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## Occupied Palestine: Long Live the Third Intifada!

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**Workers and Oppressed Unite!**

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## The Palestinian heroic struggle continues!

*Yossi Schwartz of the ISL, the RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 08.11.2022*

The Zionist oppressive army with the assistance of the traitors Palestinian Authority (PA) was able to damage seriously the freedom fighters of the Lion's Den. This does not mean that the Zionists have been able to destroy the organizations of the armed resistance. The brigades of Jenin and of Nablus organize the resistance in the North of the West-Bank, what the Zionists call the northern Shomron (part of the ancient kingdom of Israel).

In April 2002 the Zionist army committed a massacre in Jenin. April was also the month of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Needless to say the Germen called the Jewish fighters "bloody terrorists" as Israel call the Palestinian freedom fighters "terrorists".

The regiment of Jenin has connections to the Islamic Jihad but many of its fighters do not identify with any Palestinian faction. The fighters of this organization have their own uniforms. Black bands on the heads with the logo of the division of Al Quds . They cover their faces and wear defensive vests. Most of them armed with M16. This was developed as the AR-15 by American engineer Eugene Stoner of Arma Lite Inc. in the late 1950s. The rifle received high marks for its light weight, its accuracy, and the volume of fire that it could provide.

Last week the Zionists killed the charismatic leader Faruk Salama, the commander of the Jenin branch of the Quds Brigade – Islamic Jihad's armed wing. He was killed during a daytime raid in the Jenin refugee camp.

The Brigade of Jenin became known in September 2021 when the six Palestinian political prisoners managed to escape from the Gilboa the high security prison. An escape that shook the colonialist settler society. The brigade is recognize as the leaders of the refugee camp and the forces of the PA do not dare to enter the camp.

The brigade of Jenin has inspired others to form and join armed brigades not only in Nablus but in Tubas and Tulkarem. Even the Lion's den was organized under the influence of the brigade of Jenin.

The brigade of Jenin has already a rich record of fighting the Zionist colonialist-imperialist army. Young people known for their writings and videos in the social nets are proudly joining the brigades.

Thus if the Zionists and the PA had the illusion that by harming the Lion's den they managed to end the armed resistance they are wrong. Not only this but the resistance is inspiring the Arab Masses. The social networks in the Arab states are attacking the meeting in Sharem where the Zionist president met the hated Tunisian PM Nag'la Ramadan who is the servant of the hated dictatorial President Kais Saied.

At the same time a new flotilla to Gaza to break the siege is planned. It will sail in six months.

The new government of Netanyahu where he himself will be its left wing and the extreme right winger Ben Gevir is likely to be the Minister of Interior Security/Police will only push for more intensive Palestinian armed resistance.

At the same time while a few US Jewish groups expressed distress over the results of Israel's election and the major gains for far-right parties, including extremist MK Itamar Ben Gvir, most mainstream organizations, including those that spoke against Ben Gvir in the past, were more cautious, expressing hopes of working with the new government. Thus you cannot find Zionists who are not racist and to fight Anti-Semitism it is necessary to fight Zionism.

*Down with racist Zionism!*

*Down with the Zionists apartheid state from the river to the sea!  
For a Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

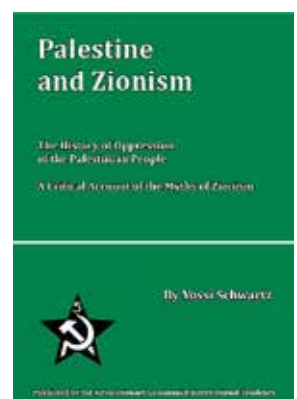
#### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



## The Latest Elections in Israel

By the ISL, the RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 04.11.2022

The outcome of the parliamentary elections in Israel may have shocked some pro Zionists supporters who love to say that Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. They hoped that Lapid would win and that they would be able to present Lapid's block as a liberal progressive format. In the real world by now when 93% of the votes have been counted the Likud's block has gained 65 seats, Likud by itself 32 seats, the ultra-nationalist religious Zionism won 14 seats and the conservative religious parties won more than 20 seats. Lapid's block won 50 seats.

The Jewish Zionist population did not vote for Gantz to be defense minister or Lapid to be foreign minister. It voted for Netanyahu, and the ultra-racist Itamar Ben-Gvir, and the extreme nationalists Bezalel Smotrich, and the conservative religious Arye Deri and Yitzhak Goldknopf. It means letting Netanyahu form a very right-wing, very religious coalition. That is what the Zionists want, that is what they voted for. Which means an ultra-reactionary majority.

The question to ask is how the Zionist state has reached the stage that it is real nature is clear even for people who repeat the idiotic mantra that criticizing the Zionist state is a form of Anti-Semitism.

Needless to say, the first major factor that determine the consciousness of all the Zionists is the nature of the Zionist society and state. Namely a society of settler colonialists

that repress the Palestinian native population. The heroes of the youth Zionists are those who promise to kill and expel the Palestinians and repeat the Nakba of 1947-8. These figures are of course Itamar Ben-Gvir, and the extreme nationalists Bezalel Smotrich.

The other factor is the brutal repression of the Palestinians by the government of Bennet-Lapid-Mertez and labor parties. This round of repression began with the escape of the six Palestinian political prisoners from Gilboa prison. Under this government the settlers have felt very secure and able to terrorize the Palestinians and the Palestinians have rebelled against the oppression. This struggle for national freedom has pushed the Zionist society to the far right.

Needless to say, Meretz – the liberal Zionists – that served the government of Bennett and Lapid and its propaganda, was vote Meretz for the Lapid block did not pass the electoral threshold in Tuesday's election and will remain outside of the Zionist 25th Knesset. Ra'am hardly passed the electoral threshold and Balad, the party we gave critical support to, did not pass and was short of a few thousands votes. We did not vote for Hadash-Taal who won 4-5 seats as it was possible that in case Lapid won they would support him from outside.

*Down with the Zionist apartheid from the river to the sea!  
For a Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

# 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/>



# Egypt's General Sisi: Gatekeeper of Imperialist Fortress Europe

## EU and Egypt sign agreement to control migration

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 2.11.2022

On 30 October, the EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Oliver Varhelyi, signed an agreement with Egypt for the first phase of a border management programme of €80 million. *"The EU, IOM Egypt, and Civipolcf agree on a package to enhance EU-Egypt cooperation in migration management,"* the EU in Egypt wrote on its official Twitter account.

The project aims to reduce so-called "illegal migration" to Europe. For this purpose, the EU agreed to provide the Egyptian regime with money for the procurement of surveillance equipment, such as four search and rescue vessels, thermal cameras, and satellite positioning systems.<sup>1</sup>

Since late 2016, when the EU started close collaboration with the military dictatorship in Cairo, "irregular migration" to Europe from the Egypt's northern coast has slowed sharply. However, migration from Egypt across its long desert border with Libya and from Libya's Mediterranean coast to Europe has been on the rise in the last years.

According to Ministry of Interior of Italy, a total of 16,413 migrants who reached the country by boat this year said that they were nationals of Egypt. In addition, over 26,500 Egyptians were stopped at the Libyan border last year.

European authorities see a high potential for large migration flows given the fact that, according to the *International Organisation for Migration*, the number of migrants and host community members in Egypt is approximately 9.1 million coming from 133 countries.

Reuters reports about an EU study, which predicts that *"Egypt is likely to experience "intensified flows" of migrants in the medium to long term due to regional instability, climate change, demographic shifts and lack of economic opportunities."*

### Imperialist Hypocrisy

The new deal between the EU and Egypt is a cynical masquerade by all accounts. As is well known, the country's dictator General Sisi took power on 3 July 2013 via a military coup.<sup>2</sup> In the following weeks, he brutally crushed mass protests – most famously the horrible Rabaa massacre on 14 August when the army killed 2,600 demonstrators on a single day!<sup>3</sup> Since then, the country has been transformed into a large prison camp where even a critical comment on Facebook about the regime can land you in jail. At least 60,000 people are currently imprisoned.<sup>4</sup> The regime regularly kills opponents via mass executions. Former President Mohamed Morsi is one of many who was thrown in jail under horrible conditions where he subsequently died.

