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English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 129, January 2022

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Picture on the Cover: The contingent of Convergencia Socialista at the Anti-IMF demonstration (Buenos Aires, 11.12.2021)

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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“Omicron”: A Pretext for Exacerbated Attacks of the COVID Counterrevolution

**Down with chauvinist travel bans against Southern African countries!
No to Lockdowns and compulsory vaccination!**

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 1 December 2021

1. Since a few days, bourgeois governments and their media are full of reports about a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus called “Omicron”. Without any scientific evidence, media all over the world have quickly started to spread panic. Stock markets fell sharply. Since the South African government was the first to report about the new variant, the media claim that this country is the originator of Omicron. As a result, imperialist governments have imposed travel bans and closed the borders for people from Southern Africa.

2. It is important to point out that such bans are not justified by scientific research as the *South African Medical Association* reports that the new virus variant, from what we know yet, results in mild disease without prominent syndromes.

3. Furthermore, there are strong indications that the ruling class are determined to exploit the emergence of Omicron as a pretext for accelerating the authoritarian capitalist pandemic policy which Marxists call the *COVID Counterrevolution*. The Austrian government announced in late November that it imposes a Lockdown for unvaccinated people and that it will introduce compulsory vaccination for the whole population. The Greek government decided to force unvaccinated people paying a penalty of 100 Euro a month (with an average net wage of 1,100€)! Many

other imperialist governments have already announced to follow this course. Today, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the EU Commission, announced that she wants to impose compulsory vaccination for the whole population in the European Union! In addition, governments are starting, once more, to impose general Lockdowns for the whole population.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) warns that the ruling class all over the world is likely to exploit the emergence of Omicron as a pretext to open a new and more severe counterrevolutionary offensive. While they started this shift towards permanent Lockdowns for unvaccinated people (i.e. a kind of semi-house arrest) and compulsory vaccination already before anyone had heard about Omicron, there is no doubt that they will exploit the new virus variant as an excuse.

5. The RCIT has explained since the very beginning of the pandemic in February 2020 that the monopoly bourgeoisie is massively exaggerating the danger of the virus for the whole population despite the well-known fact that most victims are either above the age of 65 year or have pre-existing diseases. Contrary to the hypocritical phrases of bourgeois media, the historic attack on social and democratic rights, taking place since one and a half years, are *not* driven by health concerns but rather by political and eco-

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle

In *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* Michael Pröbsting analyses the dramatic events in spring 2020 which have opened a new historic era. A triple crisis has shocked the world. The Third Depression has begun, characterized by a devastating economic slump of the capitalist world economy which is certainly no less dramatic than the crisis which started in 1929.

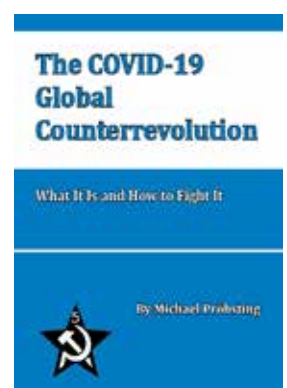
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

And finally, the world faces COVID-19 – a pandemic which endangers many lives and which is exploited by the ruling classes in order to spread fear, to deflect attention from the capitalist causes of the economic crisis and to justify the turn towards chauvinist state bonapartism.

The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution also shows that large sectors of the reformist workers movement and the

so-called left fail to understand the meaning of this triple crisis. Similar to the situation in 1914 after the beginning of World War I we can observe a gigantic wave of opportunist capitulation by many self-proclaimed socialists as they support or at least do not denounce the global lockdown and the suppression of democratic rights which the ruling classes are imposing in the name of combat against the pandemic. *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* offers a Marxist analysis of this historic crisis and elaborates a revolutionary perspective for the struggles ahead.

The book contains an introduction and 6 chapters plus an appendix (176 pages) and includes 5 figures and a diagram.



conomic interests of the ruling class. This is why the governments do not expand the public health sector but rather focus on expanding the police and surveillance state and increasing the profits of Big Pharma, Big Finance, Big Tech and Big Data.

6. We strongly refute the lies of capitalist media that the vaccinated are responsible for the continuing existence of the pandemic. It is scientifically proven that vaccinated people also spread the virus. Likewise, it is an established fact that vaccinated people constitute a significant part of those in hospitals as well as among the COVID death. It is telling that Europe is the continent with the highest share of vaccinated people (except Australia) ... as well as the continent with the highest share of infected people! Even countries where nearly the whole adult population has been vaccinated (like Israel or Singapore) have seen a massive rise of infections in the recent past.

7. The RCIT warns that the capitalist governments seem to be determined to *open a new phase of the COVID Counterrevolution*. We see strong indications that they plan to radically accelerate their reactionary policy by creating an *Apartheid system against unvaccinated people* and by *forcing millions of people to get vaccinated against their will*. Statements like those of the German health minister Jens Spahn that all unvaccinated people will be dead by the end of winter reflect the lunatic bourgeois policy of scaremongering. The ruling class feels obliged to do so because it is quite aware of the fact that their policy faces widespread mistrust among the popular masses. Prof. Morten Sode-mann, an adviser to the Danish government, admits that *"many unvaccinated people do not mistrust the vaccination but our society."*

8. Let's be clear: these anti-democratic attacks can only be implemented by a *dramatic militarization of the COVID policy*. It is symbolic that the head of the COVID crisis management team of the new German government (a coalition of the social democratic, green and liberal parties) is a major general of the army. We repeat: the ruling class can enforce its policy – getting large parts of the popular masses vaccinated against their will every few months (with vaccines resp. boosters which are obviously not very effective and long-lasting), controlling permanently the freedom of movement and the health status of the whole population, etc. – only via the *vast expansion of the state repression apparatus*. These developments confirm, once again, the analysis of the RCIT that the policy of the COVID Counterrevolution is characterized by *chauvinist state bonapartism*.

9. It is no accident that this turn towards intensification of the chauvinist state bonapartist policy take place at

this moment. In the past few months, the capitalist world economy has headed towards a second slump. In addition, it is visible to everyone that the official narrative of the bourgeois COVID policy – people should get vaccinated and then the pandemic will be over – is collapsing like a house of cards. (It is the same with the lies about the utility of the Lockdowns.) Furthermore, we have seen another upswing of popular mass struggles and uprisings in the recent past. The whole situation bears strong similarities to spring 2020 when the ruling class was also faced with the Great Depression and a global wave of popular uprisings beginning in autumn 2019.

10. The RCIT strongly denounces the chauvinist travel ban against Southern African countries. We unconditionally oppose general Lockdowns, Lockdown for unvaccinated people as well as compulsory vaccination and support mass protests against these attacks. We strongly oppose the division of the workers and oppressed in vaccinated and unvaccinated people. We welcome the great popular uprisings of the masses in Martinique and Guadeloupe against compulsory vaccination and other attacks which forced the French government to make some concessions. We denounce the social-bonapartist left which acts as servants of the ruling class in supporting – directly or indirectly – the policy of Lockdowns and compulsory vaccination. We call all workers and popular organizations to join the mass protests and to fight for a socialist perspective. Such an intervention will also allow driving out any reactionary forces within such movements. Socialists call for the expropriation of the pharma corporations under workers control. Likewise, we demand the massive expansion of the public health sector under workers and popular control. Join the RCIT in fighting for such a perspective!

International Bureau of the RCIT

The RCIT has analysed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published about 100 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. In particular we refer readers to the RCIT Manifesto: "Green Pass" & Compulsory Vaccinations: A New Stage in the COVID Counterrevolution. 29 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/green-pass-compulsory-vaccinations-a-new-stage-in-the-covid-counterrevolution/>. See also: World Economy: The Second Slump Has Begun. Latest figures from a renowned bourgeois economic institute confirm the Marxists' analysis, 28 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/world-economy-the-second-slump-has-begun/>

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Cholera not Omicron should be the major concern for Public Health in Nigeria!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT. 6th December, 2021

"The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has said Cholera has claimed more lives in Nigeria than the dreaded coronavirus pandemic, especially in 2021. The centre's director general, Ifedayo Adetifa, said the country has recorded "a little more than 3,600" deaths from cholera in the last 11 months while the total fatalities recorded from coronavirus since 2020 when the index case was recorded still stands at 2,977.

Mr Adetifa, who was a guest on Channels Television morning programme- "Sunrise Daily," to give an update on the Omicron COVID-19 variant found in Nigeria, noted that the NCDC "has been working behind the scene to mitigate the spread of cholera, as the public attention is more on COVID-19 than other diseases".¹

The report continues: "As of November 21, 2021, the NCDC disclosed that Nigeria has recorded a total of 3,566 deaths and 103,589 suspected cholera cases across 32 states of the federation and the FCT – a 3.4 per cent Case Fatality Ratio. According to the centre, four states- Bauchi (19,470 cases), Jigawa (13,293 cases) Kano (12,116 cases), and Zamfara (11,918 cases) account for 55 per cent of all cumulative cases."

Earlier reports have pointed to the misplaced attention in the public health discourse:

"Nigeria is seeing one of its worst cholera outbreaks in years, with more than 2,300 people dying from suspected cases as Africa's most populous country struggles to deal with multiple disease outbreaks. This year's cholera outbreak, with a higher case fatality rate than the previous four years, is worsened by what many consider to be a bigger priority for state governments: the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria faces a resurgence of cases driven by the Delta variant, and less than 1% of the population has been fully vaccinated.

