



## Action Program against Food and Energy Crisis

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# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 138, October 2022

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Picture on the Cover: Peasant family in Uganda (Source, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\\_food\\_crises#/media/File:Maize\\_farming\\_in\\_drought\\_areas.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_food_crises#/media/File:Maize_farming_in_drought_areas.jpg))

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

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## Down with the Iranian Regime – For a Socialist Revolution!

*ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 21.9.2022*

Protests have erupted across Iran in recent days after a 22-year-old woman Mahsa Amini died while being held by the morality police for violating the country's strictly enforced Islamic dress code. The 22-year-old from the small town of Saghese in the western province of Kurdistan had been on a visit to Tehran with her brother last week.

She was arrested by the authorities last Tuesday, for allegedly not covering her hair with the Islamic headscarf, known as hijab, which is mandatory for Iranian women. Just a couple of hours after her arrest, she was hospitalized.

Police said on Thursday that Amini was taken to a hospital after she allegedly had a heart attack while in custody.

*"An Iranian governor has confirmed the first fatalities during protests over the death in police custody of a young woman named Mahsa Amini – but the governor has said the three individuals were killed by anti-establishment elements" (1)*

If you believed the Zionist lie that the Palestinians possibly killed the American –Palestinian Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh you can believe the statement of the governor that has said the three individuals were killed by anti-establishment elements that the protesters died by anti-establishment elements.

*"Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, who departed for New York on Monday to address the UN General Assembly, has ordered an investigation and vowed to pursue the case in a phone call with Amini's family. He also offered his condolences, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. "Your daughter was like my daughter," the president reportedly said." (2)*

Very nice but empty words.

*"Mass protests flared up in Amini's home province of Kurdistan express their anger and grief, chanting slogans such as "Death to the dictator." (3)*

*"A photo that went viral on the internet shows the bedridden Amini with swollen black eyes and bleeding ears. Many Iranian women, both young and old, could relate to it as they face daily humiliation and abuse in the hands of authorities because of the mandatory hijab." (4)*

Iran is not an imperialist state but a semi colony of regional power. For this reason when it comes to clashes between Iran and the US or Israel we stand on the side of Iran but when it comes to clashes between the reactionary regime and the people of Iran and Syria we are on the side of the people. Iran is also on the side of Russian imperialism in the war of Russian imperialism against the heroic people

of the Ukraine which is another important reason to be against the Iranian regime.

Iran is oil producer and in position to improve its demands from Western Imperialism for the nuclear deal.

*"Oil prices rose on Wednesday triggered by declining prospects of an Iran deal while an estimated increase in US crude oil inventories capped further price upticks, raising demand woes. International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$92.91 per barrel increase from the closing price of \$90.62 a barrel in the previous trading session. American benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI), trading at \$86.17 per barrel at the same time, gained 2.66% after the previous session closed at \$83.94 a barrel.*

*The EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Tuesday said he does not expect a breakthrough in reviving the Iran nuclear deal this week"... At the same time, he stressed, that they were and "are still close" to getting a final result because he does "not see a better solution than the one we have proposed."*

*The Iran nuclear deal – officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – was signed in 2015 by Iran, the US, China, Russia, France, UK, Germany, and EU.*

*Under the agreement, Tehran committed to limit its nuclear activity to civilian purposes and in return, world powers agreed to drop their economic sanctions against Iran.*

*Under former President Donald Trump, the US unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to stop complying with the nuclear deal. In August, Borrell presented a proposal on lifting US sanctions while ensuring Iran's compliance with nuclear requirements. Lingering fears of a global recession leading to weak oil demand further increased after the American Petroleum Institute (API) announced late Tuesday its estimate of a rise of over 1 million barrels in US crude oil inventories, relative to the market expectation of a 2.3 million-barrel fall". (5)*

*Down with Iran's reactionary regime, for a socialist revolution!*

*Down with Western and Eastern imperialism!*

*Down with Israel the imperialist state of the settler colonialist!*

### Endnotes:

(1) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/20/iran-confirms-first-deaths-in-protests-over-mahsa-aminis-death>

(2) <https://www.dw.com/en/iran-hijab-protests-young-womans-death-puts-tehran-under-pressure/a-63181274>

(3) Ibid

(4) Ibid

(5) <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/oil-up-as-stalled-iran-nuclear-deal-boosts-supply-concerns/2690648>

## Revolutionary Struggle for Women's Liberation

**See all RCIT documents on Women's Liberation**

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

# The Heroic Struggle of the People of Iran is Intensifying

*ISL, the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 24.9.2022*

The *Times of Israel* reports (1) that according to Iran's controlled state TV 35 people were killed in the last 8 days in Iran. However according to the Oslo-based Iran Human Rights, 50 people were killed by Iran's so called security forces on more than a week of protests following the death of 22 old Mahsa Amini, after she died in police custody. She was arrested by the morality police. The Kurdish woman was pronounced dead after spending three days in a coma following her arrest by Iran for wearing the hijab headscarf in an "improper" way.

Angry demonstrators have taken to the streets of major cities across Iran, including the capital Tehran, for eight straight nights since the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. Needless to say the anger against the regime has accumulated for years due to the economic crisis, the disparity between the rich and the popular classes and the dictatorship of the Ayatollahs.

In the online videos taken by demonstrators on Friday some of the footage, security forces could be seen firing what appeared to be live ammunition at unarmed demonstrators in the Southwestern cities of Piranshahr, Mahabad and Urmia.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said evidence it gathered from 20 cities across Iran pointed to "a harrowing pattern of Iranian security forces deliberately and unlawfully firing live ammunition at protesters."

In its statement, Amnesty said security forces had shot dead at least 19 people on Wednesday night alone, includ-

ing at least three children.

The Norway-based Kurdish rights group Hengaw said protesters "took control" of parts of the city of Oshnaviyeh, in West Azerbaijan province.

In one video shared by Iran Human Rights, a uniformed member of the security forces is seen shooting an AK-47 assault rifle at protesters in Tehran's Ferdowsi Boulevard.

Security forces have carried out a wave of arrests of activists and journalists, including Niloufar Hamedei of the newspaper Shargh, who reported on Amini's death.

Iran has imposed tough restrictions on the use of the internet prevent protesters from gathering the flow of images of the oppression from reaching the outside world. At the same time the United States, an enemy of the Iranians, announced Friday it was easing export restrictions on Iran to expand internet services.

To win the struggle against the regime it is necessary to arm the demonstrators. To organize action committees in every village and urban neighborhood. To organize revolutionary armed Constituent Assembly and to direct the struggle toward socialist revolution.

*Down with the reactionary regime of Iran!*

*Down with the Western imperialists who want to return the Shah!*

## Endnotes:

(1) <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-state-tv-raises-toll-in-deadly-unrest-to-35/>

# Books of the RCIT

## Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis.

*Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the "Nakba" in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland.

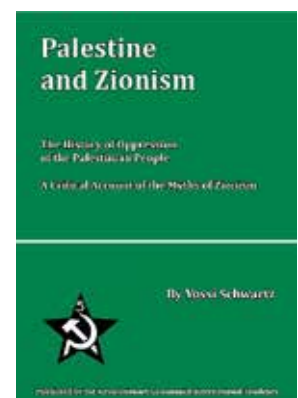
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz defends the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people and outlines

a socialist perspective. He emphasizes that the only solution is the right of millions of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and to replace the Zionist entity with one democratic state from the river to the sea – a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews.

The book contains an introduction and 7 chapters (112 pages) and includes 7 Tables and 3 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/palestine-and-zionism/>



# Occupied Palestine: Long Live the Armed Intifada!

Yossi Schwartz, ISL the RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 14.09.2022

**A**s this article is written we are informed by the Zionist mass media that an officer of the oppressive Zionist army was killed in an exchange of fire with two armed Palestinian gunmen near the village of Jalma, close to the West Bank fence [1]. The two are Abed and Abdul Rahman Abed, from the village of Kafr Dan near Jenin. One of them was part of the Palestinian Authority Security Forces. These freedom fighters were killed by the Zionist army.

Since the escaped of four Palestinian political prisoners from Gilba prison last year that humiliated the Israeli state, the Zionist army has daily raided and killed Palestinians in Jenin and Nablus to show the Palestinians who is the master. This brutal Zionist campaign aiming at crushing the increasingly organized Palestinian armed resistance in Jenin and Nablus since May 2021. Since May 2022 the raids and the killing are part of a campaign Israel calls "Break the Wave". [2]

The Zionist campaign is aimed at crushing a growing Palestinian organized armed resistance in Jenin and Nablus that emerged in May 2021. The popular resistance began in 1967 occupied East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood that spread to other main cities and has been supported by the Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front and even al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade that is nominally under the command of the Palestinian Authority that serves Israel which led to Israel's war on Gaza this May.