It is such kind of bloody regime with which the EU authorities are closely collaborating since years.<sup>5</sup> Earlier this year, the French investigative website *Disclose* published a report, based on hundreds of classified French documents, about the cooperation between the French and the Egypt military in a covert mission codenamed *Operation Sirli*. This operation, which began in February 2016, is said to have resulted in the killing of about 60,000 people!<sup>6</sup>

It therefore reveals an extraordinary cynicism if French

Ambassador to Egypt Marc Baréty during the ceremony of signing of the above-mentioned migration deal, welcomes the *"strategic partnership between the EU and Egypt which aims to save lives at sea and combat human trafficking."* Or take the praising words of Laurent de Boeck, Chief of Mission of IOM Egypt: *"We welcome this new partnership, as a continuation of four years of fruitful cooperation with the Liaison Agency with International Organizations (LAWIO) of the Ministry of Defence, which allowed promoting and defending the human rights of migrants."*

Hence, it is nothing but hypocritical words for face-saving when the EU Commission says in a recently published document that Egypt has addressed irregular migration *"predominantly from a security perspective, sometimes at the expense of other dimensions of migration management, including the rights based protection migrants, refugees and asylum seekers"*. Or, to take another quote from the same EU document, that the programme will seek to develop the capacity of the Egyptian ministry of defence and other government to apply *"rights-based, protection oriented and gender sensitive approaches" in their border management.* This is like urging Hitler to treat well concentration camp prisoner!

### Aristocratic Europe

As we have pointed out repeatedly, the alliance of the imperialist EU and the military dictatorship of Egypt is not surprising at all. The "democratic" Western countries have always relied on raw materials and other commodities from countries which are dominated by authoritarian regimes and brutal dictatorships. Just think about oil and gas from the Gulf states or Russia. Or the cheap products from countries like China, Vietnam or Burma/Myanmar.

Hence, the RCIT characterizes the Western imperialist "democracies" as *aristocratic powers* which are rich enough to accept some forms of democracy at home because they exist on the basis of super-exploitation and oppression in the semi-colonial countries of the Global South.<sup>7</sup>

In fact, this has always been the nature of imperialism, as Lenin and other pointed out already long ago. *"Another thing should not be forgotten (...) namely, that imperialism is the exploitation of hundreds of millions in the dependent nations by a handful of very rich nations. Hence, the possibility of full democracy inside the richest nation with its continued domination over dependent nations. That was the state of things in ancient Greece on the basis of slavery. That is how things now stand with New Zealand and Britain."*<sup>8</sup>

Another important factor contributing to Europe's wealth is migration. Western Europe faces the problem of an overaging and shrinking population. Without the influx of large numbers of young migrants, the continent would have faced decline and loss of wealth already long ago. Such layer of migrants is an important sector of the working class in imperialist countries. They lack many democratic rights and face super-exploitation as cheap labour force.<sup>9</sup>

Hence, the goal of the EU and its collaboration with General Sisi is not to stop migration as such but rather to con-

trol the flows. Europe's authorities want to make sure that only those enter the fortress who are sufficiently fit to profitable work under conditions of harsh super-exploitation. General Sisi's role is to act as a gatekeeper for European imperialism.

For these reasons, Egypt is just one of the countries with which the EU is collaborating in order to control migration. Four other North African countries are also recipients of the *EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa*, which since its launch in November 2015 has invested €900 million into more than 40 projects to limit migration flows from the Sahel region.<sup>10</sup>

### Towards a new upswing of the Arab Revolution?

Imperialist Europe needs dictators like General Sisi not only as gatekeepers to control migration. Such regimes are also essential in order to safeguard the imperialist order in the volatile region. The Middle East has been shattered since the beginning of the Arab Revolution in 2011. Dictators like Ben Ali, Mubarak or Gaddafi were overthrown, other regimes have been shaken to the very foundations.

Since then, the revolutionary process in the Middle East has experienced a number of serious defeats but also new upswings. Just in the last few months, we have seen the popular uprising in Iran,<sup>11</sup> the beginning of the Third Armed Intifada in Palestine,<sup>12</sup> mass protests in Iraq<sup>13</sup> as well as in Tunisia,<sup>14</sup> etc.

There is no doubt that Europe's ruling class fears another wave of insurrections of the popular masses which could sweep away their gatekeepers and transform the region in a political volcano.

The RCIT and all authentic revolutionaries stand in unconditional solidarity with the national and democratic liberation struggles in the Middle East. *Down with the dictatorships from Teheran, Damascus, Cairo to Tunis!*

Likewise, we defend the right of migrants to enter Europe. We oppose all forms of anti-democratic oppression and super-exploitation of migrants. *Down with the imperialist fortress EU! For Open Borders!*

### Footnotes

1 Aidan Lewis: EU funds border control deal in Egypt with migration via Libya on rise, Reuters, October 31, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/eu-funds-border-control-deal-egypt-with-migration-via-libya-rise-2022-10-30/>; EU & Egypt Sign Agreement to Launch New Border Management Programme, 1 November 2022, <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/eu-egypt-sign-agreement-to-launch-new-border-management-programme/>; Ahram Online: EU launches 1st phase of €80 mln programme for border management with Egypt, 31 Oct 2022, <https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/478809.aspx>; Jamal Gawhar: EU to Cooperate with Egypt to Limit Illegal Migration from Libya, 1 November, 2022, <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3963361/eu-cooperate-egypt-limit-illegal-migration-libya>. All information about the EU-Egypt deal is from these articles if not indicated otherwise.

2 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, <https://rcitarchive.wordpress.com/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-down-with-military-coup-detat/>; RCIT: Egypt: International Solidarity against the Army Crackdown!, 14.8.2013, <https://rcitarchive.wordpress.com/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-international->

[solidarity/](https://rcitarchive.wordpress.com/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-no-to-military-regime/); Yossi Schwartz: Egypt: Mobilize Resistance against the reactionary military regime!, 27.7.2013, <https://rcitarchive.wordpress.com/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, <https://rcitarchive.wordpress.com/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-meaning-of-coup-d-etat/>; see by the same author the pamphlet: The Coup d'État in Egypt and the Bankruptcy of the Left's "Army Socialism", August 2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/egypt-and-left-army-socialism/>

3 See e.g. Egypt: Rally on the 9th Anniversary of the Rabaa Massacre. Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 13 August 2022, [https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rallies-in-solidarity-with-the-egypt-people-2022/#anker\\_4](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rallies-in-solidarity-with-the-egypt-people-2022/#anker_4)

4 Thayer Mansour: Egypt had at least 60,000 political prisoners since Sisi took power, 19 July 2022, <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/egypt-had-least-60000-political-prisoners-nyt>

5 Michael Pröbsting: Do You Know the latest Joke? The EU and Egypt's General Sisi jointly fight against ... "Terrorism"! 26 January 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/newest-joke-eu-and-general-sisi-jointly-fight-against-terrorism/>; by the same author: EU Leaders Praise Egypt's Military Dictatorship, 21.09.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/eu-leaders-praise-egypt-s-military-dictatorship/>

6 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Egypt: General Sisi and his French Partner in Crime. Imperialist France knowingly aided the Egypt military in killing tens of thousands of civilians, 27 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/egypt-general-sisi-and-his-french-partner-in-crime/>

7 See on this e.g. the book by Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South. Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism, 2013, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>.

8 V. I. Lenin: Remarks on an Article about Maximalism (1916), in: LCW Vol. 41, p. 385

9 See on this Michael Pröbsting: Migration and Super-exploitation: Marxist Theory and the Role of Migration in the present Period of Capitalist Decay, in: Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory has in its latest issue (Volume 43, Issue 3-4, 2015), <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03017605.2015.1099846>; see also by the same author: The Great Robbery of the South, chapter 6 and 8; Marxism, Migration und revolutionäre Integration (a German-language pamphlet published in 2010), [https://www.thecommunists.net/publications/farev-1-6/#anker\\_5](https://www.thecommunists.net/publications/farev-1-6/#anker_5)

10 InfoMigrants: EU and Egypt sign agreement to control migration flows, 31/10/2022, <https://www.infomigrants.net/fr/post/44393/eu-and-egypt-sign-agreement-to-control-migration-flows>

11 See on these the RCIT articles compiled on a special subpage: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/mass-protests-against-reactionary-regime-in-iran/>

12 See on this e.g. Yossi Schwartz: The struggle in Nablus, 26.10.2022, <https://the-isleague.com/the-struggle-in-nablus/>

13 See on this e.g. Yossi Schwartz: The Sociopolitical Crisis of Iraq, 2.9.2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-sociopolitical-crisis-of-iraq/>

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## Argentina: An Exemplary Struggle against Zionism!

