near Sevastopol, the main Russian naval base in Crimea. When the British destroyer ignored Russian warning via radio, a Russian patrol ship fired warning shots and a Russian Su-24 bomber also dropped four bombs ahead of the vessel to force it to change course (which it did minutes later).

As we noted in our emergency statement: *“This is a dramatic escalation of the Cold War between the imperialist Great Powers. It was the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that Moscow acknowledged using live ammunition to deter a NATO warship.”*¹

While London tries to play down the incident in order to save face, Russia warns Britain not to repeat such intrusion in its waters. Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said today that next time, if warning don’t help, Russian forces would *“bomb the target”*. *“Ryabkov said Thursday that “the inviolability of the Russian borders is an absolute imperative,” adding that it will be protected “by all means, diplomatic, political and military if needed.” (...)* Asked what Russia would do to prevent such intrusions in the future, Ryabkov told reporters it would stand ready to fire on targets if warnings don’t work. *“We may appeal to reason and demand to respect international law,” Ryabkov said, according to the Interfax news agency. “If it doesn’t help, we may drop bombs and not just in the path but right on target if colleagues don’t get it otherwise.”*²

These threats reflect the massive escalation of tensions between the imperialist Great Powers.³ The capitalist world economy has entered the worst depression since 1929.⁴ The global class struggle – mass mobilizations and popular uprisings – has reached a level not seen since the 1968-76 period.⁵ It is no accident that under such conditions, the ruling classes react with similar methods.

On one hand, they expand the police and surveillance state by utilizing the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic as a pretext. The RCIT calls this anti-democratic offensive the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution*.⁶ On the other hand, the ruling class – in particular those of the Great Powers (U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan) – accelerate their aggressive foreign policy against their rivals. This is why we characterize this whole new development as a shift towards *Chauvinist State Bonapartism*.

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, so will the rivalry between the imperialist powers. As a matter of fact, many US strategists expect a military confrontation with China in the not too distant future. James G. Stavridis, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, and currently Vice Chair of the corporation Carlyle Group and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation has recently published a best-selling book called *“2034: A Novel of the Next World War”*.⁷ In this book the author – who is a respected military expert as well as a true incarnation of the symbiosis of militarism

and monopoly capitalism – describes, in form of a novel, a war between the U.S. and China starting with a confrontation in the South China Sea.

Various high-ranking commanders have commented on this book that while it gets it right about the coming war, the date might be set too late. Such a war, they say, could start already in 2024 or 2026.⁸

Given such a dramatically accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers and the militarization of foreign policy, it is urgent for Marxists to understand the nature of such conflicts. These are inter-imperialist conflicts in which all states pursue reactionary goals. None of them – neither the U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan – represents anything progressive. All are imperialist Great Powers to which socialists must not lend any support. They must rather take a defeatist position on all sides in such conflicts. None is the “lesser evil” for the working class and the oppressed people. The task is rather to utilize such conflicts in order to intensify the class struggle and to ultimately bring down all capitalist ruling classes!

Footnotes

1 RCIT: Russia Fires Warning Shots against UK Warship in the Black Sea. Down with Cold Warmongering! No support for any imperialist Great Power – neither UK, US nor Russia! 24 June 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/russia-fires-warning-shots-against-uk-warship-in-black-sea/>

2 Vladimir Isachenkov: Russia says next time it may fire to hit intruding warships, 2021-06-24 <https://apnews.com/article/europe-russia-government-and-politics-79607be2e80ec0ae4fcb-c9a005742b37>

3 On the RCIT’s analysis of the Great Power rivalry and China’s and Russia’s rise as imperialist powers see the literature mentioned in the special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

4 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: No, the Corona Virus is not the Main Cause of the Global Economic Slump! Bourgeois Media Officially Recognize the Beginning of another Great Recession, 3 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/corona-virus-is-not-themain-cause-of-global-economic-slump/>;

5 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Interesting Assessments of the Global Class Struggle by a Bourgeois Think Tank. A commentary on the findings of the latest issue of the “Global Peace Index” by the “Institute for Economics & Peace”, 21 June 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/interesting-assessments-of-the-global-class-struggle-by-a-bourgeois-think-tank/>

6 The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published nearly 90 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>.

7 Elliot Ackerman and James Stavridis: 2034: A Novel of the Next World War, New York, Penguin Press, 2021

8 GFP: Der große Krieg. US-Militärs debattieren über einen Krieg der Vereinigten Staaten gegen China. Der könnte „vielleicht schon 2026 oder 2024“ beginnen, 2021-06-18 <https://www.german-foreign-policy.com/news/detail/8632/>

“Maritime Freedom” – A Keyword of the U.S./NATO Warmongers

Leading U.S. Navy representative outlines militaristic strategy against Russia & China

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 5 July 2021

In one of our articles about the recent skirmish between a UK warship and Russian forces in the Black Sea, we have drawn attention to James G. Stavridis. He is a retired U.S. Navy admiral and former supreme allied commander of NATO. He is also chair of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and vice chairman of Global Affairs at the Carlyle Group. He was also considered as a potential vice-presidential running mate by the Hillary Clinton campaign in 2016 and as a possible Secretary of State by President Trump.¹ In short, he is the personification of what President Dwight D. Eisenhower splendidly called the “Military-Industrial Complex” and what Marxists call the fusion of the top leadership of the armed state apparatus and monopoly capital.

We also pointed out that Admiral Stavridis is an influential military strategist who has published a number of well-known books and papers. His latest book – “2034: A Novel of the Next World War” – describes, in form of a novel, a war between the U.S. and China starting with a confrontation in the South China Sea.²

A few days ago, Admiral Stavridis published an article at Bloomberg.³ This is a leading media corporation owned by Michael Bloomberg, one of the richest men of the U.S. with an official net worth of \$60.1 billion. In short, Stavridis is someone whose words should be taken seriously as he is a leading representative of America’s ruling class.

In his article, the retired Admiral justifies the recent provocative operation of the UK Navy which sent the *HMS Defender* – one of its most modern warships – very close to the Sevastopol, the main Russian naval base in Crimea.