In Jenin, the Zionist army faces the Jenin Brigades. When the Zionist army enters Jenin, it is not just met by rocks, but by bullets too. The Jenin Brigade first emerged in September 2021, in an effort to protect the six Palestinian prisoners from Jenin who had gone on the run after breaking out of an Israeli jail. The brigade of freedom fighters is mainly supported by the PIJ but also includes young men from Haas, Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). It poses a significant challenge to the Zionist occupation of entire Palestine.

In Nablus, one of the heroes of Palestinian armed resis-

tance was 19-year-old Ibrahim al-Nabulsi [3], a fighter from the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, who, openly attended funerals held for fellow fighters. "The Lion of Nablus", as he was known, was on August 9, but he became a symbol for a new generation of Palestinian fighters, who are often not following orders from the PA and engaged in fighting with the Zionist army. Israel is worried of the PA losing control as growing number of young men who see the PA as a traitor to the Palestinian people and the real possibility of a mass armed resistance.

Ronen Bar Shin Bet chief said that "Israel's political instability and internal discord have encouraged Palestinian armed groups and individuals to attack the Israeli soldiers. The prevailing feeling among our adversaries is that our historical advantage, our national resilience, is fading," Bar warned. [4]

The hypocrisy of the Western imperialists that armed Ukraine and at the same time support the Zionist state is clear. Nothing is wrong with sending arms to Ukraine facing Russian imperialism and everything is wrong with supporting the oppressive Zionists, according to Western logic.

This is the time for the Palestinian fighting organization to form an anti-imperialist united front and national elected leadership based on democratic action committees in every village, town and refugee camps as part of the Arab revolution.

*The enemy is the Zionist state and the PA!*

*Down with the Zionist imperialist Apartheid state from the river to the sea!*

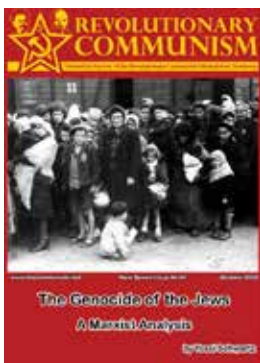
*For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

## Footnotes

[1] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-707376>

[2] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/15/israeli-army-kills-palestinian-youth-in-occupied-east-jerusalem>

[3] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/9/israel-kill-palestinian-al-aqsa-brigades-commander-nablus>[4] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/shin-bet-chief-warns-israels-internal-strife-is-a-shot-in-the-arm-for-terrorism/>



## Publications of the RCIT

# The Genocide of the Jews A Marxist Analysis

By Yossi Schwartz

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*



## The Sociopolitical Crisis of Iraq

Yossi Schwartz, ISL the RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 2.9.2022

In Iraq, following its occupation and its destruction by the Western imperialists the masses began in October 2019 to take to the streets and called for the overhaul of the country's political and corrupt ruling elite. These days the Prime Minister is Mustafa Al-Kadhimi. Kadhimi who became director of Iraq's National Intelligence Service in 2016, and was appointed by the president Barham Salih as Prime Minister of Iraq in May 2020 in an attempt of the local ruling class to control the angry masses. He left Iraq in 1985 to go to Iran, before moving to Germany and the United Kingdom, which he later became a citizen of. After the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003, al-Kadhimi returned to Iraq and co-founded the Iraqi Media Network, for the purpose of documenting the crimes under Hussein's Baath regime. In simple words he was a servant of American imperialism. After he became Prime Minister, he promised elections that took place in October last year. On August 29 this year, the very influential Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr 58 years old, the leader of Sadrist Movement and the leader of the armed militias "Peace Companies" wrote in his Twitter that he would retire from politics.

The reason for his announcement was that in the parliamentary elections in October 2021, al-Sadr, known for his opposition to American imperialism and to the influence of Iran in Iraq, won the largest number of seats. He allied with two other major winners of the election: the Sunni "Sovereignty Alliance" and the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

He faced the opposition of the "Coordination Framework", a broader amalgamation of mainly pro-Iranian Shia parties that includes influential Shia political figures. This bloc says that to form a government he needs to enjoy a two-thirds majority, and not just a simple majority to rule. While this bloc didn't win enough seats to form a government, it had enough seats in parliament to block the Sadrists from as they did not have the support of two-thirds of the legislature. In February 2022, the Iraqi Supreme Court under Iranian influence, interpreted the Iraqi constitution as if to form a government it requires a two-thirds majority and the court ruling is a decree.

Were he a revolutionary socialist, with such a strong base of the popular masses, he would organize in this situation a revolution. Instead in June 2022 al-Sadr called his 73 lawmakers to resign from the parliament. As a result, the *Coordination Framework*, which only a few months ago blocked government formation, now without the al-Sadr's lawmakers has enough seats to rule.

In this situation he mobilized his supporters in the streets of Baghdad. against the Coordination Framework's efforts

to form a government. The Sadrists occupied key government institutions, including the parliament. They began calling for a dissolution of the parliament and for new elections to the same parliament that cannot resolve the political crisis of Iraq.

The mobilization of the masses in the streets creates a form of dual power. The Sadrists on one side and the Coordination Framework on the other.

The Coordination Framework and the army used weapons and at least 30 people supporters of al Sadr were killed and 700 were injured. Once again instead of taking power al Sadr called his supporters on Tuesday to withdraw from the fortified Green Zone – where the government buildings and foreign embassies are located.

"Sadr has demonstrated that he can mobilize and demobilize with a word," said Iraqi analyst Fanar Haddad. "He can click his fingers and threaten the entire edifice. Then, he can click his fingers and save the entire edifice." [1] Yet instead he stated that he resigns from politics at least for now. Al-Sadr has announced his withdrawal from politics at least seven times since 2013. This time he announced he resigned from politics because he felt his opponents had used ugly tactics – going to Grand Ayatollah Kadhim al-Haeri a cleric and an historical ally of Sadr and asking him to denounce Sadr which he did and called for support for Iran's Khamenei, rather than the Shia spiritual center in Najaf. Al-Sadr considered the move a blow to his legitimacy and credentials, since Haeri had provided him with the legitimacy he lacked as a religious authority without scholarly credentials to be an ayatollah.

The shooting stopped for now in Baghdad but the political crisis that may lead to a new round of the Arab revolution has remained. In the next few days, we will get answers to the development of the struggle against the cost of living which is skyrocketing and to the unemployment that remains high. What happens to the Sadrist Movement now – and will their leader be back in politics again? Will a government be formed? Who will solve the economic crisis in Iraq? And what role will Iran play?

Meanwhile in Baghdad the shooting stopped, this is not the case in Basra where four people were killed in overnight clashes between the Sadrists and the pro-Iranian militias two on each side and the military clashes may return to Baghdad. In such clashes the interest of the international working class is to support the Sadrists without giving political support to Muqtada al-Sadr.

### Footnotes

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/31/muqtada-al-sadr-and-iraqs-prospensity-for-a-shia-shia-war>

# Comunismo Revolucionario

## Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

Order the journal via our contact address: [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)

## Brazil: Neither Bolsonaro, nor Lula! For a Workers' Government!

Get to the streets to defeat them all! Vote for the Revolutionary Socialist Pole!

Statement of Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (RCIT Section in Brazil), 30 August 2022

The Bolsonaro government has applied and continues to apply a capitalist plan, which has deepened the misery of millions of Brazilians, through adjustment policies, plundering and repression in the service of the profits of the most powerful sectors of the bourgeoisie, to which it has handed over the country's natural and social resources.

On the other hand, Lula and the PT, who present themselves as an "alternative," are not going to change anything, because they are not going to fight to really change the capitalist system, because their politics is not, and never has been, revolutionary in the sense of taking power by the working class. On the contrary, the Lula's project points to something absolutely impossible, which is to seek a supposed humanization of the capitalist system through small reforms. Reforms that in practice allow the system to continue the exploitation of the working class. In this sense, a new Lula government will not come to govern for the workers and the poor, but for that small group of privileged capitalists who run the Brazilian economy. Therefore, it is no accident that the PT has insisted on allying itself with Geraldo Alckmin, former politician of PSDB who governed São Paulo, from 2001 to 2006 and 2011 to 2018, for the same bourgeois class.

For us as members of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*, elections will not change the situation of hunger, misery and unemployment in the workers' and popular movement. This will only happen through the revolutionary mobilization of the mass movement, when the workers put an end to the bourgeois state, impose their own government and begin to build socialism.