12 years ago, our comrade Juan Carlos Beica was prosecuted for confronting Zionism and supporting the Palestinian people

*Published by Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 31.10.2022*

Twelve years ago, our comrade Juan Carlos Beica testified at one of the CABA courts, due to the case that had been initiated by the Kirchner government, for blaming Eduardo Elzstain, a representative of Zionism in Argentina. This character, who at that time was in charge of the World Jewish Council, an organization directly related to the fascist State of Israel, was one of the businessmen who supported the candidacy of Néstor Kirchner, to the point that he lent him his offices in Puerto Madero. Juan Carlos Beica was sentenced to 6 months in prison

- suspended - in the first instance, by the Macrista Judge Ventolila. However, after a great national and international campaign of support, which included a petition signed by personalities and organizations from all over the world, he was acquitted in the second instance. This was an exemplary ruling, which established jurisprudence for other cases that, after this one, took place against other anti-Zionist fighters and defenders of the Palestinian cause, such as Rubén Saboular, who was acquitted thanks to this opinion.



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



### *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

# Chip Sanctions: Another Step towards War between U.S. and China

## Neither Washington nor Beijing! Revolutionary defeatism against all imperialist Great Powers!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25 October 2022*

1. In the last few months, the Biden Administration announced several measures which represent a dramatic escalation of its economic war against China. Among these provisions are a series of restrictions and sanctions which forbid companies from exporting advanced chips to China. Likewise, these measures block the export of chipmaking equipment and design software. In addition, it bans corporations and individuals from manufacturing advanced chips for Chinese companies. Furthermore, U.S. Congress adopted the so-called *CHIPS and Science Act* – a bill which provides about \$280 billion dollars in new funding to boost domestic research and manufacturing of semiconductors in the United States.

2. The purpose of this set of measures is evident. U.S. imperialism desperately tries to stop its decline and to defend its long-standing hegemony against China – its most important imperialist rival. It is not by accident that the Biden Administration – in its recently published *2022 National Security Strategy* – characterised China as “*the only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to advance that objective.*” To achieve its goal, the U.S. wants to cripple China’s access to critical technologies that are needed for everything from super-computing to guiding weapons. In particular, Washington is determined to stop the country’s advances in artificial intelligence computing. To put it bluntly in the words of experts, Biden’s chip sanctions have the goal to “*kneecap*” or “*decapitate*” China’s tech industry.

3. Another target of these measures are those of Washington’s allies which play a leading role in the chip industry – most importantly Taiwan (TSMC) and South Korea (Samsung and SK Hynix). The sanctions shall cut them off from the Chinese market and force them to integrate and subordinate to the geopolitical strategy of the U.S.

4. At the same time, the Biden Administration is determined to rebuild its domestic chip industry in order to reduce its dependency on the global supply chain (mainly located in East Asia – in or close to China). This is all the more important as the world’s leading corporation, TSMC, alone has a market share of over 53% in the global semiconductor foundry market. Hence, it would have dramatic

consequences for Washington’s access to chips if Taiwan would come under control of Beijing. It is no accident that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently warned in a speech: “*On semiconductors, if Taiwanese production were disrupted as a result of a crisis, you would have an economic crisis around the world.*”

5. These measures of the Biden Administration will have massive economic and political consequences. Given the fact that China is by far the world’s largest consumer of semiconductors, with 53% of the global total, these measures, if strictly implemented, would harm not only the “Middle Kingdom”. It could also result in dramatic losses for the world’s leading monopolies (including those in the U.S.). It is therefore far from certain that Washington’s Asian allies will easily comply to these dictates. In fact, South Korean corporations have already announced that it intends to continue its business with China – their most important foreign market. In any case, Biden’s chip sanctions will massively harm the global chip industry as the huge drop of share prices of leading companies indicates (e.g. shares of U.S. semiconductor corporations were down by 50-70%).

6. Washington’s restrictions will force Beijing to get access to some advanced chips and chip-making tools by smuggling or via third markets. It will also accelerate its efforts to cut its dependence of the U.S. in some sectors of the high-tech industry and to become economically self-reliant. This issue was, not by accident, a central theme of Xi Jinping’s speech at the recent 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CCP.

7. China has various means to retaliate against the U.S. – starting from cutting American corporations from access to its huge market to imposing counter-sanctions like limiting export of rare earth to the U.S. Production and trade of rare earth – essential for a number of industries of strategic importance (semiconductors, smart phones, renewable energy technology, military equipment, metallurgy, etc.) – is dominated by China as its accounts for 60% of global rare earth mined production, 85% of rare earth processing capacity, and over 90% of high-strength rare earth permanent magnets manufactured.

8. While it remains to be seen what the next steps will be in the Cold War between the U.S. and China, there

## Comunismo Revolucionario Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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can be no doubt that we have entered a new stage in the inter-imperialist rivalry. It dramatically accelerates the contradiction between the Great Power – between the U.S. and China as well as between Washington and its allies. It also escalates the tension in the Taiwan Strait since Beijing will now be even more determined to bring the island under its control. Niall Ferguson, a well-known conservative historian and admirer of the British Empire, in a recently published Bloomberg column pointed to a telling historic analogy: “Cutting China off from high-end chips today seems a lot like cutting Japan off from oil in 1941. And it is an especially hazardous move when more than 90% of the production of those chips takes place in Taiwan, an island that China claims as its own.” Ferguson – who is above suspicion of liberal pacifism as a long-time ideologist of Western imperialism (he cheered, among others, Bush’s war against Iraq in 2003) – concluded his sobering essay by warning that “if we pursue Cold War II” we could “stumble into World War III.”

9. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) considers both the U.S. as well as China as *imperialist Great Powers*. Consequently, we stand for the program of *revolutionary defeatism* in any conflict between these. We reiterate that socialists must not support either side in any political, economic or military conflict. 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”.

10. In face of the threat of World War III, the RCIT considers it as urgent that revolutionaries, who agree with such an internationalist and anti-imperialist approach against all Great Powers, deepen collaboration and overcome conservative routinism. We repeat our call to socialists to join us in the struggle against all imperialist powers on the basis of the program of revolutionary defeatism. Likewise, it is crucial to combat the reactionary influence of social-chauvinist supporters of one or another Great Power within the workers and popular mass organizations. Comrades, the stakes are high: “Socialism or Stone Age!” We can only win, we can only build a socialist future without war and misery, if we timely build a new *Revolutionary World Party* – the decisive instrument to lead the struggle of the masses to a victorious uprising of the working class and the destruction of the imperialist war-mongers and their state machinery. Let’s get started together!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

\* \* \* \* \*

We refer readers to our latest statement on the Cold War between the U.S. and China: Taiwan: Pelosi Visit Might Provoke War between the U.S. and China. Down with both imperialist Great Powers, for a policy of Revolutionary Defeatism! 1 August 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/taiwan-pelosi-visit-might-provoke-war-between-the-u-s-and-china/>.

# Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

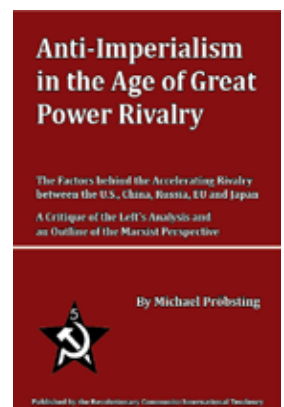
*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is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

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

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

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

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



## Ukraine War & Great Power Rivalry: On the Missile Incident in Poland

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

*jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia), 16 November 2022 [UTC: 12:00]*

1. Yesterday afternoon, a missile landed outside the rural Polish village of Przewodow, about 6.4 kilometres west from the Ukrainian border killing two people. This incident took place at the same time as Russia launched its biggest wave of missile attacks on Ukrainian cities in more than a month. It is the first time ever that a NATO country has been struck by a missile.

2. The exact circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear. However, available information suggest that it was a Russian-made weapon which is part of the S-300 air-defence missile system, used both by Russian as well as Ukrainian forces. It is not known by now who launched this missile. Unsurprisingly, the Russian Defence Ministry denied being behind “any strikes on targets near the Ukrainian-Polish border”.