As it later became known from leaked internal memos, Downing Street 10 was fully aware of the explosive nature of this operation, and it was personally approved by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Reflecting the broader dimension of this operation, the *HMS Defender* was supported by a US strategic reconnaissance plane which flew nearby. At this point we will not repeat our analysis of this incident and refer our readers to the relevant RCIT documents.⁴

It is hardly surprising that one of the leading figures of the U.S. “Military-Industrial Complex” would defend an operation which was carried out by one of its closest allies with the support of the U.S. However, what makes this article noteworthy is the rationale it gives for the operation and the strategic implications which the Admiral outlines.

A strategy of tensions

Stavridis justifies this provocation with the West’s refusal to recognize Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the “well-recognized right of innocent passage for warships under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, to which Russia, the U.K. and Ukraine are all signatories.” Let us note, in passing, that it reflects the hypocrisy of this statement that the U.S. itself has until now refused to sign this law of the sea treaty!

However, what is of interest at this point is not the well-known double standards of imperialism. What is of interest is the Admiral’s statement that the Western imperialist powers plan to launch a series of similar provocations against their Eastern imperialist rivals – Russia and China.

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/>



“This [the Law of the Sea, Ed.] is at the heart of an emerging “great game” at sea — a modern version of the short-of-war gamesmanship between the British and Russian Empires in the 19th century — with authoritarian states disputing warship transits allowed under international law. Indeed, what matters is not the Black Sea setting but the larger principle of freedom of the high seas. I asked several senior naval officers (both U.S. and British) about this incident and similar U.S. actions in the South China Sea around the militarized artificial islands Beijing has built. The consensus was that we are going to see a great deal more such challenges between the Western allies and the growing authoritarian alignment of China and Russia.”

Emphasizing the general character of this strategy, the Admiral continues: *“The U.K. is also sending a powerful carrier strike group, centered on the 65,000-ton Queen Elizabeth, to the western Pacific. There she will join warships from the U.S., France, Australia and Germany, among others, in participating in such freedom-of-navigation patrols. It is likely that the Quad — an alignment of Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. — will consider similar missions. There may also be joint operations by the U.S. and allies around islands claimed by Iran in the Arabian Gulf, and perhaps near islands disputed by Japan and China in the East China Sea. (...) Defending it, in the Black Sea or the South China Sea or anywhere else, is good for the global order.”*

In other words, here we have a leading Western imperialist outlining an aggressive strategy of tensions. U.S. imperialism and their allies in Europe and Asia plan to send their warships to the sea borders of their rivals — in the Black Sea, in the South China Sea, in the Persian Gulf and other areas. Their goal is pretty obvious: these rivals should be forced to accept the domination of the Western imperialists (the “global order” of the “good old days” of absolute U.S. hegemony). If Moscow and Beijing refuse to do so — something which can be taken for granted — these provocations will inevitably result in clashes and eventually major wars.

Understanding inner-imperialist rivalry

Naturally, there is no reason to have any sympathy for Russia ⁵ and China ⁶ which are themselves imperialist Great Powers. They oppress their own people, brutally subjugate national minorities (like the Chechens in Russia ⁷ or the Muslim Uyghurs in China ⁸), wage colonial wars abroad (e.g. Russia’s war in Syria ⁹) and try to deny sea rights to their own neighboring states (e.g. Russia against the Ukraine ¹⁰, China against all bordering countries in the South China Sea ¹¹). Furthermore, as we have demonstrated in our works, Chinese imperialism is effectively challenging the long-time dominance of the U.S. in the capitalist world economy. This becomes obvious from China’s strong position among the global top corporations, billionaires, trade, IT technology etc. or its well-known *Belt & Road Initiative*. ¹²

The statement of the Admiral confirms — from an imperialist point of view — the long-standing analysis of the RCIT that world politics is increasingly dominated by the dramatic acceleration of the rivalry between the Great Powers and the militarization of foreign policy. We have already outlined in our book *“Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry”* and other works that while there are tensions between all Great Powers, the key axis of the rivalry is between the U.S. (and their allies in Europe and Japan),

on one hand, and China and Russia, on the other hand.

We repeat that it is urgent for Marxists to understand the nature of such conflicts, i.e. that they represent inter-imperialist conflicts in which all states pursue reactionary goals. None of them — neither the U.S., China, EU, Russia and Japan — represents anything progressive. All are imperialist Great Powers to which socialists must not lend any support. They must rather take a defeatist position on all sides in such conflicts. None is the “lesser evil” for the working class and the oppressed people. The task is rather to utilize such conflicts in order to intensify the class struggle and to ultimately bring down all capitalist ruling classes! ¹³

Footnotes

1 Wikipedia: James G. Stavridis, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_G._Stavridis

2 Elliot Ackerman and James Stavridis: 2034: A Novel of the Next World War, New York, Penguin Press, 2021

3 James Stavridis: Russia-U.K. Standoff Shows the New War at Sea Has Gone Global, Bloomberg, 2. Juli 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-07-02/black-sea-standoff-shows-russia-china-naval-alliance-is-global?srnd=premium-europe>

4 See e.g. RCIT: Russia Fires Warning Shots against UK Warship in the Black Sea. Down with Cold Warmongering! No support for any imperialist Great Power — neither UK, US nor Russia! 24 June 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/russia-fires-warning-shots-against-uk-warship-in-black-sea/>

5 The RCIT has published numerous documents about capitalism in Russia and its rise to an imperialist power. See on this various RCIT documents at a special sub-page on the RCIT’s website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>

6 The RCIT has published numerous documents about capitalism in China. See on this various RCIT documents at a special sub-page on the RCIT’s website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>

7 See on this e.g. RCIT: Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Chechen People! Open Letter to the Oppressed Chechen People, February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/solidarity-with-the-liberation-struggle-of-the-chechen-people/>

8 For the RCIT’s analysis of the oppression of the Uyghurs see e.g. Michael Pröbsting: China: Defend the Muslim Uyghurs against Oppression! 18.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/>

9 The RCIT has published numerous booklets, statements, and articles on the Syrian revolution which are compiled at a sub-page on the RCIT website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>.