However, the bourgeois elections are a good opportunity to tell the workers and the poor to follow this path, establishing their democratic decision-making bodies and the revolutionary direction that the current circumstances demand, which will emerge from the unity of consistent revolutionaries.

For all these reasons, we – the Brazilian section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* – join the electoral campaign of the *Revolutionary Socialist Pole*, headed by the Vera-Tremembé, which highlighted the need to build a workers', black, indigenous and socialist solution.

Meanwhile, we will continue promoting the broadest unity of action, to defeat the coup threats of Jair Bolsonaro, with the method of independent mobilization of the working class, which, in order to deepen its struggles, includes the establishment of democratic decision-making bodies and self-defense brigades or pickets.

## Books of the RCIT

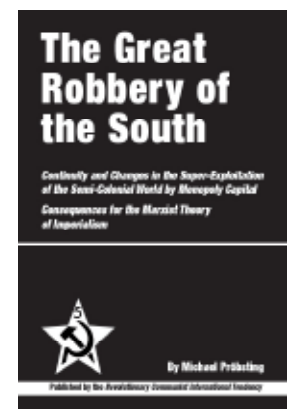
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



## Haiti: Down with the Henry Government!

### For an Anti-imperialist Struggle! End Colonialism in the Caribbean!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 18th September, 2022*

Fresh bouts of unrest have hit Haiti again. The people are asking for the resignation of the new prime minister Ariel Henry over the newly announced price raise on fuel which has caused hikes in food and utility prices in a country already suffering from crushing inflation. No doubt, this is a reflection of the slump in the capitalist economy; Russia's invasion of the Ukraine — a product of stiff inter-imperialist rivalry — and the general accentuation of contradictions in the capitalist system.

While it has been possible for politicians, both "progressive" and right wing, to talk about rising and falling tides in the economy, especially in the imperialist countries (mostly due to bail-out funds). A poor semi-colonial country/neo-colony like Haiti stifled with mass hunger and endemic gang violence finds itself falling through a downward spiral of worsening social crises.

Mainstream media tries to root the political instability in Haiti in the assassination of former prime minister Jovenel Moise, just as they still blame the failure of the capitalist economy to recover from hiccups on COVID. The reality is that Haiti has been made a pariah by world imperialism because of its revolutionary history of anti-imperialist uprising. Haiti is one of the very few former colonies whose initial independence in 1804 was not due to some political calculations by her colonial masters. And unlike the US where the settlers led the remonstrance against colonial rule it was the slaves who emancipated themselves in Haiti.

For this cause, Haiti serves, even if little known, as a beacon for Black resistance against colonialism and imperialism. Hence the long-borne hatred of Western imperialism for the country. At every point after the Haitian Revolution the colonisers were always afraid of slave rebellions in the Caribbean and the American mainland but this did not stop the revolution from spreading throughout the world until it culminated in the final termination of slavery in the American Civil War. Nevertheless, the imperialists, like the colonists before them, have took turns and

collaborated to perpetuate the subjugation of Haiti, hence its current status as a neo-colony.

We support the masses on the streets fighting to remove Ariel Henry from government. We say not just Henry but the whole regime must be purged. We call for the formation of *action committees* in the cities, neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools and all protest grounds. These action committees must be democratically constituted and independent of ruling and opposition politicians. Protesters must protect the movement through the formation of *armed self-defence guards* to fend off police and state forces as there are already reports of fatal clashes between police and protesters.

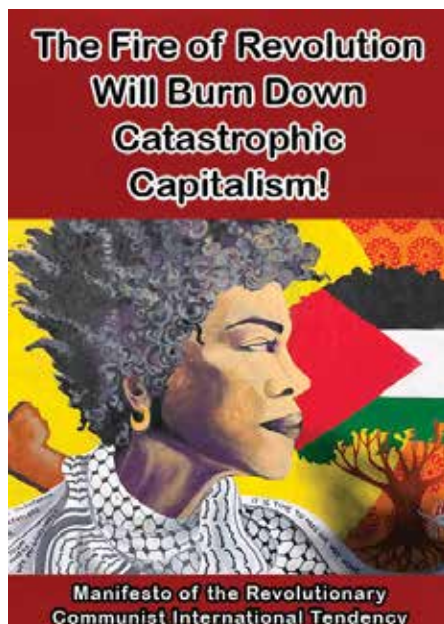
The action committees must coordinate to form a national leadership for the struggle. For us, only a *workers, youth and poor peasant government* can kickout the imperialists and their puppets; expropriate the local capitalists and multinationals; and insulate Haiti from the maladies of the global crises of the capitalist economy by distributing resources evenly amongst the masses.

*\* Form Action Committees to coordinate on a national scale the struggle on an anti-imperialist and internationalist basis! For Armed Self-Defence Guards to protect the movement from attacks from police and other state forces! For an Indefinite General Strike To Bring Down The Henry Regime! For A Total Overhaul of Haiti's Political and Government Class!*

*\* Mobilize Food and Monetary Aid from the Imperialist Countries For Haiti! Immediate Price Caps on Food and Utilities! For Public Regulation on Fuel Prices and Energy Bills! Tax the Multinational Corporations and Energy Magnates!*

*\* Cancel All Domestic and Foreign Debts! Expropriate Without Compensation the Transnational Corporations and Local Capitalists! Put the Energy and Other Important Sectors of the Economy Under Workers' Control! For A Public Employment Program to Provide Jobs with Living Wages for the Youth and Unemployed!*

*\* For A Socialist Republic of Haiti as a first step to Constituting a Socialist Federation of Central American Republics!*



### *New Program of the RCIT*

## Manifesto for the Liberation Struggle

*Adopted at the III. World Congress of the RCIT in April 2021*

**\* Introductory Note**

**\* A New Era of Counterrevolutionary Offensive and Revolutionary Upheavals**

**\* The Capitalist State Monster Attacks Democracy! Defeat Chauvinism and Bonapartism!**

**\* Great Power Rivalry and Imperialist Aggression in the South: Turn the Guns against the Lords of Power and Money!**

**\* Crisis of Revolutionary Leadership: How to Organize and How to Fight?**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*



# Russian Empire Escalates its Colonial War against the Ukraine

## Down with the shame-“referendums” in the Russian-occupied territories! No to “mobilisation”! Defend the Ukraine - Defeat Russian imperialism!

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21 September 2022*

1. The last 24 hours have seen a dramatic escalation of Russia’s imperialist war against the Ukraine. While we can not know all consequences of the latest turn, there is no doubt that this is a major turning point in the war.

2. In a speech aired on 21 September in the morning, Putin announced “*partial mobilisation*”. He said, among others, “*Only citizens who are currently in the reserve and, above all, those who have served in the armed forces, have certain military registration specialties and relevant experience will be subject to conscription. Those called up for military service will undergo additional military training before being sent to the units on a mandatory basis, taking into account the experience of a special military operation*”. Importantly, the corresponding decree, which Putin signed immediately after his speech and which became already effective, does not contain the word “*partial*” but refers only to “*mobilisation*”. In effect, this means that all those who did already serve in the Russian army can be called in order to fight in the Ukraine. Repeating his Great Russian chauvinist rhetoric, Putin legitimised this decision that it would allow Russia to “*liberate Donetsk*” and “*to defend the liberated regions in Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia*”.

3. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who gave a speech after Putin, said 300,000 reservists will be drafted, especially those with combat experience and military specialization. While he announced a new name for Russia’s war (“*pre-emptive military operation*”), he declared that this is “*a war with the collective West and NATO*”, not with Ukraine. He also said that 5,937 Russian soldiers have been killed until now (the real figure is certainly much higher).

4. Of course, at this point, many consequences of this turn are not clear. It seems that the regime plans a kind of wave-like mobilization which would allow to call a new wave of reservists after each new decision or failure of the authorities so that more and more people will be “*under arms*”. In any case, as Russia has a large reserve force, it is evident that this decision allows the Kremlin to massively expand its armed forces in the war against the Ukrainian people.

5. This decision is a major escalation of the war in every aspect. One important consequence is that the regime can no longer pretend that the war “*is far away*” and that it does not affect daily life of Russian society. While the Kremlin might be able to raise the chauvinist spirit in sectors of the society, it is likely that, sooner or later, this will radicalise anti-war opposition amongst the youth and workers, provoke wide-spread resentment against the regime and prepare social and political explosions which could become dangerous for the regime. It is a counterrevolutionary strike of the regime which, in the long run, can open a revolutionary crisis – in particular, if the Russian army fails to quickly defeat the Ukraine.