At least 69,925 suspected cholera cases were recorded as of Sept. 5 in 25 of Nigeria's 36 states and in the capital, Abuja, accord-

ing to the Nigeria Center for Disease Control. Children between 5 and 14 are the most affected age group and the overall case fatality rate is 3.3%, more than double that of COVID-19's 1.3% case fatality rate in Nigeria."²

This was the exact same situation we pointed last year where Lassa fever was claiming lives at an alarming rate in the midst of the lockdowns:

"the Nigerian bourgeoisie has not responded to other more lethal outbreaks as it now does. A telling indication of this is how the Nigerian government have loosely handled the outbreak of Lassa fever. The disease (...) infects about 100,000 to 300,000 people around the world annually with 5000 deaths per year. Some figures put the rate of infection at 300,000 to 500,000 annually. According to figures from the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) cases of Lassa fever have been confirmed in 27 out of 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja:

Between January 1 and March 15, the Nigerian Center for Disease Control reported 161 deaths of Lassa fever patients, with 3,735 suspected cases and 906 confirmed cases, across twenty-seven of Nigeria's thirty-six states. For the same period in 2019, Lassa killed 114 with 1801 suspected cases and 455 confirmed cases across twenty-one states, but the 906 confirmed cases for 2020 is already greater than the 810 confirmed cases for all of 2019. Lassa fever is known to have a case fatality rate as high as 23 percent..."³

Here it can be seen that while Cholera is not just claiming the lives of poor people in the thousands the most affected are children of ages between 5 and 14. Despite the case fatality rates of these outbreaks being far greater than that of COVID and the vulnerability of the population mostly affected there is zero attention or media frenzy concerning the danger of these diseases. Rather mainstream media and liberal activists are pinning over the vaccine for a



RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

disease that has only killed a handful of old government officials, their bodyguards and aides. Of course no serious minded person believes the leavened figures paraded by the Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) as Corona virus deaths.

The vaccines have not been known to solve any real problems caused by the virus. The countries with one of the highest vaccination rates have considered and even imposed lockdowns while they were ahead of all other countries in terms of the fraction of the population vaccinated. The European countries with high rates of vaccination still remain those who have the highest additional cases of COVID after the vaccine roll out began. Fully vaccinated people have been known to contract the virus, spread it and even die from the disease. This is because the ruling class all over the world has never borne any public health interests. The mass vaccination campaigns have only being in line with the profit interests of Big Pharma. Same as the as the lockdowns and the "Green Pass" worked to add gargantuan riches to the online streaming and IT companies.

Leaving the whole health infrastructure in the hands of the governments has only led to a cycle of deceit and lies with more only more suffering for the working class and the oppressed. The hastily produced vaccines have led to nothing more than increased mutations. It seems as though with every new mutation there's a new vaccine/booster. To the point that a single person maybe required to take up to 5(!) vaccine/booster. If anything the vaccination drives have only served as a tool for the Bonapartist expansion of the state apparatus and the introduction of a new system of apartheid where vaccinated people are separated from unvaccinated through Green Pass and vaccination certificates.

The Nigerian government has not still been able to come to terms with the doctors of the National Association of Resident Doctors who have embarked on incessant strikes since March 2020. So how can anyone trust them to successfully deal with any epidemic much less leave the running of the whole Health sector in their hands especially in a time of economic and health crises by accepting mass curfews and lockdowns with travel bans. Effectively disarming the masses of the only means they have to bring change-popular uprisings.

We are not against vaccines/vaccination but we maintain that effective vaccines can only be produced through the solidarity of international health workers who are truly driven by health interests of the masses and who are under the supervision of the popular masses. We also maintain that the mass vaccination campaigns is part of the effort of the world governments to justify their strategy of apartheid launched to attack the people in the midst of a crises of the capitalist system. Why are the vaccine for AIDS, Lassa fever etc., taking so long to develop? Why are they not being mass produced yet? Because they are diseases that hardly infect Western nations and Europeans right?

While we strongly condemn the travel bans now being imposed by the US, UK, EU and Israel on African nations we warn against the centering of this chauvinist attacks on petty bourgeois demands such as allowing middle class and rich people to visit Western countries of their choice. Instead of putting the expansion, upgrade and increased funding of the health sector; the opposition to Lockdowns and school closures which will truly disrupt the liveli-

hoods and lives of the poor as the main campaign. The universities and learning institutions are yet to recover from the lag caused by the last lockdowns. Moreso the retrogression suffered by the learning process of children and youth.

In the final analysis, the way to fight a pandemic or end an health crises is not mass curfews; Lockdowns; ban on public gatherings/social distancing or travel bans. All these emergency measures are plots by the ruling class to launch a preemptory strike against the masses when their economic system is facing a tempest. This tempest is caused by nothing more than the inner contradictions of this system of exploitation so that it can no longer recover from a catastrophic decline. Imagine the Buhari government blaming the pandemic for its failure to fight corruption.⁴

Rather to fight a pandemic or end a health crises the health sector must be massively funded and upgraded. More health staff must be recruited with a monumental pay increase for these practitioners. Vaccines and cures must be investigated by medical practitioners under the supervision of the workers' movement. No to any form of school closure or restriction of freedom of movement or assembly of the masses.

Most of all the general living conditions of the people must be improved. It is telling that to defeat epidemics like Lassa fever and Cholera new hygienic housing must be provided for people living in the slums. The housing estates of the super-rich must be expropriated for the poor to occupy. Portable drinking water and hygienic water for other domestic uses must be provided the poor. The same goes for COVID, without fighting climate change and environmental pollution which created the enabling environment for pathogens to emerge and mutate endlessly then Corona and other pathogens cannot be eradicated.

This is why it is completely unacceptable to yield the streets in any form of sit-at-home. To end pandemics we must end capitalism and this is impossible by putting the whole population in isolation!

1. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/498347-cholera-has-killed-more-nigerians-than-covid-19-in-2021-ncdc.html>
2. <https://www.thestar.com/news/world/africa/2021/09/14/nigeria-faces-one-of-its-worst-cholera-outbreaks-in-years.html>
3. <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/what-does-the-invitation-of-chinese-medical-personnel-mean-for-the-nigerian-health-sector/>
4. <http://saharareporters.com/2021/12/04/how-covid-19-pandemic-affected-my-fight-against-corruption-insecurity-%E2%80%93buhari>

Nigeria: COVID Apartheid and the Second Wave of the COVID Counterrevolution

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT. 23rd December, 2021

The official COVID response continues to break new boundaries in the bizarre. The University of Ilorin (UNIILORIN) announced that only first-class graduates would be allowed to attend the convocation ceremony for graduating students in order to prevent the spread of COVID. Other universities like the University of Ibadan (UI) and other tertiary institutions have followed suit. ¹ The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) have also said that prospective members must show evidence of vaccination before being allowed to partake in the scheme. Babajide Sanwo-Olu the governor of Lagos state has announced plans to enforce the use of vaccine cards for social gatherings. ²

Following these awry developments is a steady campaign for a grander plan. President Buhari has just got a booster shot. Pastor Kumuyi, one of the general overseers of one of the largest Pentecostals in Nigeria has warned citizens against seeing the virus as “politically motivated” by claiming that several of his church members had contracted the virus. Atedo Peterside, one of the so-called Nigerian technocrats has informed the media that he is in isolation after being infected with the Omicron variant. This comes shortly before the NCDC announced a 500 percent increase in the number of COVID infections. ³ In short the media is once again warming up to defend more egregious policies in the name of COVID.

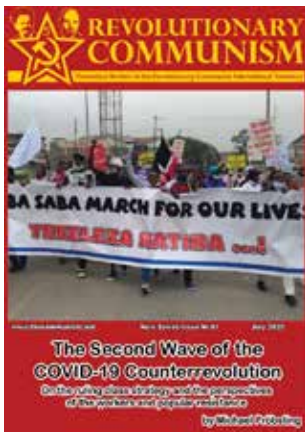
Despite all of the new rules and the government sponsored commercials for the pandemic, 1 million doses of

the vaccine got expired in Nigeria and 450,000 in eight African countries as the manufacture and proliferation of fake COVID passports and vaccination certificates have risen across major cities in Nigeria. ⁴ In fact according to Al Jazeera, the manufacture of fake COVID passports is fast becoming a criminal industry.

If the pandemic was so serious in Nigeria how come about one-sixth of the vaccines received have expired. Even if we assume it is due to incompetence how can one trust policies and schemes of such an incompetent government. This again shows that the official pandemic response does not have as its primary focus the health of the population. Rather it is fueled by a ploy to separate and disarm the workers.

The Federal and state governments will try to prevent further vaccine wastage by enforcing the use of vaccine cards/certificates in order to impress their imperialist masters. This means segregation amongst workers based on those vaccinated and those who are not; those with one or two and this or that booster and those who haven't. Vaccine certificates can also be used to downsize the number of workers eligible for jobs in the labour market which already has an alarming rate of unemployed.

Of course, mandating people to get any form of certificate/passport/pass before they can be allowed to work, visit certain places such as bars, pubs or even use public transport as it is been done in Europe is only a textbook method of implementing forced vaccinations. Effectively



Publications of the RCIT

The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution

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

By Michael Pröbsting, July 2020

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

taking away the opportunity for people to choose what they want coupled with segregation based on certain rules. These are the typical features of apartheid, a COVID apartheid if you will.

All calls and campaigns for mass vaccination bolster this COVID apartheid and are equally dangerous since they will lead to segregation in society. As has been said the APC/PDP government like all other members of the global ruling class mobilize "technocrats"; religious bodies, bourgeois scientists and the media to launch a second wave of the COVID Counterrevolution. The Omicron variant is the booster for this fresh assault against the masses which consists of forced vaccinations; segregation/apartheid; increased surveillance on the population; up to house arrests for the whole population and national chauvinism dubbed as compulsory vaccination; green pass/vaccine certificates; health apps; lockdowns and travel bans respectively.

The major motive of the ruling class stems since the beginning of the pandemic from the shipwreck of the capitalist system which reached its most severe form in 2019. It is the desperation to preserve their position of power and affluence that has prompted this epochal despotism from the ruling class. The economy has failed to recover from the depression rather it has entered a second slump hence the second wave of counter-revolution using COVID as a smoke-screen. Key features of this second slump is the hyperinflation in (Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and energy prices generally the results of which the RCIT has designated as Dark Winter in the imperialist countries.