10 See on this e.g. RCIT: Military Escalation between Russia and Ukraine at the Kerch Strait. Down with the Reactionary Warmongering on Both Sides! 28 November 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/military-escalation-between-russia-and-ukraine-at-the-kerch-strait/>

11 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: No to chauvinist warmongering by Japanese and Chinese imperialism! Chinese and Japanese workers: Your main enemy is at home! Stop the conflict on the Senkaku/Diaoyu-islands in the East China Sea! 23.9.2012, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/no-war-between-china-and-japan/>

12 We have dealt with these issues extensively in our works which are compiled at the sub-page: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

13 For our programmatic approach on inner-imperialist conflicts see e.g. RCIT: Theses on Revolutionary Defeatism in Imperialist States, 8 September 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-on-revolutionary-defeatism-in-imperialist-states/>

Skirmish in Black Sea: Imperialist Patriotism in the UK

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 27 June 2021

On Wednesday the 23rd of June, a British warship HMS DEFENDER sailing through the Black Sea off the Crimean coast was intercepted by Russian jets who gave it some warning shots. Russian imperialism claimed that it was inside Russian territory.

The British bourgeois press said that it was provocations by Russian Military and defended the actions of the British warship, which was near the Crimea, a territory which Russia had annexed recently in its conflict with Ukraine.

Patriotic denunciations were echoed by both the Tory administration and by the bourgeois press. BBC news reported: "Lord Alan West, former Chief of Defence Intelligence, Commander in Chief of the Royal Navy and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism, said the Russian president's behaviour was 'appalling'. Former head of the Army General Lord Dannatt said Mr Putin is 'testing the will of the West'. He told Sky News: 'I'm a little bit surprised that the Ministry of Defence is playing it down. 'It was unreasonable of the Russians to challenge HMS Defender in the way that they did. 'The underlying point is that there are international laws that must be upheld by everyone and HMS Defender had the absolute right to be where she was yesterday.'" [1]

Meanwhile Sky reported: "Appearing later before the Commons Defence Committee, Mr Wallace said the crew of HMS Defender did hear "training noises" to the rear of the ship, but it was "beyond visual range". He said the Russians had previously made false claims to have "chased out" another British warship, HMS Dragon. "These are the things that come and go with Russia. Disinformation, misinformation is something that we have

seen regularly. We are not surprised by it," he said". [2]

Both these reports fail to explain the real reason for this provocation and incursion into Russian waters irrespective whether Crimea is part of Russia or not. As the RCIT has explained on more than one occasion the long Great Depression having started in 2019 shows the developing crisis and decay of world imperialism. The rivalry and contradictions between all imperialist powers produces conflicts with the continual drive towards war and destruction of the productive forces. Each imperialist nation including Britain and Russia engage in these sorts of conflicts in their pursuit of war to gain the upper hand in these conflicts. Both Western imperialism and Eastern imperialism are continually trying to find weaknesses in their opponents so that they can gain the upper hand.

The RCIT advocates no political support to either British imperialism or Russian imperialism.

For Revolutionary Defeatism - No support to either British imperialism or Russian imperialism!

Down with the ruling classes in both Britain and Russia!

Forward in building a new Revolutionary World Party! Join the RCIT!

Footnotes

1) <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9720499/Russia-directly-bomb-HMS-Defender-sails-close-Crimea-minister-warns.html>

2) <https://news.sky.com/story/hms-defender-moscow-releases-footage-it-says-shows-navy-vessel-being-tracked-by-russian-military-12339925>

Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Teachers

UK: NHS March Against Privatisation

Report (with Pictures) by RCIT Britain, 3rd July 2021

About 200 health workers from the Royal College of Nursing assembled outside the University College Hospital in Central London campaigning against privatisation and to defend the NHS. Later they marched to Downing Street. They chanted slogans against PM Boris Johnson and “*They say cut back – we say fight back*”. At Downing Street several reformist bureaucrats like the Labour MP John McDonnell spoke. Comrades of the RCIT Britain participated in the demonstration, sold our journals, and handed out leaflets.



People’s Assembly Demonstration Against Austerity

Report (with Pictures) by RCIT Britain, 26th June 2021

10-15,000 people marched today in London against the Tory Government. The pro-Palestine block represented about quarter of the demonstration and was very vocal. Their slogans were “*One Free Palestine*”, “*We Are All Palestinians*”. They again had Palestinian flags and draped themselves around Palestinian emblems shouting “*Free Palestine*” and “*Palestinian freedom forever*”.

The RCIT Britain participated in the demonstration and sold a number of journals. Various Arab and Palestine supporters were very interested in the policies of the RCIT particularly it’s defence of Palestine against the Zionist Enemy Israel.

The demonstration marched from Portland place to Parliament Square where a number of Trade Union speakers made reformist promises and called for the ending of a Tory Government with all its attacks on the Working class.



RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- * **“Azadi Kashmir”: Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- * **The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today**
- * **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
- * **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power**

Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)

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Statistics about Who is Responsible for Killing Civilians in Syria

The latest findings of the Syrian Network for Human Rights for the period from March 2011 to June 2021

An Article (with four Charts) by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, 2 July 2021

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is a widely respected NGO which regularly reports about the devastating consequences of the war and repression in Syria. Every year, it publishes its calculations about the horrific civilian death toll (including children) in the Syrian civil war. We did already report in the past about the revealing findings of the SNHR. ¹ At this point, we will summarize the results of the latest SNHR report, which it published a few days ago.

Once more, the figures of the SNHR research are both shattering as well as revealing. According to the SNHR a total of 227,781 civilians have been killed between March 2011 and June 2021. Among them are 29,520 children. (See the charts below.)