6. Putin’s decree for mobilisation must be seen in close connection with other developments in the last days.

a) On the order of the Kremlin, the administrations of the Russian-occupied territories in the Ukraine – in Luhansk,

Kherson as well as parts of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia – announced that they will hold shame-“referendums” in the next days. These pseudo-votes should formally approve the annexation of these regions by Russia. Former President Dmitry Medvedev said that integrating these regions into Russia would make redrawn frontiers “*irreversible*” and would enable Moscow to use “*any means*” to defend them.

b) Likewise, the Duma in Moscow adopted new laws to toughen punishment for soldiers breaching their “*duties*” like desertion or surrender. It also voted to introduce possible 10-year prison terms for soldiers refusing to fight. Furthermore, the Duma deputies adopted a bill that introduces the concepts of “*mobilization*”, “*martial law*” and “*wartime*” into the Criminal Code.

c) These two measures shall strengthen the “*Ruskij Mir*” chauvinism, cynically claiming to “*reunite the Russian people*”. Equally important, it creates the legal framework for Putin to claim that Russian forces are “*defending their motherland*” on Ukrainian soil. This legally allows the army command to use Russian conscripts in the Ukraine – something which was (officially) not possible until now. By this, the Kremlin hopes to overcome the massive shortage in manpower for the Ukraine War by increasing its troops without officially announcing a general mobilization.

7. These actions mark a new stage in Putin’s reactionary war. After seven months of war, the Kremlin has still failed to subjugate the Ukrainian people. In fact, the recent success of the Ukrainian resistance in the Kharkiv region demonstrate that Russia’s position in the occupied territories is highly fragile. As a result, the Kremlin faces increasing difficulties. Opponents of the war have become more self-confident and scepticism about the “*special military operation*” in sectors of the population is spreading. The public criticism of the war by Alla Pugacheva – a Russian mega-pop star for nearly half a century who has always been loyal supporter of the regime – is an indicator for this. At the same time, the army’s setbacks have also provoked sharp protest by the hard-core sections of the imperialist-chauvinist camp (like Igor Strelkov and other military bloggers) who demand general mobilisation and “*total war*”. Furthermore, Russia’s prestige as a Great Power suffers from these setbacks even among its allies.

8. Another indicator for a new stage in Russia’s war of aggression against the Ukraine is the fact that Alexander Lukashenko – President of Belarus and one of Putin’s closest allies – has ordered all security agencies to be mobilized. This makes it likely that he is preparing his country for possible martial law.

9. According to the official website of the Duma, not a single deputy voted against the laws (<http://vote.duma.gov.ru/vote/119074>). Only one abstained and that was a member of the “*Just Russia*” party. All 50 deputies from Zyuganov’s KPRF – a social-imperialist Stalinist party in the tradition of Great Russian chauvinism which uncondi-

tionally supports Putin's war – voted for the laws (7 deputies of this party were absent). Two KPRF deputies were even part of the group which formally introduced the new laws! This shameful support for the escalation of Putin's colonial war demonstrates once more the arch-reactionary character of this party. It is all the more scandalous that the Russian section of Alan Woods' IMT has not hesitated to opportunistically support the KPRF at the recent regional election and to participate even on their electoral list in a district in Moscow! One of their members was elected and represents now this war-mongering party in a municipal council!

10. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – call all progressive workers and popular organisations to double their efforts against Putin's war of aggression against the Ukrainian people! We reiterate our internationalist and anti-imperialist position which we have advocated since the first day of the war: *Defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*

11. We strongly denounce those "socialists" who support in any form the annexation of parts of the Ukraine to Russia under the pretext of the "right of national self-determination". As a matter of fact, this is a scandalous distortion of Lenin's policy. National self-determination is a fundamental right of *oppressed* nations (or nationalities). It is not a right of oppressor groups, of settlers or even of

an imperialist state! This is why socialists refused to support the annexation of the Sudeten-German territories in Czechoslovakia by Hitler in 1938. And for the same reason, the RCIT has always opposed the "right of national self-determination" for oppressor groups like the Israeli Jews, the Serbs in Kosova or the white settlers in African countries.

12. We reiterate our call to all authentic communists to decisively break with the social-chauvinists and capitulators and to join the ranks of the authentic internationalists and anti-imperialists as our comrades of *Socialist Tendency* outlined in their "Open Letter to all Socialists in Russia" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-to-all-socialists-in-russia-12-07-2022/>) Comrades, there is no time to lose! Join the RCIT in building a *Revolutionary World Party* on the basis of consistent internationalism and anti-imperialism!

*Statement jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia)*

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We refer readers to a special page on the RCIT website with more than 120 RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>

Website of "Socialist Tendency" (RCIT Section in Russia): [www.socialisttendency.com](http://www.socialisttendency.com)

## The Ukraine War and the Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 120 documents of the RCIT in English as well as many other languages on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# The Peculiar Features of Russian Imperialism

A Study of Russia's Monopolies, Capital Export and Super-Exploitation in the Light of Marxist Theory

By Michael Pröbsting, August 2021

Introduction \* Another Denial of Russia's Imperialist Character \* The Methodological Failure of our Critics \* Russia's Economy: Dominated by Domestic, not Foreign, Monopolies \* Capital Export and the Problem of "Round-Tripping" Foreign Direct Investments \* "Phantom FDI": No Russian Peculiarity but a Global Phenomenon \* Russia's Leading Multinational Corporations and their Foreign Investments \* Imperialist Super-Exploitation via Capital Export \* Imperialist Super-Exploitation via Migration \* Conclusions \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

# The Ukraine War after the Liberation of the Kharkiv Region

## Socialists need to unite on the basis of the slogan “Defend the Ukraine against Putin’s invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!”

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 12 September 2022*

1. The recent successful offensive of the Armed Forces of the Ukraine against the Russian occupation forces has resulted in the liberation of the Kharkiv Region. While not all details of this offensive are known yet, there is no doubt that the retreat of the Russian army was not a “tactical manoeuvre,” but rather a desperate flight, leaving behind a huge amount of tanks, APCs, and ammunition.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – strongly welcome this success. Since the first day of the war, we took a consistent internationalist and anti-imperialist position which we summarise in the slogan: *Defend the Ukraine against Putin’s invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*

3. We are aware that this is only a first step in the liberation of the Ukraine and much more needs to be done. Nevertheless, it is a hugely important success which embodies crucial lessons. The successful offensive of the Ukrainian resistance demonstrates that, ultimately, an imperialist monster can not succeed – despite its military superiority – in colonising a smaller nation. We have seen this already in the past when U.S. imperialism failed to subjugate Iraq and Afghanistan. We hope that Russian imperialism will face the same fate in Chechnya, Syria and the Ukraine! Despite the disinformation propaganda of the Putinista camp and despite the self-congratulatory boasting of NATO representatives, military aid of Western states to the Ukraine only played a limited role in the liberation of the Kharkiv region. One must not forget that Russian artillery still possesses a 10:1 advantage against their opponents.

4. There is no doubt, that the Ukrainian resistance has demonstrated impressive skills in military reconnaissance as well as in preparing a surprise attack. However, the most important factor for the dramatic turn is the huge gap between the two camps in terms of fighting morale. The Ukrainian regular forces and partisans and the popular masses supporting them – they know what they live for, and they are determined to fight for the liberation of their country. But the Russian soldiers – what are they fighting for?! Why on earth should they want to die on Ukrainian soil?! Related to this is the gigantic scale of corruption and demoralisation within the Russian army command – something which is recognised now even by many Putinist military bloggers.

5. While it does not make sense to speculate about the future development of the war, two things can be stated. First, there can be no doubt that the liberation of the Kharkiv Region will raise the morale of the Ukrainian people and strengthen their determination to continue the war of national defence despite all the hardship. Second, the humiliating defeat of Putin’s forces can not but provoke a crisis and a process of political polarisation within the Russian society. The progressive sectors of the working class and youth who have opposed the war from early

on will become more confident in their cause. Those who were already sceptical about the war, will increase their doubts. At the same time, it is also likely that the hardcore sector of the Great Russian chauvinist camp a la Igor Strelkov – who have denounced the authorities in the past months for not fully mobilising all forces of the army – will also accentuate their critique.