3. A NATO military official told CNN the missile had been tracked by an alliance aircraft flying above Polish airspace at the time of the blast. *Associated Press* reports: “Three U.S. officials said preliminary assessments suggested the missile was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian one amid the crushing salvo against Ukraine’s electrical infrastructure.” And U.S. President Biden, speaking to reporters after holding an emergency meeting with G7 and NATO leaders on the sidelines of the G20 summit on Tuesday, said preliminary information suggested it was “unlikely” the missile was fired from within Russia.

4. While we are not in a position to say who actually launched the missile, the reactions by leaders of Western imperialist powers, so far, suggest that they do not intend to utilize this missile incident as a pretext to start a war with Russia. This would confirm the analysis which the RCIT elaborated in its comprehensive statement “*The Liberation of Western Kherson Oblast and the Danger of a Great Power Deal*”, published yesterday a few hours before the incident in eastern Poland. In this statement we pointed to strong tendencies among the ruling circles both in Russia as well as in the U.S. not to escalate the war but rather to pacify it. We warned in our statement, and we reiterate at this place, that such a deal between Western and Russian imperialism would most likely take place at the expense

of the interests of the Ukrainian people fighting for the national liberation of their country.

5. In any case, the missile incident demonstrates how easily a military confrontation between Great Powers could start, even by accident, if the will for war exists among the rulers of at least one camp. Even if such a war might not start by now, there is no doubt that both Western and Russian imperialism will utilise the crisis to wipe up militarism and chauvinism. Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian President who is currently Deputy Chairman of Russia’s Security Council and a well-known chauvinist warmonger, commented: “*The incident with the Ukrainian-alleged “missile strike” on a Polish farm proves just one thing: waging a hybrid war against Russia, the West moves closer to the world war.*” Likewise, we will most likely see strong efforts by NATO to utilize the incident as an excuse for further a military buildup, in particular for modernising and expanding its air defence systems at its eastern flank.

6. While the missile incident in Poland with two people killed has caught the headlines of world media, one must not forget that the real victims in this war are the Ukrainian people who are suffering from uninterrupted terror bombing by Russian forces for 9 months. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – express their full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and fully support their right to get modern weapons to resist such missiles attacks.

7. Finally, the RCIT and *Socialist Tendency* reiterate their long-standing internationalist and anti-imperialist position based on the analysis of the *dual character* of the conflict. We support the legitimate national liberation war of the Ukrainian people and call for the defeat of the Russian army. At the same time, we oppose all imperialist Great Powers (Russia, U.S., Western Europe, China and Japan). We reject support for all forms of militarism and Great Power chauvinism (including sanctions). In case of a military conflict between imperialist states, we stand for revolutionary defeatism on all sides.

## 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](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)**

# Ukraine War: Spontaneous Soldiers Protests of the Russian Army

## Down with Putin's imperialist war!

### Money for poor regions – not for killing the Ukrainian people!

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT),  
jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia), 3 November 2022*

1. According to various reports and video clips, more than 100 mobilised soldiers staged a spontaneous protest in the training center in Ulyanovsk. They demand to receive the promised payment of 195,000 ruble. They complain that “everyone here is deceived” and “we are sent to war for a penny.” They also protest that military authorities “stopped letting relatives in on weekdays, they don’t give leave.” Another popular slogan is “One for all and all for one.” For now, the protest has been suppressed by paramilitary units of OMON and the National Guard.

2. The protesting soldiers come from the Chuvash Republic which is in the European part of Russia with the Nizhny Novgorod Oblast in the west, and the Republic of Tatarstan in the east and southeast. The Chuvash people, a Turkic ethnic group, is one of the many oppressed national minorities of the Russia Empire. Poverty is widespread in these regions which is why young men are prepared to join the army. It is telling that the protestors have also shouted Chuvash nationalist slogans – reflecting the deep-sitting resentment against their national oppression by the Russian Empire.

3. These protests, in conjunction with other protests which have taken place since the beginning of the “partial mobilisation” on 21 September, reflect the crisis of Putin’s war against the Ukraine and the process of disintegration of the Russian army.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – are intransigently opposed to Putin’s reactionary invasion. 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!*

5. Therefore, socialists want to see the defeat of the Russian army. All activists against this barbarous war therefore welcome such a process of disintegration of the Russian armed forces. If this imperialist army is less united and more divided, it becomes a less effective instrument for Putin’s colonial war. We support those demands which help to undermine and break the loyalty of soldiers to the army command (which implements the directives of the capitalist-bonapartist Putin regime). We do not support those demands which help to strengthen the imperialist army and to make it a more effective instrument of the Kremlin.

6. Socialists should therefore support all demands which increase the democratic rights of soldiers, and which weaken the character of the army as a willing tool of the Kremlin. Hence, activists should agitate for the soldiers’ right to receive visits from their relatives and to get leave. We also defend their right to protest. Furthermore, socialists should use these events as an opportunity to explain the necessity for soldiers to self-organise (e.g. building committees of action), to demand the right to elect their superiors, etc.

7. At the same time, we reject supporting the de-

mand for payment of 195,000 ruble. We oppose the bourgeois army in principle and even more so when it is engaged in a reactionary imperialist war. Socialists in the Duma have to vote against all bills which help financing this war. Hence, we can not support financial demands which would make the army more unified and willing to go to Donbass and to slaughter the Ukrainian people.

8. However, this does not mean that socialists should be ignorant against the demand for money. Quite the opposite! Given the poor circumstances in the Chuvash Republic (and many other regions in Russia), it is not surprising that young men join the army. Socialists need to agitate for spending billions of rubles not for the imperialist war but rather for public employment programs, increase of wages and social security as well as for the improvement and expansion of infrastructure – particularly in poor regions.

9. Socialists should link such demands with explaining the real causes of Putin’s war and the interests of Russian imperialisms. It is necessary to show in agitation, with all necessary precautions, that the enemy of the Russian workers and youth is not the Ukrainian people but the ruling elite around Putin and the oligarchs. Likewise, socialists need to agitate for the right of self-determination of national minorities. Given the fact that Russia is a prison house for many national minorities, this is a highly important and explosive issue. Such an anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist perspective has to be combined with explaining the need to fight for Russia’s defeat in the war, for the revolutionary overthrow of the Putin regime and the creation of a workers government.

10. It is to be expected that forces like Zyuganov’s KPRF and Tyulkin’s RKRP will support the demand for payment. (At some point, even Shoigu and Putin might express support for such demands and denounce “incompetent bureaucrats” for the problems!) After all, these “communist” parties are Great Russian chauvinists which have praised Putin’s invasion from the very beginning, and which even support the colonial annexation of Ukrainian regions by Russian imperialism. Surely, they want to see the army better financed so that it can kill more effectively the so-called “Ukrainazis” – as the Putinistas shamefully slander the Ukrainian people resisting colonial subjugation!

11. Comrades, brothers and sisters! Putin’s imperialist war inevitable deepens the crisis in the country. It has already provoked popular protests and it will provoke many more in the coming months. It is highly urgent that authentic socialists and communists break decisively break with all kinds of social-chauvinists and opportunists. We need to join forces on the basis of consistent internationalism and anti-imperialism! The comrades of *Socialist Tendency* have outlined such a program 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! The RCIT calls you to join forces!

## Russia: So-Called “Communists” against LGBT+

### KPRF deputies in State Duma unanimously support bill banning “LGBT propaganda”

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 31.10.2022

On 27 October, Russia’s State Duma passed a draft law in the first reading which aims at suppressing the democratic rights of LGBT+ people. This bill “bans the propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations in the media, on the Internet, in advertisements, books and movies.”<sup>1</sup> As it is well-known, the Putin regime claims since long that LGBT is a cause for Western decadence and that its “propagation” undermines Russia’s “traditional values”. Hence, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* – the official newspaper of the Russian government – noted with satisfaction: “Lawmakers were unanimous in standing up against Western values which they considered alien to Russia.”<sup>2</sup>

Ramzan Kadyrov – Putin’s Viceroy of Grozny and the butcher of the Chechen people<sup>3</sup> – even claimed that Russia’s colonial war against the Ukraine would be a battle against ... the hosts of the Antichrist, transgender people and the LGBTQ community!<sup>4</sup> Kadyrov did already excel in brutally persecuting homosexuals in Chechnya several years ago.<sup>5</sup> Today, the “heroic deeds” of his troops in Donbass are limited to looting property of ordinary Ukrainians and shooting of supposed “deserters” of the Russian army.<sup>6</sup>

Contrary to the Kremlin’s propaganda, homosexuality has always existed in nature as well as in human society. Putin might claim that Russia would be morally superior as a defender of “traditional values”. But compare the heroism of the famous *Sacred Band of Thebes* – an elite force of the Theban army in the 4th century BC consisting of 150 pairs of male lovers which defeated the Spartans, and which was regarded as invincible throughout all of Ancient Greece at that time – with the not-so-heroism of the Russian forces who recently fled the occupied territory of Kharkiv “like Olympic sprinters”!