Another feature is the debt crises of real estate giants like Evergrande and Kaisa in China. The UK and Canada have removed Nigeria and some African countries from their travel ban list following global pressure coupled with the reciprocal travel ban of the Buhari government on those countries. The fact that Nigeria can reciprocate a travel ban on the UK shows the weakening influence of Western imperialism on Africa moreso the global stage. The Western imperialists know this so they are quick to lift such bans especially after president Buhari seem to be shifting the location for his medical tourism eastward and seems to be collaborating with China to fight terrorism.⁵

Another peripheral event that shows how the bourgeois COVID policy is only a continuation of their anti-people politics by other means is that the travel bans occur at a period when the imperialist metropolises face an immigration crises. First, the Haitian immigrants who were brutalized at the US border by Texan border patrols and Arab immigrants left in inhumane conditions at the Belarus-Poland border. The latter directly coincides with the Omicron travel bans.

We reiterate with this medium that while we condemn the travel ban, the primary demand should be the upgrade and expansion of the health sector under workers control rather than whether or not upper middle class or petty bourgeois people get to visit the country of their choice.

Our position has always been that to fight a pandemic, the health sector must be expanded and upgraded. The housing of the rural and urban poor must be lifted to hygienic conditions. That health workers deserve a monumental pay increase and a colossal addition to their numbers. That the diet and general living conditions of the people must be given priority and at no costs to limit the number of people with pre-existing health conditions which is a

major factor in COVID deaths. That climate change must be fought to reduce the rate at which novel pathogens can infect human beings or mutate within the human population. In short, all measures that stem from the understanding of the COVID pandemic as a product of systemic decadence.

In contrast the government's policy has been to cut spending for health. A refusal to pay health workers outstanding salaries and leave their hazard allowance a pittance. In fact, since the beginning of the pandemic health workers have not stopped complaining about how their profession is being casualised. People who have other health conditions are abandoned as long as COVID is not added to the illnesses they already suffer.

At the same time the whole period of the pandemic has been very profitable for the bourgeoisie as it has provided an opportunity for them to divert their capital to more profitable fields in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, IT and big tech industries accruing gargantuan wealth amounting to billions of dollars to the point that it is now possible to see a trillionaire in the next couple of years. Of course, this wealth does appear out of thin air it is the result of mass sackings; government investing in hasty vaccine production and surveillance technologies (health pass scan codes etc.) rather than in public health and municipal amenities; spending of life savings of lower middle class and poor people etc.

Majority in the left have refused to acknowledge this reality rather they support vaccination drives of hastily made vaccines. They criticise the governments for vaccine inequality and refusal to give patents to African countries to produce the vaccines. The worst of them advocate for lockdowns; school closures; forced vaccination s; vaccine passports (whether digital or printed). They have failed to see or refuse to see the momentous shift of the global political elite from Neo-liberal capitalism down a slippery precipice of Bonapartist totalitarianism in the age of acute inter-imperialist rivalry.

Unlike the opportunist left, the masses and poor layers of the working class refuse the transition to totalitarianism and fight on the streets in protests against the complete control of their lives through starting steps as forced/ compulsory vaccinations, vaccine certificates, lockdowns, closure of small businesses and schools etc. In fact, this is the major trend throughout Europe. Some workers in the docks of Italy have even gone on strike. Despite their betrayal by the left health workers are fighting the imposition of compulsory vaccination on them.

We are not against vaccination. Our position is that no aspect of public health should be left in the sole control of the big Pharma companies; bourgeois scientists and the ruling class. Rather the whole health sector and pharmaceutical industry should be under the control of the workers and popular masses which is impossible under Lockdowns and the massive expansion of the state apparatus with it. This is why criticism of our stance based on earlier vaccination schemes for other diseases is misplaced. With or without COVID the working class have always been right to second guess the products of the big pharmaceutical multinationals.

Just look at the opioid addiction in the US where Johnson & Johnson were solely responsible for failure to curtail the quantity of opioids sold after which they only got a slap

on the wrist by US courts. ⁶ If opioid production was supervised by workers and urban poor such an occurrence would have been totally averted. The fact that in the past people have taken this or that vaccine for this or that disease doesn't mean the people fully trusted the vaccination nor does it mean that the Pharma companies don't want to overlook the side effects in order to make quick profits by spending less.

In a similar fashion given the crises ridden period, the capitalist scare mongering and coercion, government distrust is bound to increase. The hastily produced vaccines too are not helping matters. How can vaccination which should be taken in 2/3 shots with at least a week's interval still require boosters anytime the virus mutates and there is a new variant. If care is not taken a new booster will be introduced for the Omicron variant putting the total number of shots and boosters around 5/6(!). Like the vaccines which do not work other emergency measures like the Lockdowns, restrictions during festive seasons, border and school closure have had to be repeated.

As people who are fully vaccinated have contracted the virus and died, so have the countries with the strictest Lockdowns; curfews and other recurring restrictions, remained the hotspot for the pandemic. In fact, Europe which has one of the highest vaccination rates has the highest number of infections. The bourgeois pandemic response has not and will never work it will only leave more devastating collateral damage in its wake. Now is the time for an intransigent struggle against the second wave of the COVID Counterrevolution!

Fight against COVID passports/vaccine certificates! They are the tools of forced vaccination and COVID apartheid! No segregation for unvaccinated people!

No to any form of Lockdowns, school closures and curfews in the New Year! Defend the right of people to gather publicly and their homes!

Down with all travel bans, border closure and red listing because of the Omicron! Increased funding for the health sector! Full payment for the NARD and other workers owed salaries and allowances! Massive recruitment of health workers and medical practitioners with a monumental pay rise for them!

Put the whole health sector and pharmaceutical industries under the control of the workers and popular masses!

Standard housing and hygienic living conditions for the poor and homeless! Expropriate the transnationals and put the energy sector in the hands of the working class and poor peasants to stop climate change!

For a Revolutionary International Workers Party to end capitalism! This is what the RCIT is fighting for. Join the RCIT!

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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

South Africa: The Ruins of Neo-Apartheid

Low participation in Local Government Elections reflect popular dissatisfaction with the ANC government

By Lal Azania, RCIT Correspondent in South Africa, 15 November 2021

The Local Government Elections held in South Africa on 1 November 2021 has demonstrated that the 1994 negotiated settlement that brought about a bourgeois democratic dispensation is fast losing legitimacy and is unravelling. Only 68% of eligible voters bothered to register and effectively 30% cast their ballots. Of those who voted, 2% had spoiled their ballots.

The elections resulted in a massive defeat for the ANC, the ruling party since 1994. Its share of votes declined from 53.91% to 45.59%. Likewise did the bourgeois main opposition party – *Democratic Alliance* – lose many votes, declining from 26.90% to 21.62%. At the same time, the *Economic Freedom Fighters*, led by Julius Malema, could increase their share from 8.19% to 10.32%.

The reality of neo-Apartheid

The municipal system is unable to effectively provide basic services, a result of the combination of a flawed design and the rampant corruption and ineptitude of the bourgeois parties, and municipal bureaucrats involved.

The Apartheid order, during the negotiations for a new South Africa, insisted that municipalities be a constitutionally protected autonomous sphere of government. Each municipality has its own independent legal status and responsibilities to its residents. The historical inequalities between rural and urban; and class and 'race' profiled revenue basis to fund these municipalities was meant to be cured with an equitable grant from central government annually. A recent inquiry concluded that the 'equitable formula' does not address this fast-degenerating reality. The effect is that colour-based inequality has now become class-colour inequality: the neo-Apartheid!

Apartheid spatial planning has not been addressed. Residential localities with working class - realistically black - residents, continue to be located furthest from work centres and largely white and middle-class suburbia are located most proximate to centres of economic activity. South Africa's Apartheid planning was the opposite of the international norm of locating working class areas closest to work centres and suburbia at a distance.

In the face of rapidly increasing unemployment, always a structural feature of South Africa; the revenue base of municipalities has shrunk rapidly. Austerity budgets from the central government enhance the structural inequality. The constitutional mechanism of co-operative governance, to cure the matter of co-ordination between spheres of government (central, provincial and local) has proven at best to be an ineffective nicety. In short, the municipal system is designed as part of the overall mechanism to ensure the survival of capitalism in South Africa that had been under threat during the rising revolutionary tide under Apartheid.

The constitutional arrangement requires public consultation by municipalities and the White Paper on Local Government (1998) warned that its absence would lead to

the system not working. However, this aspect is in sharp contrast to the proportional representation system of local government (aside from ward-based representation); both of which have led to responsiveness of local government elected representatives to bourgeois political parties rather than their constituents. The very basis for the successful struggle against Apartheid was mass mobilisation and organisation at street and area committee level within communities. The international isolation and 'armed propaganda' struggle of the dominant ANC are often over-rated in their contribution to the ending of Apartheid.

Struggles at municipal levels

The first order of business in the pre-political negotiation stage (1991) after the unbanning of the exiled liberation struggle parties was the demand by the Apartheid state that the armed struggle be abandoned in order to take the process forward. However, the more substantial compromise in reality was the abandonment of the mass struggle - effectively a demobilisation of the masses that had been cultivated by forces within the country and not the exiled leadership.

The ANC has ever since had a policy of engaging the masses only at elections and not taking forward the organic democracy that had been developing with great depth with potential as the motor for transformation of the lives of the masses. Clearly the mutual fear of the masses by both the Apartheid State Apparatus and its successor state form, as expressed in the Constitution of 1996; is at the heart of the failure to permit a transformation agenda; even within the logic of a reformist 'Developmental State.' The so-called Developmental State is at best a label with no substance!

Since the mid-2000s, there has been a significant increase in 'service delivery protests' in black residential areas, including dormitory labour townships and informal settlements. The rise in this tide of dissatisfaction has led to South Africa being dubbed 'the protest capital' of the world. A significant feature of these protests has been their being led by community activists and organs, and not to any great degree by opposition bourgeois parties or even those on the broad left self-characterising as socialists. The notable exception has been the struggles of the students in the fees must fall protests intersecting with the demand for casual workers to be made full time at tertiary educational institutions; that has had some limited impact on the demand in the municipal sphere.

Indeed the plethora of interests sometimes leading struggles at municipal levels have included petty bourgeois and opportunistic elements and that includes demands that at least 30% of procurement contracts be made available to small black emerging businesses. Often these procurement contracts do not extend beyond securing labourers for specific contractual fulfilment; implying the aspirant middle class wishing to participate in the exploitation of

desperate day labourers by interposing themselves as suppliers to municipalities.