6. We can equally assume that the crisis of the social-chauvinist Stalinist parties in Russia will deepen. The leadership of the KPRF, the RKRП, the OKP and others have supported the imperialist war from the very beginning and a growing number of communist turns away from them in disgust. It is also likely that the recent events will discredit even more pseudo-Trotskyist forces like the Russian section of Alan Woods’ IMT whose leaders have opportunistically capitulated to the pro-war KPRF and stood on their party list at the recent regional elections in Moscow. We repeat: all authentic communists must break with the social-chauvinists and capitulators and join the ranks of the authentic internationalists and anti-imperialists! The comrades of *Socialist Tendency* repeat their appeal – outlined in their “*Open Letter to all Socialists in Russia*” – to comrades in other organisation to start close collaboration as soon as possible! (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-to-all-socialists-in-russia-12-07-2022/>)

7. The task of socialists in the Ukraine remains to combine participation in the national liberation struggle against Putin’s invasion with advocating the struggle for social liberation. Hence, socialists have to warn against any illusions in the bourgeois and pro-NATO Zelensky government and against any support for imperialist institutions like NATO and EU. They should also work towards the independent organisation of the working class and youth, i.e. the creation of workers organizations and self-defence units independent of the ruling class.

8. The RCIT reiterates that socialists all over the world must double their commitment to build an international solidarity movement in support of the Ukrainian liberation struggle. Socialists have to fight against the malicious influence of the Putinista social-imperialists in the Stalinist and Castro-Chavista parties. They also need to combat the influence of those socialists who advocate a reactionary abstentionist position of neutrality in this war. At the same time, we repeat that authentic socialists must intransigently oppose Western imperialism and its chauvinist policy of sanctions against Russia. *For the Ukraine – against Putin! Against both imperialist camps – NATO as well as Russia!* Comrades, there is no time to lose! Join the RCIT in building a *Revolutionary World Party* on the basis of consistent internationalism and anti-imperialism!

*Statement jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia)*



## Report on the Situation in Russia for August 2022

Report on the situation in Russia for August 2022 prepared by the Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia), 1.9.2022

**Preface by the Editorial Board:** Below we publish an interesting report written by comrades from Социалистической Тенденцией (*Socialist Tendency*) in Russia. *Socialist Tendency* recently joined the RCIT and became its section in Russia. Other documents of our comrades in Russia can be read either on their website ([www.socialisttendency.com](http://www.socialisttendency.com), in Russian language) or at a special page on our website where all RCIT documents (in English and other languages) on the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>.

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1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps of the Russian Federation (RF) Armed Forces Formed has been trained in the Nizhny Novgorod region at the Mulino training ground. According to the plan of the military-political leadership, the corps should act as a "ram" on the front of the Russian-Ukrainian war. However, according to the *Institute for the Study of War*, this unit is unlikely to be effective. According to some other reports, instead of the planned 30,000 soldiers, the size of the corps is only half that. Also, based on the general situation and the balance of forces at the front, the corps would rather play the role of a "reserve" for "closing holes" than an assault group. According to media reports, the corps has already set off towards Ukraine.

2. Attempts continue to make up for the growing losses in the ranks of the RF Armed Forces at the front in the face of the unwillingness of the population to go to the front line. Nominal volunteer battalions are formed in all regions of the country. These formations attract some citizens by the fact that they promise big ones by Russian standards for service in them - up to 200-250,000 rubles as a one-time payment, plus the same amount as a salary every month. Despite this, as well as some other significant benefits, the battalions have only 200-300 volunteers each. In addition, recruitment continues for semi-legal Private Military Companies like Wagner PMCs. Judging by the reports of researchers, about 4,500-5,000 mercenaries are currently fighting in the Wagner PMC on the territory of Ukraine. In addition, there is a call for recruitment in Russian prisons among killers and rapists. For participation in the war with Ukraine, prisoners under the relevant articles may be released from detention after the end of the contract. On the whole, Putin's Russian army gets more and more mercenary character. In addition, the Wagner PMC also tries to recruit among the most vulnerable layers of workers - migrants from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. There is a phenomenon of kidnapping such people and, under the threat of fictitious criminal cases, sending them to the front. Basically, such a phenomenon exists also in the North Caucasian republics, primarily the Chechen Republic. One way or another, the measures described do not solve the problem of restoring losses for the RF Armed Forces. Some experts believe that in the next 2-4 months, either more active "hidden" mobilization is possible, or a

full-scale mobilization, at least in the regions bordering Ukraine.

3. On the night of August 20, the daughter of the Russian Empire ideologist Alexander Dugin, Daria Dugin, was killed. She was blown up in her car on the way from a conservative festival in the suburbs. It is reported that the assassination target was Alexander himself, but at the last moment he drove in another car. Already two days after the murder, the FSB announced that it was a terrorist attack commissioned by the SBU (the Ukrainian Secret Service) of a former serviceman of the Azov regiment. This version causes a lot of doubts and is hard to believe. Responsibility was taken by the previously unknown "National Republican Army". There are also many other versions, one of which is that the Russian special service itself tried to eliminate Dugin.

4. Targeted repressions against anti-war activists continue. So far, these events have not taken on a mass character, but one must also take into account the fact that there are currently no public activities of the anti-war movement.

5. Local municipal elections will be held in Moscow and some other cities in September. It is in the capital that events unfold in an interesting way - many independent candidates are nominated with the support of the *Nomination* platform (a combination of the Russian words *You* and *Movement*, from which a word with a different, but corresponding to the topic, meaning is obtained). However, some activists, for example, members of the *Marxist Tendency* (the Russian section of Alan Woods' *International Marxist Tendency*) are nominated by the *Communist Party of the Russian Federation* (KPRF) led by Gennady Zyuganov. It is noteworthy that individual members of the MT were expelled from the meetings of the grassroots cells of this party in Moscow in the first months of the war because of their position on the actions of the Russian troops. Later the KPRF officially announced a witch-hunt against members with an anti-war position. At the same time, nominees from this pro-war party are forced to keep silent about its attitude to the "SVO" (as the war is officially called by the Putin regime) in the election campaign in order to be admitted by the KPRF bureaucrats. Many rightly believe that the regime is using the KPRF as a "spoiler" for candidates from the *Nomination*. What is the motivation of activists like those from the Russian IMT section? It might be either a desire to make a political career, or an opportunist attitude towards the Communist Party, based on the long tradition of the IMT make long-term entryism in "left" reformist parties - this does not matter to us, let their motives remain on their conscience, for us, the very fact of what is happening is important.

6. On August 30, the last leader of the CPSU and the first president of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, died. At this place, we will not analyse the attitude towards him and his death by supporters of various forces of the political spectrum.

# Armenia-Azerbaijan: Down with the Reactionary War!

## No to chauvinist excesses! Drive Russian imperialism out of the Caucasus!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16 September 2022

1. A new war is looming in the South Caucasus. In the last few days, at least 176 soldiers died in military clashes at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. While the fighting has stopped for now, the tensions between the two states could provoke another war as it happened in autumn 2020.

2. The immediate cause of the latest clashes is the stall in the negotiations between the two states about the issue of the so-called “Zangezur Corridor.” This is a road linking Azerbaijan with its exclave of Nakhchivan but running through Armenian territory. While the Pashinyan government wants to keep control over this corridor, Baku demands that the route should allow Azerbaijani vehicles to cross Armenian territory without being subject to customs checks from the Armenian side. That would make it comparable in status to the “Lachin Corridor”, the road connecting Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh (the Armenian exclave within Azerbaijan) through Azerbaijani territory over which Azerbaijan exercises no control.

3. The issue of the Zangezur Corridor is part of the unresolved issues of the six-week war in 2020. More than 6,700 people died in the fighting. The conflict resulted in Azerbaijan reclaiming ethnic Azeri territories held by Armenia since the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-94) as well as the southern sector of Nagorno-Karabakh. This war ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal and Moscow deployed about 2,000 troops to the region as so-called “peacekeepers.”

4. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has its historic roots in the horrendous past of the Russian Empire which occupied the region in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Tsarist rulers – similar to the policy of the British Empire – tried to keep control by playing various Cauca-

sian people against each other. Bloody tensions between the Christian Armenians and the Muslim Azeris were the result of this policy. A part of the Armenian people also experienced traumatic oppression by the Ottoman Empire with the sad climax of the *Armenian Genocide* in 1915. The Stalinist regime continued the horrible subjugation of the Caucasus people resulting, among others, in the deportation of whole people like the Chechens, Ingush or the Crimean Tatars.

5. Armenia – a poor capitalist semi-colony – has been a long-term ally of Russian imperialism and hosts a Russian military base (in Gyumri) and an airbase (in Erebuni). It is also a member of the *Eurasian Economic Union* as well as the *Collective Security Treaty Organization* (CSTO) – both institutions dominated by Moscow. Hence, the Pashinyan government asked Russia on 14 September for military support and also requested assistance from the CSTO. In addition, Armenia has also close relations with Iran. An important reason why Yerevan does not want to hand over control of the Zangezur Corridor to Baku is the fact that it fears losing control over its southern border, its only outlet to Iran.

6. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, has traditionally close relations with Turkey. Ankara supports Azerbaijan’s demand for the Zangezur Corridor because it would gain direct access to Azerbaijan and on to Central Asia. Both Iran as well as Turkey are advanced capitalist semi-colonies which play a certain role as regional powers.

7. Imperialist Russia has been the long-term dominant power in the Caucasus. However, it currently faces several problems. First, and most importantly, its military forces are totally focused on the reactionary war of aggression against the Ukraine. Hence, the Kremlin has only lim-



### Publications of the RCIT

## Is Türkiye a (Sub-)Imperialist Power?

The economic, political and military features of the Turkish state, its class character and the program-matic consequences for socialists.

A contribution to an ongoing debate amongst Marxists

By Michael Pröbsting, September 2022

**Introduction** \* On the practical meaning of Marxist analysis of imperialism \* A brief summary of the Marxist category of imperialism \* “Sub-imperialism” vs “semi-colonial regional power”: notes on two opposite conceptions \* The dependent and semi-colonial character of Türkiye’s economy \* The Erdoğan government: a bonapartist regime combined with limited bourgeois-parliamentary democracy \* Türkiye’s role as a regional military power \* Türkiye: An Advanced Capitalist Semi-Colony and a Semi-Colonial Regional Power \* Marxist tactics in Türkiye’s military interventions \* On the anti-Muslim and anti-Turkish tradition of Great Russian chauvinism as well as of European Occidentalism \* Conclusions \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

ited military options to intervene in the South Caucasus. Furthermore, it is not satisfied with the Pashinyan government which has been a reluctant ally in the past and which faces domestic opposition from even more pro-Russian parties. In addition, given massive Western sanctions, Moscow is currently highly interested in constructive relations with Turkey and does not want to risk such because of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

8. The latest escalation of the conflict between Yerevan and Baku also puts European imperialism in a highly difficult situation. The only existing land corridors for trade with Asia – where a large part of global output is produced – are via Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan. The first two are under Western sanctions. Hence, a war involving the South Caucasus country would effectively cut off European imperialism from its essential land corridors with China, India, South Korea, Japan as well as the Central Asian energy exporters.

9. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – denounces the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In its current stage, this conflict is reactionary on both sides. Both the Aliyev regime as well as the Pashinyan government have a capitalist-authoritarian character. Neither of them fights for a legitimate cause. Socialists must oppose chauvinism on both sides and refuse any support for the war efforts. They must declare that the enemy is not the other people but their own ruling class. The only solution is a *working-class revolution* to bring down the reactionary regimes and the creation of a *voluntary socialist federation of the Caucasus* based on the right of national self-determination and equality.

10. The character of the conflict could change if Russia would send troops to intervene on the side of Armenia. In such a case, it would no longer be a war between two semi-colonial countries but rather one between an imperialist power, on one side, and a semi-colony (or two semi-colonies if Turkey would intervene in support of Baku) on the other side. In such a situation, the RCIT would advocate defeat for Russian imperialism and its Armenian ally and support for the camp of Azerbaijan (and Turkey), without lending political support for the regimes in Baku and Ankara. A defeat for Russian imperialism would weaken its grip of the Caucasus. Furthermore, it would be also a devastating blow for the bonapartist-totalitarian Putin regime. However, Russian troops have not intervened in the conflict yet and such a turn also does not seem likely, at least in the short term. In any case, the RCIT and *Socialist Tendency* advocate the slogan: *Drive Russian imperialism out of the Caucasus!*

11. Given Armenia's long-term role as an ally of the Kremlin, public opinion in Russia has always been supportive for Yerevan. This has been strengthened by the fact that Great Russian chauvinism has always been intrinsically linked to Islamophobic hatred against Muslim people. Shamefully, such pro-Armenian sympathies and anti-Azeri sentiments are shared by large sectors of the "left-wing" parties in Russia. The comrades of *Socialist Tendency* sharply denounce such a policy which represents objectively a social-chauvinist adaption to Russian imperialism.

12. There are some well-meaning socialists in Russia who have correctly opposed the Putin's reactionary war of

aggression against the Ukraine but who still justify support for Armenia by claiming that Azerbaijan's warfare against Yerevan would represent a similar "imperialist" or "expansionist" policy. This is a serious mistake, and we call such comrades to rethink it. For Marxists there exists a crucial difference between an imperialist power and a semi-colonial country. One must not confuse one with the other. Such confusion has repeatedly led socialists to refuse supporting a semi-colonial country against an imperialist power (e.g. Tony Cliff's IST and the CWI of Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe and Alan Woods opposed defending Argentina against British imperialism in 1982 on such grounds.) The class character of a given state is a decisive criterion for revolutionaries in elaborating their tactics. This is, by the way, why the RCIT has always emphasized that recognizing the imperialist character of Russia is of crucial importance for a correct analysis of the world situation.

13. The RCIT and *Socialist Tendency* reiterate their support for the Ukrainian people in their legitimate war of defense against Putin's invasion. Likewise, we continue our solidarity with the Chechen as well as with the Syrian people – both victims of Russian imperialism and their henchmen, Kadyrov resp. Assad.

14. We call socialists to join us in building a *Revolutionary World Party* which fights against imperialist wars and capitalist exploitation via a socialist revolution!

\* *Down with the reactionary war between Armenia and Azerbaijan!*

\* *No to all forms of chauvinism and war-mongering!*

\* *Oppose all forms of intervention by Russia as well as any other imperialist power!*

\* *Drive Russian imperialism out of the Caucasus!*

\* *Defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*

\* *Solidarity with the Chechen and the Syrian people! Support their national liberation struggles!*

\* *For a workers and peasants republics in Armenia and Azerbaijan! For a socialist federation in the Caucasus!*

*Statement jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia)*

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We refer readers also to the following statement of the RCIT: Armenia-Azerbaijan: A New War in the South Caucasus. Reactionary regimes in crisis wage a chauvinist war against each other. Russia's intervention would transform it into an imperialist war, 30 September 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/new-war-in-the-south-caucasus/>



# Recession, Energy Crisis, Strengthening of the Imperialist Blocs – The World Situation will change soon enough

By Medina Gunić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 23 August 2022

For now, and since some months already, the world situation had an interim character – while we live in the revolutionary period that started with 2007/2008, the current dynamic of class struggle worldwide seemed to stand at a sort of equilibrium. This is an unusual and rare situation, short-lived by its very own nature. *A situation that inevitable will change soon enough.*

Rumors are that China and Russia will utilize the upcoming G20 summit in November to show unity against Western imperialism. Putin has already condemned the visit of Pelosi in Taiwan. Furthermore, China has increased its import on oil from Russia by 7,6 % in comparison with July last year. 7.42 million tons of coal, an increase by 14% (!) have been imported from Russia the same month.

At the 6th China Soybean Industry International Summit Forum agreements for building infrastructure on planting, processing, and warehousing of Chinese soybeans in Russia have been decided. Yet, another step in the wider China-Russian agricultural collaboration. Obviously, the Chinese imperialist has quite strengthened its economic ties with the Russian imperialist within the last three months. The reasons for this move are very clear.

First, contrary to the Western imperialist sanctions, neither the Chinese capitalists nor the Chinese imperialist state, having its firm grip on the former, obey to the Western imposed sanction policy against Russia. The main concern for the Chinese imperialist stays its own economic advantage and not any pseudo-defense of “democratic values”.

Second, the accelerating tensions of the Taiwan conflict have proven to the Chinese imperialist ones again that their current main enemy is the United States. It is by no means an accident that Moscow and Beijing have strengthened their respective support for each other in the beginning of February 2022 via the meeting of Xi and Putin, only to have the invasion of Ukraine started shortly after. While the Chinese government might have hesitated to fully support the Russian invasion, the recent quarrel about Taiwan has reduced those hesitations quite a bit.

An ongoing trend is also the strengthening of a Western block (see the AUKUS pact in September 2021). However, in the accelerating rivalry between Eastern and Western imperialism, the European Union remains the confused and indecisive weakling oscillating between illusions in bourgeois diplomacy and lukewarm attempts to transform into a stronger imperialist entity.