In itself, the Putinist propaganda against LGBT+ rights is not surprising. The Kremlin has advocated such ideas since many years. However, what is much more remarkable is the position of the misnamed “Communist” Party of the Russian Federation” (KPRF). As we did show at various occasions in recent past, this Stalinist party – led by Genady Zyuganov – has a long record of supporting Putin’s invasion of the Ukraine as well as the reactionary ideas of Great Russian chauvinism.<sup>7</sup> Now, we see that they are equally supporting Putin’s ultra-reactionary anti-LGBT+ propaganda!

Putin’s anti-LGBT+ bill was unanimously (!) supported by all KPRF deputies in the State Duma.<sup>8</sup> Nina Ostanina, a KPRF leader and chairwoman of the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children, “asserted that not only children but adults as well should be protected against ideological weapons since the attack is underway on all fronts.”<sup>9</sup> And on its website, the KPRF justifies its support for the bill with republishing a statement with the programmatic title “In the 21st century, only the Family, the Army and the Navy will save Russia!”<sup>10</sup>

Surely, these “communists” have nothing to do with the proud tradition of the early Soviet Union of Lenin and Trotsky which decriminalized homosexuality!<sup>11</sup> They are

rather dedicated supporters of reactionary tradition of Stalin (who recriminalized homosexuality in December 1933)<sup>12</sup> and Putin.

In short, the Zyuganov’s KPRF is an arch-reactionary, chauvinist and social-imperialist party by any account. What a shame that this does not stop some opportunist pseudo-“Trotskyists” – like the RRP<sup>13</sup> or the MT (the Russian section of Alan Woods’ IMT)<sup>14</sup> – to support this party and to join its electoral list!

The RCIT and *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia – strongly reject these reactionary attacks against the LGBT+ Community. We reiterate our commitment to their equality and full democratic rights!<sup>15</sup>

#### Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. TASS: State Duma greenlights bill banning LGBT propaganda across Russia in first reading, 27 October 2022, <https://tass.com/society/1528095>; TASS: Bill banning LGBT propaganda submitted to Russia’s lower house, 20 October 2022, <https://tass.com/society/1525491>

2 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*: Russian State Duma approves measures to fight LGBT propaganda, 27.10.2022, <https://rg.ru/2022/10/27/gosduma-odobrila-mery-protiv-lgbt-propagandy.html> and <https://tass.com/pressreview/1528973>

3 See e.g. Where does the RCIT Stand on Russia’s Occupation of Chechnya? <https://www.thecomunists.net/theory/russia-and-chechnya/>

4 Aslan Doukaev: What Lies Behind Russia’s Increasingly Esoteric Anti-Western Rhetoric? *Eurasia Daily Monitor* Volume: 19 Issue: 155, October 19, 2022 <https://jamestown.org/program/what-lies-behind-russias-increasingly-esoteric-anti-west-rhetoric/>; see also Jon Jackson: Putin Allies Turn Ukraine War Into Fight Against U.S. LGBTQ+ Values, *Newsweek*, 21.7.2022, <https://www.newsweek.com/putin-allies-fight-against-lgbtq-values-messaging-ukraine-war-1726924>

5 See e.g. RCIT: Stop Persecution of Homosexuals in Chechnya! Down with anti-gay chauvinism, lynching’s and Russian imperialism! For a free, red Chechnya!, 14 April 2017, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/persecution-of-homosexuals-in-chechnya/>

6 We refer readers to a special page on our website where more than 140 RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>.

7 See on this e.g. the pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting: Putin’s Poodles (Apologies to All Dogs). Putins Pudel. The pro-Russian Stalinist parties and their arguments in the current NATO-Russia Conflict, 9 February 2022, <https://www.thecomunists.net/theory/nato-russia-conflict-stalinism-as-putin-s-poodles/>

8 See Справка о результатах голосования по вопросу: (первое чтение) О проекте федерального закона № 217471-8 «О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон «Об информации, информационных технологиях и о защите информации» и отдельные законодательные акты Российской Федерации» (в части запрета пропаганды нетрадиционных сексуальных отношений и (или) предпочтений), 27.10.2022, <http://vote.duma.gov.ru/vote/119591>

9 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*: Russian State Duma approves measures to fight LGBT propaganda, 27.10.2022, <https://rg.ru/2022/10/27/gosduma-odobrila-mery-protiv-lgbt-propagandy.html> and <https://tass.com/pressreview/1528973>

10 Николай Мишустин: «Наши ценности - семья, Армия и Флот», 24.10.2022, <https://kprf.ru/activity/children/214059.html>

11 See on this e.g. Gregory Carleton: *Sexual Revolution in Bolshevik Russia*, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh 2005

12 See on this e.g. Daniel Healey: *The Russian revolution and the decriminalisation of homosexuality*, *Revolutionary Russia*, Vol.6, No.1, June 1993, pp. 40-46, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09546549308575594>

13 See e.g. Michael Pröbsting: *Against Russia’s War without Internationalism and Anti-Imperialism? A revealing statement of the RRP (Russia) about Putin’s “partial mobilisation”*, 8 October 2022, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/rrp-russia-and-ukraine-war/>

14 For a critique of the IMT’s policy during the Ukraine War see e.g. *Ukraine War: Former Russian Members of Alan Woods’ IMT Speak Out*. The IMT’s adaptation to pro-Russian social-imperialism provokes opposition and abandonment in their ranks. Two Interviews with a Preface of the RCIT, 29 October 2022, [https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/ukraine-war-former-russian-members-of-alan-woods-imt-speak-out/#\\_edn1](https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/ukraine-war-former-russian-members-of-alan-woods-imt-speak-out/#_edn1)

## Said Kaba - 1985-2022

### Obituary for a Russian comrade

**Introduction by the Editorial Board:** It is sad news that comrade Said Kaba, a 37-year old militant of "*Socialist Alternative*" (Russia), has been murdered. Below we publish the English translation of an obituary which Said's comrades in Russia sent us.

At this point we want to add only a few remarks. The circumstances of his death are suspicious – to put it diplomatically. Said has been a socialist activist for a number of years and for a period he took a leading position in this organisation. He and his comrades have taken a strong anti-imperialist stance against Putin's reactionary war. As is well-known, Putin's "partial mobilization" has sent shock waves through the Russian society and popular dissatisfaction with the Kremlin's war of aggression against the Ukraine is growing.<sup>1</sup> In such times, it would be foolish to exclude the possibility of the involvement of dark forces in the killing of a socialist who is member of an organization known for its anti-war and anti-imperialist positions.

In this sad hour, we want to point out that Said Kaba and his comrades in *Socialist Alternative* (CA) have taken a courageous stance against Russia's imperialist war. Similar to the RCIT and the "*Socialist Tendency*" (the RCIT section in Russia), they recognized not only the reactionary character of Putin's invasion but also the "*just character of the national liberation war of the Ukraine.*" True to the Leninist tradition, they stated that "*we openly take the side of Ukraine*" since "*the defeat of Russian imperialism will undermine the Putin regime and open up revolutionary prospects.*" Like us, they also defended the right of the Ukraine to get arms from wherever possible and called the international workers movement to make sure that the Ukraine gets the weapons it needs in order to defeat the Russian invasion. "*The working class of Ukraine should not be unarmed in its opposition to the Russian military. On the contrary, it is necessary to openly advocate for the gratuitous supply of any assistance necessary for victory. Workers' organizations in Europe and the United States need to track the movement of supplies and control that they accurately get to Ukraine.*"<sup>2</sup>

The RCIT and the *Socialist Tendency* welcome such a consistent internationalist and anti-imperialist stance all the more, as it contrasts pleasantly with the social-chauvinist evaporations of *Ruskij Mir* war-mongers a la Zyuganov's KPRF and smaller Stalinist parties. The same can be said about pseudo-Trotskyist renegades like the RRP or the Russian supporters of Alan Woods' IMT who refuse to defend the Ukraine against the aggression of Russian imperialism and who even supported Zyuganov's KPRF at the regional elections one month ago (including standing candidates on its list).<sup>3</sup>

The CA's stance makes it stand far above the *International Socialist Alternative* (ISA). Like many other centrists, the ISA refuses to lend any support to the resistance which the Ukraine has offered against Putin's invasion since the 24 February – it rather denounces it as being a simply a "*proxy of NATO*". They even call the international workers movement to stop the delivery of weapons to the Ukraine!