What happened with the “NUMSA moment”?

Nevertheless, the vacuum of building a strong basis for community organisations at street, and entire residential area action committees; and linking these to educational institutions and workplaces is a serious omission of the entire process that flows from what is referred to as the NUMSA moment (the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa’s decisive break with the ANC, Congress of South African Trade Unions and South African Communist Party: Tripartite Alliance); being an ostensible decisive break with neoliberal politics of the Tripartite Alliance.

Instead, the process since 2013 has been one of establishing a United Front as an almost autonomous organisation that has degenerated into existing on paper only, instead of conceiving of it as a united front of working-class organisations organised on the street action committee and its stepped-up expressions. Similarly, the *Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party* (SRWP) born out of the same NUMSA moment process, has failed to build on this basis and consequently had its Central Committee declare, most undemocratically and without any consultation with any other of its organs and membership, that in the absence of ground level structures of the party of any note, the party did not have the capacity to participate in the 1 November 2021 local government elections even on a revolutionary tactical basis.

This has led to much frustration and a near revolt in the party, with two provinces fielding candidates in defiance of the decision. They garnered no more than 1000 votes despite a total absence of support from the party and gained no more than two proportional representation seats.

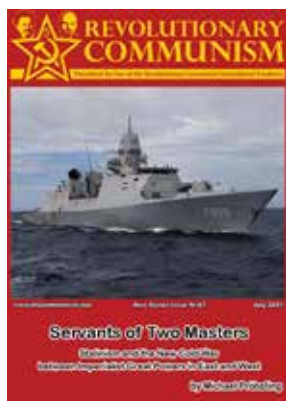
A distinctive feature of the participation of revolutionaries within the SRWP was absolute clarity within those sections

of the party and its supporters that this was a tactical entry. The participation was on the basis that elected representatives be held accountable to organisations of the people all of the time and not only at election time. That if a representative does not do his/her job; the community must exercise the right to recall the elected person and that every elected official earns only the wage of a skilled worker.

With the total lack of a revolutionary socialist perspective displayed by the party’s central organs; or any regard for the pretence at the SRWP being a revolutionary vanguard party, the time has arrived for Bolshevik Leninist revolutionaries to re-examine whether the SRWP is indeed a party serving the revolutionary interests of the working class or whether the more substantial endeavour is the building of organs of the class towards the attainment of a vanguard party from within the most advanced layers of the community, workplace and educational level organs of the class as a counter power to the fast unravelling bourgeois democratic façade that is increasingly facing the prospect of moving more firmly towards elements of a Bonapartist state in South Africa.

The central question that is more sharply emerging in Revolutionary Marxists circles in South Africa, given the election outcomes, is whether the vanguard party is built and is infused into the organs of the masses to enable it to lead; or whether such a party will emerge as a result of mass activity and active participation in the building of organs of the class?

A feature of the elections has been the emergence of hundreds of independent civic organisations, small parties and independent candidates eating into the electoral base of the major bourgeois parties. However, the central issue remains the positing of a revolutionary alternative for the leadership of the masses who are turning their back on bourgeois politics. Whether they will be led to a revolutionary politics is the central challenge for a Marxist Revolutionary Party.



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

Where Were the Masses?

Austria's government and political establishment called for a mass rally in support of their COVID policy. It resulted in a major political defeat.

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20.12.2021

The 19 December saw an important test of popular support for the official pandemic policy of Austria's ruling class. As readers will be aware, this country has been shaken since more than one month by huge mass protests against the COVID Counterrevolution – a policy which is characterized by general Lockdowns, Lockdowns for unvaccinated people, Health Pass and mass or even compulsory vaccination of the whole population.¹

Every weekend, tens of thousands of people march in Vienna as well as in many other smaller cities and towns. On 20 November about 100,000 people demonstrated in Vienna, a few days later 30,000 people – according to the police, in reality many more – demonstrated in Graz (a city with less than 300,000 citizens).² On 12 December, 9,000 people demonstrated in Bregenz – a town with less than 30,000 citizens! We could go on with many more examples. There are even demonstrations in very small Austrian towns of which the author of these lines had not heard before!

This gigantic wave of mostly spontaneous mass mobilizations happened only once in this country since World War II and this was in spring 2000 when a right-wing government took power. It reflects the widespread rejection of the reactionary and anti-democratic COVID policy of the government led by the conservative ÖVP – the main party of Austria's bourgeoisie. (This party has been in power since 1986 without interruption.)

These mass protests go hand in hand with the fragile state of this scandal-ridden government, resulting in the fact that the country had three different chancellors in the last three months! In short, Austria goes through a period of deep political crisis.

Reacting to this crisis and the discrediting of its COVID policy, the ruling elite launched an initiative last week. Under the slogan “#YesWeCare”, a very broad alliance called for a mass rally – a “sea of lights” on Sunday 19 December. This rally was supposed to “commemorate” the COVID deaths and to “take a stand” against the “hate-mongering” in the past weeks. In short, this has been the attempt of a pro-regime counter-mobilization against the current mass protests.

Each and everyone of Austria's political establishment supported this rally. The President, the Chancellor, all parliamentary parties (except the right-wing populist FPÖ), the church, the trade unions, the official representation of the doctors, and many other organizations called

people to participate in this event. The media reported very prominently and very supportive about this initiative. Vienna's public transport officially carried the slogan of the rally (“#YesWeCare”) on that day. The police of Vienna published an entry on Twitter thanking the participants of the rally “for the great atmosphere.”³ In short, this was a comprehensive mobilization of resources and support by Austria's capitalist republic!

However, the result was a major defeat for the ruling class. The police – naturally very friendly-minded – said after the event that “it was very difficult to make an assessment, but they think more than 30,000 people participated in the rally.”⁴

This is certainly an exaggeration, and the real figure is closer to 10-20,000 people. In fact, it was relatively easy for the police to account the number of participants with the help of its helicopters given the fact that it was evening and every participant held a light.

Anyway, even if we accept the official police figure of 30,000, it is much less than the official police figure for the last mass protests in Vienna against the COVID policy (44,000 while, in reality, it was many more).

A telling comparison can be made if we look at demonstrations for resp. against the official pandemic policy in one and the same city on last weekend. For example, according to the police, 1,500 people demonstrated on 19 December in Bregenz against Lockdowns and compulsory vaccination. A few hours later, “a few hundred people” participated in the same city in the pro-government's “sea of lights”. (The media did not wish to give a more precise accounting of this not particularly huge or uncountable crowd!) In Gmünd, another small town with 5,238 citizens, 1,600 demonstrated according to the police, on Saturday against the COVID policy. The next day, only 300 people joined the local “sea of lights”.

These figures reveal a clear and uniform picture. Despite the support of the whole capitalist establishment with all institutions and media and of nearly all parliamentary parties, substantially less people participated in demonstrations in support of the official COVID policy compared with the protest mobilizations. And this, despite the fact, that the latter are largely spontaneous.

Only a new party – the petty-bourgeois democratic populist MFG which has been created this year in protest against the official COVID policy – gives regular support

Comunismo Revolucionario Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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to the protest demonstrations. The right-wing populist FPÖ also lends some support to these demonstrations. But the later did not do so last weekend *“in order not to harm retail businesses on the last weekend before Christmas”*. In any case, the protest demonstrations against the reactionary COVID policy have a largely spontaneous character and are not controlled by any force.

The RCIT, all authentic socialists and democrats can only draw encouragement from the huge political and moral defeat which the government and its COVID Counterrevolution suffered on 19 December!

Footnotes

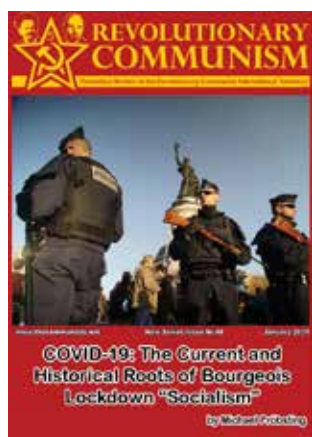
1 The RCIT has analyzed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published about 100 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-coronavirus/>. In particular we refer readers to two RCIT Manifestos: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>; “Green Pass” & Compulsory Vaccinations: A New Stage in the COVID Counterrevolution. Down with the chauvinist-bonapartist police & surveillance state – defend democratic rights! No to health policy in the service of the capitalist monopolies – expand the public health sector under workers and popular control! 29 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/green-pass-compulsory-vaccinations-a-new-stage-in-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle, RCIT Books, April 2020, Chapter V, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/>

[the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/on-some-ideological-features-of-the-covid-counterrevolution/). See also our very first article on this issue by Almedina Gunić: Coronavirus: “I am not a Virus”... but WE will be the Cure! The chauvinist campaign behind the “Wuhan Coronavirus” hysteria and the revolutionary answer, 2 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>. Almedina Gunić and Michael Pröbsting: On Some Ideological Features of the COVID Counterrevolution. Comments on an interesting interview with a German liberal historian, 14 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/on-some-ideological-features-of-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; See also a number of Spanish-language articles of our Argentinean comrades: Juan Giglio: La izquierda de la “Big Pharma”, dejó de defender las libertades, 1.10.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/10/la-izquierda-de-la-big-pharma-dejo-de.html>; Juan Giglio: ¿Por qué la izquierda no cuestiona las políticas de la OMS? 8.9.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/09/por-que-la-izquierda-no-cuestiona-las.html>

2 See on this e.g. our report by Almedina Gunić: Vienna: Gigantic Mass Mobilization against Compulsory COVID-Vaccinations and Lockdowns, Huge Mass Protests took the Streets while the Left stayed at Home, 22 November 2021, https://www.thecommunists.net/home/deutsch/oesterreich-massendemonstration-gegen-lockdown-impfzwang-20-11-2021/#anker_2

3 https://twitter.com/LPDWien/status/1472638115114323968?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1472638115114323968%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.diepresse.com%2F6076177%2Flichtermeer-als-antwort-auf-ausschreitungen

4 All reports of this rally are taken from the state news channel ORF resp. the daily paper *Die Presse* – a key publication of Austria’s monopoly bourgeoisie. See <https://wien.orf.at/stories/3135091/>; <https://noe.orf.at/stories/3135198/>; <https://salzburg.orf.at/stories/3135220/>; <https://vorarlberg.orf.at/stories/3135216/>; <https://noe.orf.at/stories/3135189/>; <https://www.diepresse.com/6076177/lichtermeer-als-antwort-auf-ausschreitungen>



Publications of the RCIT

COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown “Socialism”

Police State, Universal Basic Income & a new version of “War Socialism” of 1914

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2021

Introduction * 1. An Overview of the Policy of the Lockdown Left * 2. A Marxist Critique of Lockdownism and Universal Basic Income * 3. The Bourgeois Ideology of the “Caring State” (The Capitalist Handout State) * 4. The Objective Basis for Lockdown Socialism: Changes within the Political and Economic Physiognomy of Capitalism * 5. A Historical Analogy: The Mobilization of the Imperialist State for World War I * 6. War Socialism in 1914: The Social-Chauvinist Lensch-Cunow-Haenisch Group in German Social Democracy * 7. Lenin and other Marxists Declare War on War Socialism * 8. The Lockdown Left: A Worthy Successor of Social-Chauvinist War Socialists * 9. Once Again, the State Question: Marxism versus the Opportunist Left

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

India: Historic Victory for the “Dilli Chalo” Uprising!