While the Eastern imperialists seem fit to truly form stronger relations with each other, their Western counterparts still struggle with each other. On the ground of the imperialist war against Ukraine by Russia, the just defense of the Ukrainian people has not been forced under Western imperialist control (at least yet). The hesitations for such a step (especially from the imperialist European Union) are still big enough as it obviously could turn the invasion into an inter-imperialist war. But the crisis ridden Western imperialists are running out of time and a stronger bond between China and Russia lets the clock tick at an even faster pace.

Indeed, the upcoming G20 summit might turn into one of historic significance. Not only because it offers the opportunity for imperialists of all sides to harden the lines of the inter-imperialist conflict. But also, because facing the deep recession, the explosion of prices on food and basic goods and the looming scenario of a very cold winter (respectively very hot summer in the Southern part of the planet) with multiple power cuts due to the energy crisis, the ruling classes of the world have tough decisions to make. Either they start a counterrevolution comparable of the dimension we have seen with the COVID Counterrevolution of 2020 (and maybe even bigger) or they might face a never-before-seen wave of (pre-)revolutionary events around multiple regions worldwide – or both. All signs are there that the interim situation will change soon enough.

Reformists and centrists might shake facing those perspectives, but for us as authentic revolutionaries, the phrase “*what a time to be alive*” comes to mind!

True internationalists oppose all imperialist camps, be it Western or Eastern imperialism. While the imperialists prepare their G20 summit, authentic revolutionaries must prepare for the revolutionary and counterrevolutionary events to come. Sooner or later a new Zimmerwald becomes more than just an idea, it becomes a historic necessity.

*The RCIT calls all authentic socialists to join forces with us and to start the collaboration and preparations for the stormy times ahead of all of us!*

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# High Prices, No Heating: Organise for Struggle! Fight for Power!

## A revolutionary program of action against the food and energy crisis

*A Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 September 2022*

**W**e are living in a period of crises, convulsions and catastrophes. Depression of the world economy, dramatically rising living costs, impoverishment, devastating wars, and climate change – it is evident that the capitalist system is in decay and that the rulers have no solution to offer.

Nearly all countries face drastic increase of food and energy prices which robbed a large part of our income. There is a growing danger of power cuts. For those of us living in the northern hemisphere this could mean freezing in winter and for those in the southern part of the globe unbearable heat.

At the same time, energy corporations and other monopolies are making gigantic super profits! How is this possible?! It is possible because a small group of superrich – parasitic shareholders who don't work for their money but who let others work for their profit – own and control the economy.

In theory, the economy should serve the society. In reality, the society serves the interests of the small group of owners of the economy!

All these plagues are not God-ordained but man-made. Hence, they can be overcome only by humans, by those who work hard for their living and who create the wealth of this society, by the working people!

Destiny will not save us – only we ourselves can and must rescue us!

This can not be done alone, individually. No, we need to organise ourselves and build a strong collective for struggle. For this, we need a plan of action.

Here is the proposal of our movement – the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)*. We are fully aware that socialists in each and every country will have to adapt this program of action to the concrete local conditions. The purpose of our international manifesto is *not to replace* national programs of action but rather to provide a *methodological guideline* for such.

### **Immediate price cap for food, energy, and housing!**

We must not allow that the corporations enrich themselves at our expense! *For an immediate price cap for food, energy, and housing!*

Furthermore, in order to avoid the erosion of our wages, we need a *regular and automatic inflation adjustment of wages*. This means a linkage of wages with the rise in the cost of living. If prices increase by 5%, wages must rise in equal measure.

Finally, the ridiculous capitalist logic to link pollution control and measures against climate change to higher prices *must end now*. "Green" capitalism forces the people to pay for their fundamental right to live on a healthy planet. Moreso, it punishes the poorest layers of society who cannot afford the price hikes and "green taxation" while simultaneously blaming them to be "uneducated polluters". This new generation of capitalists wants to make extra-profit by letting us workers and oppressed

pay for half-hearted mending the environmental crimes of their very own predecessors and peers. *We need an immediate emergency plan to reverse climate change without any price increase!*

Who can control this? Well, certainly not the businesspeople themselves. Neither do corrupt state officials deserve our trust. No, the *working people themselves must control* via their own organisations – from local committees to national structures like the trade unions.

### **Expropriation of energy corporations!**

Energy is essential for every country. Without energy, everything collapses. At the same time, the methods of electricity production and heat-generating plants are one of the worst contributors to climate change and environmental pollution. Hence, such a key sector of the society must not remain in the hands of a few monopoly capitalists greedy for profit!

*For the expropriation of energy corporations without compensation for the capitalists and under democratic control of the workers!* This is the only way to make the energy sector serve the society without additional damage to nature.

Furthermore, we demand the *expropriation of the large enterprises in all key sectors of the economy*. This would allow the working people to implement a plan on production and distribution of the goods according to the needs of the society. It would also allow to put in action a *public employment program* which integrates the unemployed into the production process with decent wages, etc.

### **Build committees of action!**

Such demands will not be given to us as a present from those in power. No, we must fight for them with all our collective power as workers, as youth, as oppressed. At the moment, the labour movement is dominated by bureaucratic trade union leaders and corrupted reformist politicians who look for the shortest road to bourgeois power and privileges.

As long as the workers don't have powerful organisations of their own, they can not ignore these leaders. They have to put pressure on these to make them organize the resistance against the offensive of the bosses.

Most importantly, however, is the creation of rank-and-file organisations – *committees of action in the workplaces and neighbourhoods*. Such local committees should elect delegates in order to build a national coordination body. Such committees can put pressure on the bureaucrats and organise the struggle independent of control of bureaucrats if these refuse to fight.

Furthermore, such committees of action can build *organs of self-defence* in order to protect our mobilisations and our communities against fascist provocateurs and brutal police.

### Prepare for general strike and popular uprising!

We can defend our living standard, our jobs, our housing, only if we organise a mass struggle against the bosses and against their governments. We must let them feel the collective power of the working class!

This is why it is essential to organise *strikes* and *mass demonstrations*. However, it is not enough to have one or two limited actions which are rather symbols than threats. No, the workers, youth and oppressed must organise for an *indefinite general strike* which lasts until we have achieved our demands.

Such a general strike should be transformed into a *popular uprising* to bring down the capitalist governments. It is these governments which have done nothing against the inflation and economic crisis. It is these governments which are responsible for gigantic military spending, sanctions and wars. As long as they stay in power, our future is in danger!

The goal of such a popular uprising is the creation of a *workers and popular government* which is based on organisations of the masses, and which opens the road to a *socialist transformation* of the society.

### Our struggle is political

The Great Depression of the capitalist world economy is closely related with the political power of the ruling class and the domination of the world by a few imperialist Great Powers. We can not overcome the economic crisis without a political program, without taking the political power out of the hands of the bourgeois politicians and generals.

This is why our program of action must not be limited to economic demands. It must also include clear *political*

*demands* focused on the most important issues of world politics.

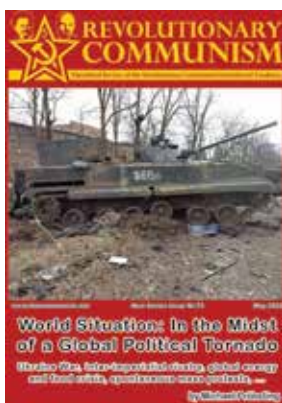
This is why we call the international workers and popular movement to *support the struggles of the oppressed peoples against imperialist predators*. This is why we call for the defence of the peoples of the Ukraine, of Chechnya and Syria against the Russian army – like we defended yesterday the Afghan and Iraqi people against the American occupation.

The workers and popular organisations must not support any of the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., Russia, EU, China, and Japan). They need to oppose all forms of imperialist aggression like economic sanctions of one Great Power against its rival.

### Our struggle is international

As everyone can see, the capitalist crisis is not isolated to one country but a global phenomenon. It can not be otherwise, since in the modern world, national economies are closely integrated into the world market and depend on each other. This is why our struggle must be international. It is the task of the working-class organisations to coordinate regionally and globally. On 15 February 2003, we saw a Global Day of Action against the Iraq war waged by U.S. imperialism. On that day, 15-20 million people marched all over the world. We need again an *international mobilisation and organisation* against the horrible consequences of the capitalist crisis!