<sup>4</sup> It is to be hoped that the comrades in "*Socialist Alternative*" will draw the right conclusions from this experience.

Comrade Said Kaba is no longer among us. But his ded-

ication to the struggle for socialism and his courageous activity against Russian imperialism and for the liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people will continue to live in our memories! We extend our deep condolences to his partner, his relatives and his comrades.

For the complete version of this obituary see our website: [https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/#anker\\_40](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/#anker_40)

#### Footnotes

1 We refer readers to a special page on our website where more than 120 RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>. In particular we refer to the RCIT Manifesto: Ukraine War: A Turning Point of World Historic Significance. Socialists must combine the revolutionary defense of the Ukraine against Putin's invasion with the internationalist struggle against Russian as well as NATO and EU imperialism, 1 March 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-ukraine-war-a-turning-point-of-world-historic-significance/>

2 The quotes are from: Даниил Раскольников: Почему Путин напал на Украину? 15 августа 2022, <https://socialist.news/russia/war/why-putin-invade-ukraine/> (our translation)

3 For our latest critique of the IMT's position on the Ukraine War see Michael Pröbsting: Do the Ukrainian People in the Occupied Territories Really Want Annexation by Russia? Alan Woods' IMT continues its opportunist adaption to pro-Russian social-imperialism in face of Putin's mobilisation, 22 September 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/imt-in-face-of-putin-s-mobilisation/>; for a critique of the RRP see by the same author Against Russia's War without Internationalism and Anti-Imperialism? A revealing statement of the RRP (Russia) about Putin's "partial mobilisation", 8 October 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/rrp-russia-and-ukraine-war/>

4 For our latest critique of the ISA's position on the Ukraine War see Michael Pröbsting: A Confirmation, Unfortunately. The ISA officially reiterates its refusal to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion, calling it an "inter-imperialist proxy war", 29 July 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/a-confirmation-unfortunately/>



Said Kaba, socialist militant in Russia (1985-2022)

# Britain: Rishi Sunak replaces Truss after her Government falls

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 15 November 2022

Liz Truss lasted 45 days as Prime Minister and then Rishi Sunak, one of the youngest Prime Ministers ever took office on the 25th October 2022. Boris Johnson, the former Premier, tried to enter the race but the bankers and the rest of the bourgeoisie were determined that this charlatan should not stand, so he was forced to withdraw. Sunak will be the 5th Prime Minister since the 2015 election. This is a government of crisis in free fall and unable to satisfy the bourgeoisie, especially the bankers. Sunak made it plain that there would be no general election. He knows that if one was called, the Tories would be wiped out.

Jeremy Hunt was reappointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Hunt has said that he will raise taxation and there are difficult decisions to be made for the poor and the oppressed but not for the rich parasites that have been protected by Tory Governments. Suella Braverman was also reappointed by Sunak as Home Secretary. Braverman resigned as Home Secretary in the Truss Government because she allowed personal and sensitive data information to be seen by interests outside of government. Sunak may come to regret his decision to appoint her.

The crisis of world imperialism is also seen in the repeating political and economical crisis in Britain.

The Bank of England has raised interest rates in Britain while the Federal Reserve has done the same in the United States.

*"Another Bank of England decision and another pummelling for the Pound. The Bank of England raised Bank Rate by 75 basis points to 3.0% but sent a clear signal a move to 5.0% and above was not likely, a message that resulted in a knee-jerk sell-off in the Pound. The decision to go 75bp came off a solid 7-2 vote by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) according to a statement released by the Bank, but this unusually large hike looks to be a one-off. The Bank says further rate hikes are necessary but, crucially for FX markets, they won't be delivering as many as investors had previously expected or thought necessary to bring inflation back towards 2.0%." [1]*

This reflects the crisis of the capitalist system and basic foodstuffs and energy prices are and will be affected. Poverty and homelessness for masses of the urban poor and working class is the consequence. Runaway inflation is endemic, leading to enormous financial worries for poor families. Recently a protest reflecting those events took place: the *March of the Mummies* which was organised by mothers and carers of young families, demonstrating about the cost of child care and other increased living costs. The economic crisis is here but those who feel the crisis are not those who created it.

## Rail Strike Suspended thanks to Betrayal by Bureaucracy

The TSSA and RMT who were due to have 24 hour strikes on November 5th, 7th and 9th announced in a statement that they have suspended their actions. They explain that 'The Rail Delivery Group' Employers representing Network rail and the individual rail companies want to conduct negotiations with both the RMT and TSSA Bureaucracies. No offer has been made. The RMT bureaucrats

also suspended their action over 'Poppy Day' (!) the celebration of Imperialist war. The Communication Workers Union and their members in BT are rumoured also to be in negotiations with BT. Marxists have correctly characterised the trade Union bureaucracy as agents of the capitalist class. Their role is to seek a compromise with employers at all times. Trade unions in Britain today are purely defensive organisations who collectively defend workers and represent them. The rank and file is our class, but the bureaucrats are alien to them, being neither revolutionaries nor socialists. Some are elected by the membership but most are appointed and remain part of the bureaucratic apparatus whose role is mostly to police the workforce for the capitalist class.

Lenin in his various elaboration on Imperialism explains that this epoch created a privileged position for a section of workers. They were craft workers in the 19th century but they became the kernel of the modern trade union bureaucracy.

Leon Trotsky, founder of the Fourth International summed up the role of the bureaucracy in his essay 'Trade Unions in the epoch of Imperialist decay': *"This position is in complete harmony with the social position of the labour aristocracy and the labour bureaucracy who fight for a crumb in the share of the super profits of Imperialism Capitalism. The Labour bureaucrats do their level best in words and deeds to demonstrate to the 'democratic' state how reliable and indispensable they are in peacetime and especially in War."* [2]

## Betrayal by Centrists too

Most Centrist groups in Britain with few notable exceptions make no comment on the suspension of the rail strikes because they are the bag carriers of the bureaucracy. When unrests and strikes take place they follow the bureaucracy. Unfailingly most notable of these kinds is the IMT and the CWI as well as their later split product *International Socialist Alternative*. The only critical position on the abandonment of the rail strikes in the bigger centrist forces comes from the Clifflite *Socialist Workers Party* who at least offer some criticism on the decisions of the bureaucracy.

*"Large numbers of rail workers are suspicious or openly angry after the RMT union called off all their planned national rail strikes on Friday. The union said it had suspended planned strikes on Saturday and next Monday and Wednesday. It said it "will now enter into a period of intensive negotiations with Network Rail and the train operating companies". It added, "Through a strong industrial campaign so far, RMT has secured unconditional talks on Network Rail and the promise of an offer from the train operating companies. The current dispute remains very much live, and the union is continuing its re-ballot of members to secure a fresh mandate for action with the result due on 15 November." Calling off the strikes without even a concrete offer is a mistake. The union had already called off action scheduled for Thursday this week because of London Poppy Day collections."* [3]

In times of deep economic crisis, the missing of criticism on the pacification of workers struggle is especially harm-

ful. It is a typical development that betraying the working class interests is rather the norm than the exception even in centrist (not to speak of reformist) circles.

However, the *political* dimension of the capitalist crisis is also seen in certain developments in Britain. As it was already done in the past, racism and especially islamophobia is nurtured by the imperialist bourgeoisie to deflect from their political troubles.

### Islamophobia and Racism at the Heart of this Government

Recently, there was a firebomb racist attack at a centre for migrants in Dover. Many migrants housed in an asylum centre lived under terrible conditions inside these centres. Even Bourgeois commentators would know that the standards of these camps are not different to concentration camps. Braverman is however stoking the fire of racism, speaking of an 'invasion' while referring to migrants fleeing from imperialist meddling in Syria and the Middle East. Racism and Islamophobia is rife and people of colour are treated like dogs and vermin. This is the nature of the British imperialism and its government under Rishi Sunak.