The findings show very clear who is – by far – the main culprit for these killings: It is the Assad regime and its Iranian allies. They alone have killed 200,117 civilians in this period, this is 87.86% of all the total civilian death toll. Add to these 6,867 civilians killed by the Russian Air Force (3.01%) and it becomes evident that the Assad tyranny and its Russian-Iranian backers are responsible for 9 out of 10 civilian death.

The following actors are responsible for the other civilian death: Daesh/ISIS (2.21%), Syrian National Army / Opposition forces (1.83%), US-led Coalition (1.34%), SDF/PYD (0.56%), and Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham (0.22%). The rest have been killed by “other parties” which means that those responsible are not know.

We see the same picture when it comes to children. Of the 29,520 children who have been counted as dead, more than ¾ (77.53%) have been murdered by the butchers of Assad and the Mullahs. 6.79% have been killed by Rus-

sian bombs. For the other victims, the following actors are responsible: Syrian National Army / Opposition forces (3.36%), Daesh/ISIS (3.25%), US-led Coalition (3.13%), SDF/PYD (0.79%), and Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham (0.24%). The rest has been killed by unknown parties.

If we take the year 2020 alone, we see broadly a similar picture. The main difference is that the number of people killed by unknown parties is much larger. At the same time, Daesh/ISIS is responsible for less death as it has become much weaker because of its devastating defeats in the past years. But the massive imbalance between the civilians (including children) killed by the regime and its masters, on one hand, and the other actors, remains the same. (See the charts below)

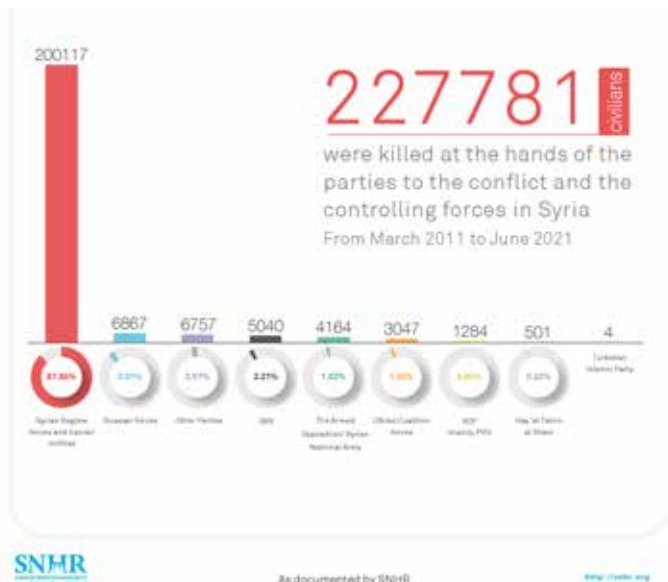
These figures reveal very clearly who are the real terrorists in Syria. Since the beginning of the Syrian Revolution in March 2011, reactionary Stalinists and Castro-Chavistas have denounced the heroic Syrian rebels as “terrorists” and “jihadists”. They did so in order to justify their shamefully support for the Assad tyranny and Russian imperialism. ² However, as the figures of the SNHR report demonstrate, it is the mercenaries of Assad, Putin and Khamenei – not the “jihadists” – who slaughter nearly all civilians (including children)!

A regime without popular support against revolutionaries with a popular base

However, it is important to understand the political rational behind this horrible development. The reason is not primarily because the Assad-Iranian-Russian forces are full of serial killers. No doubt, there are many in the ranks

Chart 1: Civilian Death Toll in Syria from March 2011 to June 2021 ⁴

Chart 2: Child Death Toll in Syria from March 2011 to June 2021 ⁵



of the regime (but there are also many innocent youths who have been pressed into service). The main reason for this extreme imbalance where one camp is responsible for nearly all civilian death toll is the concrete character of the war. This is not a civil war between two reactionary camps. This is a civil war where one camp (Assad-Iran-Russia) wages a reactionary war of aggression against the Syrian people while the revolutionaries defend the people, i.e. they wage a legitimate liberation war.

The Assad-Iranian-Russian forces are determined to kill many innocent civilians because the mass of the people support the rebels. So, their calculation is to demoralize the supporting base of the liberation forces by slaughtering indiscriminately civilians. In contrast, the Syrian revolutionaries have no reason to deliberately target civilians because most of the people support them. Of course, we can not exclude that members of the liberation forces committed a crime in one or the other case. But there is no systematic policy of targeting civilians – in contrast to the Assadist butchers who first and foremost slaughter innocent women, men and children!

The “terrorists” and the terrorists

Finally, two observations. First, as it is well known the movement of *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* (HTS) has been designated since years as a “terrorist organization” not only by Russia but also by Western imperialism. Consequently, a shiver run down the spine of most Western and pro-Russian leftists when they only hear the name “HTS”. They all agree that if there are terrorists in Syria, it is the HTS in Idlib.

The RCIT has always denounced such a reactionary slander. ³ While we lend no political support to this organization which we characterize as petty-bourgeois Islamist, we recognize that they have become the dominant force

leading the ongoing liberation struggle in Idlib. Reflecting their broad popular support, the figures of the SNHR show very clearly that HTS is the force among all actors which is responsible for the lowest number of civilian deaths! As the charts indicates, the Kurdish PYD/YPG – the darling of the reformist and centrist pseudo-left – has been responsible for substantially more civilian deaths than the “jihadist” HTS!

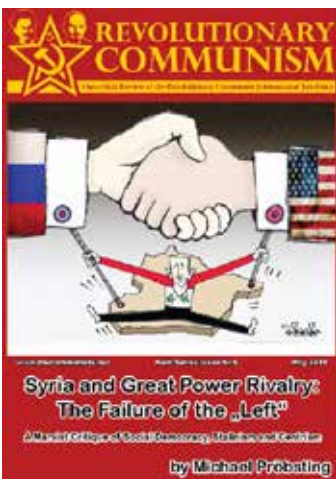
Secondly, it is also noteworthy that the US-led Coalition has killed nearly exactly the same number of children as Daesh/ISIS did. In other words, the terrorists don't kill more children than those forces which supposedly intervene in Syria in order to combat these terrorists. This is all the more remarkable because Daesh/ISIS – which we consider as an utterly reactionary force – has operated for a longer period in Syria than the US-led Coalition! You see, “terror” and imperialist “war against terror” often are not much different!