After one year of determined mass struggle of the peasants, Modi withdraws the neoliberal agriculture laws

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25.11.2021

1. A few days ago, India’s extreme right-wing Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the withdrawal of three agriculture laws. These laws represented strategic attacks on India’s peasants and were aimed at liberalizing trade with peasants’ products. These laws would have effectively undermined a minimum support price for peasants. Hence, their implementation would have hurt massively the living conditions of the poor peasants and served only the interests of big monopolies. It was a key project of the neoliberal agenda of bourgeois-bonapartist and Hindutva-chauvinist government of the *Bharatiya Janata Party*.

2. Modi’s announcement comes after one year of determined mass struggle of India’s peasants. Millions of peasants participated in demonstrations. Hundreds of thousands, mostly from the populous northern states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, crossed borders and followed the call of “*Chalo Delhi*” (“*March towards Delhi*”). They camped at the outskirts of the capital city and organized regular mass protests. In February, they stormed the center of Delhi and occupied the historic *Red Fort*. The Modi government deployed huge police force which repeatedly attacked the demonstrators, resulting in regular street battles. The most outrageous attack took place in the state of Uttar Pradesh on 3 October – an incident known as the “*Lakhimpur Kheri massacre*”. A car convoy of the son of BJP Minister Ashish Mishra ran over protesters from behind, killing five people and injuring many more. In response, outraged demonstrators liquidated three of the attackers. According to Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the *Bharatiya Kisan Union* and one of the key leaders of the “*Dilli Chalo*” Uprising, about 750 protestors had died until now.

3. However, despite all these brutal methods of state repression, the Modi government was unable to defeat the heroic peasants. After one year of unabated mass struggle and widespread popular hatred against the BJP government, Modi was forced to announce the withdrawal of the three agriculture laws. By this move, the BJP leaders hope to limit the damage as they rightly fear massive losses at the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and other states.

4. Wisely, the leaders of the “*Dilli Chalo*” Uprising have not stopped the protests but will continue until the laws are officially withdrawn during the Parliament session set to begin in December. Rakesh Tikait said that “*we will wait for the day when agricultural laws will be repealed in Parliament. Government should talk and discuss other farmers’ issues including MSP.*” Kiran Vissa, a peasant leader from southern Telangana state, said: “*It’s a big victory for the farmers’ movement and a big boost for those who have been agitating for over a year.*” However, he added: “*We welcome the decision but the movement doesn’t end here. Many of us don’t have a high degree of confidence in the PM or the central government and we won’t stop until we see it is repealed in Parliament.*”

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the victory of India’s peasants which we supported from the very beginning. No doubt, this victory has a historic meaning as it has been one of the largest and longest mass struggles in the world in the past decades. It represents the most important defeat for the Modi government which runs the country since 2014. The peasants have won because they did not trust in parliamentary maneuvers or negotiations of bureaucrats behind closed doors. They only trusted themselves and their combat power which they deployed via the methods of militant class struggle. Faced with violence by the capitalist state apparatus, they did not retreat but fought back in an organized and determined way.

6. Workers and oppressed around the world can learn a lot from this victory. We can not win with one-off protests which allow the government to recover. We need mass struggle which last as long until the government retreats. We can not win by trusting a few bureaucrats and their “*negotiation skills*” but by organizing and fighting ourselves.

7. The victory of the Indian peasants is another sign that the reactionary offensive which the ruling class has waged all over the world provokes the fightback of the popular masses. The current mass protests against the COVID Counterrevolution all over the world, the struggle of the teachers in Sri Lanka and many other protests can draw a lot of inspiration of the victory of the Indian peasants!

International Bureau of the RCIT

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The RCIT has published a number of documents on India that can be accessed on our website here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia>. In particular we refer to:

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

RCIT: China-India Border Conflict: Down with Chauvinist Warmongering on Both Sides! Support the national rights of the Kashmiri and the Nepalese people! 28 May 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-india-border-conflict-down-with-chauvinist-warmongering-on-both-sides/>

Michael Pröbsting: “*Unite to Protect India’s Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity*”? Chauvinist escapade of social-patriotic Stalinists in the light of the China-India border conflict, 29 June 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/indian-social-patriotic-stalinists-and-the-china-india-border-conflict-june-2020/>

RCIT: India: Down with CAB! Solidarity with the uprising of the Assamese people! 14 December 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-down-with-cab/>

We refer reader also to our documents on the Kashmiri liberation struggle which are collected in a special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-liberation-struggle-in-kashmir/>

Argentina: Important Mass Demonstration against the IMF

Report (with Pictures) about the latest activities of *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentinean Section of the RCIT), 13.12.2021

Last Saturday, 11 December, tens of thousands of people marched in Buenos Aires to protest against the International Monetary Fund and its austerity dictates against the Argentinean people. The mass demonstration was initiated by FITu – an alliance of four Trotskyist parties (PTS, PO, IS and MST) – and supported by over 100 organizations.

FITu experienced a massive success at the recent elections in November. It gained more than 1,3 million votes (or 5.5% of the votes) which resulted in four national deputies (plus a number of regional deputies). In one province (with a strong indigenous population) it won 25% of the votes and in the country's largest electoral districts - Buenos Aires (province) and Buenos Aires City – it got 6.8% resp. 7.7% of the votes.

Our comrades from *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentinean Section of the RCIT) supported FITu at the elections despite having criticism of the opportunist policy by its lead-

ers. They also stood several candidates at the first round of the elections – the so-called *Primaries* (PASO).

Convergencia Socialista participated in the mass demonstration and formed a very lively and militant contingent together with other affiliated organizations. (See pictures and video below.) One of these is *Defensorías de Géneros* – a very active organization fighting against women's and sexual oppression. Activists from the *Asambleas del Pueblo* as well as independent scientists also participated in the joint contingent.

During the march, our comrades raised a number of slogans – mostly directed against the imperialist institutions and their brutal social and economic austerity plans. In addition, they did put a focus on protesting against the introduction of a *Green Pass* – a key instrument of the ruling class in the COVID Counterrevolution which shall allow them controlling the health status and the freedom of movement of the popular masses.



Pictures from the mass demonstration against the IMF and the contingent of *Convergencia Socialista* (Buenos Aires, 11.12.2021)

Argentina: Solidarity with Karen Marín and All Fighters against Women's Oppression

Report about the latest activities of *Defensorías de Géneros* and *Convergencia Socialista*, 10 December 2021

As we did already report, one of the priorities of the political work of our Argentinean comrades in *Convergencia Socialista* (CS) and *Defensorías de Géneros* (DdG) is the struggle against women's oppression. (see <https://www.thecommunists.net/oppressed/argentina-revolutionaries-at-the-forefront-of-women-s-struggles/>)

A central issue of this work is the solidarity campaign with Karen Marín. Karen is a young woman who has been sentenced for two years because of "attempted murder". In fact, she successfully defended herself against an attack of a group of men who tried to rob her. She lives currently under house arrest. (See the video with Karen <http://libertadescs.blogspot.com/2021/01/karen-marin-otra-causa-armada.html>)

As part of this solidarity work, our comrades in CS and DdG organized – together with other groups – a successful demonstration calling for the immediate release of Karen. Below you can see a video from this demonstra-

tion which took place in Buenos Aires on 19 November. You can also see excerpts from the speeches of two female comrades – Natalia and Laura – representing *Defensoría de Genres* and CS.



Pictures from the contingent of *Defensorías de Géneros*

Zionist Meddling in North Africa – Libya and Morocco

By Adam Smith, *ISL in Israel/Occupied Palestine*, 06.12.2021

The Zionist state is continuing its reactionary “normalization” offensive. In Libya, both leading candidates (or their proxies) in the coming election have ties to Israel. General Haftar’s son has offered “recognition agreement to Israel in exchange for support after December elections...” “Though it is unknown who he met while on the ground in Israel, his father Khalifa Haftar has in the past reportedly met with members of Israeli intelligence...”

Haftar has promised that he would launch a recognition process akin to that carried out by the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco last year, in exchange for “military and diplomatic assistance” from Israel....

A former CIA asset, Haftar returned to Libya following the country’s 2011 uprising and served in the internationally recognised government until 2014 – when the country’s many fractures became more deeply entrenched with the outbreak of the second civil war since the fall of former ruler Muammar Gaddafi....

A report [1] by Israel Hayom said that both candidates had hired an Israeli consulting firm ahead of the poll, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars.” [2]

‘Israeli Intelligence Ministry officials secretly met with Saddam Haftar, the son of the de-facto leader of Libya General Khalifa Haftar, according to a report in the Washington Free Beacon.