Most importantly, socialists need to coordinate across the borders and join forces in order to build a *revolutionary party nationally and internationally*. Such parties must be based on the program of socialist revolution in order to abolish capitalist crisis and imperialist wars.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

# World Situation: In the Midst of a Global Political Tornado

*Notes on global developments characterized by the Ukraine War, inter-imperialist rivalry, global energy and food crisis as well as spontaneous mass protests*

*by Michael Pröbsting, April 2022*

**Introduction \* On the Causes and the Nature of the Ukraine War \* The patriotic resistance of the Ukrainian people which Putin didn't expect \* Continuity and transformation of the bonapartist Putin regime \* On the dramatic acceleration of inter-imperialist rivalry \* A massive shift in the foreign policy of U.S. imperialism \* Challenges of EU imperialism \* Cracks in the capitalist world economy \* Russia's resilience against Western sanctions \* Who blinks first? \* The threat to the global financial order dominated by the US-Dollar \* At the beginning of a new global wave of mass uprisings \* The crisis of revolutionary leadership and the struggle against social-imperialism, social-pacifism and imperialist economism \* Conclusions \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format*



# Thailand: Prayuth-Chan-O-Cha Suspended As Prime Minister

By Laurence Humphries, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19 September

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Thailand's constitutional court suspended Prayuth Chan-o-Cha as Prime Minister because under his own rules he had breached the eight year time Limit. He still remains defence minister but has handed over his responsibilities to his Deputy.

*"Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has temporarily stepped aside as the country's leader but remains its defence minister, according to a government spokesman. The unusual leadership reshuffle follows a ruling by the Constitutional Court of Thailand on Wednesday, which ordered Prayut to stand aside while it considers if he breached the eight-year term limit recently written into the constitution. Prayut took the role of prime minister after a military coup in 2014 before winning a controversial general election in 2019". [1]*

*"Thailand's Constitutional Court has suspended Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o cha from official duties, after deciding to hear a petition seeking a review of his legally mandated eight-year term limit. Though Prayut could be restored to his position when the court makes its ruling, his surprise suspension on Wednesday threw Thai politics into confusion" [2]*

Prayuth Chan O Cha lost his case by 5-4 in the constitutional court. Bourgeois commentators consider it likely that he will win back his position as Prime Minister. Most of the appointees of the Court were on his recommendation.

## Thailand: a bonapartist dictatorship

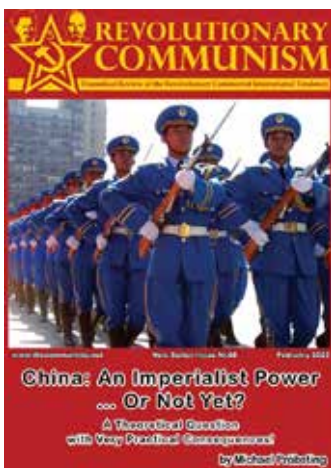
Thailand under the present leadership is drifting rapidly into a bonapartist dictatorship. The bourgeois government of Ying Luck Shinawtra was overthrown in a coup in 2014 led by Prayuth Chan O Cha who was an army General. In 2019 the Thai Theu party together with other bourgeois

democratic parties effectively won the General Election of 2019.

It was only because of the new constitution framed by the military government that Prayuth Chan o cha and his right-wing allies were able to call on the Upper house which is appointed by the military government. With 250 appointed yes-men, Prayuth Chan O cha was able to become Prime Minister and rule Thailand. At the general election of 2019 the pro-democracy movement under the leadership of the *Future Forward Party* registered big support, but the government banned the party, arrested the leadership on trumped up charges and jailed anyone who sought to oppose Prayuth Chan o Cha and his bonapartist clique.

During the COVID 19 Counter Revolution with Lock-downs and restrictions of democratic rights the government of Prayuth Chan O Cha took on the appearance of a military dictatorship issuing decrees and failing to protect the population against the dangerous pandemic. Hospital and health facilities were in short supply and this led to many demands for Prayuth Chan o Cha's resignation. The regime reacted with enormous military fire power against unarmed and defenceless young pro-democracy activists. Tear gas, water cannon and plastic bullets were used against demonstrators and activists who dared to challenge the Lockdown and their deprivation of basic democratic rights.

*"Police have used rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannon against protesters in Thailand's capital Bangkok as demonstrators defied COVID-19 restrictions to call for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's resignation. The protests came on Sunday as the kingdom is currently facing its worst wave of COVID-19 infections, registering daily case records as hospitals buckle under pressure. Exacerbating the toll has been the government's*



## Publications of the RCIT

# China: An Imperialist Power ... Or Not Yet?

*Continuing the Debate with Esteban Mercatante and the PTS/FT on China's class character and consequences for the revolutionary strategy*

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2022

Introduction \* I. The importance of the dialectical method \* II. A summary of our characterization of China as an imperialist Great Power \* III. On China's unevenness and vulnerability \* IV. The Taiwan question in its historical and geostrategic context \* V. Is China a Great Power without imperialist features? \* VI. Can China's development as an imperialist power be aborted? \* VII. China, imperialist wars, and revolutionary tactics \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

slow procurement of vaccines, which has drawn criticism as Thailand's economy reels from increasingly severe restrictions on businesses. Defying rules banning gatherings of more than five people, protesters piled mock body bags flecked with red paint near the intersection of the capital's Democracy Monument. We will die from COVID if we stay home, that is why we have to come out," shouted a protest organiser, who listed three demands. "Prayuth Chan-ocha must resign without any condition; the second is a budget cut to the monarchy and army to be used against COVID, and the third is to bring in mRNA vaccine." [3]

### Role of monarchy in Thailand

The monarchy in Thailand has acquired most of the treasury which is spent on the King and his entourage. The King himself at the height of the COVID 19 Lockdown in Thailand was in a hotel in Germany with all his wife and his concubines. The masses have no right to criticise the monarchy whatsoever and face prison terms if any criticism is levelled at the monarch.

"A court in Thailand on Monday sentenced an activist to two years in prison for allegedly insulting the country's queen by wearing traditional Thai attire at a demonstration for reform of the monarchy two years ago, a legal aid group said. Jatuporn "New" Saeoueng wore a pink dress while a fellow protester held an umbrella over her as she walked down a red carpet at a mock fashion show held in the street in downtown Bangkok on Oct. 29, 2020. The rally was billed as a counterpoint to a fashion show being held by Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, a daughter of King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Vajiralongkorn's wife, Queen Suthida, dresses in elegant silk fashions for formal and public occasions. Members of the royal family have attendants often holding ceremonial umbrellas over them on such occasions". [4].

### For a revolutionary seizure of power in Thailand

The Prayuth Chan O Cha Regime has since 2021 locked up opponents banned parties, issuing decrees whenever they liked. This is not even a bourgeois government with some democratic pretensions but a dictatorial clique. The gamble of imperialist Governments to use the Pandemic as a means to stem democratic rights has affected many bourgeois capitalist governments like Thailand. Now with the war in the Ukraine and inter-imperialist rivalry between the Western Great Powers (U.S., Western Europe and Ja-

pan) and the Eastern Great Powers (Russia and China), it is clear that many capitalist and imperialist governments face a long winter of discontent including Thailand. The country had one of the strongest capitalist economies in South-East Asia before the pandemic, now it has declined very badly. The massive unpopularity of the Bonapartist government of Prayuth Chan o Cha has led to many protests and demonstrations in Thailand. Former members of the "Red Shirts" have been also drawn into the fight. These most fervent supporters of the former Thai Pheu party represent a militant section of the working class and the peasantry.

The RCIT advocates the following slogans.

\* *Overthrow the Prayuth-Chan-O-cha regime! Organize protests up to an indefinite general strike!*

\* *For a sliding scale of wages in line with inflation wages should increase every time inflation rises to a new level!*

\* *For a Sovereign Constituent Assembly under the control of the organized and armed popular masses! In such a constituent assembly revolutionaries would put forward and argue in favour of a workers and poor peasants government, based on councils of action!*

\* *For armed defence guards of workers and the oppressed to protect themselves from provocations and attacks from the police, the military and fascist gangs!*

\* *End the imperialist exploitation! Expropriate the multi-national corporations and put them under workers control! Abolish all debts without compensation! Summarize all banks into one State Bank under control of the workers!*

\* *Only an armed insurrection led by the working class together with the poor peasants will solve the crisis of massive exploitation by Imperialism Go Forward to Socialism*

*We call on all workers and poor to study the manifesto of the RCIT and to join the RCIT! Let us build together a new World Party of the Socialist Revolution, a Revolutionary 5th International!*

### Footnotes

- 1) [CNNThailand has suspended Prime Minister Prayut Chan O-cha. What happens next? | CNN](#)
- 2) [Court suspends Thailand's PM Prayuth pending term limit review | Politics News | Al Jazeera](#)
- 3) [Police clash with protesters demanding Thailand PM's resignation | Coronavirus pandemic News | Al Jazeera](#)
- 4) [Thai protester accused of mocking queen gets 2 years' prison - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

# China's transformation into an imperialist power

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

**By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)**

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