We conclude by emphasizing, once more, that all socialist, democratic and righteous forces in Syria and around the world must continue their support for glorious Syrian Revolution. The RCIT calls all similar-minded organizations and activists to join forces in fighting for this sacred goal!

Footnotes

1 Michael Pröbsting: Syria: Who is Responsible for the Civilian Death Toll from March 2011 to September 2018? A Revealing Statistic Shows Who are the Real Terrorists in the Syrian Civil War, 10.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/world-wide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-who-is-responsible-for-the-civilian-death-toll-from-march-2011-to-september-2018/>

2 The RCIT has published various documents dealing with the approach of the so-called left to the Syrian Revolution. See e.g. two pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting: *Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified?* An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –
A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism*

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

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3 For our characterization of HTS see e.g. RCIT: Denounce the US terror listing of Syria’s Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham! The Trump Administration delivers another blow to the Syrian Revolution. Continue the Solidarity with the liberation struggle

of the Syrian people! 03.06.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/denounce-the-us-terror-listing-of-syria-s-hts/>; Michael Pröbsting: Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified? An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>; Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings, February 2018, Chapter V, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>.

4 Syrian Network for Human Rights, 14 June 2021, <https://sn4hr.org/blog/2021/06/14/civilian-death-toll/>

5 Syrian Network for Human Rights, 14 June 2021, <https://sn4hr.org/blog/2021/06/14/child-death-toll/>

6 Syrian Network for Human Rights, 1 January 2021, <https://sn4hr.org/blog/2021/01/01/civilian-death-toll-2020/>

7 Syrian Network for Human Rights, 1 January 2021, <https://sn4hr.org/blog/2021/01/01/child-death-toll-2020/>

Chart 3: Civilian Death Toll in Syria in 2020⁶

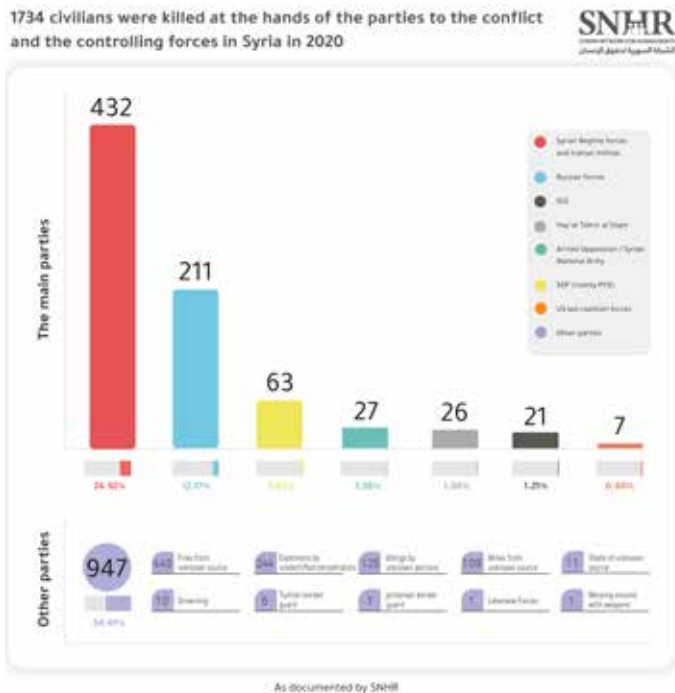
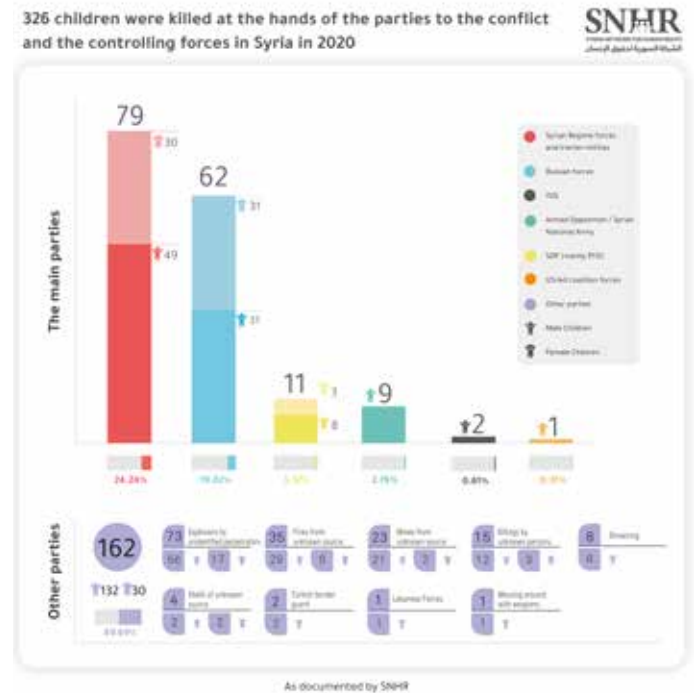


Chart 4: Child Death Toll in Syria in 2020⁷



Publications of the RCIT

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

- Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?
- Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism
- Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism
- Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution: Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

The Zionist Myth of the Zionist Pioneers (Haluzim)

by Yossi Schwartz, ISL (Section of the RCIT in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 07.07.2021

Andrew Ross, Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University, in his book *Stone Men: The Palestinians Who Built Israel* is dealing with another Zionist myth. This article has used among other materials his fine book. An old Israeli joke is that a father tells his son that the Zionist pioneered dried lake Hula and the marshland surrounding it that were a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying malaria, the child does not understand and asks: "Why? Were there no Arabs at that time?"

According to the Zionist myth, the early Zionist "pioneers" were hard-working men and women building the empty land from scratch. They carried bricks on their strong shoulders and used the shovels to dig ditches. They mixed sand, gravel, and cement to form blocks to build houses. The right-wing poet Nathan Alterman wrote in 1932, in his "Morning Song": "We love you, motherland / with joy, with song and with toil." and "We shall dress you in a gown made of concrete and cement."