While the Israeli embassy refused to comment to the report, the Free Beacon quoted a source familiar with the meeting saying that Haftar and the Israeli officials discussed “the situation in the region” and “his aspiration for stability of his country,” claiming that the “Israelis are supporting him.” [3]

Gaddafi’s son is no better:

“Israeli media said Monday Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of former Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi, oversaw relations between his father’s regime and Israel.

Haaretz newspaper said while his father was a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause and factions, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi had publicly met with Israelis in favor of his father’s regime.

The daily said although there were no official ties between the two countries, the Gaddafi regime and Israel were in contact over “diplomatic and humanitarian issues.”” [4]

“Complicating his presidential ambitions, Gadhafi was tried in absentia in 2015 by a Tripoli court at which he appeared via video from Zintan, and which sentenced him to death for war crimes including killing protesters during the 2011 revolt.

He would likely face arrest or other dangers if he appeared publicly in the capital Tripoli. He is also wanted by the International Criminal Court.

Israel has always had an interest in Libya because of its geo-strategic location in the Mediterranean and its proximity to the Egyptian border, and also because of the large community of Libyan Jews in Israel and their influence on Libyan Jews who emigrated to Italy.” [5]

In Morocco, a couple days after the visit by the Israeli Foreign Minister, Algeria claims it was hacked by NSO software. Gantz, the defense minister, visited Morocco last month.

“Morocco and Israel concluded on Wednesday an “unprecedented” security agreement during a historic visit to Rabat by Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz, amid tensions between the Cherifian kingdom and its neighbor Algeria.

The framework agreement was signed by Mr. Gantz and the Minister Delegate in charge of the Moroccan National Defense Administration, Abdellatif Loudiyi.

It formally launches the security cooperation “in all its aspects” between the two countries, barely a year after the normalization of their relations, facing “threats and challenges in the region.

This memorandum of understanding (MoU) covers “exchanges of experience and expertise, technology transfer, training and cooperation in the field of defense industry,” said the Moroccan side, which also reported a cooperation agreement on “cyber security.

The agreement — the first of its kind with an Arab country, according to the Israeli side — will facilitate the acquisition by Morocco of technologies from Israel’s military industry.

“This is a very important thing that ... will promote Israeli exports so far,” Gantz said.” [6]

In addition, an economic cooperation agreement was signed.

“Last month, Israel’s Ratio Petroleum announced an agreement with Rabat on “exploration operations” off Dakhla in Western Sahara.

Israel’s defence ministry oversees all security exports, with the Jewish state offering state-of-art products ranging from attack drones to the vaunted Iron Dome missile defence system.

One Israeli product, the NSO’s Pegasus spyware, has already made its way to Morocco, according to Amnesty International and Paris-based organisation Forbidden Stories.

A spokeswoman for Gantz would not comment on NSO or other possible defence technologies set to be discussed during the visit.

Pegasus software has also reportedly been discovered on the phones of Palestinian officials.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to mobilise civil society, Islamists and the far-left in Morocco, with a call for a November 29 demonstration against “creeping normalisation with Israel” and in support of the Palestinians.” [7]

“The senior defense official denied reports in Israeli media that the two countries had already signed such arms sales. While Morocco has expressed interest in a number of Israeli systems — notably the Barak 8 missile defense system, drones from the Israeli Aerospace Industry, Elbit radar systems and more — those deals are only in their early stages and have not received the requisite authorizations.” [8]

“Algeria has decided to break diplomatic relations with Morocco starting today,” Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra said at a news conference, in which he read a statement from the president. The announcement comes nearly a week after President Abdelmadjid Tebboune told a meeting of Algeria’s High Security Council that “incessant hostile acts perpetrated by Morocco have meant the need for a revision in relations between the two countries and the intensification of security checks” at the western borders with Morocco, the official APS news agency reported.

He also denounced “massive and systematic acts of espionage” by Morocco, a reference to allegations that the kingdom’s security services used the Pegasus spyware developed by the Israeli NSO Group against its officials and citizenry, APS said. Morocco adamantly denies such claims.” [9]

The fact that those reactionary regimes are willing to make their ties with Israel more open is a sign that they

are becoming even more reactionary and less afraid of the people's response.

Down with General Haftar!

Down with imperialist meddling in Libya!

Down with the Moroccan King!

Support BDS! For a Red and Free Palestine from the river to the sea!

For a socialist confederation of the Middle East!

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/10/25/israeli-pr-firm-hired-by-both-presidential-hopefuls-in-libya/>

[2] <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/libya-haftar-son-visits-israel>

[3] <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/israeli-intelligence-met-with-general-haftars-son-in-libya-report-664121>

[4] <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/gaddafis-son-over-saw-libya-s-relations-with-israel-israeli-media/2421259>

[5] <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/gadhafi-s-son-who-led-father-s-covert-israel-ties-joins-libya-s-presidential-race-1.10383251>

[6] <https://www.africanews.com/2021/11/24/morocco-pro-palestinian-group-protests-israeli-defence-minister-s-visit-to-rabat>

[7] <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211123-israel-formalising-defence-ties-with-morocco-on-minister-s-visit>

[8] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-looking-to-deepen-ties-with-morocco-with-plans-for-arms-sales-joint-drills/>

[9] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/algeria-cuts-ties-with-hostile-morocco-partly-blaming-israel-rapprochement/>

Argentina: Successful Public Meeting with Scientists on COVID Policy

Report about the latest activities of Convergencia Socialista (Argentinean Section of the RCIT), 20 December 2021

Our comrades in *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentinean Section of the RCIT) organized – together with several other groups – an important public meeting about the health politics which are imposed by the government under the pretext of the current pandemic. About 80 people attended the meeting which took place on 18 December in Buenos Aires. (See pictures below) Three progressive scientists – Juan Garberi, Xavier Huelmo and Alberto Maillé – made presentations in which

they critically analyzed the official health policy which we characterize as COVID Counterrevolution.

At the end, it was decided to continue such kind of meetings.

Below we publish a Spanish-language report from our Argentinean comrades.

You can watch a 48-minute video with large excerpts of the speeches here: <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/12/video-de-la-gran-charla-de-cientificos.html>



Pictures from the public meeting on the COVID policy (Buenos Aires, 18.12.2021)

Down with the Zionist Warmongers!

Yossi Schwartz, ISL the RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 15.12.2021

The Zionist apartheid state that wants to attack Iran's nuclear sites is very frustrated with the unwillingness of the American imperialists to join this war against Iran at least for now. The war criminals in Jerusalem understand that Israel by itself cannot attack Iran without the backing of the USA. The Zionist government requested to speed up the delivery of the two US Air Force tankers the KC-46A which is scheduled to be delivered in 2023-2024. Israel war Minister Benny Gantz in his visit to Washington has failed in his attempts to convince the US to deliver the tankers ahead of this schedule.

At the same time, while the US and its European partners are negotiating with Iran about a new nuclear deal, officials in Israel have been saying for months that no agreement will be signed and that Israel will act, with or without American consent, and is preparing for war.

The Zionists are worried that Biden's refusal to take military actions indicates that Biden wants to do with Iran what he did with Afghanistan when US imperialists lost the war – make a deal and get out from the Middle East.

Indeed, the US imperialists are focusing on their conflicts with Russia and China rather than on the Middle East.

This means that Israel, which wants to rely on support from the UAE to join a war against Iran, is disappointed as the UAE is intensifying its relations with Iran.

"Their meeting marked a big step toward the rapprochement between the two countries, after years of caution by the Emiratis, who view Iran as a national security threat"... Like Alshareef and the Israeli diplomatic source, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs president Dore Gold said the Emiratis are probably trying to place themselves in a position of greater neutrality so they won't be targeted by Iran." [i]

In its frustration, the Zionist air force attacked targets in Syria. On June 8 Zionist warplanes fired missiles at three military targets near the cities of Damascus and Homs, killing seven soldiers, including a colonel. Until June 8 the apartheid state attacked only targeted pro -Iranian forces and arms shipments to Hezbollah. The June 8 strike was aimed at Syrian military facilities. According to Israel, the new targets are connected with Syria's former chemical weapons program. Israel claims that Syria intends to restart its production of deadly nerve agents. [ii]

It is not a secret that Israel produces biological weapons that were used already in 1948 against the Palestinians.

"In April 1948, before the state declared its independence, future prime minister David Ben-Gurion, according to Michael Keren's "Ben-Gurion and the Intellectuals," instructed a Jewish Agency official in Europe to seek out Jewish scientists who could "either increase the capacity to kill masses or to cure masses;... I spoke to the company commander from Battalion 21 of the Carmel Brigade, who poured the stuff into the water supply," said military historian Uri Milstein in a phone interview. Milstein, said the material had been delivered to the battalion by Moshe Dayan, and that the container had been filled with the typhus bacterium. "Apparently, or rather more than apparently, wells were poisoned too to stop villagers from returning to villages," he added." [iii]

"After the war, HEMED BEIT relocated to a building in an orange grove just outside Ness Ziona, where it has remained.

Today it is called the Israel Institute for Biological Research, "a governmental, applied research institute specializing in the fields of biology, medicinal chemistry and environmental sciences." [iv]

Meanwhile Iran released a map of targets for a strike against Israel in case of a war. It covers most of the apartheid state.

So, for a while, we can expect Israel to murder Iranian scientists sabotage some targets in Iran, attack Syria and kill more Palestinians.

"Harel has the good reporter's concern for specifics and a healthy disdain for euphemism. What the Times article called "sabotage operations" against Iran turn out to be "assassinations of nuclear scientists, explosions at nuclear sites, cyber-attacks, attacks on Iranian ships, extensive airstrikes against pro-Iranian militias in Syria, and a systematic assault on convoys smuggling arms from Iran to Hezbollah" [v]

Under the government of Bennett, the settlers have increased their attacks on the Palestinian falhins (farmers) by 50%. In response to Bar-Lev the minister of police who discussed with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland on the growing violence of the settlers the far-right Prime Minister of Israel Bennett said:

Settlers in Judea and Samaria have suffered daily from violence and terrorism for decades," Bennett tweeted, remaining silent about Bar-Lev. "They serve as a protective wall for all of us and we must protect them in word and a deed."