*"As she fought for her political survival in parliament on Monday, Suella Braverman claimed the south coast of England is being invaded by asylum seekers. Her claim has been refuted by migration experts, who believe it falls down on a number of fronts. Madeleine Sumption, the director of the Oxford Migration Observatory, said: "This is not an invasion – it's not an army. But if instead she is referring to the number of people coming, we can compare the figures to other countries and see that the numbers coming in to the UK are relatively manageable." [4]*

Eventhough, the manageable numbers of refugees are treated hostile and inhuman by the capitalist beast. *"Ahmed - not his real name - said people at the Manston processing centre were treated like "animals" with 130 people forced to share a single large tent. More than 4,000 migrants have reportedly*

*been held at the camp - meant to host 1,600 - in recent days.*

*The Home Office says it is providing for "all the basic needs" of migrants. Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick previously insisted the number of people at Manston is coming down. Ahmed - who left the centre on Monday after 24 days there - described being forced to sleep on the floor, and being prevented from going to the toilet, taking a shower or going outside for exercise. He told the BBC that he fled his home country of Iran in search of freedom and to avoid persecution, saying that he had been living in fear for his life. But after arriving in the UK and at the centre, Ahmed said people were prevented from calling their families to let them know they had made the crossing to the UK safely." [5]*

In an incident at Harmondsworth (another facility) all the lights were off, letting the people live in cold darkness. The migrants in utter provocation and anger fought back, using clubs and any weapons they could find.

*"The disorder took place at the premises following an "unprecedented and sustained" loss of power overnight at the detention facility in Harmondsworth, near Heathrow Airport. It holds hundreds of men, including adult male asylum seekers, foreign offenders awaiting deportation and men who are in the UK illegally. The Home Office said no detainees had left the premises and those involved had since been returned to their rooms." [6]*

Here we see the cruel deflection of the political crisis of the imperialist system. It forces people to flee their home, risking to lose family and life only to be treated as animals when they have survived the horrendous dangers of their refugee route.

Behind the deflection a number of crisis symptoms are to find: The USA, Europe and Japan face crises of the second slump (big recession) where the rate of profit is falling as predicted by Marx. Further, the deep political crisis throughout the world is reflected with inter imperialist rivalry between the Western imperialist forces and the Eastern imperialists China and Russia (the latter engaged in a colonial war against the Ukraine). Last but not least, the potential for uprisings has increased for a huge number of countries while it already started in some (like Iran). *The*



## 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

*Era of Capitalist Crisis must be turned into the Era of Revolutionary Victory.*

### Revolutionary Action Programme for Britain

The RCIT in Britain is conscious of the class actions taking place, especially as Health Workers have recently balloted to reject the miserable wage increase that was offered to members of the RCN, Unite the Union, Unison and other Unions (all who are engaged in strikes over pay and conditions). The poor and the destitute face innumerable hardships feeding their families and earning enough to get the basic essentials. The poor are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer. The energy giants BP and Shell posted huge profits for their shareholders in the billions. Meanwhile they pollute the earth at a fast pace, pushing the dramatic course of human extinction through natural disasters. Now is the time to act. Urgency is the key!

The RCIT Britain puts forward a programme of action to overthrow capitalism, seize power and build socialism. The RCIT Britain calls on everyone to study our demands and to unite with us in building a revolutionary force of the future, preparing the struggle for power!

*\* Nationalise the railways and all public utilities under workers control without any compensations for expropriated capitalists! Several public plans have to be initiated to redistribute food parcels to all in need. Charges of electricity and gas which harm the living standard of the workers and poor must be taken back immediately!*

*\* Immediate stop to any increase of rent! All rents must be frozen and tenants must be allowed to democratically elect their own representatives. Private landlords must be dismissed and replaced by public housing!*

*\* Fossil Fuels have to be phased out systematically by a nationwide emergency plan to save the planet! All homes and workplaces need to be provided with alternative sources of energy, financed by the expropriation of the multinational corporations of the Energy sector! No price increases for the people! Profits of fuel companies like BP and Shell must be confiscated and redistributed to the poor!*

*\* No to Islamophobia and all other forms of racism! All People of colour and every ethnicity should have the unconditioned right to wear their own clothes, speak their own language and*

*practice their own customs in public! Open all Borders! Border police and immigration officials must be removed and dismissed immediately!*

*\* All refugees and migrants incarcerated in asylum centres must be released and housed in decent accommodations as well as provided with suitable work and all social benefits!*

In order to achieve all of this, we call for:

*\* Strikes and workers unity! Fight for an indefinite general strike against the government and for solving of the food and energy crisis! This must be organised and run by the masses of the rank and file! For trade union democracy where all elected officials are accountable to the membership directly and at all times. Replace the bureaucratic apparatus by accountable trade union leaders, democratically elected by the rank and file, willing to fight!*

*\* Prepare a revolutionary constituent assembly to discuss the road to a Workers government!*

The imperialist bourgeoisie will not accept the independence and freedom of revolutionary struggle, therefore we have to prepare ourselves. Organising of popular armed defence committees protecting the youth, migrant communities and all fighting workers from police violence and fascist provocations will become crucial in the struggle for a Workers Government.

Join the RCIT to build a *Revolutionary Party* which will help to unite all revolutionary forces in the *Struggle for Socialism* via the armed uprising, the revolution of the workers and oppressed.

### Footnotes

[1] Bank of England Sinks Pound Sterling after 75bp Rate Hike is Overshadowed by its Severe Economic Warnings (poundsterlinglive.com), <https://www.poundsterlinglive.com/gbp-live-today/17746-pound-to-euro-and-dollar-bank-of-england-november-mpr>

[2] Trotsky, L, 'Trade unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay', Pg. 40, Pathfinder Press 1969

[3] Rail strikes shouldn't have been called off for talks, <https://socialistworker.co.uk/news/rail-strikes-shouldnt-have-been-called-off-for-talks/>

[4] 'Invasion' of the UK? Experts dubious of Suella Braverman's claim | Immigration and asylum | The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/01/bravermans-invasion-claim-not-backed-by-facts-say-experts>

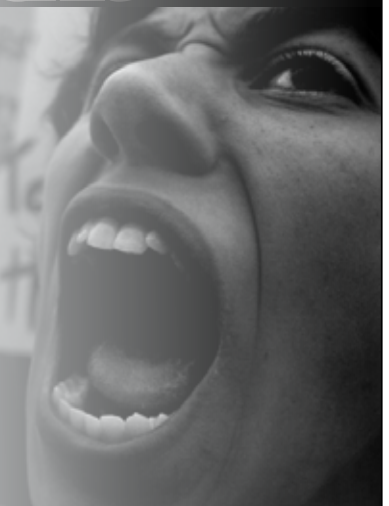
[5] Manston migrant centre like a zoo, says asylum seeker - BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63481151>

[6] Robert Jenrick: 'Unacceptable' violence at Harmondsworth centre - BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63525332>

## Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

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

Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)





# French Senate Votes to Impose Sanctions on Azerbaijan

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 18 November 2022*

1. The French Senate adopted a resolution on 15 November that calls on the French government to impose sanctions on Azerbaijan for what it described as “attacks” on Armenia and “aggression against Karabakh.” The resolution also demands the withdrawal of Azeri troops and supports the recognition of the “Republic of Artsakh”. Furthermore, the Senate calls on the French government to, in cooperation with European partners, undertake diplomatic and economic measures to punish Baku, including an embargo on the import of gas and oil from Azerbaijan. Finally, the resolution also suggests that the French government considers the possibility of sending military aid to Armenia.

2. Albeit the resolution bears no legal binding, it reflects a strong consensus among the ruling class of France. In fact, it was adopted nearly unanimously with 295 in favour and only 1 vote against (this single vote came from Natalie Goulet, a member of the bourgeois-liberal UDI). The resolution reflects several interests of French imperialism. First, it demonstrates Paris’ desire to intervene in the geostrategically important region of the Caucasus which is located to the South of Russia and to the North of Türkiye and Iran. In addition, this region plays a central role for oil and gas production as well as for energy transport between Central Asia and Europe. Since France has long-standing ties with Armenia, it has repeatedly positioned itself against Baku.