At the same time when Palestinians were mentioned by Zionists they were presented as poor dirty primitive Fellahin (peasants). This myth hides the reality where Arabs were experts in using stones to build houses suitable for the hot climate of Palestine. The Zionist colonialist settlers could not compete with the Arab workers that the Jewish capitalists preferred, because they were more efficient and cheaper while the Zionist "pioneers" demanded "European salaries" and were unfit to work in the Baron Rothschild's settlements. To overcome the skill of the Arab masons, the Zionists "pioneers" used blocks made of concrete and cement that require much less skill. Thus, while Tel-Aviv was built from blocks, the houses of Jaffa were built from Kurkar quartz sandstone taken from the coastal plains of Palestine.

In Jaffa, the richer Zionists began to build what is known today as Tel-Aviv. First, they built Hauzat Biet and later Neve Tzedek. The Labor Zionists demanded to employ only Jews, but the contractor Joseph Eliyahu Chluouche a "Separatic" Jew preferred to employ the Arab workers. In a book called in Hebrew "Parashat Hayai" (Reminiscences of My Life), he described his life up to 1929. In this book, he attacked the European Zionists who describe Palestine as a wasted ruined country with no inhabitants. The exclusion policy of the labor Zionists led to conflict between the Arab workers and the labor Zionists that led to the physical conflict in May 1921. According to the Zionist propaganda, this was an anti-Jewish pogrom. This is the Zionist version of the event:

"The first of May 1921 was "May Day" the international day of labor solidarity. Two processions were scheduled for the occasion, both planned by Jews. One was by Ahdut Haavoda (Labor Unity), a new party headed by David Ben-Gurion and Berl Katzenelson, in Tel Aviv. Their rally was authorized.

The other, in Jaffa, was by the far smaller Socialist Workers Party, which dreamed of a Soviet Union of Palestine and had distributed flyers in Yiddish and Arabic to that effect. Theirs was not.

The twin labor marches collided in Manshiya, a mixed Arab-Jewish quarter in Jaffa surrounding the Hassan Bek Mosque. Fists flew, and one female Marxist was knocked down and suf-

fered a bad head wound.

By then some Arab residents of Jaffa had assembled in Manshiya. They were perturbed by the rising frequency of immigrant boats docking at Jaffa Port in the few years since the British arrived and World War I ended, unloading some 20,000 Jews upon their shores. And they had come under the impression that most Jews were Bolsheviks, and that Bolsheviks opposed property, marriage and religion itself. There were now several thousand people in Manshiya, where according to a subsequent commission of inquiry, "a general hunting of the Jews began." Jews were assaulted — some fatally — in their homes and shops with blunt instruments, and afterward women, children and even the elderly came to loot. Three high-ranking Arab effendis including the mayor arrived to calm tempers but found Manshiya's main street entirely pillaged. The dead and wounded were carried to Tel Aviv's Herzliya Gymnasium, Palestine's first Hebrew-language high school.

Meanwhile, another crowd gathered at the Jewish immigrant hostel in Jaffa's Ajami neighborhood, where some 100 new arrivals were staying until they could find work. To the immigrants' relief, a pair of Arab policemen arrived. But they too began shooting at the hostel and its main gate. A superior ordered them to stop, but then went home for lunch. The officers kept firing, the gate was opened, and the mob poured in.

Some men tried fleeing into the street and were beaten to death with sticks and wooden boards. Others were killed in the hostel courtyard. One Arab policeman attempted to rape several women; other Arab neighbors gave shelter to the desperate Jews. Several hours passed before a small contingent of British troops arrived from Lod and Jerusalem." [1]

What the Zionists hide is that this clash was the result of the racist policy of the labor Zionists that excluded Arab workers, the expulsion of the Arab peasants from their lands that the Zionists bought from rich landowners living in Lebanon and the opposition to the pro-Zionist policy of the British imperialists.

"A report presented to the British Parliament in October 1921 by a Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Chief Justice of Palestine Thomas Haycraft, set up to investigate the 1921 riots in and around Jaffa. The commission found that the primary cause for the "disturbances" was Arab discontent over the political and economic consequences of continued Jewish immigration, as well as perceived pro-Jewish bias by Mandatory authorities. The report was followed by the 1922 Palestine White Paper, a policy document aimed to conform to its findings." [2]

The Zionist historiography is very similar to Walt Disney movies for children like *Peter Pan* (1953) and *Pocahontas* (1995) that are stereotypical towards and dehumanizing of the Native Americans. Similarly, the Hollywood movies industry recycled the dual stereotype of the noble Indian who serves the white men and the bloodthirsty savage that attacks for no reason the peaceful European wagons. For example, King Vidor's *Northwest Passage* (1940), portraying the Natives as Nazis, and George B. Seitz's *The Vanishing American* (1925) are similar to racist propaganda. In the 1930's the rich Zionists in Tel Aviv adopted the Bauhaus architecture characterized by clean lines and white plaster facades which made it easier for the labor Zionists to build in contrast to the Arab building style. With

the ideology of Only Hebrew labor, came popular songs like: *"Who will build a house in Tel Aviv? Tel Chay? and Rehovot?"* Rehovot was built on the lands of the Arab village Zarnuqa, Tel Chay in the upper Galilee was populated by several semi-nomadic Bedouin Arab tribes, the largest residing in Halasa before it became a Zionist settlement. Here is the song:

"Who will build a house in Tel Aviv?

We - the pioneers -

We'll build Tel Aviv.

Bring us/materials and bricks.

and build Tel Aviv.

Who will sow a field in Tel Chay?

Who will sow a field in Tel Chay?

We - the pioneers -

we'll sow Tel Chay

bring us seeds.

and we'll sow Tel Chay.

Who will plant an orchard in Rehovot?

Who will plant an orchard in Rehovot?