A growing number of people around the world, even some in Israel, understand the nature of the imperialist state of the settler colonialists.

Haaretz' publisher Shoken says: *"The product of Zionism, the State of Israel, is not a Jewish and democratic state but has instead become an apartheid state, plain and simple" [vi]*

Down with the Zionist Warmongers!

Israel hands off Iran!

Down with the Zionist apartheid state!

For a Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!

Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/should-israel-worry-about-warming-uae-iran-ties-688372>

[ii] https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/israel-syria-chemical-weapons/2021/12/13/8ed0b02c-59ea-11ec-a808-3197a22b19fa_story.html

[iii] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-chemical-arsenal-in-the-spotlight/>

[iv] Ibid

[v] James North December 12, 2021 <https://mondoweiss.net/2021/12/haaretz-publisher-says-israel-is-an-apartheid-state-as-his-paper-continues-to-warn-against-an-israel-iran-war>

[vi] Ibid

Egypt: General Sisi and his French Partner in Crime

Imperialist France knowingly aided the Egypt military in killing tens of thousands of civilians

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27.11.2021

A few days ago, the investigative website *Disclose* published an explosive report.¹ Citing hundreds of classified French documents, the journalists report about the cooperation between the French and the Egypt military in a covert mission codenamed *Operation Sirlil*. It began in February 2016 during the presidency of Francois Hollande from the “Socialist” Party and continued in the period of his successor Emmanuel Macron.

Located in Egypt’s western desert region, the operation was officially designed as an “anti-terrorist mission”. For this purpose, France sent a team of 10 troops plus a light aircraft designed for surveillance and reconnaissance to provide the Egypt army with information.

However, there were no terrorists as the armed insurrection in Egypt is located in the far north-east of the country, the Sinai. In fact, the Egypt army used the information provided by the French military for the killing of numerous civilians in the Egyptian-Libyan border region where they might have either tried to cross the border “illegally” or to smuggle things.

The Egyptian army itself claims that it destroyed about 12,000 vehicles during this operation. *Disclose* estimates that this could mean that they killed about 60,000 people with the aid of French intelligence!

The French authorities were fully aware of these massacres because their troops on the ground soon found out about the use of their intelligence by the Egyptian army. “But very quickly, the (French) members of the team understand that the intelligence supplied to the Egyptians are used to kill civilians suspected of contraband,” the website wrote. French

military staff regularly notified their superiors of the abuse of the information, it added.”² However, the French army command insisted on the continuation of this killing operation. Today, members of the French armed forces are still deployed in the Egyptian desert, *Disclose* reports.

The left-populist opposition party *France Unbowed*, led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon, issued a statement calling for a parliamentary inquiry into the allegations.³

Long-time close cooperation

This barbarous operation reflects the close relationship between “democratic” France and the military dictatorship of General Sisi.⁴ It is well-known that cooperation between France and Egypt intensified after Sisi carried out his coup d’état on 3 July 2013 which resulted in the killing of thousands of oppositional activists – most famously the Rabaa massacre on the 14 August when up to 2,600 people were slaughtered on a single day.⁵

This coup was supported by all Great Powers as well as the reactionary Gulf monarchies. Shamefully, it was also hailed as a “Second Revolution” by many Stalinists and pseudo-Trotskyists! (e.g. Alan Woods’ IMT, LIT-CI, the Cliffite RS)⁶

Since the coup, Egypt has bought from France, among others, a frigate, four corvettes and two Mistral helicopter-carriers. In May, *Disclose* revealed that Egypt had signed a \$4.52 billion deal to buy 30 Rafale fighter jets. A particular obscene example of sickening hypocrisy is the fact that in December 2020, Macron awarded Killer-General Sisi the

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/>



Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest award that France has to offer!

Hypocritical “democratic” imperialism

Do you remember the hypocritical speeches of Macron when he defended the oppression of the Muslim migrant minority in France, the “*war on political Islam*”, the banning of many Muslim associations, the closure of many mosques, the advertisement of the racist Islamophobic cartoons of Charlie Hebdo by the French authorities⁷, etc.? All this has been done in the name of the so-called “democratic, republican values” on which France should be supposedly so proud of!⁸ Again, let us not forget that large sectors of the French left shamefully supports these “values” and has joined the anti-Muslim campaign!⁹

Operation Sirli demonstrates the real nature of French “democratic” imperialism! In words, France’s ruling class advocates “democracy”. In deeds, in works hand-in-hand with killers and dictators. Never believe their words, never trust them!

The scandalous *Operation Sirli*, which has killed tens of thousands of civilians, is just the latest bloody example of the close collaboration of French and European imperialism with Egypt’s military dictatorship. As the RCIT has repeatedly pointed out, this is an alliance of robbers and killers!

*“This alliance of the EU and Egypt’s dictator is based on substantial joint interests. The Great Powers feared the Arab Revolution from the first days of its beginning in January 2011. They need “stability” in the region in order to exploit its abundantly resources as well as to control key strategic transport routes for capitalist world trade (like the Suez Canal in the case of Egypt). Furthermore, the European imperialists need the Arab dictatorships in order to stop African and Arab migrants from fleeing their countries which are suffering from wars and misery. Before 2011, the imperialists didn’t have to worry. Gaddafi, Mubarak, Assad and others made sure that very few migrants were able to reach Europe. For their service, these dictators were, of course, rewarded with substantial payments from European governments (as they are planning now to do again). However, this system collapsed when the people began to bring down these dictatorships by their revolutionary uprisings. In return, the Arab dictators receive substantial financial assistance, foreign investments, weapons, etc. In short, the European corporations and governments as well as the Arab dictators need each other and support each other. It is an alliance of robbers and killers!”*¹⁰

These words are even more true today!

Footnotes

1 See Disclose, « OPÉRATION SIRLI - Les mémos de la terreur », sur egypt-papers.disclose.ngo, 21 novembre 2021, [https://](https://egypt-papers.disclose.ngo/fr/chapter/operation-sirli)

egypt-papers.disclose.ngo/fr/chapter/operation-sirli; Egypt Using French Military Aid To ‘Kill Civilians’: Report, Agence France Presse, November 21, 2021, <https://www.barrons.com/news/egypt-using-french-military-aid-to-kill-civilians-report-01637525707>; France to probe whether Egypt used its intel to target civilians, 23 November 2021, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/france-probe-whether-egypt-used-its-intel-target-civilians>; Wikipedia: Opération Sirli, https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Op%C3%A9ration_Sirli (Accessed on 27.11.2021)

2 AFP: Egypt Using French Military Aid To ‘Kill Civilians’: Report

3 Égypte : les révélations de Disclose exigent des explications, 21.11.2021, <https://lafranceinsoumise.fr/2021/11/21/egypte-les-revelations-de-disclose-exigent-des-explications/>

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5 The RCIT has published a number of pamphlets, statements and articles in the weeks after the military coup in July 2013. See e.g. RCIT: Egypt: Down with the Military Coup d’État! Prepare Mass Resistance! 8.7.2013, www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-down-with-military-coup-d-etat; RCIT: Egypt: International Solidarity against the Army Crackdown!, 14.8.2013, www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-international-solidarity; Yossi Schwartz: Egypt: Mobilize Resistance against the reactionary military regime!, 27.7.2013, www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-no-to-military-regime; Michael Pröbsting: The Military’s Coup d’État in Egypt: Assessment and Tactics, 17.7.2013, www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-meaning-of-coup-d-etat

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7 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: The Racist Character of Charlie Hebdo and the pro-imperialist campaign “Je Suis Charlie”. Solidarity with Muslim People! NOT Solidarity with Charlie Hebdo! 17.1.2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/racist-charlie-hebdo/>;

8 See on this e.g. RCIT: Boycott Imperialist and Islamophobic France! Solidarity with the Muslim migrants! Drive out the French occupiers from Mali and other countries! 26.10.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/boycott-imperialist-and-islamophobic-france/>; Yossi Schwartz: Down with the Islamophobia in France: “We Are Not Samuel!”, 20 October 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/down-with-the-islamophobia-in-france/>

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10 Michael Pröbsting: EU Leaders Praise Egypt’s Military Dictatorship. Imperialist Europe Aims for Close Collaboration with General Sisi’s Regime to Stop People Fleeing War and Misery. This is an Alliance of Robbers and Killers! 21.09.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/eu-leaders-praise-egypt-s-military-dictatorship/>

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

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

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

Dark Winter could arrive in Britain

Food Shortages and Power cuts are forecasted – We need to Overthrow the Incompetent Boris Johnson Government

by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 22.11.2021

The National Grid, the regulator that controls electricity in Britain, has forecast possible power cuts and shortages in the coming winter in Britain. One of its sub stations was recently damaged and this could also contribute to the shortage of electricity to businesses and domestic users.

“National Grid (NG.L) has issued a stark warning that the UK is facing a greater threat of blackouts this winter, as well as tight electricity supplies. The company’s electricity system operator (ESO) said Britain’s infrastructure will be able to get enough gas to see it through the winter period, but cut its forecast of buffer supply.

Around half of the country’s gas demand is used to heat homes, while another quarter is used to generate electricity. National Grid oversees the country’s energy supply, and ensures supply and demand are evenly balanced. The ESO is a legally separate business within National Grid” [1].

The bourgeois press has also commented on the threats of power cuts and food shortages if there is a severe winter. Many forecasters have also forecasted snow and ice for this coming winter.

“Great Britain faces its greatest risk of blackouts for six years this winter as old coal plants and nuclear reactors shut down and energy demand rises as the economy emerges from Covid-19 restrictions. National Grid’s electricity system operator which is responsible for keeping the lights on said it expected the country’s demand for electricity to return to normal levels this winter, and would be braced for “some tight periods”.

The system operator published a surprise report warning that the tight electricity supplies recorded last winter could be tighter in the winter ahead due to “uncertainty” over the country’s power supplies. It said that in some scenarios the “margin” of forecast electricity supplies might exceed demand by 5.3%, the tightest margin recorded since the winter of 2015-2016, when National Grid was forced to ask businesses to reduce their electricity usage to keep the lights on after a spate of breakdowns at coal plants.