3. Furthermore, while the Senate’s resolution denounces Azerbaijan, a poor semi-colonial country, it is, in effect, also directed against Türkiye. It is no accident that nearly all senators who spoke in favour of the resolution warned “*about the Turkey-Azerbaijan axis and threat of Pan-Turkism and neo-Ottomanism that can plague Europe*”. (Asbarez, 15 November 2022) While it is, of course, true that the Erdoğan regime has expansionist ambitions and oppresses the Kurdish minority, Türkiye is – in contrast to France – not an imperialist but rather an industrialised capitalist semi-colony. This anti-Turkish policy is closely related

to Paris’ close political and military ties with Greece.

4. Another crucial domestic factor for France’s policy against Azerbaijan and Türkiye is its longstanding Islamophobia. Paris has become a leading force in Europe in promoting hatred against Muslims, in general, and the Muslim migrants in particular. Irrespective if it has a social-democratic or a bourgeois-liberal government, the French governments strangle and suppress religious institutions and organisations of Muslim migrants and advocate the notorious *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons.

5. It is highly remarkable that the Senate’s resolution was not only adopted unanimously; it was even jointly introduced by a cross-party group of 13 senators including members of the conservative “*Republicans*”, bourgeois-centre parties, as well as by members of the Socialist Party (Patrick Kanner, Gilbert-Luc Devinaz), the Greens (Guillaume Gontard), Melenchon’s NUPES (Jacques Le Nay) and the “communist” PCF (Pierre Ouzoulias). This reflects that the reformist and populist “left” completely supports key elements of the Paris’ policy of imperialist interference and Islamophobia.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly condemns the support of “left-wing” parties for the imperialist resolution of the French Senate. We oppose any sanctions by France against Azerbaijan or Türkiye. We denounce all forms of Islamophobia and support full equality for Muslim migrants in Europe. We reiterate our opposition against all forms of chauvinism and national oppression in Azerbaijan as well as in Armenia. For this reason, we opposed the wars between these two semi-colonial countries as well as all efforts by other states in the region (like Türkiye or Iran) to exploit this conflict for their own expansionist interest. We call for the expulsions of all imperialist Great Powers from the Caucasus (Russia, France, the U.S.). Finally, we also want to use this opportunity to offer our condolences to the families of six people who died on 13 November in Istanbul as a result of the terrorist bomb attack.



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# World Perspectives 2021-22: Entering a Pre-Revolutionary Global Situation

*Theses of the International Executive Committee of the RCIT, 22 August 2021*

**Introduction \* I. Great Depression, its Genesis and its Relevance for the COVID Counterrevolution \* II. Peculiar Features of the Crisis and Prospects of the Capitalist World Economy \* III. Acceleration of the Cold War between the Imperialist Great Powers \* IV. The COVID Counterrevolution Enters a New Phase \* V. A New Global Wave of Mass Struggles \* Entering a Pre-Revolutionary World Situation of Accelerating Polarization between Classes and States \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 28 pages, A4 Format*

## Nigeria: Support JDWAN's Strike!

### Defend the Striking Drivers Against State Sponsored Thugs And Police! For An Indefinite General Strike On the Cost of Living Crisis!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 3rd November 2022*

Commercial bus drivers in Lagos have begun a 7 day warning strike which commenced on the 31st of October to resist illegal and extortionate taxes extracted from them by the garages and parks management and toll collectors along the routes under the auspices of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the Lagos State government.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that the income of these transporters is almost halved after the tolls by government agencies, road-side thugs, self appointed toll collectors and bribes at police checkpoints are deducted. The worst part of all these is that the gate keepers for this long line of lumpen parasites is the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), the umbrella union that should defend the interests of the drivers as a whole.

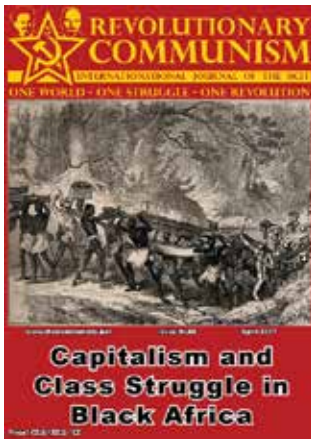
Apart from being the most popular remonstrance amongst road transport workers since 2012 when the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) called for a general strike against the removal of fuel subsidy by the Goodluck Jonathan regime. This strike has several profound political, economic and social implications befitting only for this period of global capitalist crises which can be fingered as the major harbinger of the strike.

First, it indicates a major split in the social base of the Lagos ruling class. Since 1999, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the first governor of the state after the return to civilian rule has

held the state to ransom through a network of loyalists with whom he has formed a criminal syndicate throughout the South West. Tinubu, who is often referred to as the Landlord of Lagos State, and his cohorts have been majorly represented by the political party, Alliance for Democracy (AD) which became the Action Congress (AC) and then the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) before its final merger with Muhammadu Buhari's CPC to form the APC, increasingly entrenching their political influence within the South West and nationally with every name change.

Since a crucial part of the social/electoral base of the Landlord of Lagos and his family and friends have been informal workers, peasants and small petit bourgeois elements like bus drivers, market women and traders. The protesting transporters using the Joint Drivers' Welfare Association of Nigeria (JDWAN) as the platform to press home their demands and not NURTW means a split in this social base. While it is still too early to quantify the effects of the strike on the electoral bid of Tinubu as president one cannot exclude the possibility that if the strike spreads to other sectors or attracts more transporters for a protracted period it may leave Tinubu's campaign gasping for breath. We might even be seeing the beginning of the end of the Tinubu dynasty in Lagos and throughout the South West.

Already the strike seems to be eliciting further expression



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

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of remonstrance amongst marketers of PMS, a sector very closely related with transportation. The recent increase in the pump price of petroleum in Lagos has marketers blaming the levies they are asked to pay at the private depots and threatening a strike action.<sup>2</sup> The hike has in turn worsened an already deplorable case of inflation. Thus, it is by no coincidence that the bus drivers protest at a time when extra fees are being charged at Lagos fuelling stations aside from the hiked pump price.<sup>3</sup> The bus drivers have cited the cost push inflation bolstered by the combined effect of fuel price hike and park taxes on the cost of transportation which in turn has elevated the prices of commodities. Commodities the drivers also have to purchase.

The strike if it escalates or is repeated on a larger scale in future can send paralysing ripples throughout the economic life of the country. This is moreso the case as Lagos is the commercial center of the country and the state with the highest concentration of workers. Needless to say the strike itself may lead to further rise in the prices of commodities.

One could argue that such a strike of the bus drivers is rather a fleeting event and is borne out of the obsession of Tinubu and Sanwo-Olu to scratch out enough money in a high stakes election period. But this not the first election that Lagos Landlord and his cronies will immensely invested in, why has there not being similar vexations that will lead to the defiance of the almighty NURTW by a faction of drivers in protest against the state and union. The actual cause of this lies in one of the worst global recession of the capitalist economy, a sign of deep rot in the capitalist system. The indicators of these are the precipitous

levels of the inter-imperialist rivalry part of which is displayed in Russia's war in Ukraine and the energy crises it has buoyed up.

We welcome the strike of JDWAN. We call for the arrest and prosecution of all persons involved in the attack and seizure of vehicles of the drivers as the strike continues. The victims of attacks by state sponsored thugs must receive compensation for lost property and bodily harm.<sup>4</sup> We call on the drivers to form *self defence guards* to ward off attacks from hoodlums sponsored by the NURTW and the Lagos State government. The transport workers union must be taken from ruling syndicate appendages like Musiliu Akinsanya (MC Oluomo) and placed under the democratic control of the rank and file members who are workers. The same must be done for the NLC and TUC leaderships who have totally alienated themselves from the struggles of the working class. Workers must add this to their list of general demands and pressurise the NLC and TUC to call for an indefinite general strike against inflation and extortionate, incessant tolling and taxation of bus drivers, market women and other informal workers.

*End All Extortionate and Illegal Taxation in Parks and Along Roads! Stop Police Toll And Harassment of Road Users By FRSC, LASTMA, VIO and Other Corrupt Agencies! For Transport Fares and Taxes To Be Determined and Regulated By Passengers and Transporters!*

*For A Total Overhaul of the NURTW! Kick MC Oluomo Out! Workers And Oppressed Must Begin "Wabba Must Go" Campaign to Flush Out The Corrupt Leadership from the Trade Unions! For An Indefinite General Strike On Inflation, The Cost of Living Crises and The Deplorable State of Public Services!*

*A luta Continua!*

## 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)