We - the pioneers -

we'll plant in Rehovot

bring us plants

and we'll plant in Rehovot."

This is a song that people who do not know the history of Palestine cannot understand what is wrong with it, it can be compared with the 'Eyes of Texas'. Here are the lyrics:

"The Eyes of Texas are upon you,

All the livelong day.

The Eyes of Texas are upon you,

You cannot getaway.

Do not think you can escape them

At night or early in the morn --

The Eyes of Texas are upon you

'Til Gabriel blows his horn."

Is there anything wrong with this song? Like in the case of the Zionist songs you have to understand the historical background to understand the racist message.

"University of Texas Professor Edmond Gordan explains: "The Eyes of Texas" was originally a satirical song once performed at minstrel shows, which are comedic variety shows featuring white performers in blackface. The Texas Cowboys school spirit association was a key social group on the UT campus for decades. In the past, Gordan said members would put on blackface and perform a sort of a minstrel show each year for their schoolmates. "The Eyes of Texas" is a satirical rendition of Confederate commander Robert E. Lee's saying "the eyes of the south are upon you," which was made popular on the UT campus by former university president William Lambdin Prather." [3]

White Tel-Aviv was built in a different style than Jaffa for the same racist reasons colonialist settlers in other countries had a section of the city built with a different style than the houses of the native people. This was the case with cities like Dakar or Casablanca.

The story of Tel-Aviv is not only a story of a city built for racist reasons, it is a story of the demolition of 24 surrounding Arab villages that were destroyed after 1948 to expand the city. These were less than 5% of the villages destroyed by Israel to form the Zionist apartheid state long before the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. The same logic

that characterized the exclusion of Arab labor led to ethnic cleansing and the destruction of the villages. Anyone who knows the history of the destruction of the villages of the Native Indians of South and North America by the European settler colonialists can see the same pattern.

In 1948 the main Zionist force, the Hagana's demolition squads, moved from house to house in Jaffa as part of Plan D using explosion materials while learning how to destroy Arab houses without injuring themselves. More than 95% of the Arab population of Jaffa were driven out from the city. Part of the lands that once were Arab villages became parks, this was and continue to be the Zionist policy as we can see today in Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem.

Archeology in Israel is a Zionist pseudoscience aimed at proving that Jews lived in this country for the last 3000 years. For this reason, they destroy layers of thousands of years. To hide the history of the Arabs in Palestine they build hotels and parking lots on Arab cemeteries. They planted pine trees on the demolished villages that led years later to forest fires as Pine trees catch fire very fast.

After the occupation of 1967, many Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza found employment in pre-1967 Israel and in the new Zionist settlements, many of them as construction workers building for the Zionists. These numbers were reduced drastically after the first and the second intifada and were replaced by guest workers. Still, 140,000 Palestinian workers are building Israel. After the Oslo agreement the small capitalist class in the West Bank had been growing among the members of the PLO. After Arafat's death, this class enjoyed the protection of the Palestinian Authority under Abbas Mahmud, their position was even better after 2007 when Salam Fayyad a technocrat of the IMF became the Prime Minister until 2013. There are now rumors that he is to replace Abbas as the head of the PA.

The connection of the PA government and Capital corrupted the PLO to the bones. Israel needed such capitalists and corrupt governments to extract wealth and resources without pushing for an uprising against the masters. Palestinian capitalists became junior partners with Israeli capitalists. In 2004 the PA faced a scandal when it was discovered that the capitalist Masri obtained a license from the PA to sell 360,000 tons of cement to Israeli importers, most of which was used to build the separation wall in the northern West Bank. Thus, the Palestinian popular classes face not one enemy – the Zionist settler colonialists – but also the local capitalist protected by the PA acting as a police force for Israel and the Palestinian capitalists, and in addition, the corrupted Arab local ruling classes, servants of the other imperialists.

To end this inhuman situation the imperialists and their servants must be smashed by the Arab revolution!

Down with the Zionist apartheid!

Down with the PA!

For the Arab revolution!

Footnotes

[1] <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/1350>

[2] <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/1517>

[3] <https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/texas/eyes-of-texas-lyrics-racist-undertones-explained/285-d1929725-99a9-4013-8c4b-9c88e0c9312f>

Mass Vaccination Can Make You Rich... .. at least if you own a pharmaceutical corporation!

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22 June 2021

A few weeks ago, the campaign *The People's Vaccine Alliance* published a statement which reported that profits from Covid-19 jabs have helped at least nine people to become billionaires. The report noted: "Between them, the nine new billionaires have a combined net wealth of \$19.3 billion (15.8 billion euros), enough to fully vaccinate all people in low-income countries 1.3 times."¹

Among these new vaccine billionaires are the CEO of Moderna Stéphane Bancel, his BioNTech counterpart Ugur Sahin as well as three co-founders of the Chinese vaccine company CanSino Biologics.

These facts demonstrate, once more, that the current mass vaccination campaigns which are run by capitalist governments (and supported by their media, the reformist bureaucracy and liberal academics) present gigantic opportunities to get rich quickly.

Such news is no surprise for Marxists and every critical-minded activist. The RCIT has pointed out since the beginning of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution in spring 2020 that the ruling classes all over the world have exploited the pandemic for their political and economic interests.² On one hand, they have launched a process of massive expansion of the police and surveillance state – resulting in a shift from parliamentary democracy to *Chauvinist State Bonapartism* resp. an expansion of authoritarian state regimes. On the other hand, the big corporations have utilized the crisis for creating gigantic profits and advancing the process of monopolization.