National Grid has traditionally published its forecasts for the winter in September but surprised the market on Thursday by issuing a preview report” [2].

Climate Change Conference organized by the UN

At the same time that the National Grid was warning about power shortages, representatives of imperialist and capitalist nations were meeting in Glasgow. It was a global conference organised by the United Nations to deal with the emerging climate catastrophe that is engulfing the planet. The planet is warming at a terrific rate and globally there have been forest fires and floods in many nations in the south, affecting the poor and urban masses. Deforestation continues at a great speed and the ozone layer is rapidly diminishing.

Most of the discussion centred on carbon emissions and a greener planet. Even under normal circumstances, imperialism and capitalism are incapable of resolving the crisis

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

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

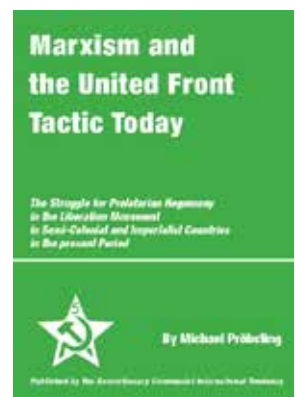
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



of climate change in the planet. Faced with a second slump of their economy (the greater depression), capitalists are stopping so many measures which would at least slightly slow down the process of climate change that a whole generation of young environmental activists started to rage.

The capitalist mode of production is responsible for the destruction of the planet and all the conference at Glasgow resolved to do was tinker with various devices.

However, beyond the conference capitalists used the pretext of both climate change and the switch to sustainable energy sources to explain the energy crisis. Keeping in mind how little they are willing to change in order to save the planet, it becomes obvious that the trade war and the economic recession contributed far more to the energy crisis than the supposed environmental protection measures.

Dark Winter in Europe

The present period has not only seen the emergence of the second slump. The crisis of world capitalism, as the main imperialist rivalry continues for dominance of a dwindling market, results in a general increase of power cuts and energy crisis. Russia, China, the USA, Europe, and Japan are all fighting for supremacy, but while the old imperialist hegemon USA is losing ground (taking Japan with him) and Europe can only dream about becoming a big player - imperialist Russia and China have managed to remain the growing imperialist force. However, the future has no answer about the outcome of this race for power (yet).

The ongoing trade war and the draconic bonapartist attacks under the pretext of COVID escalated the economic crisis. Europe might be especially affected by the short-cuts in energy supply leaving it in the literal dark. The experiences Britain made with empty shelves in supermarkets and the supply problems at petrol stations might also become a general scenario for Europe. Further, the situation in Britain could worsen sharply. Especially as the incompetent Johnson government was not even able to deal with the consequences of their own decisions during the chaotic BREXIT time. It does not need a lot of fantasy to imagine how this government would act in case of a dark winter scenario.

The workers and oppressed in Britain have to face the bitter truth: Only if we manage to organize ourselves on a revolutionary level, only if we overthrow the incompetent Boris Johnson Government and establish a Workers Government based on revolutionary politics – only then we have a chance to truly avoid a dark winter. Therefore,

we need to discuss, to prepare and organize the indefinite general strike...and not to wait for the crisis that will come.

Time to get organized!

In two recent articles the RCIT has dealt with the threat of a dark winter: *“A key feature of the current shift towards a new slump is the energy crisis. Such crisis is evident in all parts of the world.*

The old imperialist countries in Europe and North America also face an energy crisis. Britain has been hit worst so far. Some of the country's energy companies had to shut down operation due to high costs. Many petrol stations lack fuel and pictures with the sign “Sorry out of use” have made the headlines in recent weeks. The problem has been worsened by the lack of about 100,000 truck drivers, forcing the government to deploy soldiers in order to deliver fuel to petrol stations! [9]

But the crisis is also felt in other parts of the continent as European gas surged to a record 100 euros. [...] “A cold winter in both Europe and Asia would risk European storage levels dropping to zero,” says Massimo Di Odoardo at research firm Wood Mackenzie. Hence, experts warn that European countries may face power outages in the winter months.

In short, “Dark Winter” creates the condition for a new phase of war and revolution. The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionaries to prepare for such a period! [3]

The RCIT in BRITAIN calls on all revolutionaries to join forces and to lead the working class and exploited masses with a revolutionary strategy to overthrow capitalism!

For a nationalised energy sector under workers' control! National Grid and all privatised electricity companies must be nationalised and taken under workers' control with no compensations for the capitalists! Managed by a team of workers and experts, the energy sector must be reorganized to sustainable green energy!

Only a socialist, planned economy can eliminate the danger of food shortages, fuel shortages and blackouts once and for all.

Facing the danger of a dark winter, it is time to get organized! Join the RCIT!

Footnotes

- 1) [National Grid warns on tight electricity supplies and winter blackouts \(yahoo.com\)](https://www.yahoo.com/news/national-grid-warns-tight-electricity-supplies-winter-blackouts-123456789.html)
- 2) [Winter blackout risk in Great Britain rises after cable fire | Energy industry | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jan/11/winter-blackout-risk-great-britain-cable-fire)
- 3) [Capitalist Energy Crunch: Towards Dark Winter - International Revolution \(thecommunists.net\)](https://www.thecommunists.net/2021/01/capitalist-energy-crisis-towards-dark-winter-international-revolution/)

Marxism against the COVID Counterrevolution

You find about 100 RCIT documents on this issue here:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>

Great Power Rivalry: A Remarkable Admission by a leading U.S. General

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff says we are “entering into a tripolar war with the United States, Russia and China”

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 9.12.2021

A few weeks ago, the highest-ranking military in the U.S. made a remarkable public statement. Talking at the so-called *Aspen Security Forum 2021* in Washington, General Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned that the U.S. is no longer the hegemon of the world order. This is, to our knowledge, the first time that a leading representative of U.S. imperialism publicly admits that the period of its hegemony is over.

Here are a most important excerpts of General Milley's statement as it has been published on the official website of the Pentagon.

“There are a lot of challenges in the national security world ...,” the chairman said, primarily citing China. “We’ve seen a country in four decades ... go from the No. 7 economy in the world to the No. 2 economy in the world,” he said, adding China invested its riches in a significant military. “Forty years ago, it was a very large infantry that was peasant-based and mostly army. Today, it has capabilities in space, cyber, on land, sea, air, underseas; and they are clearly challenging us regionally.”

China’s aspiration is to challenge the United States globally, Milley said. “They’ve been very clear about that. They have a China dream, and they want to challenge the so-called liberal, rules-based order that went into effect in 1945 at the end of World War II. They want to revise it. So, we have a ... country that is becoming extraordinarily powerful that wants to revise the international order to their advantage. That’s going to be a real challenge over the coming 10 to 20 years, [and it’s] going to be really significant.”

The world is witnessing one of the largest shifts in global geo-strategic power it has ever seen, the general said, adding that the shift is a fundamental change in the character of war. “The last big [shift] was the introduction of the airplane, mechanization and the radio. Today, you’re seeing robotics, artificial intelligence, precision munitions and a wide variety of other technologies that, in combination, are leading to a fundamental change in the character war. And if we, the United States military, don’t do a fundamental change ourselves in the coming 10 to 20 years, we’re going to be on the wrong side of a conflict.”

Calling the Cold War a bipolar war between the Soviet Union and the United States, Milley said the nation is entering into a tripolar war with the United States, Russia and China all as great powers. And adding in all the technologies that are coming at us very quickly, he said, we’re entering into a world that is potentially much more strategically unstable than the last 40 to 70 years.”¹

In fact, General Milley's presentation is mistaken insofar as there are currently no indications of a tripolar conflict. While China and Russia might have different priorities, they are definitely not in conflict with each other. Quiet the opposite, they have formed a strategic alliance which has as its basis the fact that their geostrategic expansion puts them in confrontation not with each other but rather with Washington.

The RCIT has explained since a number of years that one

of the most important features of the historic period which opened in 2008 is the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist powers.² Against the background of the decay of capitalism, the U.S. – the long-time leading hegemon – is declining while new Great Powers are emerging. The most important rivals of Washington are China³ and Russia.⁴

Shamefully, large sectors of the so-called “left-wing” parties – Stalinists, left-wing social democrats, left-wing populists, pseudo-Trotskyists, etc. – deny the imperialist character of the Great Power rivalry. They claim that China is “socialist” or a “deformed workers state” or that it is – like Russia – a “peripheral”, “semi-colonial” or “sub-imperialist” state. As a consequence, they refuse to take a consistent anti-imperialist position in the inter-imperialist Cold War. Their denial pushes these forces rather towards the policy of *social-imperialism* – “socialism” in words, support for this or that imperialist power in deeds.

In contrast, the RCIT states that in any confrontation between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., Western Europe, China, Russia, Japan), revolutionaries must refuse to support either camp. It is necessary to take a *revolutionary defeatist* position on both sides. This means that socialists must equally oppose all imperialist Great Powers and their proxies. They need to fight against all forms of imperialist chauvinism and militarism, against all forms of sanctions, protectionism and imperialist armament. They must educate the workers vanguard to identify “their” imperialist state (as well as all others) as the “*main enemy*”. In case of a war between the Great Powers, revolutionaries are obligated to follow the principles of Lenin and Liebknecht expressed in the famous slogans “*The main enemy is at home*” and “*Transform the imperialist war into a civil war against the ruling class*”.

Footnotes

1 Terri Moon Cronk: Milley Addresses Aspen Security Forum on Today's Military Challenges, 3 November 2021, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2832397/milley-addresses-aspen-security-forum-on-todays-military-challenges/>

2 The RCIT has dealt on numerous occasions with the inter-imperialist rivalry of the Great Powers. See e.g. RCIT: World Perspectives 2021-22: Entering a Pre-Revolutionary Global Situation, 22 August 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2021-22/>

3 The RCIT has published numerous documents about capitalism in China and its transformation into a Great Power. See on this a special sub-page on the RCIT's website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

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