Hence, the above-mentioned nine neo-billionaires are part of a general trend. As we have shown in several articles, the COVID-19 Counterrevolution has gigantically filled the pockets of the super-rich. According to a Bloomberg report, "the world's 500 richest people added \$1.8 trillion to their combined net worth this year [2020, Ed.]".³ Other reports have shown the same trend.⁴

It is only the capitulationist Lockdown Left which refuses to recognize these elementary facts and which continues to support basically all government campaigns (like lockdowns, banning of mass events under the pretext of "social distancing", mass vaccination, etc.).⁵ Several of these supporters of the Lockdown policy even call for a *longer* and *more draconic* curfew for the popular masses (see e.g. the notorious bourgeois "ZeroCovid" campaign).⁶

To avoid any misunderstanding. We neither deny the existence of a pandemic nor are we anti-vaxxers. But one must not fall into the other extreme and naively believe the official declarations and campaigns of the capitalist governments and their media. As we have pointed out on numerous occasions, many pandemics and diseases which have claimed numerous lives – partly in similar numbers like COVID-19 – have never provoked governments to impose such dramatic authoritarian measures as it has been the case in the past 16 months.⁷ Just take the millions of people who died in the influenza pandemics in 1957-58 and in 1968-69, take the annual deaths caused by HIV/AIDS, by TBC, etc. Or take the fact that according to the WHO ¼ of a million people die every year as a result

of long working hours.⁸

In short, if the response of capitalist governments to the COVID-19 pandemic would be driven primarily by health considerations, why have they never launched any similar dramatic response to all the other pandemics? Why now? What has changed? The answer is pretty obvious: the capitalist governments today care about public health as much as they did in the past (i.e. not at all). But today, they are in the midst of the worst depression of the capitalist world economy and, at the same time, they face the most dramatic upswing of class struggles at least since 1968-76.⁹ In other words, the ruling class desperately needs the pandemic as a pre-text in order to paralyze and control the masses and to create new profitable business opportunities.

Furthermore, contrary to official claims, the Lockdown policy has been proven as not being effective as the case of Sweden demonstrates (as well as various global studies like those of Prof. John Ioannidis).¹⁰ This country has never imposed such draconian measures until now. Nevertheless, it had a lower total excess mortality in 2020 than most other European countries which resorted to the policy of long and repeated mass curfews.¹¹

Finally, only naïve servants of the ruling class can trust the promises which the governments and their media have made about the effectiveness of the mass vaccination campaigns. Take Chile – one of those countries in the world with the highest rate of vaccination. Nevertheless, the virus is spreading rapidly. True, infections have spread less in Europe in recent months. But this is primarily the result of the warm summer season – last year we saw the same development (at a time when no vaccination existed). The only thing which is certain is that the vaccination business increases the profits of the pharmaceutical corporations!

Let us conclude by stating once more that *all pharmaceutical corporations should be expropriated and nationalized under control of the working people*. This is the way to make sure that only such vaccine is produced which is seriously tested and which serves public health and not the profit of a few. It is also the precondition for *international cooperation* between all institutions – instead of reckless dog eat dog rivalry. Only such global planning and coordination will result in enhancing the health and living conditions of the *world population* (and not only of those in rich countries). Furthermore, socialists must continue to *fight against the Lockdown policy and restrictions of democratic rights! No police and surveillance state!*

Footnotes

1 See e.g. Guillaume Souvant: Covid-19 vaccines have spawned nine new billionaires: campaign group, 20/05/2021 <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210520-covid-19-vaccines-have-spawned-nine-new-billionaires-campaign-group>; Covid-19 vaccines have spawned nine new billionaires: campaign group, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2021/may/20/coronavirus-live-news-tokyo-olympics-will-be-safe-says-ioc-vaccines-make-nine-people-billionaires?page=with:block-60a5f3038f08ac572d8a01e1#block-60a5f3038f08ac572d8a01e1>

2 The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevo-

lution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published nearly 90 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. 3

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What the RCIT Stands for

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is a fighting organisation for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in various countries. The working class is the class of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labour power as wage earners to the capitalists. The RCIT stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers' movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Capitalism endangers our lives and the future of humanity. Unemployment, war, environmental disasters, hunger, exploitation, are part of everyday life under capitalism as are the national oppression of migrants and nations and the oppression of women, young people and homosexuals. Therefore, we want to eliminate capitalism.

The liberation of the working class and all oppressed is possible only in a classless society without exploitation and oppression. Such a society can only be established internationally.

Therefore, the RCIT is fighting for a socialist revolution at home and around the world.

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for she is the only class that has nothing to lose but their chains.

The revolution can not proceed peacefully because never before has a ruling class voluntarily surrendered their power. The road to liberation includes necessarily the armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasant republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in rank and file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods and schools – in councils. These councils elect and control the government and all other authorities and can always replace them.

Real socialism and communism has nothing to do with the so-called "real existing socialism" in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba or Eastern Europe. In these countries, a bureaucracy dominated and oppressed the proletariat.

The RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of workers and the oppressed. We combine this with a perspective of the overthrow of capitalism.

We work inside the trade unions and advocate class struggle, socialism and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy. This bureaucracy is a layer which is connected with the state and capital via jobs and privileges. It is far from the interests and

living circumstances of the members. This bureaucracy's basis rests mainly on the top, privileged layers of the working class - the workers' aristocracy. The struggle for the liberation of the working class must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their upper strata.

The RCIT strives for unity in action with other organizations. However, we are aware that the policy of social democracy and the pseudo-revolutionary groups is dangerous and they ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class.

We fight for the expropriation of the big land owners as well as for the nationalisation of the land and its distribution to the poor and landless peasants. We fight for the independent organisation of the rural workers.

We support national liberation movements against oppression. We also support the anti-imperialist struggles of oppressed peoples against the great powers. Within these movements we advocate a revolutionary leadership as an alternative to nationalist or reformist forces.

In a war between imperialist states (e.g. U.S., China, EU, Russia, Japan) we take a revolutionary defeatist position, i.e. we don't support neither side and advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class. In a war between an imperialist power (or its stooge) and a semi-colonial country we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed country.

The struggle against national and social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) must be led by the working class. We fight for revolutionary movements of the oppressed (women, youth, migrants etc.) based on the working class. We oppose the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism etc.) and strive to replace them by a revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class win. The construction of such a party and the conduct of a successful revolution as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky in Russia are a model for the revolutionary parties and revolutions also in the 21 Century.

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries! For a 5th Workers International on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

